

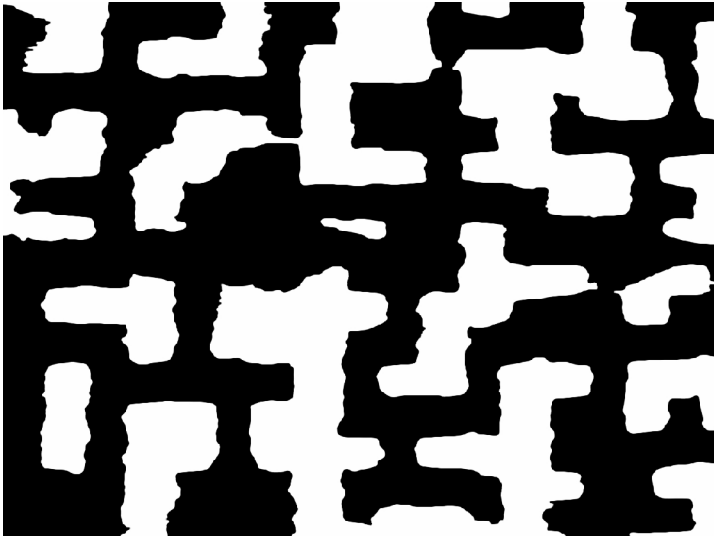
BCSFAzine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#511

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December 2015



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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at felicity4711@gmail.com or Apartment 601, Manhattan Tower, 6611 Cooney Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V6Y 4C5 (*new address*).

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This and Next Month in BCSFA

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).
Sunday 17 January at 7 PM:	January BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
Friday 22 January:	Submission deadline for February <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 29 January:	February <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/). 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

Sunday 25 October 2015

askance73@gmail.com

A quick letter of comment to make your upcoming 509th issue—maybe.

[*It should have been in #509. My mistake! I had it marked as important in my e-mail but somehow it still got lost in the shuffle.*]

Thank you, Dave Haren, for acknowledging *Askance*. I enjoy producing the zine, and if you ever wish to contribute some article, feel free to send it my way. Letters of comment, naturally, are always appreciated. But I am glad you enjoy reading it. Sometimes I feel it's not that interesting, so maybe what I'll do is write an article that will piss people off to force them to write letters. Then again, that might make them ignore me as a raving lunatic, but such is the gamble I may need to take. You roll the dice and deal with the consequences. In the meantime, I can send him a copy of my paper-only zine, *Askew*. For that I will definitely need a snail mail address for Dave.

I hope all y'all had a good time at VCON. Am I correct in assuming there will be at least one con report in an upcoming issue of *BCSFAzine*? Hope so.

[*Last month's and this month's issues should have Michael Bertrand's VCON 40 report.*]

Enough for now. Take care, and keep your stick on the ice.

All the best,
John Purcell

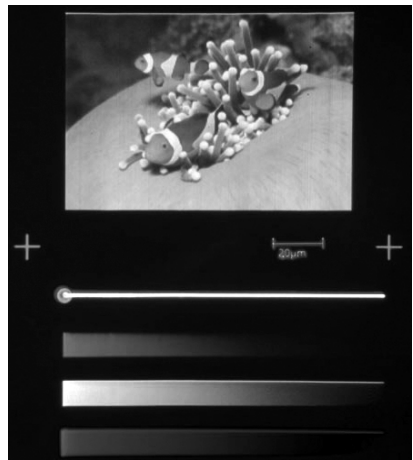
Dave Haren

Friday 22 January 2016

tyrbolo@comcast.net

Hi Felicity,

Sorry for the delay. My ISP decided to upgrade me out of the email business as part of their great leap forward. The sad truth of the computer business is every meddling nit thinks they have the way to revolutionize things with Feeping Creaturisms. The idea that the comp is an artifact like a shovel that people use seems to have been left out of the school curriculum that produces programmers. People want their tools to work. Any cosmetic array of dazzle that interferes with getting the work done is a waste. The jump backwards to the IBM PC combined with Windows destroyed the advances of decades almost im-



mediately, trapping the newer users into a nightmare of being continuously “upgraded” into a virtual standstill of productivity. Macs on the other hand became cultic fanatic fetish objects until their modern conversion to a 1970 operating system coupled with the microprocessor of the IBM PC machines. The latest epic in this comedy of errors is NSA through its political lackeys decided that it is OK to surveil if the corporations do it and they just receive a copy of all your data. That way the Intelligence Community is not spying on you anymore. The corporations get the blame but the IC still gets the data. That’s why Windows 10 is a free upgrade. It collects every keystroke and continuously sends everything back to Microsoft as a customer enhancement service for your own good and the safety of a world that is only safe if every opinion is safe by being vetted by the governments.



USA is currently contemplating placing this power in the hands of Walmart (Clinton) or Capitalist Lunacy (Trump) or some other random clown with equally nutty ideas. Orwell’s totalitarian leaders were at least rational in their reasons for oppression.

The EU on the other hand is a funfest in which refugees (unaware of 20th century history) have decided to alienate the Germans by imposing on their sense of humour about bad public behaviour. As an acclimatization every refugee should be required to tour the Holocaust Museum as part of their understanding

where they are. All of the multicultural tolerance in the world will not save them if the tide turns back. Germany in 1930 was the educated crown jewel of European civilization and it turned into a nightmare right before the eyes of the world. France has two national totem animals according to Mark Twain, rabbit and tiger. Kick the rabbit it might turn into the tiger.

I would like to see some current Robert Sheckley writing thinly disguised social commentaries as SF. One of my favorite lines from him: “The policeman whirled, firing three warning shots into the crowd of bystanders.” Humour is the only thing that will save us in these interesting times.

Make sure you read the latest *OBIR*. It is a stellar ish.

[*Readers: OBIR stands for Occasional Biased and Ignorant Review (of Canadian speculative fiction), published by R. Graeme Cameron!*]¹

Project Gutenberg is about to top the 51,000 ebooks mark. A lot of the latest offerings are from *Galaxy* magazine. A chance to see what the hip kids were reading right before we ruined the world with civil rights and antiwar protests.

Catalina Diamond has changed her name on Stross’ blog to what I read as “You Been Had Too,” in a sleazy ploy to shake off admirers. Jane Fancher (Cherryh) has invoked her wrath on home improvement shows that show overly wealthy nits overspending on the exotic for limited return. Carolyn can see again (cataract surgery

1 <http://www.obirmagazine.ca/>

without problems) and is starting another book after an epic of home reconstruction and health fixes.

Taral Wayne has decided to make us all nicer (*Broken Toys* #45).²

Start links and odd inserts.

<http://themonkeythatwalks.blogspot.com/2015/11/orks-never-lose.html>

First moron doesn't stand a chance department.

[*I don't know enough about the game to follow what's happening, but a description of the game with photos was a neat idea.*]

A 24-hour Jihadi help desk.

[*Various news stories:*³ *ISIS has a 24-hour "Jihadi help desk."*]

Ohh noo's department!!!

<https://boingboing.net/2015/11/23/mother-shocked-to-discover-a-g.html>

[*It reminds me of a 1994 Doonesbury strip where Jeremy Cavendish had to take a tough, principled stand as a board member of the city ballet and theatre.*]



<http://newsthump.com/2015/11/24/windows-10-gains-self-awareness-initiates-judgement-day/>

[*"Or reinstall XP."* Ha! ☺]

Brit Arm humour.

<http://www.arrse.co.uk/wiki/Auftragstaktik>

Something you don't see much: an agricultural touring epic.

<https://archive.org/details/farmersoffortyce00kinguoft>

Dirac Uncertainty Principle:

"An anecdote recounted in a review of the 2009 biography tells of Werner Heisenberg and Dirac sailing on an ocean liner to a conference in Japan in August 1929. 'Both still in their twenties, and unmarried, they made an odd couple. Heisenberg was a ladies' man who constantly flirted and danced, while Dirac—"an Edwardian geek," as biographer Graham Farmelo puts it—suffered agonies if forced into any kind of socialising or small talk. "Why do you dance?" Dirac asked his companion. "When there are nice girls, it is a pleasure," Heisenberg replied. Dirac pondered this notion, then blurted out: "But, Heisenberg, how do you know beforehand that the girls are nice?" "

DEA officer's daughter:

"A probable cause statement quoted by NBC affiliate KCEN claims that police found '31.5 grams of packaged cocaine, 126 grams of high grade marijuana, 29 'ecstasy' tablets, methamphetamine, and 60 doses of a drug similar to LSD' in Sarah Furay's bedroom. They also reported finding two digital scales, packaging materials and a handwritten drug price list. Police found text messages in her phone discussing drug transactions."

2 <http://efanzines.com/Taral/BrokenToys-45.pdf>

3 Sample link: <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/paris-terror-attacks/isis-has-help-desk-terrorists-staffed-around-clock-n464391>

A hit a most palpable hit on the target:

<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/america-is-too-dumb-for-tv-news-20151125>

[*The good guys have to get better at what I call meme warfare.*]

Washington Post:

“‘It is not in doubt,’ said Mustafa Saadi, who says his friend saw US helicopters delivering bottled water to Islamic State positions. He is a commander in one of the Shiite militias that last month helped push the militants out of the oil refinery near Baiji in northern Iraq alongside the Iraqi army. ‘The Islamic State is “almost finished,”’ he said. ‘They are weak. If only America would stop supporting them, we could defeat them in days.’”

I found this perception interesting:

“Therefore, it is suggested that women identify with the patriarchal, androcentric image of themselves (particularly as reproductive and sexual beings) and so regard themselves as the Other. They have ‘chosen’ to remain ‘beings in themselves’ rather than become ‘beings for themselves,’ because this status offers them benefits, including the evasion of full, adult moral responsibility and autonomy.”—Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, widely recognised as a landmark text

[*She sounds like Dave Sim!*]

Oh Wow Man Dept.:

<http://io9.com/according-to-the-internet-aleister-crowley-was-george-1745967571>

[*Probably not true but fun to think about.*]

Only maybe:

<http://journal.sjdm.org/15/15923a/jdm15923a.pdf>

Ouch Dept.:

https://archive.org/details/mst3k_season_0

[*“Ouch”?*]

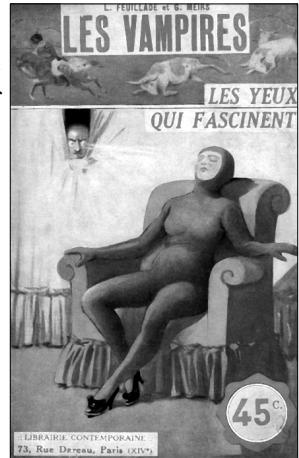
Hmmm?

http://www.hbs.edu/faculty/Publication%20Files/16-057_d45c0b4f-fa19-49de-8f1b-4b12fe054fea.pdf

Could be the end of meritocracy as we were told it.

“Avoid Greatness

“Girard’s analysis of the scapegoat game complements what both Kierkegaard and Nietzsche found to be the defining characteristic of egoity in the modern age: the dismissive envy, or resentment, that however unwittingly drives our collective determination to rid human culture of all superior men and women. Resentment is the ‘leveling’ impulse whereby the common man attempts to assuage his mortal anxiety by assuring himself that there really is nothing great to Realize and no one made great by Realizing it. Mockery, slander, and the other tools of the hypocritical ego are its primary weapons. In the words of the German philosopher Constantin Brunner, ‘Every age knows so much about great men as to know that none of them is



one. No age has had a prophet whom it wanted, whom it did not regard as a madman...whom it did not regard as absurd, depraved, malign—as evil incarnate.”

Sounds like the goode olde dayes. I noticed that once America pulled out of Viet Nam the youngers abandoned their high moral principles instantly.

<http://original.antiwar.com/thomas-knapp/2015/12/11/millennials-lets-you-and-them-fight/>

Fascinating history lesson in the middle.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjxAARoKoA0>

[*Slavoj Žižek, Yanis Varoufakis, and Julian Assange.*]

Something long to read with amazement:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/17/the-mystery-of-indias-deadly-exam-scam>

Whistleblowers and Citizens Alliance

Australian comedian protests in Paris.

Lots of swearings and hard opinions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGf0jQH-RFY>

Social media your ass up on this!!

<https://pando.com/2015/02/04/the-geometry-of-censorship-and-satire/>

Disclaimers: I'm a friend of Sean Bedlam, and a reader of the early *National Lampoon* who did some truly scurrilous satires (something to offend all).

For those who want to know something about what happened to Greece.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCA68U3P_Z8

For the *Illuminatus* fans of RAW:

<https://auticulture.wordpress.com/2015/12/19/lse-the-beginnings-of-psychiatric-social-work-child-care-occult-yorkshire-11/>

Pretty pictures:

<http://synthezoide.deviantart.com/gallery/>

Some nice work. Since I don't Tumblr I have to find this elsewhere but it has some great Steampunkery pics.

<http://synthezoide.deviantart.com/art/Constance-s-flight-309641640>



[*That drawing reminds me a little of Ben Dunn.*]

“7. One Can't Hide

“The seventh lesson I teach is that one can't hide. I teach students that they are always watched, that each is under constant surveillance by me and my colleagues. There are no private spaces for children; there is no private time. Class change lasts exactly three hundred seconds to keep promiscuous fraternization at low levels. Students are encouraged to tattle on each other or even to tattle on

their own parents. Of course, I encourage parents to file reports about their own child's waywardness too. A family trained to snitch on itself isn't likely to conceal any dangerous secrets. I assign a type of extended schooling called 'homework,' so that the effect of surveillance, if not the surveillance itself, travels into private house-

holds, where students might otherwise use free time to learn something unauthorized from a father or mother, by exploration or by apprenticing to some wise person in the neighborhood. Disloyalty to the idea of schooling is a devil always ready to find work for idle hands.”—John Taylor Gatto, from *Dumbing Us Down*⁴

In case you are wondering where the acceptance of the surveillance state came from. You don’t have to look at anything but your own experiences in school.

Here’s how you fight back.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXEUE__ap08&index=68&list=PL0crXzpA0W83sb3Ztv11Uq6Vj1A3qh4XM

[“*State of the Onion*” (the router people, not the news satire people), from the 32nd Chaos Communication Congress, or “32C3.”]

Right up Graeme’s alley. ID the old fans at play in a con.

<https://boingboing.net/2016/01/02/help-identify-the-science-fict.html>

[Wild! What a great find. Also, so much good hair!]

Great Cthulhu’s shining ghost!!

<http://weirdnj.com/weird-news/figures-woodbridge-clay-pits/>

Of interest. Digging in history for ideas is always fruitful.

<http://godsandrads.org/2015/09/10/behind-the-revolutionary-the-revolt/>

End links.

I have a weird model in progress. This one is being done because it looks so science fictional to me (Kyushu J7W1 Shinden Imperial Japanese Navy fighter).

I am quite happy for Canadians. I haven’t heard any bad news about your government since Harper was given the boot. Keep up the good work. Maybe it will become contagious.

The clown fish are supposed to be the world’s smallest printed picture. Vampires ad. Can be seen at archive.org. Cultic symbol located in Vancouver. Movie poster.

Warm regards,
Dave Haren

John Purcell
3744 Marielene Circle,
College Station, TX 77845
USA
askance73@gmail.com

Saturday 23 January 2016

Well, Felicity, it certainly appears your corner of the universe is a very active one. The calendar for November and December 2015 was full, and I have read notices regarding the next VCON from Graeme, so good things are going on up there in Vancouver. Some year a vacation trip to British Columbia should be made, preferably when a local SF con is planned. My wife and I would enjoy that very much.

[☺]

I have to admit that Dave Haren covers a lot of territory in his letter of comment. It really isn’t as coherent as others he has written to *BCSFazine*, but that’s

4 *Dumbing Us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling* by John Taylor Gatto and Thomas Moore

okay; all those links can provide hours of entertainment to anyone so inclined. Now that the semester has finally begun I really don't have that kind of time, but I really get a kick out of all Dave's interests. That's one of the major attractions I have with fans and their fanzines: varied outside interests. Dave certainly is loaded down with them, that's for sure.

Lloyd Penney has my full sympathy with his ongoing job battles. Here I thought he had finally landed a solid, permanent type employment, and once again the rug has been yanked from under his feet. I am positive, though, that Lloyd will land a new job so that he and Yvonne can still make their England trip this year. And speaking of Yvonne, I discovered that one of our cable channels carries old episodes of *The Murdoch Mysteries*. Season 8 recently finished airing, and I keep searching the background characters walking around for Yvonne sometimes to the point of not following the story. Oh, well. It is an entertaining program, and in two weeks that cable channel 118 will start repeating season 8 so I can resume my Yvonne Penney search.



Taral Wayne revisits part of the TAFF Wars that I mostly ignored when it happened, mainly because my DAFIA period—Drifting Away From It All—had begun. Even so, over the years I have learned much about this sad state of affairs, and very glad to see that in recent years TAFF has enjoyed a resurgence thanks to well-run campaigns by batches of very fine candidates and their winners. Now the big fannish fan fund that is under a bit of a problem is DUFF. Hmm. Maybe the next ground for DUFF will revitalize that worthy endeavour.

Okay, that should do it. Take care, and thanks again for pubbing yer ish. As always, an enjoyable virtual trip north of the border.

All the best,
John Purcell

Lloyd Penney
1706–24 Eva Road,
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9C 2B2
penneys@bell.net

Wednesday 27 January 2016

Dear BCSFAns:

I've got issue 510 of *BCSFazine* here, and I've sat on it long enough. Time for a few remarks on what's inside. Many thanks for all your good work on this publication, Felicity!

American clown politics...even the American clown voters are getting tired of the rapidly declining number of Republican clowns who pile out of the clown car every so often. One of those occasions is the newest debate, and the head clown, Trump, has decided he doesn't want to play because he is afraid of the moderator from Fox News. Canada has become an island of sanity in all of this political hackery.

I found out that employers in Ontario are under no compunction to reveal the reasons for any employee dismissals, and I had thought it was the other way around. I wonder when that changed?

Taral comes back to what I wrote on TAFF...the candidate who lost last time, Wolf von Witting, is running again, so I hope he will win. This is the second year in a row the candidate comes from Europe to go to a North American convention.

The revival of FRED! An excellent idea. Too many people miss the point of these pubnights...too many complain about the food, while the real reason is to get together regularly and strengthen community.

Aha, a VCON report! With a Montreal room party? Sounds like it was good fun, with some important panel topics. Who was there from Montreal? No complaints about the con? Bonus! Go for it, Graeme for VCON 41.



As we are occasional vendors, we are always on the lookout for new opportunities. We have two tables at Ad Astra the end of April, but now, at the beginning of April, we will have a table

at the Kitchener Comic Con, just down the 401 from Toronto. It's a risk, but an opportunity we will try out, and who knows, we might just get some good sales. Approximately 3,500 attended last year, so let's hope there are some steampunk with some disposable cash...I hope they dispose of it our way.

All done for the moment, and a busy time coming up. The job hunt continues apace, as does the attack on a shrinking pile of zines. Take care, and see you with the next issue.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

Michael Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Saturday 6 February 2016

Hey there BCSFans!

Well, I am back in school for a second semester, and it feels great. I got rather depressed with nothing to do over winter break, so I am happy to have structure and purpose in my life again.

I am taking Canadian History Since 1867 (apparently something important happened that year), Introduction to Ethics (before this we had never met formally), Creative Writing 101 (fun), History of Popular Music (AKA Rock and Roll 101, super duper fun), and Introduction to Linguistics (not fun and way harder than I thought it would be).

All my financial troubles are behind me and I am doing well.

For those of you who don't know because you are not on Facebook (or at least, not on mine), I have revived FRED in a new form, as a biweekly event that takes place every other Saturday at 7 PM at the ABC Restaurant here in Richmond, starting February 6. If you would like to attend, either join the Facebook



group “FRED Two: The Freddening”⁵ or contact me at fruvousfox@gmail.com.

Feels good to be organizing something again.

See you next ish, folks!

We Also Heard From: Garth Spencer.

Calendar

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

Recurring

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 December 2015 and 5, 12, 19, and 26 January 2016 (*Tuesdays*): Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming, 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 December 2015 and 5, 12, 19, and 26 January 2016 (*Tuesdays*): Vancouver Hack Space Open House, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 December 2015 and 5, 12, 19, and 26 January 2016 (*Tuesdays*): Hot Improv Tuesdays at Café Deux Soleils!, 8 PM at Café Deux Soleils, 2096 Commercial Drive, Vancouver.—The Fictionals Comedy Co.

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 December 2015 and 6, 13, 20, and 27 January 2016 (*Wednesdays*): Cloudscape Comics Weekly Meeting, 7:30–11:30 PM at top floor of Memorial South Park’s Fieldhouse, located inside the park at 5955 Ross Street (at 41st Avenue), Vancouver.—Keith Lim/Julian Castle

3, 17, and 31 December 2015 and 13 and 27 January 2016 (*alternate Thursdays*): Burnaby Sci-Fi Writers’ Group, 7–9 PM at Metrotown Public Library, 6100 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, in Program Room or Connections Lounge.—Allan Lowson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

3 December 2015 and 7 January 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 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/454182438109154/>

3, 10, 17, and 24 December 2015 and 7, 14, 21, and 28 January 2016 (*Thursdays*): Thursday Hobby Build Nights, 6–9 PM at Ages Three and Up Gundam, 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby.—A3U Gundam

4, 11, 18, and 25 December 2015 and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 January 2016 (*Fridays*): Magic: The Gathering Friday Night Games, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, Unit #115–6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond.

4, 11, 18, and 25 December 2015 and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 January 2016 (*Fridays*): Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic, 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

4, 11, 18, and 25 December 2015 and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 January 2016 (*Fridays*): Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games, 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

5, 12, 19, and 26 December 2015 and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 January 2016 (*Saturdays*): Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming, 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

5, 12, 19, and 26 December 2015 and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 January 2016 (*Saturdays*): Saturday Jam at the Brownsville Pub, 5:30–9:30 PM at the Brownsville Pub, 11940 Old Yale Road, Surrey.—Greg Cairns

6, 13, 20, and 27 December 2015 and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 January 2016 (*Sundays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays, 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, #295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

7, 14, 21, and 28 December 2015 and 4, 11, 18, and 25 January 2016 (*Mondays*): Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures, 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

7, 14, 21, and 28 December 2015 and 4, 11, 18, and 25 January 2016 (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

9 December 2015 and 12 January 2016 (*second Tuesday*): Meeting of Automotive Model Builders Vancouver, 7 PM at Burnaby Lions Club, 7420 Mulberry Place, Burnaby.

9 December 2015 and 12 January 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

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

10 December 2015 and 14 January 2016 (*second Thursday*): Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30–8:30 PM. [*No location given.*]—Keith Lim

10 December 2015 and 14 January 2016 (*second Thursday*): Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford.—Keith Lim

12 December 2015 and 9 January 2016 (*second Saturday*): Teen Manga and Anime Group (former name Teen Manga Advisory Group), 3:30–5:30 PM at Harvey Southam Room, Lower Level, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. Free.—Julian Castle

16 December 2015 and 20 January 2016 (*third Wednesday*): Richmond BC Writers' Club Critique Night, 7–8:30 PM at Richmond Public Library, Ironwood Branch, Unit 8200, 11688 Steveston Highway, Richmond.—Richmond BC Writers' Club

18 December 2015 and 15 January 2016 (*third Friday*): IPMS Vancouver Monthly Meeting, 7–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, second floor “Arts Room,” 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.—Keith Lim

19 December 2015 and 16 January 2016 (*third Saturday*): Vancouver Comic Jam, 8 PM–late (sometimes ends when Wallflower closes at 1 AM) at the Wallflower Modern Diner, 2420 Main Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

20 December 2015 and 17 January 2016 (*third Sunday*): Board Game Swap Meetup, 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

26 December 2015 and 30 January 2016 (*last Saturday*): Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming, 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

December 2015

December is Write a Friend Month.

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

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

5 December 2015: Day of the Ninja.

7 December 2015: Letter Writing Day.

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.

January 2016

1 January 2016: **Jens Haeusser** and **Marlon Richmond**'s birthdays.

5 January 2016: **Garth Spencer**'s birthday.

5 January 2016: Times Past Entertainment at Maple Ridge Christmas Parade, 6 PM at Haney Place Mall, between 224 Street and 226 Street on Lougheed Highway, Maple Ridge. “Hay fans and fantastic people! Last year we were part of the market. This year we will be in the parade and, if the weather does well, we’ll drop into the park after and say hello and pose for pictures. Join in on the fun! Watch the parade and search for a gift or two in the market. Meet Santa and write him a letter. Facebook. Maple Ridge Christmas Festival.”—Christina Carr

6 January 2016: **Eileen Kernaghan**'s birthday.

8 January 2016: **Ursula Hitler**'s birthday. Premiere of films *The Forest* (horror) and *The Masked Saint* (action/wrestling/superhero; Roddy Piper, Patrick McKenna).

9 January 2016: **Steve Fahnstalk**'s birthday.

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

15 January 2016: Premiere of films *Norm of the North* (computer animation; Rob Schneider, Heather Graham, Bill Nighy, Colm Meaney, Gabriel Iglesias, Charles Adler, Jess Harnell, Candi Milo) and *Moonwalkers* (comedy/conspiracy; Ron Perlman).

15–17 January 2016: RustyCon 33 [at Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center, 17620 International Boulevard, Seattle, Washington].—Garth Spencer

16 January 2016: Appreciate a Dragon Day.

17 January 2016: Vanpla Meeting, 1 PM at 木: Ki Tea House Cafe, #105–6888 Royal Oak Avenue, Burnaby.—Mentor Wang

19 January 2016: **Stewart Smyth**'s birthday.

20 January 2016: **Nancy Kress**'s birthday.

21 January 2016: **Emily Stremel**'s birthday.

22 January 2016: Premiere of films *The 5th Wave* (SF; Chloë Grace Moretz, Ron Livingston, Liev Schreiber), *The Boy* (horror; Jim Norton), *Synchronicity* (SF; Michael Ironside), and *Monster Hunt* (fantasy/comedy).

22 January 2016: Pirate's Haven and Enchanted Encounter Meet and Greet, 6–9 PM at Coming Home Cafe, 753 Sixth Street, New Westminster.—Christina Carr

23 January 2016: Get Out of Your House and Build! January Edition, 1–5 PM at Metropolis Comics and Toys, 4735 Kingsway, Burnaby. "Another chance to spend Saturday



surrounded by toys, model kits, and like-minded builders! Don't be afraid to build in public! Join us! Newcomers are always welcome!"—Stan Hyde

24 January 2016: Pirate Encounter Meet and Greet 2, 6:30 PM at at Coming Home Cafe, 753 Sixth Street, New Westminster.—Christina Carr

25 January 2016: **Ryan Hawe** and **Isaac Terpstra**'s birthdays.

26 January 2016: **Paul Carpentier**'s birthday.

29 January 2016: Premiere of film *Kung Fu Panda 3* (computer animation; Jack Black, Bryan Cranston, Dustin Hoffman, Angelina Jolie, JK Simmons, Jackie Chan, Seth Rogen, Lucy Liu, David Cross, Kate Hudson, James Hong, Wayne Knight, Al Roker, Fred Tatasciore, Jean-Claude Van Damme).

News-Like Matter

Notes from November 2015 BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Graeme Cameron (chairman/archivist), Barb Dryer (secretary), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Ray Seredin (host), Felicity Walker (editor), Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand, Julian Castle, Joe Devoy, William Graham, and Teresa Spanics.

The December meeting/dinner will be at ABC Country Restaurant, Richmond, on the third Sunday (Sunday 20 December 2015), at 6 PM.



Topic: movies with political buildings blowing up. I remembered the White House in *Independence Day* (1996), Fru brought up *Mars Attacks* (1996), and Ray mentioned the Royal Canadian Air Farce's parody of *Meteor* (1979), with Parliament being destroyed. Fru said the White House explosion in *Independence Day* shows America's complex relationship with authority. Also: very

visual. I remembered that it wasn't computer animation; they built a model and blew it up for real. Teresa added that it took a month to set up and they had to get it right the first time. This reminded Graeme of low-budget movies where the effect didn't or couldn't get filmed, and so they had to cut away to a shot of the characters reacting, then cut back to burning rubble.

The Auroras will be handed out tonight! Ray said that John Herbert has three Aurora Awards. His cats took them over when they were kittens, curling up in the "S" and "F." Now they're too big to fit in them.

Graeme said that at first, he was against removing HP Lovecraft as the bust for the World Fantasy Award, but it's become more evident that Lovecraft was *very* racist, so he agrees. However he still remains a Lovecraft fan, viewing Lovecraft's insane racism as a mental disorder afflicting an otherwise rational and decent man who wrote wonderful tales.



Topic: the All Star Wrestling event I'd attended where there was a masked, camouflage-fatigued tag-team called Pain and Suffering. When they were defeated in the rumble, the announcer said "Pain and Suffering have been eliminated!" which sounded really nice. This reminded Graeme of pro-wrestler Mike Jones's interview with Larry Wilmore on *The Nightly Show*. Jones's WWF character, Virgil, was "The Million Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase's servant. Wilmore said "You'd play a slave for a buck?" and Jones replied "Try \$100,000!"

Fru said that George Bush (Senior) said that Dick Cheney is a traitor to the Bush family. He acted at first like he didn't have his own agenda, but under George Bush (Junior) he had a definite agenda. I misheard Joe say "And that's how American inherited the Wyrms."

Graeme said that Charles de Gaulle pulled France out of Algiers. The Algerian French were mad at France and planned to parachute into Paris to assassinate de Gaulle. Joe said that *The Day of the Jackal* (1973) is set during that. I said "The original, not the remake with Bruce Willis."⁶ Joe said "Ugh." I vaguely remembered that the original had an actor from James Bond movies in it. Joe said that Michael Lonsdale, "Hugo Drax" in *Moonraker* (1979), played the police inspector chasing the Jackal, played by Edward Fox, who was "M" in *Never Say Never Again* (1983), the "non-Eon"⁷ James Bond movie. So *The Day of the Jackal* has two Bond connections.



Bruce Willis, looking like Mickey Rourke plus a little bit of William Gibson.

Graeme finds that he's not as interested in new movies anymore. He's curious about the new *Star Wars* but can wait for it to be on Turner Classic Movies...in 2050. I find the same thing, except that my era is 1970s–1990s while Graeme's is 1930s–1950s. Back when I liked new things more often, I used to read *Starlog* every month and look forward every upcoming genre movie. For Graeme, it

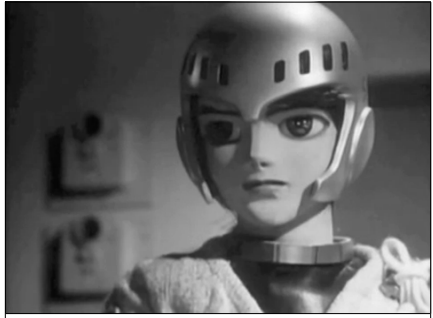
was *Cinefantastique*. Teresa liked *Omni*. I liked *Omni* too. Ray said that there was an *Omni* TV show which was, "ironically, sponsored by Amtrak." Ray added that most Americans don't want to leave their car in the garage and take a train, but that might change; they might want to now. I replied, "Not if it's a bus on rails. If it's the good kind of train where at most four people share compartments with beds and sofas, then yes."

Graeme will be the chair of VCON 41, and the theme will be "Puppets, Muppets, and Marionation." I suggested Charles Band as a topic (if not a guest), since

6 *The Jackal* (1997).

7 Albert "Cubby" Broccoli's Eon Productions, producers of the James Bond film series.

many of his films are about puppets and/or dolls and/or prominently use miniatures, including the *Puppet Master* (1989), *Demonic Toys* (1992), and *Ghoulies* (1985) series.⁸ Joe thought that it could be a good panel topic. For T-shirt art, Ray suggested a drawing of the Robtoter piloting a *Thunderbirds* vehicle. This reminded Graeme that Jamie Anderson (Gerry Anderson’s son) didn’t like *Thunderbirds* (2004), the live-action/CGI remake, saying that it needed strings holding up the vehicles. I mentioned the wrongness of that classist scene in *Thunderbirds Are Go* (1966) and wondered if it was related to the same cultural shift that had 1970s hippies not liking *Doctor Who*’s Third Doctor being an authority figure. Ray pointed out that the Third Doctor had his own clashes with authority figures and hated the military. That reminded me of “Doctor Who and the Silurians” (1972), when the Silurians were going to exterminate the human race and the Brigadier had to destroy them first, and the Doctor got all preachy about it—convenient, since *he* didn’t have to do it. Fru said there are people who can’t accept utilitarianism—that sometimes there are no good options and it’s them or us. (That was also the episode with the weird avant-garde soundtrack, which was cool in the episode but irritating in the DVD menu, since it made a harsh “*Beep beep beep boop booooooop!!!*” sound every time a screen loaded.)



Anderson’s Japanese series X-Bomber (1980), an interesting mixture of the two styles (Supermarionation and anime).

Felicity Walker

Sunday 15 November 2015

Aurora Eligibility Lists and Nominations

Yes, it is that time. The eligibility lists for work done in 2015 for the 2016 awards are now open. As a CSFFA account holder you can add items to the various lists. You don’t have to be the author of that work to add it. You also do not have to have purchased a 2016 membership to add items. We do ask that you make sure that you do not duplicate an item that is already on a list or put it in the wrong one. Details of what are eligible can be found on our website.

If an item that is listed is not correct please email me with the correct information. Please do not add a new record; I will correct the existing one.

Nominations forms are also now open. To nominate you will need to purchase a 2016 CSFFA membership through our Paypal form. If you don’t have a Paypal account our forms are setup so you can use your credit card. Your account should automatically update after you have paid. If this does not happen contact us at once.

⁸ Other puppet-, doll-, or miniature-related Charles Band movies include *Dolls* (1987), *Robot Jox* (1989), *Dollman* (1991), *Prehysteria!* (1993), *Remote* (1993), and *Robot Wars* (1993).—Future Felicity

You have until March 19th, 2016 at Midnight EST to submit your nominations. We will be announcing the ballot on April 1st. We hope to have the voter's package available to download around the middle of April. This will depend on how quickly we are able to get items from authors and publishers.

Voting will not start right away. It will begin on June 15th and will close on July 23rd. We are starting voting later this year to give members time to read the nominated works.

So, please help us make sure our eligibility list is as complete as we can get it and when you are ready sign-up for 2016 and submit your nomination.

This year's awards will be handed out at When Words Collide in Calgary at a dinner on Saturday, August 13th. Membership and banquet tickets are available online (www.whenwordscollide.org).

Yours,

Clifford Samuels

Aurora Awards Administrator

admin@prixaurorawards.ca

Saturday 2 January 2016

'Polar Borealis' Magazine Coming in 2017

R. Graeme Cameron writes:

"After an inspiring luncheon conversation with Lynda Williams, President of SF Canada, I've decided to launch a semi-pro SF fiction magazine circa January/February 2017 to be titled '*Polar Borealis*.' Semi-pro because it will pay less than SFWA rates, but at 1 cent a word (for stories 3,000 words or less) it will still be a paying market.

"I intend to pay contributors on acceptance prior to publication, at least once I have my finances in order circa 2017. Contributors in 2016 will be paid on 'when funds available' basis. I have already put together a 'proof of concept' first issue, which is closed, but am currently open (for the second proposed issue) to story submissions, poetry submissions and art submissions.

"What will make the zine unique is that I want at least two to three stories per issue to be first sales for beginning authors. Consequently unpublished writers submitting stories will only be in competition with each other and not with pros.

"How am I going to pull this off? I have a clever business plan...Going to be different, that's for sure.

"What and Why

"The primary purpose of this zine is to encourage beginning writers in a given issue of *Polar Borealis*, and make it available online to anyone who wants to read it for however long I choose to host said issue.

"Availability: The first 'regular' issue is planned for January/February 2017. *Polar Borealis* will be free to anyone who wishes to download it or receive it via e-mail subscription. At no time will any reader be charged in any way. *Polar Borealis* is 100% free, and in that sense is of amateur status. The only reason it can also be classified as semi-pro is the fact that all contributors will be paid.

“Submission Guidelines

“Who can submit: Contributors must be Canadian, or at least resident in Canada. Any Canadian (must be Canadian—going to be a narrow-niche kind of zine) short story writer, poet, or artist. Stories by authors not yet published will *absolutely* be considered. I want to publish at least one or two per issue, maybe more. But it would also be nice to publish stories from experienced professionals to serve as inspirational examples of what to aspire to.

“When to submit: First issue submissions closed (publication imminent) but am currently open to submissions for proposed second issue.

“How and where to submit: Send an MS Word document (not a PDF) to rgraeme@shaw.ca and be sure to include ‘PB Sub’ in the e-mail heading.

“Everyone submitting should include a short, one-paragraph bio which confirms Canadian status, publication status, and makes you appear quite the character.

“Include info: Are you still waiting for your first sale? Or have already been published? People submitting MS. should indicate whether they’ve never been published or mention a couple of things already published so that I will know what’s what.

“Genre requirements: Short stories can range from hard science to whimsical to Lovecraftian. Looking for science fiction and not fantasy, though of course SF can include fantasy elements, so I’m flexible. Surprise me. Nothing obscene or ultra-violent. Idea-driven combined with character-driven would be ideal.

“Particularly interested in beginning writers who haven’t made a sale yet. I welcome experienced authors but will judge unpublished writers as a separate category so they won’t have to compete with pros. Ideally at least two to three first-sale stories will be in in every issue. Be sure to mention whether you have been published or not so I’ll be sure to place you in the proper category.

“Pay rates—payment on acceptance—preferably by PayPal—for non-exclusive online periodical rights:

- Short stories, one cent a word.

- \$10 for one thousand words or less.

- \$20 for two thousand words or less (but reasonably above one thousand).

- \$30 for three thousand words or less (but reasonably above two thousand).

“Not interested in any story over three thousand words in length.

“Poems: Currently open to poem submissions as well. Payment (regardless of length): \$10.

“Art: Currently open to art submissions including cover art (which can be colour, but I’m also interested in black & white line illustration with maybe a bit of shading (so not too time-consuming for artists to create): \$40. Interior art (B&W line illustration) to illustrate a given story (solicited only): \$20. Interior art (B&W line illustration) fillo: \$5.

“I buy first publication (or reprint) English language world online (PDF) internet rights. Period of exclusivity lasts till one week after publication, whereupon contributor is free to sell it anywhere else they like whenever they like, be it in print form, audio, visual, cuneiform mud bricks, touchy-feely 4D, or whatever. In other words, I don’t want to hinder the authors or artists from earning further income or distributing their creation as widely as possible.

“Be aware that normally, contributors will be paid on acceptance prior to being published. I am not yet in a position to do that. Consequently the 2016 issues (two or three) will come out as soon as they are ready, but contributors will not be paid till late in the year (though earlier if possible). 2017 issues will not come out until after the contributors have been paid.”

R. Graeme Cameron
Facebook
Tuesday 5 January 2016

Fan News

Ditto 2017: R. Graeme Cameron plans to revive Ditto, the dormant fanzine fans’ convention, in the Vancouver area in the fall of 2017 (probably October 6–8), basically because Taral Wayne dared him to. Graeme writes:

“*Goal?* To have fun with peers and like-minded fen in the realm of fanzine fandom and fannish tradition.

“*The future?* If Ditto 2017 works, I may consider holding an annual Ditto-like fanzine fan relaxacon under the title ‘FanMag’ starting in 2018, but only if it is viable.”

—(*Ditto Master Progress Report* #1, October 2015)

So far, Graeme reports, he has been getting a lot of “I would if I could but I can’t” responses, from fanzine fans citing age and infirmity.

(Taral Wayne founded Ditto to complement Corflu, the first fanzine fans’ convention, but six months apart.)

Convention 35: SFContario 6 in Toronto was the host for Convention 35 in 2015.

Canadian Unity Fan Fund: Paul Carreau (from Calgary, Alberta, a convention organizer and member of Klingon Assault Group Kanada) was to travel to Toronto in November, 2015.

“CUFF administrator Debra Yeung said Carreau was the lone entry that satisfied all the eligibility requirements. His nominators from the West were John Gannon, Jaymz Smith, and Elizabeth Keeling-Carreau, from the East, Diane Lacey, Krikor Ajeman, and Alan Bowbrick. Carreau won the race by acclamation.”

—(*File 770.com*, October 18, 2015)

Convention 36: Hal-Con 2016 in Halifax will be the host for Convention 36 in 2016.

FRED Redivivus: As a result of Facebook exchanges in December 2015, Michael “Fruvous” Bertrand is organizing a revival of FRED, the regular social get-together for Vancouver-area fans.

At present (the end of December) the sense of the exchanges is that the new FRED will be a weekly Saturday gathering, but the venue has yet to be settled.⁹

9 Every other Saturday, starting on Saturday 6 February 2016, 7 PM, at ABC Country Restaurant, 3580 Number Three Road, Richmond. For the second FRED, there may or may not be a change from 20 February to 27 February to avoid it being the same weekend as the BCSFA meeting. Check the Facebook group.—Future Felicity

Much of the discussion takes place on the wall of “FRED Part 2: The Freddening,”¹⁰ a new Facebook group set up for prospective members.

—(M. Bertrand, G. Spencer et al., Facebook, December 2015)

Garth Spencer

Wednesday 6 January 2016

VCON 40 Con Report (Part 2)

Michael Bertrand

Sunday 4 October 2015

Wow, did I sleep well. Turns out that, at least this one time, alcohol and sleeping pills made a *wonderful* combination. I got eight solid hours of peaceful, blank, dreamless¹¹ sleep and woke up feeling fine.

And normally, even with my CPAP and my sleeping pills, I am lucky to get six hours of mildly restless, dreamful sleep.

So while I would not recommend mixing your rum and grapefruit juice with quetiapine and trazodone, it worked for me. The only downside was that I slept so well that I completely missed the panel about Marvel movies at 1 PM.

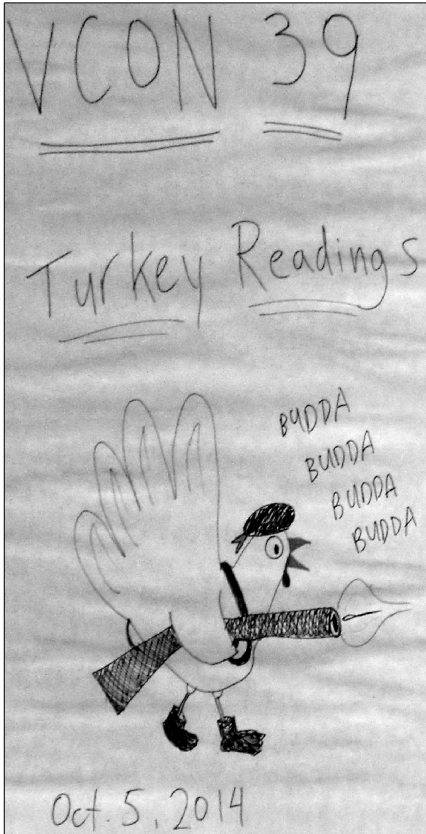


Therefore, the first panel I made it to was at:

2 PM: *VCONs Past*. I went to this panel for a number of reasons, the foremost of which was, of course, genuine interest. I am an old person’s dream in that I am always eager to listen to their stories. Formal history has never interested me deeply, but personal history fascinates me. So I was quite happy to listen to tales of yesteryear from Them What Was There. Another reason to go was to support my friend R. Graeme Cameron, who is a wonderful fellow and a spellbinding raconteur. And thirdly, I was already feeling guilty because I knew I would not be there for his always dryly hilarious Elron Awards because they were scheduled against the only force in the universe that could keep me away from them: the Turkey Readings.

¹⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/454182438109154/>

¹¹ Yes, pedants, I know that there is no such thing as dreamless sleep unless you have a serious brain injury, in which case you will likely die of organic psychosis. But “sleep where I wake up not remembering any dreams nor do I have the sort of shadow-memory of having dreamed” is too much of a mouthful to type.



I am sorry, Graeme, but the Turkeys are literally the most fun I have all year.

And speaking of which...

3 PM: *The Turkey Readings*. People read the worst books they can find. Volunteer weirdos (like me) act out the action. People pay to stop the reading. Others pay to keep it going. Money goes to the Canadian Unity Fan Fund, dedicated to sending West Coast fans to the East Coast and vice versa. When someone bids "stop" and nobody outbids them to "start," you switch readers and the whole thing starts over.

Oh, and while the madness is busy ensuing, my dear friend and roomie Joe Devoy and the radiant and fabulous Felicity Walker are attempting to illustrate the stories being told, as told. At the end of the proceedings, the illustrations are auctioned, and this year, one of Felicity's went for \$25!

It's the most fun thing ever.

Seriously. I laugh so much it counts as aerobic exercise. The whole room shakes with laughter. Bad fiction is a natural source of comedy, and getting people being all silly acting it out only amplifies the effects. The beauty of bad art as comedy

is that bad art is so much more unpredictable than good art. Good art follows rules. And there are always a lot more ways to break a rule than there is to follow it.

In fact, bad art is a great way to learn the rules of effective storytelling because it will break rules you never even knew existed. Learning by counterexample is a powerful tool.

But mostly, it's just funny as hell.

4:30 PM: *The Elrons and FanEds*. The Turkey Readings went till 4:30, so like I said, I missed the Elrons half of it. But I did get to see my dear friend and avatar of awesomeness Felicity Walker receive her FanEd award for activity in the world of fanzines (look it up), and I could not be more proud.

5 PM: As is the tradition at VCON, the final panel was the Closing Ceremonies. As is my personal tradition, I didn't go. My roomies did, though, so I just went back to the room and relaxed 'til it was over, then it was another trip out of the cozy confines of the con in search of food.

A lovely dinner was had with my usual cohorts and some local fans, then we wandered back to the convention for the quite horribly named but harmless Dead Dog Party, which is the party that marks the true end of the convention, where all us fen get together to drink, talk, and delay the onset of reality as long as we can.

This year, however, there was a planning SNAFU and the original base for this all-fen party was just someone's room, right in the middle of a bunch of other rooms filled with people who had the wacky idea that they should be able to sleep at night. And parties have a minimum volume directly proportional to the number of attendees, so while we tried to be quiet in response to a noise complaint, it just wasn't happening, even after the second complaint.

So we were booted out of that room, and had to find another. At this point, the majority of partygoers simply gave up and went to bed. But some kind and swift-thinking con staff were able to sneak us into a conference room that had one of my favorite things to see at a party, a big huge round table.



Thus began one epic and well populated game of Cards Against Humanity. At maximum, we had 14 people playing. The game is designed to manufacture hilarity, so despite the fact that it was materially the worst Dead Dog Party I have ever been to in my many years of VCON-going, I had a wonderful time and didn't end up going to bed till 4:30 AM, all laughed out.

And thus ends another wonderful, magical, marvelous VCON. I had a grand old time, as I always do, and I can't wait till I get to do it all over again in 2016.

I will talk to you nice people again tomorrow.

Michael Bertrand

The Homepage of Michael John Bertrand

Friday 9 October 2015

Art Credits

Felicity Walker (photos).....Cover, Pages 15 (right), 21
 Clip art (via Dave Haren).....Pages 1, 4, 7, 9
Dave Haren (photos).....Pages 2, 5, 8
 Clip art [Doonesbury (1994)].....Page 3
Stan Hyde (photo).....Page 13
 Clip art [Independence Day (1996) screenshot].....Page 14 (left)
 Clip art (via Clker.com).....Pages 14 (right), 22 (top)
 Clip art [The Jackal (1997) screenshot].....Page 15 (left)
 Clip art [X-Bomber (1980) screenshot].....Page 16
Julian Castle (photo).....Page 20
Joe Devoy (artwork in photos).....Pages 20–21
Steve Ferrera (font).....Page 22 (bottom)

