

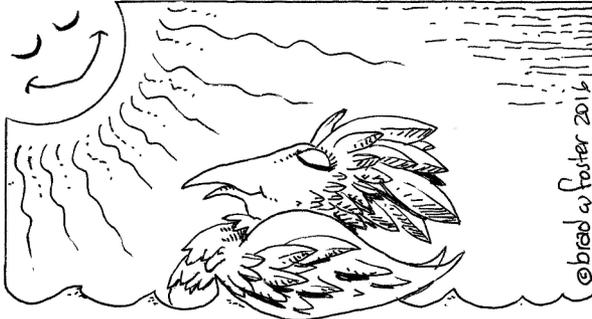
BCSFAzine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#522

\$3.00/Issue

November 2016



...Snoozing in the Sunshine...

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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 November:	Submission deadline for December <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Sunday 20 November at 7 PM:	November BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin’s, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
Friday 25 November:	December <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).
Sunday 18 December at 7 PM:	December BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin’s.
Friday 23 December:	Submission deadline for January <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 30 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/Supporting *BCSFAzine* Production Donor: Felicity Walker, 604-447-3931 (*new number*)

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

FRED Organizer: Michael Bertrand, 604-447-3931

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

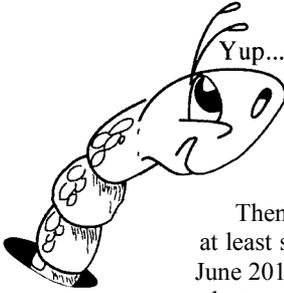
BCSFA’s website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/> (thank you to webmasters [Garth Spencer](#) and [R. Graeme Cameron](#)). The BCSFA e-mail list is “BC Sci-Fi Assc.” (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assc/). See <http://bcsfa.net/events.html> for more events. Low-resolution back issues of *BCSFAzine*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

Letters of Comment

[Editor's responses in brackets.]

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court,
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20882
USA

Thursday 13 Wednesday 19 April 2017



Yup...original bookworm
...that's me!

Dear BCSFAites,

Um...er...been a long time.

I kept wondering if either
the zine had stopped production
or if I had stepped on some toes—until I finally,
just today, went in search. Yeah, it meant I had to
give in and see if the zine is online...and sure enough.

Then I checked my files to see if I had saved LOCs...well, to
at least see what was the date on the last one in the files. Oops—
June 2015. So, it seems I apparently fell off the radar—for
whatever reason. I see a LOC in #504 and then...vacuum. Hope it
was nothing I said (or did not say). If I did something—I apologize. If you are no
longer sending paper copies, I understand.

[No, I apologise. During the time when I was using the masthead you designed,
I sent you a contributor's copy of every issue. At some point I changed the
masthead, so I could only send you contributor's copies when you sent a LOC. As
time went on I got more worried this could lead to you falling out of the cycle, so I
bought an issue from myself and sent it to you to get things back on track. ☺]

I was going to just send this as an apology...but since I may be able to go back
online tomorrow, to see if I can read the latest posted ish...maybe that would be
more productive (?). With any luck...be back in a while.

Well, it has taken another week to get online to look at eFanzines—the latest is-
sue of *BCSFazine* is #520 (September 2016)—so I need to read the fish and see if
there is a mention of suspending or changing...

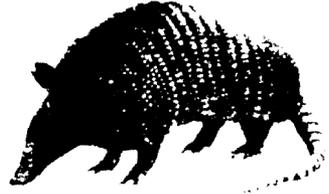
[Also, I'm behind schedule. For example, this is the November 2016 issue and
in the real world it's July 2017!]

#520—keeping up the *Brad Foster* covers I see—good tradition to have!

I checked some of the links to sites that might have BCSFA information, but no
luck. So, I'll keep on poking through what I have on screen. Hmm, something seems
off since the cover date is September 2016, yet the first LOC I see is from 20 Janu-
ary 2017...Wow, the LOC has turned into a great treasure trove of links and an art-
icle unto itself. The pictures were nice eye candy!

The next LOC reminds me I am sadly in the past on the *Supergirl* episodes. Not
quite sure how to remedy that—since the episodes I need to start with seem to not be
available *on demand*.

Then a LOC from John Purcell, that reminds me I need to see if I can locate the *TAFF* results that would have been announced at *Eastercon*...Yup—took a look around and *John* won by one vote! Congrats, *John*!



Now a LOC from *Lloyd (Penney)*—from the 20th of February, 2017. Since I seem to have been out of the time loop for a while, I hope the illness mentioned in relation to *Taral* is the one I actually saw mentioned online a while back—but it seemed to fizzle out quite quickly, so I hoped that meant he had recovered. Again, hope that is the case.

[*See article in this issue!*]

Wow—and now a really *really* long calendar starting with (sorta) September 2016—which matches the cover, but not the dates on the loss, so I am not sure what is happening.

In order to try to keep this (already extremely late—but I didn't know it...) as close to timely as possible, I made short work of the online version of #520—but there went my hood for time to cork on doodles that have languished untouched for ooh so very long. Sigh.

Hope I have located your latest ish correctly—can't see that the newsletter has been put on hiatus, but I somehow fell off...

Better short than never!

'Bye,
Sheryl

Dave Haren
tyrbolo@comcast.net

Friday 21 April 2017

Hi Felicity,

Before I forget in the mad rush to get this to you in a timely fashion, QVODD are a colonial marine redcoat unit named from a terrible joke circulating in the USMC (Uncle Sam's Misguided Children) about Queen Elizabeth on a TV show. "QV" is "Queen Victoria's," the "O" is "Own," and the "DD" have to be left to imagination in this wholesome family zine. Most military humour does not pass well into other areas of society, particularly unit self designations. It's a small price to pay when you ask people to die for some arcane necessity a long way from their home. In this case on the Martian Plains.

[*I had a feeling that "QV" was "Queen Victoria," but the rest was a mystery. There's a lot of things "DD" can mean in military lingo: "Department of Defense," "Dishonourable Discharge," "done deal," and "di di [mau]" came up in my research.*]

John Purcell's essay on eFanzines earned him the tag and the joke about post-moderns. If you dig into the *umwelt* there is rarely any consensus about what is or how to parse it into meaningful terms.

Lloyd may be right, the Clintons may have repented and been ready to forge a new utopia on the ruins of their previous mistakes, but I have serious doubts about that premise. That doesn't let Donny Dumbass Trump off the hook for his own actions either. I'm more concerned about a CIA director who sees demons these days.



If Julian¹ has a leaning it is probably towards the angelic instead but he's a lot less naive about the world these days. It's not as heavily publicized but the US government has a war against smart people that is just as ugly as the war on terror and the war on drugs. Anyone who actively tries to change the world for the better (make governments live up to their empty rhetoric) is in for a rough time.

BC movies are fun and usually have some intellectual content making them a vast cut above the Hollywood garbage of our latter days. If it wasn't for comic book film versions they would be underwater fiscally in southern California.

I'd love to see someone film *Cyteen*² and *Regenesis*³ but there isn't much scope for the CGI gang to do in most of the material. Being locked in a micro-environment hacked from a frontier planet has pretty limited architecture. Carolyn and Jane could probably use the money but the time needed to invest in doing it right might be a greater loss.

Kill Six Billion Demons' latest is a two-page spread of Throne⁴ with all the high points of interest. The author has a great imagination and a lot more patience for detailed art than I do. Definitely worth an extended look.

WO45 is on-line. TAILS⁵ 2.12 is available. TOR⁶ browser has a new version available. And Julian Assange is running for Parliament in hopes of replacing Theresa May... ;^)

[I like Jeremy Corbyn. What's WO45?]

Links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJI6pJ0wVeU7>

War Machine Rock from ye olde dayes.

<https://butterflylanguage.com/2017/03/30/earthers-vs-offworlders/>

Choose up sides now!!

[Reminds me of Stark (1989).]

"It's a terrible fate,

I thought I'd never see,

The feared Elder God,

Is totally kawaii."

1 Julian Assange.

2 *Cyteen* (1988), novel by CJ Cherryh.

3 *Regenesis* (2009), novel by CJ Cherryh.

4 A city in the webcomic *Kill Six Billion Demons* (2013).

5 "The Amnesic Incognito Live System."

6 "The Onion Router."

7 "Ray Manzarek—The Best Organ Solo Ever."

8 Butterfly Language: "Earthers vs. Offworlders."

<https://thewar-room.blogspot.com/2016/12/kow-concentric-game-2-vs-kom-and.html>⁹

“Once again you have managed an undeserved victory through dumb luck and base cunning. Your best tactical manoeuvre in the entire game was when you mis-measured the knights’ charge range badly, but not badly enough to allow both units to charge. You once again placed your unstoppable Soul Reaver Knights on an obscure flank, and then failed to even move them the entire game. Your deployment was abysmal in every regard with unsupported units spread out all across the table. After surging the Wights had saved you from your own incompetence last game, you might have thought you would have learned to keep them near a character that could surge them, but no... You decided to deploy them on their own, away from any characters that could allow you to use your greatest tactical advantage. At this point impalement is too kind for the likes of you, and I must put my mind to something much worse...”



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ann_Manley

In case you think moderne USA politics is ugly... :^)

[I like the line “Despite Konig and Manley’s occasional attempts to murder each other, they appeared to view their rivalry as professional.”]

<http://www.theeternities.com/lincoln-cannon-feed-your-head-what-we-can-do-now-and-what-we-will-soon-do-to-tweak-the-brain/>¹⁰

Another cousin.

[Wild. It’ll be like having Brother Eye inside your body!]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWfFco7K9v8>¹¹

This is your brain not on drugs.

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/how-two-nazi-germanys-most-powerful-battleships-took-great-19969>¹²

Sounds like a model case of Imperial efficiencies.

[http://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674\(17\)30344-6](http://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674(17)30344-6)¹³

If you are around long enough you develop new ways of doing things.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2tD8Tmr10M>¹⁴

Terry on a roll. Worth a listen.

-
- 9 The War-Room: “Kings of War Concentric Game 2 vs. Kingdoms of Men and Nightstalkers.”
 - 10 The Eternities: “Lincoln Cannon—Feed Your Head: How to Enhance Your Brain Now and Soon.”
 - 11 The Illusion Contest: “Ambiguous Cylinder Illusion.”
 - 12 *The National Interest*: “How Two of Nazi Germany’s Most Powerful Battleships Took on Great Britain (and Won).”
 - 13 *Cell*: “Trade-Off Between Transcriptome Plasticity and Genome Evolution in Cephalopods.”
 - 14 Terence McKenna: “Imagination Is a Portal.”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNFbR5_BY¹⁵

Curtis interview.

Links end.

That wraps up another one. I'll get back to painting Space Amazons and finishing the Skysend City Brothel.

Warm regards,

Dave

Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Tuesday 2 May 2017

Wow. It feels like issue #500 was only yesterday.

Anyhow, on to LOCing:

Heya BCSFAns! It's your long lost correspondent Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand here, back from the wilds of education and ready to LOC at last.



The big news on my front is that on April 21, I graduated from the Writing for Film and Television program at Vancouver Film School.

Pause for polite applause.

It's one of the toughest entertainment writing courses in the world, and I am proud to have made it. For once in my life, I am actually qualified for something. Not just because I have the diploma on my wall, but because I know I am easily ten times the writer I was when I started the program and that means I can actually do the dang job.

What job? Television writer, of course. I have wanted to write for TV ever since I figured out TV was written. It's a tough market to break into, but I am determined to make it.

In fact, in a way I already have. I have hooked up with some energetic young people with an excellent idea for a TV show, and on said show, I will be pretty much the entire creative department. Head writer, lead writer, only writer...the works. It's not what anyone would call *employment*, seeing as none of us will be getting paid unless the thing is a success, but it's an amazing opportunity to be in on the ground floor of something that I think could be pretty big. And there is no other job I could get as an untested newbie that would give me such a central role and hence such valuable experience, as well as the opportunity to really make it my own.

Not bad for someone who graduated less than two weeks ago!

Wow. That ended up a lot longer than I thought it would. On to the LOC part of this thing. (Felicity: The quotes from other LOCs should be in italics, I think.)

"With a title like 'Temptress of the Tower of Torture and Sin' any young lad would feel his imagination go into overdrive."

Well, *almost* any.

Anyhow, wow, what a great era of science fiction. You could write damn near anything and be as nakedly and brazenly sensationalistic as you liked because, pre-

15 Radio GoGo Episode 1: "Living in a Hypernormal World with Adam Curtis."

sumably, the mundane world wasn't watching. I am a big fan of art that shamelessly panders to our baser instincts, especially lust, and so in my mind, that was a heck of a great time to be a reader...or a writer!

“A 2006 study showed that 73% of psychologists refuse to show their data after publication, even after agreeing to do so. It sounds shady, but Nature’s article seems to suggest that an embarrassed unfamiliarity with the rigors of science is still sadly at hand in the halls of psychology.”

We talked about this in psychology class when I did my year at Kwantlen Polytechnic. It shocked me and saddened me but it didn't exactly surprise me. As much as I love psychology, the potential for bullshit to creep in is enormous precisely because so much of it is not something that can be independently verified. That does not, however, mean it's all bullshit. I know a lot of people *want* to declare it all bullshit because they do not like what it tells them and lack the metacognitive capacity for self-examination, but not all which is called into question is false. It is simply unproven.

Personally, I put a lot of the blame on the “publish or perish” system. If someone has to come up with the “right” answer to retain employment, I guarantee there will be cheating galore.

Well that's enough from me for this month.

Have a good month, BCSFAns!

Lloyd Penney
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Etobicoke, Ontario
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penneys@bell.net

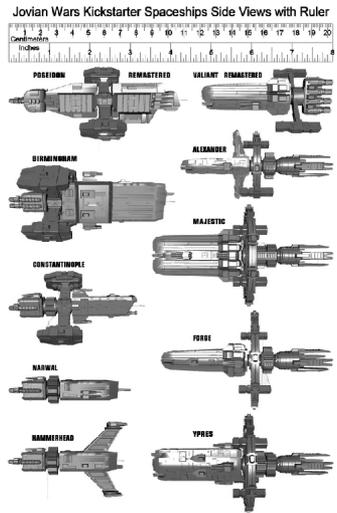
Friday 5 May 2017

Dear BCSFen:

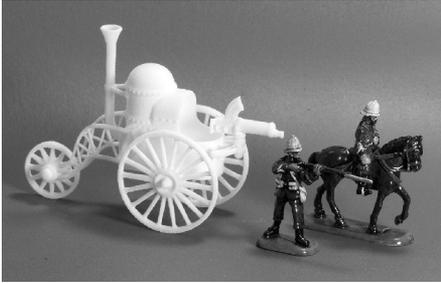
Well yesterday was May the Fourth (Be With You), and today is The Revenge of the Fifth. With all this in mind, I have *BCSFAzine* 521 with me, and now, a LOC with you, Felicity. Thanks for all the work in getting this zine on the go.

I'd like to see Dave Haren's next letter, now that Obamacare is being repealed, and the insulting Trumpcare is being installed. I expect people will soon die now that the treatment they will need will be denied to them because of pre-existing conditions. The US is the only leading country not to have universal healthcare for its citizens, and they can afford it the best, too. Healthcare is now a luxury for some, and just the other day, Trump said that the Australian universal healthcare was great. Who really is in charge there?

We had our vendor's table at CostumeCon 35 in Mississauga...sales were poor because the dealers' room was tucked away downstairs with few signs pointing that



we all were there. Ad Astra is on as I type this, and we are going for tomorrow/Saturday only. Even if we don't have a table there, we already have some sales lined up.



John Purcell's LOC...Canada won't build a wall along the Canada/US border. I suspect Trump will on a whim. It will not only keep Canadians out, but also keep Americans from getting away. America, your basic liberties are being torn away from you by the idiot you elected, and the party behind his idiocies, and the nasty agenda they are pushing through to keep you all poorer.

Tomorrow is the deadline for Aurora nominations. To be honest, I have no idea what is in the Canadian SF field, and I have read or seen none of it. I am totally unqualified to be a nominator, and I think I will also be unqualified to be a voter. I can't be the only one who feels that way.

All for now, and thank you for the real paper copies. See you with the next one!

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

John Purcell

3744 Marielene Circle,
College Station, TX 77845
USA

askance73@gmail.com

Sunday 14 May 2017

Good morning, Felicity. I hope this day finds you well and all sorts of good things like that.

Well, as you should know by now, I did win the 2017 TAFF race, which means that Valerie and I are deep in the planning stages of our trip. The tentative plan is to fly from Houston to London in mid-July (possibly the 16th–18th) and return in mid-August (18th or 19th). That should give us enough time to visit fans in England and Europe both before and after the WorldCon in Helsinki. Once the full itinerary is prepared—subject to change at a moment's notice, I am sure—I will folks know so our potential hosts will either (1) have time to prepare for our visit, or (2) run away. They shall be warned.

I have to say that Dave Haren writes the most interesting, rambling letters, complete with links to all sorts of notable items. One of these days I may have to ask him for an article about just one of these topics for my fanzine. He certainly is a wide-read individual. Most science fiction fans are, which is a main reason why I enjoy the company of fans: we have so many things to discuss and argue about.

For now, this will have to do. If I think of anything else to add I shall fire off another email in your general direction. I really need to finish *Askance* #40 being that it is over a month behind schedule now, but the main reason for that was a busy end of semester. Now I have no excuse like that.

All the best,

John Purcell

We Also Heard From: Denny E. Marshall.

Calendar

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

Recurring

3, 10, 17, and 24 November and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 December 2016 (*Thursdays*): Thursday Hobby Build Nights, 6–9 PM at Ages Three and Up Gundam, 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby.—A3U Gundam

3 November and 1 December 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. [*No Drop-In Drawing in July.*]

3 November and 1 December 2016 (*first Thursday*): Wordplay: A Free Writing Prompt Group with Facilitator Alan Girling, 7–9 PM at the Network Hub, #205–810 Quayside Drive, New Westminster.—Alan Girling

5, 12, 19, and 26 November and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 December 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 November and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 December 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 November and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 December 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 November and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 December 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 November and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 December 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 November and 4, 11, 18, and 25 December 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 November and 5, 12, 19, and 26 December 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 November and 5, 12, 19, and 26 December 2016 (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 November and 6, 13, 20, and 27 December 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 November and 6, 13, 20, and 27 December 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 November and 6, 13, 20, and 27 December 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 November and 7, 14, 21, and 28 December 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 and 17 November and 1, 15, and 29 December 2016 (*alternate Thursdays*): Burnaby Sci-Fi Writers' Group, 7–9 PM at Metrotown Public Library, 6100 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, in Program Room or Connections Lounge.—Allan Lawson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

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

10 November and 8 December 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 November and 10 December 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

8 November and 13 December 2016 (*second Tuesday*): Meeting of Automotive Model Builders Vancouver, 7 PM at Burnaby Lions Club, 7420 Mulberry Place, Burnaby.

8 November and 13 December 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 November and 7 and 21 December 2016 (*alternate Wednesdays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!, 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

18 November and 16 December 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 November and 17 December 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 November and 18 December 2016 (*third Sunday*): Board Game Swap Meetup, 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

16 November and 15 December 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

26 November and 31 December 2016 (*last Saturday*): Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming, 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

November 2016

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

1 November 2016: National Authors’ Day and National Family Literacy Day.

3 November 2016: **Dale Speirs’s** birthday.



4 November 2016: Book Lovers’ Day. Premiere of films *Doctor Strange* (fantasy/comics; Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Tilda Swinton, Benjamin Bratt, Meera Syal, Stan Lee, Chris Hemsworth) and *Trolls* (computer animation; Justin Timberlake, Zooey Deschanel, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Christine Baranski, Russell Brand, Gwen Stefani, John Cleese, Jeffrey Tambor, Ron Funches, Grace Helbig).



5 November 2016: **Shannon Enns** and Hello Kitty's birthdays.

6 November 2016: **Stan Hyde**'s birthday. Fill Our Staplers Day.

6 November 2016: Vancouver Comicon, 11 AM–4 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver. Admission: \$4.

7 November 2016: **Tim Maruyama**'s birthday.

10 November 2016: World Science Day for Peace and Development.

11 November 2016: Origami Day. Premiere of films *Arrival* (SF; Jeremy Renner, Forest Whitaker, Tzi Ma) and *The Love Witch* (horror/comedy).

12 November 2016: **Toulouse LeTrek**'s birthday.

14 November 2016: National Young Readers' Day.

15 November 2016: I Love to Write Day.

16 November 2016: Button Day.

18 November 2016: **Ken Kato**'s birthday. Occult Day. Premiere of films *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* (fantasy; Colin Farrell, Dan Hedaya, Jon Voight, Ron Perlman, Johnny Depp) and *Officer Downe* (SF/comics; Kim Coates, Phil Morris).

19 November 2016: Crystal Skull World Day.

20 November 2016: Absurdity Day.

23 November 2016: *Doctor Who* Day and Fibonacci Day.

24 November 2016: **Spider Robinson**'s birthday.

25 November 2016: Premiere of film *Moana* (computer animation; Dwayne Johnson, Temuera Morrison, Jermaine Clement, Alan Tudyk, Troy Polamalu).

26 November 2016: **Amy Hearn**'s birthday.

27 November 2016: International Aura Awareness Day.

28 November 2016: Red Planet Day.

December 2016

2 December 2016: Premiere of film *Incarnate* (horror; Aaron Eckhart, Vera Miao, Mark Henry).

3 December 2016: **Don Simpson**'s birthday.

4 December 2016: National Dice Day.

5 December 2016: Day of the Ninja.



7 December 2016: Letter Writing Day.

8 December 2016: **Phil Rose**'s birthday. Pretend to Be a Time Traveller Day.

9 December 2016: International Shareware Day.

10 December 2016: **Graham Mitchell**'s birthday.

14 December 2016: **Danielle Stephens**'s birthday.

16 December 2016: Premiere of film *Rogue One* (SF/action; Felicity Jones, Alan Tudyk, Forest Whitaker, Jimmy Smits, James Earl Jones, Anthony Daniels, Warwick Davis).

17 December 2016: **Neil O'Brien**'s birthday.

18 December 2016: **Fran Skene**'s birthday.

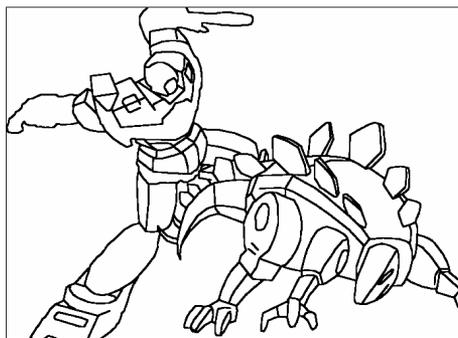
19 December 2016: **Yvonne Penney** and **Terry Wyatt**'s birthdays.

20 December 2016: **Bogglerat**'s birthday. Games Day.

23 December 2016: Premiere of films *Passengers* (SF; Jennifer Lawrence, Laurence Fishburn, Andy Garcia), *Sing* (computer animation/furry; Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Seth McFarlane, Scarlett Johansson, John C. Reilly, Jennifer Saunders, Peter Serafinowicz, Nick Kroll, Beck Bennett, Jay Pharoah, Leslie Jones, Rhea Perlman, Laraine Newman, Carlos Alazraqui, Wes Anderson, Townsend Coleman, Jim Cummings, Jess Harnell), *A Monster Calls* (fantasy; Sigourney Weaver, Felicity Jones, Liam Neeson), and *Assassin's Creed* (fantasy/SF; Jeremy Irons).

26 December 2016: **Chris Sturges**'s birthday.

31 December 2016: [Lake Superior State Universe Banished Words List](#).



Via Julian

20–21 May 2017: 6th VanCAF (Vancouver Comic Arts Festival), 10 AM–5 PM at the Roundhouse, 181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver. “A two-day celebration of comics & graphic novels and their creators, including [a] vendor fair featuring hundreds of creators from around the world. Other festival events include readings, panels and workshops.” Featured guests: Katherine

Collins (*Neil the Horse*) in Vancouver, Brandon Graham (co-editor of *Island* anthology published by Image Comics) in Vancouver, Faith Erin Hicks (*Zombies Calling*) in Vancouver, Mike Lawrence (*Star Scouts*) in Portland, Sandrine Revel (*Glenn Gould: A Life Off Tempo*) in France, C. Spike Trotman (alt-history webcomic *Templar, Arizona*) in Chicago, Marcelino Truong in Paris, and Chip Zdarsky (*Sex Criminals*) in Toronto. “In May 2016, [VanCAF had] 10,300 attendees, and 260+ exhibitors.” Free admission.—Julian Castle

24 May 2017: Incite: Jillian Tamaki & Guy Delisle, 7:30–9 PM in Alice MacKay Room, lower level of VPL Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. Two comic book creators close out Incite 2017 (an exploration of books and ideas).—Julian Castle

News-Like Matter

Notes from October 2016 BCSFA Meeting

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

Graeme had a contract and a \$10 cheque for Fruvous for his story “A Year in Solitary,” which will appear in a horror-themed issue of Graeme’s pro-zine, *Polar Borealis*.

Graeme said “I knew a guy who had anthrax as a teenager.” Fruvous replied “I listened to Anthrax as a teenager.” Graeme added that the guy was also very sexually active—he had sex with a different woman every day. Graeme asked him “How do you do it?” and he said “You just ask.” “And they say yes?” “Hell no. Most of the time they say no, fuck off, I’ll call the police...but eventually one says yes—and always before you get to the number 100.” (I said “The ‘Boomhauer’ method.”)



Graeme said that the same guy also carried around a butcher knife—a habit he developed growing up in the Glasgow slums. Stew added “Stabbing capital of the world.” Graeme said that when this guy brought friends home, his mom would pull his pants down and point to his testicles and say “Look at the size of those!” This reminded Stew of Mike Myers as the Scottish dad in *So I Married an Axe Murderer* (1993) and the “Look at his head!” bit.



This reminded Graeme that Scottish comedian Craig Ferguson’s talk show got cancelled. Also, so did Larry Wilmore’s, which had good opening material but lame interviews. I speculated that Wilmore’s voice was his biggest problem. He’s a good comic and a good writer but he needs voice coaching. Graeme said “But what he was saying was good,” and we all agreed.

Someone mentioned that Stephen Colbert does not have the intellectual property rights to his *Colbert Report* self, even though it’s him, his likeness, his name, etc. Joe said that he came up with a workaround where he was the identical twin cousin of that Stephen Colbert.



of good character actors. Joe remembered “Right, as the weatherman.”

Stew asked “Was that the one where Moe played a cab driver?” Graeme replied “No—that was *Space Master X-7*” (1958), a movie Graeme saw a little of and had been looking for for years without knowing what it was called. Finally, Stan Hyde taped it off TV, saying “This sounds like what you were talking about.” I also have wondered for decades about a movie I can’t identify. I only saw one scene from this dystopian SF film, where a man is at a

I remembered that the Saturday of the most recent VCON, Joe, Julian, Fruvous, and I watched *Svengoolie* in our hotel room. The movie was *The Monolith Monsters* (1957). We had the sound off, so we were making up our own interpretation of the story. “Water makes them grow.” Or does it? “Salt water stops it.” Graeme said “They blow up a dam to wash the salt flats towards them,” adding that the movie had a lot



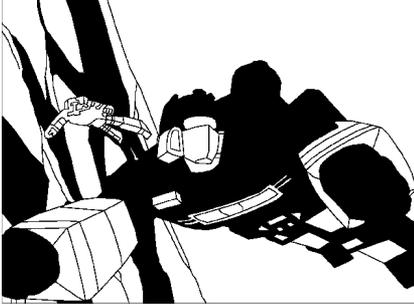
cafe and accidentally breaks a beverage pitcher. He looks scared and runs to an ATM-like machine to check his finances, and to his relief, it says “**YOU ARE SOLVENT.**” Kathleen thought the ATM placed the movie in the early-to-mid-1980s. (I may be misremembering, and it might have just been a computer, not an ATM.)

Felicity Walker

Sunday 16 October 2016

Passages: October 2016

🐞 **Gary Reed** (21 May 1956–2 October 2016). Bookstore and comic shop owner, convention runner (King Kon Comic & Fantasy Convention), radio and TV show host, comics publisher (Caliber Comics), comics writer [*Baker Street* (1989)], toy-company VP (McFarlane Toys), professor (Henry Ford Community College), RPG writer (Palladium), and video-game storyline writer [*Final Fight: Streetwise* (2006)]. Shel Dorf Award winner.



🐞 **Michiyo Yasuda** (保田 道世) (28 April 1939–5 October 2016). Animator. Work includes *The Wonderful World of Puss 'n Boots* (1969) for Toei.

🐞 **Bill Warren** (26 April 1943–7 October 2016). Film historian; critic; leading authority on SF, fantasy, and horror films; contributor to *Famous Monsters of Film-land*; assistant to Forrest Ackerman; active in Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society; on con-com for LA Con II (Worldcon 42);

author [including *Keep Watching the Skies! American Science Fiction Movies of the Fifties* (1982)]; comic scripter [*Vampirella* (1969)].

🐞 **Lyn Chevli** (24 December 1931–8 October 2016). Underground comix artist [*Tits & Clits Comix* (1972–1987)], bookstore owner (Fahrenheit 451 Books), and author.

🐞 **Gary Dubin** (5 May 1959–8 October 2016). Actor. Genre work includes *Land of the Giants* (1969), *The Aristocats* (1970), *Shazam!* (1974), *Time Walker* (1982), *Super Dimension Century Orguss* (1983), *Fist of the North Star* (1984), *V [The Series]* (1985), *Outlanders* (1986), *Black Magic M-66* (1987), *The Guyver: Bio-Booster Armor* (1989), *Mobile Suit Gundam: The 08th MS Team* (1996), *Power Rangers Time Force* (2001), and *The Jizzmaster* (2012).

🐞 **Pierre Tchernia** (29 January 1928–8 October 2016). Actor and animation producer/writer. Genre work includes *Asterix* (1968–2006).

🐞 **Susan Aceron** (6 July 1972–9 October 2016). Canadian actress and businesswoman. Genre work includes *Sailor Moon* (1993 and 2000), *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show* (1999), *Medabots* (1999), and *Beyblade* (2001).

🐞 **El Mongol (Raul Molina)** (7 April 1930–9 October 2016). Professional wrestler.

🐞 **Patricia Barry** (16 November 1922r–11 October 2016). Actress. Genre work includes *The Beast with Five Fingers* (1946), *The Twilight Zone* (1959), *The Green Hornet* (1966), *Twilight Zone: The Movie* (1983), and *Ghostwriter* (1992). Two-time *Murder, She Wrote* (1984) guest-star.

🐞 **Ricky Callan** (1962–11 October 2016). Comedian and actor. Genre work includes *Morticia* (2009).

☞ **Dick Israel** (10 December 1947–11 October 2016). Actor. Genre work includes *Living Dead* (1972), *Biokids* (1990), *Aswang*¹⁶ (1992), *Rubberman* (1996), *Fantastic Man* (2003), *Oh My Ghost!* (2006), and *Pak! Pak! My Dr. Kwak!*¹⁷ (2011).

☞ **Thomas Mikal Ford** (5 September 1964–12 October 2016). Comedian and actor. Genre work includes *Deathly Realities* (1985), *The Butcher's Wife* (1991), and *The Pretender* (1996).

☞ **Jean Alexander** (11 October 1926–14 October 2016). Actress. Genre work includes *Woof!* (1989), *I, Lovett* (1989), *The Phoenix and the Carpet* (1997), and *Hooves of Fire* (1999).

☞ **Kathryn Adams Doty** (15 July 1920–14 October 2016). Actress. Genre work was *The Invisible Woman* (1940).

☞ **Edward Gorman** (2 November 1941–14 October 2016). Novel, short story, and comics writer. Edgar Award winner.

☞ **Thom Jones** (26 January 1945–14 October 2016). Writer.

☞ **Colin George** (20 September 1929–15 October 2016). Actor. Genre work was *Afterlife* (2005).

☞ **Ted V. Mikels** (29 April 1929–16 October 2016). Film director, writer, actor, producer, composer, and editor. Genre work includes *Dr. Sex* (1964), *The Astro-Zombies* (1968), *The Corpse Grinders* (1971), *Blood Orgy of the She-Devils* (1973), *The Doll Squad* (1973), *The Worm Eaters* (1977), *The Aftermath* (1982), *The Corpse Grinders II* (2000), *Cauldron: Baptism of Blood* (2004), *Mark of the Astro-Zombies* (2004), *Planetfall* (2005), *Dead Country* (2008), *Demon Haunt* (2009), *Deader Country* (2009), *Astro-Zombies: M3—Cloned* (2010), *Astro-Zombies: M4—Invaders from Cyberspace* (2012), *Hex* (2014), *The Parallax Man* (2014), and *Paranormal Extremes: Text Messages from the Dead* (2015).

☞ **Eddie Applegate** (4 October 1935–17 October 2016). Actor. Genre work was *Exorcism* (2003).

☞ **Anthony Addabbo** (14 September 1960–18 October 2016). Actor, writer, and model. Genre work was *Supertalk* (2001).

☞ **Kaneta Kimotsuki** (肝付 兼太) (15 November 1935–20 October 2016). Voice actor. Genre work includes *Doraemon* (1973–2004), *Robot Detective*¹⁸ (1973), *Gatchaman*¹⁹ (1972), *Cyborg 009*²⁰ (1979–1980), *Galaxy Express 999*²¹ (1978–2006), *Don Dracula*²² (1982), *Cosmos Pink Shock* (1986), *Choriki Sentai Ohranger the Movie*²³ (1995–1996), and *Matsumoto Leiji Three-Nine* (2001).



16 *Ghost*.

17 *Sir! Sir! My Dr. Kwak!*

18 AKA *Robotto Keiji*.

19 AKA *Kagaku Ninja Tai Gatchaman*.

20 AKA *Saibôgu 009*.

21 AKA *Ginga Tetsudô Three-Nine*.

22 AKA *Don Dorakyura*.

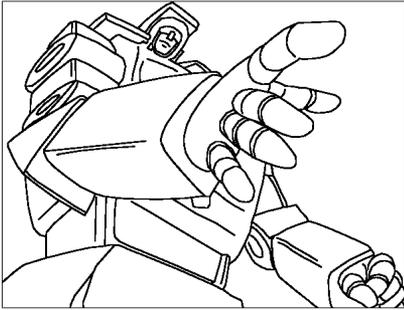
23 AKA *Chôriki Sentai Ôrenjâ Za Mûbî*.

🐞 **Michael Masse** (1 September 1952–20 October 2016). Actor. Genre work includes *The X-Files* (1993), *The Crow* (1994), *Tales from the Hood* (1995), *Millennium* (1996), *Lost Highway* (1997), *Momentum* (2003), *Carnivàle* (2003), *NYPD 2069* (2004), *The Batman* (2004), *Revelations* (2005), *Supernatural* (2005), *Ultimate Avengers* (2006), *Underdog* (2007), *Fringe* (2008), *Flashforward* (2009), *Human Target* (2010), *Star Wars: The Old Republic* (2011), *The Amazing Spider-Man* (2012), *At the Devil's Door* (2014), and *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* (2014).

🐞 **Robert Weber** (22 April 1924–20 October 2016). Cartoonist.

🐞 **Margaret Benyon** (20 April 1940–21 October 2016). Holographic artist.

🐞 **Richard Cavendish** (12 August 1930–21 October 2016). Writer. Genre work includes *The Black Arts: A Concise History of Witchcraft, Demonology, Astrology, and Other Mystical Practices Throughout the Ages* (1967), *Encyclopaedia of the Unexplained: Magic, Occultism and Parapsychology* (1974), *Mythology: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* (1980), and *The World of Ghosts and the Supernatural* (1994).



🐞 **Frenchy Martin (Jean Gagné)** (25 May 1950–21 October 2016). Canadian professional wrestler and manager.

🐞 **Kevin Meaney** (23 April 1956–21 October 2016). Comedian, actor, and musician. Genre work includes *Saturday Night Live* (1975),²⁴ *Big* (1988), *Garfield and Friends* (1988), *Rocko's Modern Life* (1993), *Duckman: Private Dick/Family Man* (1994), *Dr. Katz, Professional Therapist* (1995), *Mortimer and the Riddles of the Medallion*

(1996), *The Brave Little Toaster to the Rescue* (1997), *Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction* (1997), *The Nightmare Room* (2001), *Toadalees* (2014), and *Hey Monster, Hands Off My City* (2014).

🐞 **Steve Dillon** (22 March 1962–22 October 2016). Comics artist. Genre work included *Doctor Who Magazine*, *2000 AD*, *Warrior*, *Hellblazer*, and *Preacher*.

🐞 **Sheri S. Tepper** (16 July 1929–22 October 2016). SF author. World Fantasy Award recipient.

🐞 **Jack Chick** (13 April 1924–23 October 2016). Chick tract publisher/cartoonist.

🐞 **Margaret Ashcroft** (16 February 1931–25 October 2016). Actress. Genre work includes *Dimensions of Fear* (1963), and *Doomwatch* (1970).

🐞 **Hazel Shermet** (1 August 1920–27 October 2016). Comedian, actress, and singer. Genre work includes *My Favourite Martian* (1963), *The Addams Family* (1964), *I Dream of Jeannie* (1965), *The Amazing Chan and the Chan Clan* (1972), *Wait Till Your Father Gets Home* (1972), *New Zoo Revue* (1972), *The Puppy Who Wanted a Boy* (1978), *Love at First Bite* (1979), and *Jem* (1985).

🐞 **John Zacherle** (26 September 1918–27 October 2016). Horror host, radio personality, and voice actor. Genre work includes *Horrible Horror* (1986), *Brain Damage* (1988), *Frankenhooker* (1990), *Niagaravation* (1995), and *Dr. Horror's Erotic House of Idiots* (2004).

24 Episode “William Shatner/Lone Justice” (20 December 1986), in a *Star Trek* parody, as a choking customer at the *USS Enterprise* revolving restaurant.

🐼 **Tammy Grimes** (30 January 1934–30 October 2016). Actress and singer. Genre work includes *The Horror at 37,000 Feet* (1973), *The Borrowers* (1973), *The Spy Who Returned from the Dead* (1974), *The Last Unicorn* (1982), *My Little Pony: Escape from Catrina* (1985), and *The Stuff* (1985).



🐼 **Don Marshall** (2 May 1936–30 October 2016). Actor. Genre work includes *Bewitched* (1964), *Star Trek* (1966),²⁵ *Mr. Terrific* (1966), *Land of the Giants* (1968), *The Thing with Two Heads* (1972), *The Bionic Woman* (1976), *The Incredible Hulk* (1978), and *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century* (1979).

Felicity Walker

Tuesday 1 November 2016

Erin Moran (1960–2017)

Erin Moran: US actress, died 22 April, aged 56. Best known for playing Joanie in *Happy Days* and several spin-off shows, she starred in the 1981 movie *Galaxy of Terror* and had a small role in *Not Another B Movie* (2010), her final screen appearance.

Steve Green

Saturday 22 April 2017

Michael Parks (1940–2017)

American actor, died 10 May, aged 77. Genre roles included *The Bible: In the Beginning...* (1963, as Adam), *The Savage Bees* (1976), *Night Cries* (1978), *Fantasy Island* (one episode, 1979), *War of the Worlds* (one episode, 1989), *Nightmare Beach* (1989), *Twin Peaks* (five episodes, 1990–91), *SeaQuest 2032* (one episode, 1993), *Sorceress* (1995), *From Dusk Till Dawn* (1996), *From Dusk Till Dawn 3: The Hangman's Daughter* (1999, in a different role), *Planet Terror* (2007), [and] *We Are What We Are* (2013). He was to have appeared in *The Summoning*, currently in early pre-production.

Steve Green

Wednesday 10 May 2017

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

**KAYPRO
SPLASHDOWN WATER PARK
HORACE HOGAN**

25 Episode “The Galileo Seven” (5 January 1967).

VCON in 2017—A Letter from the WCSFA President

Dear WCSFA members,

As you know, West Coast Science Fiction Association (WCSFA) is a non-profit organization that is run solely by volunteers. We have many dedicated members that commit hours each week to planning the events we all get to enjoy, and even more members that volunteer at the events to make them run smoothly. Our organization, and events like VCON and Nothing But Games, wouldn't be possible without our valued volunteers.

Last October, after VCON 41, an email was sent out to WCSFA members that stated VCON 42 would not run in 2017 because we were unable to secure a project manager to organize and run the event. The WCSFA board and dedicated volunteers have been working hard as a group to perform these tasks so we can offer VCON this year anyway.

We are ecstatic to announce that a VCON event will be happening this year! We will be running VCON Relaxicon (41½) on October 28th and 29th. This will be a two-day event (as opposed to the traditional three-day event) and will be held on the second floor of the Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel in Surrey (this is the same location VCON 41 was held in 2016).

What can you expect from a Relaxicon compared to a regular VCON?

The Relaxicon will have most of the usual activities and features such as a vendor room, tabletop and console gaming, an art show, panel discussions, presentations, and industry guests, just a little less given the reduced time and smaller venue footprint. We are also working hard to offer additional activities if we can find volunteers to run the more complex activities. If you're interested in volunteering to help organize anything, please contact the WCSFA President (president@wcsfa.org) for more information.

To celebrate, we're offering a \$10 discount on General Weekend Memberships for current WCSFA members using the code WCSFA-Member-Special at checkout on Eventbrite, our online registration system. You can use this link to connect to Eventbrite with the code already entered: <https://vcon-relax.eventbrite.ca?discount=WCSFA-Member-Special#tickets>

The WCSFA board members and volunteers would like to thank you for your ongoing interest in and support of WCSFA and our events.

For more information about the association, you can visit the WCSFA website at: <http://wcsfa.org> and for more information about this year's VCON, information will be regularly updated at <https://vcon.ca>. You can also connect with us on social media using the links shown below.

Yours,

Jenni Merrifield

2017/18 WCSFA President

PS: If you purchased a Dead Dog membership on the last day of VCON 41, ostensibly for VCON 42, there will be another notice sent shortly with additional information.

Secretary, West Coast Science Fiction Association

Monday 17 July 2017

Roger Moore (1927–2017)

Just heard that (Sir) Roger Moore died today “after a short battle with cancer,” aged 89. Appearances as James Bond aside, he did take the double lead in *The Man Who Haunted Himself* (1970), adapted from Anthony Armstrong’s short story “The Strange Case of Mr. Pelham”; Moore apparently considered it his favourite role and among his best performances. Recent work included a vocal role in *Troll Hunters*, scheduled for release next year.

Steve Green
Tuesday 23 May 2017

Anita Pallenberg (1944–2017)

Just heard that model-turned-actress Anita Pallenberg died earlier today, aged 73. Her most famous roles were as “The Great Tyrant” in *Barbarella* (1968) and one of the rock singer’s two muses in *Performance* (1970). Her final appearance was in *4:44 Last Day on Earth* (2011).

Steve Green
Tuesday 13 June 2017

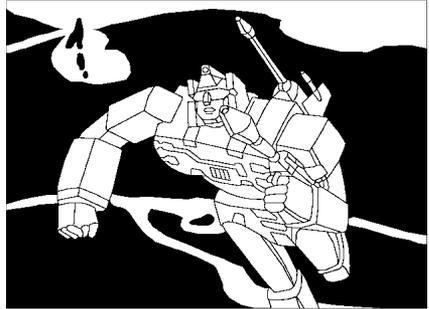
Excess Resolutions for 2016, #4.7: Poetry 'Til Human Voices Wake Us

Kathleen Moore

It isn’t always the chambers of the sea we
linger in...

September: Dread

I stand, awaked by cold mist on my face
To mist and fog all ’round.
Nor dare I move,
Nor even check my footing ’til it clears:
For I hear waves break, crash, roar far below
And cliffs recall, but cannot tell
If where the sea tears at the land below
Is to the fore, or side,
Or—passed—behind.



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I had a different poem ready for this month—and was waiting another couple of days for that one to become really timely. Then the fallout from an accident in

Rogue Trader caused this old, old item to resurface and hint at belated publication. And no, it couldn't wait until late October.

Kathleen Moore

Tuesday 13 September 2016

Is There a Doctor in the House?

A One-Shot by Taral Wayne, 24 April 2017

Taral Wayne

This is about the largest lump of expository writing I've done since the stroke. The second largest bit of writing recently has been a number of emails sent to and shared by Walt Wentz and Eric Mayer. In particular I need to thank Walt's help in preparing and editing my comments for reading. I warn you in advance that I am still in a very experimental state of my writing—five [*weeks*] ago I couldn't write in any useful fashion at all, and the effort of writing is still highly unsatisfactory. But as I keep saying...it will get better, and in time I intend publish a full account of the events beginning with my stroke in early February.

The wait time for my last doctor's appointment was quite unusual...it wasn't of a real medical nature, either. I was forced to wait for an ophthalmologist who was nearly half an hour late for my appointment, and was late beyond even that, just to open the store! It seems the profession leaves a lot to be desired when it comes to professionalism. The doctor arrived at least half an hour late for work, and she had another woman *ahead* of me. But we were both waiting for the *store* itself to open... leaving me to wait for another half an hour before the first customer could be served.

However, there were difficulties in delivering my prescription glasses...which means I've possibly given up contacts for good. The problem is that they still cause me minor problems at the best of times due to my myasthenia, and I can't wear contacts until the problem is resolved. But the neurologist won't tamper with the status quo until I've fully recovered from the stroke, so I won't be expecting my eyesight to be fully restored for another few months, or a year. After all...I'll live forever, so I can wait until all the doctors in question are fully satisfied, right?

In the meantime, regular glasses do offer me much better vision out of doors... or even for the TV screen.

Things keep disappearing on me.

First, I found two pieces of a broken model car that I didn't even know was broken, and it was weeks before I recognized what those parts were for, and that they belonged to the same model car! Weirdly, I discovered that separate parts of yet another car under repair vanished in front of my very eyes before I could make the repair! It took a second search the next day before the missing headlight turned up in a closed drawer, behind a box and quite impossible to notice unless a dedicated search had been made.

Similarly, a lens popped out of my new pair of sunglasses, and it was patently impossible to pop it back in. After 30 or 40 tries, I threw the damn things on the floor—not a bright move to make, admittedly—and the missing lens vanished com-

pletely. No amount of searching turned it up, no matter what. I didn't see it again for at least two weeks, maybe longer.

Then, abruptly, the lost lens appeared—tucked away where it couldn't possibly be. But there it was, nearly invisible.

Now, the pirate's hat from a six-inch figure is missing. It had fallen over and the hat ought to lie where it was perfectly visible. But of course it is perfectly invisible, wherever it is, and no sign of it can be found. I wonder how long it will take this time for it to reappear from the twelfth dimension? It didn't help that the house cleaners provided by my social workers knocked things around like they were in a hockey arena. My biggest fear is that they mistook a pirate hat as big as a quarter for just some natural piece of trash that any idiot would throw away.

The biggest thing on my mind at present is the new toilet...I didn't know that the building was installing new one, or that I could go to the head of the line for one of the new ones. But my main man, Winston, told me that I could install one of the new models next week. That's the chief advantage of staying friendly with the staff...I do them favours and they do me favours, nudge, nudge, wink, wink...such as I get the new toilet before 2018. It's quite a crapper, too. Although the next model is still an American Standard, the replacement is apparently for poorer tenants, who don't deserve a toilet that flushes every time, or makes pissing all over the floor un-avoidable. Nor do I have to rinse the crap that sticks to the tiny little bowl, either. I'm as pleased with my new toilet as anything I can think of that has happened over the last few weeks. Life has been reduced to this, alas...or...any time I think I've managed a new quantitative level while writing on Facebook. I guess that counts for something too.

* * *

Some say you might experience some slight change in attitude or perspective after a stroke—I fear I may have taken up a liking for Robert E. Howard, H. Beam Piper and Jerry Pournelle. However, taking up objectionable pulp fiction was the least of my worries.

Snow was also the least of my worries this year while I was in hospital. By the time I was released from St. Joe's, most of the year's load seemed to have mostly melted before I was sent home. We had large loads of it by February, but there was only a dusting of snow overnight, and it was gone in early March. But at least I've not had the headache of making roughly one doctor's appointment every three or four days over the last six weeks. Otherwise the weather has been ridiculously without snow and conspicuously warm.

I keep trying to write, improving my skills, but by early evening I tend to grow tired, and that is not a time to be writing. I tire easily, and sleep a lot. Sometimes, I don't seem to do anything but wake, clean, eat, wash, spend a little time catching up with the Internet, have dinner and then get to bed. Even then it seems there isn't time enough, and I get to bed late! I watch a movie or something, or spend some time out of doors with Traveling Matt. I'm getting slowly better with writing, but not well enough without a huge effort, and embarrassing lapses in comprehension—the words begin to swim before my eyes when I tire. But I will surely improve with time and effort.

I retained my drawing skills nearly intact from the start, though with somewhat impaired motor skills. Although I did some drawing in the hospital, I have done very little once I was home again. I have relatively little interest...I suspect because I need new incentives.

In time, I'll probably have much to more to say about that, as well as writing for fanzines. Maybe a spell in hospital is a sign that it's time for a serious reappraisal. Have I enjoyed fandom much in the last year or two, or has it been four honeymoons too many?

* * *

Meanwhile, appointments with my doctors drive me insane—I swear that I either see a doctor or some similar task every other day. I'm certainly never short of things to do, it seems, even though I'm never really doing much. Day before yesterday, it was a cardiologist, who kept me waiting for two hours for no good reason, simply to tell me what I already knew. I had a stroke—in fact, two of them—but they couldn't make up their minds whether it was one or two, and whether they had taken several days of observation to determine their original medications had failed—which is what led to the first, and far more serious stroke, barely a week or ten days later. I've had every test in the book since, but in the end there was nothing they could do about it, once I've had it, but to tell me what had already happened.

I've already begun to joke with my social workers that I'll recuperate on my own before the therapist can schedule his first session with me.

Tomorrow I'll see an unnecessary neurologist, who will tell me that my myasthenia hasn't essentially changed at all.

But improvement may be possible. I haven't used my contact lenses for a few years because my myasthenia interferes with my sight. My medications mostly eliminate the problem that closes one eye, but not perfectly. If the medications were improved, I might be able to get back to my contacts. However, the neurologist who treated my myasthenia prefers not to make any changes so soon after a stroke, so she won't do anything more until fall at earliest...and so, one more summer of imperfect vision. What the hell...I have many more to enjoy, don't I? I hope so.

Enough. If you're as sick of listening to me talk about my problems as I am, we should all take a pill to forget about it.

The biggest excitement in my life lately was taking the bed and mattress apart so that I could reassemble a missing bolt from a few years ago. It didn't matter at first, but over time it sagged and sagged until the bed was almost bent double, and collapse seemed inevitable. But, by undertaking the operation first thing in the morning, when I was at my freshest, I managed to remove the mattress and springs. The next step was to bend the frame more or less back into shape. I had kept the errant bolt in place, and used the ratchet wrench to tighten it up. Final step was to replace the springs and the mattress. I felt considerable satisfaction in knowing that I'd likely get another two years of service from the bed after all. But that sort of satisfaction comes at a cost, so I took it easy after that.



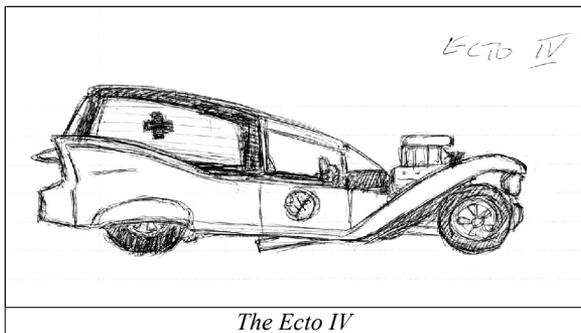
I recently scanned an old piece of art illustrating a comment in Facebook. It was a story that I began in 1972 but never finished. Truthfully, it was hardly begun but I completed the artwork for the illo for some reason. I probably found I was more interested in drawing the story than writing it. I don't think the artwork was ever even shown, not even in a fanzine. I really need to get back to scanning my ancient

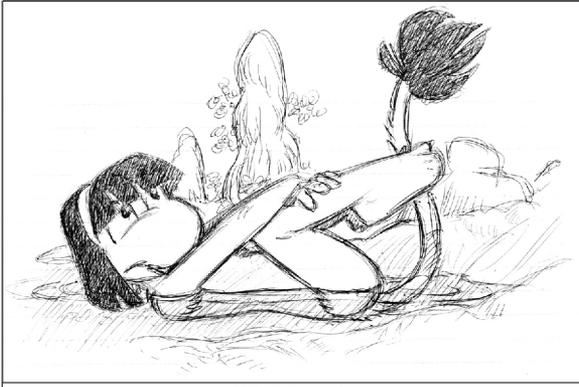
artwork before I'm dead...assuming it isn't all thrown away, leaving nothing but some badly mimeographed pages in old fanzines.

Speaking of the vanishing fanzines, whose numbers once covered entire states, thundering over the prairies as they moved from Worldcon to Worldcon...I wonder what the outcome of this year's FAAn awards will be. Will the changes made this year result in a resurgence of interest, or will the results be disappointingly much the same? Will I love this year? Speaking of which, maybe I should. If I gain enough of the sympathy vote, I may win.

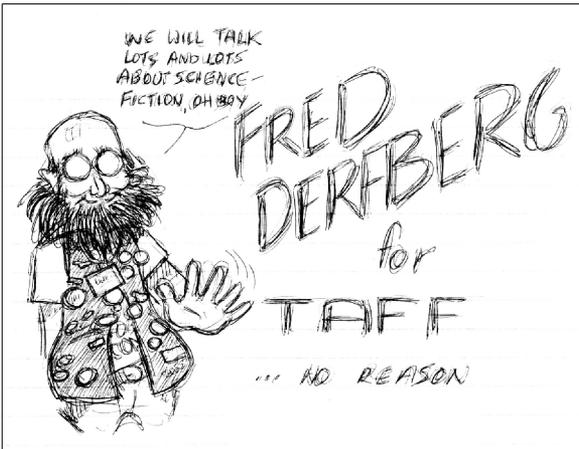
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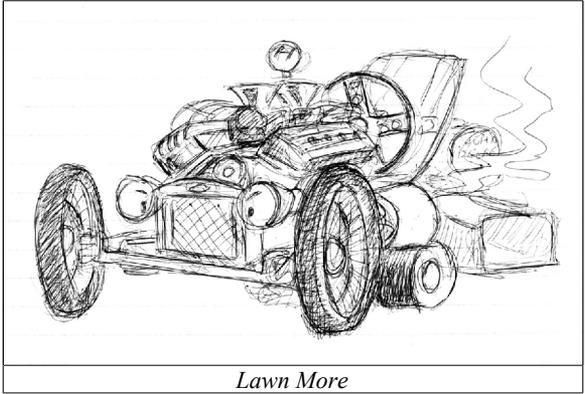
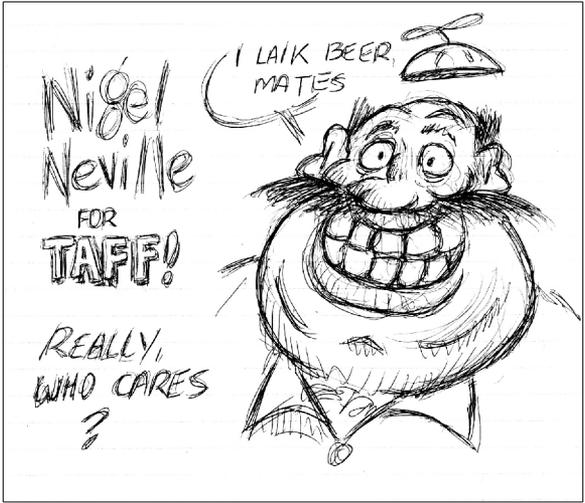
The art in the remaining pages were those I drew while at St. Joe's. I drew them partly for something do to between EEG and MRI sessions, and also to prove that I could still do anything useful at all.

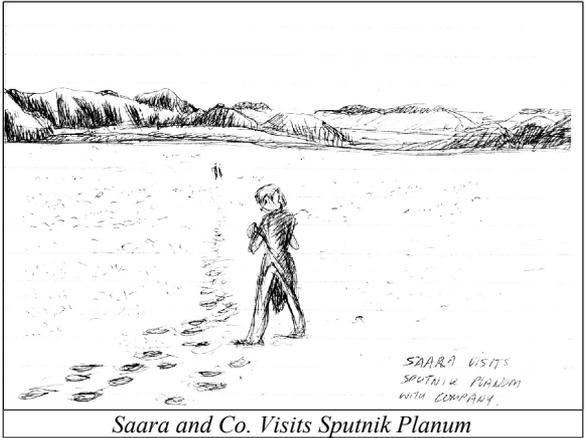




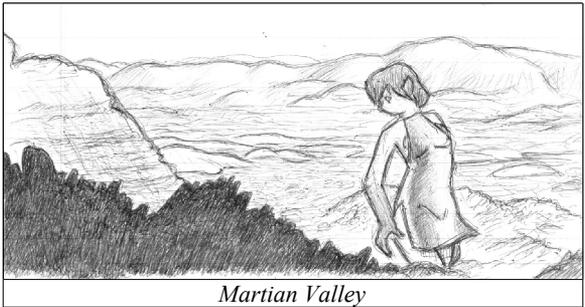
Kiki Fraggles

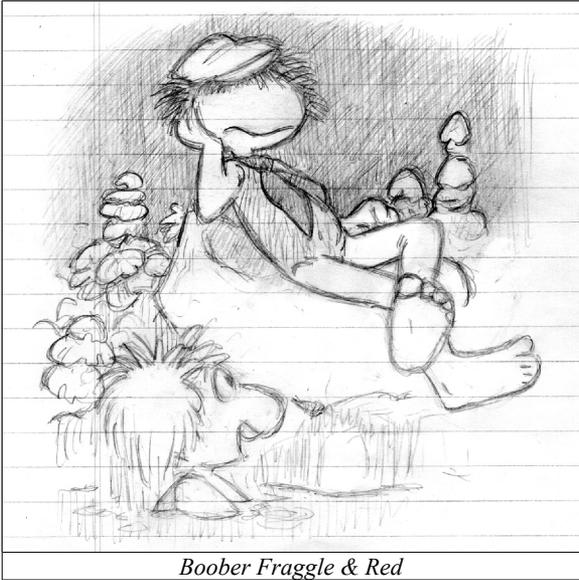






Saara and Co. Visits Sputnik Planum

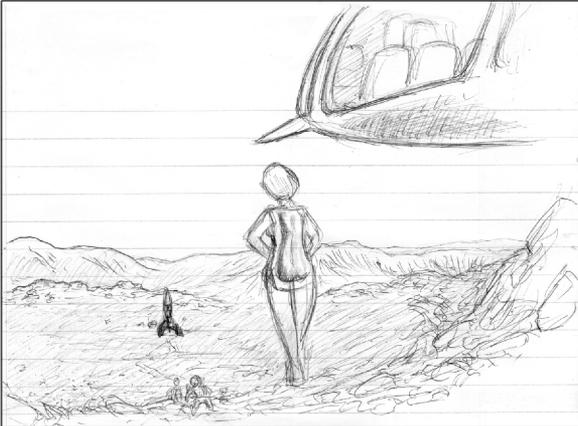




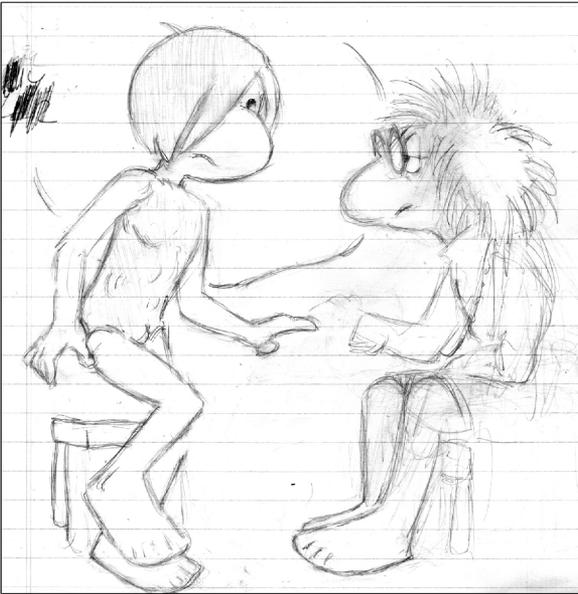
Boober Fraggle & Red



Saara, Kiki and Darl



Destiny Moon



The Story Teller (Unfinished)



Taral Wayne
 Monday 24 April 2017

Art Credits

Felicity Walker (font: Yann Le Coroller)..... Masthead
Brad Foster..... Cover
 Sheryl Birkhead..... Pages 1–2
Dave Haren (clip art/photos)..... Pages 3–7, 10
 Clip art [*Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* (1987) trace]..... Page 11
 Clip art [*The Transformers* (1984) trace].... Pages 13 (top), 15–18, 20 (top)
 Clip art (Day of the Ninja)..... Page 12
Felicity Walker (photos)..... Pages 13 (bottom), 14 (middle)
 Clip art (Cliker.com)..... Page 14 (top)
 Clip art [*The Monolith Monsters* (1957) screenshot]... Page 14 (middle)
 Clip art [*Space Master X-7* (1958) screenshot]..... Page 14 (bottom)
Dazzling Designs/Typologic (font)..... Page 20 (bottom)
Taral Wayne..... Pages 24–30