

# OSFS Statement

January 2021, Issue 502, Volume 46, Number 1



*Parasaurolophus-group-threatened by a tyrannosaur © Doug Shore, Denver Museum of Nature & Science*



**Event Coordinator** – Hopefully there will be another OSFS dinner someday. We have this monthly OSFS newsletter called The Statement. If you would like to be on the e-mail list contact the [editor@ottawasfs.ca](mailto:editor@ottawasfs.ca)

**Editor's Blather: –**

NASA describ their plans for the February 18 landing of the latest Mars rover Perseverance

By Nora McGreevy

SMITHSONIANMAG.COM | Feb. 9, 2021, 8 a.m.

Since it launched on July 30 last year, a rocket bearing NASA's Perseverance Rover has been charting a C-shaped course through inky-black space, hurtling toward Mars. If all goes according to plan, on February 18, the wheeled robot the size of a small car will complete its six-month-long, 292.5-million-mile journey and touch down safely on the Red Planet's surface.

NASA will livestream the February 18 landing on its Mars 2020 website beginning at 2:15 p.m. Eastern; the landing process is expected to begin around 3:38.

Perseverance will touch down in Jezero Crater, a 28-mile-wide basin that boasts spectacular views of steep cliffs, sand dunes and boulder-strewn fields. (Geology enthusiasts can explore an interactive map of the rocky terrain on NASA's website.) Jezero was likely formed on impact when something hit Mars' surface billions of years ago.

“Probably won't be anything like The Martian with Matt Damon, but it'll be something that is all new,” Hubbard says.

**Obituaries:**

**Alan Rickman**, loved by many for his portrayal of Professor Snape in the “Harry Potter” films, died after a battle with cancer, his family announced.

**Eric Van Dusen** , long time OSFS member, died of an enlarged heart January 2nd 2021. He was 57 years old.

A long time valued member of the RA Chess Club, a CFC Governor for several years, and CFC President, during 2006-07.

**LOC** Dear OSFen:

I am getting so much done at the end of the year...we're in the time between Christmas and New Year's, when nothing much is happening, and I am taking advantage of every opportunity. With that in mind, here are a few comments on the recently-issued OSFS Statement 501.

Interesting news about the big telescope dish in China...a shame about the dish at Arecibo. Some of the blame must rest with the US government, but Puerto Rico has had to deal with an earthquake and some destructive storms, which must have accelerated the damage to the dish.

As I write this letter, there is news on the station I am listening to about a new burger at McDonald's China, a burger made of Spam and broken Oreo cookies. There was also news of a jalapeño-flavoured wine, and Pepsi flavoured with cocoa and marshmallow. As I type, it's close to lunch time, and suddenly, I am not nearly as hungry as I was, wonder why...

Any ideas as to who the next Canadian astronaut might be? David St. Jacques, perhaps. Canadarm3 is sounds more and more science-fictional

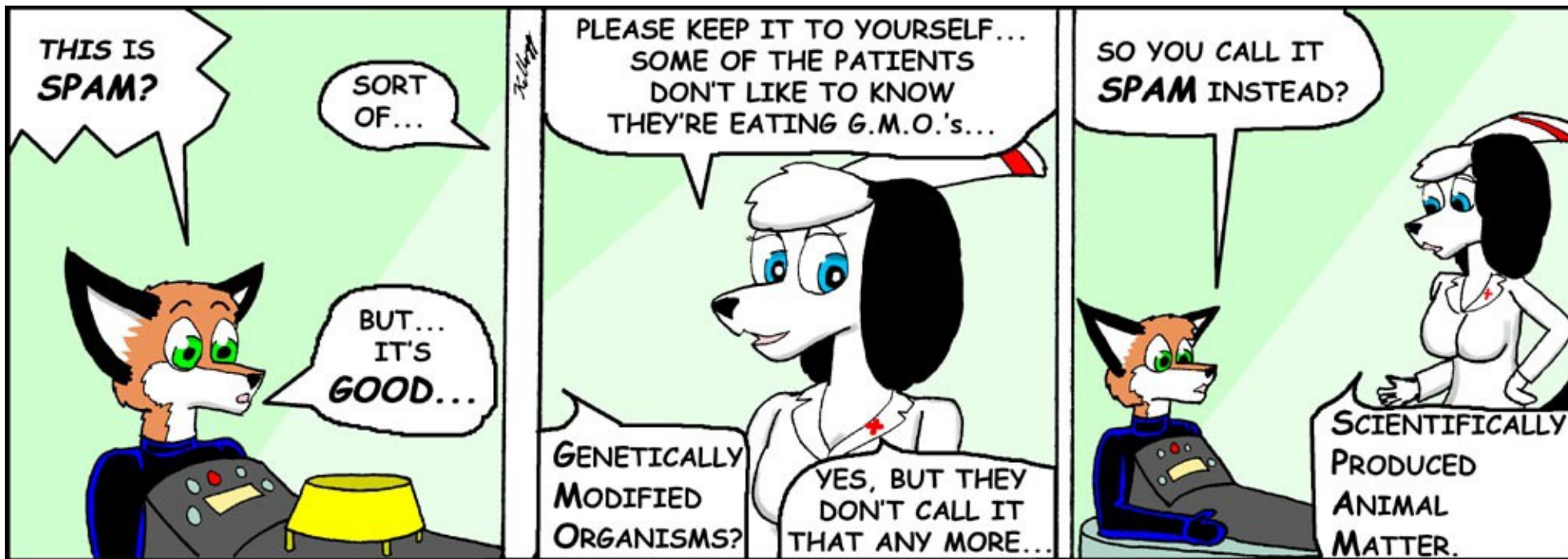
all the time. Once Joe Biden is in office, relations between the US and the rest of the world should improve, and there might be more opportunities for the Canadian space industry to participate, as they have for many years.

Along with the passing of Jeremy Bulloch, James Gunn has passed away. He was one of the last of the initial group of SF writers in its foundational years. When I receive issues of Ansible, the SF newsletter from Great Britain, edited by Dave Langford, the RIP list in there each issue is truly depressing, as more and more people who made up our SFnal world leave us.

Again, to all readers and club members, 2021 has to be a better year, but I hope it doesn't take that as a challenge. May we all take it as a year of recovery, vaccinations, and joyous reunions. See you all soon.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

<Extract the Spam in one lump and cut three or four slices. Fry, slap it on a bun, add pickle,mustard/ketchup. Eh! Better than (unspecified) place. Ed.>



Jack Fox and nurse from 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fox by by Scott Kellogg discuss hospital foodi circa 2170



**COMING EVENTS** I wish.

**OF SOME INTEREST** (maybe; or just a spacefiller)

