

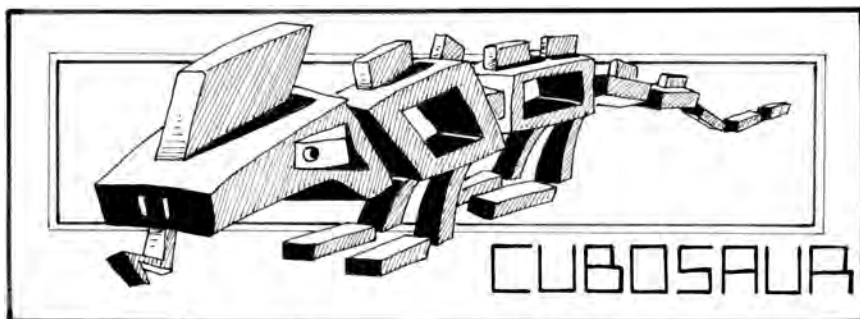
BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#465

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February 2012



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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at felicity4711@gmail.com or #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V7C 1J6. *BCSFAzine* solicits electronic submissions and black-and-white line illustrations in JPG, GIF, BMP, PNG, or PSD format, and offers printed contributors' copies as long as the club budget allows.

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This Month in BCSFA

Sunday 19 February @ 7 PM: **BCSFA meeting**—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster. Call 604-521-0254 for directions.

Friday 24 February: **'BCSFAzine' production** (theoretically).

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

President & Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-584-7562

Vice President: TBA

Treasurer: Kathleen Moore, 604-771-0845

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor: Felicity Walker, 604-448-8814

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/> (webmaster: Garth Spencer). 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. Back issues of *BCSFAzine* are also archived at <http://efanzines.com/BCSFA/index.htm> (webmaster: Bill Burns).

Erratum

Apologies to Taral Wayne, because last month, despite multiple proof-readings, I somehow failed to notice that his article in that issue wasn't listed in the table of contents on the cover.

Letters of Comment

[*Editor's responses in brackets.*]

Sheryl Birkhead

25509 Jonnie Court,
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
USA

Friday 13 January 2012

Dear *BCSFAers*,

Ah yes, looking forward to seeing the movie *Hugo*—but, as always, I'll be content to await its appearance on *Netflix's* list.

Hope all and sundry had pleasant and safe holidays. With the *new year* comes the start of the merry scramble in the various award arenas. Once again I hope all readers who are eligible will fill out the *Hugo* nomination ballot. Fill out all the blanks and spread the egoboo around!

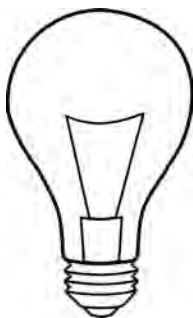
I see issues #459, 460, 461, and 462. I am not getting a whole lot better at the organization *thing*, but at least I managed to locate four issues! All four sport *Foster* covers—never get tired of them!

Hmm—*Ethics in SF*—hope *Lynda Williams* gets contributions.

Lloyd, I guess I just figured all areas got in the audio book business—never entered my mind that it might actually be centered in a specific spot (since it seems to be something that could be done anywhere there is an audio recording studio).

Hopefully *VCon* did get all your stuff—maybe I will find out as I go through the three remaining issues.

Even though this was not the goal—thank you for the editorial comments on *Dale Speirs'* fanac. I must admit that his various issues always have things of interest. Some of the topics seem a bit afield, but manage to fit right into fannish context.



[*In what sense, not the goal?*]

On my refrigerator is a want list. I put brighter battery powered lamps (for power outages) [*on the list*] about two years ago. I keep reading the extensive list of wants—and so far have not actually done anything toward finding one. Yeah—RSN.

I'll check out *Netflix*—I think they have *Red Dwarf* episodes there. There is almost zero likelihood I can find the start of the series currently running on TV. Just a minute—I'll check *Netflix* right now...Okay—found it as both discs and 24-hour streaming—will try to get a look at the first few as soon as I find time in a chunk. Put it right in my queue.

A new bookstore actually opened up about 12 miles away—last October. It is in an historical old store and has a lot of personality. Inside it has *not been* renovated at all. I took a look around. Sigh, really miss a bookstore!

[I discovered a second-hand-book store in Steveston (a historic village here in Richmond), where I was able to add *The Stars, Like Dust, The Currents of Space, Pebble in the Sky, Second Foundation, and The Naked Sun* to my collection of 1980s Del Rey editions of Isaac Asimov books.]

Well, I have a huge backlog (let me see—nah, happenings here are just too depressing to really right now—take my word for it that things have been busy)—and I have not had the time to sketch for far too long. I must figure out how to *make* time to draw.

Again—if you are qualified to nominate—please do so—your *Hugo* (uh...you know what I mean) will thank you!

Bye,
Sheryl

Michael Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Thursday 9 February 2012

Hey here hi there ho there, neighborinos (you know, the elementary particle of neighborliness?). Another month, another LOC. If I don't watch myself, I am going to start taking you people for granted. The gods forbid.

Love Brad Foster's accordion skyscraper, and his art in general. There's a wacky cheerfulness to his art that I find incredibly appealing.

[I agree. Well-put! I like how this month's "*Cubosaur*" reminds me of an alien I might have seen in my favourite 1980s cartoons.]

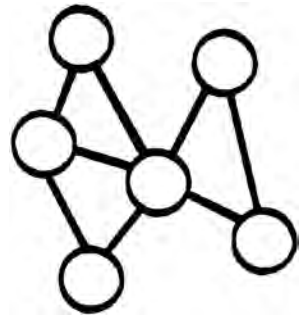
Wow, a LOC from Spider Robinson! We're in the big leagues now. Sad to hear he has trouble leaving the house, but I can totally relate, being agoraphobic. I would rather have a virtual Spider at VCon than no Spider at all, and if that's what works for him, I am all for it.

[A recluse Spider, as it were.]

Avril Errol: brilliant CanCon drag name! Arrow is a legit last name, though. Too on the nose?

[I thought so at the time. Now I'm not sure.]

Re: "As Others See Us? IV": Once more, the mainstream media demonstrates its complete inability to understand that science fiction can be good. They think if it's good, it must be something other than science fiction, *a priori*, something impossible to define (speculative fiction? slipstream?) in such a way that it does not include science fiction. Science fiction has been thus abused for its entire century plus of existence. Somehow, the social stigma of being a "geek" or a "nerd" comes to include all things we like...geek by association, I suppose. And hence, even the liberal minded literati crowd looks down on us as beyond the pale, even though we're cut from the same non-alpha cloth. Pathetic.



[*Sam Ramer wrote in The Joy of Trek that journalists do this because they are geeks in denial.*]

I better stop now, before I get all ranty. Seeya next month, folks!

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

Thursday 16 February 2012

Dear Felicity:

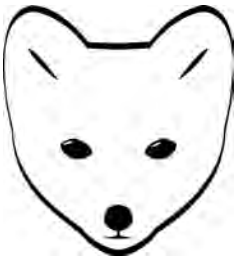
The printed issue of *BCSFazine* 464 just arrived yesterday, but I have had the .pdfed version here to look at, so here are some comments on it.

The cover illo...I don't think I'd mind the accordion building, as long as it didn't play Lady of Spain as it compressed. Decades ago, I had one year of accordion lessons...and that was quite enough.

Hello to Spider! I think we understand why you stay at home...we mourn with you. But still, we'd like to see you, party with you and have Beatles jams with you, and believe me, you are missed. The Skype solution is a good one for distant conventions, but it's just not the same. Wish Scotty'd get those transporters up and running, hm?

Me and work...well, I didn't get the job I wrote about, but a local advertising agency seems quite interested in me. They gave me a day's work earlier in the week, and after the upcoming Family Day long weekend, I will be working four more days for them. This may be the beginning of getting hired. Fingers crossed, etc. I am so sick to death of looking for work.

William Gibson did come to Toronto, and for his appearance here, he was interviewed by Robert J. Sawyer. I still work evenings, so was unable to go to his appearance, but this is the price paid for doing what you have to do to make a buck.



As Taral feels he's been superseded by newer furry fans, I sometimes feel the same has happened to me in local Toronto fandom. New fans arrive all the time, and several large groups sound like they've invented fandom all by themselves, being totally unaware of the fandom that's already there. When I discover these new groups, I try to reach out to them, invite them to what's already happening, and the groups meet. I hope the gaps in the generations won't be a hindrance to meeting and mingling.

[*Good for you for doing so! Even if fandom changes into something we don't recognize, there should still be continuity.*]

Canadian fandom needs a quick reminder that the deadline for nominations for this year's Aurora Awards is a short time away. Same goes for the Hugos...feels like they are very early this year.

[*The deadline for the new nominations is already coming up? It seems like we just awarded the last batch a month ago!*]

Not a lot else is happening. Ad Astra happens in about two months, and we are looking forward to it. After that is a high tea Yvonne and I have organized for the

local steampunk groups, and a steampunk street fair right in downtown Toronto. We won't be bored. Thanks for another issue, see you with the next one.

[*Thanks for another LOC!*]

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

We Also Heard From: Joseph Bardsley, Keith Lim, Garth Spencer.

Calendar

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

February 2012

February is Library Lovers' Month.

2 and 16 February 2012: Burnaby Sci-Fi Writers' Group meets alternate Thursdays 7–9 PM at Metrotown Public Library (program room) or Connections lounge. Open to new members, mainly sci-fi/fantasy or what have you. Contact Allan @ (604) 946-2427 or email lowson@dccnet.com for details.—Allan Lowson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

3 February 2012: Premiere of films *The Woman in Black* (horror; Daniel Radcliffe, Ciarán Hinds), *Chronicle* (horror/SF), *The Innkeepers* (horror; Kelly McGillis), and *Kill List* (horror).

3 February 2012: Trumpeter Tabletop Games Society Game Night at Bonsor Community Centre, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby, east side of MetroTown Shopping Centre. Drop-ins welcome!

3–5 February 2012: GottaCon 2012, Pearkes Arena, 3100 Tillicum Road, Victoria. “Victoria’s gaming convention! Trading card games, role-playing games, board games, video games, minis, workshops & panels.”—Carson Upton

3–9 February 2012: Great Digital Film Fest at Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver and Colossus Langley. “Presenting classic and popular films...on the big screen.” *Back to the Future*: 5 February, 2:00 PM . *Back to the Future 2*: 5 February, 4:40 PM . *Back to the Future 3*: 5 February, 7:00 PM . *Jurassic Park* : 4 February, 7:00 PM ; 7 February, 2:00 PM . *The Lost Boys*: 8 February, 9:50 PM. *Robocop*: 3 February, 4:10 PM; 9 February, 9:35 PM. *Serenity*: 4 February, 9:35 P M; 7 February, 4:45 PM. *Shaun of the Dead*: 4 February, 11:59 PM. *Spaceballs*: 5 February, 9:35 PM; 8 February, 5:45 PM. *The Terminator*: 3 February, 1:45 PM; 9 February, 7:00 PM.—EarthFurst to BC Sci-Fi Assc.

4 February 2012: Thank a Mailman Day.

4 February 2012: World Poetry Festival, 2:30–4:30 PM at Richmond Cultural Centre, Arts and Fabrics Room, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond. Poets, musicians, open mike, refreshments, World Poetry Youth Team reading, poet profiles. \$2 donation for room rental. For more information: Ariadne Sawyer, Alan Hill.—Bill Marles/Joanne Arnott to Richmond Writers' Network Facebook Group



5 February 2012: Get Frankenstuffed!, 3:00–5:00 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings Street, Burnaby. Creative Geeks Society. “Imagine a Care Bear tummy, with the voice box from a Tickle Me Elmo, and a stuffed lemon with googly eyes, plus half a blue lion, as well as three spare...”—Keith Lim

5 February 2012: Classic Who at La Fontana, 5:30–6:30 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings Street, Burnaby. “Meetup at La Fontana to watch some classic *Who*.”—Keith Lim

6 February 2012: **Lyn Aylward** and **Bill Marles**'s birthdays.

6 February 2012: Writing Comics (*free* event presented by webcomic creator), 7–8:30 PM at Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street, Alice MacKay Room, Lower Level. “Angela Melick, creator of the popular webcomic *Wasted Talent*, presents an audiovisual look at the basics of writing for comics: what genres work best; comic styles; designing settings and characters; pacing; how to get published and more. Program ID 29170.”—EarthFurst to BC Sci-Fi Assc.

9 February 2012: Line up all day—fourth midnight premiere of *Star Wars Episode One in 3D*, 12:00–1:00 PM at Scotiabank Theater Burrard @ Smithe, Vancouver. “If u’ve ever been to a *Star Wars* lineup u know how kewl it is!!! Get ur costumes, gear, toys and trivia cards, here we go again!!!”—Keith Lim

10 February 2012: **Kevin King**'s birthday. Premiere of films *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island* (fantasy/SF; Dwayne Johnson, Michael Caine, Luis Guzmán), *Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace* (3D rerelease/SF/travesty; Liam Neeson, Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman, Ian McDiarmid, Anthony Daniels, Kenny Baker, Frank Oz, Terrence Stamp, Brian Blessed, Warwick Davis, Samuel L. Jackson, Sofia Coppola, Greg Proops, Peter Serafinowicz, Rick McCallum), and *Perfect Sense* (fantasy/romance; Ewan McGregor).

10 February 2012: Fontana Friday—*Game of Thrones*, 6:30–7:30 PM at La Fontana Caffè 3701 Hastings Street, Burnaby. “You said you wanted it...Well, *game on!* We’re going to watch season one of *Game of Thrones* and continue straight on to season two when it airs in April. *Warning*: This show *will* contain mature subject matter, scenes of violence, coarse language and nudity. Viewer discretion is advised! Seriously folks, this show is graphically violent and has a ton of sex and nudity. I hope the actors put some work into buffing up before filming, because I understand

we are going to be seeing a *lot* of them! I've posted this shindig to start at 6:30 PM to allow time for people to arrive, order food and socialize. We will watch episodes 1 & 2 of *Game of Thrones* starting shortly after 8 PM (so that I can get there from yoga).”—Keith Lim

11 February 2012: [Our Bloody Valentine's Day Shindig](#), 11:00 AM–12:00 PM at Oak Street Blood Donor Clinic, 4750 Oak Street, Vancouver. “Celebrate Valentine's Day this year by making an appointment to donate blood! If you don't want to go to the Oak Street clinic, you can find a clinic near you on the Canadian Blood Services website. Call ahead to make an appointment: 1-888-2-DONATE. If this is your first time and you are not sure you are ready to donate, or if you don't want to or cannot donate for whatever reason, you can still come to the clinic to hang with your Browncoat peeps while they donate to show them your support. In your RSVP, please make a note of the time of your appointment, which clinic you will be attending and whether you have donated previously. You don't need to be a Slayer to save lives!”—Keith Lim

11 February 2012: [Meet with Marissa Meyer](#), the author of *Cinder*, a new YA dystopian fairy tale, 2:00–3:00 PM at Chapters Metrotown, 4700 Kingsway, Burnaby. *Free!* “Come meet Marissa Meyer, get your copy signed, ask some questions and hear her read from *Cinder*.”—Keith Lim

12 February 2012: [Making Möbius Magic \(& Dancing Dead\)](#), 3:00–5:00 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings Street, Burnaby. Creative Geeks Society. “You've seen my Möbius shawl? You want to make one? The pattern is very simple and satisfying for when you want to produce something *fast*. And you end...”—Keith Lim

12 February 2012: [Dancing Zombies & Walking Dead](#), 5:00–6:00 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings St, Burnaby. “Time for another thrilling dance rehearsal. The Browncoats have a Reaver Dance Troupe, and we're looking to recruit more members to dance to MJ's ‘Thriller’ at Thrill the World in October (and any other chance we get). Last time we got together (January 22nd) we learned the first half of the dance. This time we're going to focus on the second half. But don't worry if you didn't make it to the last session. No reason you can't learn the back half of the dance first. We'll be having another session to work on the first half again in March. The Creative Geeks will be at the Caffè crafting and laughing from 3 PM. You are welcome to come join us, even if you don't have a project to work on. At 5 PM we'll spend one hour dancing (read: shambling and stumbling around). *You do not have to dance!* You can come cheer/jeer the dancers on, but be nice because we like to *eat your brains!!!* After that, in keeping with the zombie mood, we're going to watch *The Walking Dead*. Critically acclaimed (and bloody awesome) AMC original series *The Walking Dead* has returned for the second half of season two, and we are so excited! After 6 PM the TV will go on so those who want can watch the newest episode called ‘Nebraska.’ For those of you who haven't seen it yet and want to get caught up AMC (channel 53) is marathoning season one on February 11th starting at 5 PM and the first half of season 2 on February 12th starting at 10:30 AM, winding up with the first new episode since last November starting at 6 PM.”—Keith Lim

15 February 2012: **Liana K.**'s birthday.

16 February 2012: Sci-Fi and the Courage to Hope, 7:30 PM at Unitarian Church of Vancouver, 949 W. 49th Ave., 604-874-9982. "Science fiction author Lynda Williams talks about stories of utopia and dystopia and how they affect us. Refreshments to follow. More information at lkazdan@shaw.ca. Free admission."—EarthFurst to BC Sci-Fi Assc.

17 February 2012: Premiere of films *Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance* (superhero; Nicolas Cage, Ciarán Hinds, Christopher Lambert, Anthony Head) and *The Secret World of Arrietty* (fantasy; Will Arnett, Carol Burnett, Peter Jason, Amy Poehler).

17–19 February 2012: Tsukino-Con. Anime and Japanese cultural convention at University of Victoria, 3800 Finnerty Road, Victoria, Engineering and Computer Science building. Anime Club, UVic Students' Society, University of Victoria, PO Box 3035 STN CSC, Victoria, BC, V8W 3P3. UVic students get in free. (Pre-registration appears to be online-only.)—Julian Castle



19 February 2012: Naked Girls Reading—Bust Of!, 7:30–10:30 PM at the Backstage Lounge, 1585 Johnston Street, Vancouver. "Vancouver's biggest Naked Girls Reading yet! We've gotten so many requests to hear some of the crowd favorites again that we're doing a Best Of show...or should that be *Bust Of!* Oh...oh...oh...oh...oh...oh...oh! It's also our own Blonde Bombshell's birthday, so come on out and help celebrate. Starring Maggie Pie, Trixie Hobbitses, Malvina Masvino, Mama Fortuna, Bunny Meugens, Kitty Kitty Bang Bang, and special guest star: *the* Samantha Mack! with our Mistress of Ceremonies Diamond Minx. \$15/\$20 advance, \$5 more at the door. EventBrite."—Diamond Minx via Cormorant Hadoken Russball

19, 22, and 23 February 2012: Sita Sings the Blues, 1 PM on 19 February and 8:30 PM on 22–23 February at Pacific Cinémathèque, 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver. Wikipedia says *SSTB* is "a 2008 animated feature film...by American artist Nina Paley...It intersperses events from the Ramayana, illustrated conversation between Indian shadow puppets, musical interludes voiced with tracks by Annette Hanshaw and scenes from the artist's own life....Roger Ebert...enthused, "I am enchanted...To get any film made is a miracle. To conceive of a film like this is a greater miracle." Cinematheque website says "Sita may be the first animated feature released under a Creative Commons license, which permits free usage—a move necessitated by complicated copyright issues that arouse over its use of old songs Paley believed were in the public domain."—Julian Castle

21 February 2012: **Crystal Remedios**'s birthday.

22–23 February 2012: Ottawa International Animation Festival’s Best of Ottawa Tour, 7 PM at Pacific Cinémathèque, 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver. “The Best of Ottawa programme showcases many audience favorites and award winners from the OIAF Official Competition. This year’s highlights include Pjotr Sapegin’s heart-warming *The Last Norwegian Troll*...and the hilarious crowd-favourite *The Goat and the Well*.”—Julian Castle

24 February 2012: Premiere of film *The Fairy* (fantasy).

24 February 2012: Cinema Sewer #25/Sleazy Slice #5 Launch Party! WEEEEEE, 6:00–9:00 PM at Pulp Fiction Books, 2422 Main Street, Vancouver. “It’s the once-a-year *Cinema Sewer* launch event, and it’s happening at Pulp Fiction books again! C’mon out and hang with us for a bit and enjoy yourself! I say it’s OK, so it is OK. Book stores are the best, amIrite? Also great: chocolate. Man, am I tired. Heeeyy, look over there: more info about the new publications I put out: cinemasewer.com.”—Robin Bougie



25 February 2012: **Alyx Dellamonica**’s birthday.

29 February 2012: Leap Day. Superman’s birthday.

March 2012

2 March 2012: Premiere of films *Dr. Seuss’s The Lorax* (computer animation/fantasy; Zac Efron, Taylor Swift, Betty White, Ed Helms, Danny DeVito, Rob Riggle, Dee Bradley Baker, Marina Sirtis) and *Tim and Eric’s Billion Dollar Movie* (comedy; Eric Wareheim, Tim Heidecker, John C. Reilly, Will Ferrell, Robert Loggia, Ray Wise, William Atherton, Ron Austar, Gabriel Bartalos, Mark Cuban, Will Forte, Zach Galafianakis, Jeff Goldblum, Michael Gross, David Liebehart, Ron Lynch, A.D. Miles, James Quall, Ron Stark).

3 March 2012: Super Happy Hacker House 20, 7:00 PM–12:00 AM at Vancouver Hack Space, 45 West Hastings Street, Vancouver. “VHS will be opening its doors for another awesome SHHH. Please join us for a night of hacking and socializing. Because it’s the 20th SHHH ever, we’ve decided to rent out more space than ever. All the fun of a normal hacking night *plus* extra space *plus* no self-imposed bed time curfew. Bring a project you’re working on, or just come down and find out what Vancouver’s hackers, crafters, and makers are working on. Lightning talks starting at 11 PM.”—Keith Lim

9 March 2012: Premiere of films *John Carter* (action/SF; Bryan Cranston, Ciarán Hinds, Willem Dafoe, Thomas Haden Church, Don Stark), *Silent House* (horror), and *Playback* (horror; Christian Slater, Mark Metcalf).

9–11 March 2012: VancouFur 2012. Anthropomorphic art and costume convention at Executive Hotel and Conference Center at 4201 Lougheed Highway (west of

Brentwood Town Centre SkyTrain station), Burnaby. Full weekend membership: \$40 until 24 February 2012, \$45 at the door. Single day passes (cash only at door): Friday \$20, Saturday \$30, Sunday \$15. Single day passes do not get a conbook included with admission, but conbooks can be bought. Hotel rooms \$119 per night. Hotel is taking reservations only via phone (1-800-590-3932). Mention VancouFur to the clerk and use the code 12720 during the booking. (Brief post about the event at [IRL Events](#)).—[Julian Castle](#)

10 March 2012: [Geeks After Dark V: With Great Sexy Comes Great Responsibility](#), 6:00–10:30 PM at the Cellar Nightclub, 1006 Granville Street, Vancouver. “Who am I? You sure you want to know? The story of my life is not for the faint of heart. If somebody said it was a happy little tale...if somebody told you this was just your average, ordinary club night...somebody lied. Whatever life holds in store for me, I will never forget these words: ‘Hey, I’m kind of busy Friday night. Maybe give Saturdays a shot?’ So we set the show up for Saturday. That is our gift. That is our curse. That is...*Geeks After Dark V: With Great Sexy Comes Great Responsibility!* That’s right, hot on the heels of our last event, we’re coming out *again* with a great show. We just couldn’t keep ourselves away from you wonderful folks after our editor, a moustachioed, cigar-chomping tyrant demanded pictures of a certain wall-crawling, web-spinning...Yes, fine, it’s Spider-Man themed. There’s only so much we can draw this out, really. *Geeks After Dark* is now going to be coming at you faster and harder than ever, so *get ready!* All the *ladies*, all the *dancing*, all the *prizes* and all the *nerdy madness* you can handle! Sponsored by *GameDeals*, *Golden Age Collectables*, *Gotham Collectables*, and *The Connection Games!* Check out our hosts *J. Jonah Jameson* with his on-site photographer *Peter Parker* for an amazing evening of burlesque, trivia, comedy and the best geeky dance music since the Cantina Band went on tour! Featuring an amazing lineup of nerdlesquers but including fan favourites like: *Sherry Hymen*, *Dollie Nox*, *Misty Meanor*, *Chai Tea*, *Sweet Sashay*; Stage Kitty/Balloon Girl is the Vixen from Venus, the Seductress from the Stars, the Time Twirling Tassels of Tomorrow, the Dame in Lace from Outer Space, Newcomer *Iva Raygun!* Doors: 6:00 PM . Show: 6:30 PM. Dance party craziness: 7:30 PM! Featuring music from: *’90s cartoons! geeky movies and tv shows! nerd-core rap! video games! and user requests!* Leave yours in the comments, and if we can shake our things to it (thing-shaking is a patented process), we’ll put it on the playlist. Now, unsheathe your adamantium claws, strap on your arc reactor powered armor, shine up your no-prizes and get ready to party! Excelsior, fans, and *make mine Geeks After Dark!* Tickets at the door: \$10 in costume, \$12 without so *dress to the 9s!*”—[Geeks After Dark](#) via [Cormorant Hadoken Russball](#)

11 March 2012: **Cameron Russell**’s birthday.

18 March 2012: [Vancouver Comic Con](#), 11 AM–5 PM [*at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver*]. Dealer tables: \$40/centre; \$50/wall. Hourly door prizes! Admission: \$4.00; kids under 14: free. Comics for Classrooms: Donate a new or gently-used school-appropriate graphic novel for free admission to this show. Books collected will be donated to Vancouver schools. Follow us on Twitter at: twitter.com/van

comicon. For more information: <http://www.vancouvercomiccon.com/> or call 604-322-6412.—Leonard S. Wong

23 March 2012: Premiere of film *The Hunger Games* (action/SF; Woody Harrelson, Stanley Tucci, Donald Sutherland, Lenny Kravitz).

30 March 2012: Premiere of films *The Wrath of the Titans* (fantasy; Liam Neeson, Sam Worthington, Ralph Fiennes, Bill Nighy), *Mirror Mirror* (comedy/fantasy; Julia Roberts, Sean Bean, Nathan Lane, Michael Lerner, Danny Woodburn), and *Intruders* (horror; Clive Owen, Daniel Brühl).



31 March 2012: 2012 Auto Modelrama, 9:00 AM–3:00 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver (between Granville & Oak Streets at West 73rd Avenue). Admission: \$3 for spectator admission (children under 12 with an adult—free); contest entrants: seniors \$5 (includes fee for up to five entries, \$1 for each additional entry; \$10 maximum), juniors (18 and under) \$2 (unlimited entries); vendor tables \$30. “Celebrating our 28th annual model car show and swap meet. Hosted by the Automotive Model Builder’s Club of Vancouver. Theme category: ‘panels, vans, and wagons.’ (If there is no ‘trunk,’ and the roof extends all the way to the rear of the vehicle, it is probably eligible.) Please note: previous entrants in past Modelramas can be entered, but are only eligible for category awards. For more information please contact Iain at nicolsmith@shaw.ca.”

News-Like Matter

Notes from January 2012 BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Graeme Cameron (president), Barb Dryer (secretary), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Ray Seredin (host), Felicity Walker (editor), Michael “Fruvous” Bertrand, Julian Castle, Joe Devoy, and William Graham.

We phoned Sidney Trim to offer our condolences on the passing of his mother. Barb also brought a card for all of us to sign.

Graeme brought books from the late Al Betz’s collection—*Rocket Genius* by Charles Spain Verral (about Robert Goddard), *Disturbing the Universe* by Freeman Dyson, *The World of Science Fiction* by Lester del Rey, *The Science Fiction Encyclopedia*, edited by Peter Nicholls, and *Bleepers in Space* (no author given; published by DC Comics).

Ray talked about boats.

We reminisced about silent reading period in school.

Graeme talked about a book he was reading about Pierre Trudeau. Surprisingly, it said that the young Trudeau was a fascist and antisemite, but that was the climate

of separatist Quebec in those days. It was in the schools, the church, and the government, so it was unavoidable. Fortunately, once Trudeau had travelled a little, he improved.

I thought I heard a toilet flush out in the street. Ray remembered his school (in Powell River) testing the PA system by flushing the toilet in the principal's bathroom. Graeme said that President Johnson would continue meetings while using the toilet, as an expression of power. This made me think of the *King of the Hill* episode with the flashback to the first of what would be many times that Buck Strickland made Hank Hill talk to him in the bathroom, saying, "Hank, join me in my 'office,' I got to take a grunt...I promise I won't make a habit of this."

Several of us agreed that one of the worst things about prison, judging from the movies, would be the toilets. Fruvous said that when the Marquis de Sade was imprisoned and denied writing materials, he wrote his manuscript in his own feces. Graeme said that publishers sometimes received poo manuscripts, and other gimmicks, such as purple ink on pink paper, from writers trying to stand out and get noticed. A Doubleday editor received a submission with the note: "By the time you read this, I will have shot myself." One author wrote *The Diary of a Drunken Sod* on a beer barrel. (Despite the imaginative choice of format, it was only mildly entertaining, so the publisher passed.)

William Gibson once asked Graeme to identify a movie he'd seen as a kid, and find him a copy if possible. All he could remember was that "the monster was the shadow of a lobster." Graeme instantly knew it had to be *Teenagers from Outer Space* (1959), and as luck would have it, he had an extra copy.



Felicity Walker
Sunday 22 January 2012

Announcement

R. Graeme Cameron is pleased to announce he has given birth to a bouncing baby hernia. The Graeme went under the knife this morning about 9:45 AM, where doctors were amazed to find out that the hernia was a good deal larger than initially believed to be, and required much more work than previously thought. He was released from the hospital at 5:00 PM, wherein his wife made him jog home from the hospital behind the cab. He is currently shuffling about the house in his green plaid boxer shorts, with an enormous bruise on his belly and in a great deal of pain. Well-wishes may be posted here or emailed to rgraeme@shaw.ca, and friends who have our number are welcome to call. He's going to be pretty much laid up for two or three weeks, and should make a full recovery in six weeks.

Elvishrat
to [BC Sci-Fi Assc. Yahoo! Group](#)
Thursday 26 January 2012

As Others See Us? V

“The GOP presidential candidates continue to play their parts in an implausible story of a world that could never exist, acting out nonexistent conflicts while delivering dialog that insults the intelligence [*sic*]. That’s not because they’re stupid. It’s because they think *you* are. It’s like watching a low budget science-fiction movie from the fifties: *Dr. Strange vs. the Vulture in the Caverns of the Moon*. It’s badly executed, even by the low standards of its genre, complete with cheap sets, bad special effects and wooden acting.”—Richard (RJ) Eskow, “Last Night’s GOP Debate Was Like Bad 1950’s-Style [*sic*] Science-Fiction,” Nation of Change [*There are more SF analogies in the rest of the article.*—Felicity]

Felicity Walker

Saturday 28 January 2012

Book View Café Releases Gilman’s ‘Practical Meerkat’ as Ebook

Book View Café today launched Laura Anne Gilman’s writing advice book: *Practical Meerkat’s 52 Bits of Useful Info for Young (and Old) Writers*.

Writing is a craft. Publishing is a business. Today’s world requires you to understand both.

A year’s worth of first-hand advice from the popular “Practical Meerkat” series, including:

- * Knowing When Not to Complain (and how to do it)
- * Bar Schmoozing with the Big Dogs (even if you don’t drink)
- * Dealing with a Difficult Editor/Agent
- * And 49 more!

About the author: Laura Anne Gilman has been an editor since 1990, including seven years heading the Roc SF imprint for Penguin. As a writer, she has twenty-five novels and forty+ stories to her name.

ISBN: 978-1-61138-151-1

Download a DRM-free ebook (epub, mobi/Kindle) for \$2.99: <http://www.bookviewcafe.com/index.php/Practical-Meerkat-by-Laura-Anne-Gilman>.

Sue Lange

Book View Café Media Relations

media.relations@bookviewcafe.com

Sue Lange

Tuesday 31 January 2012

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

VIDEO DATING

"STUN RUNNER"

RONNIE HAZLEHURST

"VEIGUES TACTICAL GLADIATOR"

GREEN BAR PRINTER PAPER

THE MACINTOSH SE

"SUPER FRIENDS"

Announcement for Writers

To celebrate its move into digital publishing, Wordwrights Canada is now offering all its paperback titles (while quantities last) at modest e-book pricing. Two especially for writers are the highly regarded handbook *A Magical Clockwork: The Art of Writing the Poem*, and the inspirational companion *Holding True: Essays on Being a Writer* by Susan Ioannou. For details on these and other books, and the bonus of many free PDF downloads, please visit <http://www3.sympatico.ca/susanio/feature.html>.

Bill Marles
to Richmond Writers' Network Facebook Group
Saturday 4 February 2012

Phantacea Publications Media Release—'Goddess Gambit' Now Available

Greetings,

Phantacea Publications is pleased to announce Ingram Books, Ingram International and Coutts Information Services are distributing *Goddess Gambit* (ISBN 978-0-9781342-2-8), the latest PHANTACEA Mythos print publication worldwide.

Its publication both ends the "Thrice-Cursed Godly Glories" trilogy and continues the "Launch 1980" story sequences begun with *The War of the Apocalypics* (ISBN 978-0-9781342-4-2).

Gambit's cover, bonus graphics and plenty of information on the book, the trilogy it concludes and the story cycle it continues, as well as additional ordering lynx, can be found here: <http://www.phantacea.com/>.

Jim McPherson
Creator/Writer/Publisher
The PHANTACEA Mythos

Jim McPherson
Saturday 4 February 2012



Zalman King

Writer and director Zalman King died on Friday, aged 69, following a lengthy battle with cancer. Although he used his script credit on *9½ Weeks* to launch a successful career in softcore erotica in both movies and cable TV, King began as an actor, his genre appearances including *Blue Sunshine* (1978) and *Galaxy of Terror* (1981). His role in *The*

Young Lawyers (1969–71) led to him being singled out for praise in Harlan Ellison's TV column, later anthologised as *The Glass Teat*.

Steve Green
Sunday 5 February 2012

‘Globe and Mail’ ‘Social Studies’: University and TV Clown

From “Social Studies” by Michael Kesterton in *The Globe and Mail*:

“University offers course on Occupy movement...Occupy Everywhere, a three-credit political science course offered at Roosevelt University that takes a look at the movement and the issue of social inequality in the United States.”

And:

“In Brazil...In 2010, the largest number of votes for any member of congress went to Tiririca, a popular TV clown, who ran on the slogan, ‘I don’t know what a congressman does, but vote me in and I’ll tell you.’...”

Julian Castle

Thursday 9 February 2012

As Other See Us? VI

“This performance takes place at an event hosted by Geeks After Dark, a ‘nerd nightlife’ group that aims to coax the city’s geek community out of comic book stores and their parents’ basements, and into nightclubs.”—Laura Kane, “Girls Gone Geek in Vancouver,” *The Tye*

Felicity Walker

Friday 10 February 2012

One Average Meeting in Space

Michael Bertrand

Bowshawm’s upper antenna quivered with irritation. Why was he even here? He was an engineer. He almost never dealt with the public. So why did he have to know all about some new species, fresh from their admission to the League and eager to explore all their new possibilities? All he needed to know about these rubes was their basic biology and a rough idea of their psychology and that was it. Then he could retreat back to his design lab and design the environmental systems that would keep them alive and happy and content while they stayed with his employers, Sun Rising Resorts. He didn’t need some stupid social etiquette lecture about which appendage they dipped in their tea or whatever.

Still, Bowshawm dutifully slotted his thorax into the cup-shaped clamp that his bio-form used as a chair and trained all eight of his eyes and both sets of antennae on the speaker who was arranging her notes on the podium at the center of the conference room. Truth was, though he would never admit it, despite his carping and griping any time he was forced to leave his lab, Bowshawm was far too ambitious and career oriented to make waves by making his complaints even faintly official. He did what thousands of similar sentients had done in his situation: did as he was told, and kept his grumbling to himself.

“Thank you all for coming,” said the sleek furry creature at the podium. *Like I had a choice*, Bowshawm grumbled to himself. He peered at her but could not place

her name or species. Some middle management mammal, anyhow. The new species must be warmblooded.

“I will try to be brief and just cover the basics of Entet etiquette, as I am sure you all have jobs you are eager to return to, and there are only a few things we all absolutely must know,” she continued. *That’s what they all say, thought Bowshawm, and then three hours later you are still there and ready to break off your own neural spines just to survive the boredom.*

“The first and most important thing you need to understand about the Entet is where we at Sun Rising Resorts fit into their society, and for that, we need to look at their life cycle.” *Here it comes, thought Bowshawm. Soon, we’ll be looking at diagrams of their entire genetic history.*

“The Entet are mammals and built along the basic biped bio-form, but they are seaborne. They live almost their entire lives in and on their home planet’s plentiful seas and rivers, and only go to land for a few very special reasons. The one we’re most interested in today is birth.” *Oh no, not mammalian birth rituals, thought Bowshawm, those are so disgusting compared to nice clear orderly ovi-deposit. Wait, sea mammals? But I just finished their environmental design, and there isn’t even a bathtub, let alone the large pools and tanks sea creatures usually request.*

“As their young cannot swim until three weeks after birth, the Entet must give birth on dry land and raise their young there ’til they are of swimming age. This means that, despite being an almost entirely sea-based life form, they all have early memories of a time when they were on solid land, being tended to by highly attentive parents who did nothing but feed them and groom them all day long. Then, once they reach swimming age, their parents shove them into icy cold water and they have to fend for themselves.” *What, without even a cocoon of food to sustain them? Still, that explains a few things, thought Bowshawm. Like the deep cushioned pit, and the room temperature so much higher than the species baseline. They seek to recreate their earliest childhood. I wonder if this is one of those complicated mammalian mating rituals?*



“The vital thing to take away from all this is that, despite being a highly gregarious and uninhibited species, they consider that time in their lives to be deeply shameful and therefore have a very potent societal taboo against mentioning it or even admitting that it happens. And yet, with League help, their scientists have discovered that the only treatment for the wide range of psychological issues that plague the Entet population after their third or fourth decade of life can be directly traced to this early childhood trauma, and so the only treatment is to take the patient back through that time of their life, but this time, have them go through the transition from land to water more gently and gradually.” *Oh, thought Bowshawm. That must be where we come in.*

“That’s where we come in. We are providing the facilities, but most importantly, we are providing the *discretion*. No matter what their scientists say, the taboo about this time of their lives is still incredibly strong and pervasive, and if a facility was located on one of their own planets, their curious and adventurous cohorts

would undoubtedly find out who was there, and much shame and political fallout would likely occur. So they are counting on us to keep things very, very quiet.

“What that boils down to for us employees is that we must not mention the real reason the Entet are coming here to anyone, especially them. As far as everyone... and I do mean *everyone*...who is not in this room is concerned, the Entet come here strictly to relax and meet new species. You are not to refer to their therapy, the modifications made to their rooms, or any other aspect of their visits here that would imply they are here for any other reason than rest and recreation.”

Oh pod-smut, no! thought Bowshawm, a horrible chill going through him from spiracles to spinnerettes. *I just sent a bulletin to my entire working group, subordinates included, detailing my entire environmental design because I found it so unusual. Please end the meeting now, please please let this be the end of the meeting. I still have time to cancel it before any of them read it. Maybe. I hope.*

“That’s all you need to know for now. For those of you in the front-line service positions, this lecture will continue to cover their greeting rituals, eating habits, and so on. But the rest of you may leave.”

Bowshawm was already scurrying for the exit, nearly bowling over two other sentients in his haste, by the time she finished speaking. He would make all the necessary apology offerings to those he had offended later. Now, he had to get back to his lab and cancel that bulletin before it wrecked his career by making him seem careless, or far worse...non-cosmopolitan.

There was no worse crime in the Sun Rising chain’s eyes than being intolerant of other races. They would put up with it from guests, but never even a hint of it from their employees.

As he dashed back to his beloved lab as fast as his eight rubbery legs would take him, his mind was transfixed on the image of his supervisor, an elongated rodent of the Chrop species, looking down on him, nose twitching in angry disapproval, his ill timed bulletin on the Chrop’s screen.

But somewhere on that fateful trip back, he also decided that he should send a message to his progenitor group, thanking them for the kindness and consideration they had shown in raising him.

Suddenly, he felt that he’d never really appreciated them until now.

Michael Bertrand

The Homepage of Michael John Bertrand

Tuesday 11 January 2011

Zines Received

‘**Opuntia**’ #71.3 (February 2012). Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. APAzine issue.

“Mailing Comments on FAPA #296”: “*Alphabet Soup* #71: ‘You can find absolutely anything on the Internet.’ Speaking as someone who is doing a lot of research on the Internet [...] I disagree.” Me too. As far back as 1994, I used to hear that you could find absolutely anything on the Internet, but my mileage varied. The people who said this must have had very ordinary interests. If you’re interested in fish, you’ll be blown away that there are *whole entire websites* about fish! The first time I



heard you could find absolutely anything on the Internet, I was looking for details about the 1982 *Pac-Man* animated series, and I was out of luck. Sure, in realistic terms, it was a long shot, but isn't the Internet supposed to have absolutely anything?

"Mailing Comments on FAPA #297": "For FAPA: 'Books are heavy and have very little value second hand.' [...] I have slowly begun to start thinning them out and dumping them off at the Co-Op Book Exchange or other giveaway outlets. [...] I expect that it will be a race between my thinning them out to people who will read them and my death, when my heirs will dump them all into the recycle bin." I have to keep one eye on my parents to make sure they aren't recycling or donating to charity books from the 1970s and 1980s that have sentimental value to me. A few months ago I was at the bank and saw what looked like several classic books from my father's collection for sale. By the time I'd checked with my parents and confirmed that my father had dumped a lot of books at the Richmond Hospital Foundation Auxiliary, it was too late—the bank's sale was over and the books had disappeared. Those could have been the exact copies I read as a child, and I may never find them again.

Also: "What Is FAPA?"; "FAPA Clearcut Award"; "Mailing Comments on FAPA #295"; "Seen in the Literature"; "Letters to the Editor"; "When Words Collide 2011: Follow-Up."

'**The Voyageur**' #184 (January 2012). Published by Infinite Diversity International Corporation, % Lynda Ciaschini, 7050 Weston Road, Suite 301, Woodbridge, Ontario, L4L 8G7. Edited by Georgina Miles, 26 Doddington Drive, Toronto, Ontario, M8Y 1S4, ga.miles50@gmail.com. Official Newsletter of the *USS Hudson Bay*.

"Editorial"; "Meeting Memories"; "Birthday Wishes"; "*The Scorpion King 3*"; "*Alcatraz*—J.J. Abrams' New Series"; "*Once Upon a Time*"; "Nifty News" (science and media); "*The Secret Circle*"; "Conventions and Events"; "Club Meetings"; "Hailing Frequencies."

'**The Voyageur**' #185 (February 2012). Published by Infinite Diversity International Corporation, % Lynda Ciaschini, 7050 Weston Road, Suite 301, Woodbridge, Ontario, L4L 8G7. Edited by Georgina Miles, 26 Doddington Drive, Toronto, Ontario, M8Y 1S4, ga.miles50@gmail.com. Official Newsletter of the *USS Hudson Bay*.

"Editorial"; "Meeting Memories"; "Birthday Wishes"; "Daniel Radcliffe in *The Woman in Black*"; "Nifty News"; "*Star Trek: The Next Generation* Together at Calgary Expo"; "New *Ghost Rider* Movie"; "Conventions and Events"; "Club Meetings"; "Hailing Frequencies."

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