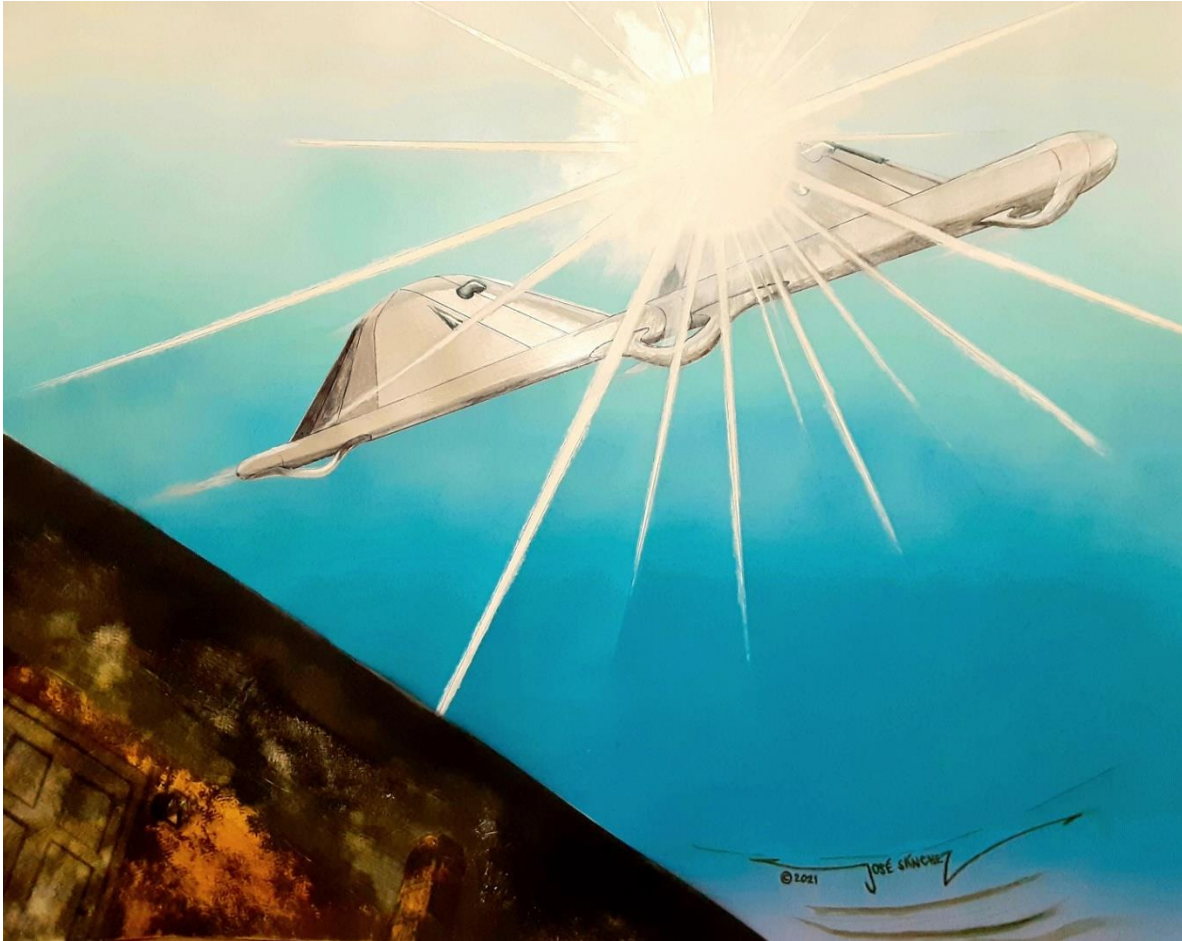


Obdurate Eye #12



"\$#%#@ \$ Sunday driver!!"

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MASTHEAD

THE OBDURATE EYE #12 (June 2021) is what Garth Spencer does at 4240 Perry Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5N 3X5 if nobody stops him. You can send complaints and kudos and rants to him by mail, or by email to garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

Art Credits

Cover	Jose Sanchez
p. 1, "Play on Words"	Dori Cavanaugh
pp. 2, 3	William Rotsler
p. 5	Steve Stiles & Alexis Gilliland
p. 9	Pulp-o-Mizer

Cover : “Here is my final color illustration, depicting Jeff Willes' video of a mysterious and highly peculiar object that flies very quickly above his house. His house was in the shade and I tried to capture this as well but in a more mysterious and dramatic way to fit the mood of the eerie ambience at the moment this was recorded.

Jeff Willes is a U.F.O. Researcher, videographer and avid sky watcher and resides in Arizona.”

(Jose Sanchez, May 23, 2021)



News

2021 French Language Boreal / Aurora winners

“On Sunday, April 2nd, as part of the 2021 edition of the Boreal Congress, “Imaginary Effects: From Dark to Bright, this year’s Aurora Boreal awards were unveiled. These are the French language awards for works by Canadians done in 2020.

“Full details about who won can be found at: [2021 Aurora Boreal Award winners](#)
“Congratulations to all.

2021 Aurora Awards Ballot

“We are pleased to announce the 2021 Aurora Awards Ballot. The ballot is for works and activities done by Canadians in 2020. Voting will begin on July 31, 2021 and close at 11:59 pm EDT on September 4, 2021. A virtual awards ceremony will be hosted by Can-Con (www.can-con.org) on October 16, 2021.

“We are currently working to put together our voters’ package. It will contain most of the written works by our nominees. It will be available before the end of May.

“Click [2021 Ballot](#) to see this year’s ballot.

“To either vote or download this year’s voters’ package you must be a paid member of CSFFA. Annual memberships are just \$10 and are open to all Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

“NOTE: The Novelette/Novella category has been changed. One work was removed because it was published in 2019.

The YA Novel category has been changed. Dragon Assassin has been replaced with Return to Atlantis. E-versions of that work had been published in 2019.

"If you don't already have a CSFFA account click: [Create New Account](#) "

Cliff Samuels, May 9, 2021

2021 Aurora Voters Package is available

"We are pleased to announce that the 2021 Aurora Awards Voters Package is now available. Become a part of the excitement and download your package today! Items in our Voters Package have been kindly provided by the nominees and their publishers. They are there to help our members make more informed decisions when they vote and are strictly for their personal use.

"Voting for this year's awards opens on July 31, 2021, and will close on September 4, 2021 at 11:59pm EDT. The Voter's Package will close at the same time and will no longer be available to download. Please be aware that our system gets busy in the last few days and your votes may be locked out if made to close to the deadline.

"To download this year's package or to vote you must be a paid member of CSFFA. Annual memberships are just \$10.00 and are open to all Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

"The Aurora Awards will be presented virtually by Can-Con on October 16, 2021


"Good luck to all the nominees and happy reading to all our CSFFA members."

Aurora Award Interviews

"Over the past few weeks, Cliff Samuels has done a few interviews about this year's Aurora Awards.

"The first was with Ryah Deines from Tyche Books. Here's the link to the YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/55u3ROQBO2o>

"The second is an audio interview for the Stuph File Program

(#0614)  hosted by Peter Anthony Holder. We have a link to just Cliff's portion of the interview here: [Stuph File interview](#). For the full show and other shows go to Stuph File website at www.thestuphfile.com. For their newsletter go to: [The Stuph File Newsletter](#)"

CSFFA Board of Directors

CanSmof Scholarship to Attend SMOFCon in Lisbon

CanSmof Inc. is pleased to announce the availability of up to three scholarships for convention runners to be used towards the cost of attending SMOFCon 39, to be held in Lisboa, Portugal, December 3-5, 2021. SMOFCon is the annual convention about organizing Science Fiction conventions.

“The first Scholarship, of up to 1000 CAD is open to a Canadian citizen or resident involved in running conventions with a preference for those who have not previously attended a SMOFCon.

“The second scholarship of up to 1000 CAD is open to anyone not residing in Europe*, involved in running conventions with a preference for those who have not previously attended a SMOFCon.

“The third scholarship of up to 500 CAD is open to anyone involved in running conventions, regardless of their place of residence with a preference for those who have not previously attended a SMOFCon.

“All scholarships come with an attending membership to SMOFCon 39, graciously donated by Smofcon 39.

“Applicants will automatically be considered for any and all scholarships for which they are eligible. Preference will be given to fans who have not previously attended a SMOFCon, but this is not necessary to be an applicant. The submission deadline is September 24th, 2021, 23:59 SST (UTC-11). We reserve the right to not award any or all scholarships. Any questions should be directed to smofcon.scholarship@gmail.com.

“To apply for a scholarship, simply follow this link:
<https://docs.google.com/.../15PrGWkbhsQxdBPv8CDhXvOC.../edit>

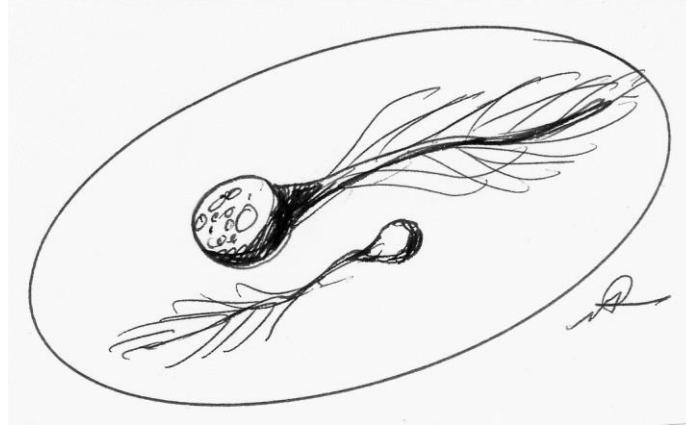
“More information on SMOFCon 39 may be found at: www.smofconeurope.com/

“General information about SMOFCon, including a list of past SMOFCons may be found at: www.smofcon.com

“More information about Cansmof may be found at : www.cansmof.ca

“*Europe defined as Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and Vatican City.”

Diane Lacey, CANSMOF.CA, June 20, 2021 (Facebook)



Meditations on the Pandemic

Slowly but surely, we are reaching the end of this pandemic. Most of us in Canada, at least in British Columbia, have had at least one vaccination. I have had one AstraZeneca vaccination and expect to have my second one, sooner rather than later.

But I still wonder if the new normal, after COVID-19, will be quite the same as the old. We have had a succession of novel contagious infections coming out of unexpected places in the last several decades: SARS, Legionnaire's Disease, AIDS, Ebola, and now COVID-19. You have to wonder if face masks and hand sanitizer, limited travel and even limited public gatherings, will become permanent fixtures in the future ... Little wonder if some people refuse to believe the pandemics are real: they're so massive, and *inconvenient*, a change from the "normal".

§

In some ways, staying home practically all day, every day, and not visiting anyone or going out, has been a restful, contemplative time. It has been worthwhile to weigh my past and present, and pick out the real issues.

In other ways, isolation was not edifying. It is all too easy to become undisciplined, not to extend my skills or to learn anything new, not to exercise, or to let isolation depress me.

I find myself brooding on the failure to convey to fans my concerns about conventional conrunning, at least in the 1980s; or on the media's complete silence about the Belgian world domination plot; or the continuing threat to Canada represented by the Cult of Kali, and the terrorist cults it sets up and manipulates around the world. The company of my cat has been a great comfort.

Maybe I just need full-time work instead of the part-time gigs I've got.

§

For some years I have had an e-book titled *The Last Centurion*, by John Ringo, which was written about a decade ago but comes rather close to describing our pandemic. There are major differences in his parallel story universe, of course: Ringo describes a much more virulent pandemic, with a 30% to 60% fatality rate; a global climate change, not global warming but global cooling, is being ignored by a deluded media; his U.S. President is not a conservative caricature named Trump, but a liberal caricature named Warrick; and the virus and the president between them wreak famine and economic upheaval on the U.S. The rest of the world ends up ... rearranged, politically, due to results of the pandemic, the climate change, and the consequent military clashes.

I feel pretty fortunate after reading this sort of thing.



Letters

Lloyd Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, June 4, 2021

I have the bright-yellow *Obdurate Eye* #11, and while the colour is a little eye-straining, I am sure the comments shine a little brighter than the ochre. Time to see if I can prove that remark.

Good to see there will be a VCON this year. As you say, preps are proceeding, and it looks like the end of our lockdown may be a little closer, but are there back-up plans just in case we still can't gather in numbers, and we have to have a virtual convention?

((That is the backup plan.))

Looks like there will be a Corflu in Vancouver, and another in Montreal. But, it doesn't look like I will be at either. This is a big and expensive country. And, with a bid for Worldcon in Winnipeg in 2023, well, good luck to them, but I doubt I could make it there, either.

((Seattle is the backup plan for Corflu Pangloss in Vancouver.))

My previous loc ... The hairband continues, and probably will until my next haircut, which probably won't be until July some time. I have responded to Taral's *Baloobius*, and I hope he is happy with my attempt to correspond. I got my AstraZeneca shot in late March, so I am now hopeful that I can get a second shot later on this month. AstraZeneca, Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, I really don't care, as long as I can get the second shot, and perhaps start planning my regular life again.

I recently read that a doctor in Calgary kept trying to convince a skeptical patient that COVID-19 wasn't a hoax, but that he wouldn't be convinced, even as he was on his deathbed. He died of COVID, still convinced it was a fake, concocted by the masses, just to fool him. This still amazes me, and it's something I expected in the US, and not here.

((Despite the attitude we take sometimes, the U.S. does not have a monopoly on people who prefer alternatives to reality.))

It's taken me a while to get writing again ... I gave myself a holiday from letter writing. I guess you have to take a break and creatively recharge. Also, Yvonne and I celebrated our 38th wedding anniversary on May 28, and I turned 62 on June 2, so I can say I had other things to do that took me away from other responsibilities.

Done for the moment, and off it goes, and see you with the next one! Take care, and stay safe.

**John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St., No. 409, Los Angeles, CA 90057, USA,
June 11, 2021**

Thanks for *The Obdurate Eye* #11.

The copy that arrived had no page numbers. Marks at the bottoms of pages look as if a line had been cut off.

((Shazbat. Well, now I know how PDFs saved from MS Word interact with my home printer. I know what to do, add a couple of empty lines in the bottom of my running footer.))

I can't encourage your hopes for a Liberal Secular Rational Humanist Cult. I've met many people who, asserting they were the first, second, and fourth of those, failed to show they were more of the third than any others were. I expect, and think you'd better also, those are no assurances of rationality, although it is a

consummation devoutly (secular devotion or otherwise) to be wished. Not to mention level-headed, even-tempered decency – oops, too late.

((Which was the point of my joke, if you realized it was a joke.))

I've seen that "English ... follows other languages down dark alleys" groan, or boast, or whatever it is, attributed to Sir Thomas Pratchett, whom it sounds like. It may well be older.

You spell "gofers" i.e. not "gophers", which discards the jest, and you observe the distinction between references and allusions. You comfort me.

((Don't be too comforted. The original joke behind referring to volunteers as gophers is probably as lost upon contemporary fans as it is upon me, and I no longer remember the distinction between references and allusions, or the distinctions between similes, metaphors and parables. Maybe the recent heat wave destroyed some of my synapses.))

You say you tend not to evaluate anything, nor properly identify implications. You may feel this way about yourself; as the late great Harry Golden called one of his books, you're entitled'. But every page of your zine seems to me to be a contradiction of it.

((Much of my life, and my fanpubbing, is about desperately trying to capture what appears to be normal contemporary assumptions, just as if I really were an alien abducted as a child by a tribe of wandering Anglos, and raised to be the family idiot. Of course I discover that no one understands my questions, very few people are conscious of their everyday assumptions, and in any case a lot of contemporary assumptions are highly varied, changeable, and/or idiotic. Which is how I started feeling my quest was as much of a fool's errand as trying to track down contemporary conrunning practices.))

We Also Heard From: Perry Middlemiss, Ahrvid Engholm, Leybl Botwinik, George Phillies, and John Thiel

Olds

More old material I didn't realize I still had :

Hand sanitizers that are toxic -

See <https://www.thehealthsite.com/news/fda-issues-warning-against-9-hand-sanitizers-hope-you-are-not-using-them-754788/amp/>

(from Jeanne Mealy, June 2020)



Garth Not Understand

(more overset material, from 2013)

Paul Carpentier took me aside at one VCON to point out that, for all my kvetching about the things people will not tell me clearly, I persist in not telling *them* what I still don't know.

Fair enough. Here's a list:

- I don't understand colour matching, whether in choosing clothes or decorating a home.
- I don't know what hats are for, unless they're for the same purpose as umbrellas, and I have *never* learned the function of a tie.
- What is your explanation for lawns?
- Is there any excuse for high heels? Or toxic cosmetics?
- If shirt pockets aren't there to hold pens and Kleenex, then dammit, what *are* they for?
- I don't understand how I fail job interviews, or keep losing jobs. Is it body odour? A disagreeable voice?
- I don't recognize when (if ever) women come on to me, or when and what is an acceptable approach to a woman. So I gave up. I mean, who *dies* of being single?
- I don't understand what you can say or can't say, what you can do or can't do, either in public or in private.

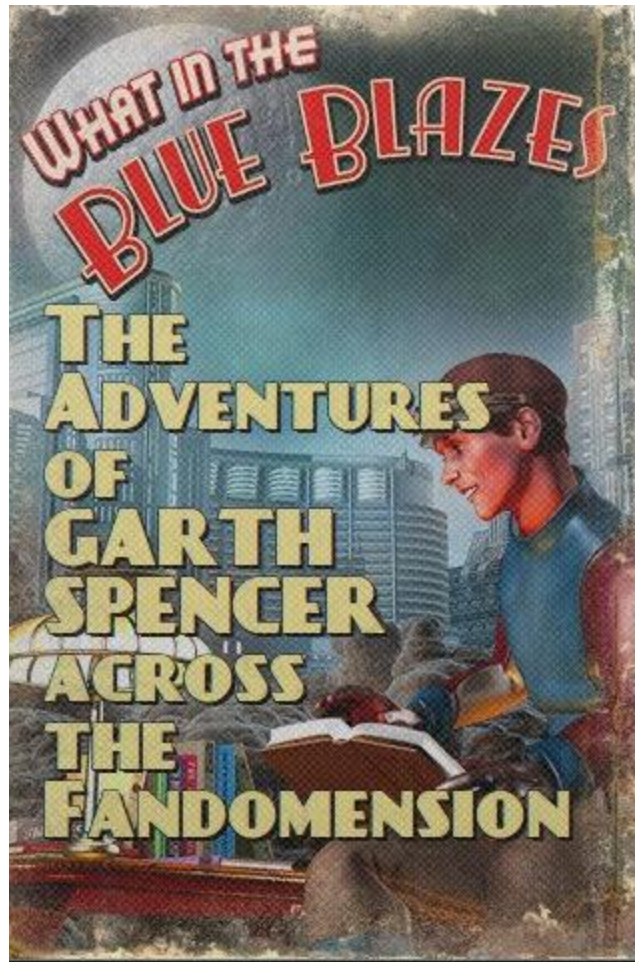
- *Don't* tell me it's all situational and depends on the people you're with; you have rules you won't admit, or you don't even know about them.
- I don't understand people who *won't* or *can't say*, directly and clearly and concisely, what they want from me. Since indirection and nuance are the only ways some subjects are approached ... this cuts me out of a lot.
- I don't understand why many English speakers often begin a sentence with “they” or “it's” or “there”, and if they even *remember* to define who They are, what It is, or where There is, it can take the speaker more than half an hour to get around to it.
- Further, I don't understand why some people – whether they're co-workers, fans on a con committee, or family members – seem to assume their listeners *already* know what subject they're talking about and why they're talking about it, and get all huffy if you ask them to explain their statements, questions, or instructions.
- Just for example, I don't understand why some parents expect their children to *just know*, without being told, any number of social rules and mores and taboos, even the elaborate Edwardian social code that died generations ago, and accuse children of having no “common sense”, when their rules have *no* sense, and *aren't* common. And I am outraged at the silent contempt I got from family members. Was that just my family, or is this a widespread syndrome, and a public mental health issue?
- I don't understand why obviously unqualified people are allowed to marry, let alone raise children. It's like letting obviously unqualified people drive. (Oh, wait, British Columbia discovered several years ago that there were thousands of obviously unqualified people driving in the province, and just let it go, didn't they?) If we demanded a level of competence from people and they had to qualify for licenses before they formed families, maybe we wouldn't have homeless throwaway children in overpopulated megacities today.
- I don't understand why teachers decree there should be no fighting in schoolyards – just as if children weren't instinctively compelled to establish a pecking order, like all vertebrates – and then, if you please, they turn a blind eye to schoolyard bullies, but come down like a ton of cement on their victims. At least the cowardly despots who ran my grade schools behaved that way.
- I don't understand why grade schools spend ten years subliminally teaching pupils they have to toe the line, follow bureaucratic procedure (even when it's pointless), then barely start to open course options to them in grade school ... while post-secondary institutions run on the opposite assumption, that you already know in your early twenties what you want to do, or be.

- I don't understand – or at least, I didn't – why teenagers and twenty-somethings are expected to make crucial life decisions, with little life experience or perspective. (In my late twenties or early thirties I *finally* got a clue that teenagers are expected to feel like invincible, immortal know-it-alls. It was then I realized how alien you humans are.)
- I don't understand why high school graduates – and dropouts – are supposed to *just know*, without being told, that jobhunting is a crapshoot, like being an artist or a musician or an actor or a freelance writer; that you have to expect a low percentage of hits and a high percentage of misses, so you have to keep submitting your resumé without expecting (or needing) acceptance.
- I don't understand why we were supposed to *just know* how much to spend and how much to save, whatever our incomes.
- I don't understand why one Canadian bureaucracy advocates moving to Canada, to professionals overseas such as doctors and engineers, when professional associations in Canada don't recognize their qualifications.
- I don't understand why American English started to treat “liberal” as a dirty word when the USA is *supposed* to be a liberal democracy, as opposed to (say) an absolute monarchy, or an *un*-representative republic.
- I never understood where to invest time and money and effort on expanding my saleable skills. But then, I never understood that we were supposed to have future plans, even a life planned out, as early as high school graduation.
- I don't understand why the investor classes expect middle and lower classes to be adaptable to economic changes *without warning*, or without understanding how to adapt.
- I don't understand why a long life is supposed to be much better than a short one, if it just means longer illness, disability and financial desperation.
- I don't entirely understand the urge to marry and procreate. The urge to find someone to care for, that much I understand. But there are *already* a lot of children, of all ages, who have to manage without parents – not just cute and cuddly babies under one year old. Why not adopt before procreating?
- Whenever the news reminds me that the patriarchy still exists, or racism or class structure, I am mildly surprised; but then, I have always been about as hermitic as urban life allows. It puzzled me to hear about the rise of anti-Asian racism, especially here in Canada ... until my slow mental processes connected it to the current pandemic, which appeared to come out of China. When the Spanish Flu epidemic appeared in 1918, was there

a backlash against Spanish-speakers everywhere? It would make about as much sense.

Of course, I have figured out some things by now.

- I didn't understand for a long time that suicide was considered shameful. Sinful, that is. I got the fact that some people find life more than they can take, so they take their lives. I got the fact that this traumatizes everybody else, so I worked out that this is a bad thing to do to others. The rest of the baggage escaped me.
- Similarly, I didn't quite get the horror attached to cannibalism; like a lot of life, it was on the other side of the television screen, so to speak. Cannibalism happens when people are driven to it, that much I understood from stories about planes that go down in the bush. Assuming the role of a hard-grained Canadian (as if I weren't a lifetime city boy), I would probably say I wouldn't commit cannibalism "unless there was nothing better to eat". You may laugh now. That was a joke. Is funny. Is make ha-ha.
- I didn't understand, for a while, why genetically modified organisms are automatically assumed to be evil. Granted, there's a right way, a wrong way, and a corporate way to do this stuff; and firms like Monsanto seem mainly determined to patent and monopolize all the food species on the globe, so they peddle the products that will serve that goal. Why fix on that goal? Because they can.
- I think I understand why fandom ceased to be a dispersed community, or consist of fans of reasoned speculation. Fandom became more and more populous, so fans could find enough of a hobby group in their locality; there was less and less ridicule of SF and fantasy as the genres became popular, so there was less urgency about finding people you could talk to; and, sadly, there is less and less intellectual challenge in what passes for science fiction and fantasy.
- I think I understand why people run conventions the way they do ... they generally want to do *their own thing, their own way*. Even experience will not teach them that some ideas of conrunning simply will not work; only economics or the rumour mill will force them not to try funding another con entirely on preregistrations, or fast-talking their hotel and their guests of honour and their artists and dealers all at once. Until I worked that out, I didn't understand why obvious incompetents, con artists, and sometimes criminals were repeatedly allowed in the field of conrunning.



Fanzines Received

I am too stunned and overcome with summer heat to read and analyze very well. Everyone else seems to be fanpubbing better than I do. O the embarrassment.

For reasons unclear to me this list of fanzines received is almost dominated by N3F publications.

I should take up loccing zines regularly. I have been neglecting my duties.

Alexiad #117, c/o Lisa & Joseph Major, 1409 Christy Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204-2040 USA, jtmajor@iglou.com

Askance #51 & *Askew* 34 John Purcell, 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station, TX 77845-3926 USA, askance73@gmail.com

Christian New Age Quarterly 25 :1, Spring 2021 (a hardcopy zine), PO Box 276, clifton, NJ 07015-0276, U.S.A. info@christiannewage.com. Catherine Groves ed.

CyberCozen June 2021, Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy,
leybl_botwinik@yahoo.com.

Eldritch Science, May 2021, a 71-page fictionzine by and for N3F members – from editor George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill, Drive, Worcester, Massachusetts 01609,
phillies@4liberty.net

Far Journeys ? (hardcopy)

Ionisphere 29, June 2021, John Thiel, addressed at 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904, kinethiel@mymetronet.net

June Conventions, Mindy Hunt's monthly excerpt from a calendar at <http://scifi4me.com/conventions-events/>. Open to contributions, but she has not included contact information except for the URL.

La S'chinteia Volume XIX May 2021, « Talossa's Magazine of Everything », which in Talossa means almost exclusively fantasy politics and legislating. Ian Plätschisch, Editor in Chief, has also omitted any contact information.

MT Void 2170-2176, from the Mt. Holz Science Fiction Society. To subscribe or unsubscribe, send mail to leeper@optonline.net. The latest issue is at <http://www.leepers.us/mtvoid/latest.htm>.

N3F Review of Books, George Phillies ed., May 2021 & June 2021, published by the National Fantasy Fan Federation, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049 and is distributed for free to N3F Members and archival sites. Editor: George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609, phillies@4liberty.net.

Nameless News #1, the N3F News Zine, June 2021. Send proposals (for names) to phillies@4liberty.net.

N'APA #252, May 2021, the N3F APA, c/o Jefferson P. Swycaffer - abontides@gmail.com.

Origin #39, May 2021 & #40, June 2021 issues of the N3F Historical Bureau organ.

Pablo Lennis #402, May 2021 (a hardcopy zine), from John thiel, 30 N. 19th St., Lafayette, IN 47904, U.S.A.

Perryscope 11 & 12, a personalzine published,, whenever the mood takes him, by Perry Middlemiss, 32 Elphin Grove,, Hawthorn, Victoria, AUSTRALIA 3122. E: perry@middlemiss.org

SF Commentary 105 & 106, by Bruce Gillespie, 5 Howard Street, Greensborough, VIC 3088, Australia or gandc001@bigpond.com.

The Blue Cat #708, Dec. 2020 , John Boardman, 2548 Carrington Way, Frederick, MD 21702 or c/o Deirdreb@gmail.com: "a personalzine from the editor of *Dagon*, "a now occasional fanzine of commentary on science, science fiction, fantasy, mystery novels, comic art, history role-playing games (RPGs), family, genealogy and anything else that seems like a good idea at the moment."

The National Fantasy Fan, May & June 2021, ed. George Phillies
phillies@4liberty.net

This Here, a personalzine from Nic Farey, 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV
89142, or email fareynic@gmail.com

Tightbeam #320, May 2021 & 321, June 2021, "published approximately
monthly by the National Fantasy Fan Federation and distributed electronically to
the membership." Editors: , George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net 48 Hancock Hill
Drive, Worcester, MA 01609. , Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com , Art Editors :
Angela K. Scott, Jose Sanchez, and Cedar Sanderson.

TommyWorld, Tommy Ferguson, 125 Haypark Ave, Belfast, BT7 3FG, Northern
Ireland, TUtw@tommyworld.net, Uhttp://tommyworld.net

Vanamonde nos. 1438 – 1450, March 15 – June 7, 2021 (a hardcopy zine), 236
S. Coronado St., No. 409, Los Angeles, CA 90057, U.S.A. - weekly two-page
instalments of John Hertz' APA-L zine.

Warp #110, from the Montreal SF & Fantasy Association, ed. Danny Sichel,
warp@monsffa.ca

2020 N3F AMATEUR SHORT STORY CONTEST

Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

Now and then, it has been suggested to open the N3F Amateur Short Story Contest to professional writers, writers who have had one or two sales. I've never favored this. It is my opinion that we want new blood. We want to reward the new kids on the block. To be blunt, we want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals -- but who have a story to tell. I want stories from guys nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will. Those who are already successful don't need the encouragement of our little contest. If they were to enter the contest, the danger is that they'd win, every time, and crowd out the promising newcomer.

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at abontides@gmail.com. No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. There are no entry fees.
7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.
8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; abontides@gmail.com. Emails with the

story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2020.

9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.

10. Stories will also be reviewed by the Editor of the N3F Fiction zine Eldritch Science; authors of suitable tales will be invited to submit their tales for publication in our zine. This review and invitation will only occur after contest winners have been announced, so it can have no effect on the contest outcome.

11. The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2021. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered if they did not win previously. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2021. Good luck!

Please supply on a separate page the following information as your entry form :

Title of story (for identification)

Author's name and address

Author's email address

I have read the above rules for the 2021 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature/Date: _____

Mail to: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373 ; or email abontides@gmail.com