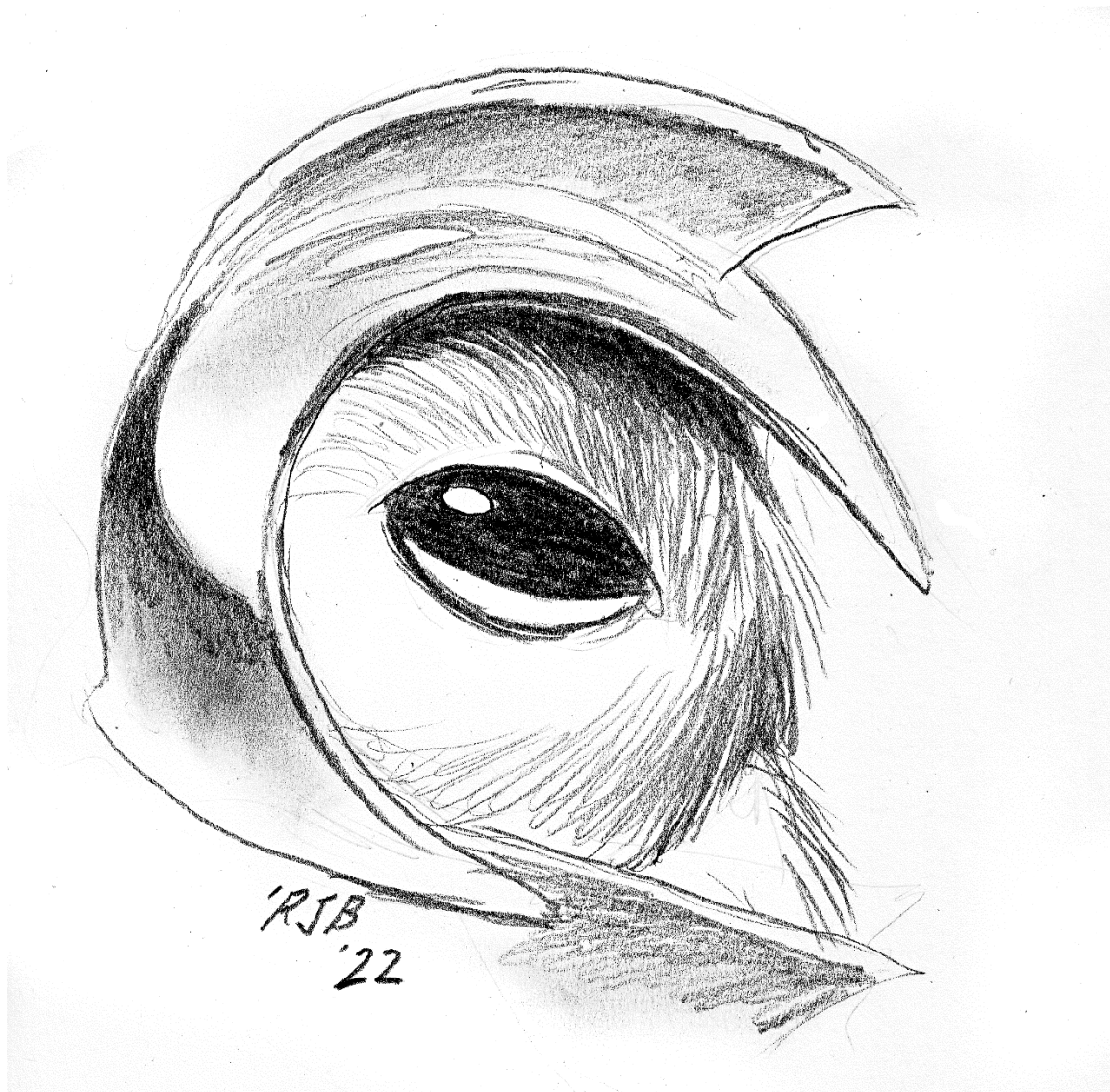


THE OBDURATE EYE #22

December 2022



MASTHEAD

THE OBDURATE EYE #21 (December 2022) is what Garth Spencer does when nobody stops him in time. You can send letters, pictures, trade fanzines, articles, and suggested therapies to him by email to garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

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Art Credits

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A Wooden Leg Named Psmith

À propos of nothing, I am working on some rather historical projects - one a general fanhistory of Canadian groups, and one a summary of conrunning material, mostly dating from the 1980s - in case anyone is interested. I now have most of two fanhistory drafts assembled - one strictly chronological, the other regional and topical. I wonder which would read more coherently. The conrunning material amounts to a critique, from someone who knows he can't lead three sailors into a whorehouse,§ but he can compile useful reference material into a coherent form. And yes, I know the financial environment and the congoers have changed entirely. That begs the question of whether any basics remain the same. I think the basics are still: obtaining limited financial protection for a committee by registering as a nonprofit society; protecting the convention name by trademarking it, in the name of the society; applying basic bookkeeping and budgeting principles, and sticking to a budget; relying on a grubstake sufficient to secure a P.O. Box open accounts and account books, secure a domain name and a web space provider, cover air fares and accommodations for Guests of Honour, pay at least a deposit on function space, and *advertise*.

§

There is probably a need for a sort of directory to Pacific Northwest fandoms. I am not good at updating my website regularly, but nevertheless I have started work on revamping my website, and including Lower Mainland fandoms and fan activities this time.

I now realize that a Web page or website functions like a periodical publication, when it isn't simply an advertisement for a company or a nonprofit society. Don't know quite when I'll be done.

Great Mysteries of Fandom

Where is Randy Barnhart? What happened to Kevin Welch?

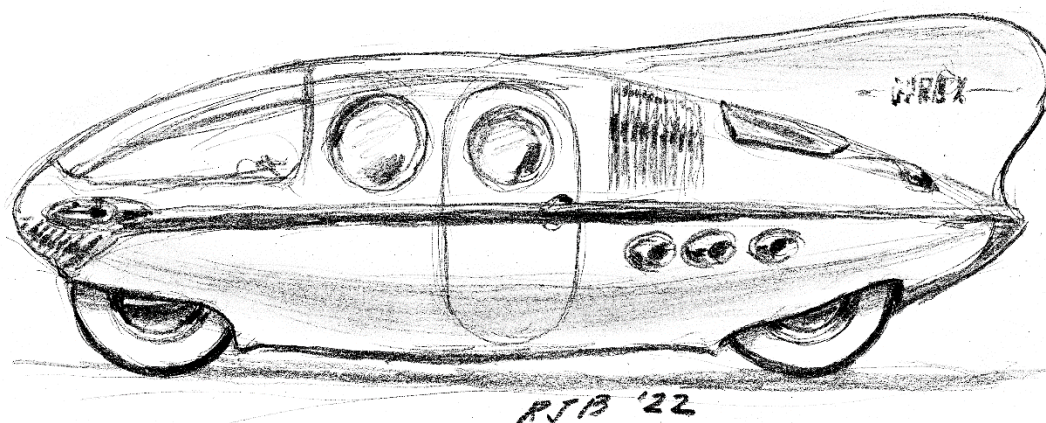
What became of Jerry Collins and Steven Fox?

"You are more beautiful than a bouquet of fossils."

(Surrealist Compliment Generator, August 2022)

Locs and Bagels

We Heard from: Perry Middlemiss, John Bartley, Taral Wayne, Nic Farey ("Well done!"), David "Murdock" Malinski ("This one was good Garth")



Words and Deeds

Justin Busch (1959-2022)

Fanzine fan Justin A. Busch passed away this fall. He will be greatly missed in Stipple-Apa, the Minneapolis APA, and in NFFF publications; he edited *Films Fantastic*, and contributed fanzine reviews to the *Fanactivity Gazette*. No successor has been named yet. *Fanactivity Gazette* published a memorial tribute to Justin Busch in their November issue. His partner, Erin Bonning, released the last issue of his sercon fanzine, *Far Journeys*.

(Fanactivity Gazette #2:6 and The Zine Dump #56, November 2022)

(Mike Glyer, File770.com, November 25, 2022)

2023 TAFF Nominations

Your TAFF administrators are pleased to announce our candidates for the 2023 TAFF trip from Europe to North America, with itineraries to be announced but presumed to include Pemmi-Con, the 2023 NASFIC in Winnipeg. Bonds have been posted, platforms have been received.

Your candidates are:

Sandra Bond:

Nominators: John D. Berry (North America), Claire Brialey (Europe), Caroline Mullan (Europe), Alison Scott (Europe), Ted White (North America).

and

Mikołaj Kowalewski:

Nominators: Marcin Kłak (Europe), Esther MacCallum-Stewart (Europe), Carolina Gómez Lagerlöf (Europe), Kat O'Steen Jones (North America), Ian Stockdale (North America).

(Michael Lowrey, Concellation 2022 page, Facebook, Dec. 3, 2022)



Changing Faces at *Amazing Stories*

In the first week of November 2022, Steve Davidson stepped down as acting editor of *Amazing Stories*, and was “stepping away” as publisher from Experimenter Publishing Company. Kevin Woodall, the Creative Director,

will be taking over responsibilities for staffing, payments, and all ongoing creative and management decisions, which include management responsibilities for the website, the current Kickstarter project, and AmazingCon II. ...

Steve Davidson, November 03, 2022

R. Graeme Cameron commented:

Steve contacted me to write for *Amazing* in 2013. My first column appeared in September of that year. Since then I've written about 262 columns, mostly reviews of Canadian books and magazines. It is my intention to continue to do so at a rate of 2 or 3 every month. I look forward to working with Kermit.

I am very grateful to Steve for the opportunity to participate in *Amazing Stories*, the granddaddy of all SF zines. He's done so much to shore up and revitalize the science fiction genre at a time when most wallets and purses empty in the direction of fantasy and horror. The online *Amazing* serves a vital need, helping keep science fiction alive. I intend to continue contributing my small effort to his cause.

Thank you, Steve, for all that you have done. Enjoy your well-earned rest. May SF once again be a wonderful hobby for you and no longer a burden. All the best. Cheers!

R. Graeme Cameron, November 3, 2022, on the BCSFA Facebook group

Amazing Stories has a new Editor-in-Chief



Lloyd Penney of Toronto is now editor-in-chief at *Amazing Stories*. He succeeds fellow Canadian Ira Nayman in this position, and Steve Davidson who operated as temporary editor.

Lloyd has been a member of science fiction fandom for 45 years and has enjoyed 30-year careers in both fanzine writing and convention management. He is also an associate member of First Fandom. He'll be working on both the website, magazine, and our line of books.

Lloyd Penney, Nov. 4, 2022,
shared by R. Graeme Cameron, on the BCSFA Facebook group

The West Coast SF Association Is Now Fully Staffed

The West Coast SF Association held an Annual General Meeting on November 19, 2022, and now has a complete Board of Directors. WCSFA was instituted in 1991-92 (following the dissolution of its predecessor WCSFCCA) to carry registered-society protection, trademark registration, convention oversight, seed money and institutional knowledge from one convention to another, mainly but not exclusively VCONs.

R. Graeme Cameron wrote online:

The WCSFA Board is now full, consisting of 9 members.

They are Divya [Kohli], Scott Betson, Kathleen Moore, Kona Sankey, Kat Shadster (& Joseph Cassidy), and newcomers Joseph Bardsley, Jenni Merrifield, Marcie Tentchoff and Faea (Sarah Haynes).

This bodes well for future developments.

R. Graeme Cameron, Nov. 19, 2022, on the BCSFA Facebook group

Pemmi-Con, the 2023 NASFiC



See the majestic mōøs

With the 2023 Worldcon hosted in China, NASFiC will once again be held – in Winnipeg, Manitoba in July 2023. Guests of Honour will be Julie Czerneda, Waubgeshig Rice (an author and journalist originally from Wasauksing First Nation), Nisi Shawl (a writer, editor, and journalist, and author of the novel *Everfair* in 2016), John Mansfield (Fan Guest of Honour), Philip Currie (Canadian palaeontologist and museum curator), Lorna Toolis (Ghost Guest of Honour), katherena Vermette (a Red River Métis (Michif) writer who has worked in poetry, novels, children's literature, and film), and Toastmaster Tanya Huff.

From the NASFiC website:

“Pemmi-Con will be held over 20-23 July 2023, in the Delta Hotels Winnipeg and the RBC Convention Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. It is in the heart of Winnipeg, well-served by public transit, and within easy walking distance of

restaurants, brewpubs, shopping, museums, historic sites, gardens and parks with great public art. For further exploration, check out the Winnipeg pages.

Programme

Pemmi-Con will have an extensive programme, with a wide variety of talks, readings, workshops, and happenings.

Exhibits

Pemmi-Con will have exhibits related to science fiction and fantasy creators and fannish culture, especially showcasing Canadian and local Winnipeg communities.

Pemmi-Con will have an art show featuring art works from all over North America and maybe further.

Pemmi-Con will have a dealer's hall with rare and hard to find books, unique crafts and creations. It will have fan tables where you can find out about other fan groups and conventions.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge we are gathered on Treaty 1 Territory and that Manitoba is located on the Treaty Territories and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anishininewuk, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline and Nehethowuk Nations.

We acknowledge Manitoba is located on the Homeland of the Red River Métis.

We acknowledge northern Manitoba includes lands that were and are the ancestral lands of the Inuit.

We respect the spirit and intent of Treaties and Treaty Making and remain committed to working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in the spirit of truth, reconciliation and collaboration.

Pemmi-Con, the 15th North American Science Fiction Convention, being held over 20-23 July 2023 at the Delta Hotels Winnipeg and the RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg, announces a First Nations Travel Fund.

Pemmi-Con has committed to reserve 10% of their Adult Attending memberships, or CAD \$4,000, whichever is greater, to assist indigenous science fiction and fantasy fans to travel to Winnipeg to attend Pemmi-Con. This fund will be under the direction of indigenous groups who will contact Pemmi-Con to request funds for individuals whom they believe should be assisted to travel. Pemmi-Con will not make any decisions about who is eligible for funding.

This Travel Fund may be used for air, rail, road travel or accommodation, or any combination of these. No grant for any individual will be greater than CAD \$500, in order to provide the widest outreach.

Robbie Bourget & Linda Ross-Mansfield
Co-Chairs, Pemmi-Con

Contact via <https://main.pemmi-con.ca>; Pemmi-Con, 73 Worthington Ave, WINNIPEG, Manitoba, CANADA R2M 1R6, US Agent, Pemmi-Con, 11614 S Mulberry Lane, Jenks, OK 74037, USA.

NASFiC hotel bookings available January 2023

R. Graeme Cameron writes,

“I made an inquiry as to when the NASFiC hotel could be booked using the discount rate.

“Short answer: Not till January.

“Details as follows:

‘We are anticipating booking for the hotel at the convention rate to open in January. Please keep an eye on our website and social media for the announcement. We do not have rate information at this time available. If you book your reservation now the hotel will not automatically convert the reservation to the convention rate. Please watch for the announcement.’”

R. Graeme Cameron, Oct. 26, 2022, on the BCSFA Facebook group

Aug 2023 – the last When Words Collide

“When Words Collide 2022 has come to an end. A big thank you to everyone who attended and who contributed in any way-- presenting, moderating/interviewing, hosting sessions, tech support, asking questions, contributing to chat, or simply warming us with your presence.

“Our festival guests this year were awesome-- Terry Brooks ★ Susanna Kearsley ★ Hank Phillippi Ryan ★ Edward Willett. I hope you were able to enjoy their talks and presentations this weekend.

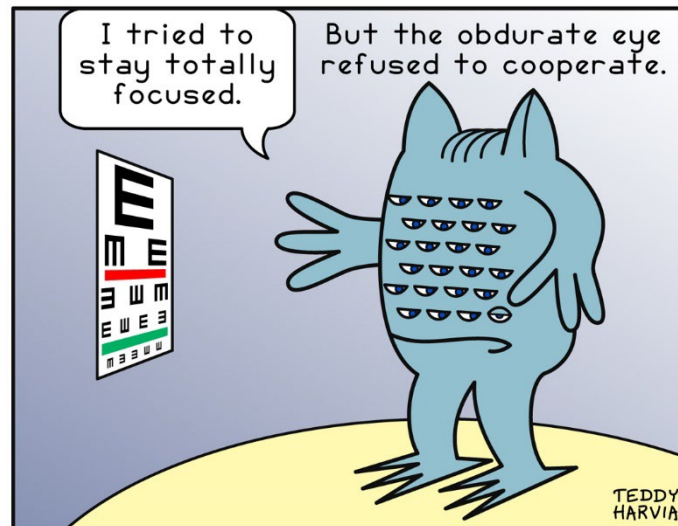
“And a high five to our affiliates who provided most of the program -- setting topics, inviting presenters, and hosting sessions. ARWA, AWCS, Brain Lag, Creative Edge Publicity, Fit 2 Write, IFWA, GoIndieNow!, Prairie Owl Publishing, OnSpec Magazine, SolarPunk Magazine, Tyche Books, and the Writers Guild of Alberta. We couldn't have held the festival without them.

“All-in all it has been a wonderful weekend. I'll be carrying it with me through to next year.

“Speaking of next year...

“The past 3 years we have had to cancel our in-person festival due to COVID and hold our festival online. While the upside of this is that presenters and attendees could participate from the comfort of their couches, I know we all miss the networking, meetups with friends, and book signings that only an in-person event can provide. While we were not confident that an in-person festival this year would meet our and our attendees' expectations, and was perhaps too soon after the worst of the pandemic, we are confident that August 2023 is the time.”

(whenwordscollide.org, Aug. 14, 2022)



Big Thinks

There are controversies inherent in fandom's tacit support for a repressive political regime. From the silence of the vast majority of fanzines on the subject, it seems as if SFers simply *don't care* – and that I find hard to believe. Would there have been such indifference if the 1940 Worldcon had been won by Berlin? Good for Langford for bringing it to our attention. (Guy Lillian, reviewing Ansibles #419-421, in *The Zine Dump* #56, Nov. 2022)

One Way to Look at It (#1: Paul Gerber)

Here is a copy of a post I just made to the page "Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Progressives":

This post is a bit long. But it explains exactly where we are now, why, and how we got here. I think I have most of my facts, suppositions, and conclusions right, but I'm always open to learning more and better. Please take the time to read this.

The position we – Canada, the USA, and most of the rest of the world – are in now is nearly entirely due to the USA's global imposition of the dual scams of monetarism and neoliberalism in the early 1970s. Nearly everything wrong with our civilization can be traced back to those scams. It has taken nearly 50 years for their effects to percolate through all levels of government – down from the federal level to the provincial/state level and then to the county/municipal level – and through all aspects of our society.

You need to understand a bit of history to see the big picture. The 1960s gave us the Hippie generation, the Love and Peace movement, opposition to the Vietnam war, and expansion of the US money supply to the point where

it could no longer support the Gold Standard. And, critically, it also gave us the Club of Rome meetings.

The Club of Rome (COR) meetings were intended to be symposia of the greatest minds and leaders of that generation – sort of like our Ted Talks are today. They were intended to identify all the greatest threats and challenges to human civilization and to come up with solutions – or at least suggestions for solutions. They identified pollution, overpopulation, and climate change as the greatest threats and predicted that global scarcity of resources, erosion of food supplies, starvation, and political unrest were inevitable consequences, possibly – even likely – resulting in eventual global wars for scarce resources. They eventually produced a book summarizing their findings and conclusions titled "The Limits to Growth", published in 1972.

The COR meetings were intended to be a benefit to humanity, but instead the powers-that-be of the time decided to use their findings as a blueprint to engineer the destruction of human civilization. They didn't intend to bring about extinction of the biosphere or even of humanity, just to let the poorest countries fail, most of the world's population to die off, and subsequently see the wealthiest nations rise from the ashes. The rich, the chosen, and the militaries of the chosen nations would ride out the destruction of civilization in underground shelters, safe from any threat that the unfortunate unchosen might launch against them.

But all those underground shelters would cost a lot of money.

So, they found a way to convert all countries that they could to fascism as a way to funnel money to the banks, corporations, and government programs needed to do that work. Not the overtly evil fascism of the Nazis, but a covert form of neo-fascism that elevated corporate rights above human rights and became a blueprint to marginalize, ostracize, and dehumanize the most vulnerable segments of society. Governments would become mechanisms to funnel tax monies to privately owned central banks and corporations. Everything that could be privatized would be. And any person who was not able to contribute to providing tax monies to corporations – who could not or would not work and had no financial resources of their own and so needed social assistance – became a liability to be quietly and legally eliminated through neglect.

That of course was not the language they used to sell it. They found a slimy economist named Milton Friedman and publicly lauded his fascist theories. They even arranged to give him a Nobel Prize in Economics. They recruited Alexander King to promote the economic theory. They bribed, coerced, or fooled most of the western world's politicians of the time to embrace "neoliberalism" and its counterpart "neoconservatism". "Neoliberalism" is not actually liberal in any real sense. But by co-opting that name they fooled a lot of liberal voters into voting against human interests. Likewise, "neoconservatism" fooled a lot of conservative voters.

How did they actually do it?

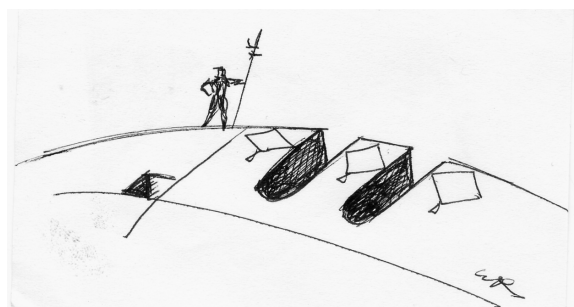
Richard Nixon was President of the USA at that time, and he wanted not only to fully fund the Vietnam war, he wanted to keep domestic spending high to increase his own popularity. It was relatively easy to sell him on transitioning the world to monetarism with the U.S. Federal Reserve as the central bank of not only the USA but many if not all its allies. (I do not know what all the central banks were or what countries they subsequently became central banks for. The Bank of England was not at that time a central bank. Much later, Tony Blair, as his first act of office arranged for it to become a central bank modeled on the U.S. Federal Reserve – so we know who funded him.) So Nixon – in concert with the U.S. Federal Reserve, the IMF, the U.S. military, and the world's largest international banks in 1971 – moved the USA off of the Gold Standard to U.S. petrodollars, and nearly every western nation in the world to a policy of monetarism.

The Gold Standard was a guarantee of US currency of the time that every US dollar could be converted, upon request, for gold.

Monetarism is the policy of handing creation of money to privately-owned international banks, removing the ability of nations to create their own money supply. There is more to it than that, and it has a long and fascinating history, beginning with the Napoleonic Wars: but this is not the place to go into that. What it means is that every country that moved from managing its own money supply to monetarism suddenly had to give anywhere from 10% up to 90% of its federal taxes to the central bank, where previously there was no expense for that. To accommodate that expense, every nation was expected and ultimately required to reduce spending on social programs and services. Those that did not do so saw their "interest rate" rise until they were expected to remit up to 90% of their taxes to "debt payments". But it was and is all a 100% scam, because there is no longer any such thing as a requirement for central banks to actually have money they loan out. Instead, they create it via computer entries as needed, and destroy it as it is paid back. But the scam is that the interest paid exists forever. Those interest payments – on national debts and on credit card payments – subsequently live forever, and are the actual primary cause of money devaluation or "inflation".

There is a lot more to this story, but this post is already long enough.

(Paul Gerber, Facebook, Dec. 11, 2022)



2023 Northwest Conventions

My rough notes at December, 2022

Jan. 27-29, 2023: **CascadeCon 2023** (gaming?), Cruise Terminal, Bellingham, Wa – Email info@cascadecon.games

Feb. 8-12, 2023: **Gameon-Con** at Hotel 116, Bellevue, WA – membership has hit the cap, but a waiting list sign-up Web page is available at <https://www.gameon-con.com/register>

Feb. 17-19: **Radcon 8C** in Pasco, WA – radcon.org

Feb. 17-19: **Fan Expo Portland 2023** at the Oregon Convention Center Portland, OR - <https://fanexpohq.com/fanexpoportland/>

Feb. 18, 10:00 am – Feb 20, 5:00 pm: **Fan Expo Vancouver** - “All things pop culture” (e.g. comics, anime ...) - at the Vancouver Convention Centre, Vancouver, BC. <https://fanexpohq.com/fanexpovancouver/>

Apr. 6–9: **Norwescon** - SeaTac – norwescon.org

Apr. 20-23: **Calgary Expo 2023** in Stampede Park, Calgary, AB - <https://fanexpohq.com/calgaryexpo/>

Jun 3, 10 am – Jun 4, 5 pm: **Mid Valley Comic Art Expo 2023** at Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem, OR - <https://mvcae.com/>

Jun 24-25: **All's Faire** (medieval recreation family-oriented event) at Thurston County Fairgrounds, Lacey, WA – allsfaire.org

Jul 20-23: **NASFiC 2023 / Pemmi-Con** in the Delta Hotels Winnipeg and the RBC Convention Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba. - <https://main.pemmi-con.ca/>

Aug. 4-6: **When Words Collide** at the Delta Calgary South Hotel in Calgary, AB. Guests of Honour: Angela Ackerman, Nicole Baart, Tanya Huff, Stacey Kondla, 2023 Special Guests: Cathy Ace, Terry Brooks, Vicki Delany, Steena Holmes, Fonda Lee, Nicole Luiken, Dave Reynolds, Morgan Rhodes, Hank Phillippi Ryan, Edward Willett, A fiction- and writers festival, including SF writing, often the hosts of the Auroras, the Canadian SF and Fantasy Awards. This will be the last When Words Collide event. Memberships: ChildInTow (Age 0 to 7), \$0; Child (Ages 8 to 12, \$20; Youth (Ages 13 to 18), \$30; Adult (Age 19 up), \$45; Banquet, \$50; BanquetOnly, \$50; Merchant, \$100. See <https://www.whenwordscollide.org/> for registration form.

Sept 9-10: Brick-Con at Meydenbauer Center, 11100 NE 6th St, Bellevue, WA 98004. See <https://brickcon.org/>

Sept. 15-17: **Edmonton Expo 2023** at the Edmonton Expo Centre in Edmonton, AB - <https://fanexpohq.com/edmontonexpo/>

No News Yet for 2023:

Britcon, a British Science Fiction and Fantasy convention in lovely western Washington state. See <https://www.britcon.org/home>

Foolsap, Write Foolsap, c/o Little Cat Z, PO Box 31891, Seattle, WA 98103; see <https://www.foolscap.org/>; or email info@foolscap.org

Orycon – orycon.org

VCON – vcon.ca



Fan Publications Received

Challenger #43, Autumn 2022, Guy Lillian and Rose-Marie Lillian, editors
1390 Holly Avenue, Merritt Island FL 32952 GHLIII@yahoo.com * I recommend this zine for articles like Jim Ivers' "Forward Into the Past" review of SF films, their changing projections of the future, and what it reveals about the times in which they were made.

Eldritch Science October 2022, George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive,
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609 phillies@4liberty.net

Fan Activity November 2022, Edited by George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net,
48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 10609

Ionisphere December 2022, John Thiel, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana
47904. Email kinethiel@mymetronet.net

Jiant Shoulders (Corflu Pangloss Fanthology)

MT VOID #2245-2248, autumn 2022, Co-Editor: Mark Leeper,
mleeper@optonline.net Co-Editor: Evelyn Leeper,
eleeper@optonline.net

N3FReview November 2022, George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive,
Worcester MA 01609, phillies@4liberty.net

NAPA #261 - official collator is George Phillies - phillies@4liberty.net

Perryscope #28, Perry Middlemiss, the personalzine published monthly by
Perry Middlemiss, 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn, Victoria, AUSTRALIA
3122. E: perry@middlemiss.org

Spartacus #61, Guy Lillian III 1390 Holly Ave. Merritt Island FL 32952-
5883, GHLIII@yahoo.com *

This Here #58 & #59, Nic Farey, 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV
89142, or Email fareynic@gmail.com

The Zine Dump #56, Guy Lillian, 1390 Holly Ave., Merritt Island FL 32952-
5883, GHLIII@yahoo.com *

Tightbeam #338, November 2022, George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net 48
Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester, MA 01609. Jon Swartz
jon_swartz@hotmail.com Art Editors are Angela K. Scott and Jose
Sanchez. Art Contributors are Alan White, Jose Sanchez, and David
Russell.