

The Obdurate Eye #31

A personalzine from Garth Spencer

September 2023

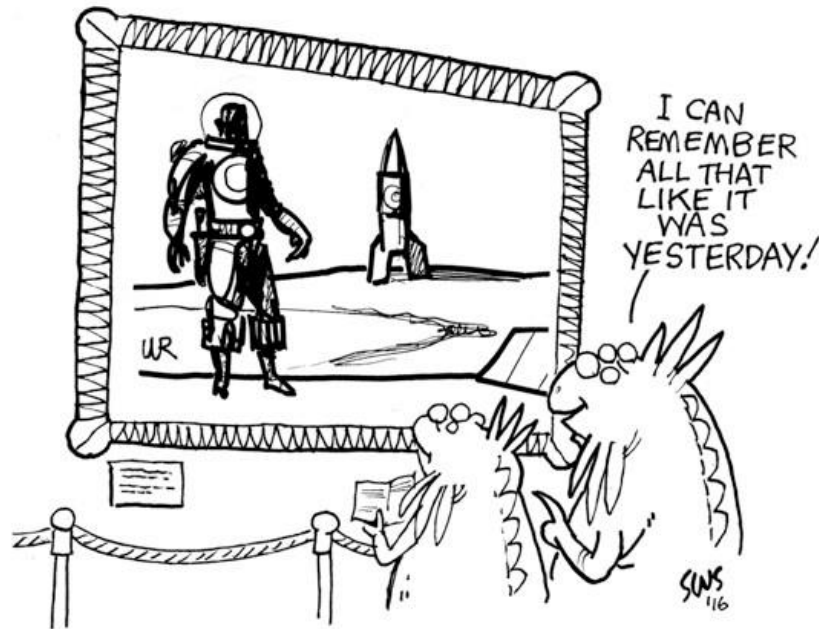
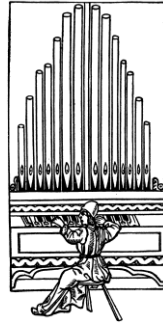


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THE OBDURATE EYE #31, September 2023, a personalzine from Garth Spencer, 6960 Doman Street, Vancouver, BC CANADA V5S 3H7, Email garth.van.spencer@gmail.com or hrothgarweems@gmail.com . Garth acknowledges that he does this on the unceded territory of the x^wməθk^wəyəm, səlilwətał, and skwxwú7mesh peoples.



The organ of no clique or party

Art Credits

Steve Stiles with William Rotsler (dec.).....	cover
Alan White.....	p. 1
G. Spencer, “bindrune”	p. 2
Steve Stiles with Alexis Gilliland	p. 3
Al Sirois, “Mecha”	p. 5
William Rotsler (dec.)	pp. 8, 12
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Roy Pounds	p. 21
Joshua Kennedy	p. 26



The Continuing Adventures of Garth Spencer

August 9: I have arrived, I guess. Facebook has finally claimed that I violated their community standards.

Warning Harmful Content C 10970

1h ·

Dear admin fanpage

! Your fanpage has limited access. This means that the page you are managing violates the Facebook community policies and guidelines.

Confirm that you own this account by visiting:

<https://s.id/CanadaSupport>

According to Facebook's community guidelines, you have 24 hours to take the following steps to avoid permanently deactivating your fanpage and account.

For security reasons, your Facebook page is not public and you cannot use it.

Thanks for helping us improve Facebook.

Thank you for contacting the Meta Pro teamet!

Violation Code: SIK8CGDYCDAC260

August 14: Facebook claimed I have been inactive as administrator of The Society for the Perpetuation of Fannish Fandom, and asked other people to act as administrator. It is to laugh.

So I wrote back to one of Facebook's complaint departments:

Greetings. For no reason I know, "Facebook" allegedly sent me a complaint on August 9, 2023 that I violated its community policies (**Violation Code: SIK8CGDYCDAC260**). Naturally I ignored it, seeing as this claim was without merit, and I thought it must have been spam. Then, on August 14, 2023, I received word - not from Facebook - that I had been removed as administrator of The Society for the Perpetuation of Fannish Fandom Facebook group, and someone else had been offered the position. Look. I realize that no programs are perfect. I realize that yours is one of the most massively popular social media - and, therefore, one of the most massively overburdened social media - in the world. But there's a limit to the negligent nonsense customers will tolerate. I am, therefore, looking at other social media. Govern yourselves accordingly.

Garth Spencer, Vancouver, Canada

It's time to find another social medium!! Got any suggestions for me? I'm leaning to reopening my MeWe account.

Publishers and News Sources that showed up for some reason in the last message from Facebook: The London Free Press, Press Monitor Canada, Press Paws Photography, Press It, GREEK PRESS, Press 2 Start Photobooth, Bookhug Press, Press+Fold, PK Press, Master Point Press, Sprouts Press Designs, GREEN PRESS INC, Journals - University of Toronto Press, Canadian Curriculum Press, JusPress, Toronto Education Press, The Haldimand Press, Press Pops Card Co., New Tecumseth Free Press Online - Madhunt.com, Plumleaf Press, Gospel Folio Press, Literary Press Group of Canada, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, Willow Press, The London Free Press, Press Monitor Canada, Press Paws Photography, Press It, GREEK PRESS, GFY Press, Community Plus, Bookhug Press, PRESS MEDIPK Press, Master Point Press, Sprouts Press Designs, Amand Journals - University of Toronto Press, Media One Creative Inc., Toronto Education Press, The Haldimand Press, Press Pops Card Co., New Tecumseth Free Press Online - Madhunt.com, Gospel Folio Press, Literary Press Group of Canada, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, Willow Press, Press On Addiction, Kind Press, Presses Valor Press, GFY Press, Community Plus.ca, Vancouver PRESS MEDIA, The Art of Garthness / Stop Press, Media Dimensions Limited, Amanda Beatrice, Winston Sih, Luca Maric, MEDIA by WIZZY, Media One Creative Inc., after media, News Media Canada





NEWS

Aurora Awards 2023

“This year’s awards went to:

Best Novel: *The Embroidered Book*, Kate Heartfield, HarperVoyager

Best YA Novel: *The Hollow Boys: The Dream Rider Saga, Book 1*, Douglas Smith, Spiral Path Books

Best Novelette/Novella: *The Jade Setter of Janloon*, Fonda Lee, Subterranean Press

Best Short Story: “*Broken Vow: The Adventures of Flick Gibson, Intergalactic Videographer*”, Peter G. Reynolds, On Spec Magazine, Issue 120

Best Graphic Novel: *It Never Rains*, Kari Maaren, webcomic

Best Poem/Song “*Rapunzel in the Desert*”, Melissa Yuan-Innes, On Spec Magazine, Issue 122

Best Related Work: TIE - *The Astronaut Always Rings Twice*, edited by Shannon Allen and JR Campbell, Tyche Books, **and* Nothing Without Us Too*, edited by Cait Gordon and Talia C. Johnson, Renaissance

Best Cover Art/Interior Illustration: “Arboreality,” cover art, Rachel Yu Lobbenberg, Stelliform Press

Best Fan Writing and Publication: *Polar Borealis*, Issues 21, 22, and 23, edited by R. Graeme Cameron

Best Fan Related Work: Can*Con, Marie Bilodeau and Derek Künsken, co-chairs, Ottawa

“The statistics document is still being worked on and will be out in the next day or so. A press release has been sent to File770 and to Locus magazine for both the Hall of Fame and the results of the awards.”

(Clifford Samuels, August 19, 2023)

The Re-Emergence of Rune

Rune, the well-known clubzine of Mn-Stf, is being revived! Jeanne Mealy of fabulous Minnesota SF fandom writes:

“Now YOU can be part of the great fannish tradition of RUNE. Why? For fun! No one gets paid unless you count gratitude and the chance to see your work in print. Share your thoughts, stretch your creative muscles, connect with other fans.

“We need **articles, poetry, art**, and **photos** on topics that science fiction and fantasy fans would like. Books, TV, movies! Trip reports, con reports, hobbies, and short fiction! You get the idea. All ages are welcome. The editor reserves the right to set the tone (PG-13) and edit lightly as needed. No inflammatory material will be accepted.

“Deadline: October 1, 2023. Sooner is best.

“For information: Jeanne Mealy, rune93@mnstf.org”

(Stipple-APA #358, July 2023)

CUFF Stuff

The 2023 CUFF trip report is now posted at [\(1\) Canadian Unity Fan Fund \(CUFF\) | Facebook](#).

The updated, current list of fannish publications for sale is also posted at [\(1\) Canadian Unity Fan Fund \(CUFF\) | Facebook](#).

CUFF can accept payments in person, by cheque, or by money order to: Garth Spencer, 6960 Doman Street, Vancouver, BC V5S 3H7, or by e-transfer / Paypal to garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

Upcoming Canadian Conventions

As part of my duties for the Canadian Unity Fan Fund, I began researching the Canadian conventions scheduled for 2024, to which the next CUFF delegate may go. I have found rather few sources on Canadian conventions in 2024. Still, here are the Canadian conventions I have found so far (the underlined titles are Web links); please send me any corrections or additions that will complete the list. (I plan to post this, plus upcoming Pacific Northwest conventions, on my website.)

February 17-19, 2024: [Fan Expo Vancouver 2024](#), Vancouver Convention Centre, Vancouver, BC

March 7-10, 2024: [Vancoufur](#), Furry convention, Richmond, BC

March 15-17, 2024: [Toronto Comicon 2024](#), Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON

March 22-24, 2024: [Hotlead 2024](#), Best Western Plus The Arden Park Hotel, Stratford, ON

April 6, 2024: [Collingwood ComiCon 2024](#), Royal Canadian Legion Branch 63, Collingwood, ON

April 13, 2024: [Napanee ComiCon 2024](#), Strathcona Paper Centre, Napanee, ON

April 19-21, 2024: Sci-Fi On the Rock, Newfoundland's premiere science fiction & fantasy event., St Johns, NL

April 25-28, 2024: Calgary Expo 2024, Stampede Park, Calgary, AB

May 17-19, 2024: Keycon 40 in Winnipeg, MB (venue TBA), see keycon.org

May 24-26, 2024: Anime North 2024, Toronto Congress Center / Delta Hotels by Marriott Toronto Airport & Conference Centre, Toronto, ON

July 18-21, 2024: Fur-Eh!, A Uniquely Canadian Celebration of Anthropomorphics, Edmonton, AB

August 16-18, 2024: When Words Collide 2024 in the Delta Calgary South, now to be hosted by the Alexandra Writers Centre; see www.alexandrawriters.org

August 17, 2024: Collingwood ComiCon 2024, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 63, Collingwood, ON

TBA 2024: TFcon (Transformers), The world's largest fan-run Transformers convention, Toronto, ON

Of course, when I look up Boréal (Québec), Can*Con (Ottawa) or Hal-Con (Halifax), I only find information on their upcoming 2023 conventions.



EAPA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Instructions:

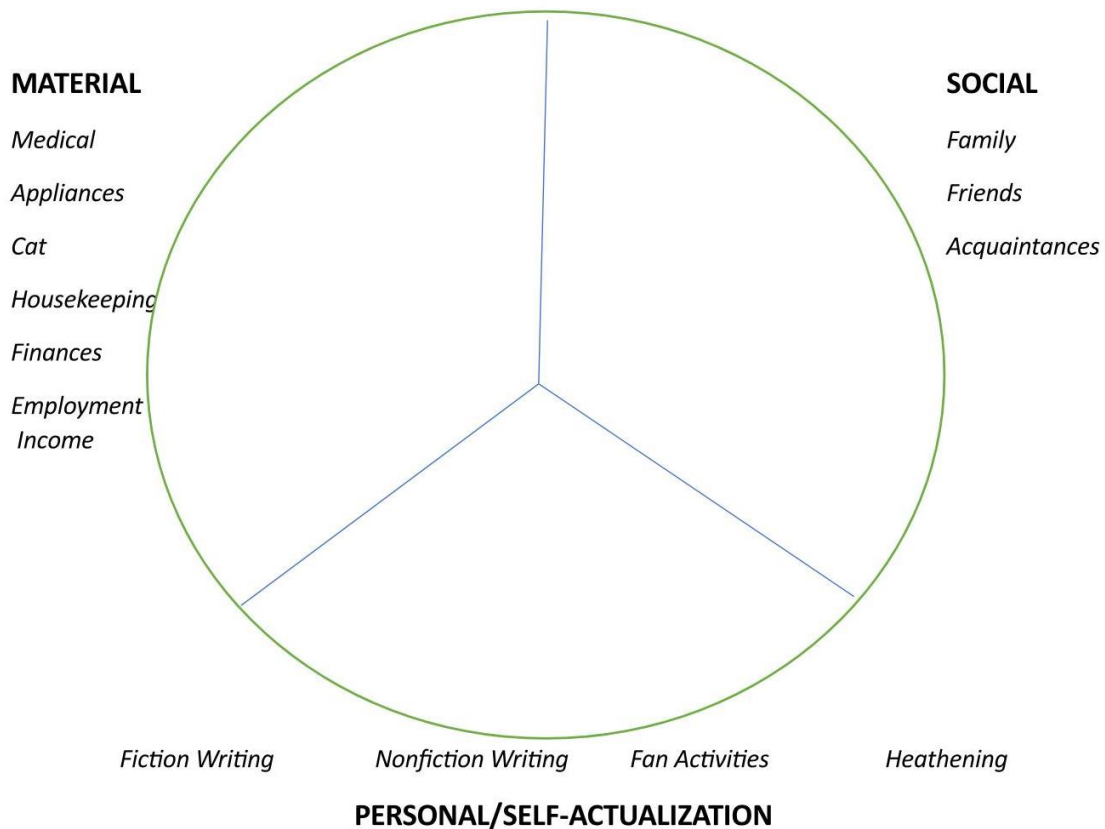
- a) Before you begin, read through **everything**.
- b) Follow the instructions and fill in your answers truthfully, so help you Roscoe!
- c) And cross your fingers that you'll be accepted into this exclusive group of elite BNFs!

1. What's your name? _____
2. Come on! Your REAL name! _____
3. Your address: _____
4. Zip code: _____
5. Your E-mail address: _____
6. Your preferred age: _____
7. Your age when you flew to Alpha Centauri at 0.99c? _____
8. Do you have a Facebook account? _____
9. Why, for heaven's sake! _____
10. Titles of some fanzines you have read? _____
11. Did you understand anything in them? _____
12. Are you now, or have you ever been a member of a columnist organization? _____
13. Do you know the way to San Jose? _____
14. But if you don't like crottled greeps, what did you order them for? _____
15. Are you still there? _____
16. Hello? _____
17. Fine! Let's finish this! _____
18. Considering that we are all made of tiny atoms, which combine into molecular structures, which in even more complex combinations make up our fragile bodies, that give us only a fraction of time on this Earth, which swirls around the Sun, in its turn making an orbit around the Galactic Centre every 230 million years, everything under the contradictory natural laws which we may never fully grasp, all of it seemingly gobsmackingly incomprehensible, what is the meaning of life?

19. **Ignore all points 1 to 19!** You were told to read **everything** first, right! Just write something interesting, click on "Save as PDF" in your word processor and E-mail it to EAPA OE garth.van.spencer@gmail.com and you're in.

Improvising a Design for Living

In response to one or two queries about my continuing efforts to design a life, I have improvised the following way to orient myself:



Obviously different people will have a different overview of what makes up a life. Or what they have to do next, or how much time and effort to place and where.

Equally obviously this is just a stage in developing my own mnemonic system, or memory castle, to help me keep in mind all my chores and obligations and self-assigned projects now on my plate.

Mainly, I am trying to track down the things I don't know, don't understand, and don't know enough to ask about. Like diet plans, exercise regimes, financial planning, or how not to destroy your relationships. You know, the things everybody takes for granted, so they don't think to mention them.

Oh, *and* a way to feel I earn the right to live, every day. Mustn't forget that.

Letters of Comment

Lyn McConchie, August 8, 2023

I am horrified to read that you have provided someone with thousands of dollars and that – in my opinion – you have little chance of getting it repaid. NOT good. It's a bad combination, someone's low intelligence and a gambling habit and you'll be the loser. Please don't do that, I hope I'm wrong, but I have an unpleasant feeling I won't be. Can you even be certain that it reached the person you intended it for? I would hope so at least, but even that does not appear guaranteed. People with a gambling habit are bad enough, add a lower intelligence, and it's a combination that can be dangerous, and not only to them.

((I think I know what my problem is. I conceive my value in life consists in supplying what is needed, when and where it is needed. This may be great when you're a kid holding down one end of the beam your father is sawing, or when you're a company clerk/quartermaster practicing logistics to maintain full and complete supplies of consumables and ammunition. It is not

so great when you keep shoveling money into a human black hole.))

On the other hand, many thanks for the nice long list of new books at the end of the perzine.. I read that and emitted happy yips at intervals, there are half a dozen books I want and once I'm back from town tomorrow, I'll start ordering. Several are cats/mysteries ones and I was delighted to see those. At this end of the world we often don't hear much about follow-ups in a series and it's good to catch up.

((Glad to know the book list was welcome!))



Back on the not-so-great side was an accident I had in February. I felt faint in the kitchen mid-morning, sat on the kitchen chair – and fainted. Came to, somewhere about an hour later, to find chair and I on the floor, and damage to my shoulder, head, and right leg, sigh. So any writing I was doing went by the board for winter, ALL winter. I'll start again in October with the books I was working on and see how that goes. But I'm not complaining too loudly, 2022 I write three books and sold them all, with publication over 2023, last year I wrote three more and am waiting to hear but I MAY have sold at least two of them. I plan on 2 more to be written this year and hope I can sell those as well.

((Good. Ness. Now the disadvantages of living alone begin to appear. Did you have any diagnosis of this fainting spell? Any prognosis?))

((I have already put my foot down and said "No, I'm not giving you any more money." Several times. It is going to take a lot of repetition to get through.))

Lyn McConchie, August 24, 2023:

For the leech. GOOD

For my collapse. We have no idea of what caused this. It might have been several things but nothing was definite and while I'm a lot slower than I was, nothing is showing up to say. Sigh.

I read *Dies the Fire* some years back, good books.

Mark Nelson, Wollongong, NSW 2522, Australia, mnelson@uow.edu.au

(On height and weight)

I am 180 cm in height. Or at least I was the last time I was measured. I fear that since then I've shrunk in the wash. According to the World Health Organization a body mass index (BMI) over 25 is considered overweight, and over 30 obese. How to calculate your BMI? It's your weight in kilograms divided by the square of your height in meters. For a person of my height the thresholds are 81 kg to be overweight and 97.20 kg to be obese.

Since January 2013 I've kept an irregular track of my weight. For almost all of the last ten years I have been overweight. By some miracle, I am currently not overweight. In what way, if at all, this is connected to becoming a dad one year ago I cannot guess. If I'd known that becoming a dad would lead me to lose 7.6 kg then I might have become a father earlier in life. I am worried that rather than losing 7.6 kg of weight I've only misplaced it and then sooner or later it will find where I am.

I think our diet is pretty good. We hardly ever eat either junk food or ultra-processed foods. I drink alcohol in moderation, most weeks not drinking at all. (I gave up drinking when my wife was pregnant, as she didn't want to eat anything that had been cooked with alcohol.) I eat two or three fruits every day

and we prepare almost all of our meals from scratch. However, I am not scratching my head trying to determine why I've been overweight for such a long time. As an adult I've almost never done any form of exercise. The only form of physical exertion I engage in is walking. That's walking as a means of transport from A to B, not walking predetermined as exercise.

((I am 178 cm in height, and weigh 91.1 kg ... today. So my BMI is apparently 28.75 ... well. No surprise. I generally make my own meals, mostly from basic materials, but my diet has not been highly varied recently.))

Den Valdron asks the question "Why are Americans fat?" Fat is not the same as obese; I wonder if he meant the latter. It may surprise you to learn that Australian men are the second most obese in OECD countries: 32% of us are obese. American men are the most obese, 38%. Amongst women Australia was ranked eighth with 29%, compared to the OECD average of 25%. (This data is taken from a Heart Foundation press release dated 16th November 2020).

The percentage of the population that is obese raises *((rises?))* in parts of Australia that are very remote. Why? The reason is very simple. The more remote the area, the more expensive it is to bring in fresh fruit and vegetables: you have to pay for the costs of refrigerated road transport, fuel is more expensive in remoter parts of Australia, and there can be additional costs as a consequence of the wet season. However, not all food items are more expensive in remote areas. The costs of products such as a can of Coke or a packet of chips are approximately the same across Australia. It's the price of fresh food products that increases dramatically. As a further complication, there is often very little choice of where to buy food from in regional communities. You might be restricted to one local store. There is also a Catch-22 for the store owner. If the local community prefers to buy fast/processed foods, then where's the incentive to stock a range of fresh foods? Furthermore, it's intuitively more attractive for shops in remote areas to be stocked with foods with a long shelf life - that's processed food items - rather than those with a short shelf life.

((This sounds a hell of a lot like the remoter parts of Canada, like, north of the 60th Parallel. You would think that remote areas in both Australia and Canada would prefer to rely on local fresh foods, but ...))

Although no socioeconomic group is immune to obesity, it is not randomly distributed across groups: it increases in prevalence with lower socioeconomic groups. Predictors of obesity include lacking post-school qualifications, being on the lowest incomes, and being an indigenous person. According to an account of obesity I read a long time ago, so maybe it's no longer accurate, there is a stronger correlation between obesity and social disadvantage for women than for men.

If you are living at or near to the poverty line it is much cheaper to fill your stomach with pre-processed foods that are energy-dense. Due to their cost fresh fruit and vegetables might be luxury items, not staples. Increasingly there

are suburbs in Australia which contain an off-licence, a Chinese take away and a McDonald's - or some variation on this theme. Forget about finding a greengrocer's, that closed long ago. (Chinese restaurants are ubiquitous across Australia. Every small town has one. The first Chinese immigrants reached Australia in the 1850s in response to the Gold rushes. Chinese immigration to Australia stopped in 1901 as a consequence of the White Australia policy. If you enjoy Chinese food then you are advised to stay clear of most Chinese restaurants outside of a Chinatown.)

((Once again, very familiar. Although, curiously, I have come across Chinese groceries in every part of a Canadian city.

To finish this thread on food. According to one Web page, 15% of Australians have experienced food insecurity in the last twelve months and 60% of these, i.e., 9% of Australians, experience food insecurity at least once a month. This includes children going to school without having had breakfast.

The Australian Federal Reserve Bank meets monthly to set their interest rate. On 6th April 2022 the interest rate was 0.10%. Since then the rate has been increased on 12 occasions. As of 2nd August, it was 4.1% - the highest level since 2012. (Banks, of course, set their mortgage rates higher than the Federal Reserve rate.) For a household with a mortgage of \$750,000 AUD the increase in interest rates over the last 15 months corresponds to an increase in monthly repayments of \$1,710 AUD/month. There are increasing numbers of stories in the media that it is not only the poorer parts of society that are using food banks to survive. It's uncommon now to find families with mortgages using food banks due to the increase in their mortgage repayments.

((Wisely was it written that all knowledge is contained in fanzines ... somewhere.))

To be fair to your friend John, basic computer skills such as email, word processing, and Internet searches will not be required by prepper groups when the hard times arrive. Though if he needs your help to discover the time of the next bus that will take him home, I wonder how he will make it out to his farm? That is perhaps an academic point, since I doubt the busses will be running when we reach the end of days. However, despite Gil Scott-Heron declaiming that The Revolution Will Not Be Televised, I expect that the end of days will be so broadcast.

I've known about Bowling Green State University's Browne Popular Culture Library for some time as it contains the Hoosier Archives. This is an important collection of postal diplomacy fanzines. It contains almost all fanzines produced from 1963 through to 1978: over 14,000. Sometimes I fantasize about visiting there in my retirement so that I can peruse their collection and write the definitive history of the postal diplomacy hobby.

What is a Cheese Louise? I see any number of food establishments called Cheese Louise, but didn't see any recipe that looks like it corresponds to your picture. My best guess is that it's something I'd really enjoy eating, but if I want to remain the right side of 81kg I'd probably should forgo it.

((It's just a cheese and tofu omelette I improvised, and tend to fall back on when I run out of breakfast oatmeal.))

We also heard from: Denny Marshall, John Hertz



My Skill-Testing Questions

“What would a city without cars look like?”

Lyn McConchie wrote on August 8:

In 2 - 5 coming generations, maybe nothing unusual. But right now – dead! I read that and immediately had a mental picture of a city where nothing moved but the wind, where lines of abandoned cars stretched out along motorways. In fact, it reminded me strongly of the series of post-holocaust solo books I’ve been writing. Most recent pair were two from Barbara Custer in the USA - one set [in] Scotland, the other in Seattle. She now has the other two I mentioned, and I hope she takes them too.

((I am currently re-reading S.M. Stirling's Dies the Fire series; of course there is a post-apocalyptic period for a few years, and of course when communities rebuild themselves, they do so with horsepower.))

“Why is fish still more expensive than meat, even in a port city like Vancouver?”

George Phillies wrote on August 8:

It's obtained by hunting, not by farming, most of it.

John Thiel kinethiel@outlook.com wrote on August 8:

Fish here used to be less expensive than other meats, and for a long time I had fish on my grocery list, for variety. I would season them with lemon pepper spice. Then their price ascended, then continued to ascend, finally beating out the perpetually ascending prices of meat. Those prices ascended in restaurants also, running parallel to the stores in prices. The fish started selling piddling amounts for high prices. I had a full lemon pepper jar that was never used thereafter; it had had no other uses.

ON SHAME

Den Valdron (Facebook, August 31, 2023)

Recently, I came across two separate articles touting the virtues of shame. Shame and shaming being a good thing. Slut shaming keeps women honest. It's apparently virtuous to shame someone for being fat... I don't know, because it forces them to be thin?

Sometimes, it really seems that we're going backwards, regressing to a more ignorant, more hateful era of stupidity and meanness. That people are looking for excuses to be cruel, even the supposedly progressive ones.

Let me put it out there. There is nothing virtuous about shame. Shame does not make us better people; it makes us worse. The sense of shame, the feeling of shame, has nothing to do with morality - it is about a cancer of self loathing, self doubt growing within a person. Shame corrodes the soul, the siren song of worthlessness and failure, of raw festering wounds of the psyche.

It is shame that drives us down. It's the thing that keeps an alcoholic from crawling out of the bottle, keeps an addict reaching for the needle. Shame

takes away strength and will, and leaves weakness. It feeds you to your demons.

If we want to be better people, shame is not a path. It's just a way to hate ourselves, or for people to make us hate ourselves. To be healthy, to be better, to overcome our demons, we need to find something positive in ourselves, to find something to aspire to, something meaningful. We need to believe in ourselves.

Shame is the opposite of that, shame is the belief in our worthlessness, inflicted upon us, embraced by us. Shame is hateful and destructive.

And the people that shame us, the people that inflict shame, that call you out, that sit in judgment so that they can look down, the ones that are all so righteous... They pretend to be virtuous. They pretend to be upholding values and morality. They pretend that tearing you down is actually for your own good.

They're just sadists. That's all. It's just sadism. There's no virtue, there's no morality, it's not for your own good, it's not upholding society. All these things are lies. Sometimes they're lies that these people tell themselves.

But the truth is, it's just sadism. it's just the petty pleasure of hurting someone, of feeling superior by making someone else less, of throwing a barb intending to make it fester.

Please don't have illusions. If you do it, you do it for the worst reason, so stop. If you see someone doing it, they're simply being sadistic, and you should stop them. Often we don't, but we should.

Here's what I say.

Reject shame. Be a slut, be fat, be foolish, be a nerd. Live your life.

Try to live a good life, try to live a moral life, struggle to do no harm and some good, make the effort to smile, and be kind whenever you can. If you do wrong, make it right. If you feel guilt for your actions, learn from it and be better. But don't let yourself feel shame, and don't let anyone shame you.

And don't shame people. Just don't. We're all human, we're all fallible. But don't do it. Try to be better.

These lives we live, these moments we have, they're all we have. This world we live in, that's it. The people around us, all so small and broken, do we really need to be cruel?

Why can't we simply strive to be better people?



WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION

The Canadian Unity Fan Fund was conceived to represent distant fan communities in Canada to other fan communities in Canada. In its forty-odd years of operation, CUFF has usually brought fan delegates from one side of the country to the other, wherever Convention was held. (The Canadian SF and Fantasy Awards were hosted by one or another convention in a given year, until the national awards ceremony recently began appearing online, on a regular annual schedule.) Now, a delegate will receive funds to travel to an SF convention this year elsewhere in Canada.

I became the 2023 Canadian Unity Fan Fund delegate, which meant I was to attend **Pemmi-Con**, the 15th North American Science Fiction Convention, held in Winnipeg July 20th through 23rd, 2023.



“WHO IS THIS SHMOE?”

I’m just this guy who got to be known in fandom for a while. I entered fandom about 1980 in a small club in Victoria. Since then I have been involved in producing a number of clubzines and personalzines; running fanzine rooms and producing program books for SF conventions; producing a Canadian fan newszine for a few years, and incidentally establishing for everyone what the Canadian SF and Fantasy Award was. These days, I take part in four APAs (Amateur Publishing Associations) – eAPA, Apaplexy, N’APA, and Stipple-Apa – and I am the official editor of eAPA. I also plan to revise my personal website

as a fannish resource site, and to put together a volume of Canadian fanhistory.

PROLOGUE

In 2023:

I volunteered to stand as a candidate for CUFF¹ (again²) in 2023, partly because I hadn’t heard of any other candidates, and partly out of a sense that various and

¹ The background to fandom, and the changes to fandom, should be summarized in a forthcoming fanhistory. I have found it to be a bigger job than I expected.

² At the end of this report is a link to CUFF trip reports online, including my own report on attending the 1999 Convention in Fredericton, N.B.

diverse fandoms really deserve more mutual awareness. I thought I could at least try to see something of other fandoms, and tell some stories about fandom as I know it.

Fran Skene of Vancouver was the CUFF candidate in 2019, and then the COVID-19 pandemic happened, so travel was restricted and she served as CUFF administrator for the next four years.

As it worked out, my bid gained 3 western supporters and 3 eastern supporters: Rose Wilson (BC), R. Graeme Cameron (BC), Kent Pollard (Saskatchewan), Cathy Palmer-Lister (Quebec), Lloyd Penney (Ontario), and Diane Walton (formerly of Alberta, now in Nova Scotia).

In order to raise funds for next year and beyond, I prepared a list, offering interesting and amusing fan publications for sale. These ranged from hardcopy editions of classic fanzines to hardcopy (and some digital) editions of current fanthologies. I was (and still am) prepared to accept payments in person, by cash, money order, or Paypal at: 6960 Doman Street, Vancouver, BC V5S 3H7, or by Paypal at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

I included *Confabulation*, a collection of fannish fanwriting, “representing the most amusing fanwriting and faanfiction I could find, characteristic of fannish fandom ... for benefit sales to CUFF, at \$10 each,” I wrote. (I also offered chapbooks under my Stop Press imprint based on my extended fanarticles about worldbuilding, how to construct a language, conspiracy theories, crank theories, or micronations, at \$5.00 to \$7.50.)

Also, at Pemmi-Con, I was to moderate the popular Turkey Readings – readings of science fiction or fantasy so **bad**, no reputable publisher would issue them today – acted out by volunteers from the audience! Listeners then got to bid on whether to continue, or cease! We’ve got some real stinkers (not all written by John Norman or Lionel Fanthorpe)!

Somehow we also evolved the idea of a fanzine auction, which I think was suggested by Erin Underwood (a Pemmi-Con committee member?) in a Zoom meeting.

PREPARATIONS

I tend to build up anxiety about non-routine events and appearing on time, so I tend to overpack and overprepare. Still I foolishly did not bring the thumb drive I usually keep on my key ring.

Among other things, I made myself a handy-dandy pocket program, based on the advance schedule information received in Pemmi-Con Progress Report 2. This turned out to be relatively useful until Saturday, when I actually had events to attend, and program changes to deal with. (Strangely, the committee settled the program schedule *within the week* before the convention, and still there were program changes.)



Tuesday July 18, 2023:

As it worked out, getting to the Vancouver International Airport and checking in with Westjet and boarding all happened without incident. Checking in at the Delta (now aka the Marriott Bonvoy) was also trouble-free.

It was interesting to check out the look of downtown Winnipeg, in comparison with cities such as Victoria and Vancouver. Older architecture leaned towards drystone and brick construction, contrasting with the glass-and-steel buildings from more recent development. Which makes sense, given that Winnipeg is not given to earthquakes, as we are on the coast.

Finding the committee (Operations room) was a bit of a treasure hunt; signage in the hotel developed only gradually over the first few days, apart from the scrolling program schedule on the hotel video displays (which was very useful).



St. Mary's Cathedral, directly across St. Mary's Street from the Delta Hotel and the Elephant and Castle Pub

Wednesday July 19, 2023:

Due to storm warnings on this day I stayed close to the hotel at first, until the evening's Break the Ice" dinner at a nearby Old Spaghetti Factory. Eventually I tracked down Registration on the second floor. My own registration was delayed, partly due to some

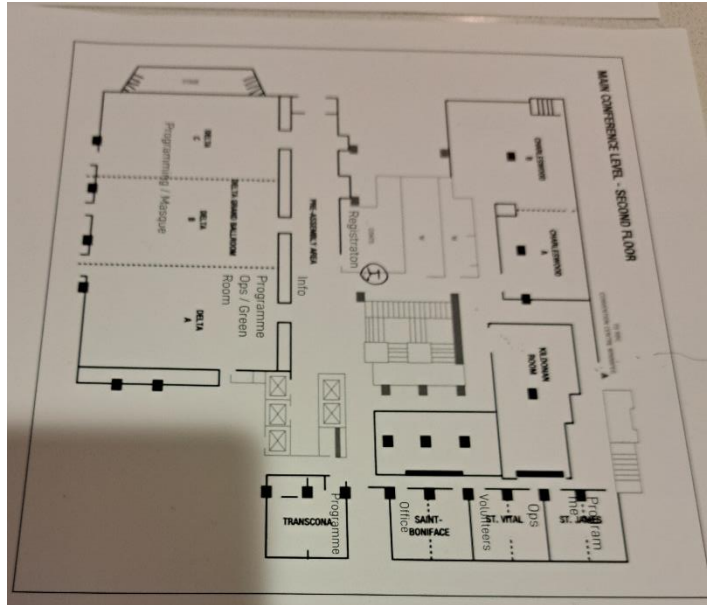
breakdown in communications. Amusingly, they had no record of my membership, and had to write me into the records on the spot - #1000, as it happened, which told me something about the attendance. (I was informed later that about a third of the registered members had not attended, mainly due to COVID-19 concerns.)

Strangely, the committee supplied no program books *at* the convention – they were conceived as souvenir books, to be mailed to members *after* the event. Instead, there were daily program sheets in table format, supplemented by a daily convention newsletter. Maps of the hotel's internal layout were slow to appear.

There was a lot of meeting and greeting, of course, as congoers filtered in. There were R. Graeme Cameron, now from Nanaimo; Cliff Samuels and Eileen Capes from Calgary; John Bartley from Tualatin (near Portland); Cooki Lumsden; Stuart Cooper; Den Valdron, the Winnipeg writer; and Robert J. Sawyer, as well as Linda Ross-Mansfield, LeAmber Kensley, and Jannie Shea on the committee. My roommate John Bartley showed up this afternoon. Murray Moore talked to me about the art museum, which was heavy on Inuit art at the time.

I tagged along with Cliff Samuels and Eileen Capes to the “Break the Ice” dinner at The Forks Market. Unfortunately John Bartley, who was still recovering from flying coach, discovered he just couldn’t walk that far and begged off.

Much like Granville Island in Vancouver, this is a former railroad yard redeveloped with a wide variety of shops, produce stores, restaurants and cultural centres, including a youth theatre. The “Break the Ice” dinner for early Pemmi-Con attendees drew perhaps sixty people to The Old Spaghetti Factory. We made the acquaintance of Mark Sneed, a new writer who was attending his first SF convention, and had an interesting conversation covering the background of the convention, the benefits of joining SFWA, and the several challenges we have encountered with varieties of English. (Mark Sneed has been an English teacher.)



Thursday, July 20, 2023:

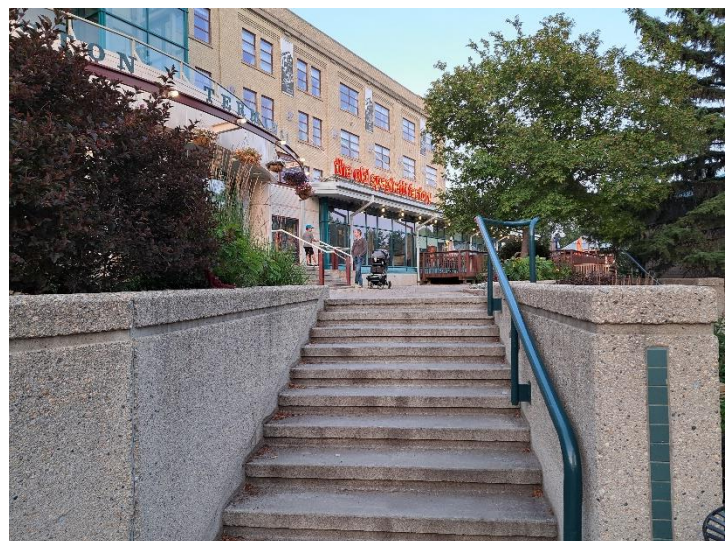
This day I received my program participant materials, took pictures of the internal hotel maps, and rechecked the program.

Foolishly I missed the opening ceremonies on Thursday. I gather my name was called, at least to stand up and wave.

Much of my concern was focused on the CUFF auction and the Turkey Readings, neither of which I had conducted before. My anxiety was unfounded, partly because I could follow the good example of Sandra Bond’s auctioneering, and partly because there were other readers at the Turkey Readings.

Of interest is that Pemmi-Con panels generally ran for 75 minutes, with a 15-minute break between scheduled items. This seemed sensible and practical.

It developed that the consuite was in a room on the fourth floor – directly opposite the room I shared with John Bartley.



For whatever reasons, the dealers' room, artshow, and fan tables were relegated to a room in the RBC Convention Centre, which was over ten minutes' walk from the hotel via an elevated passage over a street. Thus I discovered there was a fan table for the Canadian SF and Fantasy Awards, with a display of its chronology and former awards; a fanzine table (empty); a display about me with blowups of my picture and bio (unexpected!); and a fan table and display for the Rotsler Award winners (I noticed the 1999 award went to Grant Canfield, and in 2008 to Taral Wayne). There were also displays promoting nuclear energy, and providing a history of nuclear engineering in Canada.

Given the function space available in the Delta hotel, this was neither necessary, nor advisable given the number of mobility-challenged attendees. Strange.

Room parties started on Thursday night, mostly on the fifth floor, representing Worldcons/bids from Seattle, Glasgow, and Minneapolis in '73 (2073, now). Or, should I say, they were *attempted* at first on Thursday night. The hotel staff were apparently not briefed on room parties, and Shawn Marier from the Seattle Worldcon committee had to negotiate with them to raise their room occupancy limit from four to ten people at a time. Granted, the room parties were in rooms really too small for parties. This might be why the renewed Minneapolis in '73 bid sort of took over the consuite.

And there was much rejoicing.

Friday, July 21, 2023:

There was a so-this-is-your-first-convention panel, which was good, and it was scheduled for 1:00 p.m., which is as usual and is not so good. (I have suggested, on more than one occasion, that since most people arrive at conventions *later* than 1:00 p.m. Friday, maybe a later panel, a Web page, or a widely-distributed free pamphlet would serve the purpose better?)

Saturday, July 22, 2023:

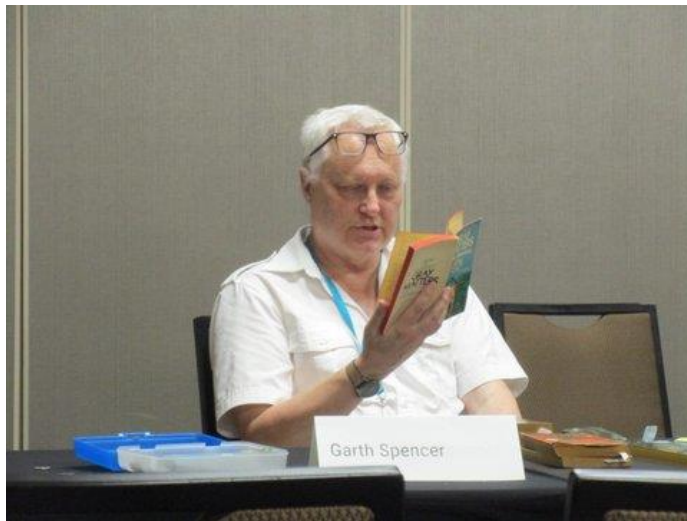
In conversation, Murray Moore mentioned that the Canadian SF and Fantasy Association was looking for a secretary, and I offered to take up the role. Murray subsequently informed the CSFFA regulars that I would serve, and he emailed me the information about the CSFFA Zoom meeting for Tuesday after Pemmi-Con.

There were three panels that required my participation – the “Rebuilding Fannish Community” panel at 4:00 p.m. (originally “The Greying of Fandom”), the CUFF Auction at 5:30 (combined with the TAFF Auction), and the Turkey Readings at 10:00 p.m. (rescheduled from 2:30).

At 4:00 p.m., “Rebuilding Fannish Community” drew at least twenty people, and turned into a productive discussion. To my satisfaction, we got beyond the usual clichés frequently observed about ageing fannish fans, and younger fans in several specialized fandoms. (Until Friday, the members arriving at Pemmi-Con were generally over 50 years of age.) We considered the diminishing numbers of clubs, the marginalization of fanzine fandom, the efflorescence of online communities, the effect of costs and current incomes on conventions, and the divergence of fandoms.

In the end, the sense of the meeting seemed to be that it simply isn't the job of elder fans to recreate the fan activities they knew. If we have any role, among contemporary fans, it comes down to getting out there, *listening*; asking a few questions; and, perhaps, offering a few parallels to similar events and issues from the past. If they are relevant. (Given the differences in today's costs and incomes from the past, the expectations and interests of fans, and the very different expectations and demands of hotels, many stories are not so relevant now.)

At 5:30 p.m., the combined Fan Funds Auction drew four or five people, compared to the auctioneers (Sandra Bond and I). I followed Sandra's lead and found the auction went fairly quickly. The audience were individually generous, and both fan funds made some modest money.



At 10:00 pm, the Turkey Readings drew eight or so people, and were amusing enough. Murray Moore, R. Graeme Cameron, and I took it in turn to read some bad 1970s sci-fi and fantasy, including R. Lionel Fanthorpe novels. Again, we made just a little money for CUFF. Tasia Papadatos from Ottawa commented that the selection of novels (other than Fanthorpe's) weren't really bad enough for the purpose. Perhaps in future years we have to seek out the real stinkers.

And so to parties. Saturday's party scene was rather quieter than Friday's; I was a bit disappointed.

Sunday, July 23, 2023:

Sunday was a fairly quiet day. I missed programming until four p.m. and the closing ceremonies, trying to start this trip report and, instead, ending up in an enjoyable consuite conversation, about Winnipeg and other convention stories.

The closing ceremonies, led by Tanya Huff, gave kudos to the Ghost of Honour, Lorna Toolis; to the convention committee, especially Jannie Shea (much enthusiastic clapping); and to the hotel staff, whose service was excellent.

And on Monday I had an uneventful flight home. (The cat was really glad to see me back.)

CUFF Accounts

July 10, 2023 Balance before Pemmi-Con:.....\$1,212.70
 July 19, 2023 One email order (C. Wolf):..... 19.00

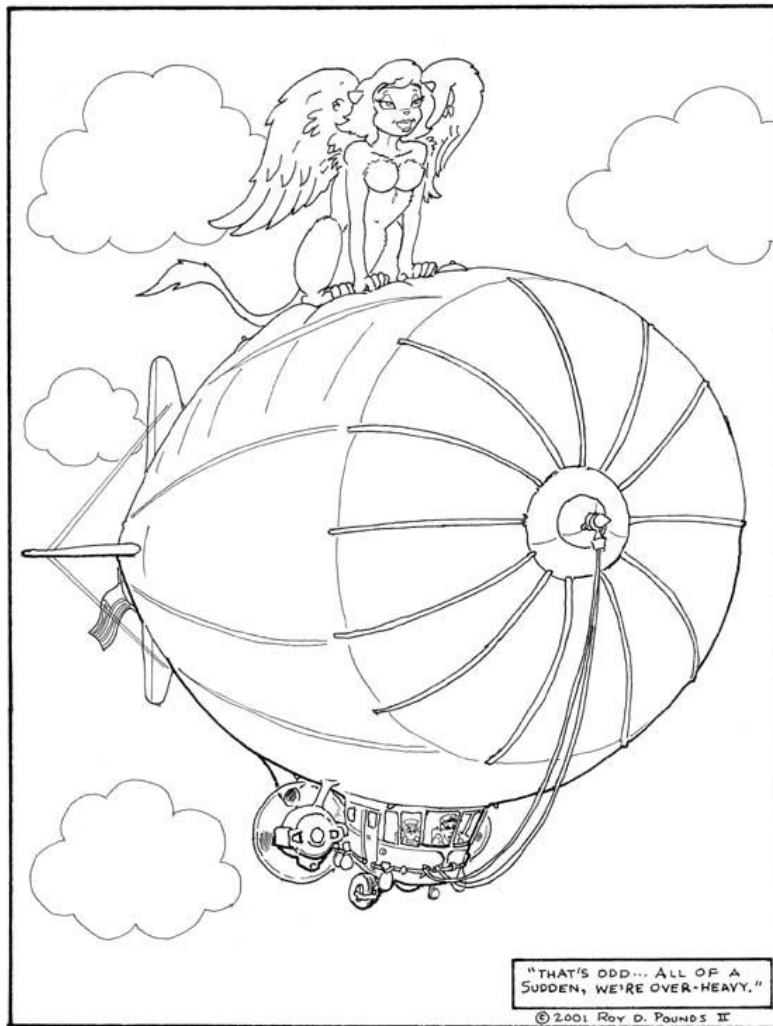
July 20-24, 2023 Revenues from Auction and Turkey Readings: 71.00
Total Funds received:..... \$1,302.70
Total Expenses at Pemmi-Con: Total receipts (meals, etc.) 385.60
Balance after Pemmi-Con: 917.10

Note: I have been borrowing from this fund, and will repay these funds by the end of this year.

For more information about CUFF, follow this link:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6119342503/>.

More of the chronology (and the several delegates' trip reports) can be found at
<https://www.cdnsfzinearchive.org/cuff-canadian-unity-fan-fund/cuff-trip-reports/>.

You can also learn about other fan funds at this link:
https://fancyclopedia.org/Fan_Funds.



Fanzines I Have Known

Christian New Age Quarterly 26:1+, Summer 2023, Catherine Groves ed., PO Box 276, Clifton NJ 07015-0276, info@christiannewage.com

I'm sorry, Catherine, I seem to be unable to get my head around more than slightly abstract reasoning. But I have to say that your quarterly is interestingly baffling, and that may be enough to teach me something.

Pablo Lennis #429, Aug. 2023, John Thiel ed., 30 N. 19th St., Lafayette IN 47904

I'm still trying to figure out this fictionzine.

Vanamonde nos. 1537-1557, March 20 – Aug. 14, 2023, John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St., No. 406, Los Angeles CA 90057

Thank you for your letter and zines! I am sorry you could not make it to Pemmi-Con and supply fanzines to the fanzine lounge, or determine who could stand in for you. I have yet to figure out how to identify the online photos to you, but I will try.

Sometimes I think you serve as a live-action encyclopedia for Los Angeles fandom. In your apazines you told people about the Persian New Year, notable women to celebrate in Women's History Month, why Fred Hollander became known as "Flieg" (as in "flying Dutchman"), best treatments of Jekyll and Hyde,

Faculae & Filigree #21, July 9, 2023, an apazine by Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA; kalel@well.com for LASFAPA.

Heath, it dawns upon me that *reading* about a television series, even an SF series like *Travelers*, makes it sound like ... soap opera! *As World Turn*. No, make that *As Galaxy Turn*. Whatever. Maybe I should commit myself to viewing TV shows online to catch up on popular culture.

Seeing your bio on Harry Andruschak brought back some memories. He and I corresponded, back in the days of *Intermediate Vector Bosons*, but I never did get all the context of his life. Reading the bio gave me some context; it also showed me something about the "saint" and "deity" members designated by LASFS.

Snow Poster Township #11, July 10, 2023, an apazine by Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA; kalel@well.com for N'APA.

Great to see there's an SF tape and video bureau *online*! I have got to link to this when I finally do a fannish website!

Thank you for your comments. I am not sure whether any Canadian tapes or videos are on Youtube, except for *Dawn of the Living Socks* ([\(249\) Dawn of the Living Socks Digital Rerelease - YouTube](#)).

***De Profundis* #588**, Aug. 2023, the newsletter of the Los Angeles Science Fiction Society, edited by Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA; kalel@well.com

Calendar, colophon, officers, minutes of several meetings, fanzines received ... yep, you've covered all the basics.

Menace of the LASFS, July 2023, "the Complete and Purgated Minutes of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society," published by of the Los Angeles Science Fiction Society, edited by Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA; kalel@well.com

What can I say that I haven't already said about *De Profundis*?

***Telegraphs & Tar Pits* #72 - #75**, July 5 - 25, 2023, an apazine by Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA; kalel@well.com for APA-L.

Interesting reading about Golden Age/retro SF novels, in your reviews, or in your survey of used-bookstore subscription services. Even yet more links for my Real Soon Now website.

Your mention of a USPS postal rate cheat sheet caught my eye. Ever since I worked in several office environments I have collated and condensed Canadian postal rates into a cheat sheet of my own; for a while, before the Internet happened, I tried to do comparative cheat sheets for the several countries I traded fanzines to, as well – and found myself stumped at last by Australia. In the 1980s, even first-class letter postage between different Australian states resembled postage between different independent countries, as I recall. Maybe I misremember.

***The Zine Dump* #58**, summer 2023, Guy Lillian, 1390 Holly Ave., Merritt Island FL 32952, GHLIII@yahoo.com

Someday, you and I have to compare notes with Joseph Siclari and Edie Stern, and see what all the current year's active English-language fanzines are.

Taral's point in *Dark Toys* is well taken. It's about time fanzine fandom actually started finding out and talking about other fandoms. However ... I did reach

out to local fandoms in 2021, with no result. Probably I should try again this fall, when the various university and college clubs I contacted are actually active.

A teeny-tiny correction: in your capsule review of *The Obdurate Eye*, you misspelled my secondary email address; it's actually [hrothgarweems @ gmail.com](mailto:hrothgarweems@gmail.com) – named after one of my faanfic characters, Hrothgar Weems. But you wouldn't know that. (Also, somehow, you gave Dale Speirs' email server as "hotmail.coes," and I don't think that "coes" exists.)

Pardon my omission – I will send you *Shooting My CUFFs* #4 and #5 with my loc.

A thought sparked by the resistance to Gary Brown's suggestion, that SFPA go digital: I know a senior man who prevails on me to handle word processing and Web surfing for him, and who is dismayed when he can't contact some organizations by phone, only by email or online. Apparently it isn't that he *won't* use a computer, he simply *can't*, even those available to patrons in libraries. If enough SFPA members are in the same position ... well, then.

I didn't know there was a Guy Lillian Collection at Texas A&M University. For an instant I thought you were pulling our legs. Then I kept reading. All I can suggest, to keep the collection of SFPA mailings current, is to print out the PDF mailings. (For that matter I really ought to complete my project of scanning paper issues of *BCSFazine* and *The Maple Leaf Rag* to complete the records at eFanzines.com ... some day.)

Silly thought: If there's a fanzine named *DASFAX*, shouldn't there be fanzines titled *DISFAX*, *DESEFAX*, and *DOSEFAX*? I started thinking this way when I first heard of Discon: where are there conventions names Datcon, Dosecon ... OK, OK, I'll let myself out.

***Ionisphere* #42**, Aug. 2023, John Thiel, 30 N. 19th St., Lafayette IN 47904; the bimonthly N3F "Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau" zine.

Sci-Fi Lampoon Spring 2023 sample, from www.scifilamphoon.com, also on Facebook.

Fiction! Of a sort.

***Opuntia* #555**, Aug. 2023, Dale Speirs, Calgary, opuntia57@hotmail.com

Con reports! Panel reviews! Photos of grinning faces! Journeys end in faneds' meetings! Pictures of cacti! You restore my sense of order in the fan universe.

Tightbeam #347, George Phillies, president of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, 48 Hancock Hill Dr., Worcester, MA 01609, phillies@4liberty.net; Jon Swartz, jon_swartz@hotmail.com, “the fanzine that tries to cover all tastes in fandom, such as anime, comics, cosplay, films, novels, biographies, poetry, music, short stories, food, ...”

Not too sure what to make of the anime reviews. I appreciated the review of *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*; make me want to go see a movie again.

Inca #22, July-August 2023, Rob Jackson, Chinthay, Nightingale Lane, Hambrook, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8UH. Email robjackson60@gmail.com or jacksonshambrook@uwclub.net.

So that’s what has been happening to Britain’s National Health Service. *[Insert appropriate swear words here]* In Vancouver, according to the cry of it, even heart-surgery patients are immediately sent home once the patients are closed up and recover consciousness. This leaves something to be desired.

Your biography of Kingsley Amis fills a void; I had no background about the writer, and perhaps that is why I could not make head or tail of his SF novels. Or perhaps they went above my head, since I was in grade school at the time.

Much fun reading about Corflu Craic, and reading the letter column!

More Zines than I can Shake a Stick at:

SF Commentary #112 & #113, June & July 2023, Bruce Gillespie, 5 Howard Street, Greensborough, Vict. 1088, Australia, Visit <https://efanzines.com/SFC/index.html#sfc105> to download PDFs of SFC

Perryscope #35, Perry Middlemiss, 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia 3122, perry@middlemiss.org

Fan Activity August 2023, Mindy Hunt, mindyhunt@scifi4me.com NEW EDITOR| “News of Fen of Interest to All Fen.”

Origin August 2023, John Thiel, 30 N. 19th St., Lafayette IN 47904, “Journal of the Naonal Fantasy Fan Federaon’s History and Research Bureau.”

The National Fantasy Fan, August 2023, George Phillies, president of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, 48 Hancock Hill Dr., Worcester, MA 01609, phillies@4liberty.net

Captain Flashback #57, Andy Hooper & Carrie Root, 11032 30th Ave. NE, Seattle WA, 98125, fanmailaph@aol.com

The N3F Review of Books George Phillies, president of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, 48 Hancock Hill Dr., Worcester, MA 01609, phillies@4liberty.net

Freelan Gazette #1:1, September 2023, A.C. Cargill ed., “the monthly news publication from the free country of Freelan” (a fictional claiming the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas). An October issue is in preparation. There are links to a Freelan website, except the links don’t work.

CyberCozen #35:8 & 9, August & September 2023, Leybl Botwinik ed., leybl_botwinik@yahoo.com, from The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy.

This Here ... #67, Nic Farey, 2657 Rungsted St., Las Vegas NV 89142, fareynic@gmail.com



Even Yet Mor Neuer Bokks

At White Dwarf Books (3715 W. 10th Ave. Vancouver, B.C. V6R 2G5 604-228-8223, **Email:** whitedwarf@deadwrite.com)

September 2023 New Mystery and Crime Fiction Releases

Armstrong, K. L. THE LIFE SHE HAD. Seal, 12.99 pb.

Atkinson, Kate. NORMAL RULES DON'T APPLY. [KATE ATKINSON STORIES]. Bond Street, 34.95 hc.

Benjamin, Tom. ITALIAN RULES. [DANIEL LEICESTER]. Constable, 19.99 tp.

Benn, James R. PROUD SORROWS. [BILLY BOYLE #18]. Soho Crime, 36.95 hc.

Bennett, S. J. MURDER MOST

ROYAL. [HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN INVESTIGATES #3]. Morrow, 34.99 hc.

Berney, Lou. DARK RIDE. Morrow, 37.00 hc.

Berry, Steve. THE OMEGA FACTOR. Grand Central, 13.99 pb.

Billingham, Mark. THE LAST DANCE. [DETECTIVE MILLER #1]. Sphere, 28.99 tp.

Brightwell, Emily. MRS. JEFFRIES AIMS TO WIN. [VICTORIAN #41]. Berkley, 23.00 tp.

Brookmyre, Chris. THE CLIFF HOUSE. Abacus, 19.99 tp.

Cardenas, Juan. THE DEVIL OF THE PROVINCES. Coffee House, 26.95 tp.

Carlisle, Kate. THE PAPER CAPER. [BIBLIOPHILE #16]. Berkley, 11.99 pb.

Carrington, Sam. THE GIRL IN THE PHOTO. Avon, 19.99 tp.

Carter, A. F. BOOMTOWN. Penzler, 23.95 tp.

Christie, Agatha. MARPLE: TWELVE NEW MYSTERIES. [MISS MARPLE]. Morrow, 23.99 tp.

Chua, Amy. THE GOLDEN GATE. Minotaur, 24.99 tp.

Cleeves, Ann. THE RAGING STORM. [TWO RIVERS #3]. Pan, 25.99 tp.

Connolly, John. THE FURIES. [CHARLIE PARKER #20]. Emily Bestler, 25.99 tp.

Cumming, Charles. JUDAS 62. Penzler, 23.95 tp.

Davis, Lindsey. FATAL LEGACY. [FLAVIA ALBIA #11]. Hodder, 26.99 tp.

Doolittle, Sean. DEVICE FREE WEEKEND. Grand Central, 22.99 tp.

Elroy, James. THE ENCHANTERS. Knopf, 39.99 hc.

Engberg, Katrine. THE HARBOR. Pocket, 12.99 pb.

Eskens, Allen. SAVING EMMA. Mulholland, 35.00 hc.

Eskens, Allen. FORSAKEN COUNTRY. Mulholland, 22.99 tp.

Feeney, Alice. GOOD BAD GIRL. Flatiron, 24.99 tp.

Fergus, Craig. MURDER AT CRIME MANOR. [ROGER LECARRE #2]. Sphere, 28.99 hc.

Glass, Ava. THE TRAITOR. [EMMA MAKEPEACE #2]. Bantam, 23.00 tp.

Green, C S. THE WHISPER HOUSE. [ROSE GIFFORD #2]. HarperCollins, 22.99 tp.

Hancock, Anne Mette. THE COLLECTOR. [KALDAN AND SCHAFFER #2]. Crooked Lane, 25.99 tp.

Herron, Mick. THE SECRET HOURS. Soho Crime, 36.95 hc.

Hilary, Sarah. BLACK THORN. Macmillan, 37.99 hc.

Jakubowski, Maxim (ed). INK AND DAGGERS. Titan, 33.95 hc.

James, Peter. PICTURE YOU DEAD. [ROY GRACE #18]. Pan, 21.99 tp.

Jance, J. A. BLESSING OF THE LOST GIRLS. [BRADY AND WALKER].
Morrow, 37.00 hc.

Jardine, Quintin. OPEN SEASON. [BOB SKINNER #34].
Headline, 19.99 tp.

Johansen, Iris. CAPTIVE. [EVE DUNCAN #29].
Grand Central, 14.99 pb.

Johnson, Alan. ONE OF OUR MINISTERS IS MISSING.
Wildfire, 19.99 tp.

Johnson, Craig. HELL AND BACK. [WALT LONGMIRE #18].
Penguin, 24.95 tp

Johnson, Craig. THE LONGMIRE DEFENSE. [WALT LONGMIRE #19].
Viking, 39.00 hc.

Jonasson, Ragnar & Katin Jakobsdottir. REYKJAVIK.
Minotaur, 37.00 hc.

Kelly, Sofie. WHISKERS AND LIES. [MAGICAL CATS #14].
Berkley, 11.99 pb.

King, Stephen. HOLLY. Scribner, 39.99 hc.

Krueger, William Kent. THE RIVER WE REMEMBER.
Atria, 38.99 hc.

La Plante, Lynda. TRIAL AND RETRIBUTION. Zaffre,
22.99 tp.

La Plante, Lynda. PURE EVIL. [JACK WARR]. Zaffre,
24.99 tp.

Lancaster, Neil. BLOOD RUNS COLD. [MAX CRAIGIE #4].
HQ Digital, 24.99 tp.

MacNeal, Susan Elia. MOTHER DAUGHTER TRAITOR SPY.
Bantam, 24.95 tp.

Maitland, K. J. RIVERS OF TREASON. [DANIEL PURSGLOVE #3].
Headline, 34.99 hc.

March, Nev. THE SPANISH DIPLOMAT'S SECRET. [CAPTAIN JIM AND
LADY DIANA #3]. Minotaur, 39.00 hc.

McDermid, Val. 1989. [ALLIE BURNS #2]. Atlantic Monthly,
25.50 tp.

McManus, S. L. THE SECRET AT NO.4. HarperNorth,
22.99 tp.

Minix, Sue. THE MURDEROUS TYPE. [BOOKSTORE MYSTERY #2].
Avon, 22.99 tp.

O'Brien, Geoffrey (ed). FIVE CLASSIC THRILLERS 1961-1964.
Library Of America, 54.00 hc.

O'Brien, Geoffrey. FOUR CLASSIC THRILLERS 1964-1969.
Library Of America, 54.00 hc.

O'Connor, Carlene. NO STRANGERS HERE. [COUNTY KERRY #1].
Kensington, 22.99 tp.

Osman, Richard. THE LAST DEVIL TO DIE. [THURSDAY MURDER CLUB #4]. Pamela Dorman, 39.00 hc.

Penzler, Otto & Amor Towles (eds). THE MYSTERIOUS BOOKSHOP PRESENTS THE BEST MYSTERY STORIES OF THE YEAR 2023. Penzler, 23.95 tp.

Perry, Anne. A TRUTH TO LIE FOR. [ELENA STANDISH #4]. Ballantine, 24.95 tp.

Perry, Anne. THE TRAITOR AMONG US. [ELENA STANDISH #5]. Ballantine, 37.99 hc.

Queen, Ellery. THE ADVENTURES OF ELLERY QUEEN. Penzler Publishers, 21.95 tp.

Rankin, Ian. A HEART FULL OF HEADSTONES. Orion, 19.99 tp.

Robb, J. D. PAYBACK IN DEATH. [EVE DALLAS #57]. St. Martin's, 40.00 hc

Robinson, Brooke. THE INTERPRETER. Harper, 23.99 tp.

Rosen, Lev AC. LAVENDER HOUSE. Forge, 23.99 tp.

Sandford, John. RIGHTEOUS PREY. [LUCAS DAVENPORT #32]. Putnam, 24.95 tp.

Seymour, Gerald. IN AT THE KILL. [JONAS MERRICK #3] Hodder, 36.99 hc.

Simon, Nina. MOTHER-DAUGHTER MURDER NIGHT. Morrow, 24.99 tp.

Smirnoff, Karin. THE GIRL IN THE EAGLE'S TALONS. [GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO #7]. Viking, 37.00 hc.

Smith, Alexander McCall. A SONG OF COMFORTABLE CHAIRS. [PRECIOUS RAMOTSWE #23]. Vintage Canada, 22.00 tp.

Spain, Jo. THE LAST TO DISAPPEAR. Quercus, 19.99 tp.

Swann, Leonie. THE SUNSET YEARS OF AGNES SHARP. Soho Crime, 36.95 hc.

Unge, Christian. A GRAIN OF TRUTH. Quercus, 19.99 tp.

Walker, Martin. A CHATEAU UNDER SIEGE. [BRUNO, CHIEF OF POLICE #16]. Knopf, 37.99 hc.

Watson, Katy. A VERY LIVELY MURDER. [THE THREE DAHLIAS #2]. Mobius, 35.00 hc.

Whitelaw, Jonathan. THE VILLAGE HALL VENDETTA. HarperNorth, 24.99 tp.

Yu, Ovidia. THE YELLOW RAMBUTAN TREE MYSTERY. [CROWN COLONY]. Constable, 19.99 tp.

September 2023 New Fantasy and Science Fiction Releases

- Armentrout, Jennifer L. FALL OF RUIN AND WRATH. Bramble, 36.99 hc.**
- Armstrong, Kelley. HEMLOCK ISLAND. St. Martin's, 23.99 tp.**
- Asher, Neal. WAR BODIES. Tor UK, 33.99 tp.**
- Butcher, James J. DEAD MAN'S HAND. [THE UNORTHODOX CHRONICLES #1]. Ace, 24.95 tp.**
- Carrico, David. THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE. Baen, 12.99 pb.**
- Connolly, John. THE LAND OF LOST THINGS. [THE BOOK OF LOST THINGS #2]. Atria, 37.00 hc.**
- Correia, Larry & Kacey Ezell (ed). NO GAME FOR KNIGHTS. Baen, 12.99 pb.**
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