

The Obdurate Eye

#50

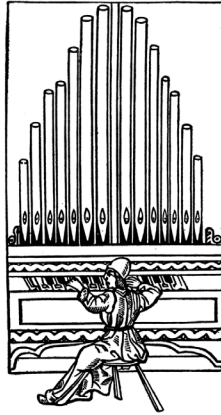
A fanzine from Garth Spencer

April 2025

Canadian counterproposal.



THE OBDURATE EYE #50, April 2025, 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, səlilwətəl, and skwxwú7mesh peoples.



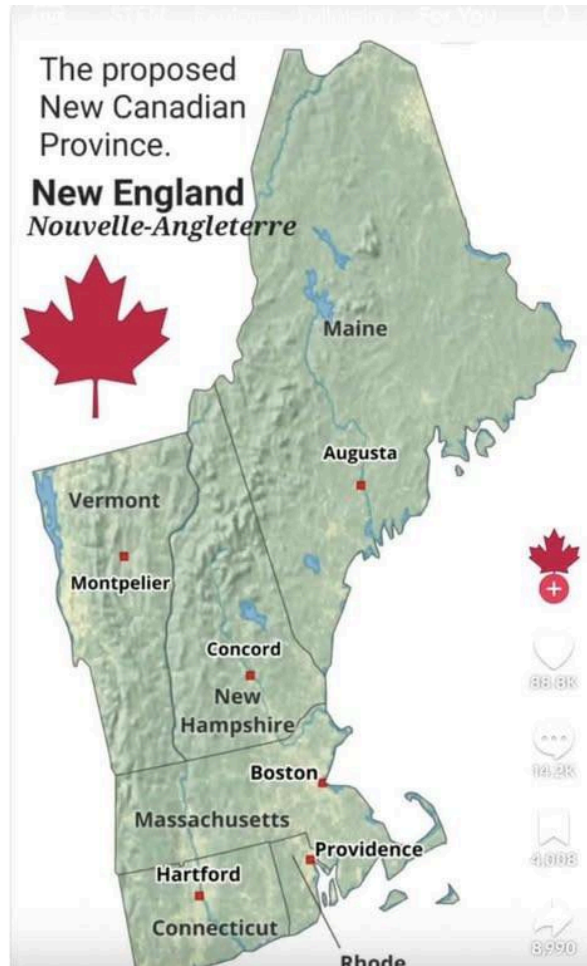
The organ of no clique or party

Contents

April Fool!.....	3
Locks and Keys	6
A Satire	10
News.....	12
Calendar of Upcoming Events.....	18
As Others See Us	22
Locs To Fanzines Received.....	26

Art Credits

Facebook clipart	cover, pp. 9, 10, 22
José Sanchez.....	pp. 1, 12, 18, 25
Clipart (détourned by G. Spencer)	p. 5



April Fool!

This being April, it is natural to start the month with April Fool's Day jokes. But the tradition of staging practical jokes seems to have evaporated in many places.

One of my friends is adamantly opposed to practical jokes, as his experiences have only included tasteless and offensive assaults that aren't really funny. Granted, there are tasteless and offensive people who don't really know what humour is. A lot of North Americans are only exposed to humour that makes someone the butt of a joke. It always takes some time to grow up and get over this default mode.

One of the best reference sources is H. Allen Smith's *The Compleat Practical Joker*, which makes the distinction clearly and cites many classic examples. Another is a great source on student practical jokes, *If At All Possible, Involve a Cow*, with many examples of wildly comical pranks. True class in pranks and practical jokes is harmless and inoffensive.

Consider the man in post-war England who stood in front of a closed door, and who presently stood in front of a lineup of English men and women, conditioned to wait in line for rationed consumer goods – without knowing whether there was anything to wait for. Or consider the exasperated motorist who invented his own traffic sign, looking *precisely* like an authorized municipal traffic sign, to indicate a highway

turnoff that was otherwise unlabeled. (The cream of the jest is that when this sign became decayed and weathered, the highway authority undertook to replace it as if it was an official sign.) Or consider the students in Michigan who erected and placed constructions on a lake, one icebound winter, to look precisely like a three-quarters-submerged Statue of Liberty. Or the MIT student who came across other students, carrying some other student's furniture and obviously carrying out a building hack, and assisted them in securing everything upside down on the ceiling of a lecture theatre – only to discover, when he went to his lodgings, that his room was empty.

In this day and age, it takes a creative mind to come up with jokes that haven't been done before, that don't necessarily harm or ridicule anyone, or that won't eventually be used for criminal purposes. I can't count the number of times I daydreamed about hacking some public events featuring heads of state, so that Vladimir Putin is preceded by a recording, not of the Russian state anthem, but of the Imperial March from *Star Wars*; or alternatively, preceding Donald Trump's entrance with a rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" ... played on kazoos. Perhaps that sort of thing is best confined to radio and TV comedy.

It can also be hard to do or say anything that someone, somewhere, won't find offensive, or politically incorrect. At some point you have to decide when this is reasonable and when it is an overreaction. You will never placate everyone.

So: today I propose to start a resistance movement.

After all, there is a great deal of nonsense pronounced by public authorities and private institutions, and the gravity of the situation must be countered with levity.

I propose that we knit the several groups who already resist the nonsense that has gripped whole nations into a worldwide underground *humourist* movement, reducing deserving authorities and institutions to absurdity by satires, parodies, and public pranks – if they haven't done that to themselves already. Just to preserve a little class, let's focus on silly behaviour and not on personalities, shall we?

There are several lines of attack, many of which are already in use: publishing documented research about foolishness in public and private institutions; performing comedy routines about foolishness in recent news; and exposing the excesses and follies of public figures.

If we have to go underground and off-grid and all that there foolishness, I propose we call ourselves the Royal Swiss Navy, on the grounds that we're not Royal, not Swiss, and do not float. Our watchwords will be Irreverence, Impertinence, and Insolence. Our motto will be "The Many, the Humble, the Physically Unfit." I propose that we give ourselves any titles and *noms de guerre* we like, as long as they're funny. (Acting Lance-Corporate Georgia Viaduct. General Sherman Ochs. That kind of thing.)

If we can maintain a regular online publication, I propose we call it *The Interesting Times*, and try to go a little further than comic publications such as *The Onion* or *The Beaverton*. Let's take any *noms de plume* we like (Victoria Falls, John O'Groats, Milton Keynes, etc.). Play up the silly or unlawful or unconstitutional things that alleged authorities do as comedy routines performed by clowns to satirize immigration or security or police forces, when they don't satirize themselves.

If we will consent and covenant together to doing our own homework from primary sources, as the Public Interest Research Groups do, I propose we call our non-organization the Department of Redundancy Department, and submit rigorously researched articles to any independent periodicals ready to publish them.

A series of independent awards, issued annually for deeds of outstanding absurdity, might not be amiss. Of course this has been done before, as in the Hogus and Darwin Awards, but the International Gumby Awards may break new ground. Notice that I say “international”; there is no reason why we should all pile on the same objects of international merriment at the same time.

Who’s with me?



The Gulf of Vancouver, its sounds, straits, and islands

Locks and Keys

Mark Nelson, School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics, The University of Wollongong, Wollongong, NSW 2522, AUSTRALIA, nelsonmark07@gmail.com, March 31, 2025

There was an item in the news a few days ago. A French scientist traveling to a conference in Houston, with a valid visa, was turned around and returned to France. His crime was that he had messages on his phone in which he expressed criticism of the Trump administration. I wonder if the US authorities are monitoring what's written about Trump in Canadian SF fanzines?

((I doubt it, but if so, it would be another count of silliness and another reason to nominate them for the Gumby Award in 2026.))

However, the French ... What can I say about the French? In 1986, a good friend of mine, a research mentor, was advised by the New Zealand government that they could not guarantee his safety if he traveled to France. He was in fact planning a trip to France, which he immediately canceled. This phone call came shortly after French Immigration arrested a prominent New Zealand scientist entering France, on the grounds that he was trying to smuggle illegal drugs. There was no doubt that his luggage contained drugs. Neither was there any doubt that some branch of the French security apparatus had planted them.

((“There is none righteous, no, not one.”))

What's the significance of the year 1986? On 10th July 1985, the French sank the *Rainbow Warrior* in Auckland Harbour. Two of the French agents responsible were caught by the New Zealand authorities, and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment on a charge of manslaughter; a photographer on board the *Rainbow Warrior* drowned following the explosion. I don't remember if the French arrest of the New Zealand scientist was in response to the sentencing of the two French activists, or some other part of the saga.

((Silly and petty, in any case.))

Regardless of the rights and wrongs of sinking a Greenpeace ship, I think that we should recognise that the sinking of the *Rainbow Warrior*, while it was in Auckland Harbour, is one of the few French triumphs on the field of battle in the 20th century (and perhaps even longer).

It must be about twelve months since I mentioned to you that I voted in the FAAn Awards. I wrote at the time that I had resolved to keep a record of who had locs published in the zines that I received, so that in 2025 I could vote for the Best Letterhack, using a well-defined methodology. Unfortunately, despite only receiving a handful of fanzines, the task of keeping track of who wrote where proved too taxing for me. There were times when apathy reigned supreme. I was also too daunted by the letter column in Bruce Gillespie's *SF Commentary* even to start to analyse who had locs published in it. Based upon my analysis of 36 issues published in 2025, I again voted for Lloyd Penney (winner in 2000, 2002, 2007, 2009) as the number one letterhack. He was followed by Richard Lynch, and then Bruce Gillespie. There was a

big tie at equal fourth, from which I picked Nic Farey and Joseph Nicholas. Both British, though that was not a consideration. Just a happy accident.

((I have sometimes wondered aloud whether Lloyd Penney is the secret love child of Harry Warner Jr. and Georgina "Dutch" Ellis, but by now the in-joke is rather dated.))

Regarding my last loc, part one, you wrote "Message received" in response to my change of email address. However, you still sent your most recent issue to my *old* address!

((I'm old, so old even I am beginning to notice my Senior Moments ...))

Regarding my last loc, part two. I made a *faux pas* there regarding Canadian "states," rather than provinces. I should have known better, but I was not thinking straight. The man in the Oval Office has said on a number of occasions that it would be better for Canadians if Canada became the 51st state. This set me off on a train of thought.

Firstly, how many *provinces*, ahem, not states, are there in Canada? As an older Canadian I am sure that you know. I did not know. What are the ~~states~~ [provinces] that I can name?

- Ontario, because at one time there were a large number of postal diplomacy fanzines coming out of Ontario.
- Quebec, because at one time there was a regular stream of news stories about the separatists.
- British Columbia, because, amongst others, *The X Files* was filmed there.
- Manitoba, because it was the answer to a crossword clue

((If we don't remember previous television SF series filmed in BC, we can still add quite a few subsequent series – Stargate and Andromeda and Firefly, just for starters.))

"The Canadian Prairie Province". I didn't know the answer to that question, but we have a Canadian in the department. His initial answer was that there were several possible answers. When I said that it started with a M, he supplied the answer.

((There are three prairie provinces – Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.))

- Newfoundland
- New Brunswick

((New Brunswick and Newfoundland – properly, Newfoundland-and-Labrador – are two of the four "Maritime" provinces; the other two are Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Incidentally, there are 179,280 people in PEI, as of the last census.))

Newfoundland is the best name ever for a province or state! True, it's not hard to beat contenders such as "Queensland," "New South Wales," "Victoria," "South Australia" and "West Australia." Those five Australian states are very prosaic and are definitely not in the same category as Newfoundland. From the British TV program *QI*, I discovered that the obvious pronunciation of its name is incorrect. Further, in 1876 a man was killed in an argument as to the correct pronunciation. The irony is that in 1876 both the now `correct' and `incorrect' ways of saying the name were regarded as being correct. The murderer evaded capture by the police and went on the run. In 1912 he was on his death bed in Illinois and feeling remorse for his actions he

confessed to his sins. Unfortunately, he made a complete recovery and had to go on the run again.

((I did not know that story. Like a lot of Canadians, I usually pronounce the name “NEW-fin-land,” with the stress on the first syllable. We are surrounded by people who insist on either “New-Found-land” or “NEW-fin-land,” at least in English. [En français: “Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador.”]))

From another episode of *QI* I discovered that Lake Manitou is the deepest lake in Canada. Lake Manitou has a second distinctive feature. It contains the largest lake island in the world. But wait, there's more. The largest lake island in the world itself contains a lake. That lake has the distinction of being the largest lake in the world that is contained within an island that is contained within a lake. The largest lake within an island that is within a lake does itself contain an island...

((I knew that story!))

From the same program I learnt that the largest lake *in* Canada is the Great Bear Lake. That's a bit of a trick question, the question being the largest lake *in* Canada and consequently not one of the Great Lakes. I have to admit that I was not 100% sure about New Brunswick. It sounds like it's the name of a fake province. After all, if there's a New Brunswick then was there previously a province called Brunswick or perhaps even Old Brunswick? As I am sure you knew, but I didn't know, there are ten provinces in Canada. I have heard of the four that I didn't mention, but they are not so familiar that I remembered them when I wrote my list.

((There was a region in Europe called Brunswick, but it was indelicately connected with the origins of the current British royal family, which is why the royal family changed their name to Windsor. We don't talk about Brunswick.

((I have discovered that there is a city called New Brunswick in the state of New Jersey. Nobody knows why.))

(Later)

Having obtained a list of the *ten* Canadian provinces, I wondered which state in the USA has the smallest population? The Internet informs me that the answer is Wyoming, which had a population in 2023 of 584,000. According to Wikipedia, eight Canadian provinces have a population higher than that of Wyoming. So in the event that Canada joined the USA, something that is not going to happen, it should be the 51st all the way through to the 58th province. I wonder how that would change the balance of power in the Senate and the House of Representatives? I can't imagine the Republican Party wanting to agree to such a change.

((Because it would result in a huge increase of presumably Democratic senators and congressmen, right. Not to mention the representatives for the three territories near the Arctic.))

Lloyd Penney laments, as many have done, the Balkanization of fandom. I have not seen that phrase before, but will try to remember it. Was the Balkanization of Fandom inevitable as the amount of "SF" available increased, however you care to define it? When did Balkanization begin? I suspect, after no more than a minute's pondering, that it must have started before media SF shows such as *Star Trek* were around.

((I probably started the use of the term “Balkanization,” seeing the enshement and mutual disengagement of different fandoms from each other. It is sort of like the way galaxies seem to be accelerating away from each other with the embigging of the universe. Personally I think it started in North America when Star Trek fans started outnumbering other fans at Worldcons, say in 1971 or 1972. But the previous popularity of Dr. Who in Britain, called “Dalek Fever,” was a clear warning sign. As you speculated.))

I've seen the same misconception, about a change in the Prime Minister not being legitimate unless there's first a general election, in both the UK and Australia. As you say, it shows a misunderstanding of how the relevant electoral processes work. At a General Election we do not vote for a Prime Minister, we vote for an MP who, in theory, represents us in a lower house. It would be nice to say that people making such comments "should know better." Unfortunately, I think it's case that they don't know better because they are insufficiently informed as to how our democracies work. However, I think it's certainly true that the reporting of General Elections focuses much more on the leaders, at the expense of policies, than they did previously.

Some years ago the Australian Government changed the process by which non-Australians become Australian citizens. You have to take an examination through which you demonstrate that you understand Australian values. I know the following *[the latter? -GS]* will never happen.

But if non-Australians are required to take a citizenship test to demonstrate that they understand Australian values before they become Australians that *[then? – GS]* perhaps Australian-born citizens should be required to take such a test, as part of the process of applying for a passport.

((It occurred to me to wonder if I were properly informed about my rights and duties as a Canadian citizen, so I started looking up the kind of informational documents we provide for new Canadians.

((It had even occurred to me, years earlier, to wonder what kind of background knowledge I didn't have and needed to know, just to live a human life today. I am still looking up material. It seems pretty clear that many of us come out of high school with less than 75% of what we need to know, and what we do know or remember is riddled with misinformation. Is anyone to blame for this? Teachers, students, mass media, or disinformation mills? Not everyone ready to keep re-educating themselves as adults, although the conditions for living keep changing.))

We Also Heard From: Perry Middlemiss



“Not to lecture, but the skull of your fallen enemy is reusable and much less wasteful.”



A Satire

“Reliable News Network Greater America News, March 3, 2027”

(a Facebook satire)

French-speaking citizens of our new state of Unitario who have paid the \$1 million exit fee continue to travel by ship from Montreal to St. Pierre and Miquelon. In related news, the return of Haitians to Haiti, Sikhs to India, and Ukrainians to Russia, continues, with only minor violence against I.C.E., F.B.I., and Homeland Security agents.

India’s Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has thanked the Acting President for offering to transport from Guantanamo Bay to India the leader of the banned socialist New Democratic Party. Modi, however, said that India is content that Jagmeet Singh stay in U.S. custody. Singh will continue to share an open-air cage with so-called “Resistance” leader Charlie Angus.

A government source who wishes not to be named confirms an overnight raid in Toronto’s Forest Hills’ neighbourhood. The search for terrorist Mark Carney continues.

Governor Gretzky is extending his stay in Florida in our country’s new capital. In Toronto the ruins of the Governor’s Mansion are being demolished. Rebuilding is a question to be determined. The temporary Unitario home of Governor Gretzky is the York Hotel’s Presidential Suite.

In our new state of Albsaskia, Chrystia Freeland is in her eleventh day of her hunger strike, rather than contribute her New Citizen hours of labour. The other members of

her team of wind turbine removers are looking forward to becoming Full Citizens, at the end of their twelve months of helping to reorient our stronger-than-ever economy.

The President's doctors say that his condition is stable. Acting President Vance today remains optimistic, saying "I expect my time in charge will end soon. It's been a long three months. But, before you know it, our President will be back, better than ever, leading his re-election campaign."

The new First Lady regrets that she cannot personally reply to the hundreds of thousands of messages of sympathy and of support, both from Greater Americans, and from Non Americans. Marjorie Taylor Trump however has sent a personal note to the Czar of Russia. In her note she also congratulated Vladimir I on Russia's moving of its New York City consulate into prime space in the empty United Nations building.

Where Are They Now? Dept. This coming weekend, in Calgary, successful residential and commercial real estate salesman Pierre Poilievre is hosting a reunion of members of the defunct Conservative Party of Canada and of participants in the historic 2022 Freedom Convoy.

Governor Danielle Smith is a confirmed guest. Keynote Speaker Kevin O'Leary had to withdraw. The Greater United States' newest ambassador, O'Leary, on Saturday presents his diplomatic credentials to William V, King of England and Northern Ireland and Wales.





“Oh, so THAT’S what a nov—”

News

Memorial Service for Fran Skene on April 26, 2025

A memorial service & Celebration of Life for Fran Skene will be held on Saturday, April 26 at 2 p.m. at the Unitarian Vancouver Church, at the corner of 49th Avenue and Oak Street. Her friends in Vancouver are invited to attend either in-person or via live-stream; a video of the memorial will be available.

Please RSVP here: <https://Fran-Skene-Memorial.rsvpify.com>

Sylvia Skene, email, March 30, 2025

Invitation to Apply for WCSFA 2025 Committees

“The WCSFA Executive Board would like to start by thanking all members who attended our online Annual General Meeting at the end of January. The evening resulted in a seven-member Executive Board, an updated Constitution, and a new name – we are now officially “West Coast Speculative Fiction Association” (and still WCSFA).

“For those who were unable to attend the AGM, we have also opened up applications to several committees to be organized this year:

- **“VCON Revival Pre-Planning Committee**
Vision boarding, venue sourcing, budgeting, etc.
- **Fandom Bazaar Committee (event on May 31, 2025)**
Ticketing, vendor outreach, promotions, operations, etc.
- **Fall Fundraising Mini-Con Committee (event date TBD)**
Vision boarding, programming, operations, etc.
- **Membership Committee**
Liaising with local businesses for perks, member outreach, member administration, etc.
- **Social Media Committee**
Assisting in content creation and sharing on social media
- **WCSFA Structure Committee**
Evaluating all current association documents for possible revision and formal codification of our general policies (e.g. code of conduct, health & safety, costuming, photo- and videography, etc.).

If you would like to get more involved with the organization and would like to participate on any of these committees, let us know by completing the form at the following link:

[“WCSFA Committee Sign-up Sheet](#)

“Please note: if we have many responses, we may not be able to fit everyone into their desired committees. This is an application to take part, not a guarantee of participation.

“Thank you, in advance, to those who choose to participate – volunteers are WCSFA’s lifeblood, and we appreciate everyone who signs up to help bring the association’s plans to fruition.

“2025 WCSFA Executive Board

“info@wcsfa.org”

Invitation to [Subscribe to the WCSFA Newsletter!](#)

“We are letting you know about **the newsletter we are launching in the next few weeks.**

“With this newsletter, we plan to promote our organization by spotlighting upcoming events and meetups, and also sharing other items of interest to our community, such as similar events by different groups and articles and reviews written about and by industry professionals and fans just like you!

If you would like to receive our newsletter once it starts, please subscribe!

“WCSFA Social Media Liaison

“socialmedia@wcsfa.org”

“You can also join or follow our online social media properties! There are several ways you can join us online:

- We run a [Discord server](#) with channels dedicated to upcoming events, geeky passions such as TV & films, a book club, and more (we even have a special WCSFA Members-only section!).
- We maintain a [Facebook page](#), an [Instagram account](#), and a [BlueSky account](#). (Note: we no longer use X/Twitter)”

WCSFA emails, March 30, 2025

Canadians on the Nebula Ballot

“The Nebula ballot came out and the Novella category is dominated by Canadians. Only one, Sofia Samatar’s story, is not done by a Canadian. This is something amazing. In the past it was always hard to find a Canadian on non-Aurora ballots. Times are changing. I still have to find out more about all of these stories to see if I agree with their decision but congrats to all.

“Full ballot: <https://locusmag.com/2025/03/2024-nebula-awards-ballot/>

Novella (Category)

- **The Butcher of the Forest**, Preme Mohamed (Tordotcom) [amazon](#) / [bookshop](#)
- **The Tusks of Extinction**, Ray Nayler (Tordotcom) [amazon](#) / [bookshop](#)
- **Lost Ark Dreaming**, Suyi Davies Okungbowa (Tordotcom) [amazon](#) / [bookshop](#)
- **Countess**, Suzan Palumbo (ECW) [amazon](#) / [bookshop](#)
- **The Practice, the Horizon, and the Chain**, Sofia Samatar (Tordotcom) [amazon](#) / [bookshop](#)
- **The Dragonfly Gambit**, A.D. Sui (Neon Hemlock) [amazon](#) / [bookshop](#)”

Clifford Samuels, CSFFA email, March 13, 2025

Members Can Now Nominate for the Auroras until April 5

“CSFFA members* can now submit their nominations for works done in 2024. Members may submit up to five **different** works in each of our ten categories. We ask that you only nominate in categories if you are familiar with the eligible works. Our nomination form closes at 11:59pm Eastern Time on **April 5th**.

“Review eligible works via our eligibility lists. A [basic list](#) is open to the public on our website. A more advanced one is available to members after you have logged into your account. The advanced lists can be sorted by field and many works have links so you can get more information.

“Even after you’ve saved your choices you can come back another day and add to or alter your prior choices. When nominations close your choices are then locked.

“The final Aurora ballot will be created from the five highest nominated works in each category. Only works that make it to the final ballot can be deemed Aurora Nominees.

“Note: Members that submit the same work multiple times in a category will have all of those submissions voided.

“(*) Membership to CSFFA (Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association) is open to Canadian citizens and Permanent Residents.”

(see CSFFA website at csffa.ca)

CSFFA Newsletter, March 2025

Comics Professionals Reconsider US Convention Attendance

“The comics world has been following the saga of R. E. Burke, a creator [imprisoned by ICE for three weeks](#) before finally being [sent home to the UK](#) this week. Burke had been travelling in the United States, staying with host families in return for performing domestic chores for them. When she tried to enter Canada, intending to travel there under a similar arrangement, she was told that this violated the terms of her tourist visa. After being turned away, she was detained by US authorities. It is suspected, but not yet confirmed, that this was because the hosting-for-chores arrangement was also deemed by ICE to violate the terms of her US visa.

“Richard Bruton at Comicon.com [notes possible implications for professionals travelling to North American conventions](#):

“The problem: like Becky’s situation of staying with families for board and lodging for chores, what used to be generally ignored in the past looks like it won’t be in this new regime.

“Because the standard format for visiting comic creators at a comics show is that they may appear and, as guests, get their accommodation provided by the show, possibly even flights.

“Additionally, once they’re at the show, there’s the opportunity to sell their wares. This is obviously more likely with artists, who can sell commissions and sketches at shows to punters for cash. But both writers and artists can be involved in the selling of their books at shows. It could be that the publisher will sell them a number of copies and ship them to the show for the creators to sell. Or it may be that the creator will appear at the tables for the publisher and books will be sold in their presence.

“And you can obviously see where this is going, can’t you? All of that is very much illegal on as a visiting alien on a tourist visa in the USA and Canada.

“Bruton misidentifies ESTA as a visa. ESTA, the Electronic System for Travel Authorization, is just a computer system recording details of people travelling to the US under the [Visa Waiver Program](#). The waiver applies to anyone travelling to the US for up to 90 days for tourism or business from a country which has made a reciprocal agreement with the US.

“However, visitors should be doing things that would otherwise be allowed under the [B-1 business visa or the B-2 tourism visa](#). Legitimate business includes attendance at “a scientific, educational, professional, or business convention or conference”, while tourism includes participation in “social events hosted by fraternal, social, or service organizations”.

“The list of things not permitted on the B-1 and B-2 visas includes:

- “Employment

- “Paid performances, or any professional performance before a paying audience

“Here things get murky. Is what a typical professional convention guest does business, or is it work? Bruton concludes that it may not matter:

“The biggest problem with the business ESTA comes at border security, where the person dealing with you has absolute authority to allow you in or to deny entry or even detain you. And it’s their understanding of the rules and of what you’ve told them you’re doing that matters. It doesn’t matter what the US Embassy have told you, doesn’t matter if it’s meant to be legal on an ESTA, if they don’t understand that, if they think it’s not allowed, you could be in trouble.

“What may make it matter even less are stories of [people such as Fabian Schmidt, Rasha Alawieh, and Mahmoud Khalil](#), in custody or already deported despite having all their paperwork in order.”

SMOF News 4:29, March 2025

A Statement from the Seattle Worldcon Chair

“I am writing this statement in order to share the status of Seattle Worldcon’s current journey through living up to our theme of [Building Yesterday’s Future—For Everyone](#). We have received a number of concerns asking how the convention will respond to orders and actions of the U.S. government, which we condemn, that create hostile conditions and travel barriers for LGBTQ+ members and international members.

“We appreciate everyone’s concerns as we navigate the current political landscape together. As I stated when [we won the bid](#), our theme is an acknowledgment that we have not successfully built the future we have aspired to, but we are also inspired by optimism for a better future—including the movements that have existed throughout history pushing us to build communities and pushing us to recognize our shared humanity. The personal is political, and our fandom lives cannot and should not be separated from that reality.

“We are not going to get everything right, and I am explicitly asking for your grace as we move forward, do our best, listen to feedback, and correct our course as necessary.

We do not have a list of all the steps we are going to take in light of the political landscape right now, as it continues to shift rapidly. We know this is not a particularly satisfying answer in light of the many concerns that we have heard from you about our members who need to enter the United States and what they might encounter trying to cross the border. We are not minimizing those concerns. The situation is frightening, and we encourage our members to make the best decisions for themselves even if that means that we will miss you at our convention. At the same time we are committed to not cancelling the in-person Worldcon as some have suggested because it is even more important than ever to gather with those who are able to do so to discuss our theme and celebrate the power of SFF to imagine different societies.

“We are investigating what concrete actions we can take and offer to our members. [Our Code of Conduct](#), [Diversity Commitment](#), and [Anti-Racism Statement](#) provide the

guidelines we are using in making these determinations. We would also like to remind people about what we are already doing.

“First, we have in place a Virtual Membership for people who determine that they are no longer safe traveling to the U.S or cannot attend for other reasons. As part of our program, we are partnering with groups from around the world to bring virtual panels to the shoulder hours (before and after in-person programming) every day of the convention to broaden our streaming offerings and include members from other parts of the world. We are actively working on this part of our virtual event and more announcements will be forthcoming. You also can participate in the Hugo Awards online –voting on the final ballot, and discussing Finalists with each other on our social media or in your own book clubs. There is also the on-line Business Meeting as has been previously announced.

“Second, building on the work of other Worldcons and conventions, we will be having Safer Spaces Lounges available for members of marginalized communities who attend the convention in person. These spaces will be marked on convention maps.

“Third, we will be drafting a resource guide to collate many of the wonderful resources that local organizations have already put together. In the interim, the ACLU of Washington has several [Know Your Rights publications](#) available, as does Northwest Immigrants Rights Project for individuals concerned about their [rights while traveling](#).

“Fourth, we will be fundraising for the following nonprofit organizations at the convention: [Books to Prisoners](#), [The Bureau of Fearless Ideas](#), and [Hugo House](#). All of these organizations do important work to promote literacy education in the Seattle area and help build community resilience.

“Finally, the political landscape is changing daily and impacting all of us in differing, but profound ways. Our staff is not immune. Many of our staff are deeply, personally impacted by the actions of the U.S. president, as his bigoted and hateful orders target our shared humanity. Many of us are federal employees who are now navigating what is happening to the civil service, terminations from our careers, and extreme uncertainty about our livelihoods. Many of us are also still dealing with the impact of the Los Angeles fires, Hurricane Helene, tornadoes, and other recent severe weather events on our families, loved ones, and friends. As citizens in the U.S. and around the world, we have many concerns, which are probably similar to yours. We all care deeply about our community and about Worldcon and are working diligently to navigate all of the waters that surround us, but we are also human with all the fallibility, blind spots, and competing demands on our time that entails.

“This is a time to support each other. If you have questions about how we can support you in deciding about your Worldcon attendance, please reach out to chair@seattlein2025.org.

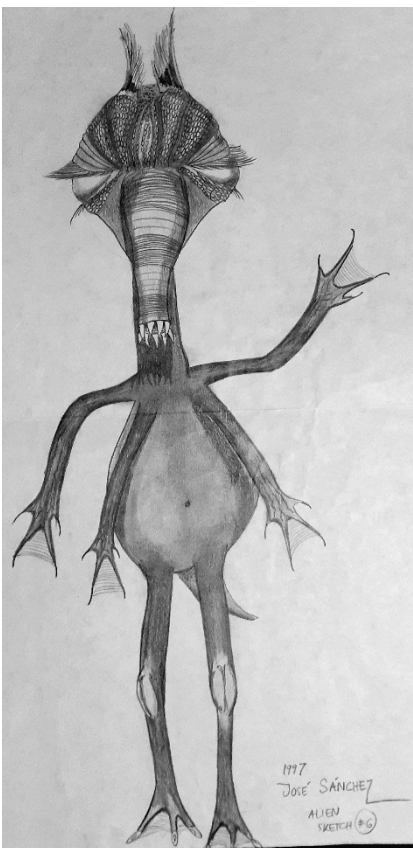
“In solidarity,
Kathy Bond
(she/her)
Chair, Seattle Worldcon 2025”

Seattle Worldcon newsletter, March 20, 2025

Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention Shut Down Over Norovirus Outbreak

“[Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention 13](#) was scheduled for March 20-23 in Tucson, Arizona, but was shut down abruptly the afternoon of March 22 due to an outbreak of what was later determined to be norovirus.”

SMOF News 4:30, March 2025



“Which way is Registration?”

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 4-6: [FilKONtario 2025](#), Monte Carlo Inn & Suites, Markham. Guests: Rhiannon's Lark, Sean McGaughey, Beth Kinderman and the Player Characters. For more information, [filkontario.ca](#).

April 5: Stratford Comicon, Best Western Arden Park Hotel, Stratford. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, [www.popculturecanada.ca](#).

April 5 (midnight EST): deadline to submit nominations for the Aurora Awards

April 11-13: [Virtual Can*Con](#), online

April 11-13: [Atlantic Entertainment Expo](#) (media), Fredericton, New Brunswick

April 17-20: [Norwescon 47: Through the Cosmic Telescope](#), SeaTac, Washington

April 18-20: [TAGCON](#) (boardgames), Pasco, Washington

April 18-20: [Anime Ottawa](#), Ottawa, Ontario

April 12: Kingston Comicon, Royal Canadian Legion #560, Kingston. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. Guest: Dan Day. For more information, [www.popculturecanada.ca](#).

April 18-20: [Sakura-Con 2025](#) (anime), Seattle, Washington

April 24-27, 2025, [Calgary Expo 2025](#), Stampede Park, Calgary, AB

April 25-27: [Ragnarok 5.0](#) (gaming), Kitchener, Ontario

April 25-27: [Icon](#) (gaming), Idaho Falls, Idaho

April 25-27: [Puget Con 2025](#) (gaming), Everett, Washington

April 25-27: [Spring CamasCon](#) (gaming and Christian retreat), Peshastin, Washington

April 25-27: [Jeu au Boute](#) (boardgames), Chertsey, Québec

April 26, 2:00 p.m. PST: Memorial service and Celebration of Life for Fran Skene, at the Unitarian Church on Oak Street at 49th Avenue in Vancouver, BC.

April 26: Sudbury Comicon, Garson Arena, Sudbury. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

April 27, 2025, [Niagara Video Game Swap 2025](#), Port Dalhousie Lions Club, St. Catharines, ON

April 17-20, 2025, Norwescon, Seattle, WA, <https://www.norwescon.org/>

April 18-20, 2025, [Anime Ottawa 2025](#), EY Centre, Ottawa, ON

April 24-27, 2025, [Calgary Expo 2025](#), Stampede Park, Calgary, AB

April 27, 2025, [Niagara Video Game Swap 2025](#), Port Dalhousie Lions Club, St. Catharines, ON

May 3: Barrie Comicon, Barrie Comicon, Barrie Curling Club, Barrie. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

May 10: CSFFA voters' package should now be available

May 10: Orangeville Comicon, Orangeville Curling Club, Orangeville. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

May 16-18: [Calfurry 2025](#), The Glenmore Inn & Convention Centre, Calgary, AB

May 16-18: [Keycon 2025](#), Hilton Winnipeg Airport Suites, Winnipeg, MB

May 17: Napanee Comicon, Strathcona Paper Centre, Napanee. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

May 17-18: Niagara Renaissance Faire, Fireman's Park, Niagara Falls, ON. For more information, see their Facebook page.

May 23-25: [Anime North 2025](#), Toronto Congress Center / Delta Hotels by Marriott Toronto Airport & Conference Centre, Toronto, ON

May 23rd-25: Furlandia in Portland OR. See <https://furlandia.org>

May 23-25: Wentworth Medieval Faire, Ancaster Fairgrounds, Jerseyville, ON. For more information, www.faires.ca.

May 23-26: Miscon 39 in Missoula, MT. See <https://www.miscon.org/>

May 24: Trenton Comicon, Trenton Curling Club, Trenton, ON. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

May 30 - June 1: Glengarry Renaissance Festival, Maxville Fairgrounds, Maxville, ON. For more information, www.faires.ca.

May 31 at 12:00: CSFFA opens its second window this year for receiving writers' applications for their development grant

May 31: Oshawa Comicon, YWCA Durham, Oshawa, ON. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

May 31, 2025, Fandom Bazaar (noon to 6:00 p.m.) at Sapperton Community Hall, 318 Keary St., New Westminster, BC. Presented by the West Coast Science Fiction

Association. Featuring collectibles, crafts and treasures. Email FandomBazaar@wcsfa.org or see FanDomBazaar.ca.

June 07: Aurora Awards voting opens

June 07: [Lilac City Comicon 2025, Spokane \(WA\)](#)

June 6-7: Robin in the Hood, Gibson Park, Elmira. Renaissance faire. For more information, www.robininthehood.com.

June 6-8: Maidens of the Mist Renaissance Faire, West Niagara Fairgrounds, Grassie, ON. For more information, www.faires.ca.

June 7-8: Toronto Comic Arts Festival, Toronto Metropolitan University, Mattamy Athletic Centre, Toronto, ON. For more information, www.torontocomics.com.

Jun 7th 2025, [Lilac City Comicon 2025, Spokane \(WA\)](#)

June 13-15: GamesCon Toronto, location TBA, Toronto. For more information, gamescon.com or see their Facebook page.

June 14: Bracebridge Comicon, Muskoka Lumber Community Centre, Bracebridge, ON. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

June 14 & 15: Oddities & Curiosities Expo, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON. For more information, odditiesandcuriositiesexpo.com.

June 15-16: Grey Highlands Renaissance Festival, location TBA, Owen Sound. For more information, check their Facebook page.

June 20-22: Essa North Renaissance Faire, 7505 10th Line, Thornton, ON. For more information, www.faires.ca.

June 21: Port Hope Comicon, Jack Burger Sports Complex, Port Hope. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

June 22: Belleville Comicon, Quinte Curling Club, Belleville. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

July 11-13: TFCon Toronto, Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale, Mississauga. For more information, www.tfcon.ca.

July 17-20, 2025, [Fur-Eh! 2025](#), Wyndham Edmonton Hotel and Conference Centre, Edmonton, AB

July 12: CSFFA membership payment window closes; voters' package closes

July 29: Aurora Awards voting window closes

July 17-20: [Fur-Eh! 2025](#), Wyndham Edmonton Hotel and Conference Centre, Edmonton, AB

July 20: Cottage Countrycon, Best Western Plus Mariposa Inn & Conference Centre, Orillia, ON. For more information, www.cottagecountrycon.com.

July 20: FanaticCon Ottawa, Ottawa Conference and Event Centre, Ottawa, ON. Guests: Jennifer Rubin, Niketa Calame, Darylle Johnson, Abby Hagyard, Matt Austrin, Leslie Hoffman, Kurt Lehner, more. For more information, www.fanaticcon.ca.

July 20: Fergus Medieval Faire, downtown and surrounding parks, Fergus. For more information, fergusmedievalfaire.com.

Aug 3-5: The Ontario Pirate Festival, Marden Park, Guelph, ON. For more information, justadequate.com/jollyRoger/index.htm.

Aug 09: Aurora Awards ceremony online

Aug 10: Orangeville Comicon, Orangeville Curling Club, Orangeville. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

Aug 10-12: TurboCon 2 in Seattle, WA – contact S. Tompkins at svtompkins@aol.com

Aug 13-17, 2025: Worldcon 83 in Seattle, WA - <https://seattlein2025.org/>

Aug 21-24: Fan eXpo Canada, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON. For more information, fanexpohq.com.

Aug 23: Trenton Comicon, Trenton Curling Club, Trenton. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

Aug 31: CSFFA development grant 2nd window closes

Sept 6: Barrie Comicon, Barrie Curling Club, Barrie. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popcultreanada.ca.

Sept 13: Torcan 2025 Model Show, Save Max Sports Centre, Brampton, ON. For more information, torcanmodelshow.ca.

Sept 13: Coldwater Steampunk & Oddity Days, downtown area, Coldwater. For more information, see Facebook page.

Sept 13: Belleville Comicon, Quinte Curling Club, Belleville. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

Sept 20: Genderverse FurCon 2025, Delta Hotel Toronto Airport & Conference Centre, Toronto, ON. For more information, genderversefurrries.com.

Sept 20: Royal Medieval Faire, Waterloo Park West, Waterloo, ON. For more information, www.royalmedievalfaire.org.

Sept 20-22: Congrès Boréal au Collège de Bois-de-Boulogne (10555, avenue de Bois-de-Boulogne, Montréal, Québec, H4N 1L4), le principal événement consacré aux littératures de science-fiction et de fantastique au Québec.
<https://congresboreal.ca/contact/>

Sept 27: Kingston Comicon, Royal Canadian Legion #560, Kingston, ON. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. Guest: Dan Day. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

Oct 4: Cobourg Comicon, Cobourg Community Centre, Cobourg, ON. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

Oct 5: Aurora Comicon, Legion Branch 385, Aurora. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

Oct 25: Oshawa Comicon, YWCA Durham, Oshawa, ON. Hours: 10am-3pm. Admission: \$5. For more information, www.popculturecanada.ca.

Nov 24: Mississauga Comic Expo, Hazel McCallion Central Library, Mississauga, ON.
For more information, <https://campaign.mississauga.ca/mississauga-comic-expo-mcx/>

(please point out any errors and omissions to garth.van.spencer@gmail.com)

SMOF News 4:27, 28, 29, 30, March 2025;
Sylvia Skene, email, March 30, 2025;
CSFFA Newsletter, March 2025;
Garth Spencer's homemade organizer;
Garth Spencer's website materials



As Others See Us

Excerpts from the “How To Human” manual

This one millionth edition of the field handbook for observers of inhabitants of Sol III (aka “Terra” or “Earth”) represents a radical change of policy: it is being published openly for human beings to read. The new policy, which is still controversial, is simply this:

Humans now need briefings on their standard cultures as much as extraterrestrial observers do.

Put another way: in recent cosmopolitan, polyglot nations, and given the many conflicting voices of mass media, the transmission of social customs, cultural norms, imperatives and taboos – in two words, “common sense” – has become fairly uncertain and unreliable, and mixed with a serious amount of misinformation.

This sort of thing has occasionally happened before on a number of worlds. When different cultures make increasing mutual contact, when lifestyles and modes of subsistence change from traditional to industrial and post-industrial modes, and

especially when traditions themselves come into question, the people of one species need as much formal training and indoctrination as alien observers do.

At this point, our former policy of avoiding detection by conforming to human appearance and customs is no longer distinct from the former human policy of conforming to traditions, just to avoid abuse – and in both cases, the policies are becoming outdated. More and more, both humans and aliens are faced with the challenge of designing lives that work, when and wherever they find themselves. Some traditional values and customs will endure and prevail, and provide guidance in the present and future. Other values and customs will not.

The personal and cultural costs can be high. Humans can survive this phase. We have now to see if they *will* survive. ...

MATERIAL LIFE

... Maintaining a human appearance, the signs of normal financial life, housekeeping, and dress, is of course dependent on the norms of specific times and places. Therefore, your briefing packages will be prepared for specific countries, even specific regions or cities, and you will be responsible observing and sharing changes in the norms where you are inserted.

... Unlike some other air-breathing and tool-using social species, humans are confronted with two constant problems:

- Their environments face them with frequent shortcomings, most commonly water and food;
- Their evolutionary history faces them with constant threats, notably
 - a monthly fertility cycle that always threatens societies with overpopulation
 - a normal distribution of intelligence in every generation, heavily weighted to stupidity
 - a normal distribution of personalities in every generation, persistently including a minority of pernicious personalities, such as psychopaths and sociopaths;
- Human lifespans are only two or three times as long (so far) as it takes for humans to reach the usual age when they begin careers and start families, with the result that they make short-term policy decisions in their careers, and often do not see the long-term consequences of public or private policies¹.

Perhaps three-quarters of human history and current affairs are obviously driven by these factors ...

Tentative Conclusions

¹ This is a controversial and possibly species-centric judgment. Some parties have criticized it, since several other species had to pass through a high-energy/high-resource-consumption historical phase before their cultures came to appreciate long-term consequences, including diffuse industrial pollution and mass species extinction, and before they factored such consequences as deterrents into their policy planning. –Ed.

Materially, human beings face several serious threats and challenges, as humans themselves are well aware. For example, their population levels, high consumption of material resources and energy, and broadcast of industrial byproducts cannot be sustained. Other worlds have faced and weathered the same or similar challenges – as much through calm good sense and persistence as through sheer dumb luck. From our perspective, the chances are good that human good sense and persistence will see humans through. It will cost years, and lives.

SOCIAL LIFE

The normal distribution of personalities in every generation (persistently including a minority of pernicious personalities, such as psychopaths and sociopaths), and the wide variety of cultures still contending on Sol III, have led to numerous social embarrassments, violent incidents, and frequent nervous breakdowns among observers. Nevertheless there are some expressions and behaviours that we can rely on, especially if observers are briefed for one culture only.

If most humans are mostly decent most of the time – *when they are not pressed by threats, or temptations* – their occasional signs of offense or violence can be attributed to covert reasons for ego protection, dominance displays, abuse of arms, profit-seeking or deliberate deception. Perhaps the most penetrating insight was made by a human, the chief executive of a religious organization, in terms of “seven cardinal sins” – of which “pride” was the greatest.

It is significant that humans foreign to a given culture, or high-functioning autistic adults, or adolescents are all as naïve as extraterrestrial observers, when it comes to covert human motivations. Learning to “read people,” or learning “people skills,” or sensing “vibes” all refers to picking up the connotations of oral language, and to interpreting micro-expressions, gestures and body language. This is difficult for observer candidates from species very different from Terran primates, and they are discouraged from assignment to Sol III.

The trend from “traditional” cultures to polyglot, urban cultures has made it more and more challenging to remain current with colloquial language, dress and manners. Senior humans themselves, in “modern” urban cultures, are wearisomely aware of this. At least one observer has suggested that English, one of the most widely-spoken languages on the planet, is no longer English but has broken down into semantically distinct languages that look and sound the same, but are mutually unintelligible (see “bafflegab,” “doublespeak,” “technical jargon,” “sermons,” “corporate” or “political jargon” ...)

... As noted earlier, humans are a social species. As other social species have done, humans have developed larger and larger communities stratified into social classes, as their means of subsistence, and their means of transportation and communication, enabled them to do so. Unlike other species, humans have integrated several kinds of mutual abuse in their social structures, starting as early as their tribal era.

Arrogance towards subordinates within societies, and xenophobia towards strangers has barely been restrained by moralist and idealist movements. The development of mutual tolerance between ethnic groups appears to be driven mainly by practical reasons (e.g. urban violence, weapons of mass destruction, trade wars). ...

Tentative Conclusions

For humans, the problems of ego, dominance displays, abuse of armed power, unrestrained profit-seeking and deliberate disinformation appear almost insurmountable. Again, these challenges have been overcome – human history itself provides multiple examples. But again, it will cost years, and lives.

The problem appears to be the level of solidarity in given cultures at given times, which seems to vary unpredictably, but is observed to diminish in times of economic downturn. In contrast, historical states such as Al-Andalus, a Muslim state in medieval Spain, is reputed to have been a peaceable state, practicing a custom then called *convivencia*, or the art of living together – despite having an ethnically and religiously mixed population.

INNER AND OUTER LIFE

... One of the most challenging tasks of observers is to simply *listen* to humans if they relate practical or emotional problems in their lives, when we can recommend immediate solutions. Human cultures – notably in “modernized” countries – have not yet arrived at concepts such as practical ethics, such as designing a community whose needs are equal to or less than their resources, nor even discovering a behavioral calculus.

Lacking a social consensus on what constitutes a complete, functioning culture, or a Congruence of personal customs (see chapters on “Other Worlds in Contrast” and “Evaluations”), large pluralities of humans for generations have sensed some incompleteness or inconsistencies in their cultures. Almost every bookstore and library features multiple shelves devoted to “self-help,” religious, or philosophical books and periodicals. It is significant that human history, anthropology, sociology, economics, and psychology are still separate fields of study, without even an agreed-upon notational system to provide either unity or rigour. ...

Tentative Conclusions

If comparison to other cultures and histories remains a valid approach, then a span of generations must pass before the concepts of power, authority, wealth, and social responsibility are reshaped, and a viable culture emerges in which people can design liveable lives. Their stubborn insistence on forming opinions without doing any research, or persisting in violence and competing for resources instead of collaborating to produce more and live within one’s means, will take decades to wear down. The times to come will probably be the worst times for goodwill, level-headed sense, and mutual aid to prevail – and yet, the most essential times to extend them.



UFOs over New York: "I told you we took a wrong turn at Albuquerque ..."

Locs To Fanzines Received

Old Farey's 2025 All-Fanac

This was an amusing parody of the Old Farmer's Almanac, based almost but not quite entirely on fannish references. A hoot and a half. Thank you!

Perryscope 51, Feb. 2025, personalzine published mostly monthly by Perry Middlemiss, 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn, Victoria, AUSTRALIA 3122. E: perry@middlemiss.org

This was a genzine and a half. A fascinating look at Perry Middlemiss' reading, film and TV viewing, and personal history, with guest articles this issue by Irwin Hirsh, Julian Warner, and the artist called Chong. Plus, letters.

The Stf Amateur 18, Mar. 2025, a bundlezine [bundle of the editor's apazines] published by Blasted Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA; kalel@well.com; 718-755-9840 mobile; 323-916-0367 fax. It is prepared for members of the United Fanzine Organization and select others, and is available via *eFanzines* (<https://efanzines.com>) and the Fanac Fan History Project (<https://fanac.org>)

There's so much to comment on! Too much, in fact!

Tightbeam 366, Mar. 2025, "the N3F literary fanzine, not the novel and anthology fanzine, but the fanzine that tries to cover all tastes in fandom, such as anime, comics, cosplay, films, novels, biographies, poetry, music, short stories, food, ... The Editors are: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester, MA 01609. Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com

Lots of reviews ... nothing in the way of think pieces.

You're Still on My Mind #8, Mar. 2025, from Rich Lynch at rw_lynch@yahoo.com

After a moment I realized you took your title from one of Willie Nelson's songs. I really have to expand my musical education.

This is interesting; I didn't know you could weave together a whole fanzine out of letters commenting on a previous zine, ambling from one topic to another – much less out of two previous zines. Maybe I should try it sometime.

Glad to see some of my comments were welcome and apt for your fanzine.

FanActivity Gazette #4:10, March 2025 (N3F clubzine), Mindy Hunt ed., mindyhunt@scifi4me.com

This issue of your clubzine is distinguished by Bob Jennings's article on Olaf Stapledon, the author of *Last and First Men*. I never knew that Stapledon influenced C.S. Lewis (to the extent of a veiled reaction in his own novel, *Out of the Silent Planet*).

SMOF News #4:28-30, March 2025, Petréa Mitchell, smofnews@substack.com

Thank you for your news coverage, and for your convention listings. As you can see from this issue of *Obdurate Eye*, I am trying to keep up my end with coverage of Canada and the Pacific Northwest.

CSFFA Newsletter, March 2025, Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, 1065 Henley Rd, Mississauga, ON L4Y 1C8; newsletter@csffa.ca

Thank you for the Aurora Award and Professional Development Grant coverage; I am trying to spread the word, as you can see from this fanzine.

Ionisphere #45, March 2025, N3F Fan-Pro Coordination Bureau, Edited by Jean-Paul L. Garnier, 61871 Twentynine Palms Hwy. Joshua Tree, CA 92252, spacecowboybooks@gmail.com

Thank you particularly for the article about *Worlds of If* and *Galaxy* magazines being revived, and for the interview with the founder of Ark Press! Something to add to my list of SF markets.

The Incomplete Register 2024, Nic Farey ed., 2657 Rungsted Street Las Vegas NV 89142, fareynic@gmail.com

Shazbat, I forgot to vote in the FAAn Awards this year! *Mea culpa*, Nic. Will it help if I include all the fanzine titles in the fannish website I'm compiling?

The National Fantasy Fan #84:3, March 2025, N3F monthly newsletter, editors George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net & Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com

I keep being surprised by how many departments and projects the N3F has going on. Sometimes I'm surprised at how they keep on keeping on!

Captain Flashback #76, March 2025, from Andy Hooper and Carrie Root, residing at 11032 30th Ave. NE Seattle, WA 98125. You may E-mail Andy at fanmailaph@aol.com, and you may reach Carrie at carrieroot49@yahoo.com.

Your histories of TV shows are oddly interesting, perhaps because they are as much about independent productions by small, local TV studios as because they show how popular horror and mystery and semi-fantasy shows were, up to and at the same time as *One Step Beyond*, or *The Outer Limits*, or *The Twilight Zone*.

This Here ... #85, Nic Farey ed., 2657 Rungsted Street Las Vegas NV 89142, fareynic@gmail.com

Very absorbing, and I could think of almost nothing to comment on. Maybe I need another cider ...

[Later] Your article “Anorak” made me think there are scores of disused railway tunnels in England – and, conceivably, in Europe and the U.S. and eastern Canada – that could be inhabited, when our current civilization is transformed by a sudden change in the availability of energy and metals.

David Hodson’s review of “Adolescence” gripped me. Granted that it was a somewhat sanitized British TV miniseries, it still sounds raw and brutal enough to demonstrate the lethally stupid stuff that people will do to each other, even as legal minors. His final conclusion is as depressing as the experience he relates, meeting with youth offenders at a day centre.

You and Kim Huett may be the only two people I know, even by correspondence, who remember the “Carry On...” movies. Granted, I started viewing them before my voice broke, so my memories are a bit faded; but I have an impression that they started slipping in quality as the comedy troupe grew older. Maybe I just became more discriminating, as I did after seeing enough of the “Pink Panther” series.

Perryscope #52, March 2025, is an issue of a personalzine published mostly, monthly by **Perry Middlemiss**, 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn, Victoria, AUSTRALIA 3122. E: perry@middlemiss.org

Your story about the mounting complications when you simply wanted to sell a house makes me wonder if I’m lucky never to have been in that position. I wonder how many similar horror stories can be told about lackadaisical banking systems in other English-speaking or industrialized countries.

In your reviews, the premise of the recent novel by Kazuo Ishiguro (*Never Let Me Go*) sounds exactly like the premise of a novel by Michael Coney (*The Jaws that Bite, the Claws that Catch*), not to mention the film *The Island*. In all cases, I wondered why cloning technology has to generate a whole new human being to provide transplant organs? Is there some reason organs alone can’t be cloned, beside the need for a dramatic conflict?

In Mark Nelson's letter, he comments on books that he wished he had never read, or found merely OK – books that were consistently winners of the Miles Franklin award. I conjecture that there are literary styles favoured by judges of the Miles Franklin award, which readers such as Mark can barely stand to read. Does this say something about the award, or something about the diversity of tastes in reading?

Pablo Lennis #448, March 2025, monthly fiction fanzine, John Thiel, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, IN 47904

Nice cover picture, for a change. I still think your layout could be vastly improved; as a result, it's difficult for me to read your zine. In your fanzine reviews ... yes, I admit I tend to use my own terms, like "national chief executive" instead of "head of state."