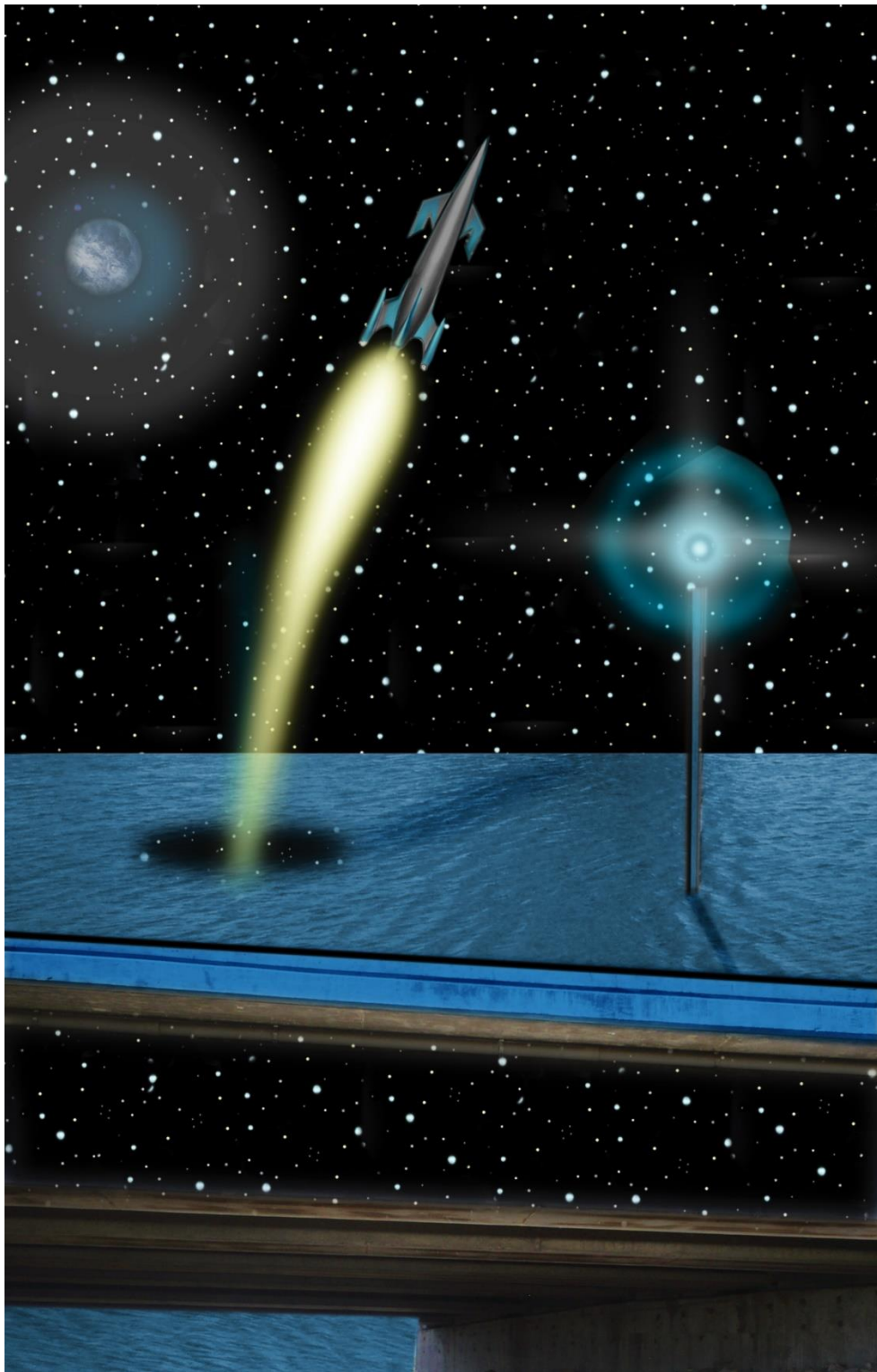
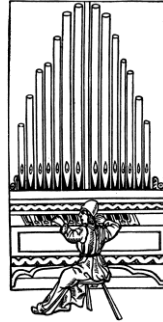


# The OBDURATE EYE 26



*“Sea Station Warp Arrival” (Denny Marshall)*

THE OBDURATE EYE #26, April 2023, a personalzine from Garth Spencer, 6960 Doman Street, Vancouver, BC CANADA V5S 3H7, Email [garth.van.spencer@gmail.com](mailto:garth.van.spencer@gmail.com) or [hrothgarweems@gmail.com](mailto:hrothgarweems@gmail.com)



*The organ of no clique or party*

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## Art Credits

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| D. Marshall, “ <i>Sea Station Warp Arrival</i> ” ..... | cover |
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## Acknowledgment

This fanzine is prepared in Vancouver, British Columbia, on the unceded lands of the Salish people.

**Corrections:** In the news section of *Obdurate Eye* #25, I referenced Cathy Palmer-Lister as residing in Quebec; she resides in Ontario.

Nic Farey wrote: "Er - there aren't any "nominees", Garth - the FAAns are a free vote on any and all work from the previous year..."

*((I keep using the wrong words for things. More and more I think I have to learn this language all over again.))*

[My LoC to Alexiad](#) 127, c/o Lisa & Joseph Major 1409 Christy Avenue  
Louisville, KY 40204-2040 USA [jtmajor@iglou.com](mailto:jtmajor@iglou.com)

About the Second World War and the passing of its survivors: You may already know my own reasons for remembering the war, despite being born twelve years after it was over. For one thing, my grandfather serving in the Canadian Navy, shepherding convoys through the North Atlantic while playing dodg'em with U-boats; for another thing, my father serving as a fireman in London, during the Blitz. It took a while for me to realize that the survivors of that decade sought to normalize their world as much as they could, and probably the survivors of the first World War reacted in the same way.

About your books: When I checked out your link to Advent Publishers, I learned that they were not, in fact, publishers of fannish volumes such as *All Our Yesterdays* or *A Wealth of Fable*. I guess I had somehow confused them with NESFA Press. Strange, that.

So, lacking a market, I have been vacillating as to whether to self-publish a volume of Canadian fanhistory, if I can ever get it finished, or whether to produce it as a set of Web pages, linked to each other when one region's story links to another region.

About Laur Flom and the politically correct trend of expunging ungoodthinks: While noting that this isn't what "woke" means - yes, I've noticed this trend, and yes, it's silly. I try to cultivate a sense of humour about these things, on the theory that they *pass*. We shall see if that theory is correct.

About *The Way of the Sword-Worlds*: Interesting to see how people are elaborating the story universes of H. Beam Piper, who is probably as politically incorrect as any. I have to wonder whether Haggard and Kipling will come back into fashion in another twenty or forty years.

About the *Nitpicker's Guide to Ancient Military* (was there a word missing at the end of the title?): Yes, the obstinate ignorance of filmmakers about representing ancient military uniforms, arms, and tactics authentically is an old story. The same complaint can be applied to contemporary war films, for that matter.

There seems to be a divide, though, between writers who *will not* pay attention to the issue and writers who pay *only too much* attention. I have described such writers as David Weber as people who wrestled with the Expository Lump and lost. (Alternatively, I described writers such as James Blish as having swallowed Gibbons' *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* and never recovering.)

About your letters received: I am surprised that *anyone* is surprised by the lack of fanzine programming at DragonCon. For several reasons (not all mentioned in the letters column), fanzine fandom has become just one fandom among many, and DragonCon has always been in another fandom. I used to organize fanzine rooms and fanzine panels and saw the level of general interest drop rapidly. I gather that fans with other interests felt cold-shouldered by fanzine fans, or "frozen out" of running existing conventions ... perhaps only for emotional reasons. I also gather that when fannish fans *tried* to involve younger fans from other fandoms in fanzines and conrunning, the response was "meh." But this is a tale that has been told.

About Heinlein, as George Price describes him: there's something oddly quaint or foreign in Heinlein's juveniles, which I just took for granted when I was a juvenile myself. After all, the fiction I read back then was *always* set in another time, usually 20 to 30 years before mine, and in another place, whether it was England or Australia or the Midwestern US. I had to put up with slightly cramped and precious language in Enid Blyton and C.S. Lewis, and equally I had to put up with the difference between Heinlein's future Terran settings ... which always seemed just like the Eisenhower era, if not Teddy Roosevelt's; and the teenagers and twentysomethings in the juveniles seemed to come from those eras, too. Make of this what you may.

About the Balkanization of fandom (again): Heath Row nailed it. SF fandom was *already* several separate fandoms, decades before COVID-19 – in fact, from firsthand experience, I testify that it was several separate fandoms before personal computers and the Internet were widely available. I took a long time to accept this fact of life. Mind you, it wasn't because there was no focal point fanzine; media fans, comic fans, the several kinds of gaming fans, filk fans and anime fans were unaware of, or alienated from fannish fandom by 1980. Out of touch already, that is.

Maybe it's time I started that Liberal Secular Rational Humanist Cult I was talking about?

## News

### **Aurora Awards 2023: Nominations Are Open**

Members of the Canadian SF and Fantasy Association can now nominate for the 2023 Aurora Awards until **11:59pm EDT on April 22nd**. [You must have a paid CSFFA membership to participate \(annual membership is \\$10\)](#). At the afore-mentioned closing time, our choices will be locked. Log into your account and click the Nomination icon on the member's home page.

Any works done in 2022 can be nominated in [ten \(10\) categories](#), and each of us can nominate up to five (5) different works in each category. (We don't *have* to name that many nominees!)

Do NOT nominate the same work more than once - duplicate entries will be voided.

(March 2023 Newsletter, Canadian Science Fiction & Fantasy Association  
<newsletter@csffa.ca>, March 16, 2023)

### **CSFFA Board of Directors Vacancy**

Your CSFFA board needs a secretary!

The secretary is a full member of the board, equally participating in discussions and decisions. Meetings are monthly (except December), the last Tuesday of each month (8 p.m. E.S.T.: attendees are in Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia.)

Meetings happen via Zoom. Meetings typically last 60 minutes.

Duty of the secretary is to write the minutes of board meetings. In the event that the secretary can not attend a meeting, the meeting is recorded.

Interested? Email [president@prixaurorawards.ca](mailto:president@prixaurorawards.ca)

(March 2023 Newsletter, Canadian Science Fiction & Fantasy Association  
<newsletter@csffa.ca>, March 16, 2023)

### **FANAC.org March 2023 Newsflash!**

“Just a brief note, mostly to let you know about our upcoming scanning plans and our new mailing system. We also hit a substantial milestone.

FANZINES HIT 20,000!:

“FANAC.org now has more than 20,000 fanzines digitally archived on the site. With zines ranging from 1930 to this week, we are continuing to enrich the available catalog of original materials related to science fiction and science fiction fandom. With a number like that, it's no surprise that we count more than 500 contributors listed at [https://fanac.org/FANAC\\_Inc/fancont.html](https://fanac.org/FANAC_Inc/fancont.html)

“Don't forget – We have added some navigation tools to access our ever-growing archive. The Fanzines drop-down button on FANAC.org allows you to find zines by Title, by Editor, by Date, by Country and more. There's a special list of newszines if you're looking for those, and we are building a listing of major APAs. If there are other organizational principles you'd like to see in a nav tool, please let us know at [fanac@fanac.org](mailto:fanac@fanac.org).

*FANAC at Upcoming Conventions:*

“FANAC will have a scanning station at Corflu Craic in Belfast at the end of March, and we hope to have one at Conversation 2023, the Birmingham Eastercon being held the following week. If you are planning to attend either of these, please bring fanzines for us to scan. If you can, write to let us know so we can plan ahead.

“Please remember two things: First, to scan each issue, we carefully take each issue apart and then re-staple it. Second, we do not put fanzines online without permission from editors who are still around. Keep that in mind when you bring them. If you can provide contact information for the editor, we'll try to reach them later. In the meantime, we will keep them archived until the editors can be reached. If you're not sure, drop a note to [fanac@fanac.org](mailto:fanac@fanac.org).

“Of course, please check the site first to see if the issues are already online. We're hoping to get some quality Irish/UK/European zines that we haven't had access to in the past.

“Eighty years? That's not so much.

“A lot of older fanzines have been scanned and uploaded recently, primarily from the 1940s. In the last few weeks, we've added issues of *Alien Culture* (Jim Leary), *Apollo* (Joe Hensley and Lionel Innman), *Canadian Fandom* (Beak Taylor), *Imagination!* (Russ Hodgkins - actually 1930s), *Plenum* (Milt Rothman), *STF maglet* (Eva Jane Clevenger), *Sparx* (Henry Spelman), and *Sun Spots* (Gerry de la Ree). There are more to come.

“As we go, we're adding info about the APA mailing (if any) in which zines were distributed. That way, we can assemble under one index page all the issues we have online for a given mailing. Cool stuff.

New Mailing Service:

“For the last several years, we've been using Mailchimp to send out newsletters. Mailchimp has now changed their terms and conditions, and we are planning to move to Mailerlite. This is our first Newsflash using Mailerlite.

“What do you think? Any comments? Let us know if you did not receive this! (Seriously, if you should have received this directly but did not, and received it instead from a friend, please let us know.)

“That’s about it. Our next Zoom History session is March 18, on the topic of Feminism in Fandom in the 70s and 80s. Read all about it here - <https://fanac.org/zoom.html>

“We hope to see you on the Zoom, at Corflu and/or Eastercon. Please pass this update on to any fan or online list where you think it might be of interest. Those interested in subscribing can sign up on our homepage at FANAC.org

\*\*\*\*\*

“Selected links:

“FANAC.org: <https://www.fanac.org>

“Fancyclopedia 3: <https://fancyclopedia.org>

“Fanac YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/FanacFanhistory>

“The FANAC Fanhistory Project is a project of The Florida Association for Nucleation and Conventions (FANAC) Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization recognized by the IRS.

“FANAC.org is archived by the US Library of Congress for long-time preservation and future availability. FANAC, 663 Hanover Street, Yorktown Heights, United States of America.

“Fanhistorically yours. Joe Siclari and Edie Stern”

### **Nearly Actual Countries Need Web Hosting Too**

The Kingdom of Talossa’s websites became unavailable on March 1<sup>st</sup>, because their hosting service (DoRoyal) suffered some technical problems. Alternative access to the discussion board, Wittenberg, can be found on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Talossans>) and on Discord (<https://discord.gg/x6UsMBY4>). (Chancery Communications, email, March 3, 2023)

The Civil Service (Lüc) and MinTech have confirmed Wittenberg is now safe to use. Data loss due to the DoRoyal server failure means the latest saved Witt posts are from Feb 14, 2023. Talossa Wiki is also restored. There may be small continuing issues please report them to MinTech.

(Brandon Nakasoto, Facebook Wittenberg page, March 3, 2023)

## Even Yet More Politically Corrected Texts

Joseph Major writes,

“Laur Flom, a ‘book artist’ in Toronto, is woke. He is rebinding copies of the Harry Potter books, removing the name of the Potter Unperson, not only from the cover, but the title page and the copyright page. She was made an unperson for having made transphobic statements, which have somehow vanished. (Journalist E. J. Rosetta was commissioned to write a piece on the topic of “The Twenty Transphobic [Potter Unperson] Quotes We’re Done With” but couldn’t because she couldn’t find any.) But not to worry. An AI has been developed which will write Harry Potter stories with no intervention by Potter Unperson. We love Big Person of Genderfluid Being.”

(Joseph Major, *Alexiad* #127, February 2023)

*(Is that what “woke” means. – GS)*

My LoC to *Tightbeam* 342 March 2023, George Phillies [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net)  
48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester, MA 01609. Jon Swartz  
[jon\\_swartz@hotmail.com](mailto:jon_swartz@hotmail.com)

I have been trying to get a handle on what *Tightbeam* is for – a newsletter? A review zine? A letterzine? (The focus, if any, wasn’t specified in the masthead.) It was interesting to read the book, TV, and movie reviews, especially the short biography of C.M. Kornbluth, but I wasn’t sure where the comment hooks were.

If my humble fanzine offers any news of interest or importance to your readers, you may reprint the news items, by all means.

My LoC to *Simultaneous Times Newsletter* (received May 2020 – Feb. 2023 editions), from Jean-Paul L. Garnier, Space Cowboy Books, 61871 29 Palms Hwy., Joshua Tree, CA 92252, U.S.A. [www.spacecowboybooks.com](http://www.spacecowboybooks.com),  
[spacecowboybooks@gmail.com](mailto:spacecowboybooks@gmail.com)

Dear Jean-Paul,

Thank you for your package, which arrived today. Thank you also for your interest in what’s going on in Canadian SF. I am working on a Canadian fanhistory, but I suspect you are asking about the professional writers and publishers in SF, fantasy, and horror genres. I will speak to that after responding to your newsletters.

(Just to warn you: *The Obdurate Eye* is my personalzine, rather than a professional publication, so it's a fanzine and I write about personal stuff, not just fannish or SFnal stuff. Be prepared.)



It was an eye-opener to realize how many new writers there are, and how much you are doing to make their works available. It is also an eye-opener to realize how many more online magazines and small presses there are than I had realized, after about 40 years of occasional online research.

I keep myself occupied with several self-assigned projects, mostly related to science fiction and fandom, so I may be able to answer some of your questions. Not having found a central place to find out about fandom or science fiction in the Pacific Northwest, nor in Canada, I am preparing to add some Web pages on these subjects to my personal website. (In the mid-1980s I tried to do something similar, with a fan newszine for Canada.) My impression that Canadian genre periodicals are generally modest quarterly magazines remains unchanged, although I can be corrected about that. I am just about to review my list of SF markets, including small book publishers.

It was also a good reminder to see that you are producing a podcast, and that you listed podcasts in July 2020 and March 2021; podcasts are one of the things I also have to document. One of my fanzine trades also mentions a podcast in Australia, from the widely-read Perry Middlemiss.

Your contributor Robin Rose Graves commented in the October 2020 issue on how repeatedly she encountered claims that “queer science fiction and fantasy doesn’t exist.” I can see why she compiled a database of queer SF and fantasy. There is an implication: many people live in sheltered or secluded environments, and freely assume that anything outside their experience doesn’t exist. Maybe there should be a taxonomy of the different kinds of sheltered environments, or ignorance, that people live in. Maybe there could be SF stories about it?

I enjoyed Ms. Graves’ poem “First Contact.” Made me laugh!

Your interview with Brent A. Harris in the November 2020 issue quoted an interesting point; he stated that “We’re going through an age similar to the Victorians, with rapid advances in technology, rejections of science in favour of the supernatural, ...” Writers as diverse as Robert M. Pirsig and Samuel R. Delany alluded to a similar issue, between lovers of technology and lovers of nature. I perceive something related to both: any definite proposition, about *anything at all*, seems to bring out supporters and opponents – whether the statement is religious, technological, political, or sports-related. Different people have repeatedly shown themselves to support and to oppose any particular technology – in the Victorian era, as in our own times – and, predictably, opinions and reactions appear even before anyone does any research. I don’t know if there are story possibilities in that idea?

In the same issue, your article about Amazon describes how competitive enterprises seek to eliminate competition. I suspect Amazon is not alone in that, and my guess is that any publicly-traded corporation is driven to do so, in order to keep enhancing shareholder value. Maybe our ancestors’ biggest

economic mistake was to institute public share trading. Then again, I could be wrong.

This letter of comment is starting to get surprisingly long, so I will cut it off here.

Answering your query about Canadian SF also went on a bit, so the following may serve you as a separate article sometime.

There have been several developments since the 1970s, when there was scarcely any genre publishing in Canada except for children's literature and Harlequin romances. Robert Runté, an editor of my acquaintance, encountered a widespread belief that there simply were no Canadian SF or fantasy writers, which we disproved with a little effort. Today, there are a variety of Canadian SF periodicals and book publishers.

It appears that the first regular SF or fantasy periodicals – and publishers – were established in the 1970s by French-speaking writers in Quebec, perhaps inspired by the second Worldcon in Toronto in 1972 [check]. A gentleman named Luc Pomerleau wrote about this, in a fanzine article (*New Canadian Fandom* #7, April 1985). Some of the names to look for are *Solaris* magazine, Elisabeth Vonarburg, René Beaulieu, Luc Pomerleau, Daniel Sernine, the late Joel Champetier, Claude Janelle, and Charles Montpetit. My impression, such as it is, is that genre publishers and imprints in Quebec were modeled on existing academic literary gazettes, supported by arts council grants. I can stand to be corrected about that.

English-speaking Canadians began promoting Canadian SF with an annual award in the early 1980s – predictably, for fiction written by Canadians but published in the U.S.A. or in Britain – but they were rather oblivious about the French-language scene. Presently, some small-circulation Canadian SF periodicals and book publishers appeared. Eventually, a national writers' association was founded, now known as SF Canada ([www.sfcanda.org](http://www.sfcanda.org)). Their website lists about a score of domestic markets; I think their list requires checking and updating, but that's just my opinion. Some of the names to look for include *AE: The Science Fiction Review*, *Neo-Opis SF Magazine*, *On Spec*, *Polar Borealis*, and *Third Person Press*. *Neo-Opis* is now an online periodical, I am informed. *Polar Borealis* is distinguished by seeking out previously unpublished Canadian writers, being financed out of the editor's own pocket, and being distributed freely.

This year's North American Science Fiction Convention (July 20-23) will be held in Winnipeg. From the outset its publicity has emphasized aboriginal, First Nations writers and publications. This makes every kind of sense, when you realize the visibility of not only French-language, but Métis and other aboriginal groups in Manitoba.

*Jean-Paul Paul L. Garnier, Space Cowboy Books, March 17, 2023*

Thanks for your response! I am interested in all things fandom, traditional publishing, but even more so in new writers and independent presses and zines. It is incredible how many new venues have popped up and are doing amazing work, and I particularly appreciate that today SFF is truly a world conversation. As mentioned, I'm not very familiar with what's going on in Canada, but I have been impressed with *Hexagon Magazine*, and for a while I wrote for *Warp Speed Odyssey*, the latter now sadly defunct, was a Canadian SF online fanzine.

The rising podcast scene is also very interesting. There are so many out there now, both fancast and audio fiction, that it can be hard to keep up with. Personally, I got into doing it because I have always loved the old radio dramas, and wanted to create something like *Mind Webs*, which is my favorite program from the 1970s. If you ever have any questions about what's going on in podcasting I would be happy to attempt to help.

And thanks for all of the info on Canadian writers! My primary experience is with Canadian speculative poets, as I am the editor of the SFPA's *Star\*Line* magazine, and many of our members are Canadian. I hope to go to Winnipeg this year, but I'm not sure if I am going to be able to pull it off.

I'm looking forward to future issues of *The Obdurate Eye*!

P.S. You may also be interested in my fancast channel, it features many interviews and readings with contemporary SFF authors. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyQwqKhUuhW\\_s9lDtXnKmsA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyQwqKhUuhW_s9lDtXnKmsA)

[My LoC to FanActivity Gazette #2:10](#), March 2023, c/o George Phillies, [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net), 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 10609, U.S.A.

Thank you for this issue of *FanActivity Gazette*. I wasn't sure there were any comment hooks, until I came across the list of upcoming conventions. I think I should share my list of Pacific Northwest conventions with Mindy Hunt.

I have taken the liberty of reproducing the FANAC.org announcement in my next issue of *The Obdurate Eye*. They did send it to me in a separate email, and I think some readers will be intrigued that someone is doing their kind of work.

The short bio of Marty Cantor was interesting. I realized he had published quite a lot, especially with Robbie Bourget, but not quite *how* much.

[My LoC to Origins #61](#), March 2023, John Thiel, Bureau Chief, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904, U.S.A. email [kinethiel@mymetronet.org](mailto:kinethiel@mymetronet.org)

Thank you for this issue of *Origins*. You may be interested to know that I am working on a volume of Canadian fanhistory, if you weren't aware.

The inconclusive article by Judy Carroll describes one kind of nonstandard behaviour; we have a wide range of citizens with nonstandard behaviours, and in fandom – as, I suspect, in many other leisure interest groups – we have at least our share of nonstandard members. It would be a good thing if fandom were the kind of environment that helps neurodivergents mimic adequate social skills. But I guess one really has to do it himself.

Your final comments about the social bias against SF fans struck me as ... may I say quaint? After the rise of *Star Trek*, and *Star Wars*, and the films and TV series that followed, screen-format sci-fi has become almost a mainstream form of entertainment. The media fandoms that instantly formed have also become a standard fixture of popular culture. Didn't the social bias against SF fans disappear after the 1960s? Or have I been living in a sheltered backwater?

My LoC to BCSFAzine #551, March 2023, editor R. Graeme Cameron at [the.graeme.bcsfazine@gmail.com](mailto:the.graeme.bcsfazine@gmail.com)

Congratulations on reviving *BCSFAzine*! I hope and trust that you will continue to receive as much varied, interesting material as you have in this issue.

I also hope and trust that when the VCON trademark is renewed, it will be in the name of WCSFA (perhaps “doing business as BCSFA”).

Your feature about the 1950s UFO club in Vancouver came as a surprise. Should I include it in the fanhistory, do you think? Seems just a bit outside fandom *per se*.

You wrote:

*I would argue it is not necessary to know everything or define everything at once before fen begin developing the collegiality you speak of. ...*

\*Sigh\* Did I say “everything”? No, I said “all the information that they can get.” If I can't gather everything, I hardly expect anyone else to, either. Of course, I expect WCSFA to take gradual steps. Obviously.

You wrote:

*Another way of putting it, WCSFA and VCON's fate doesn't depend at all on developing contacts with fandom at large.*

Did I say, “fandom at large”? I don't think so. Granted, when I give people information, I tend to err on the side of including everything – so they can *select* what they need or want. Obviously.

You wrote:

*Being a fan historian, your “Olympian” viewpoint assessing fandom overall, in practical terms, wasn’t all that practical when it came to local planning. Back then your perspective was skewed away from what was needful.*

I’m adrift: what are you talking about? At that point in my LoC, I was talking about BCSFA’s relations with other fandoms in town, and VCON’s reputation with other conventions, or potential attraction to congoers out of town. Obviously.

(Yes, I know about 90% of the fans attending a convention come from the local area – say, within a radius of 160 kilometres – but there are still some congoers who go out of town, or out of their province/state. Which is why I sent you the convention calendar I did.)

I should be sending you more CUFF information as it develops. Feel free to reprint any news you care to from *The Obdurate Eye*.

[My LoC to The National Fantasy Fan #82:3](#), March 2023, editors George Phillies, [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net); Jon Swartz, [jon\\_swartz@hotmail.com](mailto:jon_swartz@hotmail.com)

Thank you for this issue of *The National Fantasy Fan*.

Would you care for a short news item about the upcoming NASFiC in Winnipeg? Or the upcoming Aurora Awards in Canada, or the revived Canadian Unity Fan Fund? (It may be easiest for you to report the news in my personalzines from the last few months, or from the revived *BCSFazine*.)

The first subject that interested me was the Art Bureau Report – I am on the lookout for new art for my personalzine. (In this connection I have to confess, I have to catch up on indexing a lot of the fanart I have already used. I should know what not to use again [and what back issues I may have neglected to send to contributors!].)

Otherwise, I was particularly interested by the report on the “Two Thousand Plus” SF radio series, and by the announcement of this year’s N3F Amateur Short Story Contest. I ask myself how many radio series, or online equivalents, SF fans may be producing nowadays?

Would you permit me to reproduce your short story contest form in my next personalzine? I would be happy to do so.

[My LoC to Spartacus #64](#), March 2023, from Guy Lillian III, 1390 Holly Avenue, Merritt Island FL 32952, [GHLIII@yahoo.com](mailto:GHLIII@yahoo.com)

Thank you for Spartacus #64!

I can’t comment on your remarks about the Oscar awards. Since I lost regular access to television, I have found myself more detached than ever from popular

culture. In fact, I find myself channeling my radical socialist father's outlook. Let me spare you the resulting fulminations.

Great to hear that Greg Benford is lucid and recovering after his stroke!

Sad to read that *Portable Storage* is going out of publication after its latest issue. And I hadn't gotten to trade with the editor yet. Waaah.

The more I hear about the conflicts besetting American politics, or the interpersonal politics besetting fan communities ... and the more I look back on the fanhistorical materials I have collected ... the more I think we could profitably hold boffer fights at conventions, organized between different fannish cliques or political factions. Maybe this could even be a fundraiser for charity, or for fan funds, or for the mythical Home for Indignant Cats. Just a thought to kick around.

Interesting to read about the adventures of Lloyd Penney and the *Amazing*, well, website. I guess electronic rather than paper publishing is the Wave of the Future.

Also interesting to read his opinions about future conventions – my correspondent R. Graeme Cameron found hotels were increasingly unaffordable and demanding venues here in Vancouver, before he moved away. More and more, I suspect, municipal fan groups will have to hold reduced events in community centres and ethnic meeting halls, unless they organize to hold Westercons and Worldcons.

Just one parting thought – why is the Roman soldier in your closing illo *left-handed*?

My LoC to MT Void #2265-67, Co-Editors: Mark Leeper, [mleeper@optonline.net](mailto:mleeper@optonline.net) & Evelyn Leeper, [eleeper@optonline.net](mailto:eleeper@optonline.net), Sending Address: [evelynchimisleep@gmail.com](mailto:evelynchimisleep@gmail.com)

I have a very difficult time finding things to comment on in MT Void, so instead I'm going to pull a comment out of left field: do fans in your area produce any audio or video parodies of science fiction? Without thinking too hard I came up with three such parodies from SF groups in Canada – *Dawn of the Living Socks*, *Beavra*, and *Cattlefarm Galactica* – but they all date to the early 1980s.

My Loc to This Here #63, March 2023, 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV 89142, or email [fareynic@gmail.com](mailto:fareynic@gmail.com)

I see much ado about retirement benefits, fandom, TV series, fandom, football, fandom, aches and pains, and fanzines received. Thank you for congratulating

me on the CUFF nomination. Where are the comment hooks? And what's all this about crossword clues? I don't see a crossword anywhere.

[My LoC to Incantations #21](#), March 2023, Rob Jackson, Chinthay, Nightingale, Lane, Hambrook, Chichester, West Sussex PO18, 8UH, U.K. Email [robjackson60@gmail.com](mailto:robjackson60@gmail.com) or [jacksonshambrook@uwclub.net](mailto:jacksonshambrook@uwclub.net).

Thank you for *Incantations* #21! Thank you also for reprinting my GoH speech from Corflu Pangloss; I am flattered!

Your reflections on long-distance running, and compulsory school courses (versus elective ones?), recalled a few things to mind. In over fifty years I have never lost the impression that jocks are all mouth-breathing brutes who would as soon kick you in the nuts as look at you, and organized sports are Evil Sinister Mind Control Plots by American beer manufacturers, but perhaps I'm wrong. In grade school, I thought the range of subjects and activities in a school curriculum are like a coral reef, the compounded result of several generations of fads and fashions in education. Now, I think that the original intent – to make material available to nourish the minds and talents of potential Renaissance Fen – might yet be served, but it takes a lot of luck.

Your genealogical, musicological and geothermal articles were amusing, as was Harry Bell's "The Great Expedition," but I find myself at a loss for words.

Thank you for putting "Vancouver" and "Valhalla" in the same title. I'm not surprised you flew directly to Corflu Pangloss, actually, rather than taking a rail tour across Canada – I was shocked to discover recently that one has to book a Via Rail excursion \*a good half-year in advance\*. Passenger rail service is simply not well supported in Canada, at least not in my corner.

I'm also not surprised you found a nice IPA at the Park Pub. Over the last generation, at least, a host of artisan microbreweries have popped up in Vancouver, and in other parts of the Pacific Northwest.

You have my sympathies on trekking around Vancouver, looking for a map and looking for a print and copy shop, only to find each of them nearly where you started. I, too, have also had similar experiences, as well.

Coral Clarke's "The Psychology of Room Parties" was illuminating; I had no idea anyone anywhere kept their room parties a secret, but apparently that was her experience. (My experience, until hotels got really shirty about people distributing liquor without paying the hotels to dispense it, was that people posted signs about convention hotels to advertise their parties.) I must be more obtuse than I thought, or I would have recognized the Standard Fannish Types Ms. Clarke described.

I enjoyed your article “Can Moon Rocks Cure Cancer?” Can’t say much in response, except that I was absorbed in following your informed train of thought.

“On the Wheels of Night” by Taral Wayne was another informed train of thought, but I didn’t follow it as well – guess I’m not an automotive fan.

“Explicator redux” was entertaining, mainly because it recalls the skipping from subject to subject that actually occurs in conversation. At least conversation as local fans do it. (I say nothing of how “entertaining” this form of vocalization is, in the context of a meeting ...)

[My LoC to Vanamonde](#), John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St., No. 409, Los Angeles, CA 90057, U.S.A.

Thank you for issues #1520 to #1529 of your apazine! I should be including my latest personalzine with this letter – I apologize for being tardy about it.

It took me a while to find some comment hooks, though. You wrote rather a lot about convention features, especially those to do with Chicon. I agree that features such as Erwin Strauss’ Voodoo Boards and freebie arrangements may still be functional, despite the fact that they haven’t been widely emulated.

After our experiences in the Pacific Northwest over the last two decades, especially in Vancouver, former BCSFAns find it hard to hold conventions *at all*. Maybe the high cost and expensive demands of hotels in Vancouver are unusual – or, maybe, other convention committees have to point out solutions that we somehow missed? Maybe we need people familiar with the hotel industry as it now operates ... or a plan involving Kickstarter to raise funds, and a list of ethnic meeting halls and community centres for venues.

Re your comment to Joe Zeff in no. 1528 about the Cold War “space race” – “How far ahead we were from what we could ordinarily do is shown by the long pause that followed” – I suspect that the lack of follow-up after the first landings on the Moon resulted from senators and congressmen thinking the goal had been achieved, the enterprise *was* merely a race for relative national prestige, and in any case there were economic downturns that revised their federal budget priorities. I also suspect that once the defensive concerns of the U.S. and its allies were met by surveillance satellites, no one saw much more reason for space-oriented enterprises. No one who controlled the funding, anyway.

*We Also Heard From: Kathy Sidles, Jerry Kaufman, Perry Middlemiss, Nic Farey, Fran Skene, John Bartley, Cathy Palmer-Lister, Lyn McConchie, R. Graeme Cameron, Robert Runté*



## **2023 N3F AMATEUR SHORT STORY CONTEST**

### **Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank**

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

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

8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com). Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable.

All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2023.

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

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

11. The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2024. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered if they did not win previously. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2023. Good luck!

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

Title of story (for identification): \_\_\_\_\_

Author's name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

Author's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the above rules for the 2023 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

# 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 or have you 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](mailto:garth.van.spencer@gmail.com) and you're in.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I can also answer any questions about EAPA, to [ahrvid@hotmail.com](mailto:ahrvid@hotmail.com) - don't be a rövhål, join EAPA!**