

The Obdurate Eye #38

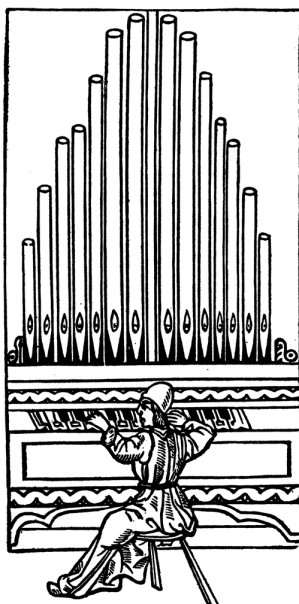


They came, they saw, they did a little shopping

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THE OBDURATE EYE #38, April 2024, 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, səliłwətał, and skwxwú7mesh peoples.



The organ of no clique or party

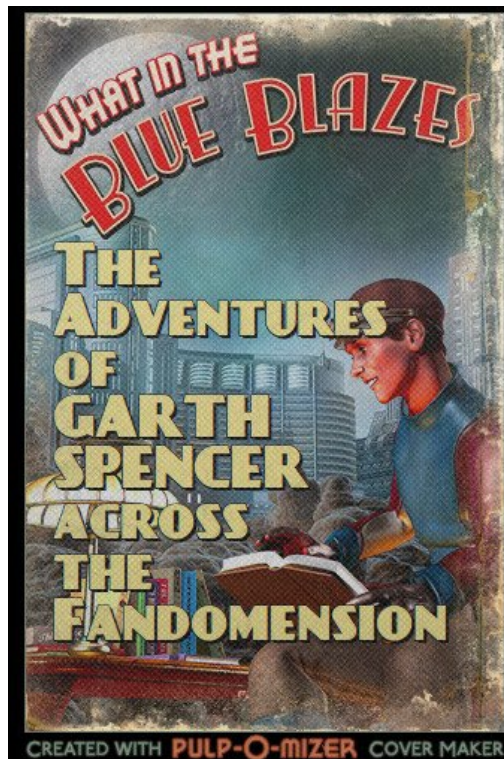
Art Credits

Jose Sanchez, “Miami Bayside Incident”	cover
Garth Spencer, via Pulp-o-Mizer	p. 1
Jose Sanchez	p. 3, 16
Clipart from Facebook, “Pick your battles”	p. 13

Thing Wobbitz Fooby Sork Vlib!

April Fool's Day seems to be dying out as a popular expression of individual creativity. Maybe we should start making up fake runestones, and planting them in different touristy places just before April 1st. It's a bit late to do it this year, of course. And maybe we can't get anyone with the get-up-and-go to do stuff like this anymore. Must be something in the water. I blame the Belgians.

§



“Across the Fandomension with Garth Spencer”: I got tired of waiting for the local Freenet to reactivate my old account, and created a new one. I left a message for the webteam to contact me and give me a quote on teaching me to build a new website, or designing it and formatting the content themselves. I am prepared to do so myself; but I learned HTML in the 1990s, and presumably I could do a better-organized, more attractive job with today's tools.

There once was a general website for Pacific Northwest fannish news and resources, erected by a fan in Seattle, but this became a cobwebsite in the 2010s, progressively more out of date as the pages events and conventions were not maintained. This taught me two things: a website is more like a periodical than a book – it has to be regularly updated; and a website is an ongoing activity – over a certain age, people have less energy and attention to spare. In summary, it requires you Have Enough Spoons. Like everything else.

§

Some of my comments in the latest Stipple-Apa mailing:

I have been somewhat intimidated by getting critiqued every other Thursday night. Clearly I have to outline stories, from the ending first and working backward, instead of writing “by the seat of my pants.” Clearly I also have to research stories better than I have bothered to do.

It is also clear I have to examine every scene critically, for adequate scene-setting, character description, character motivations, story logic and advancement, and absolutely the minimum of infodump. People keep saying “white room syndrome” in response to my story fragments. Maybe I have to re-examine why I think of writing fiction. Do I mainly want to have fun, especially showing jaded fannish fans facing raving heroes and villains alike, walking stereotypes from SF, fantasy or comic books, and putting them down with a couple of dry words? Or do I seriously intend to write publishable fiction?

... I have been thinking about stories based on mental prosthetics – e.g., something to supply the capacity for speech to people who suffered damage to their speech centres, or something to supply autists with the capacity to notice and understand body language, the implications of speech and behaviour and events, and other people’s minds. Comments?

§

I’m beginning to wonder whether the Canadian Unity Fan Fund is a dead duck. Or maybe I just have to rebuild the fund this year, and try again (this fall and winter) to find a Canadian convention interested in hosting a CUFF delegate.

fair comment, I should suggest some original SF ideas that may actually work as fiction—and like you, I have a feeling I reinvent previously-used ideas.

1 - One notion—not original with me—is that as the world becomes generally warmer, climate zones will tend to move towards the poles, and that means settlement in Canada need not be crammed up against the southern border, as it is in most provinces. A gentleman named Michael McKenny already wrote in my fanzine about his ideas for establishing cities in the latitudes between the extreme south and north of Canada, with economies based on nearby resources (largely mineral resources).

My ‘original’ take on this is that there are several spin-off benefits to establishing **modern** railway systems to such settlements. One of my housemates is a First Nations gentleman, who takes care of a friend who (regularly) *flies* down from Bella Coola to Vancouver for medical treatments. In the next month she will have to fly down to Vancouver ... in order to fly to another city, Kamloops or Calgary or some other heathen place.

The Canadian division of Greyhound recently went out of business. Passenger rail service in Canada, as I think we all know by now, has all but disappeared. It appears that intercity highways, and railways generally, badly need maintenance, to say nothing of upgrading. Meanwhile, Canadian medical services are put to the expense of providing airplane transportation to provide medical care for northern residents. Is it possible that establishing modern, electric rail lines would be a cost saving?

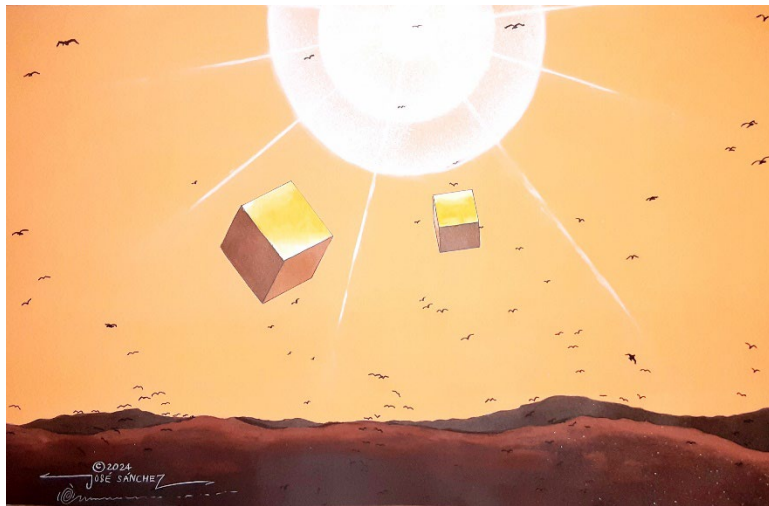
2 – If climate change is liable to lead to a slow, but inexorable climb in sea level, what are we doing about toxic waste dumps in lowlands we can expect will be flooded? Will states and provinces inland be forced to accept toxic waste moved from Florida, New Jersey, the shorelines of the Maritimes and California and British Columbia? (Richmond and Delta, just two of the municipalities in the Lower Mainland where I live, are at sea level now.) Who pays for this, the electoral districts that can expect to be marshes and swamps in the next

century? Why would North Americans or Europeans clean up after themselves, if states such as Nigeria can't be bothered? (Hint: Nigeria is the largest oil exporter in Africa, and notorious for crude oil pollution.)

3 – if we're running out of easily-mined energy and mineral resources on Earth, how will we incentivize the exploitation of resources in near space? What legal frameworks have to be established so that orbital solar power collectors can be launched and maintained at a profit, and speculators can stake claims on asteroids that approach the Earth-Moon system? (Hint: there are alternatives to launching rockets, such as laser launch systems.)

4 – Is the race to exploit Antarctica already on? When can we expect the first national colony – or city – to be established there?

5 – We keep hearing increasingly about people with serious ADHD, dyslexia, or autism-range conditions. We have already seen a lot of prosthetic technology developed for the deaf, the blind, the people who lost limbs. Can we expect the development of *mental* prostheses for cognitive deficits, whether they be pharmaceutical, therapeutic programs, or surgical implants? Will psychopathy and sociopathy become treatable, and will treatment become compulsory?



A Day that Shall Live in Euphony

Perry Middlemiss, March 11, 2024

The issue of what fans should/could do with their fanzines after they have shuffled off this mortal coil is vexing me at present as well. Not from my perspective - I'm working on getting rid of my paper copies - but more about what to do with the belongings of other fans in Melbourne. There appear to be few of the older fans who have made any major decisions in this regard. I do note that the fanzine collection of John Foyster is now at Monash University, that of Leigh Edmonds in a university in Western Australia and a few others have been catered for. But it seems more and more fans are just leaving things to someone else. And, given the dire financial circumstances of a lot of them, that basically means that those of us left behind have to scramble quickly to retrieve the material before the late fan's relatives toss it in a skip.

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Luckily Melbourne fan Irwin Hirsh is trying to make arrangements for his own collection and others of us are attempting to join in with him. The big problem is that the good stuff needs to be scanned where possible before deposit. And that seems to take about as long as it does to put out a new issue of a fanzine, or at least part of one. Hopefully we can make some headway in the next few months. And hopefully you find a solution to your problems as well.

Richard Lynch, March 25, 2024

Interesting issue, as always. Good to hear that a new issue of the *Blue Moon Directory* is in the works. I've sent you, in a separate email, some info about the one apa that I'm a member of.

((Thank you!))

Other than that...wow, you're asking some questions that border on the existential in this issue. For instance: *"How much about employment and income do we have to know, as average adults, or how much should we leave up to specialists?"* For me the answer has become "Next to nothing," since I've been retired for more than two years. Income is what pension and Social Security provides, for the most part, and that has proven to be enough.

((I am entering that status now.))

Another of your questions, however, is much more relevant: *"How much about budgeting and bookkeeping and tax return preparation do we have to know, as average adults, or how much should we leave up to specialists?"* If we include TurboTax as a tax preparation specialist, my answer is "rely on the specialist." I used to handle tax preparation myself, but after a near-egregious error I caught that would have been very costly, I don't do that anymore. But that still doesn't mean that tax prep can seem the equivalent of dark magic at times. It'll never make a list of my favorite things to do.

((Rumour has it that United States tax returns are less than straightforward. I have trouble enough with Canadian tax returns.))

And concerning day-to-day living and its occasional problems, you ask: *"How much about repairing and maintaining appliances do we have to know, as average adults, or how much should we leave up to specialists?"* This, to me, seems kind of a trick question, because even though I am capable of doing a wide variety of household repairs, it doesn't necessarily mean that I *should* be doing them. There are some repairs that, if done incorrectly, will leave things in worse shape than what they were to begin with. So I always rely on experts, except for the simplest of tasks. (Nicki won't even let me go up on the roof anymore to clean out the gutters each autumn.)

((Yes, I can appreciate that ignorance of building codes—or health and safety precautions—is no defense against municipal litigation, or a life-threatening accident.))

I'll be looking forward to seeing what other people tell you about themselves with their answers. Thanks for the good read.

((Well, gosh! Thank you!))

Lloyd Penney, March 30, 2024

I have a job with a communication company in east-end Toronto, proofing one paper magazines [sic], and two e-magazines, and that takes one day a week. It seems to be all the work I can find. The resumes keep streaming out. I am two months away from turning 65, but I will still keep applying. I usually get money back on my tax return, but I am one of the unfortunates who didn't really qualify for the CERB/CRB because I was too poor to qualify (figure that one out), so I must pay it back. They seized my refund to pay off my CERB/CRB debt last year, and I expect them to do the same this year.

((I confess I stopped temping and started working as a part-time freelance secretary, directly, for a few clients. I'm not wealthy but I'm getting by, even paying down my credit card, and learning the hard way not to lend money.))

We paid out \$10 each, and we nominated for the Auroras. Now to see what the final ballot says. I finished tied for 4th with the FAAn Awards, which is where I usually finish in the voting these days.

A universal translator has always been a good idea. I would propose that one be constructed for all to use during political campaigns so we can figure out just what the politicians are really saying. It would make it so much easier to know who to vote for.

("Q: How do you know a politician is lying? A: When his lips move." These days I am thinking less about universal translators and more about mental prostheses, for people who obviously lack certain essential cognitive abilities, like people who wear suits.))

My letter... I am trying my best to assemble all of those local fans who would like to see a revival/reunion of Ad Astra. When I see how expensive hotel rack rates, fast food, or even a case of 24 sodas has gotten, I must wonder, but I am hopeful, and even if it's just a nice con suite and not much more, I think we will all appreciate the effort.

((I hope and trust you get better feedback than I am getting. I now wonder if my Master Plan to renew fannish fandom was a non-starter when I proposed it. Or if I'm just the wrong person at the wrong time? Or somebody else has a practical idea?))

Zine libraries...I was hoping to see if York University might be interested in fanzines, but as of right now, I can't really tell, and I can't find the name of the head of Special Collections there. I did look up the Toronto Zine Library, but between Murray and myself, I suspect we could double their holdings. I find that groups who like zines don't usually like SF zines, or the people who create them.

((De gustibus non disputandum.))

We also heard from: George Phillies, Dara Korra'ti, Hugh Spencer

Go Placidly Amid the Noise and Haste

A Modest Proposal:

Paul Bushell (I think) suggested to me that a fan-run minicon, circulating among Canadian fan communities, might be a solution to the obstacle facing the Canadian Unity Fan Fund. I think it's the best idea that's come along.

How does everyone else feel?

CANADIAN UNITY FAN FUND

I wrote again to the conventions in Canada that might host another CUFF delegate, although it was alarming that I got nearly no response from the first batch of letters I sent out. Maybe I didn't have the right emails and addresses?

I will spend 2024 rebuilding the Fund, and once I find a hosting convention for 2025, schedule nomination and voting periods for the next CUFF delegate.

(Garth Spencer, Mar. 1, 2024)

Aurora Awards Voting and Ceremony Dates:

"These are the best guess dates for CSFFA in 2024. They include dates for the awards, our AGM, and our grants. If situations call for it, we will make changes to the dates to accommodate unforeseen circumstances.

"NOTE: All memberships to CSFFA must have been purchased one week prior to the close of voting for the awards.

"May 4 – Voters' package available to download (expected date)

"May 18 – CSFFA AGM online voting open

"May 30 – CSFFA AGM online voting close

"June 1 – CSFFA AGM online, Development grants (Part 2) open

"June 8 – Aurora Awards voting opens

"July 6 – Membership payments close, Voters' package download closes

"July 13 – Aurora Awards voting closes

"August 11 – Aurora Awards ceremony (online) – Note: This year it's on the Sunday

"August 31 – Development grants (Part 2) close"

(Cliff Samuels, csffa.ca)

Since the nominations period has now closed, this is a good time to consider who to vote for in the categories of:

Best Novel

Best YA Novel
Best Novelette/Novella
Best Short Story
Best Graphic Novel/Comic
Best Poem/Song
Best Related Work
Best Cover Art/Interior Illustrations
Best Fan Writing/Publication
Best Fan Related Work

R. Graeme Cameron writes:

“If you are a CSFFA member (if you aren't, anyone can join for just \$10.00 CAD; Only criterion, you must be Canadian) go to “<https://www.csffa.ca> and place your nominations.

“It's fun, I tell you. Loads of fun!”

(R. Graeme Cameron, Mar. 5, 2024)

***Worlds of IF* lives again!!!**

“After 38 years the legendary *Worlds of IF* magazine is back! With stunning cover art by Bob Eggleton, issue #177 brings a multigenerational cast of writers, poets, and artists together to celebrate the past, present, and future of science fiction.

“This issue features stories, poetry, and art by Renan Bernardo, David Brin, Michael Butterworth, Tara Campbell, Kwame Cavil, A. J. Dalton, Tatiana Daubek, Bob Eggleton, Zdravka Evtimova, Richard Grieco, Akua Lezli Hope, Pedro Iniguez, Ai Jiang, Leslie Kean, Rodney Matthews, Bruce Pennington, Charles Platt, Daniel Pomarède, Paulo Sayeg, Robert Silverberg, Andrew Stewart, Nigel Suckling, and Dave Vescio. Download the digital version for free at

<https://worldsofifmagazine.com/>

Or get a copy of the print version at

<https://bookshop.org/a/197/9798988634218>”

(Jean-Paul Garnier, Feb. 2024)

They're At It Again:

Seattle will host Worldcon in 2025. Be warned. See <https://seattlein2025.org>.

Montréal is bidding to hold Worldcon in 2027; See <https://bid.montreal2027.ca/>.

(*Alexiad* #133, Feb. 2024)

THE NEW BLUE MOON DIRECTORY

Heath Row in Los Angeles, and I in Vancouver, recently started updating a list of current Amateur Publishing Associations. The last formal list, *The Blue Moon Directory*, was last published in 2009. I have sporadically tried to create my own list, with sporads between 2018 and 2023. We have been combining and cross-checking our lists. Heath writes:

“It has been 15 years since the previous edition of *Blue Moon Special*, and Garth Spencer and I are collaborating to update it for publication later this year.

“Garth has been reaching out to amateur press associations that we know are still active, and I am emailing this query to people who previously contributed to the project. We'll combine efforts to issue a 2024 directory of active apae to carry on the tradition of *South of the Moon* and *New Moon Directory*.

“If you're currently active in an apa, feel free to fill out [this form](http://tinyurl.com/apa-list) -- <http://tinyurl.com/apa-list> -- or forward this email to the official editor, official collator, central mailer, or other such person. We also encourage you to share it with other apae of which you're aware.

“We're interested in fannish and mundane apae alike, so any apae are fair game.

“If you have any questions, please reach out to us.”

(Heath Row, email, February 27, 2024)

2024 FAAn AWARD RESULTS

“The results of the 2024 FAAn awards (fanzine fandom awards) were announced at Corflu 41 (fanzine fandom convention) on the weekend. 49 ballots were received.

“I'm just going to list the winner in each category, as well as the votes received by any Canadians in that category.

“BEST GENZINE

“Winner: *SF Commentary*, by Bruce Gillespie - 33 votes

“Canadians:

“*Warp*, by Danny Sichel - 3 votes.

“*BCSFazine*, by R. Graeme Cameron - 1 vote

“BEST PERZINE

“Winner: *This Here...*, by Nic Farey - 35 votes

“Canadians:

“*Obdurate Eye*, by Garth Spencer - 7 votes

“*Dark Toys*, by Taral Wayne - 6 votes

“*Opuntia*, by Dale Speirs - 5 votes

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“BEST ONE-SHOT

“Winner: *Beyond Fandom: Fans, Culture and Politics in the 20th Century*, by Rob Hansen - 27 votes

“Canadians: None

“BEST FAN WRITER

“Winner: Mark Plummer - 15 votes

“Canadians:

“Taral Wayne - 3 votes

“Garth Spencer - 2 votes

“Dale Speirs - 2 votes

“BEST FAN ARTIST

“Winner: Ulrika O'Brien - 15 votes

“Canadians:

“Taral Wayne - 13 votes

“BEST LETTERHACK

“Winner: Jerry Kaufman - 22 votes

“Canadians:

“Lloyd Penney - 9 votes

“Garth Spencer - 3 votes

“Taral Wayne - 2 votes

“Andrew C. Murdoch - 1 vote

“BEST COVER ARTIST

“Winner: *Idea #13*, by Sue Mason - 17 votes

“Canadians:

“*Dark Toys #74*, by Taral Wayne - 4 votes

“*Dark Toys #75* , by Taral Wayne - 3 votes

“*Dark Toys #76* , by Taral Wayne - 3 votes

“*The Obdurate Eye #26* (Canadian), by Denny Marshall (non-Canadian) - 1 vote

“LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

“Winners: Joe Siclari & Edie Stern

“Canadians: None

“The FAAn Awards are to fanzine fandom what the Hugos are to regular fandom and the Aurora Awards are to Canadian Fandom.

"I think you can tell by the numbers that fanzine fandom has dwindled to a tiny niche fandom and that Canadian fanzine fandom is an even tinier subset within the tiny niche.

"Still, kudos to those who keep the old fires burning."

"(R. Graeme Cameron, Mar. 4, 2024)

New Book Release:

"On behalf of Fossil Cove Press, we are proud to announce that Scott Ellis's brilliant and award winning collection of short stories, *BENNY THE ANTICHRIST* has been accepted by and uploaded to IngramSpark Printers. IngramSpark is a book publisher and distributor that markets to over 40,000 Bookstores in North America, Europe and Worldwide.

"We are thrilled with this development, and happy to be able to expand and increase the potential audience for Scott's work. Scott is one of the most gifted short story writers working in speculative fiction, his work is alternately hilarious, insightful and poignant, magical treatises on the human condition, and wacky good ripping yarns.

"*BENNY THE ANTICHRIST* features some of Scott's best work, including:

"'Benny the Antichrist' - He's the arch-arch-villain, the most made guy in this universe or any other. And he's looking to make a career change...

"'The Reason of Sleep' - How do you make your way in a world ruled by those who never sleep and those who live in dreams?

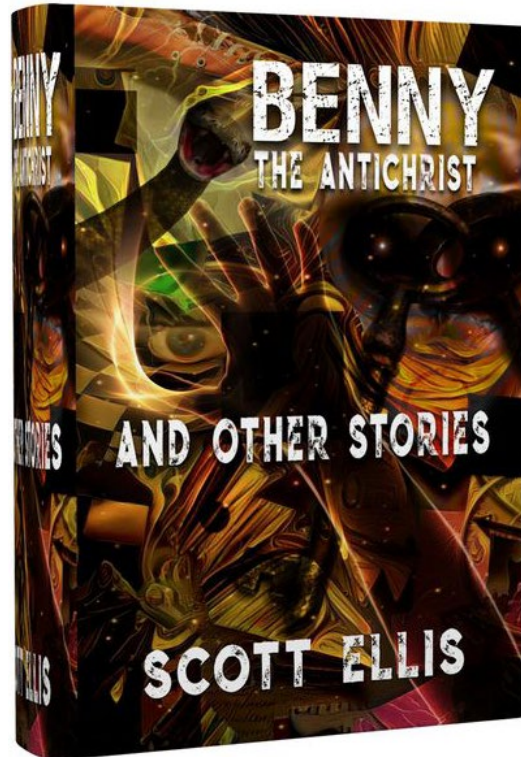
"'Fae-Dar' - There's this bar, see, full of gods, trolls, pixies and every other being out of myth and legend. And in walks an accountant...

"'In the Shaft' - two guys getting high and playing b-ball in a skyscraper elevator shaft, what could go wrong?

"'Saccade' - He's under no illusions. That's his problem.

"'Magic Phone': a lyrical conversation about guns, long distance and neutrinos

"'The Deep Crew': who handles the psychic garbage of an entire city? A special kind of sanitation worker."



(Den Valdron, Facebook, April 2024)

From the Land of Talossa (Ministry of Stuff)

- **Update of the "Qet Paſa or What's Happening in Talossa ?"** For the benefit of the new citizens, MinStuff has started to update all activities listed in this useful pages, and signal items which are not active anymore. Many ideas to bring back to life! [Wittenberg thread](#)
- **Creation of the Kingdom of Talossa on LinkedIn** MinSTUFF, in association with MinImm, has launched the creation of The Kingdom of Talossa on LinkedIn. Since the start, our network has tripled in size ! Come and join the expansion of this new media which will allow us to grow and shine, and create the attractiveness which will boost motivated immigration [Wittenberg thread](#)
[LinkedIn page](#)

Culture News

- **2023 Talossan Music Top 20 Results** A nice discord session for the announcement of the most awaited-for election ! The Rolling Stones/Gimme Shelter made it this year again, but we all noticed the smashing performance from Pink Floyd / Wish you were here, which ranked #2 for its first participation [TMT20 2023 results](#)
- **6th annual Spaghetti Western Weekend** A newer annual tradition among the Cjovani. The first annual SWW was held in 2017, and has proved popular enough to be celebrated ever since. If you don't know what to watch during this week-end, contact [@Iason Taiwos !](#)

(La C'hronicā Oct-Nov 23)

THE OBDURATE EYE
WILL NOW ACCEPT ADVERTISING
FROM UPCOMING CONVENTIONS
AND FAN-ORGANIZED EVENTS

Contact Garth Spencer at garth.van.spencer@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 now, or have you ever been a member of a columnist organization? _____
13. Do you know the way to San Jose? _____
14. But if you don't like crottled greeps, what did you order them for? _____
15. Are you still there? _____
16. Hello? _____
17. Fine! Let's finish this! _____
18. Considering that we are all made of tiny atoms, which combine into molecular structures, which in even more complex combinations make up our fragile bodies, that give us only a fraction of time on this Earth, which swirls around the Sun, in its turn making an orbit around the Galactic Centre every 230 million years, everything under the contradictory natural laws which we may never fully grasp, all of it seemingly gobsmackingly incomprehensible, what is the meaning of life?

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



Setting the Cat among the Pigeons

THIS WILL OFFEND SOME PEOPLE

(By Den Valdron)

But I have said it, and I think it bears repeating.

We live in a world of excuses and avoidance. A world where responsibility is something to put on someone else.

I don't accept this.

Everyone has to accept responsibility for their acts. It is not sufficient to say that October 7 happened and therefore Israel is justified in genocide. It is not sufficient to argue that what is happening in Gaza is not genocide. It is not sufficient to argue that Ethnic Cleansing is not genocide.

Hamas did a terrible thing on October 7. They need to own that. They can blame Israel for all kinds of things, but at the end of the day, they chose to go out and murder a mass of innocent people.

They were monstrous.

Israel is currently murdering a mass of innocent people, well over 30,000 and counting. Everything in the discussion is an evasion of that truth, and mostly, a dishonest evasion. All the claims, the excuses, the justifications, it all just evades the reality of mass murder.

This is monstrous.

No one likes to consider themselves a monster. But when people invent lies and excuses and evasions, to justify their monstrosity, that's simply what they are. The only escape from monstrosity is to acknowledge and own your acts. That's the only path to redemption. If you live in lies, you can never escape.

I acknowledge Israel's right to exist. I have no problem with that.

I don't acknowledge Israel's right to commit genocide.

I approve of Israel's quest to build a nation on principles of justice.

I condemn a state built on oppression and apartheid.

Canada built a nation, in part on the disenfranchisement and oppression of its indigenous people. I have spent my life fighting for justice and reconciliation for indigenous people. Canada needs make things right.

Israel has built a state based on theft and oppression, it has built entire mythologies, an empire of lies and evasions and excuses to justify its actions.

It seems that not to accept these lies and excuses wholesale is anti-semitism. It seems that it is anti-semitic to point out that Netanyahu literally excused Hitler from responsibility for the Holocaust in 2015. It seems that it is anti-semitic to point out the obvious reality that Gaza was deliberately engineered to be a prison camp in 2005. Or that Israel has supported Hamas and Netanyahu has lobbied Qatar to fund Hamas, in order to weaken the PLA and obstruct any possibility of peace. Or that the so-called Peace Deal in Oslo wasn't a travesty.

Well.... bull.

Israel is not Judaism. It is not anti-semitic to call out lies, hypocrisy and dishonesty. It is not anti-semitic to call out injustice, or to have an honest historical record, or to challenge blatant racism and propaganda.

Tolerating lies doesn't get us anywhere. It's just game playing.

If I hold the Palestinians accountable for their decisions and actions, then I also have to hold Israel accountable. That seems unpleasant.

If we play tit for tat, with each atrocity becoming the justification or excuse for the next atrocity, then it's just cruelty and monstrosity all the way down.

I'm not really interested in excuses or lies or fantasies. As unpleasant and painful as it is, reality is all we have.

The longer people live in lies, the more monstrous they become.

Israel needs to find a way to reconcile with the Palestinians.

Canada is going through a process of reconciliation with its Indigenous people. It's long, painful and expensive as we struggle with Land Claims, Residential Schools, Truth and Reconciliation.

The United States struggles to this day with its legacy of Jim Crow and segregation.

What's the plan for Israel? To simply oppress Palestinians forever? To maintain them on tinier and tinier reservations as it erodes land, in some perverse apartheid state. To keep 7 million Muslims in its borders, deny any rights to over 5 million and loudly proclaim that they're a Jewish ethnic state despite that reality? To just keep stomping an Israeli boot onto Palestinian faces... forever? To permanently live in a state of existentialist fear and terror, using that to justify endless oppression and systemic cruelty?

What's the plan? To institutionalize cruelty and apartheid, violence and theft, but to have the Palestinians sign off on it? Peace as the Palestinians endorsing their own oppression, so that moral hypocrites can sleep easier at night? And when they don't sign off on their oppression, that's just a justification for more oppression?

How is that any way to live? Ultimately, it's not sustainable. Certainly not in the 21st century.

What's the alternative? Genocide?

Like it or not, Israel is a fact of life. It is not going away. I don't require it to, I don't ask that. But the right to exist is not the right to be monstrous, history is full of monstrous regimes that ended up in the garbage. If Israel insists on its insistence, it needs better principles and better foundations than lies, cruelty and ethnic cleansing. It certainly needs better than apartheid and genocide.

It will sooner or later have to reconcile with Palestinians, because they're not going to cease to exist. Not without genocide. Israel's policy seems to be to ignore them out of existence, to deny them out of existence, to just not want them to be. That's a dangerous path and it's not going to work.

And certainly, Israel has its grievances against Palestinians, including October 7, just as Palestinians have their grievances against Israel. That's what truth and reconciliation is about.

I don't expect that to happen quickly or easily. I don't expect it to be a painless process on either side.

And I don't believe it's impossible. That's just another lie told by people with power about people without power, to justify their oppression.

In 1959, Nikita Krushchev went to the United Nations, banged his shoe on the podium and announced that he would bury the United States and Western Europe. Krushchev at that time was head of the USSR, a nuclear armed state and the most powerful military on Earth. It had a record of genocide, and its weaponry made it capable of instant genocide.

That was an implacable, utterly alien, utterly antithetical enemy, ideologically and politically opposed in every way, a state of surpassing cruelty.

But somehow, we all found a way to coexist, here we are sixty-five years later, not happy, still struggling, but living.

In the end, there is no other road but the struggle for peace through reconciliation.



*“You are committing air traffic violations!
Land immediately and present your license and registration!”*

Frong Baroo; Gnortz?

Space Cowboy’s Accretion #36, Feb. 2024. A small zine covering the monthly activity of the Space Cowboy Bookstore and other things that have occurred in the geek life of author / editor Jean-Paul L. Garnier, 61871 29 Palms Hwy. Joshua Tree, CA 92252 spacecowboybooks@gmail.com

Good to hear of your publications! I will spread the news!

The Stf Amateur, March 2024. A bundlezine published by Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA; kalel@well.com

In responding to Bill Breiding's letter of comment, you say you endeavour to bridge SF and comics fandom, or to balance "Big Tent fandom" with special interests. It occurs to me that you can do that in a more populous centre, such as Los Angeles, but it doesn't appear to happen now in less concentrated places, such as Vancouver (my city). Well, things have changed before, they will change again.

Very clever setting page 19 upside down, very William S. Burroughs.

Your comment on bookstore density (in *Explosion Containment Umbrella* #17) gave me food for thought. To repeat, more or less, what I wrote elsewhere: The fall in bookstore numbers in the U.S. is striking, and the range in bookstore density between cities is stunning. I have no idea where to find statistics relating to Canada. What I can see in Vancouver is that there is still ongoing competition between the major bookstore chains, Indigo/ Chapters and Book Warehouse, versus independent bookstores; but I can see the writing on the wall.

***Tightbeam* #354, March 2024.** N3F 'literary' fanzine. George Phillies
phillies@4liberty.net 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester, MA 01609.

Great landscape cover by Tiffanie Gray!

You do feature a wide range of content – reviews of anime, books, comics, games – as well as featuring short stories and letters of comment. Will you feature news, or discuss SF-related controversies, in upcoming issues?

***Small Steps Down a Local Street* #2, March 2024.** Perry Middlemiss, 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn, Victoria, 3122. E: perry@middlemiss.org

I enjoyed the story about how this collection of fanarticles arose. I also enjoyed the story of Jessie, the neighbour's cat that adopted your household. I am sad that he passed on.

It occurs to me that your stories about the neighbours' renovations, difficulties with building restrictions, and the vagaries of weather are going to be historical anecdotes, painting the impersonal history of this period in more personal hues.

Your stories about electioneering in your district strike a familiar note. Your story about the tramway tracks being relaid sounds even more familiar: we have a major thoroughfare in Vancouver being disrupted, by extending the rapid-transit system in the direction of the University of British Columbia.

***The Visionary*, March 2024.** Newsletter of the Universal Life Church.

***Pixel Dreams* #3**, from Alan White. A celebration of AI art, plus fiction by Phil DePage and Ross Chamberlain.

I very much enjoyed your articles “It’s the Image, Stupid” and your creative “Mimeographic History.” This is the sort of thing that someone should collect for a fanthology! And the illustrations are fantastic throughout; I now appreciate what you see in AI as a creative medium.

MT Void 2318, from Mark Leeper, mleeper@optonline.net and Evelyn Leeper, eleeper@optonline.net

There’s a lot to be said for text-only fanzines and short, pointed reviews of books and screen productions. For one thing, you can express a blunt opinion in a lot fewer kilobytes!

Alexiad 133 Feb. 2024, c/o Lisa & Joseph Major, 1409 Christy Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204-2040 USA, jtmajor@iglou.com, <http://efanzines.com/Alexiad/index.htm>

Condolences on your father’s passing, Lisa.

As always your book reviews are amusing, Joseph. The Tom Derringer steampunk stories sound like a hoot!

I was distracted from the satire in “Not from the Telnarian Histories” by the, overuse, and odd, placement of, commas.

The National Fantasy Fan #83:3, March 2024. Editors, TNFF George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net; Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com Artists Jose A. Sanchez, Angela K. Walker, Alan White, Nathan Warner.

Let’s see, George: this newsletter is from, by, for and about the N3F’s Anime, Art, Birthday Cards, Book Review, Comics, Convention Calendar, Club, Correspondence, Election, Fan-Pro Coordinating, FanZine Review, Film, Franking Service, Games, Gourmet, History and Research, Information Technology, Endeavour and Kaymar Awards Bureaus ... Sure you haven’t forgotten anything? More seriously, I would welcome any input that N3F members cared to make to the fandom resource website I am trying to complete.

Littlebrook #13, February 2024. Jerry Kaufman and Suzanne Tompkins, P.O. Box 25075, Seattle, WA 98165, USA. Our internet address is littlebrooklocs@aol.com.

Wow! A genuine vintage Taral cover illustration!

This issue was very enjoyable, and very instructive, both due to its personal journalism. Eli Cohen’s recollection of the Avocado Pit slanshack teaches me something about making fanhistory entertaining and human. Colin’s quest for cars and Suzle’s continuing writing on the BeeGees are great examples of personal journalism. Maybe I should follow their examples!

Fan Activity Gazette #3:10, March 2024. Editor: Mindy Hunt, e-mail to mindyhunt@scifi4me.com or jphunt@scifi4me.com.

More blood-chilling revelations of the inner circle of the N3F! Ancient wisdom from the misty origins of *The Shadow* radio show and comics! Birthdays, movies coming up, comics, conventions, and other fan events beginning with C! A word that rhymes with orange! And everything.

Perryscope #42, March 2024. Perry Middlemiss, 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn, Victoria, AUSTRALIA 3122. E: perry@middlemiss.org

Should I understand that you have ceased doing the “Two Chairs Talking” podcast?

Your discography of Warren Zevon absorbed me, but I’m not sure what to say about it. I will say it informed my shameful ignorance about the artist. I was also absorbed by Julian Warner’s “Wanderings and Readings” column on Discogs; now I know a better place to find unfindable music!

Martin Field’s article on the “Swiss Army Waiter’s Friend” took me in completely, as I invented a hoax SF group called the Royal Swiss Navy, until he described the built-in breathalyser. Wait, what? As the list of features got steadily more unlikely I realized I was looking at an April Fool’s joke. Good on ya, Martin!

So you participated in putting Leigh Edmond’s Australian fanhistory on YouTube? Well done, Perry.

Your television and film reviews convince me I am even more out of touch than I thought. It is definitely past time I started watching screen entertainment online.

Captain Flashback 64, March 2024. “A fanzine composed for the 453rd distribution of the Turbo-Charged Party-Animal Amateur Press Association, from the joint members 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.”

The “House of Horrors” TV show in Portland (1957-59) sounds interesting, what with the theme-oriented entrances and the show presented entirely in French! The host, Susanne Waldron/Tarantula Ghoul, had a really robust sense of humour if she originated the Cemeterians Party and its campaigns.

Of Making Many Books There Is No End

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