

THE OBDURATE EYE #58

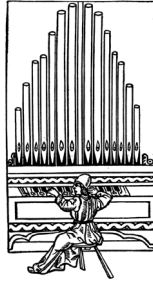
A fanzine from Garth Spencer

January 2026



*The first person you encounter on Mars says:
“Hello. We’ve been trying to contact you about your overdue account ...”*

THE OBDURATE EYE #58, January 2026, a personal zine from Garth Spencer, 6960 Damon Street, Vancouver, BC CANADA V5S 3H7, Email garth.van.spencer@gmail.com or hrothgarweems@gmail.com. Garth acknowledges that he does this on the denounced territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, səliłwətał, and skwxwú7mesh peoples. This zine endorses the Port Alberti in 2030 bid. **(Was that bid for Worldcon or Westercon? I forget)**



The organ of no clique or party

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Thinking Above My Pay Grade

Robert Sawyer recently reported that the major distributor Readerlink is ceasing paperback distribution in North America (see the News section in this fanzine), which reminded me of some relevant things.

Firstly: Frederik Pohl, in his biography *The Way the Future Was*, pointed out how **one** dominant magazine distributor in the U.S. was bought and liquidated – I think this was in the 1950s – with the result that a lot of general-interest American magazines had to go out of circulation. Robert Heinlein may also have commented on this bit of history, partly because many of his short stories first appeared in general-interest magazines in the 1940s and 1950s.

What happens when such outlets for fiction by new writers disappear, or become concentrated to a few major paying markets?

And now, it appears, there was just one major distributor for paperback books in North America, and as of this New Year, it has decided to suspend distributing them.

This sort of event rather resembles the long-running consolidation of industries into a few corporate sources for goods or services. As early as the 1980s, when I began taking notes on the publishing industry – specifically, genre fiction publishers – it was painfully clear the publishing industry was going through a period of consolidation, like a last-man-standing fight. The result looks ... nearly monopolistic. This is not a new thing; Canadian industries have usually tended to be concentrated into a few corporate hands, as Canadians have always known. So it was ironic to see U.S. industries – such as publishing – tending more and more to the same condition as Canadian business.

I think this sort of process resembles what is called a “single-point failure,” in military and engineering analysis.

Secondly: For years people have expressed complaints that the rise of electronic publishing has been reducing the demand for printed books. Only this year, I read about another, far earlier criticism – all the way back to when Penguin paperbacks arose, and became an established form – that they somehow vulgarized literature, by making classics available to the masses. (Yes, I should really cite a name and a place and a date.)

Funny as the early complaint is, it indicates something serious. Either a widely-available, low-cost medium for average citizens to entertain and educate themselves is being eliminated by business decisions ... or print publishing is merely being displaced to a different market niche, by electronic publishing.

Let me clarify that. You may have observed how older media have been successively shifted to different niches, but not eliminated, as time goes on. Newspapers used to dominate the publication of news, but then newsreels and radio shows began to compete with them. Later, radio was displaced from the domination of broadcasting by television, both from broadcast news and broadcast entertainment. Now, television and film productions are being displaced from news and screen entertainment by

online streaming media. None of the older media are falling into disuse, but being pushed out of dominance and into different market niches.

If you recall, Carl Sagan mentioned paperback books in *Cosmos* as a source of widely-available knowledge costing no more than a modest meal. Of course, Dr. Sagan was speaking before the prices of everything really began to rise, including paperback books. Also, the original *Cosmos* series aired years before the Web began undermining the prior ground rules of publishing. Periodicals and book publishers used to buy copyrights such as “first North American serial rights” or “first British book rights” from authors; now they may buy “first world English-language rights.” For that matter, copyright law used to define the reprint of articles and stories by low-circulation magazines, below a defined number of copies, as not encroaching on copyright. Of course, electronic publishing erased the circulation distinction between fanzines and professional magazines, or between amateur websites and major book publishers.

Now, I still have reservations about electronic media. My reservations are: a) surprising numbers of people *still* can’t access the Web, or can’t use computers even when they can get at them, and b) computers and tablets and smart phones all depend on cheap, easily available electronic power. Even when and where power is reliable, sometimes we don’t have rechargers and power outlets when our personal devices are running down. I’ve been there. You’ve been there.

There’s another example of a potential single-point failure – failure of access to information, that is.

Finally: Yes, I know the foregoing starts to resemble a conspiracy theory – but I don’t think that way. I don’t think a string of business decisions are led by anything but scattered individuals seeking to maintain corporate profit in response to changing market conditions. We’re simply observing processes that logically lead to making single-point failures possible and likely – such as *one* business’ decision not to distribute paperbacks leading to the disappearance of new paperbacks entirely.

Maybe we will all have to become our own publishers and distributors soon.

§

Recently I was corresponding with others in eAPA about the SF trope that a sociologist could work up a form of “psychohistory.” Evaluating the idea that one could symbolically analyze, and explain, and even predict social behaviour is one of my hobbyhorses. Very few people think it could be made to work.

The problem with dismissing a “social calculus” is that advertisers, psychopaths, politicians, organized criminals and economists seem to use some similar way to assess and manipulate people, if only intuitively. The fundamental premise of demographic firms, such as Ipsos Reid (formerly Angus Reid), is that social and economic statistics predict 3/4ths of human events.

Asimov once presented an example of a predictable series of political events, namely the parallels between the English Civil War leading to Cromwell’s “Glorious Revolution,” the French Revolution, and the Russian Revolution:

- a) An unpopular king regarded as weak,

- b) An unpopular foreign queen popularly regarded with suspicion,
- c) An out-of-touch court/aristocracy/government ignoring famine and economic downturn,
- d) popular revolt under a new ideology,
- e) a repressive civil regime.

I once worked out the parallels between the rise of the Ku Klux Klan in the United States, the rise of the Nazi regime in Germany, and the rise of the Afrikaner Broederbond/National Party in South Africa:

- a) a former regime suffers from an economic disaster following a military defeat at the hands of real or perceived foreigners (the South defeated by the North, Germany defeated by French and British and American forces, the Afrikaners defeated in the Boer War by the British);
- b) impoverished and immiserated by occupation/reparations, and refusing to believe they were defeated on their own merits, the defeated population evolves “self-defense” resistance groups, which might lay long-term plans to improve the “native” citizens’ lot, or may spend more efforts to terrorize minorities perceived to benefit from the occupation regime (usual targets include any oppressed minorities, e.g. aborigines, immigrants, Catholics, Jews, other perceived foreigners/infidels)
- c) eventually the resistance groups attain at least temporary and local government

As I understand it, we are now caught up in the predictable consequences of a mild worldwide depression, which nobody calls by its right name. And, as I understand it, the United States as a whole is now going through the steps described above, which lead to a fascist regime. I am not the first to observe this. (Fortunately, the incumbent administration has been shooting its credibility in the foot, and there are signs that good sense and responsibility are going to prevail.)

Instead of suffering a military defeat and occupation, though, the United States has been suffering economic defeats, largely ascribed to an emerging ideology in the 1970s and 1980s. There are grounds to argue that going off the gold standard, outsourcing manufacturing abroad, popularizing “downsizing”, gutting the Glass-Steagall Act in the United States, and promoting workforce insecurity were all inspired by this ideology.

Unsurprisingly, this created a baffled, enraged working-class and middle-class constituency in many formerly affluent countries, who voted certain conservative administrations into office.

All of this could be summarized in pretty short, almost algebraic formulas, with estimated probabilities timespans for each phase.

But of course you don’t have to buy a word of this.

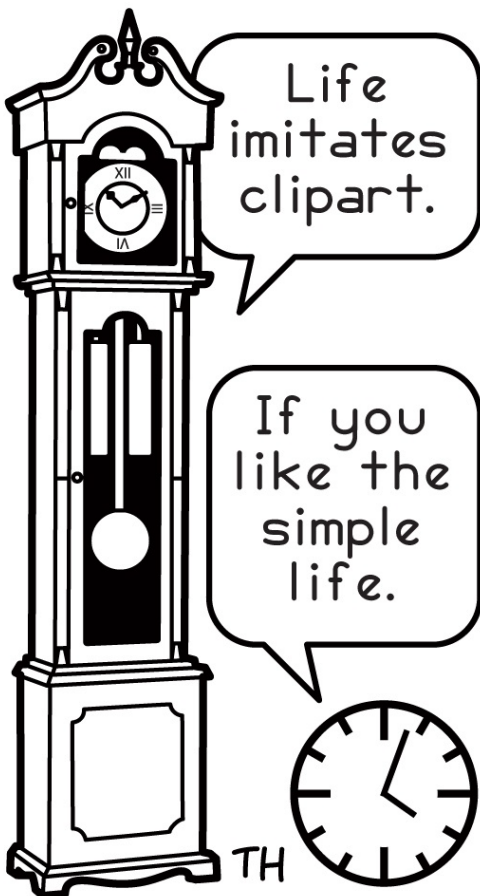
§

A thought about historical recreation societies: I notice that, while North Americans generally support American Civil War reenactments, or the medievalist Society for Creative Anachronism and Renaissance Faires, in Britain the English Civil War seems

to be more popular. (You may certainly correct me if I'm imagining things.) I think there are reenactors in Europe for the Napoleonic Wars, but I invite you to correct me, or to tell me more.

Make of this what you will. I have not – so far – seen anyone reenact the World Wars, except maybe in tabletop and online games. But ... maybe it's only a matter of time before we see live-action reenactments in the United States, if not in Britain or continental Europe. For that matter, we may one day see reenactments of the colonial wars in the Americas, Africa and Asia.

I will say nothing about the impact of such game campaigns on regional politics, or offenses against tact and taste.



Locs

**John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St., No. 409,
Los Angeles, CA 90057, USA, Oct. 7, 2025
(just recently unearthed)**

*(Note: I am no longer certain which issue of OE
he's commenting on)*

The discipline that matters is self-discipline.

Even better, dare I say it, than refraining from what one thinks is wrong, is doing what one thinks is right.

A few years ago the notion got around that education was to implant Society's rules and expectations into people. Pfui on that, we said. But having broken down exoskeletons we neglected to grow our own endoskeletons.

((If there is a Society, or if it has rules and expectations, it is news to me. It is quite evident we actually have a lot of inconsistent, incoherent and conflicting subcultures, and we do not identify the common ground among them.

((I have up trying to identify Anglo principles or customs. Clearly we have them, ranging from common courtesy and personal space to the compulsion to observe Christmas and Easter ceremonies or maintain lawns – but we don't identify them as such. Many Anglos act as if they can't put their expectations into words, for the untaught or the socially myopic, if their lives depended on it. Teachers, employers, alleged friends, SF fans, and girlfriends all showed the same inability – or refusal – to simply say what they want, or expect.

((It is as if they find it insulting, or extremely difficult, to verbalize things they feel are obvious.))

Tennyson in *Maud* says, "Better to fight for the good than to rail against the ill." Whether or not that was his own opinion, I think it's right.

Alexander Woollcott said, "I'm tired of hearing that democracy doesn't work. Of course it doesn't work. We are supposed to work it."

**Kevin Trainor, PO Box 143, Tonopah, NV 89049, USA,
wombat.scho@gmail.com, Dec. 4, 2025**

Once again I am reminded that many peoples' view of reality isn't the same as mine, but I don't have much interest in dealing with those people because they strike me as utterly barmy.

((I have two theories about this.

((1) Human beings are not really human; we are reincarnated aliens from some large, but undetermined number of species, and our species imperatives are usually so incongruous that we can't make sense of each other; this probably contributes to the divorce rate, international violence, and the way public and private bureaucracies behave.

((2) The world we thought made sense came to an end in the 1970s or so, but no one really noticed because some Powers That Be were slow to take notice, panicked because they didn't have time to finish up paperwork, and shoved us all into a hastily-constructed virtual universe, late one night when we were sleeping. I say it was hastily-constructed because they forgot to program in a module to preserve logical continuity. If you've ever worked on a film or TV production, or merely had a story critiqued, you know how easily logical flaws and plot holes creep into a narrative. The end result is that life on Earth has been getting steadily sillier and more bizarre ... ever since the United States began electing feeble-minded presidents, and upper management in both public and private enterprises became visibly, preposterously irresponsible. It's hard to take seriously this excuse for reality. I think we need to campaign for better scriptwriting, if we have to be involved in this audience-participation circus.

((You may notice that these crank theories are not mutually contradictory. They could both symbolize actual preposterous events occurring in the real world at the same time.))

As previously threatened in APA-V and StippleAPA (and perhaps elsewhere), I have finally produced a perzine, which I have inflicted on sundry friends through the Internet. I regret not including you among them and hereby correct the error.

((I'll try to give it a decent review!))

We Also Heard From: Hugh A.D. Spencer



Another day, another bar

Your Fannish Calendar for 2026

Key to Unfamiliar Abbreviations:

CSFFA = Canadian SF & Fantasy Association, organizing the national SF Aurora Awards, the CSFFA Professional Development Grants, and the CSFFA Hall of Fame; AB = Alberta; BC = British Columbia; NB = New Brunswick; NL = Newfoundland and Labrador; NS = Nova Scotia; ON = Ontario; OR = Oregon (state); QC = Quebec; WA = Washington (state)

Note: underlines indicate links to convention websites

Dec. 31, 2025 – Jan. 4, 2026: [Anthro Northwest 2026](#) at the Hyatt Regency Seattle, Seattle, WA

Jan. 3: CSFFA Membership payments window opens, Eligibility Lists window opens for acquiring 2026 voting memberships, Development grants (Part 1) application window opens

Jan. 10-11: [Ashika-Con 2026](#) At the Chinook Winds Casino Resort, Lincoln City, OR

Jan. 17: [Corner Brook Anime-Fest 2026](#) at the Greenwood Inn & Suites, Corner Brook, NL

Jan. 16-18: [Fan Expo Portland 2026](https://fanexpohq.com/fanexpoportland/) at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR; <https://fanexpohq.com/fanexpoportland/>

Jan. 2 (8:00pm EST / 5:00pm PST): CSFFA online Book Club Meeting “We’ll be reading Phyllis Gotlieb’s *A Judgment of Dragons*, the first novel to win the Aurora Award - in 1982.

Jan. 22: Join us on Discord in our voice/video channel 'Book Club Meetings' to learn more about Phyllis Gotlieb's winning novel, her life and career. **Featuring special guest, Aurora-winning author Candas Jane Dorsey!** Join us on Discord at any time in January to discuss the book with us.

Feb. 12-15: Get Out The Float 2026 at the Seaside Civic & Convention Center, Seaside, OR

Feb. 14-16: Fan Expo Vancouver 2026 at the Vancouver Convention Centre, Vancouver, BC

Feb. 20-22: TsukinoCon at the University of Victoria, Victoria, BC - <https://tsukinocon.com/>

Feb. 21: Moncton Anime-Fest 2026 at the Four Points by Sheraton Moncton, Moncton, NB

Feb. 21: Aurora Eligibility Lists close

Feb. 22: Radcon – Pasco, WA – officers@radcon.org

Feb. 28 - Aurora Nominations open

Mar. 5-8: VancouFur 2026 at the Richmond Conference Centre, Richmond, BC

Mar. 7: Halifax Anime-Fest 2026 at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Halifax, Bedford, Halifax, NS

Mar. 13-15: Terminal City Tabletop Convention at Vancouver Convention Centre West, Vancouver, BC - <https://terminalcitycon.ca/>

Mar. 20-22: Toronto Comicon 2026 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON

Mar 31: CSFFA Professional Development grant (Part 1) close. Grant recipient to be announced May 15.

Apr: 2-5: Norwescon 48 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Seattle Airport in SeaTac, WA

April 4: CSFFA Nominations close

Apr 18-19: Mid Valley Comic Art Expo 2026 at the Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center, Jackman-Long Building, Salem, OR

May 9 (expected date): CSFFA Voters' package should now be available for download from csffa.ca.

May 15-17: Otafest 2026 at the Calgary Telus Convention Centre / Calgary Marriott Downtown Hotel, Calgary, AB

May 16: CSFFA AGM online voting opens.

May 17: Orangeville ComiCon 2026 at the Orangeville Curling Club, Orangeville, ON

May 22-24: Anime North 2026 at the Toronto Congress Center / Delta Hotels by Marriott Toronto Airport & Conference Centre, Toronto, ON

May 30: CSFFA AGM online voting closes.

May 31: CSFFA AGM to be held online (Sunday midday).

June 1: CSFFA Development grants (Part 2) open.

June 6: Aurora Awards voting opens.

July 1: CSFFA New Hall of Fame inductees announced

July 3-5: Montreal Comiccon 2026 at the Palais des congrès de Montréal, Montreal, QC

July 11: CSFFA Membership payment window closes, and voters package download window closes.

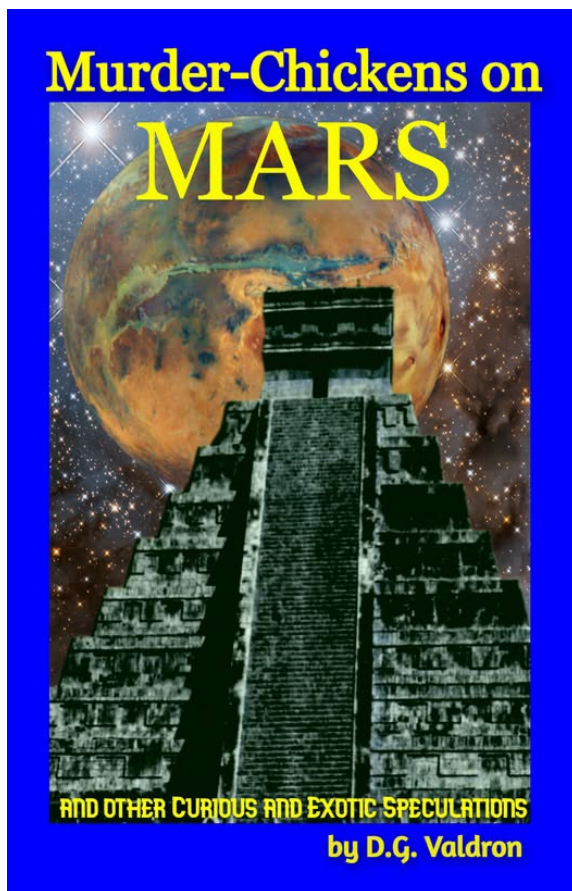
July 18: Aurora Awards voting window closes.

Aug. 9: Aurora Awards online presentation ceremony will be held on **Sunday** this year.

Aug. 27-30: Fan Expo Canada 2026 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON

Aug. 31: CSFFA Development grants (Part 2) close. Award recipient to be announced Oct 15.

Sept. 4-6: Calfurry 2026 at the Glenmore Inn & Convention Centre, Calgary, AB



Murder Chickens from Mars

So What The Hell Is This?

(Den Valdrón, Facebook, December 17, 2025)

Let me try to explain the existence of *Murder-Chickens¹ on Mars*, and help people understand, if not appreciate, what this book is.

I am the son of a mechanic. I grew up around cars, fixing flat tires, pumping gas, taking things apart and trying to put them back together. I was an okay mechanic, but not gifted. My father and brother were both very gifted. But I could do breaks and exhaust pipes, replace whatever needed replacing, taking breaks and engines apart and put them together. I'm also the grandson of a Carpenter, and along the way I learned to hammer a nail, lay a beam, bevel, mortice,

¹ "Murder chickens" is a joke synonym for the Canada goose, one of the meanest avians to exist in North America. It is rumoured that the Canada goose is our Secret Weapon and one of the

measure and cut. And along the way, I had other experiences.

I have always been driven to examine, to understand, to try to figure out how things work. There's an elegance to the way a machine or a body works, to the precision gears of a clock or a social system, the intricacies and harmonies. My world is one of blood and chaos. And perhaps because of that, I'm desperate to understand to make sense of things.

I'm fascinated by the overlooked, by the hidden corners, all the stuff we take for granted. I think I was a journalist once, because of that. And a teacher. And a historian. This world of randomness and horror, I want to unravel it, perhaps to find a way to make it less random and less horrific.

There's a picture I saw many years ago that will haunt me the rest of my life - a naked Vietnamese child running desperately from napalm. I look at that face, and all she knows is fear and terror, blind panic. She doesn't know why this is happening. She doesn't know about the faceless bloodless men and the chains of decisions that lead to them trying to incinerate her, or being monstrously indifferent to her incineration. The clock of god ticks and ticks, the gears work, and a little girl flees from napalm. How is it that we live in a world where this happens? It seems to me that the only way to stop it is to understand - that's the first step.

In fiction, there's a part of me that questions. I rebelled against Tolkien's Orcs being mindless evil long before that was fashionable. I wondered about the Indians in Cowboys and Indians. The appointed villains. I was never interested in heroes. Conan left me cold. When I read Tarzan, the stories I loved best were Pal Ul Don or visits to strange societies. Burroughs had many flaws, but the man knew how to build a world. Equally I was drawn to H.P. Lovecraft and Arthur Conan Doyle - they were both about making sense of things, although their characters felt very differently about the answers they found.

So, I've always amused myself writing little. I don't even know what to call them. speculative essays? Dissections of a pulp world, or Star Trek, or some comic or this or that, just trying to take something presented and make sense of it - what was the history, what was the motive, how does something end up here.

H.P. Lovecraft wrote the Cthulhu mythos. I'm sure you're familiar with it, and if you're not then look it up. Basically, it's just colour - he invented an alien God, and then more Alien gods, a dark Satanic bible, the *Necronomicon*, and passages. There was more folderol, he recycled and reused bits, some of it made it as story ideas, and some of it was just colour. His friends Clark Ashton Smith and Robert E. Howard also played the game, and they'd trade off with references. It's all just colour, mainly. But you know, play the game long enough, and a body of lore builds up.

So one day, I had this idea: What if Cthulhu was a real god? Not in the sense of being an actual God as presented in the stories. But real as in the sense most Gods are - imaginary or mythical figures in religions or cults. What if the Cthulhu Cult was a real religion?

only defenses to Canada's precarious sovereignty; that, or the "Kugelblitz" (UFO) technology we grabbed out of the ruins of the Third Reich's laboratories.

And what if you could read all the lore attributed by Lovecraft and company, to deconstruct that religion? Two of the big gods of the Pantheon were Azathoth and Yog Sothoth - both of these [names] seem to derive from Egypt's Thoth. That's interesting. Azza was a goddess of the peoples of the Arabic peninsula. Azathoth is certainly a combination - so originally Lovecraft's Azathoth was Azza-Thoth, perhaps originally mated, eventually merged, representing a joining of a group of Ancient Egyptians and Ancient Arabians. That's an interesting start. Bit by bit I treated all the lore as clues, deconstructing the Cthulhu cult as an evolving religion, weaving it in and out of actual history, showing how each historical development affected the cult, altering it, accumulating new gods and transforming old ones. When it was done, I had a nifty bit of work. Very satisfying.

I did this - I delved into the history of Lost Continents, dissecting the myths and folklore of Atlantis, Lemuria and Mu, and exposing their nonsense, and at the same time, discovering actual genuine lost continents - Zealandia, the Kerguelen Plateau, the Mascarene Plateau.

I delved into the biology of Muppets as real animals, tracing their evolutionary pathways and origins, and exploring their childlike minds and capacity for speech. I explored Mars, both the real planet and Burroughs fictional world and matched them piece by piece. I dissected Kaiju to figure out how they functioned. A meme poster about Bear Cavalry and a dismissive comment about domestication led me down one path. A speculation about how Atlantis would have fared, or not fared in the Age of Exploration (answer - badly). I just do these things.

The Inuit developing an agricultural complex and a proto-civilization north of the Arctic circle? That's mine. How about if the Galapagos Islands had grown into a mini-continent, say the size of a small European country, and the population of finches, tortoises and iguanas had grown and diversified to true behemoths? I did that.

I explored evolution, biology, physics, the ins and outs of history and human nature, why language develops, tool use, trade. I suppose you could call it world building. But in a lot of ways, it was kind of like building mental clockwork - figuring out the real and unreal and making it work.

I enjoyed it, did it, tucked it away. Once in a while I'd run across someone like Chris Nigro or Bill Hillman who appreciated it, and who'd host bits and pieces.

So anyway, years ago, when Five Rivers was publishing my first novel, *The Mermaid's Tale*, I'd picked up a 'how to self publish' by AP Fuchs, and I thought I'd give it a try.

Back then, I had this idea that with my first novel already published, and my second contracted, I was going to have a writing career. Like with real publishers and everything.

So self publishing was a bit of a lark I decided to try it out, just for the experience. I decided to publish something I thought had no commercial potential at all - something no real publisher would want or even dream of publishing

So I took three of these... "speculative essays" - Lovecraft, Muppets and Lost Continents, stitched them together, ginned up a cover and released them as a book - Dawn of Cthulhu.

I didn't think they'd sell, and I didn't really care. They were just three really nice pieces of writing, and I wanted them out in the world. Mission accomplished - I had two books out - Dawn of Cthulhu and the Mermaid's Tale. It was a nice feeling. I was proud of both my offspring, even if one was inexplicable and confusing and I was the only person who would ever love it.

But back then, I thought I had a career about to get going. Funny how it goes. Silly me.

Anyway, now and then, I'd delve back into that kind of country - Fall of Atlantis was another like Dawn. Bear Cavalry a third. Axis of Andes, a more formal alt history project came in their wake. And more books - outright fiction, outright fact.

So that's what Murder-Chickens on Mars is. Sort of fact, sort of fiction, explorations of forgotten corners, and deep dives into unreal landscapes I still don't know if there's a market, sometimes I'm embarrassed to share it with people. But I think it's good work, and good thinking, and if it's a little silly, I'm not ashamed.

So that's *Murder Chickens on Mars*, four speculative essays (technically five but the last one is really short - more a bonus extra), which I think are lively, thought provoking and clever. Maybe you'll be entertained, maybe you'll learn something in the process of reading.

There are Murder Chickens in the Book. There are also Martians. But the Murder Chickens aren't actually on Mars. I just liked the title. If this upsets you ... too bad.

The Speculative Essays themselves?

- The Martian Civilizations That Came and Went: From Canals to Pyramids, from an Artificial moon, to the legendary Face on Mars, it's mankind's history with a Martian civilization that evaporated away.
- Godzilla and the Original Cinematic Universe: Before the Legendary Monsterverse, before the Marvel Cinematic Universe, from 1954 to 1975, Toho Studios built its own cinematic universe around the King of Monsters..
- Tentacle Overlords and Murder-Chickens: The Silurian Hypothesis and an exploration of possible prior civilizations, from Cephalopods to Murder-Chickens, and where they might be now.
- Famous Reptiles of Television: A deep dive into the anatomy and evolution of famous reptiles, Silurians and Sea Devils from Doctor Who and Sleestak in Land of the Lost.

Bonus: Observers and Aliens: They're not coming to visit.

Does any of this intrigue? Be my guest, check it out...

<https://www.amazon.com/Murder-Chickens-Mars.../dp/B0G75ZR21K>



Movie Reviews

For December 12, 2025

by Duncan Shields

Sovereign (2025) - Nick Offerman plays a single dad who believes in the 'sovereign citizen' movement, which is a pretty fascinating but depressing rabbit hole to go down. A financial crisis pushes him to the edge. Based on the real-life shooting of several Memphis police officers in 2010. Nick Offerman is great here. Definitely not his *Parks and Rec* vibe. Jacob Tremblay does a great job as his son while Thomas Mann, Nancy Travis, Martha Plimpton, and Dennis Quaid put in a good turn, too. Pretty slow and big downer. It highlights that a lot of desperate people will turn to anyone who can give them hope and the system's pretty broken right now. A well-done small-scale film. - Vancouver Public Library DVD. Available for rent/purchase from all the usual places. Also try Video Cat on Cambie.

Ballerina: From the World of John Wick (2025) - Ana De Armas leads Anjelica Huston, Gabriel Byrne, Lance Reddick (RIP), Norman Reedus, Ian McShane, and Keanu Reeves (briefly) in this lady-led spinoff from the popular, pretty, stylized, and ludicrous John Wick universe. De Armas is 5'6" which isn't super short for a woman but she is very thin. So, unlike the beefier Reeves, when the bad guys kick or throw De Armas, she flies across the room. It makes for some very exciting, if cartoonish, action scenes. Of which there are many. De Armas is a "ballerina" in the Ruska Roma organization, raised to be an assassin from childhood (like a Black Widow in Marvel Comics or La Femme Nikita) after her father is murdered. She goes rogue to find out who did it, getting disowned by any organization that might protect her in the process. Bullets are fired, fists fly, feet kick, knives knife, and stuff blows up real good. It delivers action but it suffers from the same diminishing returns as the rest of the Wick films. Photocopies of photocopies. But the action sequences were high quality for the most part and De Armas obviously trained her ass off for this, even if her willowy character PLAINLY would have died fifteen times. If you like action, this fits the bill. - Vancouver Public Library DVD. Streaming on Crave and Starz. Available for rent/purchase from all the usual places. Also try Video Cat on Cambie.

The Journey of Natty Gann (1985) - A baby John Cusack! Ray Wise playing a normal guy! Scatman Caruthers! The lead actor child is Meredith Salenger who is now grown up and married to Patton Oswalt. Depression-era poverty forces single dad Ray Wise to abandon his daughter for work. She ends up tramping her way on the rails across



the country to find him, meeting a wolf and Cusack along the way. 100% filmed in BC if I'm not mistaken. I recognize those mountains. Anyway, great film. Sure it's sentimental but I honestly didn't know how some scenes were going to go and that was exciting. If I watched this as a ten-year-old girl, I image I'd get a tattoo related to it in my twenties. Nice adventure yarn with a young girl in the lead which doesn't happen every day. And the wolf, Jed (who was also the wolf in *The Thing*), is great. - Vancouver Public Library DVD. Streaming on Disney+. Available for rent/purchase from all the usual places.

Terms of Endearment (1983) - I somehow never saw this! The second-highest-grossing film of 1983 and winner of FIVE Oscars. Debra Winger, Shirley MacLaine, Jack Nicholson, Danny DeVito, Jeff Daniels, and John Lithgow with James L Brooks writing. Thirty years of a mother/daughter relationship between Winger and MacLaine plus the men they love. Everyone in this film is SO watchable! Wonderful chemistry between everyone. Well-deserved Oscars all 'round. Laughs and tears. Great stuff. Of course it is. It delivers. - Vancouver Public Library DVD. Available for rent/purchase from all the usual places. Also try Video Cat on Cambie.

MadS (2024)(France) - One of those rare real-time, all-done-in-one-shot movies of which there are a few now, like 2015's *Victoria*. This one's a French quasi-zombie film. REALLY impressive technically. A partying youth snorts a new red-powder drug on his birthday. Then on his way to a gathering, he finds a very distraught woman who kills herself in front of him. Or does she? This kicks off a series of events as more people snort the red drug and grow erratic. Then they start to get hunted by blacks-ops soldiers. Quite trippy and strange. Chaotic. Dreamlike. Lots of shaky cam and screaming. I enjoyed it, for the most part, but I think I was in the mood for it. The movie meanders in places but it's pretty amazing from a film-making standpoint. Worth a watch if that sounds appealing to you. - Streaming on Shudder. Available for rent/purchase from AppleTV and GooglePlay. Also try Video Cat on Cambie.

In Search of Darkness (2019) - A 4-and-a-half-hour documentary on 80s horror films. Mostly talking heads and movie clips and behind-the-scenes details from a ton of directors, hosts, professionals, and actors. A fun documentary that added like thirty horror films to my checklist. A good, easy watch for horror fans. Apparently there's a part II and a part III and then one focusing on the early nineties. I'll be churning through those, too, I think. - Streaming on Tubi and Shudder

Check out all my reviews on

<https://letterboxd.com/duncanshields/films/reviews/>



Specimen #35: a Cylon saucer

News

CSFFA Book Club Launches

“Starting in January 2026, we’re inviting everyone to join us for **the Aurora Awards Retrospective Book Club**. The aim of the Book Club is to read every “Best Novel” Aurora Award winner in the association’s history, in time for CSFFA’s 50th anniversary. We envision the book club wrapping up by the proposed Edmonton Worldcon in 2030, where we hope to host some form of anniversary celebration.

“January 2026 is our inaugural book club month. We’ll be reading Phyllis Gotlieb’s *A Judgment of Dragons*, the first novel to win the Aurora Award - in 1982.

“Join us on Discord at any time in January to discuss the book with us.

“BOOK CLUB MEETING: January 22 8:00pm EST / 5:00pm PST - Join us on Discord in our voice/video channel Book Club Meetings channel on the 22nd to learn more about Phyllis Gotlieb’s winning novel, her life and career. **Featuring special guest, Aurora-winning author Candas Jane Dorsey!**

“Learn more about the book club, how it works, and see the full schedule at the book club page of the CSFFA website (csffa.ca).”

(CSFFA newsletter, Dec. 19, 2025)

Death Knell of the Mass Market Paperback

ReaderLink, the main distributor of mass market paperbacks in the United States (and by extension Canada), has ceased shipping them as of December 31, 2025, according to a *Publishers Weekly* article posted on Dec 12, 2025.

Several factors have undermined the market position of paperback publishing, according to the *Publishers Weekly* article by Jim Milliot with Sophia Stewart. For one thing, paperback sales decreased from 131 million in 2004 to 21 million in 2024, a drop of about 84% (see Circana BookScan). For another, wholesalers have been

consolidating over the years, until ReaderLink became the main distributor. Also, e-book sales have been rapidly increasing, and competing with printed book sales.

Robert J. Sawyer noted in a recent promotional email that his own career as a published writer began with mass-market paperbacks. (What this means for new writers entering genre or mainstream fiction has yet to be determined.)

(<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/publisher-news/article/99293-last-call-for-mass-market-paperbacks.html>,

Reported by Robert Sawyer in email, December 15, 2025)

The Final Issue of *On Spec*

“For decades, *On Spec* was the flagship magazine for Canadian science fiction in English. With a juried Editorial selection process, and a combination of grant and subscription funding, it neatly straddled the literary and genre communities in Canada. To be published in *On Spec* was to have arrived as a writer. In an era where magazines came and went and even venerable publications like *Galaxy* and *Amazing* struggled and failed, *On Spec* was an institution. Now, finally, after some forty years, the crew has decided to call it quits. This is the final issue.

“I was published in *On Spec* decades ago, it was an affirmation that I could write, that my work was worthwhile, as much as being published in *Asimov's* or *F&SF*, and of my Canadian identity. It said I belonged.

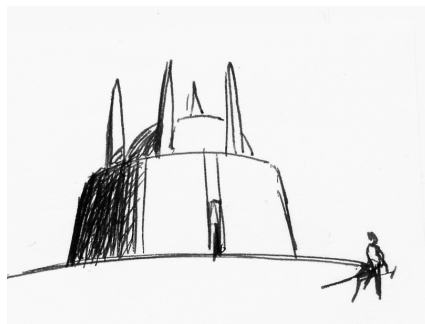
“And I'm proud to say that after decades of hiatus from writing short stories, my work was published there again, and that I could get my name and my story in the last issue.

“*On Spec* as we knew it is gone. But it is taken up by Ed Willett and Firestone Press; a new version in some form will be published. But I am still saddened. This is a moment where something has passed from the world.

“And even as the world moves on, as the name will continue, I feel a sense of pride and loss. It was a great magazine, I'm so glad that we had it. I only wish that I supported more, submitted more.

“But dwelling on my inadequacy is irrelevant. What matters is that the people behind it have so much to be proud of.”

(Den Valdron, Facebook, Dec. 22, 2025)





Obituaries

Arthur Hlavaty (1942 – 2025)

Longtime US fan Arthur Hlavaty passed away on December 10, 2025. The *Fancyclopedia 3* website says:

“**Arthur Hlavaty** was a [fanwriter](#), [editor](#), and [publisher](#). A serious [apahack](#), he was a member of many, many [apas](#): [WOOF](#), [Mixed Company](#), [SFPA](#), [APA-69](#), [FAPA](#), [Golden APA](#), [DAAPA](#), [apa-nu](#), [Myriad](#), [MiSHAP](#), [AZAPA](#), [MINNEAPA](#), [FreFanZine](#), [APA-Q](#), [SAPS](#), and [LASFAPA](#).

“Contributor: *The St. James Guide to Science Fiction*, *The Encyclopedia of Fantasy and Science Fiction Literature*, *The Westerfilk Collection*, [The New York Review of Science Fiction](#), [Fantasy Review](#), [Megavore](#), *Libertarian Review*, [Mythologies](#), [Janus](#), [Mimosa](#), *Drood Review*, and others. [He submitted] [Locs](#) almost everywhere.

“He lived in [*a house called*] Valentine's Castle ... Arthur suffered from severe COPD; nine months before his death, he broke his hip and then had a series of health crises from which he never fully recovered.”

For my part, I am going to miss his smartass humour and insights, and his in-joke fanzine titles.

(Garth Spencer)

“Chilam” (1963 - 2025)

[Chilam Artist](#) (facebook.com/chilam.artist) , a well-known SF fan BC, an SCA participant, congoer, writer, artist and member of Chris Carr’s and Martin Hunger’s Jade Dragon Pirates troupe, passed away on December 13, 2025 at the age of 62.

“Chris [Carr] has been on the phone, on and off, with his brother discussing protecting things like his writing and how they will manage his art pieces, while we wait for a coroners report. We have gone back and forth with memories and handling feelings. His brother does not know how to get into his FB, or even how to find the password for his Kindle publishing. Please be patient with us as we work through the hoops and unpredictable sensations.

“If anyone wishes to leave notes, wishes or thoughts here, please do so. As we will not be able to return to BC for a funeral, we will be making a video and would love to add some of the things you would like to say here.

“He was 62 yrs young.

“R.I.P. Sheriff McNabb / Admiral Fairfax / Chilam”

(Chris Carr, Facebook, Dec. 13, 2025)

Terence M. Green (Feb. 2, 1947 - Dec. 20, 2025)

Canadian author Terence M. Green passed away on December 20, 2025, after a long battle with cancer.

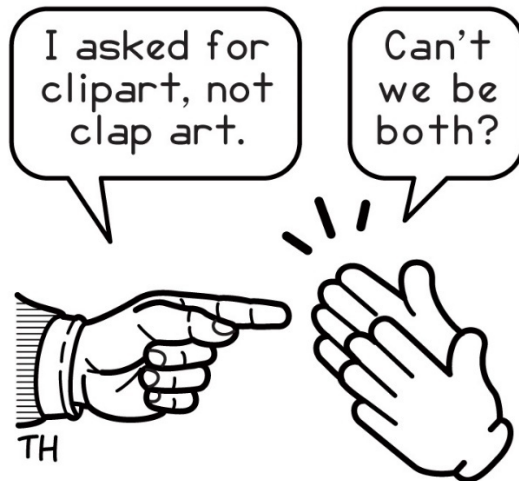
His longtime friend Robert Sawyer writes:

“Terry was nominated for the **World Fantasy Award** for his novels ***Shadow of Ashland*** (1997) and ***A Witness to Life*** (2000). His short fiction appeared in ***Asimov's, The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction***, and elsewhere, and was collected in ***The Woman Who Is The Midnight Wind*** (1987). I had the great privilege of publishing his novel ***Sailing Time's Ocean*** under my **Robert J. Sawyer Books** imprint for **Red Deer Press**.

“A celebration of Terry's life will be held Saturday, January 3, 2026, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Local, a pub in Leaside (180 Laird Drive, East York, Toronto). Per his wishes, there will be no service.

“Terry is survived by his wife **Merle Casci** and sons **Connor, Owen, and Daniel**. My 1997 novel ***Frameshift*** is dedicated to Terry and Merle.”

(Robert Sawyer email, Dec. 21, 2025)



Meanwhile, in Canada

Robert Runte, Facebook, Dec. 23, 2025:

It's all very well to criticize the problems south of us, but Alberta is experiencing the same rise of White Christian Nationalism, authoritarianism/separatism, the same anti-immigrant, anti-trans, anti-disabled cruelty. Many of the voices for separatism and authoritarianism are arguably funded by foreign right-wing (oligarch) social media (if you look at the 'about' page on those separatism FB pages, for example, one finds they originate in Russia or China or Africa etc.--and are bot farms, rather than grass roots Albertans.)

So here's a piece on Alberta's cruel, oppressive policies on the disabled--benefits that originated under the real Conservative governments of the base and now overturned by the pretend conservatives of the UCP/Take Back Alberta movement.

Copied and pasted from Lorna Thomas:

"I'm weary this Xmas. I'm President of a volunteer Board of Directors for a small homecare company that offers consumer-directed, on-site assistance for 25 persons with disabilities who live in their own apartments. The UCP are grinding down people who live on Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) . And they are grinding down those of us who are trying to show support for those attempting to survive on AISH. I found this analysis that spells out the challenges. It was written by Duncan Kinney, (*The Progress Report*):

"ALBERTA'S MORAL FRAUD: HOW "VALUES" BECAME A WEAPON AGAINST THE DISABLED -

THE LIE AT THE HEART OF ALBERTA POLITICS'

"Alberta likes to preach virtue. Responsibility. Faith. Hard work. Politicians wrap themselves in Christian language and dare anyone to question their moral authority. But strip away the slogans and look at outcomes, and what remains is

not virtue at all. It is a cold, disciplined cruelty aimed at people whose bodies have already been broken.

“This is not a misunderstanding. It is not a budget hiccup. It is a governing choice.

“WHEN THE STATE ADMITS YOU CANNOT WORK — THEN PUNISHES YOU FOR IT

“The foundation of Alberta’s disability system is the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped. Getting approved is brutal. Years of medical records. Specialists. Endless forms. A process designed to doubt you until proven otherwise. Approval is not kindness. It is the state formally acknowledging that your body cannot safely sustain employment.

“And then the mask drops.

“Once approved, the system behaves as if that determination never happened. Benefits are set so low they guarantee instability. Housing costs explode while income stagnates. Food, utilities, transportation, medication — all treated as optional luxuries. Survival becomes a monthly gamble. Dignity becomes impossible by design.

“This is not incompetence. This is policy.

“HOUSING IS NOT ‘BROKEN’ — IT IS BEING USED

“Alberta’s housing crisis is often described as unfortunate or complex. That is nonsense. It is the predictable result of decades of political refusal to build non-market and supportive housing. Disabled Albertans are shoved into a private rental market that requires steady employment income, credit scores, and physical resilience they do not have.

“When housing fails — when people are displaced, overcrowded, or homeless — the blame is personalized. The system shrugs. The person is labeled difficult, irresponsible, or non-compliant. The policy disappears from view, and the victim becomes the culprit.

“That is how structural harm hides in plain sight.

“‘ENCOURAGING WORK’ IS A DEATH SENTENCE IN A SUIT

“Every so often, Alberta politicians revive the fantasy of “encouraging work” for people on disability. This is where the moral rot becomes undeniable.

“People on AISH include those with shattered spines, severe nerve damage, degenerative neurological disease, autoimmune disorders, and chronic pain requiring daily medication just to stand up. For them, pushing beyond limits does not build character. It destroys what health remains. It triggers flare cycles, hospitalization, and permanent loss of function.

“The state certifies them as unable to work, then punishes them for acting accordingly. That is not tough love. It is biological denial enforced through paperwork.

“BILL 12: WHEN CONTROL DRESSES UP AS REFORM

“This cruelty is sharpened under Bill 12, which pretends to modernize disability support while quietly reintroducing moral suspicion. Stability is replaced with discretion. Security is replaced with conditionality. Disability is re-litigated after it has already been medically proven.

“For people whose health depends on predictability, this is not neutral reform. It is psychological warfare. Stress becomes policy. Uncertainty becomes leverage.

“MAID: FAKE OUTRAGE, REAL ABANDONMENT

“Nothing exposes Alberta’s hypocrisy more clearly than its posturing around Medical Assistance in Dying. Politicians clutch their pearls over disabled people considering MAID, calling it a moral failure.

“Then they turn around and block livable disability income. Block public housing. Block pharmacare. Block home care. Block pain management. They preserve every condition that produces despair, then condemn the despair itself.

“This is not concern for life. It is control over death.

“People are denied the means to live with dignity, while being told they cannot choose how to die either. Trapped. Managed. Owned.

“CHRISTIANITY AS BRAND, NOT PRACTICE

“Alberta’s leaders love to speak in Christian tones. But Christianity that refuses to feed the hungry, shelter the vulnerable, and care for the sick is not faith. It is marketing. When children go hungry at school, when disabled people are treated as liabilities, when poverty is framed as moral failure, the Gospel has been replaced by hierarchy.

“Jesus did not test the deserving. Alberta does.

“THE VERDICT

“This system is not broken. It is functioning exactly as intended. It permits existence while denying security. It acknowledges disability while refusing adequacy. It speaks compassion while enforcing punishment. Alberta does not have a disability problem. It has a moral fraud problem. And the people paying for it are those whose bodies can no longer absorb the cost.”





Rumour has it this is why Canada is still independent

Thoughts of PM Carney

Eyes on Canadian Democracy

Zina Rba · Dec. 7, 2025

By Annie Koshy (as posted on Threads)

🇨🇦 Mark Carney is the only Prime Minister who can deliver a joke like a spreadsheet: clean, precise, and dangerous if mishandled. He drops a line so dry it could dehydrate a forest, then walks away like nothing happened.

You asked for it and I'm delivering it. Here is my full humour and wit collection, expanded and extended of our amazing PM:

On fiscal theatrics: "I manage a two-trillion-dollar economy, not anyone else's performance art."

On misinformation: "If repeating something made it true, my kids would be in bed on time."

On governing: "Good policy isn't loud. It's math."

On climate denial: "Physics isn't partisan."

On a misleading question: "No... that's not how that works. Not even close."

Asked about interest rates online discourse: "I know TikTok says otherwise, but monetary policy isn't vibes."

Quietly, almost off-mic: "Show me a graph. A real one."

On Pierre [Poilievre]'s math: "We modelled that. None of the models agreed with him."

On being called elitist: "If knowing math makes me elitist, then yes, I can count."

On trade: "Good trade partners don't surprise each other with tariffs."

On Canada's stability: "It's stable. Not Internet-stable, actually stable."

On trolls: “I don’t debate anonymous accounts named PatriotMooseFreedom47.”

On provincial negotiations: “Some conversations are productive. Others are ... character-building.”

After an overly flattering introduction: “That was ... generous. My mother wrote that, didn’t she?”

On the first Cabinet meeting: “We were sworn in at 10. At 10:03, someone asked about parking.”

On the pace of transition: “We’re new, not confused.”

On the budget metaphors: “This isn’t a credit card. Please stop saying that.”

On stress: “I worked through 2008. This is fine.”

On ‘bait’ questions: “I see what you’re trying to do. The answer is still no.”

On economic populism: “Math isn’t a popularity contest.”

On enjoying the job: “Enjoy is strong. I’m ... engaged.”

On explaining policy at home: “My kids listen for five seconds, then ask what’s for dinner.”

On political theatre: “I prefer policy to pyrotechnics.”

On yelling in Question Period: “Volume is not a substitute for content.”

On government communications: “Clarity is free. Confusion is costly.”

On being relatable: “I’ve eaten airport muffins. I’m relatable.”

On someone telling him he’s too serious: “Someone should be.”

On heckling: “Noise is not impact.”

When told he looks tired: “Correct.”

On data: “I trust data. I don’t always trust people who interpret it.”

On outrage cycles: “It’s Thursday. There will be another one.”

On whether Canadians can handle big transitions: “We literally survive winter for fun.”

On accusations of ‘talking down’: “I talk to people. The rest is interpretation.”

On Ottawa culture: “This city could run on rumour as an energy source.”

On whether he’ll write a book someday: “Maybe. When this job stops giving me material.”

On political chaos in other countries: “We import many things from the United States. Chaos does not need to be one of them.”

On Question Period: “Informative, in the way a fire drill is informative.”

USA: The Continuing Adventures

Let Me Get This Straight

(Den Valdron, Facebook, Dec. 2, 2025)

The United States decided to commit murder and piracy on the high seas.

They did this because, without evidence, they had decided that Venezuela was exporting Fentanyl to the US. Which is blatantly false. Venezuela is not a Fentanyl producer or exporter.

In order to stop this imaginary threat, they decided not to investigate, detain, arrest and seize boats carrying Fentanyl, which would be hard, because, given that Venezuela is not a Fentanyl producer or exporter, those boats don't exist.

There are boats on the waters around Venezuela. These are short range boats, incapable of reaching the United States, used in fishing, or ferrying humans or contraband to and from Venezuela, Guyana, Colombia and Trinidad.

I suppose that the US could have detained these boats, to investigate, and determine they weren't carrying Fentanyl. But that would be unacceptable.

So they just blew the boats up, announced without evidence that the boats were narco-terrorists, without even a shred of evidence.

The US and mainstream media just goes along with that. Not even a question like "Did you have evidence?" (No, they did not), "Shouldn't you have arrested them then? (that would just show no evidence), or "What the hell were you thinking, that's piracy and murder!!!"

But now, apparently because the US is taking to murdering the survivors too ... Americans are upset.



Ignorance Around Climate Change

(Den Valdron, Facebook, December 16, 2025)

I am disturbed by the sheer amount of complacent ignorance around climate change. ... What it comes down to is cost/benefit.

* Human driven climate change is real. The effects and rate of change can be predicted with significant precision.

* These effects will bring costs with them. These costs will be substantial in terms of direct economic losses, including damage to infrastructure, property and life. In the broadest terms, if your house is destroyed by a fire, that is loss and damage. You can put a dollar figure on that loss.

- * Remedying these costs and losses will be a cost in and of itself. Basically, if you have to build a new house, that's an additional cost.
 - * You can, if you choose, take measures to stop the damage. If your house is on fire, or about to catch fire, you can put out the fire.
 - * However, putting out the fire means your water bill increases.
 - * But if the cost of losing a house and having to build a house is less than what your water bill would have been, it makes sense to put out the fire and avoid the problem in the first place.
- Now here's where our modern decision makers screw things up.
- * The guy paying the water bill is not the guy who is going to have to absorb the costs of losing and rebuilding a house. It is in his interests to save a ton of money on his water bill by letting the house burn down.
 - * Some people will see a short term benefit from the fire. If the costs come later or go to other people, then they are happy to see the house burn down, because they're getting money up front. They don't care about further down the road, because that's not their problem. As long as they get money. In fact, they prefer to see the house burn because they can make money now.
 - * Since they will make money now, and they will not be the ones paying the costs later, it is in their interests to prevent other people from saving the house.
- Human nature, 101.

Room for Improvement

Random Jottings 22 Omnibus, Michael Dobson, 26 Saint Peter Circle, Lititz, PA 17543-2255, USA, editor@timespinnerpress.com. One of the most professionally-produced fanzines I have seen all year.

Vanamonde, nos. 1653-1656, Aug. 29-Sept. 15, 2025 an apazine from John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St., No. 409, Los Angeles, CA 90057, USA. Out-of-context but erudite comments to other LASFAPA members.

Pablo Lennis, Dec 2025. An amateur fictionzine from John Thiel, 30 N. 19th St., Lafayette, IN 47904, USA, kinethiel@mymetronet.net. No contact information in this edition, but I have his address and email anyway.

The Visionary for December 3 & 10, 2025, Universal Life Church Ministries, 2720 1st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98134, USA. newsletter@themonastery.org.

Ray X X-Rayer #187, Dec. 25, 2025, Ray Palm,



raypalmx@gmail.com. A short personalzine featuring a bit of news, a bit of a lettercolumn, and a bit of the conspiracy-theory looniness that apparently has become a popular form of entertainment.

SMOF Newsletter 5:14, 5:15, Petréa Mitchell, 548 Market Street PMB 72296, San Francisco, CA 94104, smofnews@substack.com

My Back Pages 33, articles and essays by Richard Lynch, P.O. Box 3120, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20885 USA; rw_lynch@yahoo.com. As titled, a collection of Richard's articles on art and artists, music, theatre, and obituaries, with some travel writing and mentions of popular culture.

WCSFA Newsletter December 2025, newsletter of the West Coast Speculative Fiction Association (Vancouver, BC), info@wcsfa.org. Source of news of local/BC conventions, and upcoming Vancouver events, not limited to fan-run events, letters from sasquatches, WCSFA fundraisers, or the intention to revive VCon.

MT Void December 5, 12, 2025, Evelyn Leeper, mleeper@optonline.net, the Mt. Holz SF club newsletter. News, reviews, events, ancient and baffling glyphs from lost civilizations, an English word that rhymes with orange, and the reason why we can't have nice things.

Tonopah Elucidator & Literary Review #1 and #2, a personalzine from Kevin Trainor, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049, email wombat.scho@gmail.com. A whole new personalzine!

Ansible 461, December 2025, a monthly newszine for centered on, but not exclusively about British SF fandom and prodom; David Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU, UK. Website news.ansible.uk. News from SF fandom and prodom. Subscribe now. Check out his website, massive links to fannish websites, and his sources for classic fanwriting, often available to support fan funds.

Ornithopter Mk. VII, Leigh Edmonds (Australia), contactable at leighedmonds01@gmail.com. In this issue, how a Christmas barbecue turned into a major fire, Irwin Hirsch on "How to Build a Fanzine Collection," with visual evidence, Perry Middlemiss on Lake Titicaca, and other fine fanwriting; plus a call for more fine fanwriting, as Leigh has used up his existing materials!

The Stf Amateur 27, December 2025 (the last issue) from Heath Row, now in Portugal, kalel@well.com. The old zine goes away.

The Wahflestomper Manifesto (first issue) from Heath Row, now in Portugal, kalel@well.com. The new zine appears.