

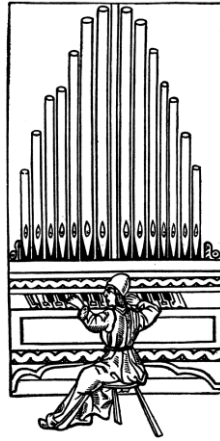
# OBDURATE EYE 25

March 2023



**GARTH STANDS FOR CANADIAN UNITY FAN FUND (see p. 9)**

THE OBDURATE EYE #25, March 2023, a personalzine from Garth Spencer, 6960 Doman Street, Vancouver, BC, CANADA V5S 3H7, Email [garth.van.spencer@gmail.com](mailto:garth.van.spencer@gmail.com) or [hrothgarweems@gmail.com](mailto:hrothgarweems@gmail.com)



*The organ of no clique or party*

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## Art Credits

D. Marshall, “Life Form of Spiral Universe Beginning” .....cover

## Received in E-mail (1)

*Tightbeam* 341, February 2023, from George Phillies and Jon Swartz. In fan news, well-known fan Ray Nelson has passed on. The book, movie and anime news are distinguished by Ray Monson's recommendation to read *The Dragon and His Girl* while enjoying Cedar Sanderson's dinner recipe.

## Dear Diary

As soon as *Obdurate Eye* #24 went out, I started getting a little feedback. For starters, my emails to R-Laurraine Tutihasi and Wolf von Witting bounced.

§

Taral Wayne commented on a graphic of Elmore Leonard's writing advice, on February 11, 2023:

None of the advice that Elmore Leonard gives is necessarily good, unless you think that writing like Elmore Leonard is necessarily good.

§

John Bartley, on the same date, realized something was missing from the convention calendar I produced:

Oh, dangit -

GameStorm

<https://gamestorm.org>

23-26 March 2023

Holiday Inn Riverfront, Portland Or

Gaming con brought to you by Oregon Science Fiction Conventions, Inc.

§

Jeanne Mealy wrote the next day, uncertain whether a document from [hrothgarweems@gmail.com](mailto:hrothgarweems@gmail.com) was really from me, and whether the fanzine was actually safe to open. And here I thought I had told everybody about the new email.

§

It would have been nice to illustrate the Canadian fanhistory files I am preparing, but I made a gross mistake. John Bartley suggested putting up a blog where I could exhibit the photos and ask who took them, as well as asking the individual fans for their permission to reproduce. Instead, I showed some of the pictures on Facebook.

Catherine Crockett immediately gave me hell for presenting them without permission. I took down the pictures within an hour or so, but that wasn't enough. After several messages back and forth I now know that A) I violated intellectual property rights, B) I violated her right to safety. Apparently, there are personal safety concerns I didn't know about.

Not that it's good enough to say this, but the fact is I bumble my way through life constantly making stupid mistakes, about what is allowed and accepted behaviour – and I am still at it now, in my 60s. It isn't that I don't learn, it's that I learn a lot of things very late, and people are very inconsistent about their rules. Anything I don't understand, I don't remember.

It's very depressing to catch hell from someone who takes offense and won't accept an apology. But this is what I have to accept from some people.

## LoCs

**Cathy Palmer-Lister [cathypl@sympatico.ca](mailto:cathypl@sympatico.ca), February 13, 2023**

Thanks, Garth.

Regarding KeyCon, Ad Astra is also taking a break this year. It's a worry. Since MonSFFA is doing so much better financially, a couple of optimistic souls have suggested we try to revive Con\*Cept. I can't see it happening in the current climate. Our kind of con is gasping its last breaths. In fact, in terms of paid-up memberships, MonSFFA itself is only just chugging along. At this rate, we may soon be meeting in a coffee shop.

*((And so, we return to our beginnings.))*

In case you are wondering, the funds in our bank account happened because we inherited from a member who passed away. We would rather have Sylvain than the \$\$ in the bank. He was one of the keystones of our club. Damn COVID.

**Heath Row [kalel@well.com](mailto:kalel@well.com), February 13, 2023**

*((On February 12<sup>th</sup>, Heath sent me a PDF for a board game called “Neffo”, with various fannish situations on different squares. I responded:*

*“I haven't played games in years. This appears to be the basis for a game. Granted, it's a slightly antique view of things fans can do – contemporary fans seem to have less idea of reading than of viewing things onscreen, gaming in all its forms, or costuming – but it isn't limited to N3F membership activities, either. I think it could be expanded to include blogging, podcasting, steampunk cheesecake, or building your own pocket computer with FreeGeek discards, or an atomic aircar starting with a toolkit and the local junkyard. What say?”*)

The game of Neffo is based on the game of Bingo. Apparently, the Canadian Criminal Code holds that Bingo is legal if conducted by licensed charities or provincial governments. Initially, your response led me to question how widely known even Bingo itself might be! I know the last time I played Bingo was in an old folks' home, so that itself is slightly antique.

*((I am unusual in being as hermitic as you can be, in a major city. Anyone else would probably think of Bingo immediately.))*

Your input was useful. I've worked in costuming and some more screen-oriented modes of interaction à la Discord.

*((Good! Maybe this suggests one more fundraising source ...))*

Regardless, this is just a jape, a lark. I appreciate your eyeballs, thought, and response!

**Lloyd & Yvonne Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2,  
February 13, 2023**

So much to do with *Amazing*, and when I had a chance, I had planned to work on *The Obdurate Eye* 23, but now, issue 24 is here, and I will get both done now.

23... Yeah, we never thought we'd ever see ourselves as senior citizens, but here we are. My next birthday in June, I will have my Beatles year...64. I am pleased to say that I see people younger than me who look older, and I put it down to staying busy, and having a good time with Yvonne, so I quietly enjoy my revenge, and hope that my Dorian Grey painting in the closet keeps working.

*((I think you've heard my speed-of-time-increases-with-age joke before, so I will spare you a repetition.))*

We never thought we'd reach our potential, and both Yvonne and I had parents who discouraged every dream we'd ever had. Moving away from home was the best thing we ever did, for it released us from the negativity of home. Chasing your own dreams started late, but for the most part, we're pleased with what we've been able to do.

*((I didn't even realize this was an issue until my 40s or 50s, and realized I hadn't believed I was allowed personal ambitions or dreams, since before my voice broke. I still have to struggle to define them.))*

My loc...I do not like wearing masks all the time, and I do not know anyone else who does. Yet, I understand why it is needed, to try to arrest the spread of COVID-19, in whatever variant it is in these days. So, we mask up when we go out, and I believe we are being responsible. Our provincial government inconveniently fails to reveal case and death numbers from COVID-19, so many think the pandemic is over, and it is not.

*((I gave up worrying about my personal survival when I realized I was in my 60s and still hadn't done anything significant. Life will go on without me.))*

Not many changes re *Amazing*, but it does keep me extraordinarily busy, and I am learning how to manage this whole process. I can now access both the *Amazing* websites, one for stories and news, and the other for managing the vast number of submissions we get.

I see so many people online who look like they'd be right at home with the Proud Boys or QAnon, or any stripe of ultimate whackos who have somehow justified (to themselves) their own brand of racism, sexism, nationalism, and any other -isms that make the national news. To be honest, I think their numbers are increasing, for these groups make the news more and more.

*((And here I thought these freaks of nature were limited to the United States and Britain, or that they sprang full-grown from the minds of TV programming executives.))*

Eat the rich? Galen Weston comes to mind. Nope, not going to eat the rich...they would probably give me infinite indigestion. For some, they are good with fava beans and a nice Chianti.

*((Most humans are not fit for human consumption, unless there's nothing better to eat.))*

24... You have a Next Generation of fans in Vancouver? Good for you! If there is one here, I do not know about it. We do know many other fans from other interests, like anime, and this year will be the second year we have sold tables in Anime North's huge Vendors' Hall. We had about 500+ tables to sell, and we have about 40 left. In the meantime, we are now working with those old friends, and have made many new ones. Perhaps the common interest isn't as important as it was, as long as there is community to enjoy together.

*((“But I still haven't found what I'm looking for.”))*

I am slowly wrapping my hear [head?] around the fact that given the state of rents in this city, and the fact that the balconies are being replaced gradually (far from quiet here, sounds like the jackhammers are just next door), our rent may soar upwards, and we may have to move, into what, we know not. I am also wrapping my head around the idea that I may have to get rid of my fanzine collection. I don't like it, but there is so much I need to get rid of, and that's a part of it all.

*((If I didn't know better I might think Canadian cities are menaced by a far-flung conspiracy of real estate developers. But so are a lot of other places, e.g. British cities such as London.))*

Anyone who tries to promote good use of language must be an oppressor? Nope, just trying to make what is written and printed as understandable as possible. Some stories to date themselves terribly, but if we can suspend our disbelief, we can suspend our modern-day attitudes, and try to enjoy the story using the sensibilities of the day it was printed.

There are many events that have been eager to return to something actual rather than virtual, but other events are finding the savings of time and money in staying virtual, and I can't fault them for that. We continue to hear tales of mass illness from some American comic conventions who have failed to have any kind of COVID policy, and a substantial percentage of their attendees go home and suffer from COVID. I do not know how many have died from it.

I am heartened, and a little surprised to see that CUFF is still extant. I guess we could be eligible, but Yvonne and I have confirmed that going to Winnipeg for the NASFiC is just not affordable. Six nominators? I hope somebody can get so many nominations together.

I have to get going with the FAAn Awards, and I never know when the Auroras might be on the go; it's been a while. Thanks for these two issues, and I will try my best to keep up in the future. Famous last words. See you again soon.

*((Reread the CSFFA blurb – they give a date for an online Auroras presentation. Guess I could have moved that news to the forefront, since the C.S.F.F.A. did not.))*

**Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA 90230, USA;**  
**[kalel@well.com](mailto:kalel@well.com) , February 14, 2023**

... I've enjoyed making your acquaintance and appreciate your encouragement to join the ranks of eAPA participants. It's been a serious, honest kick each and every month since we first met via fanzines.

*((Thank you!))*

Per Taral Wayne, Jerry Collins is indeed still active on *DeviantArt*. Curious fen can find his work at <https://www.deviantart.com/georgieganarf>, as well as on Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/collinscritters>. More can be learned on *WikiFur* at [https://en.wikifur.com/wiki/Jerry\\_Collins](https://en.wikifur.com/wiki/Jerry_Collins).

Your response to Lyn McConchie's LOC made me wonder whether Northwest cons show up well in Mindy Hunt's con calendar in the National Fantasy Fan Federation's *Fanactivity Gazette*. If not, I can smuggle you Hunt's email address so you can forward her future such listings. (No less than one Lloyd Penney sends her his Third Monday Reminders.) This weekend, we've got a double whammy in Los Angeles: The Gallifrey One *Doctor Who* con and OrcCon, a roleplaying game event. I'll be participating in both and would have volunteered at Galli were I not running two games at OrcCon – one of which is a 1985 FASA *Doctor Who* scenario. I shall wear my propeller beanie proudly on all our behalf.

*((I can certainly send Mindy Hunt my list. I was moved to collect one partly because I hadn't seen the Northwest Convention League post one for 2023, which disturbed me, and partly because I plan to post such fannish information on my website, anyway.))*

In terms of Penney's commentary – and Graeme Cameron's Discord agreement – on con locations, I'd be all for fan events held in church halls and Legion facilities. Smaller-scale relaxacons with less programming might lend a useful focus to more frequent gatherings. At meetings at the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, for example, though we don't currently have a clubhouse, the programming team frequently brings in guest speakers, recently Tim Powers. People who don't often come to meetings will come to those meetings, drawn by the speaker. And there's just the one. I



could easily envision a lightweight affair that included one speaker, a reading or screening or two, a filksing—perhaps an open mic to accommodate readings, filksongs, and costuming—and a used book sales table. Add a scientific presentation of some sort, and it could be gangbusters.

*((Sounds pretty sensible! We also have community centres in Vancouver, not only like the YMCA, but also meeting centres for ethnic groups. My favourites are the underused Welsh Hall and the W.I.S.E. Hall (Welsh-Irish-Scots-English), but the Croatian and Hungarian and Russian and Polish cultural centres, where meeting space is available.))*

George Phillies's missive reminded me of the Mike Resnick-edited anthology *Alternate Worldcons*. That volume contains Mike Glycer's story "The Men Who Corflued Mohammed." My disinterest in attending a Worldcon in Chengdu is more pragmatic than political. I'm hard pressed to participate in local cons, much less cons overseas.

*((I developed an Attitude about very big conventions, after some very naïve neofans tried to run a very big convention in a very small town where I lived. The largest conventions I have attended were Westercons, and one Norwescon, and I had to be talked into seeing them.))*

As official collator of APA-L, I began recruiting fanartists to contribute covers to our distributions, a practice that had fallen out of habit. I've found that most are willing to submit something if you're open to reprinting previous work, but that some are unresponsive or rightfully focusing on paid work. Many are willing to offer artwork in service to fandom, however, and it helps to already be friends or at least active in fandom, as you are. The trick, I think, is to broaden our aperture as faneds to consider artists who might not already be on our lists of the Usual Suspects. It's good, for example, to see Jose Sanchez's work on the cover of thish. Also, you tap furry art more than I see other faneds do, which is welcome.

*((It helps that Taral Wayne once sent me a boatload of illustrations from furry artists! Also I was entertained in the 1980s by fanzine illustrations by Jerry Collins, and Steven Fox, and other artists.))*

I was pleased to see the N3F directorate elections amongst the "Big News and Stuph from Fanzines." I'd wager it falls under "stuph." Just today, as the former chair for 2022, I embarked on some of the work ahead for 2023: reviving the Official Round Table as a Google Group – to date, we've been using a different Group each year, which has become ungainly; now we can just change the membership – suggesting we select a new chair, and moving toward reviewing the bylaws. There ain't no fandom like fan club fandom!

*((Something to belong to, something to participate in.))*

Your "Fanzines Received" offers a veritable treasure trove of required reading. Why, earlier today I sent LsOC to *MT Void* and *Tightbeam*. In my missive to the Leepers, I propose that *Flesh Gordon* might be an ideal movie to watch on Valentine's Day. If you haven't seen it, seek it out. There's much more to it than I ever imagined.



*((And our work continueth ...))*

The best words used in thish include “oldfart” and “jamtart.”

*((My favourites, too.))*

Kathleen Moore, manxkat, February 18, 2023

Thank you, Garth, for this charming and informative little 'zine.

Responses and NoCs: (Notes of Comment, not sufficient to constitute a "Letter")

*((Actually, I think you sent me a rather good loc. Glad you liked Obdurate Eye #24!))*

Fanzines you want, I sorta got ... I have worn but complete copies of [BCSFazine] #205 and #260 (the Peregrin memorial issue). I thought I had a copy of the May 1995 issue (Evelyn Beheshti memorial issue), but I couldn't find it when I ransacked my 'zine storage spaces tonight.

I have the cover pages only of #'s 192, 212, 380, 384, 398, and 399.

*((May I acquire the BCSFAzines you mentioned? No rush, the scanning project isn't an active one at the moment. Thank you for the effort you went to!))*

I laughed out loud at the page 7 illo "Winter Traffic in Vancouver". Brilliant composition.

*((I only wish it were my composition.))*

It's good to find out that Teunis is still in touch with other people out this way. He's an old friend of mine from the GoT and SCA, and he's in one of my text-sending groups for my intermittent "Addled Adages", "Obvious Explanations", and "Obvious Suggestions" series, that I started in late 2020.

Speaking of those series, would you like to be added to my text-groups, or receive email copies?

*((I would be interested to receive emails of your text groups.))*

On Upcoming Conventions -- these have slightly weirded me out, mostly in a good way:

Fort Fan Fest – FORT SASKATCHEWAN has gotten a fan event? Startling. When did that begin, and what's next -- something in Fort McMurray?

I spent 3 years living in Gibbons (small-town Alberta), before I moved into the UofA (*University of Alberta*). Fort Saskatchewan was the 'big town' offside on the way from Gibbons to Edmonton.

Pemmi-Con? The NasFic is WINNIPEG??? Wow! I guess I'll have to see if I can get there. It's been too long since I last attended a WorldCon, I'm still sorry I missed Conadian "A", and material for Why You Got This Zine is accumulating.

Why have you noted that When Words Collide 2023 is the "last" one? I tried the link, but nothing on their site indicated any such thing.

*((I guess you hadn't seen Graeme's news on Facebook, or in previous Obdurate Eyes. He reported on Pemmi-Con, and on When Words Collide - the committee themselves announced that WWC would be discontinued.))*

**We Also Heard From:** *D. Marshall, Ulrika O'Brien*

**Vote Sandra Bond for TAFF!**

See <https://taff.org.uk>

## News

### ***Mexican Gothic* makes Canada Reads list**

Silvia Moreno-Garcia's 2021 Aurora-winning novel *Mexican Gothic* has been named a finalist in this year's CBC Canada Reads list. The CBC Canada Reads event runs from March 27 to 30, 2023 with the theme of novels that will shift your perspective, will have five books represented by five Canadian personalities over four days of debate and discussion with one book being named the one book all Canadians should read. A novel by Guy Gavriel Kay is included in this event.

From the February 2023 *CSFFA Newsletter*, [newsletter@csffa.ca](mailto:newsletter@csffa.ca)

### **2023 Aurora Award Nominations Opening March 4<sup>th</sup>**

Nominations for the 2023 awards will begin on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. The Canadian SF and Fantasy Association (CSFFA) initially announced they were closing this year's Aurora Award eligibility lists on February 25<sup>th</sup>. (The deadline was subsequently extended to the 26<sup>th</sup>.) Also, due to a lack of eligible movies or TV shows, or works in the Best Fan Organizational category, CSFFA are no longer giving out an award for movies or TV shows, and works that were in the Best Fan Organizational category are now in the Best Fan Related Work category. CSFFA have redefined the Best Artist category as the Best Cover Art/Interior Illustration category. Rather than nominating an artist, CSFFA members will nominate each work that an artist has published in the past year.

From the February 2023 *CSFFA Newsletter*, [newsletter@csffa.ca](mailto:newsletter@csffa.ca)

### **How to Become a CSFFA Member**

Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents can become CSFFA members for \$10/year, which allows one to participate in the Aurora Awards, by signing up at [Membership: Become a Member \(2023\) – The Canadian Science](#)

[Fiction and Fantasy Association \(CSFFA\)](#) and sending in a membership by Paypal.

### **Canadian Unity Fan Fund Nominee Found!**

Garth Spencer, of Vancouver, BC, is standing for nomination as the 2023 CUFF delegate. Nominators were Rose Wilson (BC), R. Graeme Cameron (BC), Kent Pollard (Saskatchewan), Cathy Palmer-Lister (ON), Lloyd Penney (ON), and Diane Walton (Maritimes).

Another delegate may submit an application and \$20 bond to CUFF administrator Fran Skene, by the application deadline of March 10, 2023.

The bond, and all donations to CUFF, may be sent by PayPal or Interac e-transfer to [fskene\(at\)shaw.ca](mailto:fskene(at)shaw.ca). If you wish to pay another way, email Fran to negotiate. Applications for the Canadian Unity Fan Fund should include a short fannish bio, a statement of how you hope to make this trip beneficial for me, and for the Canadian fan community, and list three nominators each in western and eastern Canada. (The border between Ontario and Manitoba is considered to be the dividing line between the regions.)

The 2023 CUFF delegate will receive CUFF funds and AirMiles points to attend Pemmi-Con/NASFiC in Winnipeg this year.

Fran Skene's news releases tell us

"We are looking for a fan from anywhere in Canada to travel to and attend Pemmi-Con, the 15th North American Science Fiction Convention, in Winnipeg this July 20th through 23rd. A hotel room has been reserved for the delegate, and the registration is comped.

"If we have more than one applicant, voting will be open March 15 and close April 15th, in order to give the successful candidate enough time to work with Pemmi-Con programming and to schedule their visit.

"Voting, when open will be permitted by anyone who has been active in Canadian fandom for two years or more, Voters are urged to make a donation to the fund of at least \$5.00 to assist with the candidate's expenses. Votes can be sent to [fskene\(at\)shaw.ca](mailto:fskene(at)shaw.ca).

"... the primary responsibilities of the delegate are to:

- Attend the convention, take part in programming, and report back to your fellow fans on the event.
- Assist in raising funds for the next year's delegate.
- Administer (with the assistance of other Canadian fans) the process to select the next year's fan delegate.
- Promote Canadian genre-related media and fan activities.

"The delegate is welcome to stay longer than just the convention and hang out with local fans. Also consider visiting Winnipeg's famous Royal Aviation Museum."

2023 CUFF Race news release &  
2023 CUFF Race 2<sup>nd</sup> news release

## Received in Email (2)

*Origin* 60, February 2023, John Thiel at 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904. Email [kinethiel@mymetronet.net](mailto:kinethiel@mymetronet.net) . Mildly cerebral editorial musings, a Jack Williamson retrospective, and the usual reviews – one of which is a put-on.

*FanActivity Gazette* 2:9, February 2023, George Phillies ed., [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net) – regular newsletter – a letter of comment, a retro review, convention list, and upcoming club events.

*Addled Adages* Dec. 29, 2022, Kathleen Moore – a collection of wittily bent proverbs, collected from online correspondence. I should ask her for permission to use some of them as interlinos.

*This Here ...* #62, Feb. 2023, Nic Farey, 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV 89142, or Email [fareynic@gmail.com](mailto:fareynic@gmail.com). Fan news, footie news, and Timeless Beauty photos. Who can ask for more?

*Captain Flashback* #51, Feb. 20, 2023, for Turbo-Charged Party Animal #440, Andy Hooper and Carrie Root, “residing at 11032 30th Ave. NE Seattle, WA 98125. E-mail Andy at [fanmailaph@aol.com](mailto:fanmailaph@aol.com), and you may reach Carrie at [carrieroot49@yahoo.com](mailto:carrieroot49@yahoo.com).” Deep ruminations at length on the works of James Tiptree/Alice Sheldon, by way of reviewing *Portable Storage* #8, dominate this apazine.

*Perryscope* #31, February 2023, “the personalzine published monthly by Perry Middlemiss, 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn, Victoria, AUSTRALIA 3122. E: [perry@middlemiss.org](mailto:perry@middlemiss.org).” What impresses me about Perry Middlemiss is the wide range of print and screen fiction he covers, and the breadth of his activity, including travel, and a regular podcast about fiction.

*The N3F Review of Books*, February 2023, George Phillies, [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net) – as it says, a whole lot of reviews of books. I am overwhelmed.

*CyberCozen*, January and February 2023, c/o [leybl\\_botwiniki@yahoo.com](mailto:leybl_botwiniki@yahoo.com) – The Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy’s bilingual Hebrew/English clubzine, reviewing Israeli, Yiddish, and English-language SF.

*MT Void* #2261-2264 - Co-Editors Mark Leeper, [mleeper@optonline.net](mailto:mleeper@optonline.net) , and Evelyn Leeper, [eleeper@optonline.net](mailto:eleeper@optonline.net). Book reviews and letters of comment. Not a lot of comment hooks.

*De Profundis* #583 and *Menace of the LASFS*, both March 2023, c/o Heath Row at 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA 90230; via email to [kalel@well.com](mailto:kalel@well.com). Newsletter, and “Complete and Expurgated Minutes,” of the Los Angeles SF Society.