



Jon Chopan is an associate professor of creative writing at Eckerd College. He received his BA and MA in American History from SUNY Oswego and his MFA from The Ohio State University. His first collection, *Pulled from the River*, was published by Black Lawrence Press in 2012. He is the winner of the 2017 Grace Paley Prize for Short Fiction for his second collection *Veterans Crisis Hotline*, which was published by the University of Massachusetts Press in October 2018. His work has appeared in *Glimmer Train*, *Hotel Amerika*, *Post Road*, *Epiphany*, *The*

Southampton Review, and elsewhere.

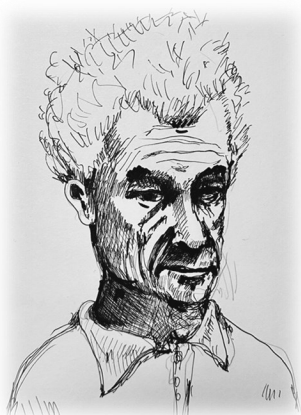


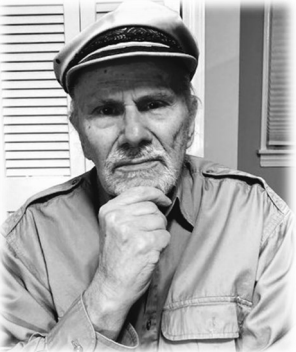
Illustration by Craig Burnett

For over three decades **Jery Hollis** told very local stories in very local towns in Canada, particularly the west coast of British Columbia. These stories often included photographs of men holding fish they had caught at derbies. At other times they included photographs of young men, almost all of whom never made it out of the minor leagues, frozen in the moment of delivering a slap shot. At other times they included tables full of crafts created by equally local artisans whom Jery had the pleasure of interviewing. He was

paid very poorly for these stories, and often the stories didn't even include his name when they were published on very pulpy newspapers not kept around for very long after they were delivered, usually by boys either on foot or bicycle. Eventually Jery grew tired of writing these things, though he was grateful for the money they had provided, which was enough, given that Jery had no wife, no kids, and no real material ambitions, to slowly amass until its sum was enough for him to retire and move to a very large town, called London, and finally begin to write what he wanted, and to see if, maybe, these bits of disjecta might find a way into print. This is where Jery still is: head bent over notes, trying to piece them into sense, sentence inch by sentence inch, hoping they'll speak loud enough for someone to hear.



Meggie Royer is a Midwestern writer. She is a domestic-violence advocate and the founder and editor-in-chief of *Persephone's Daughters*, a literary and arts journal for abuse survivors. She has won numerous awards for her work and has been nominated several times for the Pushcart Prize. She thinks there is nothing better in this world than a finished poem.



David Sheskin is a self-taught artist. He created his first work of art at the age of forty. His initial efforts were pen-and-ink drawings, followed by acrylic paintings, sculpture, collage, and digital images. Over the years his art has been published in numerous magazines as well as in other formats, such as calendars and note cards. You can view all of his art on his websites sheskinart.my.canva.site and djsheskin.com.



J.D. Strunk was born in Boston, grew up in northern Ohio, and is a copy editor in Denver. He has a degree in English Literature from the University of Toledo. His fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in *Coachella Review*, *Louisville Review*, *Allium: A Journal of Poetry & Prose*, *Jimson Weed*, *New Plains Review*, *Bookends Review*, and elsewhere. In 2022, he was a finalist for the *Bellingham Review* Tobias Wolff Award for Fiction.



Akshay "Bak" Sundaram welcomes you to his humble beginnings as a published cartoonist. He values your readership, much the same way he values cheese omelets. He recently received a piece of paper proclaiming him as a "Master of Science," a dubious title if ever there was one. He much preferred his old moniker of "Bachelor of Science," since it let him freely enter open relationships with physics, biology, or whatever he so desired. Akshay is, in his own words, the most eclectic engineer he knows.



Kaitlyn Taylor was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. The South's rich culture of storytelling—and her ever-going imagination—has influenced her decision to pursue writing. She studies English Literature with a concentration in Creative Writing at Jackson State University. She is also the cofounder and president of JSU's creative writing group Jackson State Writers Alliance. Kaitlyn loves researching and exploring the depths of social,

interpersonal, and human psychological conflicts and aims to further engage these topics in her writing. Her bassoon holds a special place in her heart.



Pardeep Toor's writing has appeared in the Best Debut Short Stories 2021: The PEN America Dau Prize, as well as *Electric Literature*, *Longreads*, *Catapult*, *Midwest Review*, *Southern Humanities Review*, and *Great River Review*.



Ross West has placed essays, fiction, poetry, and journalism in publications from *Orion* to the *Journal of Recreational Linguistics*. His work has been anthologized in *Best Essays Northwest*, *Best of Dark Horse Presents*, and elsewhere. He edited the University of Oregon's research magazine, *Inquiry*; was senior managing editor at *Oregon Quarterly*; and served as text editor for the *Atlas of Oregon* and the *Atlas of Yellowstone*. A collection of short stories, *The Fragile Blue Dot*, is due out in spring 2024.