

THE BCSFA WAR OF '74

WHEN THERE WERE TWO COMPETING VERSIONS OF THE CLUB NEWSLETTER.

(BCSFAZINE #9, BCSFA NEWSLETTER VOL 2, NO 1, & BCSFAZINE #9A) – ALL ATTACHED.

BCSFAZINE MARCH 1974 VOL 2, #3, WN 9

NOTE: SEND ALL COMMENTS ON THIS E-VERSION TO < rgraeme@shaw.ca >

BCSFA NEWSLETTER #9

MARCH 1974

This newsletter is written, typed, run off, collated and mailed by Mike Bailey (#4 – 2416 W. 3rd Ave. Vancouver, B.C. V6K 1L8, 731-8451 or 666-6604) on behalf of the B.C. Science Fiction Association. It is mailed to members (\$3.00 p.a.) or subscribers (\$1.50 p.a.), and others. Diana Keswick helped with the last issue.

POST CONVENTION REPORT

What happened? I only attended one event during the entire con and so I really don't know what happened or how events were received. I don't even know who won the Elrons, or how many people attended. Personally I didn't really enjoy the convention, however I guess that's part of the price I had to pay to be one of the executive.

More on this topic later in the newsletter.

OTHER NEWS

The Hugo nomination ballot for 1973 is now available. In order to nominate, you must be a member of either Torcon 2 (last year's worldcon) or Discon II (this year's Worldcon). A supporting membership to Discon costs \$3.00 (Discon II, Box 31127, Washington, D.C. 20031). The Guest of Honour is Roger Zelazny. Only members of Discon II may vote on the final ballot. I'll send a copy of the nomination form to anyone who is interested.

The 27th annual Westercon (West Coast Science Fantasy Conference) will be held July 3 – July 7 1974 at the Francisco Torres, Goleta California (Santa Barbara). (We are bidding to hold the 1977 Westercon in Vancouver at the Hyatt Regency.) I intend to go to this convention and hopefully so do a number of other BCSFA people. Westercon is a large convention having an attendance of 1000-2000 persons and is enjoyable to people interested in any facet of SF. So why not plan your vacation now to

include a trip to Santa Barbara and let me know. If enough people are interested, we can work out some group transportation arrangements. I hope to drive, but...

Westercon is cheap. Membership and room and board costs just \$70 for a single occupancy. For further information contact me or inquire to Westercon XXVII, P.O. Box 1, Santa Monica, CA. 90406. By the way, the Guest of "Honor" is Philip K. Dick, the Guest of "Honour" at VCON II.

A Science Fiction Writing Workshop under the tutelage of Judith Merrill will be held at the University of Toronto July 3-12.

DAW Books will be publishing some Cthulhu Mythos (H.P. Lovecraft-type) novels. Brian Lumley's is already available – The Burrowers Beneath – and Phil Farmer is writing a Doc Caliban versus the Cthulhu Mythos novel.

Ejler Jakobson has resigned as editor to GALAXY.

CORRESPONDENCE

"Enjoy the newsletter, but wish you'd credit items from Locus. We just gave up on mimeo & are going to pro printing & need all the free advertising we can get."

"I'm one of those opposed to the Elron Awards mainly because they seem to breed nothing but bad feeling... the awards mostly go to a disappointing book – not really a bad book." Charlie Brown (Locus Publications, Box 3938 San Francisco CA 94119 – 18 issues for \$6.00 by first class mail). LOCUS is a newszine published more frequently than our newsletter.

Phil Farmer wrote to comment on the review of Image of the Beast which appeared in the last newsletter. *"Amazing and fantastic though it is ((astounding?)), I had never read a pornographic book before I wrote Image... So when I wrote Image and Feast I didn't know that you were supposed to inspire erections when you wrote 'pornography'. I wrote Image as a sort of modern-day Gothic with smog taking the place of the conventional fog... What is pornography, anyway?"*

I predict Jim Maloan will not appear in Last Dangerous Visions, because...

"After eighteen years as a professional writer, after paying dues that total 800 stories, 26 books, two dozen teleplays, half a dozen series pilots, eight or nine movies, after being praised by critics ranging from Dorothy Parker to James Blish... the word is finally in. I no longer have to concern myself with my ultimate worth as a writer. Yay, the word is in:"

"From Port Coquitlam, Jim Maloan writes, "...I also consider Harlan Ellison the most overrated Fantasy writer in existence."

"What a relief to get, at long last, an authoritative and well-reasoned assessment of my talent from a learned student of modern literature. This unsolicited but nonetheless incisive statement at long last dispels the cloud of ambivalence that has shrouded my self-evaluation. Clearly, I'm a bum, whose

virtually nonexistent talent has been pumped full of air by know-nothings like the over two hundred academic anthologists who have selected my stories for college-level textbooks on contemporary literature.”

“In point of fact, so invaluable do I consider Mr. Maloan’s opinion, that I am forwarding a Xerox of your Newsletter to Messrs. Whaley & Cook, whose text/anthology, MAN UNWEPT: VISIONS OF THE INNER EYE, came in the same mail as your circular. It is the sixtieth reprinting for college students of my story “I Have No Mouth And I Must Scream”, and they’ve foolishly sandwiched it between selections by William Butler Yeats and Jonathan Swift, two more vastly overrated fantasy writers. When they perceive the clarity of Mr. Maloan’s literary criticism, I’m sure they’ll have McGraw-Hill recall all those books, to snip out my dumb story.”

“So, these few words of thanks are sent with utmost gratitude for cleaning up my muddy thinking. Why, would believe... for simply years I’ve thought I was a good writer? And mass hysteria has done the rest.”

“But now things are all straight, and I’ve decided to make life richer for Mr. Maloan: I’m returning to truck driving as an occupation, just as soon as I can sell my typewriter.”

“Gee whiz, fellas, I wouldn’t know what to do if it weren’t for the constant support and serious literary analyses in fanzines. Makes a guy humble to think of the fecundity and range of insight of the fan audience.”

“Is it any wonder Bob Heinlein put up an electrified fence around his home?”

“Incidentally, I’m sure when Joanna Russ is apprised of Mr. Maloan’s terrific opinion of her work, she’ll forget all this silly liberated woman nonsense and pack up her typer, and go out and find some nice guy who’ll marry her, and give her a bunch of kids, and buy her a Fanny Farmer Cookbook so she can discover her True mission in life: making a good home for some swell guy. Golly, it’s good to have straight thinkers like Maloan around to put us wrongos on the right path.”

“With undying thanks,”

A letter in full from Harlan Ellison. Some people have a way with words, don’t they?”

BOOK REVIEWS

Beyond Apollo by Barry N. Malzberg Pocket Books 95 cents.

“This will never work” – Man into Machine

Malzberg won the John Campbell Award for this novel, although I doubt that Campbell would ever have published it. It is an anti-technology novel that is attacking our technological culture which is engulfing us, making psychopathy a survival characteristic.

The story is about a two-man mission to Venus. Apparently only one man returns, (I say ‘apparently’ because nothing is really spelled out in the book.), and he is insane. His training has almost made him into a machine, leaving him neither human nor a machine. Speaking to his wife (the novel is written in first person), *“I begin to fuck her like a proper astronaut, hands clamped into fists at her side, the whole body geared to the piston of the prick which is so neatly inserted into its aperture of proper tension. Fluids rise and billow within me; hatches fall on schedule. I come quietly, efficiently, touching no part of her, and remain above, staring at the ceiling.”*

Even the Captain (not always capitalized), who fails to return with the space craft, is portrayed as being insane. He forces the narrator of the story, Evans, to guess the true purpose of their mission. Evans goes through all the standard SF clichés for such missions and the Captain rejects them all. Why send men to Venus? Is Malzberg trying to say that there is no reason? No, something worse.

“...events control our lives, although we have no understanding of them nor do they have any motivation. Everything is blind chance, happenstance, occurrence; in an infinite universe anything can happen. After the fact we find reasons. We’re going to Venus because the dice came up.” Einstein, *“God doesn’t play dice with the universe”*, would turn in his grave.

And maybe the dice will turn up a Hugo for Malzberg someday. (If I had read it in time I would have nominated it for a Torcon Hugo.)

Hello Summer, Goodbye by Michael G. Coney (a manuscript)

Coney is a modern SF writer. Instead of “getting there”, his colonists are there and no one cares how. What Coney does in most of his novels is to introduce men into an alien environment and then observe the results. Those who adapt to the environment survive and those who don’t, die. If a technological terraforming is attempted, it usually fails. Except for the colonists, so it is in Hello Summer, Goodbye. There are no humans in the book, although the aliens could be described as at least as humanoid.

The planet on which the story takes place has an orbit which causes it to revolve around two primaries, one being a large planet. In every 2,000 years it spends 40 revolving around the planet and during this time the inhabited world undergoes a minor ice age. The technology of the aliens is destroyed and mortality is close to 100%.

The plot of this novel involves the inhabitants, having an 1850 technology, nearing the ice age and not realizing it. However, some politicians discover their doom and prepare an underground installation with supplies to last 40 years. Although the ending is left deliberately murky. The politicians fail and the people who are going to survive do so by a natural method – a type of hibernation.

However the real story is the interaction of the characters under their unique environmental conditions. The book’s major character is a boy who is growing up (presented in a Jack Vance manner). He is the son of a politician and he falls in love with the daughter of a tavern keeper. Through these two characters he is able to introduce a number of three-dimensional diverse persons to mirror the society.

This is Coney's strength – three-dimensional characters interacting within an unusual environment. He is a story teller and not a philosopher.

I enjoyed this novel and I suspect most people would. However, Coney's agent doesn't approve of it because the plot has too much character interaction and really doesn't seem to require the science fiction element. Perhaps Coney is unwittingly turning from a filthy pro into a filthy rich mainstream pro.

And now the bad news, or

FANDOM REVEALED OR... WHEN YOU'RE UP TO YOUR ASS IN ALLIGATORS

At a meeting of the convention committee Mike Bailey was removed from his office as treasurer of the convention. Although all of the committee members who were present realized that the conflict was in essence a clash of personalities between Mike Bailey and David George/Pat Burrows, the vote was unanimous, and the conflict will now be brought into the open. Some facts to consider are:

Mike Bailey remains as Co-chairman of the convention and treasurer of the BCSFA;

Both sides have consulted lawyers and the question of who pays for legal expenses should arise;

The BCSFA is not registered in Victoria under the Societies Act and no constitution for it exists;

The only paid up members of the BCSFA are those who have paid their money to the treasurer, Mike Bailey;

Mike Bailey was removed as a signing authority of the Association account by the convention committee, although it was admitted that the convention committee was not the BCSFA executive and hence had no authority to do so.

The above are the "clean" facts. I'm not going to list any "dirty" facts or charges here. Apparently, a general meeting of the BCSFA will be called by the convention committee (I hope I am invited) in order to present both cases to the membership and try to let them decide whether or not to fire me as treasurer of the BCSFA or (at least) severely censure David George and Pat Burrows. Consequently I advise everyone to turn up at this meeting (even if you haven't paid) because it is very important for the future of the BCSFA, the production of this newsletter, and for me personally.

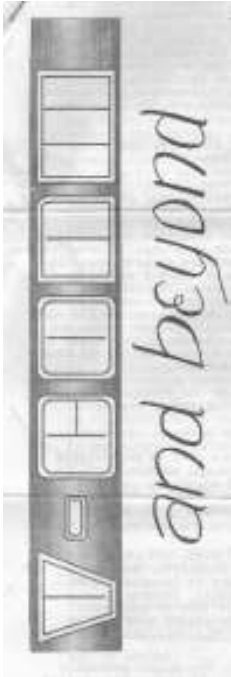
Because of this conflict, no financial statement can be prepared at this time – I don't have the necessary records.

Note that this is the official BCSFA NEWSLETTER and the other you will receive is a convention committee newsletter. If anyone doesn't receive my newsletter, it's not be design, it's because I have been unable to secure all the necessary addresses.

I FORGOT TO DRAIN THE SWAMP.

Last issue 300 copies. This issue 275 copies.

% Box 35215, Station E, Vancouver, B.C.



NEXT meeting will be held at 7:30 PM sharp at 6693 Wiltshire St. on March 30th (Sat). Wiltshire is four blocks west of Granville and the cross street is W. 51st. Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

The V-CON III Convention executive committee will state why Mike Bailey was voted out of office as Treasurer and the legal status of the situation. Everyone is urged to attend this meeting.

The BCSFA is in the process of setting up a constitution in order to be registered under the BC Societies Act. John Thomson will be giving a summary of how we stand and looking for interested members to aid him in setting up a committee to work on this complex matter.

Information on Westercon XXVII will be available at the meeting. It is being held in Santa Barbara, Calif. July 3-7. We shall have information as to group travel costs too.

John Thomson will be showing the V-Con III slides. (See also article later on.)

Thanks to all who attended V-CON III; we hope you enjoyed yourselves. Final membership was 418 attendees. Please let us know what you thought of the convention. Our new, temporary, mailing address is at the top of the page. We welcome suggestions for next year. Special thanks to all speakers, panelists, hucksters, artists, displayers, and the Society for Creative Anachronism.

FOUND – at V-CON III

Two scarves, 1 hat, 1 pair ladies gloves, 1 small pink memo book with addresses in it. Claim these at the March meeting or write % the above address.

SPECIAL NOTE: At least temporarily, we are unable to get any mail at our old P.O. Box address. If you wrote recently and got no reply, use the above address – it's guaranteed.

CONVENTION GOODIES FOR SALE!!!

Six cassette tapes covering most of the events at the convention are available for \$3.00 each from the BCSFA. Requests for tapes are to be sent to the BCSFA, % P.O. Box 35215, Station E, Vancouver, B.C., and must include payment in Canadian funds. The cassettes are good quality C-90's. Available are the following:

C-1. Both of Frank Herbert's talks.

- C-2. The Authors Panel, and Crawford Kilian's talk.
- C-3. The Clarion Workshop Demonstration.
- C-4. Mason Harris on H.P. Lovecraft.
- C-5. The ELRON Awards, intro to Metropolis, and Fan Panel.
- C-6. The ELRON Awards, and Mason Harris's Sunday AM talk.

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Duplicate slides and/or colour prints made from the slides of the convention can be obtained from John Thomson. If possible try to come to the March meeting and select the desired shots in person. John can, however, supply copies of desired subjects, i.e. 'Frank Herbert on podium', 'Clarion panel,' etc. He can also prepare a selection of shots for anyone who wants a comprehensive coverage of the con. Cost is 65 cents mailing charge plus 50 cents for each duplicate slide and 75 cents for each colour print. After costs, any profit will go to the BCSFA. Allow approximately 3 to 4 weeks for delivery, as they are being sent to Kodak Toronto who do the best job. Send mail requests to John Thomson % BCSFA.

We have a limited number of posters of the Programme Book cover by Ron Norton left. They can be purchased at the March meeting for only 50 cents each.

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Is there anyone in the BCSFA who would like to participate in setting up a Graeco-Roman (1100 BC – 150 AD) household within the Society for Creative Anachronism? If so, please see Pat Burrows, Diana Keswick, or John Thomson at the next meeting, or drop them a line c/o the BCSWFA. Pax Vobiscum.

Membership in the BCSFA is \$3.00 per year, and includes a subscription to the monthly newsletter. Newsletter sub. Alone is \$1.50 per year. Cheques or money orders in Canadian funds should be sent to the BCSFA, % P.O. Box 35215, Station E, Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Please note that this is not the address which appeared in the V-CON III Programme Book.

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This newsletter was written, typed, and generally slaved over by: Pat Burrows, David George, Diana Keswick, Robert Leung, John Thomson, and Susan Walsh the blue-pencil fiend. Printing by A.B. Dick. We would like to close by reprinting in its entirety the following convention report....

REPORT E11

To: Museum of Earthly Studies, Andromeda E-W-27

From: Vital Laforce 1017.

Re: Investigation of V-Con III.

The mission was a success. Much information was gathered while the disguise was again not penetrated. A detailed report will not be possible until after the data-tapes on the conference can be analyzed.

V-CON III was a gathering of Earth primate type A, predominately Caucasian, with no unusual sexual, psychic, or social variations. The common bond was an interest in in conspecific fantasy projections, called science fiction. As usual, much time was occupied with sex, and in this tradition they had some difficulty differentiating between the physical act, the reproductive potential, the emotional interface, and the cultural imprint. (Ref. report on sexual-sensual liberation.)

The four main activity loci were:

- 1) The Display Room – The surveillance equipment was located here. Reactions were recorded revealing specific behavioral patterns when volunteers were subjected to simulated situations. These included: military/aggressive; religious; artistic; and scientific. Preliminary analysis shows results were similar to those found in arcades (Ref. report on pornography) though the elimination of monetary exchange did produce the anticipated increase in altruism.
- 2) The Ball Room – Mass gatherings were held here. This room was grossly underused when it came to the primary function, cultural inhibitions prevailing. The talks, Clarion session, and film were relatively superior in quality. The subliminal imprint on Frank Herbert is creating relatively valuable and stimulating situations; this type of experiment should be repeated.
- 3) The Bars – Everpresent. The consumption of alcohol was frequent, if restrained. A welcome innovation was the introduction of no-tobacco-smoking rooms, though they have yet to introduce official dope rooms.
- 4) Private Rooms – As per Reg. PET 68, no surveillance was permitted in the bedrooms of the nation. Conversational insight and the observable physical symptoms suggest that some persons had what is subjectively called fun.

In response to requests from the inter-galactic council on planetary development the following should be reported.

- A- Most male, and many female, even of this gathering have yet to understand the development of post-industrial sex-role revision.
- B- This group showed greater understanding of conspecific aggression than most, though it is far from ready for activity imprint.

Interim Recommendation: This species is not yet ready for knowledge. Preliminary explorations of the sentient exceptional can be profitable under control situations.

END OF REPORT

Press run – 350 copies. This issue is mailed to all members of V-CON III for whom we have addresses. Note that unless you subscribe or attend the March meeting this may be your last copy.

BCSFA NEWSLETTER #9(a)

MARCH 1974

This newsletter is being sent out with the agreement of the entire convention committee of Vcon III to all members, associate members (subscribers), and potential members (we need new blood, so please seriously consider joining). Please send mail concerning the BCSFA to P.O. Box 35577, Station 'E', Vancouver B.C. Mike Bailey (2416 West 3rd Ave #4, Vancouver B.C. 731-8451 or 666-6604) is publishing this newsletter and desires mail concerning himself or the newsletter sent to him.

REVISED AGENDA FOR MARCH 30 MEETING

The BCSFA is in the process of setting up a constitution in order to be registered under the BC Societies Act. We will be looking forward for persons with ideas on the subject and who are willing to help in this complex matter.

Information on Westercon XXVII will be available and (if Mike Coney is present) a surprise announcement may be made.

John Thomson will be showing his VCON III slides.

This meeting is at Pat Burrows' residence (6693 Wiltshire St.) and begins at 7:30 PM. It's BYOB and no smoking is allowed indoors. Outdoors is OK.

CLARIFICATION

Mike Bailey is sorry if the working of a statement in the BCSFA Newsletter #9 concerning the censure of David George and Pat Burrows may have been misunderstood. Mike Bailey assumed that David George and Pat Burrows would present a motion at the upcoming meeting that he be relieved of his position of treasurer of the BCSFA and if this motion failed then he intended to raise a motion for the censure (at least) of David George and Pat Burrows. However, no such motions will be raised and no general discussion on the matter will occur.

RESIGNATIONS

All executive positions of the BCSFA are vacant; all persons holding defacto, pro tem, or original founding-member executive positions have resigned effective March 24, 1974. After a constitution is formulated, elections for the executive will be held.

The convention committee will remain in existence only until a financial statement of the convention has been prepared and approved by the membership.

PLUGS

Dan Say (P.O. Box 65583, Vancouver 12, B.C. V5N 5K5) is publishing a special Vcon III issue of GUARD THE NORTH. It will contain an interview of Frank Herbert and a transcript of a talk by Mason Harris on H.P. Lovecraft (from Vcon I) and is available for 60 cents at the above address.

A speaker at the convention, Crawford Kilian, will be one of two teachers presenting a seven-week course on science fiction during the summer session at Capilano College (English 160, May 13 to June 26 at the Lynnmour campus). For further information on this course call Capilano College at 980-7511.

Ron Norton (who was in charge of Vcon III art show) and Ken Witcher are looking for a site to rent for a bookstore specializing in comics and SF. If all goes well, they will have access to 30,000 comics when they open.

MISCELLANEOUS

"The extract of hemp seed (Cannabis indica) administered to various persons produces a great exuberance of ideation; it is not only new ideas but the exaggeration, amplification and combination of ideas that pre-existed in the person's mind. Hashish produces one curious effect...; this is the singular inclination to make puns and plays on words." SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, March 1974.

And who is "Quillotione Queen", or "Circads", or "Circadservicersizing"?

H. Warner Munn, an author whose stories appeared in WEIRD TALES during the 20's and 30's, attended our convention. It was the first convention he ever attended. Although I didn't talk with him as much as I wanted, he did mention that he had traveled with H.P. Lovecraft and he was very interested in hearing Dr. Mason Harris' talk, "Fear of Sex and Foreign Races in the Fiction of H.P. Lovecraft." It wasn't those things that Lovecraft was afraid of, Munn said, "He was afraid of fish."

I happened across a photograph of the cover of DAW book #102, Hunters of Gor by John Norman (1.50). It shows a well-endowed young lady with a collar around her neck. Attached to the collar is a chain which is being held by a man (our hero?). Does someone care to review this book when it becomes available?

If you think Vcon II was a large convention...

Because of space limitations we had to turn away a number of people at the door who wished to attend Vcon III. However, there were 9,000 to 12,000 people at the recent Star Trek convention in New York, and they had the same problem – including a near-riot at the door.

Jim Maloan who was the subject (victim?) of the Harlan Ellison letter printed in the last newsletter has sent me an "Open Letter to Harlan Ellison". I forwarded a copy of it to Harlan Ellison to obtain a response, if any. If Jim Maloan received some direct response, I think we'll let the matter lie; however, if Ellison again replies to me, I can only assume he wants it out in the open and I'll oblige.

PERSONAL EDITORIAL ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Most of you have not been receiving this newsletter very long and so are not aware of its evolution. I started it last summer on my own initiative in order to attract people to our meetings. Since that time it has slowly (and consciously) evolved from what you might expect to find in a newsletter to something which may be called a newszine. (And I have a number of American subscribers to it.) I have attempted to put some personality into it, yet not sacrifice fact and credibility. Future plans included the adding of illustrations and special supplements such as essays on science fiction (by myself and others – anyone who wants to contribute) and various listings. However this may be the last newsletter I do.

There may not be a newsletter for some time (until a new meeting, new constitution, and new officers are announced, printed and elected) and the next one will probably be devoid of outside news and comment. If you wish the newsletter to continue on the evolution I have described, now is the time to let me know.

Although because of my experience, I think I would have a reasonable good chance of being elected publications officer (or whatever the position might be titled), I may not want the position because of the way it might be restricted by the constitution. Consequently, in order to influence the direction of the (your) newsletter, I urge you to let your opinions and desires known, so that the persons setting up the constitution may make the best decision.

Because I have written the newsletter, the above applies to me; however the same ideas apply to all executive offices. The constitution is important. How it is written and how the offices are set up are going to effect the future, success or failure, of this association. So make your opinions known. (I can't promise, but I think it is highly likely that a proposed constitution will be published in the next issue.)

Meanwhile, I'm sorry that there's no letter column this issue (I have the letters, but not the time to put them in), but keep those letters coming in. Your opinions are important. And if anyone cares to contribute something...

LAST ISSUE 275 copies, this issue 325.