

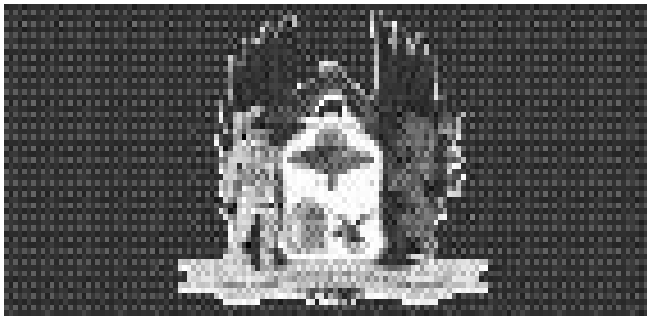
BCSFAzine #335

Vol. 29 No. 4

April 2001



**(INSERT SOME WITTY AND
SEASONAL CUTLINE HERE)**



Contributor's Deadlines - Apr. 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19. Send, your submissions, comments, locs to **Garth Spencer at P.O. Box 15335, V.M.P.O., Vancouver, B.C. CANADA V6B 5B1, or e-mail me at hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca.**

SATURDAY APRIL 21ST: - 2:00 p.m., Vidlecture on 'Visions of Mars.' Followed at 3:00 p.m. by BCSFA (or other) club meeting/event?

"SATURDAY MAY 19TH: - 2:00 p.m., Vidlecture on 'The Way the Future Should Have Been' (sort of 2001 disappointment theme), followed at 3:00 p.m. by BCSFA (or other) club meeting/event?

"SATURDAY JUNE 16TH: - 2:00 p.m., Vidlecture on 'Teenagers From Outer Space (and other SF films aimed at teenagers).' Followed at 3:00 p.m. by BCSFA (or other) club meeting/event?

F.R.E.D. - Every Friday: The weekly gathering of BCSFAns and all others interested in joining us for an evening of conversation and relaxation, with pool table option. At the Burrard Motor Inn opposite St. Paul's Hospital (Downtown Vancouver) 6 blocks south of Burrard Skytrain Station. 3 blocks west of Granville (where many buses run). #22 Knight/ McDonald bus along Burrard. Begins 8:00pm. **On the Friday before long weekends**, FRED will be at the lounge of Bosman's Hotel. This is two blocks east and a part of a block north of the Burrard Motor Inn (actual address is 1060 Howe St.).

BCSFA Membership Rates:

New	\$26.00
New Family	\$32.00
Renewal	\$25.00
Family (2 Votes)	\$31.00

Above prices includes subscription to *BCSFAzine*. Make cheques payable to WCSFA (West Coast Science Fiction Association) c/o 86 Warrick Street, Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 5L4.

BCSFAzine is also available by e-mail as an Adobe Acrobat .PDF file.(Please e-mail hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca if you wish to receive the magazine by e-mail.)

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For comments, subscriptions suggestions, and/or submissions, write to: *BCSFAzine* c/o Box 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, B.C. CANADA V6B 5B1.

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PLAIN SPEAKING

This month: a guest editorial contributed by Internet writer Hrothgar Weems

Through the kindness and public spirit of the Vancouver CommunityNet, I am able to bring to your attention a threat I have uncovered; a threat to science fiction clubs, conventions and publications throughout Western Canada and beyond. For convenience I may as well call it the “Western Fandom Illuminati”. I merely mean by this a concerted program, by many hands over wide areas and throughout the last quarter of the 20th century, to exploit and subvert grass-roots, independent, non-profit, volunteer science fiction clubs. But they have yet to accomplish their goal of turning fandom into a passive, easily manipulated market; presumably, a cash cow to finance other enterprises.

Major “accomplishments” of this program include, for one thing, the launching of Creation Con, the notoriously profit-driven “convention” for fans too new to fandom to know of other, fan-run conventions. Creation Con succeeded to the point where some alleged fans, as early as 1982 in Victoria, B.C. and as recently as 2000 in Vancouver, independently tried to hold Creation-type events. (Creation Con itself suffered a major setback when Canada Customs discovered that Creation might not have been paying duties or taxes.)

Other major WFI programs, including several “service” clubs which nearly dominated the Security departments of several conventions, have narrowed fans’ models of fan activity to monetary lines. To some extent.

Quis Custodiet Ipsos Custodes?

Since approximately the middle of the year 2000, one of my prime suspects has become involved in several volunteer activities at once:

- *BCSFAzine*, the monthly newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association.
- CUFF, the Canadian Unity Fan Fund. Like the other travel funds set up to keep far-flung fans acquainted with each other, CUFF was instituted to help keep Canadian fans and fan communities in touch. For more information about CUFF, see <http://www.vcn.bc.ca/~hrothgar/cuff.htm>, the CUFF page.



- The V-Con Society, the permanent, overseeing organization for VCon. Like other such organizations, the V-Con Society keeps records, offers registered-society protection, authorizes a convention committee to use the VCon name, as opposed to the annually-formed concon that works on a specific convention each year.
- VCon 26, the VCon coming up in early May 2001. See <http://www.v-con.org>, the VCon 26 Web site.

Allegedly, these enterprises are assisted by the same person coordinating their records, their address lists, and some of their communications. But consider the scope for abuse and manipulation opened by one person, entirely unwatched and unregulated, having all this access. Then you might ask, who sought this kind of role? Who has wormed his way into your confidence? Can I give him a name? Yes, I can.

His name is Garth Spencer.



LETTERS OF COMMENT

Harry Warner, Jr., 423 Summit Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740, Feb. 18, 2001

The February *BCSFAzine* is notable for introducing me to the wonderful world of anime convention-going. Anime itself is as esoteric to me as computers but apparently convention troubles are spontaneously generated and threaten almost any interest group's get-togethers. I share your mystification over the scheduling of such an event on the Sunday and Monday following Thanksgiving Day's United States schedule. In Maryland, at least, a few government agencies and some small-scale business firms are closed on Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, so employees can have a four-day weekend, but everything is up and running again on Monday. I tried to figure out if the international date line could have something to do with it but I don't think Japan, the prime begetter of anime, ever manages to be more than one day out of step with North America.

((Dale Speirs or somebody put it this way: there are people who don't really know conrunning, but still have vast ambitions, and who keep coming up with half-vast plans for carrying them out.))

It hadn't occurred to me that German fans would know Casablanca only via voice-dubbing. It's too bad Humphrey Bogart couldn't have grunted out his famous lines in that language.

((Well, Bogie did say, as I recall the movie, that his German was a bit rusty.))

It's hard to believe anyone else could sound like him for dubbing purposes. I don't know how German movie fans feel about the dubbing-subtitle question, but I greatly prefer subtitling to a dubbing into English. And somehow I have the impression that just about everyone in Germany and Austria knows enough English to need neither when they attend an American movie.

Your new assignment at the planetarium sounds like a splendid thing to perform. Even though some of us would like to have it otherwise, the fact remains that movies and television are the forms in which most people experience science fiction and fantasy nowadays, and you should be able to do some missionary work on behalf of printed science fiction after you've attracted mundanes with the visual attractions. I trust you'll provide us with regular reports on how things go.

((You mean R. Graeme Cameron's vidlectures, I take it?))

*Brad W Foster, Box 165246, Irving, TX 75016
<bwfoster@juno.com> Mar. 4, 2001*

Got in issue #333 the other day (half the mark of the beast?), along with your note on the outside of the envelope of "Art good! Send more!" Thanks for the compliment, but I have to admit, since you didn't use any in this issue, I'm going to hold off sending more just now. I've only got a few of these on hand at any time, and try not to pile up too many with any one zine, so I send out a few at a time, and as you use them, I'll send more. That okay?

I'm hoping once I get finished with the new time-consuming project of having to shift a couple of tons of dirt in my backyard away from the house, and installing a sump pump and some other new gutter systems to help with irrigation, I can get back to the drawing board for some fun. But, if I don't do the digging and such, the floor under the drawing board is just going to get flooded again!

((You mean they have that much water in Texas?))

Lots of interesting tidbits in this issue, but the item that most caught my eye was that one of the topics for your video lecture series was "Robots in Science Fiction Films". Is there any sort of hard-copy version

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of that in the forms of note or transcript? Curious since I have been a long-time accumulator (not to be confused with the more intense “collector”) of toy robots, and a few peripheral items, and a listing of SF movies featuring the buggers could be a nice addition to all that. Anything available, or do you just keep it all in your head?

((You mean Graeme's lecture series, don't you? I have passed on your request to him.))

Lloyd Penney, March 13, 2001

Thank you for issue 334 of *BCSFAzine*. I haven't received it as a printed paper zine in a long time, so it's good to get it this way. Also, thank you for the BCSFA directory; I now know where Randy Barnhart has gotten to.

((You mean Steve's directory, I take it. For half a second I confused it with the club handbook ...))

Thanks for the website addresses for the Victoria comic con and for the next Gatecon ... I'll look them up and add them to the next convention lists I produce, for Don Bassie's Made In Canada website and *Realms Magazine*.

((I hope you've included VCon 26!))

Steven Fox is an artist who should have received much more recognition than he did. I'm not sure if he was ever nominated for a Hugo for Best Fan Artist ... he should have been. I remember in many fanzines I received in the late 80s and early 90s, a lot of his work showed up in fanzines like *FOSFAX*. In fact, the *FOSFAX* editors may know where Steven is, if he's not

in Philadelphia any more.

My letter ... Ad Astra never did do business under the OSFiC umbrella. I think during Ad Astra's initial years, OSFiC was dying, and most people considered it a dinosaur. This was from a time when you could stage a convention with little legal support. Ad Astra took its incorporation from the defunct Draco Film Society. Ad Astra's initial committee was a group of fans separate from OSFiC (some had been members, but the convention was not a club activity), and the con was staged in co-operation with the fans who staged the previous Draconis series

of conventions. OSFiC was getting less and less active, and its final convenor tried to revive it, but he wound up shutting it down. I was not really aware of organizations like OSFiC and Draco at the time, and by the time I found out about them, they were already gone. My only physical connections to those groups ... some back issues of OSFiC publications, and a Draco club pin.

((Oho! Now here's a critical error I may have incorporated into the developing Canadian fanhistory. It wasn't clear to me that Ad Astra was that separate from OSFiC.

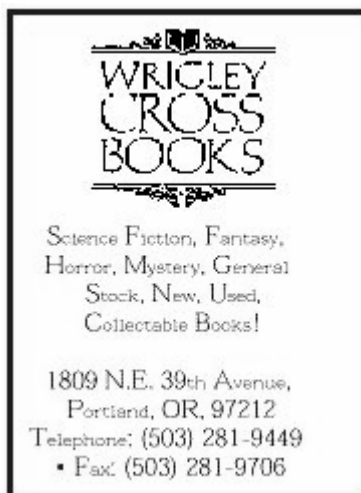
((“... a time when you could stage a convention with little legal support”? I'd really like to open this topic up for discussion! How has the financial and legal environment changed, for conrunners, and how has it remained the same, in the last twenty to thirty years?))

A question for Ray Seredin ... what is the PAX network? I know there are more and more television networks in the US, but this is one I've never heard of. Could the new Trek wind up on NBC? Everything old is new again.

A little progress report on the CUFF trip report ... we've sold just past one-third of the print run. We've had interest from Britain and Australia for this, and we still hope that we can sell at least most of this run. Please, support a valuable fan fund, and buy a copy ... they're not doing the fund any good just sitting in my office! I'll be taking a stack to Philadelphia.

I will try to get some information next issue for the World Fantasy Convention, to take place this coming November in Montreal. If anyone is interested in more information, e-mail me at penneys@netcom.ca, and I will relay your message to chairman Bruce Farr.

((Bruce Farr. Now there's a fan I had lost track of. Guys, I first heard of Bruce Farr as the editor of a mid-1980s zine about conrunning issues. I thought it was odd that he appeared to be running a Montreal convention at long-distance, from a United States address, until I reflected this was the World Fantasy Convention, which travels around is only in Montreal this year.))





CONVENTIONS IN CANADA AND THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

APRIL 2001

Sunday, April 8, 11am to 4pm: Comicon at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC., featuring model building demo by Monster Attack Team Canada! Buy, sell, and trade character toys, action figures, Beanie Babies, toy cars, Star Wars, model kits, trading cards, comic books, Barbies, games, and more! Admission: \$2.00 per person (Free for kids under 14) Dealers Tables: \$35. For further information, please call 604-322-6412 or email lswong@uniserve.com. See also <http://users.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>

April 12 - 15: Norwescon 24 at the Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport at SeaTac, Washington. Guest of Honor: Connie Willis. ArtGoH: Bob Eggleton. FanGoH: Charles N. Brown. See <http://www.norwescon.org>, call (206) 270-7850 (hotline), email info@norwescon.org, or write Norwescon 24, P.O. Box 68547, Seattle, WA 98168-0547, U.S.A.

April 21-22, 10:30am to 10:30am the next morning: Merlin's Madness at the British Columbia Regiment drill hall at 620 Beatty Street in beautiful downtown Vancouver, B.C. Merlin's Madness is a Fantasy, Science Fiction and Gaming Convention. Our goal is to promote these hobbies and to provide a meeting place for people to get together and share their favourite pastime. This is our second event and we want it to be an even bigger success than our first. We plan on doing this by providing a convention made for gamers by gamers. The convention venue is one of the oldest drill halls still in use by the Canadian Armed Forces. The drill hall is right next to a SkyTrain station and bus routes. There is plenty of public parking available as well. [Http://merlinsmadness.com/welcome.html](http://merlinsmadness.com/welcome.html)

April 27-29: SakuraCon 2001 at the Holiday Inn in Everett, Washington. Hosted by the Asia Northwest Cultural

Education Association (ANCEA), Sakura Con is the destination event for fans to learn more about the anime, manga, & gaming industry, as well as the diverse history of Asian Culture. Memberships U.S. \$40 to March 31, 2001. (Children 6-12 half-price.) Mail to Sakura Con Registration, 900 Meridian East #19-407, Milton, WA 98354; URL www.sakuracon.org.

MAY 2001

May 4 - 6: VCon 26/Convention 21 at the Radisson in Burnaby, British Columbia, theme - 2001: A Space Oddity - Humour in Science Fiction. Guest of Honour Lynne Abbey. Gaming Guest of Honour James Earnest, President of Cheapass Games. Artist Guest Pat Turner. Can. \$30, U.S. \$25 from Feb. 1 to April 30: Can. \$35, U.S. \$30 at the door: Can. \$45, U.S. \$40. Contact information: Chair, Chris Sturges at chair@v-con.org, phone (604) 294-9851. See website: www.v-con.org or write Vcon 26, c/o 235 Liberty Place Burnaby, BC CANADA V5C 1X5.

May 18 - 20: Anglicon 14 at the Radisson Hotel SeaTac Airport in SeaTac, Washington. GoH: Robert Trebor. Memberships U.S. \$45 to May 8, \$55 at the door. Write to Anglicon 14, P.O. Box 75536, Seattle, WA 98125, or phone (206) 789-BRIT, email anglicon@rocketmail.com, or see www.webwitch.com/anglicon.

May 18 - 20: CONduit 11 / 2001: A Space Oddity, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Author GoH: Alan Dean Foster. Special GoHs: Three Weird Sisters. Media Guest: James Rogers. Art GoH, Scientist GoH and Fan GoHs: TBA. Memberships: \$26 to April 19, 2001; \$36 thereafter. See URL <http://conduit.sfcon.org/CONduit/> or Write to P.O. Box 11745, Salt Lake City, UT 84147-0745, U.S.A.

May 18-20: Keycon in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Author Guests

of Honour: Spider & Jeanne Robinson. Artist Guests of Honour: Phil & Kaja Foglio. Fan Guests of Honour: The Wild & Hairy Guys. Adult Memberships Jan. 3 - Apr. 30, 2001: \$40.00; Adult Memberships May 1, 2001 - at the door: \$50.00; Children's Memberships anytime: \$25.00; LARP Pass (Includes Friday and Saturday Nights) \$30.00. c/o Pendragon Games & Hobbies, 516 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3C 0G2; tel 204-772-5415; email pgh@pangea.ca.

May 25-28: World Horror Convention 2001 at the Seattle Marriott Sea-Tac in Seattle, Washington. GoHs: Richard Laymon (U.S.), Simon Clark (U.K.). Editor GoH: Jessica Amanda Salmonson. Publisher GoHs: Barbara & Christopher Roden. Artist GoH: Charles Vess. TM: Jack Ketchum. Attending memberships U.S. \$75 for a limited time, to World Horror Convention. For more information see <http://www.whc2001.org> or write WHC 2001, P.O. Box 5171, Bellingham, WA 98227, email whc2001@uswest.net.

MAY 25-28: Costume Con 19 at the Westin Hotel in Calgary, AB. Memb: \$85 till May 31, Supporting Memb: \$35 (Publications only). Full Memberships \$100 Cdn, \$70 US, \$100 Aus; supporting memberships (publications only), \$35 Cdn, \$25 US, \$35 Aus. Cheques payable to Costume Con 19 at Box 20001, Bow Valley Postal Outlet, 205-5th Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2P 4H3, phone (403) 242-1807, or email capsam@nucleus.com. Web page URL: <http://www.msight.com/cc19>.

JUNE 2001

June 1-3: Enfilade! at the Best Western Executive Inn, Fife, WA. Enfilade! is the largest historical miniature gaming event west of the Mississippi drawing nearly 300 attendees who participate in almost 200 events and connect with historical miniature gamers from throughout the region and beyond. See URL: <http://nhmgs.simplenet.com/conventions.html>

June 1-3: CONCOMCON 8 (the Northwest conrunners' con). ConComCon will be held at the Ferrymans Inn in Centralia, Washington this year: Exit 82 off I-5. Phone: 360-330-2094. Room rates are: 1 person, 1 bed, \$39.00 + tax = \$42.78 per night; 2 people, 1 bed, \$42.00 + tax = \$46.07 per night; 2 people, 2 beds, \$44.00 + tax = \$48.27 per night. Each additional person, \$3.00 per night. Pets and rollaway beds \$5.00 per night. Price includes a free continental breakfast served from 6 to 10 a.m. When people call to reserve a room they should tell the hotel they are with ConComCon and should be in the main building. Convention memberships U.S. \$25 through May 31, 2001, \$30 at the door. 2001 Chair: Bobbie Dufault. Cheques payable to: ConComCon 8, 14616 Ley Rd., Goldbar, WA 98251.

JUN 22-29: SEATREK 2001 from Vancouver, B.C.; an Alaska Media Cruise. Info:13931 SW 108th St, Miami, FL, 33186 800/326-8735.

JULY 2001

Saturday, July 15, 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM and Sunday, July 16, 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM at Grant MacEwan Community College, 10700 - 104 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta. ANIMETHON is an annual festival of Japanese Animation, or anime. There are ten viewing rooms showing the best of the newest Japanese movies and television series as well as some of the classics that made anime so popular to begin with. As well, we have a dealers room where anime-related goods are sold by vendors from across Canada! We also have contests, events such as cosplay or costume play, game shows, improvisational games, lessons on drawing and the Japanese language, and the ever-popular anime rant! On top of this, Animethon is completely free with a donation to the Food Bank! So come on down and join us at Animethon 7 this July! Don't miss it!
(Now where did I put their Web page URL ... GS)

July 20-22: Toronto Trek 2001 at the Regal Constellation Hotel, 900 Dixon Road (at Carlingview). Guests so far: Andreas Katsulas ('G' Kar' - Babylon 5, 'Tomalak' - Star Trek: TNG); more guests to come. Note: All guest appearances subject to professional commitments. Toronto Trek, Suite 0116, Box 187, 65 Front Street West, Toronto, ON, Canada, M5J 1E6.

July 5 - 8: Westercon 54 in Portland, Oregon. A Portland Westercon. Theme - It's in the other Hotel. Author GoH: Tim Powers. Fan GoH: Mike Glycer. Artist GoH: Frank Lurz. Editor GoH: Terri Windling. At the Doubletree Hotels Jantzen Beach and Columbia River. Write to: Westercon 54, P.O. Box 5901, Portland, OR 97228-5901. URL: <http://www.osfci.org/w2001/>. Phone: (360) 993-2001 email deaner@pacifier.com

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FANZINE REVIEWS

By Ted White

Fanzines are a basic part of science fiction fandom, having been in existence as long as fandom itself – the past 70 years. Fanzines are a reflection of many fans' interest in the printed word and amateur publishing. The publication you are reading this in is a fanzine, but a specialized one. A variety of other fanzines are also available – many of them by request – and this column will cover some of them each issue.

All fanzines are published as a hobby and lose money. Their editors appreciate money to defray their expenses and sometimes list single-copy or subscription prices, but they appreciate even more your written response – a Letter of Comment, or LoC. Feedback – better known in fandom as “egoboo” – is what fanzine publishing is all about.

Check out the fanzines below and broaden your participation in fandom.

*

FILE 770 (Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Ave., Monrovia CA 91016; e-mail to Myglyer@compuserve.com; available for news, artwork, arranged trades or subscription – \$8 for 5 issues, \$15 for 10 issues, mailed first class in North America)

File 770 is a long-standing “newszine” which has been coming out for close to twenty years and has achieved 137 issues. Unlike the current *Locus* or *Science Fiction Chronicle* (semi-prozines – published for profit), *F770* is devoted to news about fandom. That means you won't find interviews with the latest science fiction authors, nor advertisements for their books. In fact, there are no ads at all. Like most fanzines, *F770* is not a money-making endeavour. What you will find is news about conventions and fans and the events which effect fans.

In #137's 36 pages (crammed with triple-columned text) there's news of a natural gas catastrophe in Hutchinson, Kansas (which hit a local fan hard); a home invasion robbery of fans in Chattanooga, Tennessee; the “house arrest” of the founder of *Dragon*Con* on child-molestation charges; the bankruptcy of Ray Ferry – who lost a lawsuit to Forry Ackerman to the applause of many fans; news that rumours of Poul

Anderson's death were untrue; reports on upcoming fanzine conventions Ditto and Corflu; the latest idiocy from Fandom.com's Fandom Inc.; news of several fan funds (TAFF, DUFF, CUFF); this year's winner of the Rotsler Award for fan artists; ...and 13 more news items, including “Medical Updates” on various well-known fans, and “Short Waves” which includes a dozen brief newsbites. In addition, there is an obituary section (fandom's older members are leaving us far too frequently), a long (11 pages) report on the Chicago Worldcon (plus another more personal two-page report by Elspeth Kovar), a four-page report on the final Rivercon, a page of “Conventional Reportage” (news of various upcoming conventions) and five pages of letters. Plus the occasional cartoon or photo. This is the fanzine to get to learn more about what's currently going on in fandom.

*

NICHEVO (Nic Farey, P.O. Box 178, St. Leonard MD 20685; e-mail to nicfarey@popfire.net; available for contribution, letter of comment, recommendation, editorial whim or \$3.00 a copy)

Editor Farey calls *Nichevo* a “fandomcentric genzine.” The first issue is dated November, and the schedule is quarterly, so the second may be out soon. Farey's approach is typical of the more “fannish” fanzine editors. He describes “fandomcentric” as a “primary concern [for] fans, fanzines, fan funds, fan awards, conventions, local groups or issues of the day relating directly to fandom.” *Nichevo*'s contents page follows this policy by categorizing the contributions as “Editorial,” “Fanzines” (three separate pieces), “Fan Funds” (commentary on TAFF), “Feud” (editor Farey takes on a loud-mouthed critic of a fannish e-list), and “Fans” (a profile of TAFF-winner and British fan Martin Tudor). The writing is lively and provocative and *Nichevo* provides a good entry into this part of fandom.

*

THE KNARLEY KNEWS (Henry L. Welch, 1525 16th Ave., Grafton, WI 53024-2017; e-mail to welch@msoe.edu; available for trade, contributions, letters of comment or \$1.50 a copy)

The Knarley Knews is published bimonthly and the current (February) issue is #86. That tells you something right there: this is no fly-by-night fanzine. In some respects one can say this fanzine is typical of many individually-edited fanzines, in that it reflects the personality, interests and friendships of its editor. But in reflecting a specific editor's interests and milieu it is also unique to that editor – in this case Henry Welch. Welch stands a little to one side of fandom's major cliques and social structure, a self-professed anti-elitist, choosing his own personal path and friends – and for that reason his fanzine is perhaps an easier entry point for those new to fanzines. There are no secret hand-clasps and no inside jokes here.

But Welch puts plenty into the 24 pages of his fanzine: an editorial in which he talks about his life; a rather pugnacious fanzine-review column by the rather pugnacious Rodney Leighton; "Witchard's Armagnac," an idiosyncratic column by Gene Stewart; "Zazerath's," a review of Tad Williams' *City of Golden Shadow* by Derek Miller; a meaty 13-page letter column; "Sue's Sites," a short editorial by Henry's wife; and "Fanzines Received in Trade," a one-page listing of fanzines received (with one-sentence descriptions) which occupies the inside back cover.

The whole thing is attractively published (double-columned computer-set type, photo-copied) with a scattering of art inside and a cover by Hugo-winning fanartist Teddy Harvia. If I had to use one word to sum up this fanzine it would be "non-confrontational." Despite the presence of firecrackers like Leighton and Stewart, Welch keeps his fanzine down-home folksy and family-friendly.

*

NO AWARD (Marty Cantor, 11825 Gilmore St., #105, North Hollywood, CA 91606; e-mail to martyhoohah@netzero.net; available for "the usual" – trades, letters of comment, contributions – or \$5.00 a copy)

Marty Cantor used to published a fat fanzine called *Holier Than Thou* back in the '80s, but after dropping that title he started *No Award* a decade later. (The choice of title allows him to make the facetious claim that this fanzine has been on every Hugo Award ballot for years.) A 30-page "genzine" (or generally-oriented fanzine), the latest issue (#8) is produced on a computer but printed by a modern Gestetner super-mimeograph which produces a look close to that of photocopying. The material is solid, with Milt Stevens' review of Delaney's *Dahlgren* taking top honours. There are columns by Thom Digby, Mike Glyer

and Len Moffatt (the latter's a memoir of his life in fandom), an essay-length fanzine review by Joseph Major and a 7-page letter column, plus lots of little extra bits fitted in here and there. *No Award* hasn't been around as long as *The Knarley Knews*, but despite a slightly fussy layout it is better-edited and offers more to its readers.

More reviews next issue.

BCSFA TRADE ZINES RECEIVED:

Australian SF Bullsheet #160, 162, 164
Con-TRACT 13:2, March-April 2001
Opuntia #471.B
Ottawa SF Statement #281, March 2001
Westwind #256, Feb. 2001



CLASSY ADS

The BCSFA Members' Handbook (v. 02-01) is now available FREE to BCSFA members! This pinnacle of fannish wit and wisdom is designed *solely* to give each and every one of you the same background information on current BCSFA activities, the news on the next VCon, and the current status of our convention oversight committee. In fact, the *Handbook* is chock-full of clubs and cons and zines all around you in the Northwest and Canada, what I bet you didn't realize was even there! The *Handbook* is FREE to BCSFA members on request, and available for a nominal charge of Cdn. \$5.00 (US \$4.00) to non-members, from Ye Ed, Garth Spencer, at Box 15335, V.M.P.O., Vancouver, B.C. CANADA V6B 5B1. And that's not all! A new and improved expanded version is planned for September 2001! Everyone's suggestions and amendments are welcome!

NEWS

The Aurora Awards and My 15 Minutes: If you're in fandom long enough, and do enough different things, people start nominating you for things. Clint Budd phoned me on March 7th to tell me I had been nominated for my fanwriting for one of the upcoming Fanzine Achievement Aurora Awards. The Canadian SF and Fantasy Awards, that is.

Are you underinformed about these fan-voted awards? How long they've been going on, and why, and when we got involved? The recently-released VCon 26 progress report includes a brief profile of the Aurora Awards; see also the in-depth information on the Aurora Awards at Dennis Mullin's page (www.sentex.net/dmullin/~aurora/).

In the first decade of the award's history, I tried to help raise its profile. Since its beginning, the Aurora Awards have expanded from one award for contributions to field of Canadian science fiction, to a whole battery of awards for English and French, novel and short-story publication, and even a few awards for fan activities.

Why a Handbook?: Elsewhere this issue I'm advertising the BCSFA member's handbook (February 2001 edition), free to all BCSFA members. I produced this mainly because *BCSFAns are not all reading from the same page*. That is, we don't all know about the same fandom, or subfandoms; in fact we're not even entirely aware of all the things BCSFA does and offers. I figured a member's handbook might stimulate interest and activity, and at least, would remove some confusion. And there's enough generally interesting material in the *Handbook* that I think it's appropriate to offer copies for sale to non-members.

Desiderata Canadiana: I have found a collection of Canadian SF Web sites. Robert Runté is still publishing *The NCF Guide to Science Fiction and Fandom*, but the fourth edition is a Web publication, now at www.uleth.ca/~runte/nfcguide/. This is a good place to get in-depth, comprehensive articles on fandom, on conventions, on congoing and fanzines and fanhistory ... not only because he was a grey eminence in Fabulous Alberta Fandom of yesteryear, but because he is a licensed sociologist and knows how to evaluate this stuff.

Don Bassie, of Ontario, is the editor of the "Made in Canada" Web page at www.geocities.com/canadian_sf/, which basically celebrates anything sfnal written/ filmed/ broadcast/ posted in or from Canada.

It's History Man: Several BCSFA members have mentioned this what's-your-secret-superpower running gag; if every BCSFAn has a masked crime-fighter outfit and a secret superpower, maybe mine is the ability to dig

up and retain stories about other fans. This stuff is called fanhistory. So now my secret identity is unmasked ... I have discovered that not many people are into fanhistory, though.

It seemed obvious to *me* that some history is valuable, even essential: without some lessons in what works, and what *doesn't*, fans tend to do dysfunctional things over and over ... even different people, in different places, at different times, or in quite different activities. So I had pragmatic reasons for collecting fanhistory – collecting useful tips, or at least avoiding pitfalls.

But my secret vulnerability is that I don't know what's going on, even when I'm looking right at what people are doing ... until someone documents it.

Why should you care? Because I'll be writing down your fanhistory *anyway*, I've already *started*, in fact my version of Canadian fanhistory is *posted* on the *Web*, no less, at www.fanac.org. So far I've only documented Canadian fandom up to the 1960s. You have just a little time to catch me before I post another chapter, this one on Canadian fandom in the 1970s. Then it'll be another five or ten years before I get a clue

So please contribute your support. This public service announcement has been brought to you by the Canadian Fanhistory Foundation.

Online Fandom: Many of you are on BCSFA's or VCon's listservs. I would like to direct your attention to a few other listservs.

Memory Hole started as a group of fans interested in preserving fanzines. Organized by Greg Pickersgill in the United Kingdom, Memory Hole has gathered members around the English-speaking world, and its conversations have also ranged all over the place.

Several listservs exist for fans in the Northwest (*SF Northwest* and *NWFen*), plus one for the *Northwest Convention League*, and one for *ConComCon*.

The *Timebinders* listserv, ostensibly dedicated to preserving fanhistory, has ranged all over the place, or ended up quibbling about Worldcons, or the Breendoggle. This history was repeated by the *Trufen* listserv, and by another (*InterSMOF*) set up to discuss European conrunning.

Writers' Markets: The prominent English-language markets in Canada seem to be clustered in Alberta and southern Ontario: the quarterly *On Spec* magazine and annual *Tesseracts* anthology, in Edmonton; and *Transversions*, now an anthology, in Toronto.

SF Canada, the national writers' organization (see www.sfcanda.ca), ought to be able to update me. Maybe I better subscribe to their journal *Communique* again.