

## BCSFA NEWSLETTER #18

November 1974

This clubzine is edited by Mike Bailey on behalf of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association (P.O. Box 35577, Vancouver B.C. V6M 4G9). Memberships for the Association are \$3.00 a year on a prorated basis (i.e., \$2.00 now), and subscriptions to the newsletter cost \$1.50 a year (and are worth more). Advertising rates upon request. Copyright 1974 by Mike Bailey on behalf of the BCSFA. A Mad Dog Publication.

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### FOR NEW MEMBERS

The club has meetings at least 10 times a year and everyone is welcome -- even non-members. Additionally, the executive of the club also meets regularly and any member can also attend these meetings. The current executive, elected for a one-year term, is composed of Fran Skene (President), Gary Walker (Vice President), Al Betz (Treasurer), Mike Bailey (Information Officer), and Rick Mikkelson (Secretary).

### MEETINGS

The October meeting at John Park's was attended by about 25 people who brought lots of food. An off-the-record Vcon IV report was given by Mike Bailey, some Monty Python records were played, and a typewriter was set up -- a la Naked Came The Stranger. The typewriter brought about several plotting duels: someone would type a beginning, then someone else would twist the nascent plot into something else -- usually so horrible as to be indescribable.

The next meeting of the BCSFA will take place on Saturday, November 16 at Chuck and Edna Davis' (1704<sup>1/2</sup> E. 14th Ave.) and, as usual, it's appropriate to BYOB and BYOFood. (Note, Vcon III beverages are still available.) Al Betz may bring an SF radio program to be played; there may be a slide show; and there may be a panel on "SF and Pornography". Additionally, an odd-thoughts typewriter may be available. Vcon IV memberships may be purchased at the meeting.

Previous to the December meeting (December 14), we are going to have a group meal at Kingsland Restaurant (987 Granville St.). If you wish to come, phone and/or speak with Al Betz (733-7607) and he will handle our reservations. Al assures us that not only is the food good, but it's cheap. (Western cuisine is also served.)

### LOCUS THEFT FOR THIS MONTH

Peter Schuyler Miller died on October 13 of a heart attack. In addition to reviewing books for ANALOG and writing SF, he was deeply interested in archeology, being associate editor of the PENNSYLVANIA ARCHEOLOGIST. He was stricken while viewing a dig.

### LETTERS

"Now, I'm very interested to see whether the BCSFA is an equal opportunity employer, so here is what you suspected was coming - my reaction to the WATERSHIP DOWN review. Will this be printed, or will it be lost? ...

"I read the Newsletter review before I read the book, which was recently lent to me by the Senior Economist of the B.C. Forest Service to whom I showed the review. She - an intelligent and successful woman - laughed. She suggested the reviewer should petition for the closure of Stanley Park Zoo, if the reviewer felt that way about things. I then read the book.

"Dealing with the reviewer's points one by one.

"1. the injured male rabbit (Blackavar) is depicted as being a creature of spirit and a veteran of a previous escape attempt. Far from being at death's door he is able to run and to assist in overpowering a guard before the escape begins.

"2. It is misleading to say that Blackavar is promptly assigned to look after the females during the escape. In fact he is asked by Bigwig (who is in charge throughout)

to assemble the does at a particular moment during the escape. It is an insignificant task.

"3. At no time during the flight do the females freeze in fear or run in the wrong direction. This is contrasted with the previous (all-male) journeys when there were invariably separations, rabbits getting lost and being scattered by real or imagined danger. But the reviewer has missed the point here - a contrast was intended between free, undisciplined rabbits (who tend to have too many leaders) and rabbits kept under repressive conditions (who tend to look to others for leadership.) The question of male or female is incidental.

"4. Again, the reviewer has missed the point of Hyzanthlay settling down to accomplish reproduction. The author made it explicit that the main driving force behind all the rabbits' actions was reproduction - indeed, this was the purpose of the initial trek and the final raid on Efrafa; it was the purpose in everything the rabbits did. Having achieved their purpose (and it takes both male and female to achieve reproduction, reviewer), none of the rabbits wished for anything more. Hacerl, the hero, becomes just as much a vegetable as Hyzenthlay, the doe. And why not? They'd both achieved their rabbitry purpose in life.

~~=====~~ (Bottom of page of letter torn off). (You'll never know just what bumbings were deleted from the foot of the last page.)

"But finally, I thought to myself: I'm wasting my time. Because whatever evidence I produce to refute our reviewer's charges of offensive sexism in this book will be countered by further, different charges. Which leaves me with the final question - why should anyone want to discover offensive sexism in a book about rabbits? Or for that matter, any book?" Letter from Mike Coney.

WAHF: Avram Davidson

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NEW SCIENCE FICTION AT V.P.L. by Fran Skene

The Best From FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION: a Special 25th Anniversary Anthology  
ed. Edward L. Ferman Doubleday 1974 \$7.95

A collection of F&SF's first six special one-author issues. Authors are Sturgeon, Bradbury, Asimov, Leiber, Anderson, and Blish. For each there's a story, a profile, and an updated bibliography of his books.

Continuum 1 ed. Roger Elwood Putnam 1974 \$7.15

Continuum 2 ed. Roger Elwood Putnam 1974 \$8.25

The first two in a series of four books, with story cycles by McCaffrey, Anderson, Pangborn, Scortia, Farmer, Wolfe, and others.

~~=====~~ Hughes, Zach Tide Putnam 1974 \$7.15

An experiment in radiation treatment of fish has unplanned results that almost bring catastrophe to the world. A good page turner.

Priest, Christopher The Inverted World Harper 1974 \$7.95

About the city of Earth, which must always winch itself forward on tracks to avoid being swept away. Was serialized in GALAXY. Cover illustration is one of the best I've seen.

Rossiter, Oscar Tetrasomy Two Doubleday 1974 \$5.95

Mr. Peckham, middle-aged and catatonic, turns out to be the most powerful man in the world. An entertaining first novel by a Seattle Nameless One using a pseudonym.

S F: Authors' Choice 4 ed. Harry Harrison Putnam 1974 \$5.95

Stories are fairly good although I'm reminded that authors' own favourites are seldom those of their fans.

Sheckley, Robert The Robert Sheckley Omnibus ed. Robert Conquest Gollancz 1973 \$6.49

Stories from the fifties; most were first published in GALAXY or PLAYBOY. Included is the novel Immortality Inc.

AT LAST -- ANNOUNCING VCON IV

Vcon IV lives! -- at P.O. Box 48701 Station Bentall, Vancouver B.C.

The fourth Vancouver SF Convention will occur on February 21-23, 1975 at the Sheraton-Landmark Hotel in downtown Vancouver (1400 Robson). The membership rates are \$4.00 until (excluding) December 1, \$5.00 until February 1 and \$7.00 thereafter. The hotel rates are \$23 for a single and \$27 for a twin or double and reservations may be made through the committee. The Sheraton-Landmark is 42 stories; ice and soft-drink machines are on every floor; every room has a balcony -- and colour TV; and a revolving restaurant crowns the tower.

As an experiment, we decided to have a buffet dinner instead of a more formal banquet this year. The cost (guaranteed) including gratuity is \$9.75. Swallow that gorge. I know it's almost \$3.00 more than last year's cost, but have you checked your local restaurant recently? This amount is \$1.00 more than the hotel's cheapest buffet, and for that \$1.00, additional menu items include Swedish Meat Balls, Pacific Salmon, Corned Beef and Marinated Herring.

The guest of honour is Robert Silverberg, AKA "Silverbob".

The programming will include a costume ball -- with music and dancing -- a freaky affair. The artshow will have some new paintings by Carl Chaplin, probably some new work by George Metzger and Bob Inwood, and works by some previously unshown (at SF conventions) artists. Films are also being sought: we already have a commitment from Marv Newland for "Bambi Meets Godzilla". We hope to convince Dr. Mason Harris to give that talk on the works of Phil Dick which he promised last year. Of course we'll have much display material such as the popular Space War games which were set on free play by Southern Music last year. The dance company, Synergy, (Linda Rubin) in conjunction with Allan Dickeson, is working on costumes for a special "abbreviated" presentation at the costume ball. Does anyone have any ideas for an authors' panel? -- or any ideas for that matter? If so, send them to the con address in an envelope marked "Attn: Ed Beauregard."

I almost forgot: Brent MacLean promised to give an Elron presentation if I were con chairman. I hope you didn't "almost" forget, Brent.

The Vcon IV committee is:

Mike Bailey  
Vicki Bushell  
Gary Walker  
Ed Beauregard  
Nick Grimshawe  
Allan Dickeson  
Ken Wong  
Ed Hutchings  
Al Betz

Chairman  
Treasurer  
Registration  
Programming  
Publications  
Publicity and Artshow  
Hucksters  
Films  
Recording

and all the help we can obtain.

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BOOK-BUYING SERVICE

Mike Bailey maintains a book-buying service by which anyone interested can purchase any in-print SF hardcover or pocketbook at 20% off the American price. Volume buying creates this opportunity. If you glance back up this page, you will note that Robert Silverberg is our guest of honour; so if anyone would like to purchase any in-print SF book by Silverberg, advise Mike Bailey quickly.

This service doesn't apply just to SF, but to SF-oriented comic or movie material as well.

Mike Bailey also may be of assistance to people interested in obtaining any old, rare out-of-print SF books or magazines.

# Science Fiction On Radio Pt. 4

On April 22, 1955, the longest running series of radio programs devoted entirely to SF began. X MINUS ONE ran until January 9, 1958. Below is the first part of a complete listing for this series:

22 Apr 55 And The Moon Be Still As Bright, Ray Bradbury	18 Jan 56 The Doll Shop (rerun)
24 Apr 55 No Contact, George Lefferts	25 Jan 56 The Parade (rerun)
1 May 55 The Parade, George Lefferts	1 Feb 56 The Cave Of Night, James E. Gunn
8 May 55 Mars Is Heaven, Ray Bradbury	8 Feb 56 C-Chute, Isaac Asimov
15 May 55 Universe, Robert Heinlein	15 Feb 56 Skulking Permit, Robert Sheckley
22 May 55 Knock, Frederic Brown	22 Feb 56 Junkyard, Clifford Simak
29 May 55 The Man In The Moon, G. Lefferts	29 Feb 56 Hello, Tomorrow, (rerun)
5 Jun 55 The Doll Shop (Perigi's Wonderful Dolls), George Lefferts	7 Mar 56 A Gun For A Dinosaur, L. Sprague de Camp
7 Jul 55 The Green Hills Of Earth, R. Heinlein	14 Mar 56 Tunnel Under The World, Fred Pohl
<del>14 Jul 55 Dr. Grimshaw's Sanatorium, Fletcher Pratt</del>	21 Mar 56 \$1000 A Plate, Jack McKenty
21 Jul 55 Nightmare, George Lefferts	28 Mar 56 A Pail Of Air, Fritz Leiber
28 Jul 55 The Embassy, Donald Wollheim	3 Apr 56 How-2, Clifford Simak
4 Aug 55 The Veldt, Ray Bradbury	10 Apr 56 Star Bright, Mark Clifton
11 Aug 55 Almost Human, Robert Bloch	17 Apr 56 Jaywalker, Ross Rocklynne
18 Aug 55 Courtesy, Clifford Simak	24 Apr 56 The Sense Of Wonder, Milton Lesser
25 Aug 55 The Cold Equation, Tom Godwin	1 May 56 Sea Legs, Frank Quattrocchi
1 Sep 55 Shanghaied, Ernest Kinoy	8 May 56 The Seventh Order, Jerry Sohl
8 Sep 55 The Martian Death March, Ernest Kinoy	15 May 56 Hallucination Orbit, J.T. McIntosh
15 Sep 55 The Castaways, Ernest Kinoy	22 May 56 The Defenders, Philip K. Dick
22 Sep 55 And The Moon Be Still As Bright, (rerun)	29 May 56 Lulungameena, Gordon R. Dickson
6 Oct 55 First Contact, Murray Leinster	5 Jun 56 Project Mastodon, Clifford Simak
20 Oct 55 Child's Play, William Tenn	12 Jun 56 If You Was A Moklin, Murray Leinster
27 Oct 55 Requiem, Robert Heinlein	19 Jun 56 Project Trojan, Ernest Kinoy
3 Nov 55 Hello, Tomorrow, G. Lefferts	26 Jun 56 Wherever You May Be, James E. Gunn
10 Nov 55 Dwellers In Silence, Ray Bradbury	3 Jul 56 Mr. Costello, Hero, Theodore Sturgeon
16 Nov 55 The Outer Limit, Graham Doar	10 Jul 56 Bad Medicine, Robert Sheckley
23 Nov 55 Zero Hour, Ray Bradbury	17 Jul 56 The Old Die Rich, H.L. Gold
30 Nov 55 Vital Factor, Nelson Bond	24 Jul 56 The Stars Are The Styx, Theodore Sturgeon (Incorrectly credited to H.L. Gold on the program)
7 Dec 55 Nightfall, Isaac Asimov	<del>31 Jul 56 Student Body, F.L. Wallace</del>
14 Dec 55 To The Future, R. Bradbury	7 Aug 56 The Last Martian, F. Brown
21 Dec 55 Marionette's, Inc., Ray Bradbury	14 Aug 56 The Snowball Effect, Katherine MacLean
28 Dec 55 A Logic Named Joe, Murray Leinster	28 Aug 56 Surface Tension, James Blish
4 Jan 56 The Roads Must Roll, R. Heinlein	4 Sep 56 Tunnel Under the World (rerun)
11 Jan 56 Time And Time Again, H. Beam Piper	11 Sep 56 The Lifeboat Mutiny, Robert Sheckley (especially good show)

To Be Continued

by A. R. Betz

I Am Not Ashamed

(An interview with science fiction writer Michael S. Looney by "F")

Before meeting with the famous local author this interviewer questioned some science fiction fans:

F: What is your opinion of Michael S. Looney?

A: Who?

B: What?

C: Didn't he enter the bathtub race?

D: Oh yeah, I know him. Boy, can he throw it!

F: You've read his stories, then?

D: What stories? I'm talking about his letters to fanzines!

F: Why, Michael S. Looney has written such famous novels as Reverse Image, in which monsters from the sea kill some Earth colonists; Heroine of the Rat Hole, in which monsters from an underground body of water threaten some Earth colonists; then there's Syxygly ...

D: Syxy--what?

~~F: ...in which monsters from the sea cause the populace to go crazy; and Noodles Come In Suitcases ...~~

D: In which monsters come from the water and threaten the populace?

F: No, the monsters come from the suitcases and threaten the populace! Then there are such deathless short stories as "Bridge on the Swamp" (of the Sinister series), in which the monsters come from the water by raft; "Gateway to the Girl Next Door" (which follows "Oh Marsha!"), in which the hero dies in the water while a monster...

D & F: Threatens the populace!

D: Well, I see I'd better read one of those so I guess I'll go to a second hand book store ...

F: Second hand?

D: Yes, I'm sure that Looney's books will be there.

After encountering this enthusiastic response, this interviewer hurried to the meeting with Mr. Looney, affectionately called "Mike" by his friends and enemies. Mr. Looney was already there in the bar and starting on the liquid refreshments. He was looking happy.

F: Hello, Mike, you are looking happy.

M: Yes, I got some good news today! The famous teenage critic, Jim Baloney, has called me "over-rated". Now I'm in the same class as the well-loved author Cordwainer Bird!

~~F: That's nice to hear. Tell me, how is your writing going?~~

M: Not too well. It took me an entire month to write my last novel.

F: A month?

M: Writing during weekends, that is, and the last weekend was devoted entirely to polishing the manuscript. I guess I'm just a perfectionist.

F: Would you care to tell me the plot?

M: Certainly! There's this monster in the water and she ...

F: Mike, it seems that water is an important part of the scenery in your stories, and in Heroine of the Rat Hole, the hero even emerges from a large, fluid-filled artificial womb. Would you say that all this indicates a fascination on your part with infancy?

M: Oh, I don't believe all that Freudian stuff. Another drink please, waiter! To continue with the plot of my novel: an aging bitch (film) goddess attempts to maim a sweet young thing but is foiled by the good fellow just before he is drowned by a ruthless businessman. The stupid townspeople then chase the ruthless businessman out of town, mistaking him for the monsters, which soon arrive to take over their bodies. But the good fellow from an alternate world arrives, discovers the monsters' secret and, with the help of some primitive but helpful

pygmies from up the river, saves the community of Earth colonists. How does that sound?

F: Like you have a full length novel there, all right. Tell me, do you have some ideas for your next one?

M: There are various new and different themes I might try, such as 1) English adventurer discovers a lost princess or 2) White hunter bests the bitch goddess in the jungle of a lost planet, but I am mainly thinking of something along this line: a stupid, nagging older woman drives a good fellow to seek the company of a crochety but intelligent scientist who lives on a neighboring barge. This scientist is working on the invention of an electronic fish catcher but an accident occurs and it sends the good fellow to an alternate world and into a whale. That's as far as I've got. Maybe I'll call it Jonah of the Barges. I'm hoping to also get a loyal young woman, a sacrificing older woman, additional good fellows (preferably with bottles and glasses in hand), and of course some monsters into the story; but we'll see.

F: Your characters seem to be rather two-dimensional.

~~M: Not at all, not at all! Why, the stupid, nagging woman talks just the way I remember my mother talking!~~

F: Really?

M: Yes. She would get especially difficult when we took her shoes away.

F: Seriously, Mike, I must say that neither the male nor the female protagonist in Heroine of the Rat Hole is a stereotype. You obviously gave some thought to the development of those two characters.

M: It's too bad, isn't it! I feel that that is my least successful book. Oh! Did you see that?!

F: No, what?

M: Those other authors over there on the rug. The man is lying on top of the woman! How shocking!

F: Are they clothed?

M: Of course. But it's disgusting just the same! By the way, I have to go now; someone is waiting for me upstairs.

F: When can I talk to you again?

M: Meet me at the pool at 1:00 AM. Don't bring a swim suit.

F: What?

M: That's my skinny dip time. I am not ashamed!

