



THE  
B.C.S.F.A.  
NEWSLETTER  
No. 29

TRADITIONAL FOLK  
ARTS OF FANDOM:  
THE HAND-CUT ILLO.  
NEXT MONTH: UNDER-  
WATER BEANIE -  
WEAVING AND HOW  
TO SPOT A CORFLU  
JUNKIE.

WM. GIBSON

P.O. Box 35577  
Vancouver B.C.  
V6M 4G9

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SCIENCE FICTION  
ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Number 29  
October 1975

Edited by Fran Skene, Information Officer. Memberships: active \$4, family \$6; Associate \$2, family \$3. All memberships (one-year) expire May/76. Note: memberships to May/77 or May/78 may now be obtained for the appropriate multiple of the above rates. All unsigned material is by the editor. The Beauregards and David George helped to get out the last issue. Cover art by Wm. Gibson. Advertising rates: \$6/half page, \$10/full page, camera ready copy; already printed material-- $\frac{1}{2}$  of regular rates. A Rhamphorhynchus Publication.

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The OCTOBER MEETING will be held at Chuck and Edna Davis' house, 1704 East 14th Ave., Vancouver at 8 P.M. or thereabouts on Saturday, October 18. Programming includes slides and a tape. BYOB and snack.

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CALENDAR

General meeting Oct. 18 (see above)  
Executive meeting Oct. 29, 7:30 at Mike Bailey's, Apt. 108, 1972 York  
General meeting Nov. 15, 8:00 (location to be announced)  
Executive meeting Nov. 19, 7:30 at David George's, Apt. 104, 8770 Montcalm  
General meeting Dec. 13 Dinner meeting (location to be announced)  
Probable programming: October--tape and slides  
November--films  
December--Xmas party  
January--panel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ed Beauregard's Friday night old movie specials have been cancelled due to rampant apathy: only two members indicated interest. However, SF movies will continue to be shown at general meetings from time to time.

There will be forms available at the meeting Oct. 18 for those who wish to be on the published list of members and subscribers but haven't sent in the form enclosed earlier. Probably during the week following Ed and Al will be phoning those who haven't responded. Hopefully the Gestetnered list will be out by the first week or two in November, probably attached to the newsletter.

V-Con IV will be totally wound up as soon as the printer's bill is in and paid, remaining monies turned over to the BCSFA, and all previous mailing lists (V-Con III and IV) turned over to the V-Con 5 committee. Now out is the V-Con IV final report. If you did not receive one phone Mike Bailey as many people, especially those whose names he did not recognize, were not sent one. The report includes initial comments by Bailey, financial report, questionnaire results, list of available tapes, and an excellent commentary by Ed Beauregard that will make a lot more friends than the "I am perfect but misunderstood" approach.

## NEWS

The September meeting attracted 27 people including latecomers. Chuck Davis brought a tape of his radio program made up of recordings from Torcon and "Belliecon": interviews with Big Name Authors and Fans and interspersed with Chuck's own very entertaining comments. The tape will be played again at a future meeting for the benefit of those who missed out this time. A very noticeable feature of the meeting was the shortage of women. I know that there are many female fans out there because they do turn up at conventions and it would be nice to see them more at BCSFA meetings. For myself, one major reason for my increasing interest in the Society for Creative Anachronism is the better ratio making things both more comfortable and more fun. It would be nice to hear from both male and female members on how to improve things. One (unworkable) solution would be to discourage attendance by M.C.P.s and the schizoid types, once very common in fandom, who get a case of the rans at the sight of more than a handful of women.

Excerpted from Tucson Science Fiction and Fantasy Association Newsletter: four of us did make it to Westercon. The convention was rather poorly run (the masquerade has already become a legend in mismanagement), and the Leamington Hotel and its facilities were woefully inadequate for this size convention...The art show was fair, and the hucksterroom was well stocked in used magazines and new books. I only saw one movie, The day the Earth stood still, which still holds up even though it is twenty-five years old; the movie schedule was superb, with such titles as Young Frankenstein, The Phantom of the Paradise, and Zardoz.

Larry Shaw's magazine, Alpha, has been postponed because of problems with format and distribution. When it finally comes out it will have a different name to avoid confusion with Silverberg's anthology series. But don't despair, fledgeling writers: Roger Elwood is bringing out a magazine. The editor of the, uh, famous Laser Books announces that he is looking for every type of story but will prefer the traditional type of SF similar to Analog. There will be no restrictions except for his "usual ones on sex and profanity". Rate is 3¢ to 5¢ a word. (further details in Locus) Send manuscripts to Roger Elwood, 1700 Somerset Blvd., Linwood NJ 08221. And a third magazine is now on the stands in Ontario. Stardust Science Fiction pays 1¢ a word for science fiction and science fact, first serial rights only. Send to: Stardust, 70 Vermont St., Toronto, Ontario M6G 1X9.

The authors of The mote in God's eye, Jerry Pournelle and Larry Niven, are doing four more books together, one of which, Lucifer's hammer, was sold to Playboy. Inferno is now running in Galaxy.

Samual Delany's Dahlgren is in its 7th printing and has sold over 250,000 copies. Pretty good for a story that few (of which I am one) admit to liking. The excellent Silverberg collection, Unfamiliar territory, has been sold to Coronet in England. At V-Con IV the author complained about not being able to sell paperback rights to it. The dispossessed is also doing very nicely, with 150,000 paperback copies now in print with 35,000 more being printed. Coming out this month is a reprint anthology, The winds twelve quarters (oo at V.P.L.). A collection of new Le Guin stories, Orsinian tales, is coming out next year.

Coming to local newsstands soon are: Ursula Le Guin, The farthest shore; Ursula Le Guin, The tombs of Atuan; Vonda McIntyre, The exile waiting; Patricia McKillip, The forgotten beasts of Eld; Christopher Priest, The inverted world; Bester, The computer connection.

## CONVENTIONS

RAILCON (Oct. 17-19) An SF con entirely on trains between Mass. and North Carolina. Info: 7911 Riggs Rd. #105, Adelphi MD 20783.

MILEHICON VII (Oct. 24-26) Sheraton Airport Inn, Denver CO. GoH Joanna Russ, fan GoH Bob Vardeman. Registration \$4 advance, \$5 at door. Write to Ted Peak, 1556 Detroit, Denver CO 80206.

1st WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION (Oct. 31-Nov. 2) Holiday Inn, Providence RI. GoH Robert Bloch, Toastmaster Gahan Wilson. Registration \$12.50 advance and limited to 500; banquet \$7.50 advance and limited to 200. Info: Box 135, Middle Village L.I., NY 11379.

TUS-CON III (Nov. 7-10) Tuscon Inn, Tuscon AZ. GoH Gordon Eklund. Membership \$4 advance, \$5 at door Nov. 1. Supermembership \$10, entitles holder to also participate in a small, informal dinner with the GoH. Rooms: single \$12, twin \$14, double (two double beds) \$16. Luncheon-banquet \$3.50. (Aren't these prices amazing?!!) Program includes several science talks.

MEXICON 1 (Nov. 22-23) Posada Guadalajara Hotel, Guadalajara, Mexico. GoH Mack Reynolds. Membership \$6 attending, banquet \$7.20, rooms: single \$12.80, double \$11.20, <sup>each</sup> supporting. Checks payable to Elliott Weinstein (who is attending medical school down there). Write: Mexicon, c/o Elliott Weinstein, APDO 6-869, Guadalajara 6, Jalisco, Mexico.

WITCHCRAFT & SORCERY CON 75 (Nov. 27-30) Sheraton-West Hotel, Los Angeles. GoH Marion Zimmer Bradley. Membership \$7, banquet \$8.50. Rooms: single \$20, double \$26. Huxter table \$25 incl. membership. Write to WITCHCRAFT AND SORCERY CON, Fantasy Publishing Co., Inc., 1855 W. Main Street, Alhambra CA 91801.

STAR TREK FAN CONFERENCE (Nov. 8) Seattle Center, North Court, Seattle WA. Membership \$10, \$25 at door. Art show, costume parade, model contest, movies, film competition, slide swap, huckster & fanzine rooms. Write to, enclosing self-addressed envelope, Puget Sound Star Trekkers, 830 35th Ave., Seattle WA 98122.

V-CON 5 (May 21-24) Gage Residence, University of B.C. Membership \$5, \$7 from Dec. 1, \$9 from April 1 and at door. Send to: V-CON 5, P.O. Box 48701, Bentall Centre, Vancouver B.C.

VAN-CON (WESTERCON 30) (July 1-4 1977) Totem Park, University of B.C. GoH Damon Knight, fan GoH Frank Denton, Special Guest Kate Wilhelm. Membership \$4 until Oct. 31, 1975, \$6 to July 5, 1976, further rates T.B.A. Send to: WESTERCON 30, P.O. Box 48701, Bentall Centre, Vancouver B.C.

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## FROM THE SECRETARY

David George

Mail received in September:

LOC from David Williams  
Letter from F.M. Busby  
SIRIUS XIV - #29, Frank Catalano  
Tuscon SFFA Newsletter  
CYGNUS X-1, #2, WPSFA

TUS-CON III brochure  
SYNAPSE 13, Fanfair III program book,  
DISTAFF II, Osfic  
SYNAPSE 14, Osfic  
Letter from Wayne McDonald  
Let's keep 'em coming.

Plus several Directory Questionnaires.

From the secretary (cont.)

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 20 SEPTEMBER 1975

David George made the V-CON 5 Committee presentation. After considerable discussion, John Thomson moved the traditional \$100 grant be made, Al Betz seconded, and the motion was unanimously passed ((including by Daniel Say)).

Fran Skene then made the Westercon 30 presentation, asking for affiliation and a token \$1. Al moved to grant same, Chuck Davis seconded, and that too passed unanimously.

Ed Beauregard reported that the club now has the 12% FST exemption for the newsletter. Mike promised that the V-CON IV final report would be out in about a week. David plugged at the meeting for people to join both Westercon 30 and V-CON 5, and Norma Beauregard, treasurer for both committees, was kept busy for a while. David read part of a letter from David Williams, and Chuck played an interview tape he had made for the CBC about science fiction.

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 24 SEPTEMBER 1975

The treasurer reported that we have \$277.67 in the savings, and \$75.29 in the chequing accounts. David reported on mail received. Ed moved to grant V-CON 5 \$100 on Nov. 1st; Al seconded; it was passed.

Al is to investigate keeping more than \$100 in the chequing account at all times to reduce service charges. David reported the BCSFA Executive and General Meeting Decision File is now as complete as it will likely ever be, from 1974.

David will write to Gestetner about our 12% FST exemption and claim back taxes paid this year for supplies. Al moved that the BCSFA provide a buying service for affiliated con committees; Ed seconded; passed.

As we have not chosen an Archivist yet, Ed moved that the Archives, unless other suitable accommodation be found, be stored at the home of the Information Officer. Al seconded; passed.

As Xerox address labels cost only  $\frac{1}{2}$  each, Ed moved that the club change over to that system. There was no seconder.

Because of little response to movie night, it's cancelled for now.

Mike will turn over the key to Box 48701 on Oct. 1. Al moved that Box 48701 be paid for by the BCSFA and made available to any affiliated con committee; David seconded; passed. Mike moved that the Vice-President, as BCSFA liaison on all affiliated con committees, always keep a key to that box; Al seconded; defeated 3-2.

Multi-year memberships are now in effect. Ed moved that we accept memberships for up to 2 years from the end of the current membership year; David seconded; passed 4-1.

Ed moved that effective 1st December of each year,  $\frac{1}{2}$  the annual membership fee apply to memberships for the remainder of the fiscal year; Al seconded; passed.

Following the delivery of the \$1 cheque to Westercon 30 treasurer Norma Beauregard, the meeting was adjourned.

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LETTERS

The Editor,

12 Sept. 75

I'd like to propose the name BUTTERSCOTCH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION for the club. It contains no nasty references to the province, to upset the government, yet can still be legitimately referred to as the BCSFA for short. In addition it is suitably non-indicative, and contains a literary reference. (To: THE ELEPHANT IS WHITE, by Caryl Brahms and S.J. Simons, for those who know that incomparably witty pair.) I shall expect to see this highly

letters (cont.)

appropriate suggestion unanimously ratified at the next club meeting.

Meanwhile, if I may be allowed to use some dated British slang, I think you've got a crust, rating THIS IS NOT IT worthy of inclusion in the Newsletter. It is indeed a curious ration of fiction we've had lately. This most recent offering should have been offered directly to some lucky publisher, perhaps Les Recherches Daniel Say Cie, an outfit now known, as a result of the Rocky Nellyfellow investigation, to be a CIA front.

As I read it, I became aware of a worse grating sound--it was my teeth grinding with envy at the felicitous fury of invention displayed by the anonymous authors. Williams obviously added only a drunken comma, or possibly colon--I know his work well, and this is not it--but the other! Could they not be identified so that appropriate return might be devised, for such concinnity, and lack of hebetude.

I'd like to conclude with some comments on the Newsletter itself. The most recent issue consisted of seven sheets, stapled together, and printed--rather badly--on both sides. The letter 'p' appeared 1817 times, two more than 'd', but 29 less than 's'. Affixed to it were a blue 8 cent stamp, and a green first-class sticker. Of these two, the latter displayed white letters on the green as background, the former, blue lettering on a white background. Read from back to front, it provides an acceptable substitute for transcendental meditation. It follows from this, of course, that as soon as 1% of the population of Vancouver become backward readers of the Newsletter, the crime rate will go down, strikes will cease, the NDP will merge with the Socreds, Bill Anderson as leader (no relation to David), my salary will go up, and the club will get a new name. So get out there, Fran, and sell, sell, sell! If Georgia Strait can do it, so can you.

Best wishes,

PATER FAMILIAS

Dear Fran,

September 12, 1975

In Newsletter 28 Bill Bunker asks of the Seattle Cons. The 1959 Westercon was very small--about 40, whereas Calif Westercons at the time were running to about 150. Only 6 of the promised Calif contingent arrived; 4 more stopped over in Longview after Al Lewis tried to drive through a concrete post and put Bjo and Djinn Faine in the hospital. Except for the Banquet the Con was not programmed; it was mostly one long party.

The SEACON in 1961 was the first poolside Worldcon, held at the Hyatt House adjoining Sea-Tac Airport. Membership was 500, attendance 300 with 204 at the Banquet. The Committee was basically the CRYgang minus Burnett R. Toskey who had better sense: that is, Wally Weber (chairman and Treasurer), Elinor and myself, Jim and Doreen Webbert, and Wally Gonsler. The latter, except for helping with production of CRY, was never an "active fan" in the fanzine sense but is still attending Cons. I wouldn't say the Committee gafiated after Seacon; CRY continued until Boeing moved Wally Weber to Alabama in '64 and (with some new blood on the staff) was revived for a dozen or so issues late in the decade. Wally Weber gafiated in 1970, shortly after he married. Jim and Doreen were Official Editors of SAPS (Spectator Amateur Press Society) for the past five years or so and may still be, for all I know. Elinor and I are currently in FAPA (not for long, maybe; it's dull there, these days) plus two of the smaller fast-acting "Xerox apas", Lilapa and APAssembly. I haven't appeared in "general fandom" for a year or so, but that's laziness and lack of time, not deliberate gafiation.

Cons have a tendency to start or revive feuds and ours were no exception. '59 set G.M.Carr at my throat--she lost--and Seacon sparked another round of the perennial feud between Dick Eney and Ted White, among others. But for the most part it was a pleasant Con and favorably remembered by those attending. Bob Heinlein was our Goli; instead of hiding out as most GoHs did in

Letters (cont.)

those days, he and Ginny held Open House in their suite during most of the Con. Ella Parker of London was Fan GoH; Harlan was Toastmaster. By contrast with current Cons, membership cost \$3 attending and the total Con income/outgo was just over \$3,500. After the Committee covered bidding expenses (party supplies only, not travel money) and blew itself to a "Thank God It's Over!" dinner, approximately \$1,000 in profits were distributed to various "fannish charities". These things were all neatly listed in a financial report that appeared in the first Progress Report of the following Worldcon (Chicon III), which received \$500 of that thousand. The funny part was that we didn't know whether the Con was breaking even, until afterward. (Above-mentioned bidding expenses and dinner were about 8% of total Con expense.)

It was interesting, but I'll never do it again!

Best, Buz ((F.M. Busby))

\* \* \* \* \*

Imaginary Anthology of Imaginative Fiction: A Model Kit

--edited by Wm. Gibson

The book as conceptual art; reader assembles required texts and reads stories in prescribed order. Reading other stories in required texts negates editorial function; the editor accepts no responsibility, aesthetic or otherwise, for stories not included in the following table of contents:

Cover art: Victor Brauner's Object Which Dreams, 1938.

"Continuity of Parks" by Julio Cortazar, from Blow-up and other stories, Collier Books, 1968.

"The Road Out of Axotle" by Terry Southern, from Red-Dirt Marijuana and Other Tastes, NAL, 1967.

"Mother and I Would Like to Know" by William Burroughs, from The Wild Boys, Evergreen, 1973.

"Letter to a Young Lady in Paris" by Julio Cortazar, from Blow-Up.

"Wind Die. You die. We die." by William Burroughs, from Exterminator!, Viking Compass, 1974.

"The Blood of a Wig" by Terry Southern, from Red-Dirt Marijuana.

"The Night Before Thinking" by Ahmed Yacoubi, translated from the Moghrebi by Paul Bowles and Mohammed Larbi Djolali, from Evergreen Review No. 20, 1961.

"Johnny 23" by William Burroughs, from Exterminator!

"Lowlands" by Thomas Pynchon, from Modern Satiric Stories, ed. G. Fitzgerald, or The World of Modern Fiction: American, ed. S. Marcus.

FICTION DEPT.

THIS IS NOT IT!

Conclusion of the infamous story  
by June meeting attendees

Relic slipped on the ice. He looked around, but all he could find was his second best pair of skates--very blunt skates. But not for nothing was he known as the champion coarse skater of Denudia. He flashed down the corridor, and saw a crocodile in a grass skirt. "Get out of here, you gorse gator!" he cried.

And what of Kate, alone on her planet, a sort of Robinson Crusoe Kate. Her only supplies a single box, a box of corkscrews. A corkscrew crate.

In the next room a new concubine was being initiated into the harem.

"She's new," said the Sultan to the eunuch, Ron, "She's new. Ron, whip her."

"What, with those new spiny whips?" said the Irish Eunuch, "I could never do that. I could never score a cratur!"

While this was being discussed Kate, alone of all the Denudians, was finding her dinner. Soon he came along, corrugating merrily. She consumed him together with a piece of dry bread she borrowed from the Rockettes (or, the chorus' rusk Kate ate!).

"Enough of these puns," Kor said.

"Time for sanity!" said Kor using the gate carefully and avoiding the green slimy puns carefully with his large leather neuronc whips in both hands.

"Am I to understand, Doctor, that the neuronc pulsator is timed to detonate at 1350 hours?"

"Ja," snapped the Teutonic despot, "Ich will das pulzator abschnitten wenn Sie es einer coruscating knackwurst essen und..."

"Hark!"

"Je n'aime pas le knackwurst. Je prefere le pain francais coruscatant, dit Pierre.

"Duhh," inquit Robertus.

"De abborandy ist in der Siegescrog," said the black stone as Richard went to Box 65583, Van 12, or 39 steps to victory, out of this insane predicament. Ahhhhhhhhhhhh, they cried as the dreaded whip finally detonated, shattering the horrible silence and equally horrible dialogue of the non-anglophone heroes of our tale. Fortunately precautions had been taken and an anchor of acetone film had been attached to the would be victims of the whip.

"Oh, thank you," Rhea murmured, "You saved me. But do we need an anchor? Us? "Catering to our need to protection, it was an absolute necessity," the hero replied.

"A mi no me gustan las albondigas!" the Senorita exclaimed.

"Who gives a shit, lady?" said Rhea.

It comes to us all eventually.

Swiftly, he slipped the thin silk from her shoulders.

"It takes practice to dethread a female silkworm," he stated, "Now take my wife."

"And what use would she be to me?"

And Coeurl prowled into the house, finding three people in the kitchen talking about bad jokes and ten in the living room talking about machines and fan politics.

"This is obviously a Brand X meeting," he said.

Meanwhile the chorus of the Handel's Messiah was having their annual bake sale. One of the main items was the Chorus cake. These had various scenes on the iced surface. The blue ribbon cake had a scene of a mass murder and pillage of a medieval village or a SF meeting groaning over their plight and feeling their bruises. There was red icing everywhere on this cake. It was entitled "Gories aching".

THE END

BOOK REVIEW by Daniel Say

Brush up your Shakespeare, and they'll all kow-tow!  
Forsooth!

I' faith!

They'll all kow-tow! (by Cole Porter)

A MIDSUMMER TEMPEST by Poul Anderson (New York: Ballantine Books, March 1975)  
229 pages, \$1.50 ISBN 345-24404-4-150. Cover by Darrell Sweet

It's word association time. Now lie down and tell me the first words that come into your mind.

First--"Midsummer \_\_\_\_\_"

Second--"Tempest \_\_\_\_\_"

You probably countered with "....Night's Dream" for the first because of the well known play of Shakespeare. The second might be answered by "....in a teapot" until you put them both together and realize that they are from the plays of Shakespeare.

The "play" of Poul Anderson has Prince Rupert of the Rhine (1619-1682) as the leading actor, born a few years after Shakespeare's death.

Prince Rupert "...was the informing genius of the King's army....Parliament selected him for a villain, the Cavaliers for a hero; he was credited with movements swifter than the wind, with being in several places at once, with doing his own scouting in a number of ingenious disguises, with being impervious to bullets, in league with the Devil, and a cannibal. To his own party he became at once a second Black Prince, while the white dog which went everywhere with him was popularly elevated to military honours as Sergeant-Major-General Boy."<sup>1</sup>

Prince Rupert of the Palatine, nephew of King Charles by the King's sister, fought, as did his also-exiled brothers, in the Protestant wars in Europe. In 1641 he came to England at a time when troubles were brewing between the King on one hand and Puritan parliament and Presbyterian Scotland on the other. Made an independent Commander of the Horse in July 1642 at the very young age of 23, and later of the entire army, he was to be a dominant figure of the Civil War.

The "play" opens at the Battle of Marston Moor<sup>2</sup> (11 km. west of York) on July 2, 1644 in a campaign to free Yorkshire and so open the North and Scotland to royalist forces.

In our history he was beaten there, thus losing the North to anti-royalists, though he managed to get 6,000 troops away from battle.

In A MIDSUMMER TEMPEST there is also a Royalist defeat, but in trying to rally his men, Rupert's horse stumbles and he is truly captured, not almost as in the real battle, by the Roundhead forces.

Thus we meet Rupert, his captor Sir Malachi Shelgrave, a most righteous Puritan squire, and the latter's niece Jennifer Mayne.

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<sup>1</sup>THE KING'S WAR 1641-1647, The Great Rebellion, by C.V. Wedgwood. (London: Collins Fontana paperback, 1958) p.148. If Anderson's book whets your appetite you should read this entertaining and detailed volume for the political and military aspects of the whole conflict.

<sup>2</sup>MARSTON MOOR 1644: The Campaign and the Battle, by Peter Young (Kington: The Roundwood Press, 1970) 307 pages, should be consulted for more exact details. Rupert seems to have let the Roundheads choose the field of battle and they also attacked first before sunset.

Book review (cont.)

"Poul Shakespeare" peoples his drama with the usual characters: Rupert, the imprisoned gallant knight; the Bard's two women--Jennifer the virtuous, concerned maiden, and Prudence, the latter's nurse-maid in the Shakespearean mold of attempting to be strict and yet protectful of her charge; Sir Malachi, a mean righteous man, and Will Fairweather, a country "wise fool" and companion to Rupert in battle and during his escape and flight. This last might be based upon William Legge (1609-70), Rupert's close personal friend and constant companion in the field.

Poul fleshes out these people very well. They seem alive, have different concerns, and speak each in a distinctive style. Will Fairweather, being from Somerset, speaks with that accent (Arthur C. Clarke's or something like the Sir Bernard Miles Hertfordshire rustic):

"The guns talk moare an' louder, my loard...You must believe 'tis zo else we be done... Oh, aye, I've Zinned tha Zeven Zins, an' moare; ha' broaken Zabbath... Thic depends on you "

but this is the only reading difficulty. Sir Malachi and all the Puritans talk often of Christ and Hellfire and so on; Jennifer speaks courtly and properly.

Besides well-developed characters, Anderson uses other Shakespearean conventions. There are 25 chapters or acts with scenes in them, recalling the standard five acts of Shakespeare. Scene locations and effects are given in italics before each scene. There are solil quies, songs, much banter and wordplay. There are two sets of actions: one to go on the centre stage, the other to be played on the inner or upper stage. Rhyming couplets end each act. There is an epilogue as in THE TEMPEST. Like MACBETH it opens on a "blasted heath" with a storm from THE TEMPEST.

In fact the world of A MIDSUMMER TEMPEST is the world of Shakespeare. In a tavern scene involving Valeria Matuchek (OPERATION CHAOS 1971) and Holgar the Dane of THREE HEARTS, THREE LIONS (1953, 1961), the earlier allusions to it are confirmed. Shakespeare in this book is an historian. Though by 1644 England is technologically advanced with wool mills and steam trains, one of which Rupert escapes cross-country on, Shakespeare's are the works that tell of what happened before the great troubles of Europe.

Titania and Oberon do exist and are asked for aid by Will and Rupert after Rupert's escape from Sir Malachi, (which parallels by the way King Charles' later attempt from Carisbrooke Castle).

These latter two then travel to the Mediterranean to search for the powers of Prospero (THE TEMPEST) using a magic direction-finder ring. Once they get to the islet and meet Caliban and Ariel, also Jennifer again, (a Mirana-figure) who had preceded them from there in her love for Rupert, they used science to get the magic book up from the ocean floor and then magic to return to England to Glastonbury Tor<sup>3</sup>, of Avalon and Arthurian fame to help lift the seige surrounding the king by calling upon ancient mythic powers and beings.

Of course the Roundheads flee these apparitions and Charles becomes a new man after the victory. Peace is restored. Rupert gives back, like Prospero, his charms and magic to the Fairy, and takes Jennifer for wife.

I was disappointed that Anderson didn't bring in William Harvey, the doctor or young John Milton but it is better to have an uncluttered stage. So there is also none of the politics of the faction, that in our time-line got Rupert fired from his post the next year in 1645.

It's good.

Author, Author. Encore.

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<sup>3</sup> I can find no battle ever took place there or nearby. D.S.

NEW SCIENCE FICTION AT V.P.L.

- Anderson, Poul     Fire time     Doubleday 1974     5.95  
About Ishtar, a planet which approaches one of its suns rather too closely every 1000 years, a war which happens as a result of one of these times, and people from Earth who try to help. Publisher's Weekly states that "Anderson's canvas is so vast and he swamps us with so much information...that only readers who really work at it will...figure out just what is going on."
- Copper, Basil     The great white space     St. Martin's 1974     6.95  
In the Conan Doyle tradition, a story of the tragic and horrifying events of the Great Northern Expedition, a venture into the centre of the Earth; starring Professor Clark Ashton Scarsdale.
- Goulart, Ron     The chameleon corps and other shape changers  
Macmillan N.Y. 1972     6.95  
Reprint collection; stories are Chameleon, Rake, Copstate, Masterpiece, Sunflower, Please stand by, Subject to change, Ignatz, and Shandy.
- Hargreaves, H.A.     North by 2000: a collection of Canadian science fiction  
Martin 1975     7.95  
Six short stories/novelettes, by a professor of English at the University of Alberta, which were first published in England. I think that this book should be properly reviewed but I don't know when I'll find the time. Any takers?
- Herbert, Frank     Hellstrom's hive     New English Library 1974     7.08  
The very exciting story that follows the movie "Hellstrom Chronicle". Was serialized in Galaxy. Recommended.
- Knight, Damon     Best stories from Orbit, volumes 1-10  
Berkley/Putnam's 1974     9.50  
Think of any Big Name New Wave Author and you'll probably find a story by him or her in here. Interspersed are various letters sent by or to the editor at time of original publication. Interesting.
- Malzberg, Barry     Guernica night     Bobbs 1975     6.95  
In a near future world where everything is possible many people are so bored that they resort to suicide. "Our two narrators...dwell on suicide and converse with the late great or with present bedmates" (Library Journal) while the reader's mind wanders. For Malzberg fans only.
- New dimensions 5 ed. by Robert Silverberg     Harper 1975     9.15  
An original anthology, rather uneven, with the best stories written by the only women represented in the entire volume. These are "A solfy drink, a saffel fragrance" by Dorothy Gilbert and "A scarab in the city of time" by Marta Randall.
- Norton, Andre     The jargoan pard     Atheneum 1974     6.95  
Kethan's dormant power as a shape-changer is brought forth by a belt set with a jargoan stone. A Witchworld fantasy.
- Silverberg, Robert     Threads of time     Nelson 1974     6.50  
Three original novellas, by Benford (shades of 2001), Simak (time travel), and Spinrad (remnants of human race search for habitable planet).

Tiptree, James Warm worlds and otherwise Ballantine 1975 1.50  
Another collection, this time of stories mostly written later and better than those in Ten thousand light years from home. Includes "Love is the plan, the plan is death", "The girl who was plugged in", and "The women men don't see".

Vance, Jack The gray prince Bobbs 1975 6.95  
Fast-paced adventure in a strange world with stranger inhabitants. Described by Library Journal as reminiscent of Dune.

Van Vogt, A.E. The best of A.E. Van Vogt ed. Angus Wells  
Sidgwick 1974 7.84  
I started reading this with interest as Van Vogt was a Big Name Author in my neofan days but just couldn't stand the pulp level writing this time around. Thirteen stories published between 1940 and 1968 and a bibliography of his books.

O'Brien, Robert C., pseud. Z for Zachariah  
Atheneum 1974 7.95 (here's the bibliog info)(see Aug.issue)

\* \* \* \* \*

# ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD:

U	R	I	N	O	D	S	L	A	N		
F	E	N	A	L	O	E	H	U	G	O	
C	A	D	S	E	M	I	O	N	E	S	
M	I	C	H	A	E	L	C	O	N	E	Y
C	A	E	N	E	A	T					
F	R	A	N	T	E	D	E	L	I		
O	U	T	D	I	A	N	E	N	I	T	
G	E	E	A	M	P	A	D	D	S		
G	N	P	K	E	N	O					
E	D	B	E	A	U	R	E	G	A	R	D
D	Y	E	S	R	A	Y	E	S	A	Y	
A	N	T	S	E	M	E	S	E	V	E	
M	A	Z	O	A	S	T	R	E	S		

\* \* \* \* \*

# LETTERS (cont.)

Fran, n.d.  
That's three of your BCSFA newsletters I've received lately. I've noticed, as a newsletter editor myself, the similarities and little differences between it and SYNAPSE ((newsletter of the Ontario Science Fiction club)). The similarities are apparent, and attributable to the very function of a newsletter. Both spend appreciable space on club activities, reports on meetings, and incidental news picked up through channels to fandom at large. There are the club announcements, the apologies for higher dues, and the eternal working-out of details of the club's organization. The differences are slightly more subtle, at least the important one is. The obvious difference is that I use a good deal of artwork as fillio's. The BCSFA newsletter, as of yet, does not. The unobvious difference is in organization. I have evolved and "perfected" a format that never changes. Editorial first, then the meeting summaries, coas, other club oriented news, articles, letters, fannish news & cons, entertainment calendar, and finally the club calendar. It sounds rather a screwy arrangement, but it works on aper (ha, ha...). I vary it only minutely; occasionally I move around the fannish news and cons column, and recently I revived the entertainment calendar after dropping the original columnist. I don't think you have a similar rigid format. As a

letter (cont.)

result I think the BCSFA newsletter is a more relaxed organ than is SYN. On the other hand, without tight compartmentalization of club business, it is of slightly less interest to an out-of-club fan.

OSFiC also has two members in Ottawa. Naturally not the same two. It once had a branch in Ottawa, in 1967 I believe. It was the origin of such fans as Alicia Austin, Richard Labonte, and Rosemary Ellyot.

Thanks for the newsletters. If my pessimistic nature calls the shots, then I may take out a subscription in the future. Certainly I enjoy the feeling of contact with Canadian fandom across the Rockies.

Gaeilt'aeaeilina: Taral Wayne MacDonald

((I'm afraid, Wayne, that in my opinion SYNAPSE is more personalzine than clubzine though I'm willing to concede that your definition may be different from mine. I do think you have to decide what your priorities are so that one or the other doesn't suffer. If you elect "personalzine" then maybe it's time to concentrate on that and pay your own bills.))

\* \* \* \* \*

## FANZINE REVIEWS

### (2) Local personalzines

MAD DOG PUBLICATIONS (different title each time)

Mike Bailey, Editor and Publisher

About 8 or 9 times a year; six issues \$1.00, 12/\$2.00 or the usual.

Send to Mike Bailey, P.O. Box 48563, Station Bentall, Vancouver

B.C. V7X 1A3, or phone 731-8451 or 666-6604 (bus.).

SF3 NEWSLETTER

a LES RECHERCHES DANIEL SAY CIE publication

About 4 times a year; 50¢/issue

Write to Daniel Say, Box 69583, Vancouver 12, B.C.

First some background. Mike and Daniel were members of the U.B.C. science fiction club starting in the late 60's and have been active in fandom from that time. Together they put on the first Vancouver convention in 1971 (with the help of others of course) and that July went to their first outside convention, Westercon 24 in San Francisco. Here they showed their true affinity with old-time fandom: they weren't on speaking terms for many moons after they got back. But obviously things improved as they organized a second Vancouver convention in 1972. Both got into publishing the more ambitious type of 'zine (you know, the kind with the staples in the side) or at least Daniel did. Mike typed up some stencils but never quite got the thing published. Finally he gave up and printed and attached the by now 2-3 year old material in succeeding issues of his personalzine. Daniel's most recent issue may well end up the same way; publishing was imminent two years ago yet there is still no sign of it. In 1974 Mike was co-chairman with David George of V-Con 5. For several months before and after this (February) both Mike and Daniel were putting out 1-3 pagers. From the first official club election in June 1974 Mike was putting out two 'zines each month: the clubzine and his own personal zine. Since May he has published his personal zine plus two issues of a one-pager sent to most subscribers and members of the club (addresses obtained in his capacity as vice-president). Daniel publishes the "newsletter" three-four times yearly plus a lengthy report on each V-Con.

SF3 NEWSLETTER has a lot of information on upcoming books, professional 'zines, films, people, and "Academica", and bookstores, mostly garnered from the various 'zines that Daniel reads including Locus plus book reviews by Sandra Wise. The reproduction is sloppy but the most recent issue showed an improvement in this regard even though the staple came out and the pages (in two sizes) came apart about five minutes after I started looking at it. Typos are numerous and opinions even more so (especially the knee-jerk criticisms of the BCSFA). However, the 'zine, when it finally comes, does have a lot of stuff in it.

Mike Bailey's 'zine is much shorter and comes out more often of course. In his last issue he attempted to be more fanish which was an improvement. Recent issues consisted mainly of (1) book review, (2) long, long commentary, and (3) the aforementioned 2-3 year old stencils (now used up). A major problem as far as I am concerned is Mike's love for controversy. He has managed as a result to make enemies among both authors and fans (including me, for a while, when he was putting out this summer's one-pagers). A Seattle fan described him as trying to be like Dick Geis of Science Fiction Review but doesn't have the same talent for jumping out of the way when the shit starts to fly. But Dick Geis gets Hugos and maybe with more practice at playing "Let's you and him fight" Mike too will get there. Not my style at all but I'm very aware that there are many fans out there who do dig this kind of thing.

\* \* \* \* \*

The NOVEMBER MEETING will happen at John Park's house, 179  
W. 19th Ave., Vancouver at 8:00 or so on Saturday, November 15.  
This will be another movie meeting (title Unknown). BYOB and snack.

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If undelivered in 10 days  
return to:

BCSFA  
P.O. Box 35577  
Station E  
Vancouver B.C. V6M 4G9