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The newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association which can be reached at P.O. Box 35577, Vancouver B.C., V6M 4G9. Memberships for next year now being accepted: Active \$4, family \$6; Associate (following rates not yet official but you can still send in your payment and we'll make adjustments later if necessary) \$3, family \$5. Up to three years' membership, i.e. to May 1979, may be obtained for a multiple of the above rates. David George and Ed Beauregard helped to get out the last issue and Susan Wood helped with advice. All unsigned material is by the editor. Art by Winifred (cover), Taral MacDonald, Dale Hammell. A Diatryma Publication.

Edited by Fran Skene, Information Officer.

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The April meeting will happen at the home of Fran Skene, 207 W. 21st Ave., Vancouver on Saturday, April 17 at 8:00 or so.

A recording of Orson Wells' radio broadcast of The war of the worlds will be heard. BYOBooze, mixer, and munchies.

OUT-OF-TOWNERS: Welcome all. Since this is a long weekend you might want to come into town. For starters, there is bed space for three at my place, also elsewhere.

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MAY MEETING (THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING): at the home of Chuck and Edna Davis, 1704 East 14th Ave., Vancouver at 8:00 or so on Saturday, May 15. At this meeting the votes, for any contested office and for the extraordinary resolution announced last month, will be counted. Also, in the case of any office for which no nominations reached the secretary before or at the April meeting, such office will be filled from the floor and voted on by A.G.M. attendees (Article 6, Section E) (Active Members, that is). Note: it was almost decided to have the A.G.M. at the convention a week later but was felt to be too much of a grind (Al Betz joked that someone could be assigned to go around and raise the hands of sleeping members when it came time for a vote).

APRIL EXECUTIVE MEETING: Tuesday, April 20 at 7:30 pm, at Fran Skene's

CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS (members of same please note):

V-CON 5 (May 21-23) Wednesday, April 14 at 7:30 pm at the home of Pat Burrows, 6693 Wiltshire, Vancouver. For information including date and place of following meeting phone Ed or Norma Beauregard at 732-8202.

VAN-CON (July 1-4, 1977) Thursday, April 29 at Pat Burrows', at 7:30. Further info from Fran Skene at 879-7009; work 682-5911 Local 37.

EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS

At the last meeting I was asked about the word that precedes "..... Publication" and has been different every month, e.g. last month this zine was described as a Phororhacos Publication; this month it is a Diatryma Publication. For the benefit of those who have a burning desire to know all about this and weren't at the meeting here it is: A year or so ago there was an article in Scientific American about flying reptiles or some such. At the subsequent executive meeting much jollity resulted from a discussion of the uses of flying dinosaurs, e.g. military. Just have them fly over (splat) the enemy. So I decided to use the names of Pterosaurs and prehistoric birds in the zine (quiz: which was which? also, which was the name of an order of birds of which one genus--loons--survives today?). I still find the juxtaposition of prehistory and future history interesting and in fact approached Tim Hammell about a picture of a pterosaur for use as a club or newsletter logo, if possible.

A complaint was voiced at the same meeting about my use, or more accurately my minimal use, of capitals in book titles. As it happens (and this may be hard to accept for those who had their knuckles rapped by teachers for not putting in enough capitals) there are two correct ways to capitalize titles. One is the older way, in which the first word and all subsequent words except "a", "the", "of", etc. are capitalized. The other is the newer way, in which the first word and proper nouns only are capitalized, e.g. The heritage of Hastur. What's important (just as it is in deciding between American and British spelling) is to be consistent within the article, booklist, or whatever. But speaking of rapping knuckles I wouldn't be surprised to learn that there are teachers out there who haven't learned the above in view of the fact that the wheels of education are none too swift.

Ignore the following if your boredom threshold is low. Yes, Daniel Say is still at it with his non-stop paranoia in regard to Vancouver fanac, expressed in the new issue of his personalzine, SF⁵ Newsletter. This time Daniel talks about how the V-Con 5 committee is really raking in the money at the expense of all those little people whose cause he is championing. As it happens there's going to be a real scramble to even break even because, for the first time, we will be bringing in two guests plus at least one snouse. Moreover, unlike smaller cons, we will be paying for room, board, and transportation for the Nivens and Terry Carr (and room and board for Carol Carr if she comes). Far from being the cheapskates you have us tagged as I think a case could be made for describing us as extravegant. As for our selection of site; the room rates are much more reasonable than elsewhere. You, Daniel, will be able to rent an entire suite for \$21 as opposed to the \$26 you paid for a single room last year. In actual numbers: V-Con 5 will need 500 memberships to break even as opposed to the 400 required last year even though this year's at-the-door price is \$2 more. And since U.B.C., Langara, etc. will not be in session we'll need to reach a much wider variety of people in order to approach the attendance figures of the last two V-Cons. Sigh. At meetings Daniel is entertaining and helpful which makes me feel so amazed when I see this kind of shit in his zine.

At Leprecon I talked to Jeff May about how my worldcon registration, sent last August, had vanished into limbo. The check was cashed (naturally!) but I have had no indication that they even know I'm alive. Jeff explained how losing two parents, suddenly, caused the secretary to leave and the mail to pile up; then he wrote down my name, address, etc. and promised to look into it. Still nothing. And now the Hugo nominations have to be returned and naturally I don't have the ballot. Help!!!!!!!!!!

LETTERS

Fran,

Excuse my indulging an unbreakable habit by loccing you again. It must seem like I'm a columnist to isolated BCSFA (not that Bisfah?) members. But I made a few margin notes while reading the last ish, and it seems such a waste to not use them in a loc. And what sense would it be to use them in a loc to another fanzine? So you are stuck with me unless you stop making interesting newsletters.

It struck me that the sort of comments you make about Coney's prose ((?????? I was quoting from and discussing the works of Bradley!!!!)) is the sort of criticism I expect from an English teacher. Strictly speaking you are right all the way down the line. Objects are confused, word forms incorrectly used, and modifiers detached. And yet... English grammar is not Latin grammar, as we have been secretly taught it is in school. Creative use of language allows an echo to be foolish, if that is what the author means. While the girl herself does not fade, she can fade metaphorically, or as perceived by the narrator. If Coney meant that Kerwin wiped his forehead dizzily, Kerwin could have indeed wiped his forehead dizzily. Chances are that this sort of wiping is not efficient at removing perspiration from foreheads, and would perhaps even put an eye out, but it's not impossible. But like you, I fear that Coney really doesn't mean what he says. I doubt your criticisms are unfounded, and the accidental misuse of the English language is a lot easier than the purposeful misuse of language. But I thought I would add my inflated 20¢ worth for the benefit of impressionable would-be authors who might have been listening.

The qualifications for being a fan of a genre may be even stricter than you think. I've read the three books you've mentioned, and about 30 others besides. Offhand I remember Fritz Leiber's Fahrd and the Gray

Mouser books, Conan, THE HOUSE OF
THE BORDERLAND, THE WOOD BEYOND

THE WORLD, A VOYAGE TO ARCTURUS,
a bit of Lovecraft, a lot of

Lewis, some George MacDonald,
Moorcock, McCaffrey, Norton,
Anderson, and Niven's tongue-
in-cheek "Not Long Before the
End" and "What Good is a Glass
Dagger". I have in my library
ten or so more fantasy books I
will read sometime in the next
year (along with the 150 or so
other books; 2/3 sf). But does

that make me a fantasy fan? Maybe.

But certainly not a fantasy faan.

I have very little interest in fan-
tasy's fandom. I dropped out of the

Mythopoeic Society (officially) because membership was costing \$8 a year, and its only real benefit, MYTHPRINT, didn't interest me. So although I may in time become able to discuss fantasy with the same authority I can discuss sf, I can't say if I will ever become a fantasy fan.

Ah, yes. Marion Zimmer Bradley. You read books that "are easy to put down"? I never do, at least not intentionally. That's why I don't read Bradley. ((I noticed.)) When I find an author whose books don't massage my sensawonda or reach me on some other level with equal fascination I quit reading that author after a very short trial period. Bradley flunked

THE EDITOR

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my test. I can't argue that her Darkover books are pleasant light reading, but there are already far too many truly captivating books for me to ever read in one lifetime. So I can afford to be particular.

Seen ODYSSEY, Elwood's pseudo-VERTEX, yet? It looks pretty much as bad as the LOCUS review makes it sound. The contents I will reserve judgement on until I've read them myself. LOCUS does not have my confidence when it comes to accepting their pronouncements on this or that book. Too perverse to trust the slick format I suspect. Interestingly, the inevitable Freas cover (Please Kelly, can you leave a few covers for some of the other artists?) is better than most Laser covers, though the floating face in the background is strangely familiar.

OSFIC has exactly the same restrictions on its voting procedures. I don't know quite what you mean by "extraordinary resolutions", but I assume that it means things like expelling a member, impeaching an officer, and the like. The possibility that it may take a 2/3 majority of the entire membership of OSFIC may prevent it from changing its constitution. At no time in its history has that club polled votes from 2/3 of the membership, let alone produce a 2/3 majority vote. The best showing had roughly half of its members voting for the 75/76 elections. Probably parliamentary procedure will open a way to change the OSFIC constitution without fulfilling impossible conditions, but it is ironic that impasses like this occur so often. Won't changing your rules about "extraordinary resolutions" also be an "extraordinary resolution". If so, how will you change the rules? ((Hopefully, by using the two-envelope system to keep track of those who vote, then keeping after and after and after those who don't until they finally break down and send in their ballots in the addressed, stamped envelopes supplied. This year's executive is determined to get this passed and is willing to spend a lot of time on letters and phone calls if necessary.))

Gæiltacháilín: Taral/Wayne Macdonald

March 19/76

Dear Fran,

To quote the great Chas. Burbee: "I have rec'd & red a cop8 of that mag of urine . . . Gosh, I thoght it was god." The yellow paper and the photostencils made it look very god indeed.

I suggest we call it BCSFAZINE, in the old fannish tradition of forcing people to roll phonetically-unlikely acronyms around in their mouths like so many marbles.

Yrs.,

Wm. Gibson

March 13/76



To BCSFA

Dear Ms. or Mr. Secretary:

That's All Right! in regard to the delayed newsletters. Better Late Than Never. (BCSFA Newsletter March 1976 No. 33)
From Steven Humphrey

P.S. (I enjoy your newsletter and I think it's tops.) S.

March 11/76

Mail received in March -- Letter from Steve Humphrey in Victoria; letter from Bill Gibson; Karass #20; letter from Taral Wayne Macdonald.

Minutes of General Meeting held Saturday March 20th at Paula Brown's (taken by Daniel Say):

Fran entered idea that extraordinary resolutions be passed by 2/3 of those casting ballots (implied mail ballots). Added at meeting: 1/3 of all active members had to have cast ballots.

It was announced that nominations for office were being accepted and that a candidate would require one nominator and three seconders, all active members in good standing.

The club and V-Con 5 have made a joint purchase of 25,000 sheets of Gestetner paper.

Tom Balabanov reported on the cons: Westercon and the club will share table and personnel for taking memberships, at V-Con 5. Hopefully some authors will be taped in advance for the con.

Ed crushes democracy by fast adjournment. David Williams, Dan Say, and Sandra Carpenter complain about protofascist? actions. Meeting adjourned by a vote of 7 to 3. A committee of the whole then met to discuss programming for the next meeting. Sandra suggested drawing a monster. Panel on "how do you persuade someone you're from outer space" suggested. Lots of low jokes.

((The above only partly verbatim as Daniel's notes were indecipherable in places/fs))

Minutes of Executive Meeting at Ed's, Thursday April 1st:

A long and inconclusive discussion was held about rates for membership, and the desirability of increasing them. Two thoughts stand out; one, that it is now costing about \$3.00 per person per annum to publish the newsletter, and two, that perhaps the next executive should be left to deal with this matter in May. ((Actually a decision was reached--to accept the amounts specified on p. 1 with the agreement that associate memberships be adjusted later if the new executive sets a different rate.))

The current state of V-CON 5 was discussed, and it was mentioned that tickets are now on sale through the Vancouver Ticket Centre and Eaton's Downtown for \$9 each. Tickets may also be ordered by writing P.O. Box 48701, Bentall Station, Vancouver, V7X 1A6. It is imperative that people desiring accommodation reserve through the con committee before April 30th. Banquets (chicken or beef) may also be purchased now for \$6.50, the same price as for V-CON 3.

Al Betz was to be offered 1000 free sheets of Gestetner paper in exchange for the 16 tubes of ink he has given the club. Al has declined the free paper, as the ink was an outright gift. Thanks, Al.

A policy was set that mail will be kept in a file at the home of the information officer.

The first batch of 10 cassette tapes of SF shows was received from Al Betz for the club library of audio cassette tapes. Again, many thanks, Al.

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ELECTIONS

A reminder: the April meeting is the last date for getting written nominations in to the secretary. This is simple: Give the date. Then "I wish to run for..." or some such, "of the BCSFA". Then signatures of you, nominator, and three seconders.

NEWS

Did you wonder why this month's zine is so short? What happened was that I went to the post office and weighed all the stuff that has to be put in this time: flyer plus ballot and envelopes for active members plus cover leaving only three sheets before the weight reached the 1 oz. mark after which extra postage is required for first class mail. And speaking of extra postage, John Gaar of Lummi Is., Washington, mentioned that his last zine came to him with "postage due" on it. I checked with David George and sure enough it turns out that first class mail going to the U.S. now costs 10¢; it hadn't been very loudly announced and David had only just found out himself. Mystery solved. John and Karen will be staying overnight at my place the night of the April meeting. In his letter John asks, "do you know if anyone would appreciate a kitten from a calico (tortoiseshell) mother? this will be her only litter. the kittens come complete with large brandy snifter."

The V-CON 5 Progress Report will be out very soon. Have you joined? If you have, could you give the flyer to someone who might be interested? Or, post it somewhere?? Carl Chaplin has now completed the logo for Westercon 30. It is really gorgeous, with the lettering against a background of stars and the Trifid Nebula.

The March meeting attracted about 15 people which seemed very small compared with the large numbers of attendees at other recent meetings. When discussing the reasons we decided the trouble was a combination of factors. Exams; new locale; no programming; exhaustion on the part of those who had been attending a large number of compulsory meetings. There was a rather strange group story and a paper airplane fight; finally those who were left saw Monty Python's "Full frontal nudity" on T.V.

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