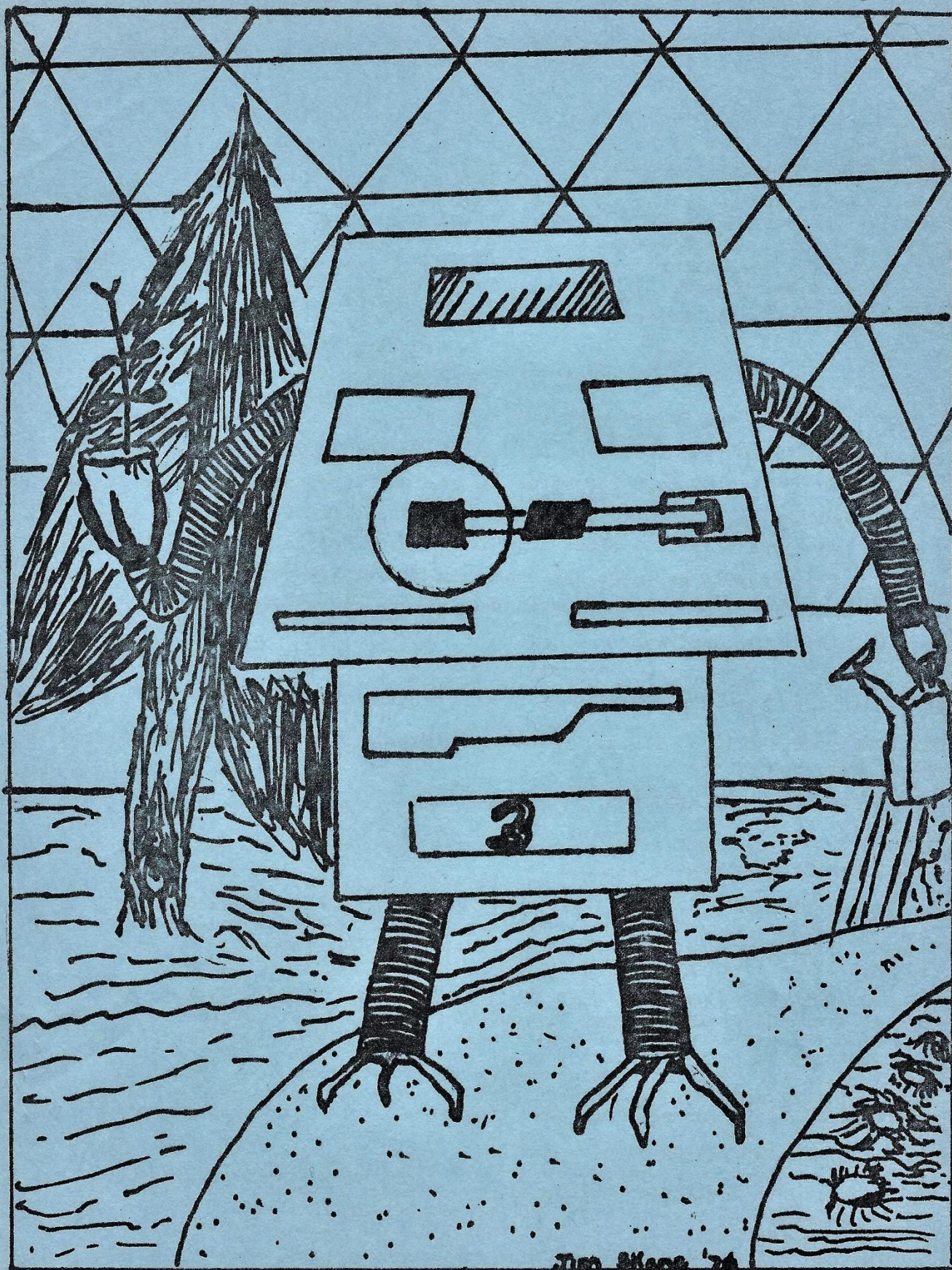


#35



B C S F A Z I N E

Number 35, May 1976. 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 due: Active \$4, family \$6; Associate \$3, family \$5 (amount yet to be officially set by the yet-to-exist 1976-77 executive but change in the above is unlikely). Up to three years' membership may be obtained for a multiple of the above rates. Ed and Norma Beauregard and David George helped to get out the last issue. All unsigned material is by the editor. Art by Jim Skene (cover), Taral Macdonald, Dale Hammell, and Wm. Gibson. A Caenognathus Publication.
Edited by Fran Skene, Information Officer.

The MAY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will happen at the home of Chuck and Edna Davis, 1704 East 14th Ave., Vancouver on Saturday, May 15 at 8:00 pm. The votes for the extraordinary resolution and the two contested executive positions will be counted and there will be a slide show of previous V-Cons. A roll of paper will be there for those who wish to exercise their artistic talent by helping to Draw The Monster. BYOBooze, mixer, and munchies.

JUNE MEETING: Saturday, June 19 at 8:00. Location T.B.A. by new executive.

MAY EXECUTIVE MEETING: T.B.A. by new executive. (Will meet briefly towards end of MAY A.G.M.)

CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS: (Interested people welcome.)

V-Con 5 (May 21-23/76) Every Thursday until the con, at Pat Burrows' home, 6693 Wiltshire, Vancouver at 7:30 pm.

Van-Con (Westercon 30) (July 1-4/77) Thursday, April 29 at Pat Burrows' at 7:30. (There will be a double meeting that night--first Van-Con, then V-Con.) Following meeting: Thursday, June 3 at Fran Skene's, 207 West 21st Ave., Vancouver at 7:30.

THE BIG PAPERING: COME ONE, COME ALL! Meet at Fran Skene's THIS SUNDAY, bearing a standard size stapler if you have one, at 1:00. Object: to look at a map of Vancouver and decide where V-Con flyers should be put up, then go there in pairs, looking for suitable walls, construction site boards, etc. (not telephone poles--against the law, I think). MAYBE Ed Hutchings will have some silkscreen posters ready (in which case we will need exacto knives for scoring them after stapling) for posting as well.

EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTION (Active Members): HAVE YOU MAILED IN YOUR BALLOT? If not: on bended knee, please do so soonest! We don't need to bug you about this month's election ballot but it is essential that all return last month's extraordinary resolution ballot. Just tear off ballot. Vote. Put into brown envelope. Seal. Put all into white envelope. Mail. O.K.?

EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS

Last year all executive positions were filled by acclamation, hence no election. This year, perhaps in response to Ed Beauregard's wistful statement, "It would be nice to have an election," the positions of President and Treasurer are being contested. As with the election of two years ago I feel that this is a good sign as it means that a greater number of members are thinking of the club as "we" rather than "they". It's so easy to sit back, see what entertainment has been laid on, and set oneself up as judge of those who have volunteered to take on tasks that are sometimes very time-consuming and for which they get no remuneration whatsoever. One important thing is to not have any hurt feelings; I hope that both defeated candidates continue to be involved in the club's affairs (otherwise I might have to conclude that a certain amount of ego-tripping is going on).

Elected by acclamation are David George as Vice-President, myself as Information Officer, and Norma Beauregard as Secretary. I wouldn't have minded getting into an election at all; I would have simply run on my record of the last year. Next year I'll take a break and start publishing a personalzine; one I hope that is minus jargon or infighting and "let's you and him fight."

Recently David George relayed to me a request that I say something nice about Victoria author Mike Coney; he apparently is feeling persecuted. O.K. Mike's most recent (locally available) book, Rax (Hello summer, goodbye in British hardcover), is in my opinion the best of his books so far. I picked it up in Honolulu at Christmas and two of my kids read it as well. (Both hard and soft cover editions are available at V.P.L.--to borrow.) Now on order at V.P.L. are Charisma and The girl with a symphony in her fingers (The jaws that bite, the claws that catch in the DAW paperback). And moreover, Mike is not the author of The bloody sun!

LETTERS

Dear Fran,

March 31nd, 1976

It'll be two weeks tomorrow since I talked to you via the modern miracle of electronics or whatever they use for long-distance between here and the Frozen North. But then, I guess you aren't that far North. So I figured it's been too long since I promised to write a letter-of-comment on the BCSFA zine. That appears beastly difficult to pronounce so I don't wonder you're having a contest or whatever to find a new name for it. After 33 issues, everybody must be quite tongue-tied with the existing title.

Anyhow, back to the zine. Reading through this, and I read every word, and looked at every illustration, I'm impressed with the high level interest in Science Fiction manifested by the group. And I noted with some chagrin (it was decanted and chilled for just a while, poured into a cooled goblet) that I've read very little, if any, now that I think about it, of the science fiction discussed in the pages of the BCSFA zine.

I--uh-- did read the "Weird Story" in the pages of the zine. But I've recovered all right. And from the lists, I've a few from the "new books" listing. And I object to your dismissing the del Rey collection as just "early pulp"...that is, "...strictly pulp". After all, when a lot of the early science fiction was written, it was mainly to fill an entertainment need. Perhaps it is unfortunate that a lot of the work in the pulp era had little more to recommend it. But good adventure writing, including that type peculiar to the science fiction genre, is always a welcome divertimento from the pressing problems otherwise crowding in upon the everyday existence of many/most of the readers. And somebody with the flair of Leigh Brackett

or Jack Vance can do it very well. I'd welcome a little more adventure and entertainment to offset or otherwise provide a bit of excitement to a lot of these dreary sociological tomes so prevalent these days...that otherwise pass for SF.

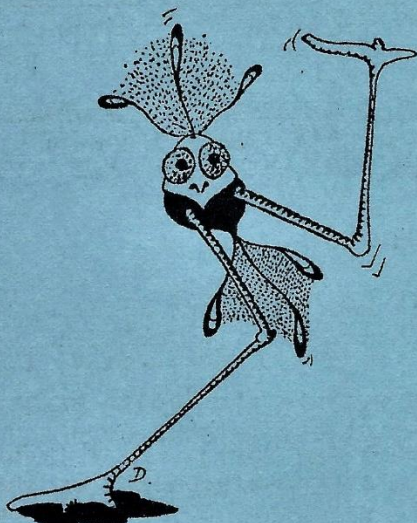
So much for that topic, for now. The other list was very interesting. For one thing, I'd read a number of the stories listed therein. Then, the fact that Ursula Le Guin was included. Seems that quite a few others, plus many more of Andre Norton's books, could therefore be included. Also, I almost didn't know who the hell Clive Staples Lewis was til I glanced at some titles. Well, it is said that learning is a lifelong thing and I guess I'm still learning. Who'd have thunk that that is what C. S. has meant all these years.

Now if we could only find out what the "F. M." means...

I believe I mentioned to you in Phoenix that I liked the cover. ((March issue; by Tim Hammell)) Now that I'm in Los Angeles, I like it also...

In a day or so, when I relocate the envelopes, I'll ship off some back copies of my fanzine (FAPazine). They are somewhat old but I like to think that the material therein, written by others, holds up quite well and hope that you find them interesting. Not to mention sort of a token trade for an issue of the BCSFA zine now and then.

Ed Cox



NEBULA AWARDS

Presented at the April, 1976
banquet of the Science Fiction
Writers of America.

Best Novel: THE FOREVER WAR
by Joe Haldeman

Best Novella: HOME IS THE
HANGMAN by Roger Zelazny

Best Novella: SAN DIEGO LIGHT-
FOOT SUE by Tom Reamy

Best Short Story: CATCH THAT
ZEPPELIN by Fritz Leiber

Best Dramatic Presentation: YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

Runner up: Harlan Ellison's A BOY AND HIS DOG

(Further details in LOCUS)

EXTRA! EXTRA!

At the last executive meeting the subject of the cost of putting out the newsletter came up. At present the clubzine costs \$3 per person per year even though we have been charging only \$2/year for Associate Membership, i.e. these have been costing the club money. Then Mike Bailey pointed out that perhaps those people having or wishing to obtain Associate Membership would prefer a much shorter and less ambitious zine (the category of Subscriber no longer exists) such as had been produced the previous year, in order to save a dollar on their membership. How about it people??? Please let us know.

(3)

It was a quiet evening when Ms. Woodworker suggested that this should be something decent for the newsletter. She said this while quickly undressing. But because she undressed in her usual demure way, this was also decent.

Suddenly, there was a scream..... "Oh, God! What was that looking in the window?"

It was another guest coming to the meeting. Yawn.

Then the ceiling dematerialized and in his coruscating metallic costume descended the Deus ex machina, the Superwriter James Playground. "Get away from that typewriter, you varlets," said he and I'll...(censored)!"

"Ooh, ah, oh," said the rabbit, "that was a nasty. This is not being a decent story."

Allen Wager smirked in his corner as he discussed the subject of the club constitution.

A N E W S T A R T

The above is far from decent, and therefore I, Boozius Ignomoricon VI, guest host for the year of GBS (Galactic Broadcasting System) have appeared before you, as you see, or rather read, in order to reveal to you mysterious secrets (but decent) of the ancient history of the Johnny Carson show, which has been showing now on GBS for three thousand years. Johnny comes back next millenium. But on to the decency. AAAAAAAH!

At this moment, green phosphorescent serpents invaded the magazine, while Fran was in her cups (size?). Frantically grabbing a broom, I Ignoricus Publicorn attempt to erase them from the tablets of this time stream, but it was time for.....

A N O T H E R N E W S T A R T

This time we were going to take the young homeless welfare cases off the streets of the Jericho village and teach them a useful skill such as composing excellent science fiction stories. This group was led by Al Wager and David Wontliams who were fighting for the privilege of issuing the rejection slips composed by this philanthropic society.

Suddenly James Playground said, "Get away from those typewriters, you varlets!" (His one constant line)

"Not so fast," said David Wontliams as he drew his last breath. His way of life had fallen into the sere, the yellow leaf; and that which should accompany old age as love, obedience, troops of friends, he must not look to have, but rather curses not loud, but deep; breath-honour which the poor heart would fain deny but dare not. Accordingly he made way for another protagonist.

"A difficult situation," thought David, with his last breath, turning into a phone booth, as which he proposed to remain disguised until a feasible way of re-assuming his previous identity as Public V. Illain occurred to him. But meanwhile,

"Oh dear!" thought Alice, "there's not much decency in this story so far, in fact there's not much of anything." Idly she began to screw the white rabbit. Oops. Erase that. Not up to editorial standards, this week.

David had run out and so it was up to James Playground and the demon editor Fran Hankohare to finish putting the trousers on the piano legs to hide their indecency. "What about the working class?" said the masses.

"I'll save you," said the Russian foot doctor Bobby Kuttoff as he jumped off from his new start. He fell into the story (from ten flights up, in fact) and quickly swam into the foyer of the Astronauts' drag.

"Glub, glub," he opined to his companion, the sexy John Lagoon, "Atlantis is getting to be a tourist trap." John made no reply; he was engrossed in attracting the attention of a passing shark.

"Oh, you deaded me. You deaded me," said Eccles.

Splosh. "I fallen in the water," cried Bluebottle (Cue: Roar of laughter from Audience.)

Meanwhile it was New Dark and Stormy Night and a band of gypsies were camped around the fire and all of a sudden a dark and stormy knight rode up. "April is the cruellest month," quoth he, "Discuss in not less than five hundred lines with notes." Then away into the subset he went riding ... riding ... riding.

"Who was that masked man, Holmes?" I cried.

Mr. Sherlock Holmes sat back eyeing me quizzically, the tips of his fingers pressed together. "Elementary, ducky," he lisped, "this stranger was none other than a phone booth in temporary disguise, whilst waiting to draw breath." I eyed him sharply, and fondled his knee.

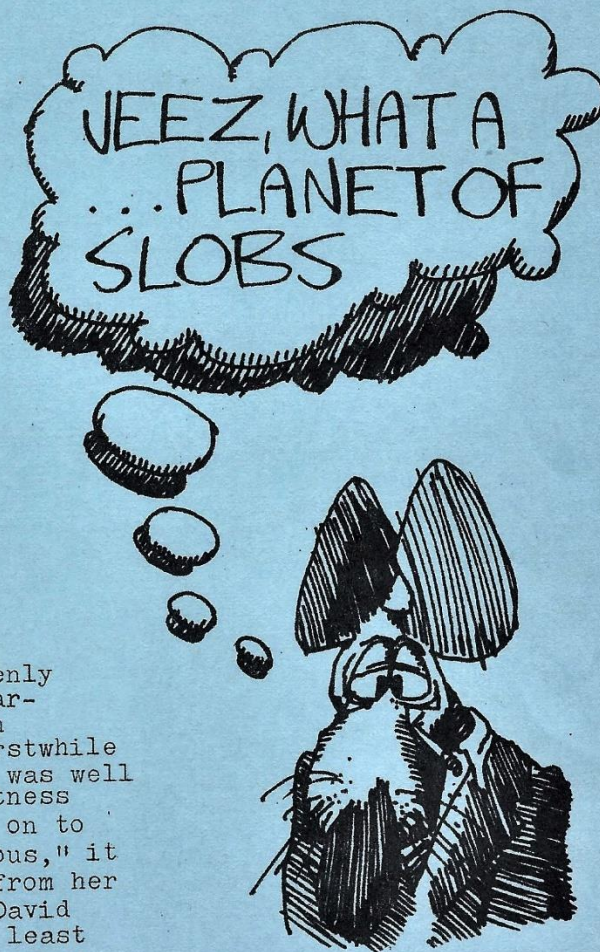
"Good God Holmes!" I cried, "You know you're not supposed to take that stuff more than once a day; here, let me give you a quick blood-letting."

Meanwhile the masked knight was riding from the irreducible subset into the hermitian vector fields.

And in these very fields, as it happened, a breathless phone booth was hopping stealthily along. It had devised a plan to kidnap Dr. Watson, and ransom him to Holmes in exchange for a supply of that stuff you're not supposed to take more than once a day, in the hope that it would bring his breath back, and enable him to return to his real assumed identity as David Wontliams, Galactic Hero. But at this moment, Holmes' blood splashed into the vector fields, as Dr. Watson had cut too deep, causing Holmes to suffer from a severe case of something, and wrecking all the phone booth's plans. Curses. P.S. The sub- obviously set in the wet.

Blood. Blood. Blood.

Bloody hell, what comes next, thought the white rabbit, striving to break from Alice's iron embrace, several paragraphs old by now. With one tremendous, all-exhausting, final, ultimate, earth-shattering, convulsive quiver of his tail he broke free, and set off into the shimmering subset, Alice's voice mournfully following him, until suddenly her attention was turned by the appearance of a distraught phone booth. An alternate plan had occurred to the erstwhile Wontliams. The love of a good woman was well known for its curative powers, as witness frogs, ex-drunkards, etc. It hopped on to her lap... "Give us a kiss, my precious," it suggested heavily. She did, and up from her knee sprang the shining, shimmering David Wontliams himself, himself again, at least for the moment. "Thank God I have defeated the machinations of the evil Niel Yasda," he cried sibilantly. (TO BE CONTINUED)



FORUM

YEAR-END REPORT

by Ed Beauregard, outgoing President

Even though this is a "year-end" report, I don't plan to dwell over-much on the past year's activities. Though once again registration of the club has eluded us, it has otherwise been a moderately successful year. For reasons that I will touch on later, few innovative things have occurred this year. The meeting in Victoria, though small, was enthusiastic and much enjoyed. I would like to see a repeat for the coming summer. The occasional film night seemed to be appreciated by some; fewer than I had hoped for though.

Principally, I would like to point out some of the problems the club faces in the coming year. The first problem is apathy--meeting attendances have been lower for several months now. I find this particularly disturbing, since the meetings are the core of the club's activities. The other area of noticeable apathy is in the newsletter. We have consistently gotten more feedback from "Taral" MacDonald in Toronto than from any local fans. Nor have those club members who write articles or news for other fanzines contributed anything to the clubzine for quite a while. The newsletter is our largest single expenditure, and without a lot more participation from club members we are not getting full value from it.

There are also some economic facts to be faced.. Memberships just barely support the newsletter--any extras have been bought out of convention profits. This can be seen clearly from this year's financial statement, which includes only membership fees as income. The club is barely self-supporting and cannot--without raising membership dues--engage in the kinds of activities (invariably involving money) which some members would like to see. As an example of the apathy I've referred to, I cite the lack of suggestions for interesting, simple and cheap activities for meetings. (I shouldn't say this too sternly--as there may very well be no such activities to suggest.)

The simple point I wish to stress is that members will get as much out of the club as they put into it; and that's been precious little the past year.

NEWS

The April meeting, held during the Easter weekend, attracted about 20 people. Bill Gibson and Lona Elrod put together their magnum opus on the typewriter in the kitchen whilst others talked, or listened to "War of the worlds" in the livingroom. The Gaar and Karen came in from Lummi Island. At about 2 A.M. we hit the sack and in the morning had a champagne breakfast. Before they left John gave my 14-year-old a ride in his Fiat. Not bad. And the club is invited to come to their place for a summer meeting. This could be on a Sunday afternoon or on a Saturday night followed by sleeping in tents in an adjoining field. (Lummi Island isn't far away but the ferry stops running at a decent hour!) I think that it would be fun either way.

The V-CON 5 convention is happening in only three weeks and the Progress Report came out last week. If you didn't join and are waiting to find out about programming, here you are. Films: about seven feature length ones including THX 1138, War of the worlds, and Fantastic Planet. Filmmaker Byron Black will present his experimental film, The holy assassin. Guests: Larry Niven and Terry Carr. Flash Gordon serial (different from last year). Possible/probable talks/panels: talks by Crawford Kilian and Mason Harris; various talks and panels on non-human intelligence, one talk by Michael Ovendon; science fiction collectables panel; Mason Harris interviewing H. Warner Munn about H.P. Lovecraft. Costume Bacchanal with Bubbles Broxon coordinating. Gernsback presentation. Tickets at Vancouver Ticket Centre or downtown Eaton's. (And more, more)

E L E C T I O N S T A T E M E N T S

When I was wondering what to write for this blurb, I placed myself in the position of a member who didn't attend many meetings, yet was interested in voting in a positive way. Such a person, I decided, would want to know the answers to two questions before casting his ballot: Is the candidate qualified to be president? Why does he wish to be president? The answers to the second question would indicate the kind of programs the candidate would attempt if elected.

My qualifications for the job are straightforward. I was a founding member of the UBC SF Club and served as its Information Officer and Treasurer. While at UBC, I was ersatz co-chairman of Vcon 1 and 2. When the BCSFA was rejuvenated by myself and David George, I served as co-chairman of Vcon 3 and chairman of Vcon 4. I've also been Information Officer and Vice-president of the BCSFA.

In the limited space provided, I can't fully explain why I want to be club president. I could list a dozen distinct reasons. However, if I do become president, the club will feel my presence through new ideas and perhaps new directions. I may not please everyone, but I won't be dull.

(In case some members think otherwise, the president has no more power than any other member of the executive. Therefore, it would be dishonest to make statements of the form, "If elected ...", in order to gain votes. Without the cooperation of the other members of the executive, the president can't fulfill any promises. Consequently, my only promise is that which is in the third paragraph.)

Mike Bailey

I am running again for the office of Treasurer of the BCSFA. I have now completed almost two years of service to the Association in this office. My record is clear: all bills against the Association have been paid, accounts maintained, statements rendered.

I still have much to offer in helping to plan the activities of the club and ask for your support.

Alan R. Betz

Some of those who vote may ask what should be the background of the treasurer. Do we want someone who has run for and gotten in purely because there is no one else to compare him to. To see who was the best and to have a choice is best.

You should be able to choose between us and pick who you think will do a better job regardless of experience.

As for experience I am active now as the club's Convention liaison officer for both V-Con and Westercon. I have been in the past President of my high school science club, for two years a Public Relations and Film Coordinator for the U.B.C. Physics Society; and for two years was on the U.B.C. AMS Student Council. I have had a lengthy history with the roots of the association, both on U.B.C. SFFEN and the early times of the association from the first meeting.

I feel the executive should be a cohesive unit and have an interest in the future of the society. We should plan to last not until next year's membership dues (or starve in the last month) but for ad infinitum.

Tom Balabanov

I was originally not planning to get too involved with the club this year as during the school year I am at BCIT three nights a week taking Business Management courses. But a couple of things happened to change my mind.

And much as I have kept a low profile the last while, I have been involved with the club since its beginning and before that was a member of UBC SFFEN.

Our club is a committee club -- there are so many things happening that a committee for this and a committee for that is the only feasible way of doing things.

I do think though that there is a need for more co-ordination of activities to help each committee and each club member be more aware of what is happening in toto within the club. As most of the work is done by committee, I feel that a good part of the Executives' jobs is to be a liaison and to "fill in" where necessary. The overriding purpose, however, of the executive team should be the providing of a sense of direction and goal objectives for the club to reach.

Both my present job (I have a new job -- Commercial Services Dispatcher with Honeywell - Control Systems Division) and my preceding one has provided me with lots of practical experience in scheduling and logistics, reinforcing my natural aptitude for organizing and innovating ideas. I feel, therefore, that I have worthwhile contributions to make to the club in this respect.

I am interested in seeing the club grow into a healthy, viable organization. I am not interested in sf politics and mainly desire to see the BCSFA develop the capabilities to provide a wide range of services to our members -- and I don't think infighting is one of them.

The BCSFA is composed of really good people this year; reflect please before you vote, on the election candidates -- you have to elect the best team possible to represent our interests during the upcoming year.

((Candidate for president))

John Thomson

FROM THE SECRETARY

David George

Mail -- 51 extraordinary resolution ballots so far. Is yours one of them?
Rune #46, also Cynus X-1 #3.

The April general meeting was held at Fran Skene's. The question of a returning officer was discussed regarding the coming election, and Paula Brown was to be asked.

We appear to have access to a cheap electrostencil machine.

At the end of the meeting, it was announced that three offices are to be filled by acclamation: David George as Vice-President; Fran Skene as Information Officer; and Norma Beauregard as Secretary. There will be elections for Treasurer, with candidates Al Betz (incumbent) and Tom Balabanov, and for President, with candidates Mike Bailey and John Thomson.

The April 21 executive meeting was also at Fran's. It was decided to remind personally all those who have not sent back their extraordinary resolution ballots. It was also decided to have the incoming executive decide the location of the June meeting.

(8)

CONTESTED EXECUTIVE POSITIONS--CANDIDATES

PRESIDENT

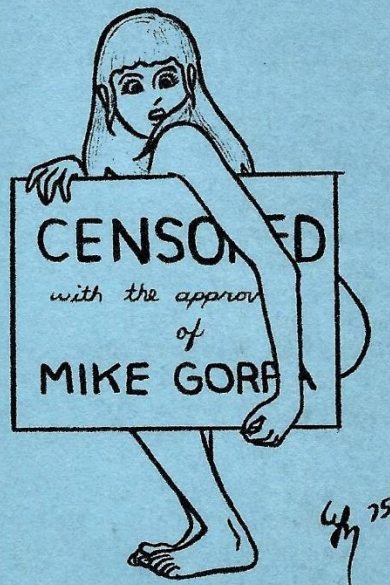
Mike Bailey
Nominated by Ken Wong
Seconded by John Fraser
Allyn Cadogan
Sandra Carpenter

John Thomson
Nominated by Tom Balabanov
Seconded by Norma Beauregard
Alan R. Betz
Frances Skene

TREASURER

Alan R. Betz
Nominated by John Park
Seconded by Frances Skene
Mike Bailey
Ed Beauregard

Tom Balabanov
Nominated by Norma Beauregard
Seconded by John Thomson
Allyn Cadogan
Mike Bailey



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