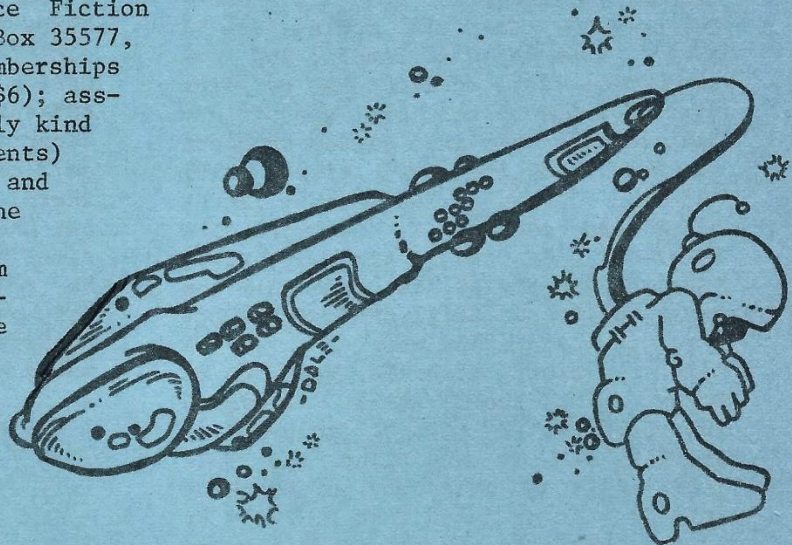


BCSFAZINE

NO. 38
AUG 1976

The British Columbia Science Fiction Association newsletter, PO Box 35577, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 4G9. Memberships now due: Active \$4 (family \$6); associate (non-voting) (the only kind available to non-B.C. residents) \$3 (family \$5). Both active and associate members receive the newsletter; the category of "subscriber" is defunct. Tom Balabanov and Winifred helped to get out the last issue Art by Dale Hammell, Gordon Parker, and Carl Chaplin. A profligate penguin publication. Edited by Allyn Cadogan, information officer.



The AUGUST GENERAL MEETING will happen at Paula Brown's house, 3537 Dunbar St., Vancouver, at 8 pm on Saturday, August 21. Scheduled programming: A film, "No Blade of Grass." BYOBooze, soft drinks, munchies.

The SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING will be at Chuck and Edna Davis', 1704 East 14th Ave., Vancouver, on Saturday Sept. 18, at 8 pm.



The AUGUST EXECUTIVE MEETING: Tuesday, August 24, at Mike Bailey's, #108, 1972 York St., Vancouver, 7:30 pm. All members welcome to attend.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING: If interested, phone Fran Skene at 879-7009, bus. 682-5911 loc. 37. Meeting time will be determined by schedules of members.

WESTERCON 30 (Van-Con) COMMITTEE: Thursday, August 12, at Allyn Cadogan's, 1916 West 15th, Vancouver, 7:30 pm.

IT'S ELECTION TIME again, folks. For those of you who missed the last two elections, what you do is find the ballot and envelopes stapled to this newsletter, pull out the staple, vote, put the ballot into the brown envelope, seal, put everything into white envelope, mail. Easy.



Editorial Ramblings

The night after I volunteered my services as editor of this newsletter, I also joined the Westercon 30 committee as treasurer. Later I commented to Fran that six months ago I hadn't even heard of fandom, and look at me now. She accused me of being "one of those movers and shakers who occasionally come into fandom from out of the void and just start doing things." Funny, I don't feel like a mover and shaker - I feel more like Eeyore at his surprise birthday party, just after Piglet has handed him the burst balloon. Still can't quite believe it, especially when I look at all those empty stencils. Well, to be honest, from the moment I discovered fan pubbing, I thought it would be great to do my own zine, and this looks like the cheap way of breaking into it. Let me amend that slightly by saying that I do not regard this as my own personal zine, but as one I will be doing most of the work on and generally putting together for a while. BCSFAZine even comes with its very own built-in censor. Gosh, wow, what more could a neo ask?

While going through the boxes of assorted stuff I inherited with this zine, I found a pile of sheets of Xeroxed address labels. The top two had "DUMMY DUMMY DUMMY DUMMY...." ALL over them. Hardly an auspicious welcome to the editorship....

There has been a lot of discussion at the last two months' general and executive meetings about how to generate more response and participation in both the newsletter and meetings. I would certainly appreciate articles, book and fanzine reviews, letters, and feedback on what you think would make the newsletter more enjoyable. Tell me what you do like, would like, don't like. PLEASE.

Since coming to Vancouver, I have developed a tendency to change abodes frequently (I've just moved for the third time in four months). This does not make me feel insecure as one of our esteemed club members suggested,

but it did create a slight problem as to where to keep the Gestetner. Carl Chaplin solved the problem by generously offering to let us keep it in his studio.

All club members have free access to the machine - but you must either bring your own supplies or pay the club for materials, ink and paper. Carl's studio is at 750 Granville ph. 687-4323. It's a good idea to phone first if you want to use the Gestetner so I can arrange for someone to be there, and to get explicit directions as the place is hard to find. Also, since I don't have a home phone, I can be reached at the studio during the day, or at Northern Comfort Communications (684-1497). I work nights, so would appreciate calls during the day.

-Allyn Cadogan

a voice From Another Shore

by Mike Bailey

This column should appear in issue number 38 of the BCSFA Newsletter, but I'm not positive, even if claimed on the colophon, that this is really #38.

In August or September of 1973, while struggling to get the BCSFA rejuvenated, I became tired of telephoning people to advise them of future meetings (which were always held at Pat Burrows' at that time). (As much as David George and Pat supplied the venue and dates for the meetings, I supplied the people.) Consequently, one day at work I spontaneously punched out a stencil with the relevant data and ran it off using government (my employer) stationery on a government Gestetner. Thus the newsletter was born. Later I wrote a computer program to generate address labels and added frills such as issue numbers and publication dates. We began purchasing our own paper in early 1974.

However, not all was sweetness and light. Some people, most noticeably

-continued next page

Robert Leung, began complaining that my newsletter was too personal and suggested that I should stick with the facts. Perhaps I was blind to my prejudices, but I thought the newsletter was more interesting that way. (At this time the club had no dues, no executive and no constitution.)

After V-con III, several problems surfaced in the club operations and for a couple of months two newsletters were being published, each claiming to be official. After elections were held I became the newsletter editor and attempted the facts-only style, publishing a personalzine which contained other material (not necessarily lies).

In the meantime, the club expanded and an inner group (the executive) formed. I found myself becoming more and more involved with club politics and the feedback I received for the newsletter was most often of a political nature. After I became involved with the V-con IV committee, I decided that the club newsletter was a dead end because of official and unofficial restrictions placed upon it. Subsequently, I became club vice-president (1975) and Fran Skene newsletter ed.

When we wrote the constitution in 1974, there was recognition that the newsletter editor needed to be controlled and consequently, among the duties of the vice-president we included that he help with the club newsletter. The intent was that of unofficial censorship. He was to read the stencils before publication, point out errors, and try to keep out libelous, scandalous and biased articles. If the vice-president objected to something in the newsletter and was unable to make a compromise with the editor, then the article would still be published. However, if the membership and executive agreed with the vice-president, then the editor had probably published his last issue.

When I became vice-president, I told Fran several times that I wasn't going to censor her, just correct typing mistakes. (Although once an article attacking Dan Say was softened at my request). I hoped to free the newsletter and broaden its horizons. Unfortunately,

fortunately, Fran's newsletter became a one-woman show with narrow horizons and seemed to be angering more and more members as time went by. The content became increasingly political and oriented towards conventions with which she was involved. It was difficult for others (primarily by reason of disinclination) to be published.

The executive voted to have a "forum" column in the newsletter - a sort of interjection-free, you-can-say-what-you-want column. Once again there was opportunity to broaden the newsletter's horizons, but no one took advantage of it - although some articles appeared in "forum" to the surprise of the articles' contributors.

This is the inaugural issue of another new editor, Allyn Cadogan, and I felt that I should explain my "vision" of the newsletter.

The newsletter does not belong to the editor, nor, except by default, should it be written by the editor. The newsletter belongs to you, the members. You pay for it and you should write it. Its purpose is not to gratify the editor in any way, but to serve the club members as per the constitution. (If the editor can obtain personal gratification by serving the members, fine. If he ((sic)) can't, then he should accept the pain and work for which he volunteered or resign.) The editor should consciously realize that because of the subjective nature of evaluating the policy of his job, there is more trust placed upon him in carrying out his duties than upon any other member of the executive (i.e., everyone can agree when the treasurer has cheated, but how can we decide when the newsletter editor has cheated the membership?) Consequently, if the editor has ambitions of doing a personal zine, he should take extra care in ensuring that he is not confusing personal gratification with the duties he has undertaken.

(Now for a 90-degree turn.)

All that I've written so far applies to the newsletter as it currently is. However, there are other types of newsletters we could have - if you desire any changes, that is.

continued next page

News, Rumors, & True Facts

Congratulations to John Park, who has joined the pro ranks with the sale of a story to GALAXY.

My favourite rumor monger tells me that Harlan Ellison has done an about face on his adamant stance against marriage and taken on a fourth wife. My informant couldn't tell me though, if it was Cindi, Judi, Kathi, Sandi, Juli, Suzi, or Justine that he married.

While on the subject of Ellison, there will be a Star Trek con in Seattle January 29-30 with Ellison as the proposed GoH. More info forthcoming.

Ed Beauregard is producing a single sheet in which he gives histories of past local cons, redresses wrongs and clears up many misconceptions.

The Star Trek blooper reel will be shown at the September BCSFA meeting.

The screening of "No Blade of Grass" at the August general meeting will be something of an experiment. We will be renting this film and to help defray costs, minimal contributions will be asked - if enough money is collected to bring the club's losses to within reasonable limits, we will continue to rent higher quality films for meetings.

I have a press release here from New Victoria Printers, a feminist printing co-op, who are expanding into publishing. They are planning an anthology of women's f&sf and are asking for manuscripts. They are not paying for material, but if you want more info, write: New Victoria Printers; 7 Bank St.; N.H. 03766; USA.

"The 27th Day," by John Mantley, is apparently being made into a movie. The book, written in 1957, was one of the first sf novels I read; I enjoyed it greatly and plan to review it here if I can ever locate another copy. It seems to be one of those books not many people have come across.

Forrest J. Ackerman made a brief stopover in Vancouver the 22 and 23rd of last month. He sent an invitation via letter for anyone who was interested to visit him at his hotel. Unfortunately, we did not receive the letter until the day he got here, so only the few club members we were able to reach by phone got to meet him.

-Allyn Cadogan

VOICE FROM ANOTHER SHORE, continued.

I feel that the newsletter as it is now will always be political and will always, at least subconsciously, evolve into a personalzine for the editor. It will be political because we have an elected position to edit it and the person filling it is involved in forming club policy. It will tend to be a personalzine because it is a one-man operation and the feedback will inevitably be dominated by the editor's friends, thus reinforcing his prejudices.

I have thought of two possible changes to ameliorate or divert these tendencies. We can change the format of the newsletter by publishing (for example) 16 issues a year. Twelve would be of the just-the-facts style and the remaining four could make up a quarterly fanzine - full of reviews, articles, politics, artwork, letters, etc. This quarterly could serve as an outlet for the editor and may evolve into something worthwhile to trade to or with for outsiders. It would not contain any club business.

A more fundamental change, and if we are going to have any change, the one I favour is to alter the duties of the Information Officer. Under this scheme the club executive would find a member who wanted to publish a fanzine, yet who was uninterested in club politics.

This person would then produce and edit the clubzine and the elected Information Officer would be responsible for ensuring that it was published on schedule and contained all required club notices. This person would be appointed by the executive and have no guaranteed or restricted term.

-concluded on page 10.

From the Secretary

Norma Beauregard

Minutes of the July 17, 1976, General Meeting.

My thanks to Al Betz who took these minutes in my absence.

Meeting called to order at 8:50 pm. The membership was informed that nominations for the positions of Vice-President and Information Officer would close tonight. John Park informed the meeting that a story of his was purchased by Galaxy. It paid \$225. or 3¢ a word. Mike Bailey said that ex-member Michael J. Coney has a new novel out - a parallel worlds type story. Steve Forty informed the membership that his newsletter was late. Allyn Cadogan was elected Information Officer by acclamation. The candidates for Vice-President are: John Fraser, Tom Balabanov, John Thomson, Ken Wong. The four candidates will have election statements in this newsletter. Suggested length 400 words. Mike Bailey stated that any member of the BCSFA may attend executive meetings. Al Betz asked for discussion on programming. Steve Forty inquired about the Relaxicon affair planned tentitively for Lummi Island residence of John Gaar. People from Seattle would be invited. It would be a mini-con with no programming. Bill Gibson asked who decides on programming at the present time. M. Bailey answered that the executive decides. Bill Gibson, without volunteering, asked that a special committee would be set up. There were mixed reactions from the membership. Bill Gibson also suggested that meetings should be held outside in good weather. Francis Martineau suggested getting publicity ((for Westercon 30, apparently)) by creating UFO hoaxes. Much light discussion of hoaxes. Paula Brown suggested War Games for programming. Al Betz suggested that nominations be closed at the end of the business meeting. Al Betz moved that the meeting be closed. Seconded by Jim Johnston. 9:20 pm.

Minutes of the July 20, 1976, Executive Meeting.

The meeting took place at Norma Beauregard's place. Mike Bailey, Al Betz, Norma Beauregard and Allyn Cadogan attending. Ed Beauregard also present. Mike Bailey presented to the executive a rough draft of a questionnaire for members. Al Betz stated the current membeiship figures: Memberships in good standing - 62 (47 active, 2 active family, 12 associate, 1 associate family); Memberships not in good standing - 56 (43 active, 2 active family, 10 associate, 1 associate family). Six persons are known to have moved. The newsletter is also sent out to 11 freebees. The idea to change our mailbox has been dropped because box hours have gone back to normal at our postal station. There will be a "Relaxicon" at John Gaar's in addition to the regular meeting. Mike Bailey will be making the arrangements. The Gestetner will be located at Northern Comfort Communications. Tim Hammel will be issued a bill for his advertising in last month's newsletter. Al Betz gives a short treasurer's report: Savings account-37.02; Current Account-156.57; Outstanding bill from Gestetner-9.59. Al Betz moves, Norma Beauregard seconds - Family memberships are to have 2 votes. Any two, but only two of the members of families belonging to the BCSFA can vote in elections. Passed unanimously. Mike Bailey will act as returning officer for the election of Vice-President. Al Betz will sign ballots as well. There will be a new club service. Mike Bailey states that if five or more copies of a book are purchased from distributors, a forty percent discount is available. Contact Mike for information.

Mail received since last newsletter: 3 memberships; 1 returned newsletter-OSFIC; 1 statement Gestetner; promotional material from 108 resort ranch (junk mail); 1 letter from Vicki Bushell; 1 bill from Gestetner; 1 change of address. Mail received since newsletter before last: assorted returned newsletters; 1 statement Gestetner; 1 bill from Gestetner; 4 memberships; 1 change of address.

Fiction

Angry penguins swarmed across the barracks floor. Hedley stood with legs spread, a Wade & Butcher straight razor clutched in his thin aristocratic fingers.

"Massah! Massah Hedley! Mistah Kurtz, he gawn!" The old darky stood panting in the doorway, a watermelon clutched beneath either arm. Hedley noticed that the old man's fly was secured with the claw of some strange crustacean.

He remembered an ad he had seen many times in Popular Mechanics: "Join the Crustaceans! What strange powers did these creatures possess?" The penguins didn't give a shit. Scrambling forward, they swarmed over the old darky and seizing the watermelon, fell upon the firm and juicy flesh with squeals of Antarctic delight.

"For God's sake, somebody shut up those goddamned penguins!" growled Hedley, throwing his razor across the barracks where it neatly sliced across Betty Grable's shins. She fluttered and fell to the ground.

"I am a creative artist, albeit trapped in this khaki world, surrounded by the dark brothers of Aesop's race for my only companions, stifled, ignored, frustrated, and up to my boots in penguin shit."

Wearily he threw his lean frame onto a rickety chair and shuffled the pages in front of him. His obsession for creating poetry fed upon his few mental resources and any pieces of paper -- butcher's paper, calling cards, orders, manuals, and old copies of the Sydney Times that the barracks offered. His eye lit upon yet another stillborn work:

Angst, despair. Gloom and torment.

When will my striving soul be free?

The moon was a ghostly galleon--

This last line was crossed out with "corny" written over it.

"Oh, lawsy, massah!" mumbled the aged darky, scratching his wooly head

in perplexity. "How you write folk do carry on!"

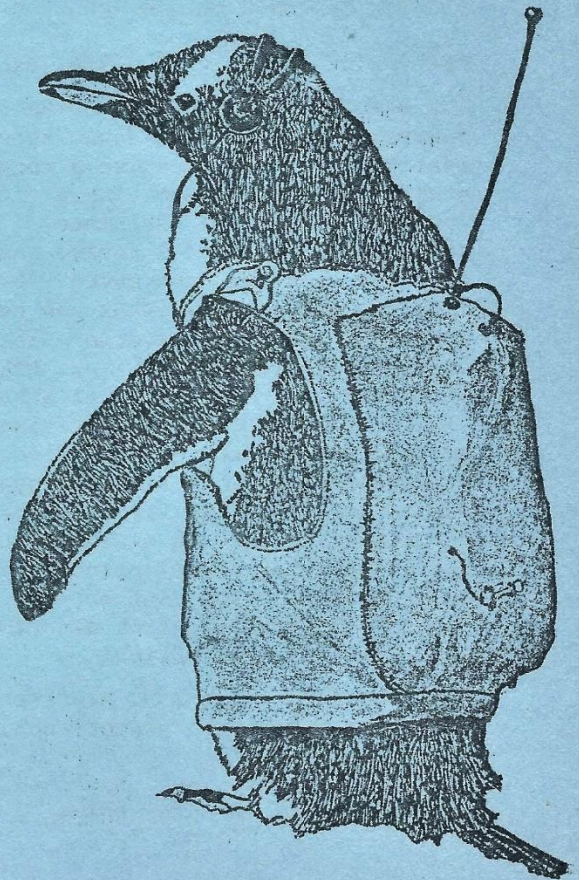
"Ah, what would you know, Old Jim," muttered Hedley. "Ah! I am in search of a symbol! An all-consuming symbol of man's regenerative and cyclic nature, the mysterious all embodying symbol of the universe."

"Bless my soul, massah--us black folk don't know much about that...but mebbe y'all mean like Yeats' symbol of the gyre, as expressed in his The Second Coming, written during his Coole period? Massah...."

"Hey, Ace, you got a light?" The stranger wore mirrored shades and a knit bob-cap.

"No--uh--wait a minute...what's going on here? Who am I?"

"Listen, turkey, this isn't that kind of fiction, you dig? This is about penguins, angst, The Sydney Times, Mistah Kurtz, shadows falling across



a landscape of etiolated Ballardian post-New Wave claptrap, Lionel Trains, how bad Ray Bradbury can be if you've a hangover, hand grenades, novel sex aids, Korean folksingers, glory, sex, and death." The stranger unclipped his orchid and slid it over his nasty looking hand. The Kid knelt and began to rub KY jelly into the leather straps.

"You ever make red split?"

"Whadju mean?"

"Blood of a wig."

"Whud?"

"You know, schizo-juice--transfusion from a flip-out."

"No, no, never did."

"C'm here...."

The last thing Hedley remembered was the leering face of the intruder a penguin at his side, hovering over him, as somewhere in the background, Old Jim began shuffling and singing Massah's in de Col', Col' Ground....

"Mister Kurtz!"

Silence.

"Mister Kurtz?"

More silence.

"What's KY jelly?"

The words echoed dimly into the shadows and faded into silence. A drop of water fell to the ground, striking with a sharp tap.

"What's KY jelly?"

Hedley began to scream. "Kurtz, you bastard, clinging to an imaginary rock with the black lightning blasting the storm ridden night and waiting to fling you into the annihilation of infinite compassion--Kurtz, you mother fucker, what's KY jelly?"

"KY jelly is the classic sexual lubricant; some of you may have gone through life in a sort of spiritual missionary position, but we here at the Technical Academy have the solution to your problem. C'm'er."

And he thrust into the waiting novice's hand, a pamphlet headlined, "I think it's a shame more women don't write...." by Faith Baldwin.

"Take, for instance, the stirring phrase above, 'with the black lightning blasting the storm ridden night and waiting to fling you into the an-

nihilation of infinite compassion." This phrase contains the two essential elements for writing today. Power and ambiguity. Porn is useful, but surprisingly, not essential. Especially when you know you're going to be censored by a BCSFA VP with a hangover. But to return to our story....

Hedley was looking at some point beyond Kurtz, a stupefied look on his face. "Penguins? Penguins??" he muttered looking surprised. "Rather frigid but worth trying!" Kurtz turned around. Dozens of penguins had entered; soon they surrounded, then had totally covered Hedley.

"Better get the love oil," Hedley moaned. And then he discovered some dumb jerk had moved the kleenex into the other room.

As I said, Porn is useful---

And sicker, and quicker.

The profound silence that followed was punctuated only by the occasional mournful bleat of a penguin.

THE END.

* * * * *

MORE NEWS - STAR TREK

There's a Star Trek group forming in Vancouver, finally. The first meeting will be held Aug. 4 at Dan Swartzfeld's home, 5611 Chancellor Blvd., Vancouver (in the UBC area). For further info contact either Barb Dryer at 327-2908 or Li Richardson at 596-2837. If you're interested but can't make the meeting, give us a call anyway.

A group of friends and I went to the Puget Sound Star Trek Convention held last Nov. 8 in Seattle. This year the hotels are booked up due to the Bicentennial celebrations so the next PSST con will be held Jan. 29 & 30, 1977, in Seattle, presumably at the Olympic Hotel.

The June BCSFAZine carried a note that a Star Trek con was to be held in Seattle early in July. Well, it didn't come off.

This non-con was the doing of a well known professional New York convention

on the Campaign Trail



TOM BALABANOV

I am running for the office of BCSFA vice-president because of my background. I was acting as convention liaison before on V-con and I have helped in the newsletter. These are two of the jobs of the vice-president.

JOHN FRASER

Good News...I am running for vice-president of the club and most important my election statement is short. I feel the club up till now has been poorly handled; it has fallen into a rut. I intend to invigorate the leadership back to a healthy innovative body. I am a student, age 22. I have just become registrar for Westercon 30. I joined the club just over a year ago and over the year I noted that the last governing was inept. Financially the club has wasted lots of money (the club bought a hideously

costly gestetner when an offset method would have been more useful.) Also members of the club resigned because of the way they were treated by elected officials. I WILL DO MY BEST TO CORRECT AND FORSTALL FUTURE DISASTERS. Those mentioned above were only two out of many. CAST YOUR VOTES WISELY....

JOHN THOMSON

I see no reason to change my position from what was published two issues ago:

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.



Letters

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 (with Honeywell) and my preceeding 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 dandidates - you have to elect the best team possible to represent our interests in the upcoming year.

KEN WONG

I am running for the office of vice-president of the BCSFA. If elected, I will carry out the duties as outlined in the BCSFA Constitution.

I joined the BCSFA in 1974. I've been on the V-con 4 and V-con 5 committees. I am also on the Westercon 30 committee.

If elected, I will have worthwhile contributions to make. I ask for your support.

Dear Friends,

Have just finished reading the latest BCSFA newsletter which brought on a touch of nostalgia for all the old hassles and inspired me to write to you.

Another thing which put Vancouver in my mind was meeting some of Vancouver's finest at a party last night. The Vancouver Police Pipe Band was here playing at a horse show and were invited to this party by the local singles club. The local girls were quite intrigued by these brawny Canadians in kilts, and the cops weren't feeling any pain.

As for myself, a few changes (mais la plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose, or something like that). I have quit working on a fishing boat after finding it was not very profitable. I now work as a private nurse for an invalid woman, living in. It's dreadfully boring, but the pay is ~~very~~ good and I have lots of spare time. I have enrolled at the University of Cal. for a correspondance course in news reporting and writing. I suppose I really will have to learn how to spell. I have a good collection of dictionaries.

One thing about living here is the lack of seasonal change. The weather is hardly any different now from what it was in January. In fact, it was more sunny then than it is now. We've been fogged in for over a week now.

I am not reading much sf now and have not yet come upon any local fans. I did hear the dj on the radio just now saying he is a science fiction nut so I may give him a call. There must be some around here if they put on a Westercon. Maybe they all gafiated. It would surely be nice to have an intelligent conversation with some people once in a while. It seems that all my conversations lately with men are full of sexual innuendo, and all the women are interested in is dating, not that I get much chance to talk to anyone in this job. I only get out of the house twice a week.

I still think Santa Barbara is a beautiful city. I also love Vancouver,
continued next page

VOICE FROM ANOTHER SHORE concluded

Simply stated, I think the only way to depoliticize the newsletter is to depoliticize the position of editor. A personalzine approach to the clubzine is acceptable if the editor has a good personality and can translate it to paper. I think by this time we should have learned our lesson (did anyone elect Ben Bradlee?) and recognize that the newsletter should be separated from the executive.

If you have any suggestions or responses to this column, write the club or bring up the subject at the next general meeting.

* * * * *

STAR TREK concluded.

best remain nameless. Involved in starting the original Star Trek cons, his conventions were marked by unpaid bills, rip-offs and the like. The New York ST convention where paid members were turned away at the door due to lack of space was organized by the same man who organized the non-con in Seattle in July.

-Barb Dryer

BCSFA

P.O. Box 35577

Vancouver, B.C. V6M 4G9

FIRST CLASS MAIL

LETTER continued

and would love to come back for a visit. If anyone is coming down this way, please give me a call. The number is: area code 805-969-2580. I live only 90 miles north of L.A. and can get down there in a couple of hours.

Chuck, I would like to buy a copy of your Vancouver Book if you can tell me where to order it, how much it costs, and also if you would sign it.

Love to all,

Vicki Bushell

767 Westwood Drive; Santa Barbara, Ca., 93109.

* * * * *

IF THERE IS AN "X" UNDER YOUR ADDRESS label, that means this is your last copy of BCSFAZine, unless you renew your membership SOON.

* * * * *

Appologies to Taral/Wayne MacDonald and John Thomson whose contributions got bumped again due to lack of space. Next month for sure, guys.