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THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SCIENCE FICTION

June ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER 1974

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Volume Two
Number Four
Elections

THE JUNE MEETING will be held at Chuck and Edna Davis' house, 1704 14th Ave., at 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 15th. "Left-over" convention beverages will be available. Otherwise the usual BYOB and snack rules apply.

OFFICERS: The BCSCFA has elected by acclamation the following officers:
President -- Fran Skene.
Vice-President -- Gary Walker.
Secretary -- Rick Mikkelsen.
Treasurer -- Al Betz

ELECTION: The only contested position is that of information officer. Two members, Mike Bailey and John Thomson, have filed for the office. Their election statements and ballots are included in this newsletter.

DECISION: At the executive meeting of June 4, 1974, it was decided that memberships will be accepted at the June meeting with voting privileges allowed.

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THE CONVENTION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

CREDITS		DEBITS	
Memberships (419 paid)	\$1,679.50	Banquet (90)	\$540.00
Banquet tickets	595.50	Banquet tip	45.00
Cassette purchases	18.50	Cassette blank purchases	31.75
Rooms (paid in advance)	234.60	coffee charges	48.00
Huckster's tables	37.50	Rooms (paid in advance)	234.60
Poster sales	2.00	Art supplies, printing	149.37
Bar receipts	231.65	Frank Herbert (expenses)	180.22
Art commission	2.40	Convention area rental	390.00
Coffee donations	19.60	Lord Stanley Suite	220.80
Returns on bottles, etc.	37.75	Miscellaneous	55.68
Re-imburement for meals	26.00	Postage	68.80
Accounts receivable	60.90	U.S. exchange	13.65
total	\$2,945.90	Gift (John Thomson)	5.00
		Refreshments	304.36
		Bank charges	10.55
		Legal fees	40.00
		Committee meal	29.90
Net balance (credit)	\$578.22	total	\$2,367.68

* * *

POLICY: To those of you who received John Thomson's party invitation attached to the last newsletter, I would like to mention that I had no prior knowledge of this inclusion. John Thomson and Ed Hutchings have expressed their regrets. In future the newsletter will not be used for personal purposes.

--Ed Beauregard, Interim Chairman.

REJOICE: Daniel Say has joined "Brand X"

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SCIENCE FICTION ON RADIO

By A. R. BETZ

Science fiction has enjoyed a long, if not illustrious, history on radio. Many well known series carried a few programs of this type, and quite a number of series were devoted entirely to SF.

The earliest examples of radio SF that I can find are those editions of Buck Rogers in the 25th Century, a program that began in 1931 and ran until 1939. My collection includes 12 quarter-hour programs from 1939.

In 1933 the A.C. Gilbert Company, makers of the Erector Set, sponsored a series called Thrills of Tomorrow that explored as yet undeveloped inventions such as the "Planemobile" and the "Amphibian Train." The Interplanetary Adventures of Flash Gordon began in 1935 as a series of quarter hour dramatizations based on the famous Sunday comic strip.

A number of minor series devoted solely to SF began in the 1940s and early 1950s. Some of these were Beyond Tomorrow, Exploring the Unknown, Exploring Tomorrow, Destination Space, Starr of Space, Latitude Zero, Planet Man, Tales of Tomorrow.

Examples of shows devoted to a younger audience were Space Patrol and Tom Corbett: Space Cadet, the last one enjoying the distinction of being the only successful television program to become a radio series.

2000+, Tales of Tomorrow, Dimension X, and X Minus One were all aimed at the adult listener. Dimension X began in 1950 and was one of the first shows at NBC to be recorded on tape. Their program of 7 July, 1950 ("Mars Is Heaven" by Ray Bradbury) had to be recorded three times because the engineer editing the tape managed to erase it twice. It thus became the most expensive science fiction program in radio history.

X Minus One began April 22, 1955, with "And the Moon Be Still as Bright" and ended January 9, 1958, with "Grey Flannel Armor." In between were about 125 generally well done stories.

Many programs featured SF on occasion, including CBS Radio Workshop, the opening two programs of which were, on January 27 and February 3, 1956, a beautiful two-part dramatization of Huxley's Brave New World with the author narrating. The most famous single program in radio history is, undoubtedly, The War of the Worlds, an episode of Orson Welles' Mercury Theatre on the Air, October 30, 1938.

Suspense featured SF once in a while. It offered two different versions of "Donovan's Brain," one starring the infamous O. Welles, and the other (the better of the two), starring John McIntyre. Even Jack Benny once starred in "I Flew to Mars," a 1953 sketch on his own show. He also appeared in "Plan X" on the Suspense series, a story about the Martians' secret weapon to be used against invading Earthmen.

The comedy team of Bob and Ray ran the adventures of "Lawrence Fechtenberger, Interstellar Officer Candidate," and his annering partner Mug Mellish. Even The Goon Show devoted a few half hours to their version of orbiting the Earth and other scientific wonders.

After radio died in the U. S. (in 1963) there were several unsuccessful attempts to revive interest in radio drama. NBC's Experiment in Drama is one example of such shows. In 1963 it presented "There Shall (sic) Come Soft Rains" and "Zero Hour" both by Bradbury.

In 1965 Theater Five tried again. The result was many fine programs, including quite a number of SF efforts. Some were remarkably good, for example, "Tomorrow 6-1212."

In the next installment of this article I will examine some of these programs in more detail and will discuss what little is presently known of broadcast science fiction in Canada, England and South Africa. Following that I will try to present as complete a log of SF on radio from 1931 to the present as is possible.

And what was the SF story most often presented as a radio show? I thought you'd never ask.

It was "Mars Is Heaven," by Ray Bradbury.

TO BE CONTINUED

election statements
from the.....
candidates.....
for.....
information.....
officer.....

MIKE BAILEY: Experience: A founding member and first publications officer of the UBC SFFEN; treasurer of the UBC SFFEN for three years; involved in newsletter and fanzine writing and production at UBC; founding member of the BCSCFA and original treasurer; co-chairman of all three Vancouver SF conventions; an attendee of two Worldcon SF Conventions and numerous regional conventions; and, producer of 10 newsletters on behalf of the BCSCFA.

The above experience should show my qualifications for the position of Information Officer. Under my aegis the newsletter would have maximum exposure to the unique sub-culture of which we are a part. The form (not so important as the content) would evolve so that illustrations and regular (probably semi-regular) columns would appear. My friendships, knowledge and connections with non-local fans would enable me to carry all publicity-related duties with a minimum of panic and a maximum of results. If you have any questions, please phone 731-8451 or 666-6604.

(signed) Mike Bailey

JOHN THOMSON: I am running for the position of Information Officer for the 1974-75 term. I see the duties of the Information Officer as follows:

- to edit the Association's newsletter.
- to publicize the BCSCFA in fan circles.
- to answer letters from fans, media and other clubs.
- to be an active member of the board of directors and to communicate the board's decisions to the club.

I feel that I am qualified to run for this office for several reasons:

- I get along well with other people and am known for being a good organizer and for getting things done.
- I started reading science fiction at age 12. While at UBC I joined the UBC SFFEN and held the office of vice-president.
- I have done some free-lance newspaper writing and (being practical) am a good typist.

I would like to see our meetings changed from monthly to biweekly with the second meeting being some sort of serious SF discussion group, thus leaving the other meeting free for club business and socializing.

I would like to see a varied program for our meetings; i.e. show (free) NFB films, etc. I also feel that the executive and other active members ought to participate in a communications workshop as I feel that a good grasp of communications technique is an important asset that will make itself felt in all aspects of club life.

At any rate, my main concern is to get the club structured and stabilized and have a strong, team-oriented executive.

(signed)

John Thomson

CLARION: Doug Kinnaird writes that the fourth annual Clarion/West Science Fiction Writers Workshop will be held July 8 through August 16 at Eastern Washington State College in Cheney, Washington.

Workshop sessions will be conducted by writers-in-residence Damon Knight, Kate Wilhelm, Ursula LeGuin, Robert Silverberg, Joanna Russ and Peter S. Beagle.

Each will moderate one of the six weeks. Tuition, room and board are included in the \$500 workshop fee. For additional information or applications, contact the coordinator: Doug Kinnaird, 203 Bellevue East, Seattle 98102 206-324-7715.

FANWEB: As you may know, two questionnaires were distributed at V-CON III, the FANWEB questionnaire and the Science Fiction Correlation Questionnaire. I was originally responsible for the S.F.C. questionnaire and now I appear to be coordinating FANWEB as well. The results of my questionnaire have sparked some interest, so here is an edited version of my conclusions.

"It has been shown that there is a definite correlation between birth order and science fiction interest, and that there are differences between first-born and later-born. Finally it was shown that on the average the most probable SF fan is a first-born student with a science background, between 17 and 25 years old, who drinks, and first became interested in science fiction around age 11."

The specific results on birth order showed that 52.9 per cent of SF fans were first-born, as compared with 31.7 per cent in the general population.

If you would like to know more about the study, or would like to lend a hand, contact Gary Walker, either in person at a BCSCFA meeting, or by writing the BCSCFA, Box 35577, Postal Station E, Vancouver V6M 4G9.

* * *

Michael G. Coney will be appearing in a panel discussion at Westcon, the topic of which is: "if you were God and could make any change to the human race, what change would you make?" Sounds like a topic for discussion at the June 15 meeting. "Gateway to Now" by Coney is in the July Fantasy & Science Fiction.

* * *

Not Another Harlan Ellison Item Department: "I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream" was reprinted in the April issue of DATAMATION, a leading monthly magazine in the computer field. Yes, it was their April Fool issue, but no, the story was not included with the april fool items.

* * *

"Time Enough For Love" was reviewed where? . . . In INFLATION SURVIVAL NEWSLETTER, that's where. Was there something in it we all missed?

* * *

Sorry, no credits this issue. Everyone (well, everyone important) helped out.

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