

#10 TRANSITION  
April 1974

This newsletter is produced by Mike Bailey (#4-2416 west 3rd Ave, Vancouver 731-8451 or 666-6604). A subscription is \$1.50 a year (probably 12 issues). Computer labels courtesy of me also. (And somebody stole my stencil corrector fluid, so all of my typing errors will be painfully evident.)

EDITORIAL (Yes another one. Someday I'm going to do an all humour issue to make up for them.)

I've decided not to run for any office of the BCSFA. Some of the people who'll probably run unopposed are vehemently against me doing the newsletter and if I were elected to the position of Publications Officer, tension would result and the newsletter would deteriorate.

However, I've received support in the mail (and verbally) for continuing the newsletter as it is. (For example, "I hope that you can continue the newsletter in one guise or another. Maybe I'd like it even better as a perzine... It's lively and newsy at the same time and I'd hate to see it go by the boards." Frank Denton. And another, "You solicited opinions about continuing the newsletter. My vote is solidly 'Yes, do.' The BCSFA Newsletter has become an invaluable supplement to Locus, if only for goms like H. Warner Munn's disclosure that H.P. Lovecraft feared fish. Keep truckin'..." Ed Bryant)

Consequently, if I keep receiving good response (compliments, criticism, contributions), I'll continue this newsletter on my own. This issue (and all subsequent ones) will go out to people who are friends, who have been sending me things in the mail, people I'd like to get to know, and a few to people who might be interested in it generally or for something in this specific issue.

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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next meeting of the BCSFA will be held at the Waashos, 2965 W. 11th Ave, at 7:30PM on April 27. As usual it's BYOB and smoking is allowed in this house, (cigarettes, that is). The main item on the agenda will be the proposed constitution. Special thanks should go to Ed Beauregard who became acting chairman last month and has done a good getting things straightened out -- especially our finances and our constitution.

TRIP TO SEATTLE (OR PORTLAND)

As many of you know, an SF group called the "Nameless Ones" (sometimes, "Twos") exists in Seattle. They have been around since the 50's and have sponsored a Westercon and a Westercon. Their informal style seems to be a key to ~~the~~ their success.

Anyway... Is anyone interested in tagging along with me to their April 19 meeting? It's a BYOB affair and overnight accommodations can always be found. If so, advise me and be prepared to leave about 5PM on the 19th.

Additionally, on the Victoria Day weekend (May 18-20), I intend to drive to Tangent, Oregon (about 70 miles south of Portland). This weekend may include a Friday night Nameless Ones meeting in Seattle, Saturday in Portland and Sunday at Mike Horvat's in Tangent. Mike operated a combination bookstore and antique store and manages to find for a regular job. (He doesn't find much time to write though.) If there are some old pulps you'd like to possess, Mike probably has them. (Of course, if you want to buy them, that's a different matter. Even when he has 30 or more duplicates of the same pulp, you have to twist his arm to talk him into selling.) If you'd like to come on this trip and share gas, let me know.

BOOK BUYING SERVICE

Upon the receipt (imminent, I hope) of my income tax rebate, I'm going to purchase some new books. If anyone wants to "piggyback" on my order, let me know. I can obtain virtually any in-print SF paperback or hardcover at 20% off the American price. Also, I can probably direct people to sources of rare, out-of-print items.

Books which you might find interesting include: The World of Fanzines by Dr. Frederic Wertham (the man who wrote A Sign For Cain and the book which resulted in

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the comic code authority, Seduction of the Innocent); The Campbell Memorial Astounding Anthology, which contains all original stories of famous series begun in ASTOUNDING -- such as the last "City" story by Clifford Simak; The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction Vol I by Donald Tuck, which is just what it says, an alphabetical listing -- Volume I, Who's Who and Works, A-L; Showcase of Fantasy Art, which includes full colour reproductions of works by Alicia Austin, George Barr, and Tim Kirk; numerous indexes of SF magazines from 1926-1972; and a hardcover by one of the artists who displayed at Vcon III, Beyond Time and Again by George Metzger.

#### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

The revival of Weird Tales is apparently going to be short-lived--but it will rise from the dead again I'm sure-- Sam Moskowitz is no longer editor and is back to editing Quick Frozen Foods. The three issues of the new series have not been available in Vancouver, however they can be purchased in Seattle.

Harlequin, Canadian-based, is about to enter the SF field with about 50 titles a year edited by the famed Roger Elwood.

The April issue of CRAWDADDY has an interview of Kurt Vonnegut conducted by Kilgore Trout. Photos of Trout and Howard W. Campbell are shown. Incidentally, Trout doesn't look at all like Phil Farmer or Theodore Sturgeon.

At the Ann Arbor Relaxicon, a highlight was a mystery panel. It didn't remain much of a mystery: the panelists came out dressed in red towels (jamtarts!) and brown paper bags, carrying ping pong paddles with rubbers balls attached. They then gave answers to which the audience thought up questions.

The Nebula Awards banquet will occur on April 27 in Hollywood. The nominations are interesting because the novel category is dominated by the older generation (Clarke, Anderson, and Heinlein) of authors while the shorter material is dominated by those who might be called new-wavers, (Gene Wolfe, Vonda McIntyre, Ellison, Spinrad). Does this mean that new-wavers can't novelize or that older generation authors can't write shorts?

The nominations for the best novel show that Alexei Panshin was wrong in his critical articles in AMAZING when he stated Heinlein would never write another novel after I Will Fear No Evil and when he implied that the old "masters" were afraid to compete with the newer talents in the field.

(Interestingly, Gravity's Rainbow by Thomas Pynchon is one of the nominations.)

Point of honour: the Boskone convention had 701 attendees and their art show grossed \$6224. Vcon had 400 attendees and our art show grossed...

As Harlan Ellison would say, "with chuckles": "The committee of The Star Trek Convention, formerly associated with the International Star Trek Convention, have announced that they no longer have any connection with Al Schuster, and that 'any and all future debts he may incur in the name of the Convention will not be paid or honored, and he no longer has any authority to incur expenses, arrange contracts or conduct business in the name of the convention.' They also have 'misplaced' their list of non-attending members of the '74 convention and the advance membership of the '75 con." LOCUS 156

#### BOOKS

For some reason, known only to Hastur the Unspeakable, I received a dust jacket (air mail, 52¢) from Thomas Nelson Inc. for a Roger Elwood anthology Crisis (\$5.95). The jacket extols plots like "A young girl, knowing that time will quickly age her, falls in love with a spaceman, who will hardly age at all." The jacket also tells us something about Roger Elwood. "In addition to science fiction, the occult, and fantasy, Elwood is involved in religious and inspirational books. He is editing a series of these and is under contract for books on such subjects as prison reform and pastoral counselling."

Seattle author and Vcon panelist, F.M. Busby, has his first novel, Cage & Man, coming out in paperback from Signet in a couple of weeks.

Unsung author, D.G. Compton, has a new novel coming out from DAW, The Unsleping Eye.

For sword and sorcery fans, Sword and Stallion, Castle Brass by Michael Moorcock, Prince of Scorpio by A.B. Akers (I enjoy this series), and Hadon of Ancient Opar by Phil Farmer should be available soon.

Books I'm looking forward to reading include 334 by Thomas Disch, Rings of Ice by Piers Anthony, and The Pastel City by M. John Harrison (recommended by Ursula Le Guin).

In a letter he wrote to me, Phil Farmer mentioned that The Image of the Beast might be made into an underground comic. However, because of recent obscenity ruling, he doubted that it would come off. The last time I was in Seattle, I purchased two copies. You can buy anything in Seattle.

Coming: Lupoff's Book Review -- a review of Into the Aether

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#### MEETING PLACE

Does anyone have a place in which a small group could meet? (The BCSFA meetings have had up to 40 persons present and if you have a place which can sustain this many and are willing, I'll pass it on to the association.) I'd like to have non-structured meetings of a smaller group of people who get along and who are willing to do things. For example, I see no reason why such a group couldn't have a July meeting at a cabin in Birch Bay or White Rock. Or have a meeting in Victoria. If a good group can jell, then it can bid to put on the next Vcon (it's in the new constitution). (This group isn't meant to be an alternative to the BCSFA, just enrich it.)

#### WESTERCON

I intend to go to Westercon (July 4-7 at Santa Barbara) by auto. I'll probably leave on June 30 or July 1 (depending on my itinerary) and arrive back on July 9 or 10. When Brent MacLean and I made a similar trip in 1972 (to Los Angeles via Reno and Las Vegas), it cost us \$50 each for gas (12 days). Westercon will cost about \$70 for room and board (depending upon double or single occupancy) and the only necessary additional cost is for meals during transportation. Of course you may wish to purchase some of the artwork, books, or other SF paraphenalia on display.

Phil Dick is the guest of honour and I can promise a few drinks with him. I'm quite sure several locals will be going, so a number of parties are assured. Additionally I know some non-locals who'll be there. (Authors you can expect to be there include Robert Silverberg, Poul Anderson, Larry Niven, David Gerrold, Van Vogt, Jerry Pournelle, Theodore Sturgeon, etc.)

My car has air-conditioning, FM radio, and fully-reclining seats; so a trip of reasonable comfort is assured. If you are interested, or might be interested in coming, let me know. (To make the trip cheaper, I know a place where we can stay overnight in Oregon.)

John Thomson is trying to organize a bus charter to Santa Barbara. The cost for this is \$57.00. He requires 30-35 people to make the trip viable. If you are interested in the charter write the BCSFA or attend the next meeting.

#### ODD NOTED AND CORRESPONDENCE

Last summer Brent MacLean and I drove to Torcon and on the way we detoured through a beautiful area called Wisconsin Dells (beautiful except for the numerous motels and circus-like atmosphere). A small town called Sauk City was situated on the route and as we were getting the gas tank filled there, I casually asked the attendant if he'd ever heard of a publishing company called Arkham House. He smiled to himself and turned and pointed, "It's over there, just across from the graveyard." I obtained some more specific directions and we drove to the site.

Forbidding the house was, surrounded by large shade trees, especially the barking watchdogs. I got out of the car and began snapping pictures as the person, one Roderic

Meng, who operated the business (after August Derleth's death) came out to enquire about our ~~new~~ purppse.

He was a young man with an unhealthy pallour, but he willingly showed us the warehouse and have me a dust jacket for The House on the Borderland (which Stuart Schiff wanted to sell me for \$12.50). However he refused to show us the interior of the house itself. When I inquired August Derleth a noticeable sweat appeared on his face in the 90 degree afternoon and he stated that Derleth was buried in the graveyard across the street. I snapped a few more photos and then we drove off, carefully parking down the street. Brent and I then walked all through the graveyard and a marker for August Derleth was not to be seen. I took a few photos of a recently dug (or emptied) grave and we departed.

Curiously, not one of my photos developed properly and I have no photographic record of Roderic Meng.

"Just received your S.O.S. signal tell you what I can do it's small but maybe there's synergy nuf to regulate a ~~little~~ little order into the scene (a planet would similarly associated to the one this message is emitted from) I could write for you a documentation of your being railroaded and I've just been in touch with Frank Herbert who has given me his word of honor to stand behind any action I may take.

"However in return for this service you must grant me temporary sanetity in the hierarchy of the BCSFA at any cost.

"...I pledge to determine the proper course keeping in mind the legal aspect of Cosmick and Causmose's latest adventour."

from Quillotine queen

Since receiving the above, I've found three similar letters in my mail slot. Each is a work of imagination and because of their visual or physical configurations cannot be reproduced here. Now if I can persuade quillotine Queen or ~~or~~ Circads or Michael Kupka or Chris Gerula or whoever it is to do a book review of Into the Aether, we'll discover whether all that imagination can be marshalled in an SF manner.

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Well it happened. Harlan Ellison sent me a three page letter attacking Jim Maloan and my grammar (and my typos). Consequently I'm assembling (blocking it out in my mind, that is) a special supplement for the next issue entitled, "A Tribute to Harlan Ellison", or perhaps "I Have No Brains and I Must Scream -- Form Over Content" Anyone want to contribute? Defend him even?

Keep truckin' AND KEEP RESPONDING. See you.

*Please don't show this to J.J. or others until  
their newsletter is out. I don't want material stolen*