

## BCSFA NEWSLETTER

Issue #14

July 1974

This newsletter is edited by Mike, no-holds-barred, Bailey on a monthly basis for the British Columbia Science Fiction Association (get those last eight letters right folks -- and you too Eve), P.O. Box 35577, Station E, Vancouver B.C. V6M 4G9. It is mailed to subscribers, members, prospects, and with great discretion to others. The cost is \$1.50 a year or 12 issues, whichever isn't greater. BCSFA memberships are available for \$3.00 a year.

### POLICY STATEMENT

As most of you know I also publish another monthly (this month, #13, Son of Mach-lavelli), which hopefully will contain all my slander, mad-dog attacks, flattery, personal messages and real, inside news. I'm going to keep publishing it and if you want to receive it, the subscription rate is the same as for the BCSFA Newsletter.

The personalzine is going to be mailed separately to those people who receive both and probably at a different time of the month. Whereas most of the copies of the BCSFA Newsletter go to persons residing in the lower mainland, about half the copies of the personalzine go south to people who aren't all that excited by reading about our meetings.

### JULY GET-TOGETHER

The July gathering of the BCSFA will be held at 7972 Birch Bay Drive (Golden Tides Resort -- note that the addresses are on the telephone poles which line the oceanside of the road) in cottages 17 & 18 on July 27. In order to help defray our costs each person attending will be asked to contribute \$1.50. Check-in time is 2:00 PM and check-out time is 11:00 AM.

Members and non-members (locals, Seattleites, Bellinghammers, etc.) are welcome to attend this meeting. Please try to let us know in advance (879-7009, 731-8451, or 666-6604) if you plan to attend, if you wish to stay overnight, and if you need transportation. The cabins are essentially 2, 2-bedroom dives, but there is plenty of room. Even though the owner knows we'll be having a meeting, she doesn't expect 35 people to sleep in them.

Beverages will have to be purchased in the U.S. and no club wine will be available. The cottages do have refrigerators, however, so beverages can be cooled.

~~Slides and tales of the recent Westercon will be in abundance. Let's hope for~~  
good weather.

### VCON IV

Persons interested in being on the committee of (or helping out with) the next convention should come forward now. Write to the P.O. Box or speak with an officer at an upcoming meeting. Ideas are always listened to and at this time nothing is set in adamantine.

### DISCOUNT POLICY

Your executive is currently trying to make arrangements to obtain discounts on new and used SF material at various bookstores throught the city. The next issue of the newsletter should have full details. So, if you purchase a number of SF titles in a year, you can make up your membership costs and enjoy our company also.

# MEMO FROM THE TREASURER

At the executive meeting held on June 17, 1974, it was unanimously decided to accept the monies in the BCSFA's two bank accounts as being correct to date. Reconciliation of these amounts with the vast quantity of paperwork and receipts from the convention is impossible.

These accounts were as follows:

Savings Account \$542.01  
Checking Account 16.16

Since then, the following amounts have been received or disbursed:

	DEBITS	CREDITS
Bank Service Charge	\$1.00	
Memberships		\$14.00
Beverage Sales		16.08
Totals	\$1.00	\$30.08

Accounts as of July 10, 1974:

Savings Account \$542.01  
Checking Account 45.24  
Cash on hand 1.50  
Outstanding check 10.00

Our Interim Constitution in Article VIII, section B, provides that the current books and records of the society shall be open for inspection by voting members at each meeting. In addition, any voting member may make an appointment with the treasurer for the purpose of inspecting the books and records. In compliance with this section of our Constitution, I offer the following information:

Treasurer Alan R. Betz  
Mailing Address P.O. Box 33806 Station D, Vancouver V6J 4L6  
Home Address 3162 W. 8th Ave., Vancouver (basement)  
Home Telephone 733-7607

Alan Betz

## NEW SCIENCE FICTION AT THE VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Aldiss, Brian The Eighty-minute Hour

Here is a world, only a few years in the future, in which the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. have merged, England is gone, and birth control perfected. There is an increasing belief in determinism as opposed to free will; and a computer network, which doesn't have "consciousness" but has been programmed to bring about total efficiency, is taking over. Fortunately for the people, the computer, known as C.C. or as "Thunderbird Smith" (its projection), encounters obstacles in the form of massive time disruptions which are an aftermath of World War III.

The main human characters also encounter and get lost in these time disruptions with sometimes interesting results. Periodically they take time out to sing a song (presented in poem form) which expresses their philosophy at that moment. Throughout, the author shows a sympathy for and an understanding of human beings that puts this novel above most SF with a conventional beginning, middle, and end, (which this doesn't entirely have). There are echoes of Vonnegut but this is Aldiss' own style, taken a step further than in Frankenstein Unbound. In my opinion, The Eighty-minute Hour is Aldiss' best novel to date although those who like their SF "straight" will not enjoy it.

Elder, Joseph ed. Eros In Orbit original anthology

Sex on top of a read-out console; with a sex research robot, your sister, a car,

children; between two robots, two brain fragments; by long distance; on a voyage to Mars. Interesting, although the erotic component is not up to mainstream standards. The most successful story, i.e., both sex and SF are essential to the plot, is probably the last story in the book, George Zebrowski's "Starcrossed" (sex between two fragments). The funniest stories are Ron Goulart's "Whistler" (sex with a sex research robot) and Thomas Brand's "Don Slow and his Electric Girl Getter" (sex with a car).

Some other SF books which have recently arrived at the VPL:

Astounding: the John W. Campbell Memorial Anthology

Described as "a group project"; the stories are all by big name authors. Some stories however, would not have been accepted by J.W.C. himself.

Elwood, Roger, ed. Future City

Mostly downbeat stories about the future of the city; this is one of Elwood's few superior anthologies.

Knight, Damon, ed. Orbit 13

All new stories, mostly about sex. Some are conventional; some are experimental.

Lem, Stanislaw Memoirs Found in a Bathtub

A nightmare trip through the Pentagon, or a Pentagon-like building. Reviewed in an earlier issue by Mike Bailey.

Merril, Judith Survival Ship and Other Stories

A retrospective anthology with some good stories although the best part is Merrill's comments on science fiction, the changing of women's roles, and her own life.

Strugatski, Arkadi and Boris Hard to Be a God

Rather odd adventure on a far-off planet. Very good prose, by two leading Soviet writers.

Any of these books can be obtained at any branch. If the title you would like is not at your branch they will get it for you on inter-branch reserve, at no charge. If the title is at your branch but is out, a mere 10¢ will be charged for a reserve. Sometimes you will find the title in the card catalog but the card is stamped "mini pool" or has a blue stripe on it. In this case, the book may or may not be in the branch at that time. Check with the librarian.

And a word about librarians. Most have two desks, one in the back and one in the public area. If the librarian is at the latter, it is for the express purpose of helping the public. So, please, don't ever feel you are "disturbing" the librarian when you ask for assistance.

Fran Skene

#### ON "IMPORTANT" PEOPLE

In the last two issues of the BCSFA Newsletter there have appeared comments about "important people. (Some people need to be constantly reminded, I guess) Don't ask me what the intent was. I don't know. However, let it be stated here firmly: all BCSFA members are equally important and if you have something to contribute, you'll find that you can easily get your opinions and ideas across to the executive. (If you wish to attend an executive meeting, just ask.)

Snobbishness is readily apparent in fandom (and in authors also). Because of the natural manifestation of cliques, newcomers may receive cold shoulders unless they are forceful. I have been on the receiving end of the brush off in the past and I didn't like it. (Of course if I were an unfeeling lout I wouldn't notice it and probably be a promulgator.) I try to welcome all newcomers and I hope it shows.

So if you have found your first one or two BCSFA meetings socially difficult, don't give up. Join the BCSFA and help break up a clique.

#### WESTERCON 27 REPORT

The West Coast Science Fantasy Conference happens once a year over the July 4 weekend at a west coast city. This year's was at Santa Barbara, on the campus of the University of California.

Five people from this area -- Mike Bailey, Michael Coney, Dave Garayt, Jim Maloan, and myself, Fran Skene -- went down to the con. Greeting us there was another member of the BCSFA, Dana Howard of Olympia, Washington. (Dana and also Dave Garayt may be going to the worldcon in Washington D.C., Discon II -- held over Labour Day weekend.) Travel expenses turned out to be less than expected. We went in two cars, sharing the cost of gas; most gas stations were open and total cost was less than half of Greyhound's price. We took our time, leaving June 30 and returning July 9 and have many anecdotes to tell!

The hub of the con turned out to be the cash bar. However, also featured were a good artshow, non-stop films, many hucksters, and an Olympic-sized swimming pool. The programming included panels and talks, fashion show (futuristic and medieval), a costume "ball", auctions, and a banquet. Some of the authors present were Poul Anderson, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Terry Carr, Michael Coney, Alan Dean Foster, Katherine Kurtz, Dick Lupoff, Larry Niven, and Bob Silverberg. Raftan Ellison made an appearance one evening.

The pro guest of honour, Philip K. Dick, was unable to attend for health reasons; however toastmaster Bob Silverberg and fan guest of honour, Charles Burbee, gave very entertaining speeches. Members of the Society for Creative Anachronism were at the con in abundance, wearing some impressive costumes and on two of the events. Our own Mike Bailey and Michael Coney were both on panels, Bailey on one about fan groups and Coney on one titled "The year two million".

The BCSFA is bidding for Westercon 30 in 1977, as conference goers were informed by two full-page ads in the program book. Reservations have already been made with the Hyatt Regency Hotel for July 1-4, 1977, and voting for the location of that con takes place next year at Westercon 28, being held at Oakland (across the bay from San Francisco). In other words, the location of a Westercon is chosen two years in advance. The location of the '76 con was chosen this year (it will be in Los Angeles).

Because the location is chosen by vote, we of the northwest should be down there in force next year, to drum up support and to add our votes for Vancouver! Now is not too soon to start thinking about it. I've talked to some people who wanted to come to this year's Westercon but found it was too late to rearrange their holiday times. (Plan to stay a few days extra and get some of your new friends to show you around San Francisco!) Driving time to the Bay area is about a day and a half, which isn't too strenuous if you have someone to share gas and driving, and of course we could charter a bus if enough people are interested.

((For a longer, more revealing report, read Mike Bailey's personalzine. Ed.))  
Fran Skene

#### OTHER NEWS

The Clarion West SF writer's workshop has been cancelled. Apparently publicity did not get out in time for enough people to register.

Judith Merrill's Toronto workshop has also been cancelled.

The Gale Research Company has announced that they are publishing a new, comprehensive bibliography of SF, The SF Index, in 1975. They are also publishing The Ray Bradbury Companion and a Cumulative Paperback Index, 1939-1959.

Westercon 28 will be held at the Leamington Hotel, Oakland, California July 3-6, 1975. The guest of honour is David Gerrold, the fan guests of honour are Charlie and Dena Brown (Locus) and the "special" guests of honour are Ian and Betty Ballantine (Ballantine Books). Convention membership costs \$5.00 and the hotel rates (guaranteed)

are \$15 a day for single and \$19 a day for a double. The convention address is Westercon 28, P.O. Box 24560, Los Angeles Ca 90024.

Discon 2, the 32nd World Science Fiction Convention will be held in the Sheraton Park Hotel in Washington D.C. August 29-September 2 1974. The guest of honour is Roger Zelazny. Convention membership is \$7.00 and room rates run \$19, \$25, \$30, and \$32 for a single, double, triple, or quad a day respectively. The address is Discon II, P.O. Box 31127, Washington D.C. 20031

And there's an Apecon 2 (giving away the "Great Ape Awards") and Bubonicon 7 (at which F.M. Busby is the guest of honour) and more to be revealed next month.



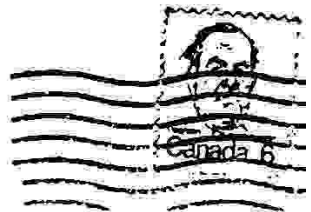
ELECTED officers of the BCSFA are:

Fran Skene, President  
Gary Walker, Vice President  
Rick Mikkelson, Secretary  
Al Betz, Treasurer  
Mike Bailey, Information Officer

If undelivered in 10 days return to:  
B.C. Science Fiction Association  
P.O. Box 35577 Station E  
Vancouver, B.C. V6M 4G9

No. 14  
JULY 1974

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