

A Brief History of C.U.F.F.

(The Canadian Unity Fan Fund)

by R. Graeme Cameron

STATEMENT OF INTENT:

Before giving my 1997 CUFF trip report, I figure a brief, misinformed and wildly inaccurate history of the Canadian Unity Fan Fund is in order.

After all, who has ever heard of CUFF? And those who have, what do they know of it's history? And more to the point, why bother?

Because CUFF history is Canadian history. And by that I mean, it's typical Canadian history. Here's an example: in its 17 years of existence there have only been 7 winners. I think that's hilarious. Cuff is a triumph of ennui over apathy, an epic of false starts and cries lost in the echoing wild. Slogging through muskeg is nothing compared to trying to keep CUFF alive. If it were not for a fanatical few... those stuck with the job....

Speaking of which, as 1997 CUFF winner, and 1998 CUFF Administrator, I might as well take advantage of my being the Anti-Archivist of the B.C. SF Association (legally registered as the West Coast SF Association) and ransack the stacks of zines preserved in the archive, in search of relevant info.

Here then, based on the limited material at hand, is

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CUFF.

1981 - ORIGINS:

In 1981, while preparing for Torque 2, a "*small, book-oriented and sometimes fannish*" relaxicon slated for July in Toronto, Bob Webber conceived of a Canadian equivalent to T.A.F.F. (Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund, which started up in 1953) to be called either C.O.F.F. (the Canadian Overland Fan Fund) or C.U.F.F. (the Canadian Unity Fan fund). The idea was "*to overcome the geographical barriers to a unified Canadian Fandom*" by helping to pay travelling expenses for some deserving Western fan to attend Torque 2, and by implication, help some Eastern fan go West the following year.

Bob kicked in \$25 to start things off, and talked OSFiC (the Ontario Science Fiction Club) into throwing in another \$25. Then, in the fine Canadian tradition of assuming absolute power, Bob declared himself fund Chairman and wrote the following rules:

1) *That any money remaining in the fund after travelling expenses have been paid be carried forward to the following CUFF.*

2) *That the fund be administered by some provincially registered SF club local to either the point of origin to the CUFF winner's trip or the destination of the CUFF trip.*

3) *That all CUFF candidates be resident in Canada at the time of their trip.*

4) *That a donation of \$1 be required to nominate a CUFF candidate, and a donation of \$5 be required to vote in the CUFF race. A potential CUFF candidate shall be required to receive at least five nominations.*

5) *A CUFF candidate shall be required to give a brief description of his/her background, and to state his/her intended destination with the CUFF funding early enough to allow publication of the information and its circulation to all people interested in voting.*

6) *Nominators and voters need not be resident in Canada.*

7) *CUFF funds may not be used to transport any person who will be a publicized guest at his/her convention of destination.*

THE FIRST CUFF NON-WINNER:

Good dictator that he was, Bob scrupulously ignored his own rules and declared Robert Runte of Edmonton the first CUFF winner, thereby setting a precedent for victor by fiat.

Runte certainly deserved to win. He was one of the "*six of the ten members of the Gang of Four*" who edited Canada's best Genzine of the era, THE MONTHLY MONTHLY (its last issues known as THE BIMONTHLY MONTHLY), and was soon to become the editor of NEW CANADIAN FANDOM, a short-lived (8 issues) but superb Canada-wide newszine. Today Robert Runte is a genuine fannish legend, a SMOF of stature, and a cover boy for UNDER THE OZONE HOLE (but that's another story).

At the time, Bob explained he had picked Runte "*in recognition of his great contributions to Canadian fandom*", but was later heard to comment, "*Who else was there west of Humberside Collegiate in 1981?*"

Unfortunately, Runte had some trifling mundane task to trifle with, writing a thesis or something, and would not be able to attend Torque 2. Oh, well. Sigh.

1981 -- THE FIRST LEGIT WINNER BY FIAT:

Torque 2 ran from July 10 to 12, 1981, in the Muir Park hotel in Toronto. Guest of Honour was Thomas Disch (author of CAMP CONCENTRATION), and Fan GoH was Ross Pavlac, Co-Chair of the upcoming Chicon IV Worldcon (and who passed away recently, Nov 12, 97). About 100 people attended, including Michael Hall, who was also a member of "The Gang of Four" and soon to be Publisher of NEW CANADIAN FANDOM. Not only that, but (according to legend) he had driven all the way from Edmonton to Toronto just to attend Torque 2, a feat deemed so impressive that Bob spontaneously declared Michael the 1981 CUFF winner and pressed the \$50 CUFF fund into his hand. One imagines this taking place in a hallway, Michael blinking in surprise, groupies gathering around displaying sudden interest, etc.

Unfortunately for the sake of legend, Michael's trip report refers to problems getting his luggage at the air terminal, not to mention "*a surly CP Air employee offering to exchange fisticuffs*", so it would seem that he in fact flew into town. Undoubtedly he needed the \$50 just to buy a few drinks to soothe his nerves after such a harrowing flight.

Still, it is the subject of myth and fable that Michael Hall was not declared a winner till he was 'discovered' at the con. A very efficient process if you ask me. No promotion. No nominations. No voting. No communication. Just grab somebody and give them the money. Hmmm. Not a bad idea.

Except that the above paragraph is just another false legend. According to Taral Wayne in DNQ #32 (Oct 1981), *"the Ontario SF Club kicked off a Canadian Unity Fan Fund (CUFF) by arranging for Mike Hall and Rosanne Charest to extend their visit to Toronto long enough to attend Torque 2."* So, it seems Mike came to town for reasons that had nothing to do with the con. They had to shanghai him...

I can picture Webber on his knees begging.... "Please, please Mike, stay in Toronto a few extra days. We got this brand new nifty award and nobody wants it! Please accept it! Fifty bucks! Don't pass it up! Please!"

"Oh, all right...."

CUFF was not exactly born amidst a blaze of publicity and fannish excitement.... more like a low-key Caesarian conducted in the shadows... but it WAS a beginning.

EXCERPTS FROM MICHAEL HALL'S CUFF(?) REPORT:

(This article was simply labelled "TORQUE 2" and appeared in the "CONVENTION REPORTS" section of #2/3 of NEW CANADIAN FANDOM (Jun-Sept 1981), so I suppose technically that's all it is, a con review. Still, I prefer to think of it as the first CUFF trip report, albeit, an 'unofficial' one.)

....But on to more mundane matters. I turned out to be the first winner of the annual Canadian Unity Fan Fund, and this fun trip was being partially subsidized by the Fund and ASFiC.

Torque 2 was my first Toronto convention, and will probably be the first of many. While there were the usual collection of dozmos rampaging through the halls, dart and water guns in hand, the people not engaged in these pursuits were for the most part fascinating and erudite. The trip to the con itself was worth it just for the opportunity to get to meet Moshe Feder, and to see Bob Webber, Taral, and Victoria Vayne.

Early Saturday morning, Rosanne and I discovered that we had to make a sudden trip to Hamilton. When I arrived back at the con, huffing and puffing, late for a panel I was on, as I sat beside Mike Glicksohn, he asked, 'Why would anyone want to go to Hamilton?' I mumbled something about being born there, but even I wasn't convinced.

I ran into the Pro Guest of Honour, Tom Disch, late saturday night, while he was in the process of forming a new religion...

Late Sunday evening I finally got a private viewing of Victoria's stereo system, Moshe's bed, Taral's famous models, Taral's bed, and Bob's waterbed. (Please don't get the wrong idea about this.) That morning I also got the chance to experience Roger Reynolds (but not his bed) and Mike Glicksohn together drinking. Here at last, was my raison d'etre for attending the con!

1982-86 -- THE LONG ARCTIC NIGHT:

For whatever reason, nothing happened subsequent to Torque 2. As Taral Wayne put it, *"Some years go uneventfully by. CUFF had been laid to rest by that great leveler in fandom, apathy."* Perhaps the fact (as

revealed by Runte in his trip report) that the \$50 cheque presented to Michael Hall subsequently bounced had something to do with the lack of enthusiasm. Certainly not what I would call a good omen.

Meanwhile, the CASPERS (now called the AURORAS, Canada's equivalent to the HUGOS), having started up in March of 1980 at Halcon 3 in Halifax, A.E. van Vogt being the first winner, and gone from strength to strength in subsequent years, were to be hosted by VCON 14 in May of 1986 in Vancouver.

1986 -- REBIRTH AT LAST:

Now, the organization behind the CASPERS (AURORAS) is Convention, which automatically becomes a part of whatever convention is hosting the awards. (This is meant to be a symbiotic relationship, as opposed to, say... a bloodsucking leech parasite settling over an unwilling victim.... a matter of perspective I guess.)

Anyway, VCON 14 in 1986 was also Convention 6, and at the Convention business meeting to choose the 1987 host convention, (as reported by Garth Spencer):

Mike Wallis of Toronto entered the only bid, for Ad Astra 7. Wallis immediately announced that his Convention intended to revive CUFF in conjunction with the CASPERS, and he proposed that the CUFF winner each year should come to the Convention. He also proposed that future Convention bids and CUFF nominations be entered alternately by Western and Eastern fan communities, as divided by the Manitoba/Ontario border." In addition, it was proposed that "a fan who wins the fund one year will be its coordinator in his region in the next year.

(Note: Convention 6 witnessed the debut of the Fan Achievement Casper, the first one going to Garth Spencer as Editor of THE MAPLE LEAF RAG.)

Making CUFF a part of Convention would do two useful things, first, enhance the prestige of CUFF, and second, provide CUFF with a noble purpose, namely that of promoting Canadian Fannish unity at CanFandom's most prestigious awards. What a great concept! What could possibly go wrong?

1986/1987 -- THE MYSTERIOUS QUIETUDE OF CUFF:

The target convention was Ad Astra 7/Convention 7 to be held in Toronto in the summer of 1987.

Throughout the 1986/1987 campaign Mike Wallis was CUFF fund administrator in the East and Fran Skene, Chair of VCON 14 and Host of Convention 6 (She founded CASPERAPA to keep communication going between all those involved in Conventions) was administrator in the West.

A nomination form was "*efficiently distributed*" to all Canadian SF clubs and individuals of note. In it Michael Wallis stated that he had tried to talk the past recipient Michael Hall, and the originator, Bob 'Wilson' (he meant Bob Webber), into helping out, but they had turned him down. So the current tradition that the winner becomes the next year's administrator was not yet established.

The Canadian fannish world awaited the results with the usual energetic apathy. As Taral wrote: "*However, that (ballot) was the last anyone heard from CUFF that year, Convention 7, at Ad Astra, came and went without a word about the nominees. No final ballot ever appeared. There was no winner.*"

At Convention 7 the Fan Achievement award went to Elizabeth Vonarburg for her "contributions to SOLARIS and to English/French fannish communications."

And after the con, no information at all. Rumours began to spread. Wrote Taral, *"One theory I liked was that Wallis and the Toronto concon were held hostage by a 'Winnipeg in 90' terrorist squad, to prevent a competing Worldcon bid. The actual answer turned out to be rather simple, though.... No one had been nominated. Therefore there'd been no race."*

Except, this was not quite the full story.

1988 -- THE SECOND CUFF NON-WINNER:

"CUFF DRAWN INTO BC FEUD":

Or so read the headline in the October 1988 issue (#8) of Michael Skeet's MLR newszine. The article stated:

"On 15 September, Leonard S. Wong was a guest on the Vancouver Public Radio program ETHER PATROL. While being interviewed by hosts Michael Dean and Stuart Rolland, Wong alleged that, although he had qualified for the '87 CUFF race, he was not allowed to race...."

If so, one wonders why.

Well, for thing, there was only \$200 or so in the fund. Not enough, presumably, to send anyone anywhere. But the real reason, according to Wong, was because the one correctly nominated candidate was himself. Anyone else, it was implied, would have been declared a winner. This was probably true.

Again, why?

I think it boils down to three questions:

- 1) Did he have enough legitimate nominations?
- 2) Did he have enough fannish credentials to qualify him as a suitable candidate?
- 3) If declared a winner, would he have served CUFF's mandate?

As to the first question, Wong insists that he did have enough nominators. On the other hand, Michael Wallis was quoted in #1 of MLR (August/September 1987) as saying, *"Part of the (problem) was due to the way I worded the nomination form. I wanted someone known in both regions of the country." (He had stated on the form that three nominations from the nominee's zone and two from the receiving zone were required for a candidate to be successful.) "We got a lot of responses from people who had the proper number of nominations from the West, but none of them had the nominations from the East."*

This implies that no one had the correct number of nominations.

And then there's the question as to whether the nominators were acceptable. Part of the TAFF tradition (which CUFF was modelled after) was that whereas any active SF fan could vote for a nominated candidate, the actual nominators had to be active and well-known in zine fandom (or such is my understanding). Was this the case with the Wong nominators? Who were they anyway? I've never seen a list.

However, as Fran Skene stated in CASPERAPA #6, a certain unnamed individual "*did have enough nominations*". This suggests two things: a) that the nominators were acceptable, and b) that an insufficient number of nominations was not the problem. So what was?

Turning to question #2, and assuming Wong was the individual with "enough nominations", could it be that he was rejected because of lack of appropriate fannish qualifications?

In his editorial in MLR #8, Michael Skeet wrote: "*I support the decision of the 1987 CUFF administrators to deny (Wong's) candidacy... CUFF had never heard anything about him, and that's sufficient for disqualification in my books.*"

In CUFF-LINK 2 (November 1988), Taral Wayne wrote:

A peculiar correspondence appeared in my mail box a couple of days back, purporting to be a transcript of a radio interview with a fan who claims to have been the legitimate winner of CUFF the year before. He further claims to have been deprived of his rightful CUFF trip by a conspiracy. The mind boggles at the idea of a CASPER-gate. Personally, I know nothing. I don't even own a paper-shredder. And except for the conspiracy against him, I doubt I would ever heard of Leonard S. Wong. Do I dare suggest that anonymity could itself be a legitimate reason to disqualify a CUFF candidate?

And Garth Spencer, in his HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN SF & FANTASY AWARDS commented: "*I confess I was surprised that enough Eastern fans had heard of comics fan Len Wong to support his CUFF candidacy.*"

So, was Wong a complete non-entity undeserving of CUFF?

Yet at the time he was not only extremely active in local comics fandom (as he still is), he was then also Editor of the Vancouver Comic Book Club Newsletter PLASTIZINE which Robert Runte had called "*the best comics fanzine in Canada*". Now, since CUFF was (and is) traditionally aimed at fanzine editors and writers, I would think Wong was a suitable nominee..... providing, of course, that I believed comics fandom a legitimate part of SF fandom. And I believe I do. There have been many great SF comics over the years, and Ghod knows many a famous SF fanzine has had very little to do with SF... so all in all, I think Len qualified as a legitimate candidate for CUFF. But there were those who disagreed....

Which brings me to a long-standing dispute I call the "Great Vancouver Rift."

Local Vancouver comics fandom and Vancouver SF fandom had once overlapped and often cooperated. Then came VCON 8 in 1980, a joint venture sponsored by both BCSFA and VCBC. Wong served on the concom as VCBC liaison. Now I attended VCON 8 and had a great time. Roger Zelazny was Goh, and Fan Goh was George Metzger. Ted White was Toastmaster. There was something for every fannish taste. It should have been a triumph. But unfortunately there were a number of problems involving vandalism & such, and the two organizations blamed each other's members. BCSFA and VCBC fell apart in mutual recriminations and bitterness, and the "Great Vancouver Rift" began to develop.

As the feud intensified the focus became Leonard S. Wong. This is because some joker (or jokers) is/are alleged to have committed a number of acts at subsequent VCONS which might well have resulted in the con being shut down. For whatever reason, Wong was considered the most likely suspect, and in the view of some, was doing it deliberately in a campaign of harassment against VCON and its BCSFA supporters. There is no proof of this however, or at least none that Garth Spencer could uncover when he conducted research for his CSFFA history. As Garth put it:

Wong was blamed (among BCSFAns) for incidents such as getting minors drunk at Vancouver Comic Book Club room parties, or trying to light a hibachi barbecue on the miniscule balconies attached to Gage Residence dormitory rooms (for any of which reasons the UBC Conference Centre might have ejected the convention). I say "blamed" because, after making some inquiries, I have determined only one altercation certainly involved Len at all; yet simply because these stories were credible to people, Len was in a false position. So was BCSFA. It looked to Len like BCSFA was persecuting him, when BCSFAns were in fact concerned not to be thrown out of their site. It is impossible now to establish the facts among these allegations. Whoever was vandalizing and harassing VCONS, neither party got beyond name-calling, and found the hooligan. The parties did not resolve anything.

To this day some BCSFA oldtimers remain bitter over what Wong allegedly tried to 'do' to BCSFA & VCON. And every time I've talked to Wong, I've been left with the impression he feels the same over what BCSFA allegedly 'did' to him. Furthermore, it seems his friends, some of them prominent in Vancouver comics fandom to this day, are apparently still unwilling to 'forgive' BCSFA. As far as I can tell, the two sides in the dispute remain highly contemptuous of each other, an attitude set in stone so adamantine it will outlast Nixon's signature on the Apollo 11 landing stage.

So, to sum up and answer question #2: did Wong qualify as a candidate? I believe the answer is yes (though to many this is debatable). To me, at least, his fannish credentials were not the problem, not the reason his candidacy was rejected. So what was the true reason? Wong implied it was a continuation of the feud, that BCSFAns were out to get him (and equally paranoid, some BCSFAns have suggested the reason he sought to win in the first place was to sabotage both CUFF and BCSFA). I think the situation was slightly more complex than all the mud-slinging suggests. To explain what I mean, I now go to question #3.

Which is, if declared a winner, would Wong have served CUFF's mandate?

My answer is no.

Not because he was an unsuitable candidate (for in my opinion he met the required criteria), but because he was perceived as being unsuitable.

By whom?

By Western CUFF Administrator Fran Skene and the BCSFAns supporting her efforts to revive interest in CUFF.

Why?

Because they genuinely believed he was the one responsible for certain acts which threatened VCON's relations with hotels.

As Fran wrote in CASPERAPA #6, "I was the one who phoned Mike (Wallis) to tell him about the concerns of various people in BCSFA about this candidate, who specializes in minor vandalism, among other charming acts, at every con he attends. His "winning" CUFF would have caused it to die, then and there."

This seems to imply she thought this unnamed candidate (presumably Wong) would carry out similar acts at Ad Astra and thus alienate Eastern fans from CUFF, and that this must not be allowed to happen. After all, surely it can be argued that CUFF administrators have the right to veto the candidacy of someone they perceive as liable to ruin the reputation of the fund and bring about its demise?

On the other hand, there's Wong's sad comment in the radio interview: *"At this point in time I really don't care about the trip to Toronto. What scares me more is the fact that they're telling stories about me to people who don't know who I am."*

To which certain BCSFAns would probably respond he had been doing the same to them.

Which suggests another possibility why he was deemed "unsuitable" (and bear in mind this is highly subjective interpretation on my part): considering that the "Great Vancouver Rift" is a fannish feud so bitter it is worthy of the pen of Sam Moskowitz, I can't help but wonder: what would have happened had Leonard been declared the 1987 CUFF winner?

The mandate of the CUFF winner is to encourage Canfan unity by representing and promoting the SF fandom in the half of the country he/she comes from. (This is not just my opinion, by the way, as the 1987 nomination form reads: *"...to select a deserving Western fan to represent that zone at the Eastern Convention..."*) Given the bitterness of the feud, would it be credible to anticipate Wong praising and supporting BCSFA and VCON at Ad Astra? I think not. In my experience Wong possesses an impish, sharp-tongued sense of humour. I suspect he would have been delighted to be his usual blunt self and acted and spoken accordingly. Then again, maybe not. We'll never know, because he never had the chance to go.

And yet, it probably doesn't matter how Wong behaved had he gone to Ad Astra, because many of the active CUFF supporters in Vancouver already viewed Wong as an anathema. If he had been declared the winner they would probably would have walked away from CUFF, abandoning the cause, and -- just as Fran predicted -- CUFF would have died, at least in Vancouver, for BCSFAns and VCON people would no longer have wanted to have anything to do with it.

Consequently, I believe the CUFF organizers acted in CUFF's best interests, though at the expense of widening the "Great Vancouver Rift" till it dwarfed the Vallis Marineris on Mars.

To this day Wong and his friends believe CUFF Administrator Fran Skene torpedoed his legitimate candidacy out of personal spite.

Because of the feud.

And to this day, Fran and other CUFF supporters of that time firmly believe she saved CUFF from disaster and extinction at the hands of a prankster.

Because of the feud.

In MLR #8 Michael Skeet posed the question, *"A gram of common sense, or a kilo of feud?"* Fans grab the kilo every time. Nothing to be done about it. Moskowitz was absolutely dead on the mark when he titled his fannish history THE IMMORTAL STORM. For such is the nature of fandom.

Still, some readers may feel I have devoted too much space to this particular fannish "tempest in a teapot." In my defence, I point out that the legacy of this first, abortive attempt to revive CUFF is the "Great Vancouver Rift," a permanent gash across the Vancouver fannish landscape. This would be tragic, were it not so damned silly.

I told you CUFF history was hilarious....

THE 1987/88 CUFF CAMPAIGN:

The target convention was Keycon 5/Convention 8 in Winnipeg come May of 1988. Fran Skene became Fund Administrator in the West and Mike Glicksohn was Administrator in the East, though he expressed surprise when informed of this. According to Fran, Mike Wallis had originally asked Glicksohn to do this, but he apparently forgot. Be that as it may, the concept of alternating Fund Administrators was now firmly in place. Further, the idea that the winner would become next year's administrator was now firm policy (presumably since the Convention 6 Business meeting in 1986).

The trick, of course, was to come up with a lucky Eastern winner. But how to achieve this? Merely sending out nomination ballots appeared less than satisfactory. As Taral Wayne put it, *"The solution was felt to be more promotion. The idea was that, even if they didn't care, you could talk people into anything if you talked loud enough, long enough, and often enough. Would it work? Did it work?"*

In a word, no.

1988 -- THE SECOND LEGIT WINNER BY FIAT:

Was announced by Fran Skene in (among other venues) #4 of MLR (Mar/Apr 1988). The winner of the 1987/88 CUFF race was Taral Wayne of Toronto. He certainly deserved to win. He was already one of Canada's leading fan artists and a prolific Fanzine writer and publisher famous for such fine work as the 32 issues of DNQ which he published with Co-Editor Victoria Vayne from 1978 to 1981. Taral was (and is) the archetypical Fanzine fan that fan funds were originally created to serve.

Fran stated in her PR that Taral had won by *"acclamation"* .

Well, sort of. Taral put it slightly differently in his acceptance speech (never delivered): *"After a dedicated twelve month campaign for CUFF in '88... there were no nominees meeting any requirements whatsoever... only two weeks before the deadline, there still weren't any. Word went around that if something wasn't done, (Fran)'d close the fund for another year."*

And now we come to the crux of the matter:

So much for the open, above-board, democratic way of running a fan fund. If that wouldn't work, well, there was always the closed-door, smoke-filled room full of SMOFs approach. In the original tradition of 1981, CUFF was fixed. Here I am, ladies and gentlefen, this year's, er 'winner.' Once again there was no final ballot, no candidates, nor a vote. But by God you've got a winner whether you want one or not!

Isn't tradition wonderful?

Taral went on in his speech to say:

I resisted, I swear it. When the whispering campaign for my nomination started, I turned a deaf ear. When people asked me if I wanted to be nominated, I said I was above politicking for egoboo, and they would have to act as they saw fit. When Fran wrote to tell me that the fate of CUFF was in my hands, to choose to run or let it die for another year, I was fraught with indecision. I took my quandary to the phone. One after another, the people I talked to said, 'Go for it!' 'Who else is there?' said Glicksohn. 'You've got our nominations,' said Toolis and Skeet.... Next thing I knew, people were congratulating me for winning CUFF. 'Haven't you heard yet?' they asked.

I've tried my best to be true to myself, to be independent of public approval, and show a lordly disdain for the symbols of status in Fandom. But I ask you, caught up in the implacable mysteries of fame, would you do better? In the end I took the offered bait, and went cheaply at that.

I've....sold...out...dammit!

This is so typically the Canadian way to (reluctantly) win it brings a tear to my eye...

The extraordinary thing is, Taral received an abundance of nominators... AFTER Fran begged him to declare himself a candidate so that CUFF would have a winner! I love it.

For the record, Taral's nominators were, from the Eastern zone: Mike Glicksohn, Michael Skeet, and Lorna Toolis, and from the Western zone: Fran Skene, Don Bindas (Co-Chair of Keycon 5/Convention 8), Garth Spencer, and William Affleck-Asch-Lowe. These people go down in Fannish history as the very first CUFF nominators whose candidate was actually accepted (as opposed to Wong's nominators). Of course, it helped that Taral had already been selected to win by the Western Administrator! Hard to lose a race with that kind of advantage, I tell you.

But if someone hadn't won in the second year of attempting to revive CUFF, the fund would probably have faded away. So Fran did the right thing.

Meanwhile, some people were still very suspicious of CUFF and its purpose. Bryan Quinn Morlidge wrote in CASPERA #6 (April 1988): *From what I can tell CUFF is a financial "pat on the back" for a dozen or so editors and former editors of Fanzines and apas. This will not generate a lot of general support because Fanzines are a genre unto themselves....*

Yeah, so, like what's your point there pal? Fanzines ARE a sub-genre of general Fandom, and CUFF is that sub-genre's award to people who have been active in that field for a long time. The idea with CUFF (and other fan funds) is to bring together fans who have become well known to each other through their writings, so that they can match a face to the page, so to speak. A prime example is Irish Fan Walt Willis. His humorous fan writing was so popular in the states that Shelby Vick created the "WAW with the crew in 52" fund to bring him to America. His trip report "Willis Discovers America" was so darn good it probably helped inspire and establish TAFF as a permanent fund in 1953. CUFF desperately dreams of attaining such levels of Fannish loyalty and enthusiasm....

Okay, back down to earth. Morlidge did have a point, and it's still valid. Canada's fan base is so small, can CUFF survive on Zinedom alone? Hell, can Zinedom survive? But CUFF is designed to encourage Zinedom, to enhance it. It's okay if the candidates have accomplishments in other aspects of Fandom (con-running for instance), but their primary qualification should have something to do with Zines, be it writing, editing or publishing. By Ghu, I'm the Administrator this time around, so my rules are the ones to be put into effect, snort, snort, rant, rave....

So much for mindless digression. It's my history and I can be as sloppy as I like.....

1988 -- TARAL AT KEYCON 5/CANVENTION 8:

When last we saw our hero, Taral was boarding Canadian Airlines flight 819 to fly to Winnipeg Friday, May 20th, 1988, happy and secure in the knowledge that the plane ticket and hotel room would be paid for by CUFF. All other expenses would have to be paid for by himself. As he later wrote in CUFF-LINK #1: *"I would*

like to especially thank Paul Taylor, whose generous gift of \$50 to CUFF saved the concom carpet. Otherwise I would surely have been reduced to eating the rug off the floor."

The task of assimilating the CUFF winner into the convention, or even assimilating Convention itself, turned out to be a bit of a problem. Fran Skene had noted in CASPERAPA 6 that a preliminary Keycon schedule had listed: "What is Convention & CUFF auction" (Friday); "Convention Business Meeting" (Saturday); "Convention 9 Site Announcement" (Sunday). But... NO Casper Awards ceremony! She sent off a special delivery letter to point out this minor discrepancy. Details, details....

Taral put it this way:

As CUFF winner '88, I'd like to go on record as saying I had a fine time at the Winnipeg convention, Keycon. Don Bindas and the crew did well in making me feel welcome, in spite of my last minute addition to their plans. There was, however, room for improvement. In a way, the entire Convention was a transplant, like another arm, on the con.... Rather than creating a conflict with regular programming, the Convention should be very much the starting point and centre of the host convention's program. Similarly, the CUFF winner ought to play an important role along with the con's other guests.

Hah! And people call ME a dreamer? Taral's vision is positively Utopian! I know well what being a last minute addition means! What it's like to be shoe-horned in! Still, given adequate preparation time, lots of communication, good planning.... who knows? One can always dream...

As for what Taral wanted to do, or was allowed to do:

Not knowing what to expect, more to the point what was expected of me, when I won CUFF I wrote a speech. I sent a copy of it to Don with a note saying the speech was just in case. If it didn't fit his plans, he might pass it on to the Winnipeg clubzine. I gather this didn't fit anyone's plans either, so the MS was given to another Fanzine editor. This didn't fit his plans....

Eventually, Taral's excellent and very funny speech was printed in Michael Skeet's MLR #13 in mid 1989. As it covers the history of CUFF up to the point of Taral's winning, I've already wrung from it every useful quote I can find, so will not quote it here.

Of this speech, Taral later wrote: *"I'd like to see a tradition begin, of the CUFF winner writing a short piece for the convention which will also serve as his trip report."* I think what he meant was that the short piece should evolve into a trip report (for obviously a trip report is necessarily written during or after the trip, not before). That every Cuff winner speak at convention is good idea, for it's good public relations. That they subsequently publish an account of their trip is even more important, for it is the only way the nominators and voters can share vicariously in the experience. The production of both speeches and trip reports has been rather haphazard, however, as we shall see.

(Note: at Convention 8, the Best Fan Achievement Award went to Michael Skeet as Editor of MLR.)

1988/89 -- THE 'CUFF-LINK' EXPERIMENT:

In July 1988 a one-sheet rider appeared with Micheal Skeet's MLR #7. Titled "CUFF-LINK", it was a mail-auction form to raise money for CUFF to supplement monies raised at Con auctions and the highly-successful "Turkey readings" which Fran Skene had begun conducting for CUFF beginning with VCON 14 in 1986.

As Taral explained:

This is an experiment.... to survive in the future, CUFF will need regular sources of income... Support is being sought from cons, but cons have their ups and downs, and can't guarantee regular grants... It would seem to be a good idea to have one alternative to going hat-in-hand.... One idea I find attractive was pioneered by TAFF.... they raised a sizable portion of 1986 needs by conducting a mail auction. If it worked once, it should work twice. This and subsequent issues of CUFF-LINK will hopefully raise an important part of the money needed to continue CUFF in 1989 and the foreseeable future.

Nine donors provided twenty-three items, including original art by Taral, books, Fanzines, comics and manuscripts. Prices ranged from \$1 to \$25. But, being an auction, the prices quoted were minimum bids. Lists of bidders and the amounts bid would be carried over the next three consecutive issues *"with the highest bidder at the end of the third round winning the item."* This strikes me as rather more complex than fans could put up with, their capacity for patience being notoriously slim.

CUFF-LINK #2 came out in November 1988 with MLR #9. Four bids had come in from three people, three for works of art by Taral and one for an unpublished MS "Heart of Red Iron" by Phyliss Gotlieb. Taral's reaction was a bit mixed: *"Once again it's time to squeeze blood from a stone, a stone otherwise known as Canadian Fandom. Response to the first issue was gratifying. If nothing else, CUFF-LINK has raised \$75 for the fund."*

Taral then went on to consider what more needed to be done to stimulate better results:

I have to ask myself whether I'm knocking at doors with the right selling points. Perhaps Trek memorabilia would have fared better. Then I think about MLR's mailing list and realize that that's the wrong approach too. Something in the way of attractive options for the investment portfolio; Stephen King first editions and the like. Hard to get people to donate such things, however.

On a more practical level, instead of just listing items, Taral decided to describe them to whet interest (and lust to buy). For example, item 27:

ART, Barry Kent MacKay. Just like those bags of 100 stamps from all over the world, I have a bag of over 100 cartoons by Canfandom's illo hack extraordinaire of the middle '70s. They can be published all over again, or hung together on any convenient four-foot-square space. \$5 min.

Incredibly, no one bid on this item. Ten years later, Taral again donated it to CUFF, this time with an asking price of \$20, and I immediately snapped it up for my perzine SPACE CADET. Being CUFF Administrator offers many perks, I tell you.

I shouldn't be doing this, you say? Should have given someone else the chance to bid? Except I'm not running an auction. I'm asking all donors to the 1997/98 CUFF campaign to state what price they feel is acceptable. People either buy it or they don't. Keeps paperwork to a minimum. My reason for offering straight sales rather than auction is inspired by the CUFF-LINK experience as detailed by Taral in his third issue.

CUFF-LINK #3 was published with MLR #10 in March 1989. Taral had some news to impart:

To get right to business, I've decided this is the last issue of CUFF-LINK... There was no response to the second issue at all... what was the point of killing trees just to prove there were going to be no more bids?

When I first had the idea to auction off donations for CUFF, I had no idea what to expect. Would it raise thousands of dollars, or less than I spent on xerox? Well, after three issues of CUFF-LINK I know the answer: I've raised exactly \$75... What I don't know is whether to be pleased or disappointed... \$75 IS something. I can

tell you that I wouldn't mind keeping some of that \$75, especially considering that my artwork earned two thirds of it. So CUFF is that much to the good.

Then Taral had a startling announcement to make:

There is every reason to believe that the right list of collectibles would make an even larger profit... So out with CUFF-LINK, and in with CUFF-INC!... Here's our first list of extremely valuable goodies...

Listed are 22 items, including the 'Star Wars Colouring Book', 'Edible Vampirella Underwear', a 'Filksong Machine', The 'I Hate Unicorns' Book, the 'In The Kick-Ass World of G.I. Joe' book, 'Costumer's Unicorn Horns' (*"Inexpensive and lightweight. Edible and may be used to serve icecream."*), and last but hardly least, genuine 'Casper' awards.

Well, I'd go for the G.I. Joe book myself, and maybe a dozen Caspers with my name on them (once I had them engraved), but there are reasons to suspect the list was less than credible. For example, the items are unnumbered, even though the instructions read: *Remember, first you have to bid on an auction number. Minimum bid on a number is \$10, and you can't bid on the actual items without one. Don't forget to fill in the appropriate space with your credit card number -- we don't accept cash, only a good credit rating. Finally, an initial deposit of \$50 is required, which will be retained whether or not you succeed in winning a bid. Good luck, and may the richest fan win!*

In MLR #12 Mike Glicksohn had this to say:

CUFF-LINK #3 was a droll delight that may well be overlooked by some (or even a majority?) of MLR readers who will assume that it is merely another list of Fannish and stfnal stuff they're not interested in. If there's a sub-fandom that Taral hasn't lampooned here it can only be Gor-fandom and I'm not sure such a thing exists any longer. Good sarcastic slash and bash humour that I enjoyed enormously!

CUFF-LINK was a bold experiment which didn't quite pay out, but at least Taral signed off with a wonderful display of Fannish humour. To which I add a couple of Fannish laws: "If it first you don't succeed, fail, fail, and fail again" and "Everything that can go wrong will go wrong, and in the end it won't work." What the heck, its the thought that counts. kudos to Taral for the effort.

From my perspective, the most important lesson to be learned: "Don't do it!" Mail-in auctions are too much trouble for too little result. But if Taral hadn't attempted it, I wouldn't have known. Future CUFF Administrators take note!

THE 1988/89 CUFF CAMPAIGN:

The target convention was Canvention 9 hosted by Pinekone II in Ottawa during October 89. Taral functioned as Fund Administrator in the East, with assistance from Paul Valcour. Fran Skene was the Western Administrator.

I don't know how Taral went about publicizing the campaign, but he produced results. By the time nominations closed on 19th April, he had, not one, but TWO(!) candidates. For the first time ever, there was going to be a CUFF election! (At last, democracy prevails.)

The two candidates were Robert Runte of Edmonton (remember him? The first non-winner of CUFF in 1981?), and Steve Forty of Vancouver.

For the record, Runte's nominators were: Fran Skene (Vancouver), Eric Tilbrook (Calgary), Randy Reichardt (Edmonton), Paul Valcour (Ottawa), Michael Skeet (Toronto) and Lorna Toolis (Toronto.) Taral had originally served as a nominator for Runte, but withdrew to prevent possible conflict of interest.

Forty's nominators were: William Affleck-Asche-Lowe (Vancouver), Cliff Samuels (Calgary), Tom Phinney (Edmonton), Joseph Casey (Ottawa), Lionel Wagner (Ottawa) and Keith Soltys (Toronto).

MLR #11 reported Paul Valcour as saying: *"We have enough funds already for air fare, leaving the balance of this year to raise hotel accommodation costs."*

Michael Skeet then stated:

Steve Forty has gone on record as encouraging all voters to weigh the financial ability of candidates when voting for CUFF. He is able to travel more easily than many fans, he says. And there is a good chance that he will be attending Pinecone/Convention anyway. This is about as close as you can get to an official endorsement of the other candidate. Too bad, Steve; you have to stand.

MLR #11 included the 1989 CUFF Ballot which had to be mailed in to Taral by 31 July 1989. In it Steve Forty was described as a *"Well-known convention fan on the West-coast circuit"* and as *"Editor of BCSFAzine for many years."* (To which I might add, he is newly famous for being the intrepid fan who dared introduced John Norman to Lionel Fanthorpe at the Lonestar Con 2 Worldcon in San Antonio in 1997! A clash of Titans! Or well, at least a Titanic handshake or two...) Runte was described as *"Editor of NEW CANADIAN FANDOM and THE NCF GUIDE TO CANADIAN FANDOM."*

A "Hold Over Funds" vote was allowed for, and a \$2 voting fee was charged. As for establishing the credentials of the voter (who must be an active fan), it was stated: *"Below is the name of a fan or organization to whom the Administrator may refer in order to validate my vote."* In the most narrow sense, this limits the legitimacy of voters to people the Administrator has heard of, or to voters who are vouched for by people the Administrator knows about, or to voters who are vouched for by people known by people the Administrator acknowledges as fan.... but at what point do legitimate SF fans risk their vote being disallowed because the Administrator doesn't have a clue whether the people vouching for the voter are suitably qualified? So far this has never happened. But as 1998 Administrator this is something I worry about. Meticulous record keeping and rigorous cross-checking are the answer, I guess.

1989 -- THE FIRST LEGIT CUFF WINNER BY VOTE:

It would be hard to improve on Michael Skeet's comments in MLR #13:

Runte won the CUFF over Vancouver's Steve Forty in a race that was so quintessentially Canadian one wouldn't be surprised to discover that both candidates had maple leaves tattooed on their butts. It was so polite that each spent more time campaigning for the other than himself. That being the case, the final vote count -- 18 for Runte, two for Forty, and two ballots spoiled -- could arguably be considered a victory as much for Forty's logic as for Runte. This is not to impugn Runte's win, but the score would doubtless have been closer had Forty not told everyone who'd listen that he was going to go to Convention anyway, something Runte couldn't afford without CUFF.

Then, rather more ominously, Michael puts his finger on the biggest problem facing every CUFF Administrator, namely, how do you get out the vote?

Most of the ballots were cast at ConText '89, a reminder that, while the existence of a real CUFF race this year can only bode well for the future of the fund, it still depends too much on personal contact. The massive mailouts of ballots this year, and Taral's virus-zine, CUFF-LINK, don't seem to have had much of an effect.... Maybe Robert will have better luck administering the fund next year.

Robert himself had this to say about the election:

This was .. the first year that balloting extended beyond a few SMOFs to include the general Fannish masses; although I must confess that since the other person on the ballot (Steve Forty of Vancouver) spent the entire race campaigning for me, it was still a bit of a fix.

Hmm, so not quite a free election after all, but getting there.

1989 -- RUNTE AT PINEKONE 2/CANVENTION 9:

FRIDAY:

Runte arrived in Ottawa on Tuesday October 10th, 1989, three days before the convention, evidently with the purpose of enjoying a relaxed holiday in our nation's capital. Then, on Friday October 13th: *I checked out of my cheap hotel and into the skyline where the con was to be held.... After chatting with fellow Westerners, Steve Forty & Randy Reichardt, I eventually found myself at the opening ceremonies.... When eventually called upon to speak... I provided a brief explanation of the function of CUFF. To wit: that I was the one fan Westerners were most anxious to ship east, presumably because they had not understood that it was intended as a round trip.*

Runte next attended a closed door meeting of SWAC (The Speculative Writers Association of Canada), then a brand new organization, founded only three months earlier at ConText '89 in Edmonton. Greg Bear, President of SFWA (the Science Fiction Writers of America) also attended. As Runte put it: *"This scheduling was a bit unfortunate, as many of the authors who would have attended had not yet arrived, but it was nevertheless a productive meeting."* Particularly for the following Fannish true story related by Candas Jane Dorsey:

Two American tourists staying in the hotel where ConVersion VI was being held observed a group of Star Trek Fans troop by in full regalia.

"Who are they?" whispered the woman.

"Don't you know anything?" her husband asked. "Look at those red uniforms, for heaven's sake! They're mounties."

A classic story. Couldn't resist quoting it. Also this second item to come out of the meeting:

Laural Bernard also provided Candas Jane Dorsey with the perfect straight line by asking what "SFWA" was. After months of providing various people with the most succinct and obvious explanation of SWAC's function, Candas was at last able to say to someone, "SFWA is the American Equivalent of SWAC."

(Note: SWAC decided to change its name to SF CANADA at Context in 1991, according to Ron Currie in XENOPHILE #10.)

After the meeting Runte had supper with his good friends Christine Kulyk and David Vereschagrin, both former Edmonton fans then resident in Toronto, and circa 1 AM, joined the room party hosted by the Fan GoH, Michael Skeet (MLR Editor) and his wife Lorna Toolis (head of the Spaced Out Library). This, of course, is the primary purpose of CUFF, to bring Fans together.

SATURDAY:

Saturday morning Runte caught the tail end of the Convention 9 business meeting. Perhaps the most interesting item was a proposal to take the financial strain off Concoms hosting the CASPERS by setting up a special "pass on" fund bank account which would accept donations from individuals and percentages of profits from conventions. According to the minutes appended to Runte's trip report: *"Following discussion, the idea of a Casper fund was dropped in light of the potential danger of drawing donations away from CUFF."* I suspect this was due to the efforts of Fran Skene, Western CUFF Administrator, who was in attendance. This shows how seriously CUFF was taken by Convention at that time (and hopefully now, for that matter).

Runte then describes a Fanzine panel he sat in on with Steve Forty (BCSFazine Editor), Michael Skeet (MLR Editor), and Lionel Wagner (OSFS STATEMENT Editor). Fanzine Fandom being the raison d'etre of CUFF, I think it's important to quote his comments in full:

While I'm not convinced that the panel made any particular sense to our 15 audience members, I did reflect later that there were two distinct approaches to editing represented.

On the one hand, Wagner and Forty adhere to the "print-everything-you-get" school, which emphasizes club participation and a pragmatic approach to logistics. Wagner argued, for example, that by having his contributors submit their own typed copy, he not only eliminated the tedious task of typing up each issue, but assured his contributors complete editorial freedom. Similarly, while Forty did retype submissions, his goal was to get as many club members involved as possible.

Skeet, on the other hand, writes much of the issue himself, based on information submitted. For him, editing implies more than the mere collation of other people's material, requiring not only the editor's active intervention, but the imposition of high standards in the selection of what gets published.

I would argue that the appropriate approach depends entirely on the nature of the Zine in question. I agree with Wagner and Forty that a club newsletter belongs to all the members and should therefore act as their forum, even if this occasionally means including material which is not entirely up to standard. On the other hand, genzines, personal Zines, and the like should be a reflection of the editor's taste and abilities, and therefore requires a rather stronger editorial presence.

As a former BCSFazine editor myself (1989-1995) I would go farther; the ultimate solution to the task of producing a clubzine is to write a perzine in the guise of a clubzine. Well, it worked for me.

Then, after a few hours of activity such as attending book signings and browsing the dealers room:

Somewhat to my surprise, I was invited to the banquet and seated next to Michael Skeet at the head table....Realizing somewhat belatedly that I would probably be called upon to speak, I wrote a few notes on the general theme of "Fandom is a Family" and awaited my turn. I was somewhat dismayed to hear Michael give his speech on the theme "Fandom is a Family" a couple of minutes ahead of me, and so switched to a few brief comments on "The Purpose of CUFF". I was therefore definitely dismayed to hear the MC explaining "The Purpose of CUFF" as he introduced me. I ended up extemporizing something on the "Ecology of Fandom" theme:

THE FIRST CUFF SPEECH ACTUALLY DELIVERED:

First of all, I would like to thank you all for making me so welcome at your convention. I'd also like to thank everyone who voted for me. I'd especially like to thank my campaign manager, Steve Forty. I'm sure I couldn't have won without Steve's tireless efforts on my behalf. What makes this so unique, of course, is that Steve was the other candidate this year. ((Laughter)) That's the sort of generosity of spirit that makes Fandom what it is.

I've been corresponding with fans in the east for 17 years, but this has been my first opportunity to meet any of them in person. It's also been an opportunity for me to get together with a few friends who've moved here from Edmonton, and of course, to meet many new people. So I'd like to second everything that Michael said about the importance of conventions, about Fandom as family, and about why we're in Fandom.

The thing that I've noticed here, though, is that I keep seeing people I know out of the corner of my eye. I'll see someone go by and I'll think, "There's Ken", and then I'll stop myself because I realize that Ken is 3000 kilometers away and that can't possibly be him. I keep seeing the people I always see at conventions or at club meetings, only it isn't really them at all.

So I've come to the conclusion that there is an ecology to Fandom: that every local club or convention has the same set of ecological niches and fills them with the same sort of people. Every club has its compulsive photographer, its hippy musician, its natural mc, its femme fatal, its space cadet, its curly-bearded physicist, its long-haired scholar, and so on. Every club is the same. That means that everyone of you has his or her twin in Edmonton Fandom. Every one of you has been cloned!

The corollary of all this is that wherever you go in Canada, or the world for that matter--wherever your job or education or wanderlust takes you--there is a niche waiting for you in the local Fandom there. You have friends waiting for you wherever you go.

Thank you, and thank CUFF for showing me my friends here.

This very nicely encapsulates the purpose of CUFF I think, the bringing together of like-minded Fen.

THE CASPER AWARDS (OCT 8TH, 1989):

Runte had some very interesting comments to make:

The 1989 Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association Award Ceremony was the best ever. The Awards committee was very professional, and made a glamorous production out of it... What made the event really exciting was that most of the winners were in attendance, and as this or that name was called out, the table at which they were sitting would explode with the enthusiastic screams of friends and supporters. The whole thing was very impressive.

This stands in sharp contrast to when I ran the awards ceremony seven years ago at NonCon 5 (1982). Then there was just the single award, not very many voters, and the winner (Phyllis Gotlieb) was 2,000 kilometers away.... Where my announcement drew polite applause, this year's audience reacted with real emotion.... This sustained excitement also reflects the greater voter participation than ever before. Voting on the Caspers now exceeds, on a per capita basis, every other national SF award, including the Hugos. Paul Valcour and Jean-louis Trudel deserve credit for compiling and publicizing extensive lists of eligible nominees, thereby increasing voter participation to the point where the Caspers may now be considered a credible award.

This is the year William Gibson won 'Best Long-Form Work In English' for 'MONA LISA OVERDRIVE'. At Convention 9, for the very first time, three Fannish Caspers were awarded:

- 'Fan Achievement (Organizational)' went to Paul Valcour, Pinekone I Treasurer & Chair.

- 'Fan Achievement (Fanzine)' went to Michael Skeet as Editor of MLR.

- 'Fan Achievement (Other)' went to Robert Runte for editing the NCF GUIDE TO CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION AND FANDOM, 3rd edition.

Runte had this to say about his victory:

I was inordinately pleased to win, of course. This year's trophy was a handsome plaque designed by Larry Stewart. It was presented to us blank, the names to be engraved shortly thereafter, as the balloting had remained open until noon at the convention itself. Unfortunately, the Awards Committee insisted on arranging for the engraving themselves--I was secretly hoping I could put "Best Novel" on mine when they weren't looking.

Subsequent to the awards Runte went off for dinner, then partied till 3AM in the consuite.

SUNDAY:

Early in the morning Runte dragged himself out of bed to attend the second Convention business meeting held at the con. It was at this meeting it was decided that the name of the awards be changed from 'Casper' to 'Aurora'.

(Note: Originally, the CSFFA Awards were just 'The CSFFA Awards'. At some point, circa early 1985, the idea of giving them a catchier name gained ground. In THE MAPLE LEAF RAG #11, Garth reports Lloyd Penney suggesting they called the "The Leslies" after ? Garth wanted to call them "The Coeurls" after the sculpture created by Mike Spencer depicting the monster from Vogt's "The Black Destroyer" which was presented to A.E. van Vogt at the first CSFFA Award ceremony in 1981. By #15 in June of 1985 Garth refers to the CSFFA awards as 'Caspers', but without giving any explanation how they came by that name. Fran Skene may have started up CASPERAPA by then (some time in '85) so the name was in common use. But why? C.F. Kennedy asked Garth this in #25, and Garth replied: "*CSFFA and Casper are interchangeable terms -- the latter originated in 1985 in Halifax.*" Presumably at Convention 5/Halcon 8. In CASPERA #4, referring to previous developments, Fran Skene explained: "*The C.S.F.F.A. would now be called the Casper, an informal name coined that year (1985) by Halifax fen, to make it (CSFFA) less of a mouthful.*" Pretty lame, actually. "Aurora" is much more dignified, and certified Canadian, frozen north and all (it does thaw out sometimes, you know). Casper = friendly ghost. Aurora = ethereal ever-shifting, stark beauty. The name change was a hell of an improvement. But enough digression...)

Then Runte attended a panel on "A Comparison of French Canadian and American SF" with Jean-louis Trudel, Yves Meynard, Lorna Toolis, Guy Sirois, and Elizabeth Vonarburg. Some very interesting discussion took place. From the audience Candace Jane Dorsey suggested: "*that Canadians even read differently than Americans, based on a cultural mindset.*"

Elizabeth objected that she was not entirely convinced because Quebec fans were still reading American SF in translation. Even after 15 years of Quebecois SF, SOLARIS's readers were still demanding that its contributors write more like the American mass market authors. Yves noted that that was true of every country. Elizabeth agreed that this was true of everybody except the Americans, because, after all, SF is essentially an

American genre. (Fran Skene and I replied simultaneously that it may have been up to now! The new generation of Canadian writers is about to change all that.)... When Marshall McLuhan had talked about the global village, he hadn't quite understood that it was going to be a suburb of Los Angeles....

After sitting on a panel re "Canadian SF: A Literary History" ("Since I hadn't actually been informed ahead of time what panels I would be on, I had nothing prepared... just rambled on incoherently."), Runte went to the closing ceremonies: "Here I was presented with yet another unexpected honour, a Pinekone T-Shirt and mug. Whatever else can be said about the convention, Pinekone certainly went out of its way to ensure that the CUFF winner felt welcome and an important part of the convention."

Later that night he "retired to the consuite. Here, Steve Forty, Michael Skeet and I smuffed with Paul Valcour late into the morning. Paul is one of the neatest, most together guys I have ever met, and meeting him was definitely one of the highlights of my trip."

Again, this is the purpose of CUFF, bring widely separated fans into personal contact with each other.

Summing the experience up, Runte wrote: "All in all, the convention was almost more business trip than vacation. I took minutes at both SWAC meetings and one of the Convention meetings; I sat on two panels and gave three speeches; I did business deals with Candas and Christine; I workshopped a short story and an essay; I collected an award; I made dozens of Eastern contacts and smuffed into the wee hours. It was great!"

1989 -- THE FIRST OFFICIAL CUFF REPORT:

As mentioned previously, I think of Michael Hall's Torque 2 convention review as the first CUFF trip report, but it wasn't labelled as such. Robert Runte, on the other hand, called the 7th issue of his perzine I'M NOT BORING YOU AM I? the "Special CUFF Report Issue" and explained its inspiration, referring to to his election as the first successful vote, as follows: *"So, while we're establishing traditions here, I thought I'd borrow one from TAFF and DUFF, and produce the first CUFF trip report."* It was published circa Nov/Dec 1989.

And a superb report it is. For one thing, no less than six pages of impressions and musings over what he saw and did prior to Pinekone II come before his account of the convention itself. His reviews of The National Art Gallery and The Museum of Civilization were so striking and thought-provoking that Keith Soltys reprinted them in the April 1990 #7 of TORUS (the fact that Soltys was also a CUFF candidate at the time was of course the sheerest Fannish coincidence.... merely a good example of the generosity of spirit and mutual support so often found in Fandom). And the convention notes are far more detailed and elaborate than those few items I chose to quote above. This CUFF trip report is comprehensive, intelligent, and entertaining. In a word, Ideal. It remains to be seen how badly I botch my trip report (as yet unwritten). If by some miracle it turns out okay, I doubt I'll come anywhere near the high standard set by Runte.

THE 1989/1990 CUFF CAMPAIGN:

The target convention was ConVersion VII/Canvention 10 to be held in Calgary July 20-22, 1990.

Runte addressed the issue of fund-raising in the opening introduction to his trip report. It read in part:

...Fran Skene (Vancouver) organized the Turkey Readings -- brilliant fund raisers at which panelists would read out passages from Robert Lionel Fanthorpe and his ilk while conscripted audience members act out the

scenes described. Money flows in as those desperately wanting to stop the torture attempt to outbid the sadists who want it to continue. (Large sums are often extorted from the "actors" themselves as they anticipate upcoming developments in, for example, badly written romantic scenes.) Even these fund raisers were outdone by the Turkey Auctions at Pinekone (Ottawa), where such items as doodles on paper plates by the artist GoH brought big bucks.

Last year the fund took Taral from Toronto to Winnipeg, and paid for his flight, lodgings and meals. (Well, maybe some of his meals. See above.) This year the fund was able to fly me from Edmonton to Ottawa, pay for my accommodation, and still have money left over for next year.

Runte included a financial account in his trip report. He received from Taral (Eastern Fund Administrator) \$136.00, from Fran Skene (Western Administrator) \$284.59, and from Pinekone II via two Turkey Auctions: \$582.73, for a grand total of \$1,003.32. His trip expenses, air fare & hotel, amounted to \$672.15. (HAH! \$50.13 MORE than my CUFF trip expenses in 1997! I say again, HAH!) After some misc. expenses, \$315.17 remained to contribute toward the 1990 CUFF winner's expenses.

Runte concluded his comments this way: *"As the administrator of the fund for 1990... I have already been approached by three prominent Easterners about running for next year, so I think it's safe to assume that CUFF has finally established itself as a legitimate fan fund."*

Runte then reaped the benefits of his high Fannish profile. By what means I'm not sure, as he claimed only \$33.74 for expenses. But he received donations from no less than 26 people (including one from Andrew Porter of SF CHRONICLE fame. Hmm, sets a precedent for milking the Americans, hmm...) for \$230.07, plus \$108 in voting fees, a \$17.50 grant from the Ottawa Science Fiction Society, and \$73 from a NoNoCon Auction/Turkey read in Edmonton. Consequently he is in the position to hand over to the next CUFF Administrator a grand total of \$710.00. Not bad!

Ballots were distributed with a voting dead of April 30th, 1990. A \$2 minimum donation was requested as a voting fee. It was stated that: *"Both candidates have indicated they will be unable to attend Convention 10 unless they win CUFF."*

The two candidates were Keith Soltys and Paul Valcour.

Soltys was described as *"Editor of TORUS and a friend of The Spaced Out Library" (who) lived in Alberta for five years and wants to renew old acquaintances out West."*

In #7 of TORUS Soltys wrote: *"I'd prefer not to reprint articles but -- damn it -- people aren't sending enough good stuff to us first. So we scrounge and beg and make ourselves unpopular at parties and conventions. That's the major reason I'm running for CUFF this year.... I hope to make TORUS' presence better known in Western Canadian Fandom. I know there are some good writers out there -- I plan to twist some arms."*

Valcour was described as *"anxious to meet in person the many Western fans with whom he has corresponded, and to contact potential contributors for his new CANADIAN SF QUARTERLY magazine."* I'm not sure if that ever got off the ground; I know he discussed the planning and preparation stages with Runte at Pinekone. In any event, he was a CASPER winner, so well worthy of inclusion as a candidate.

For the record, Soltys' nominators were: Howard Cherniack (VCON Committee, Vancouver); Peter Roberts (Fanzine collector, Guelph); Fran Skene (Editor of CASPERAPA, Vancouver); Garth Spencer (Editor of THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GARTH, Vancouver); Paul Stockton (President, Strawberry Jam Comics, Toronto); and Lorna Toolis (Spaced Out Library, Toronto).

Valcour's nominators were: Keith Braithwaite (President, MonSFFA, Montreal); Steve Forty (Former Editor of BCSFAzine, Vancouver); Linda Ross-Mansfield (Chair, Winnipeg in '94, Winnipeg); Dennis Mullen (Co-Chair, Wilfcon 5, Kitchener); Randy Reichardt (ViceChair ConText '89, Edmonton); and Jean-louis Trudel (Chair, Boreal 10, Ottawa).

A total of 54 people voted for the 1990 candidates. This is massive by Fannish standards, the best Canfandom participation in a CUFF election ever! The voter list reads like a WHO'S WHO of Canada's SF fans: people like Keith Braithwaite, Stuart Cooper, Steve Forty, Mike Glicksohn, Cath Jackel, Karl Johanson, John Mansfield, Donna McMahon, Dave Panchyk, Lloyd & Yvonne Penney, Garth Spencer, and Taral Wayne; to name just a few. And then there's me. I had forgotten I voted! For Paul, I think.

Breaking it down by city: Victoria (1), Vancouver (8), Burnaby (1), Calgary (6), Edmonton (6), Regina (1), Winnipeg (2), Ottawa (7), Guelph (2), Toronto (12), Brampton (2), Mississauga (1), Chateaugay (1), Longueuil (1), Montreal (2), and Chicoutimi (1).

Way to go Canada!

1990 -- THE SECOND LEGIT CUFF WINNER BY VOTE:

Of the 54 votes cast, 2 were spoiled and 2 went to "No Award (Hold Over Funds)". Of the 50 remaining, 15 were for Keith Soltys, and 35 for Paul Valcour.

Poor Soltys. He never did make it to Conversion VII, and TORUS folded with the next issue, #8. I sincerely hope there was no connection. (In fact it was the arrival of 10 lbs 4 ounces Edward Robert Soltys that put an end to Keith's free time and spare money, according to his last editorial.)

Valcour elected to drive to Calgary rather than fly. This would presumably save the CUFF fund considerable money. He intended to stop along the way and visit with the Mansfields in Winnipeg and Robert Runte in Edmonton. He also intended to charge strictly the expenses of getting to Calgary to the fund, not the costs of the sidetrips.

And now to quote from the first issue of Valcour's perzine LONG DISTANCE VOYEUR:

But fate intervened. The audacity, and hence the folly, of my aspirations was cruelly mirrored before me... an 18-wheeler driving a few hundred feet ahead of me lost a 1-foot cube metal load leveller and steel rod off the transport onto the gravel track of construction road.... With one track to follow (we were going over a gully, and there was no shoulder or guard rail), Black Beauty had to eat the damn thing. The transmission and bell housing were destroyed; the gas tank was severely ruptured; the stick shift and console were no more; and I had an ashtray in the ceiling of my car.

Fortunately Valcour was not hurt. After flagging down a dump truck he got a lift to a small roadside canteen, and from there phoned for a towtruck from the nearest town, Dryden, some twenty miles away. As matters transpired, his insurance would cover both repairs and a Tilden car rental. Terrific! He left 'Black Beauty' nursing her wounds in Dryden and drove to Winnipeg. There he got a phonecall. Because, he was informed, he had been in a single-car accident (the truck was never identified), he could claim only \$450 for the car rental. This meant he would have to pay the remainder, an estimated \$850 by trip's end! The Mansfields took pity and let him park the beast in their garage. Then they drove him to Calgary.

1990 -- PAUL VALCOUR AT CONVERSION VII/CANVENTION 10:

The appropriate passage in #1 of THE LONG VOYEUR reads:

I shall save the description of my activities as CUFF winner and ordinary, mortal fan at Convention 10 for issue #2. Suffice it to say I enjoyed the con, the hospitality and conviviality very much. I would go back anytime.

Alas, to the best of my knowledge, no issue #2 ever appeared. I hope to contact Valcour and get the inside dope in time to publish the 'Official' version of this article in pamphlet form by VCON 23 in May.

Note: the fan awards given out at Convention 10 were:

- Fan Achievement (Organizational): to the Alberta Speculative Fiction Association, for ConText '89, and the foundation of the Speculative Writer's Association of Canada.

- Fan Achievement (Fanzine): to Michael Skeet, Editor of MLR (2nd year in a row, beating out Steve Forty and myself as co-candidates re: BCSFAzine, among others).

- Fan Achievement (Other): to Robert Runte, for his promotion of Canadian SF writing.

1990 -- THOUGHTS OF A FUND ADMINISTRATOR:

In the LONG DISTANCE VOYEUR #1 Valcour noted that someone was interested in running for the 1991 CUFF, but wanted to be sent to Westercon 44 in Vancouver that year rather than the upcoming Convention. This led him to make some interesting statements about the relationship of CUFF and Convention:

Here is how I see it: CUFF is not officially tied to, nor necessarily associated with the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (CSFFA), which is the parent body for Convention, the annual Canadian National SF convention. Starting with Keycon 5/Convention 8 in Winnipeg ('88), two major events happened:

1) the CSFFA made major revisions to its constitution, ostensibly to upgrade the quality and profile of the Casper (now Aurora) Awards and to recognize the realities of the Canadian SF environment; CUFF was appropriately not dealt with or included in the constitution at the time -- not enough input from fans involved in past CUFFS or Fanzines.

2) CUFF got itself untracked, financially and administratively, adopting a similar East-West nature of subsidizing fans to coincide with the direction of Convention.

....there is nothing binding in the CSFFA constitution nor are there written guidelines elsewhere for CUFF which specifically requires a CUFF nominee to go to Convention....

Well, I beg to differ. There is precedent, such as was laid down at the Convention 6 business meeting at VCON 14 in 1986 where Mike Wallis proposed that CUFF be revived and tied to Convention. His proposals were accepted. I am aware of the fact that subsequently the CSFFA constitution, as written at Convention 7 and modified at Convention 8, makes no reference to CUFF. This is because the CSFFA Awards were becoming complex, and CSFFA needed to concentrate on that one specific task if it were to ensure its continued success. Yet nevertheless, at Convention 9 a proposal for a special CSFFA donation bank account was defeated for fear it would impinge on CUFF's needs, thus indicating CSFFA's continuing awareness and concern for CUFF.

The fact is, the CUFF Tradition is to tie the two together for mutual enhancement of prestige. After all, it makes profound sense to send the CUFF winner (chosen by Fannish peers as worthy of the award) to the annual ceremony where Canada's Hugo-equivalent Fan achievement awards are handed out! But if the target convention became subject to the whim of either the CUFF Administrators or the winners, I suspect the focus of CUFF would weaken and become diffused and nebulous to the point where it would dissipate, and CUFF would become meaningless. Keeping CUFF attached to Convention provides a sturdy backbone on which to flesh out CUFF campaigns. While I am Administrator this will remain official CUFF policy.

When Valcour visited Robert Runte in Edmonton, they had an intense discussion on what sort of fan is entitled to be a CUFF winner. This is important, as it is still the subject of much debate. Thus I choose to quote Valcour's account at length:

My general opinion is that CUFF is for active or noteworthy SF fans, regardless of their field of expertise (eg.- Fanzines, convention organizing, writing, art, costuming...) Candidates should qualify on their merits, and the desire of other fans (peers) to meet them. By definition this would exclude fans only involved in non-SF areas (eg. - comics, SCA, mystery...). I would also exclude professionals.

On the other hand, Robert takes the interesting position that CUFF could be for Fanzine writers, artists and editors alone. It doesn't matter what the Fanzine is about: SF, media, mystery, sociology, computer science, comics, Star Trek, etc. This was quite an eye-opener for me. I am used to the traditional Fanzine editor's lament for the good ol' days when fans were Fanzine fans. But it always centered around SF (in this context, this includes fantasy and/or horror).

His position also leads to exclusions: club and convention organizers, costumers, writers and editors of small press/semi-professional magazines, comic book artists and publishers not involved in Fanzines, etc.

As 1998 CUFF Administrator, I accept Valcour's principle of qualifying fans by merit and peer desire to meet them. I also accept Robert's view that CUFF is for Fanzine writers, artists and editors only. But this can refer to all types of Fanzines, including clubzines, comic Zines, Trek Zines, perzines, media Zines, genzines, etc., as long as there is some element of SF or Fantasy involved. Nevertheless my list of exclusions is rather long, including costumers, SCA, con-runners (though someone who puts out a Zine ABOUT con-running would be okay), professional writers, and no doubt many more I haven't thought of as yet. I will clarify my policy in time for nominations, I promise!

And just for the sake of an amusing digression, here is Valcour's wonderful description of what it's like debating Runte:

"So Robert's argument was refreshingly new, and led to the toughest debate I've had the pleasure of participating in all year. (This, more than any other reason, is why I go to conventions or visit fans in other cities. Late night discussions and correspondence/Fanzines still represents the HEART of trufandom. Alas, I digress.)"

"By mutual agreement, we reckoned our debate to be an even draw."

"I was lucky. Robert can fix those steely eyes of his on you, under the subterfuge of kindly, professorial interest, all the while wringing every last ounce of reasoned logic you can muster. One's collar becomes too tight; your palms become sweaty; caffeine no longer seems sufficient to drive your brain (already in overdrive); you begin looking for an escape route. Of course, he could have just opened up the living room window, but no. Robert is an accomplished tactician. He had me on his turf, and I was going to pay for it. If my arguments had any merit, they would survive such minor, materialistic hurdles."

"Only after six or seven hours of gruelling interrogation, at around 4 o'clock in the morning, did I discover the true depths of marshalled ingenuity of my opponent. He finally opened the windows to let fresh air in -- for indeed I was bunking in his living-room that night. Within twenty minutes, undressed, lights out and winding down from exhaustion a noticeable buzzing of several hundred mosquitos assailed my ears. It wasn't long before they found the body attached to those ears. I swear I could hear a fiendish cackle upstairs (behind closed doors)."

"Beware, oh upstart debaters, the rewards of winning the respect of your betters."

A classic, CLASSIC piece of Fannish writing...

But, getting back to the principal theme, Valcour concluded his comments on CUFF by saying:

CUFF is administered, in body, by the current CUFF winner and, in spirit, by a loose set of ideas held by a few active fans (such as previous CUFF winners). Such concepts as 'precedence', 'objectives' and 'eligibility criteria' do play a role, but only informally.

I hope to some day work with other fans towards preparing guidelines, without the weight of bureaucratic rules, for CUFF. But until then, I will have to do the best I can without them. I will consult others and I shall try to be fair, even when I may have other preferences.

For instance, regardless of the arguments and positions taken in my previous anecdote, there is no definition of 'fan'. The wording I agreed to let ConText '91 use in their upcoming progress report for 'eligibility' was as follows: "The person must be Canadian, and must be an active fan in clubs, convention-running or Fanzines."

For the present, that will have to suffice. The above 'eligibility' criteria applies to nominators, CUFF candidates and voters. If I do not know the person or their qualifications, I will make every effort to follow up.

I would shorten the criteria to read "Must be Canadian and an active Fanzine fan." Other activities can be included in one's Fannish 'resume', but Fanzine activity of some sort MUST be the primary consideration.

As for a lack of guidelines... this history may partly remedy this, at least by describing CUFF's perimeters. However, in the near future it is my intention, on the basis of my experience as 1998 Administrator, and with the aid of feedback from previous Administrators, to write a definitive "Guide For Administrators of CUFF" which I hope will go a long way toward keeping CUFF alive and flourishing. We shall see.

1991 -- THE FIRST 'GHOST' CUFF TRIP REPORT:

As mentioned above, Valcour intended to write a CUFF trip report for #2 of LDV, but apparently never produced it. However, in LDV #1 (December 1990) he described it, so we have some idea of what it would have been like:

The main trip report is going to be a Fanzine... The Fanzine will hopefully be ready by next spring. The delay is partly due to burn-out, partly because of finances, and partly because I'm tired...

The Fanzine may contain photographs taken during my CUFF trip. It will contain copies of gathered memorabilia. Cartoon illustrations are planned as well.... I'll gladly provide an outline of events and anecdotes ahead of time to assist creativity...

Those fans who played an important role in the CUFF trip, such as providing accommodation, rides, great conversation, etc. and those with whom I wish to correspond or trade Fanzines with anyway shall receive the CUFF trip report Fanzine.

It has been suggested by Robert Runte I consider mailing the Fanzine to all those who donated money or voted in the CUFF balloting this year. Tradition may even dictate this, but I'm not sure. (It depends on how Runte distributed his, I should think. -- RGC) It is a reasonable idea. I must consider my finances first. CUFF does not pay for trip reports. The CUFF winner pays for it. But the more I review the numbers and the potential for goodwill, the more I will likely do it.... I will publish a CUFF financial report in the next LONG DISTANCE VOYEUR.

Alas, as far as I know, there was no second issue. If I am mistaken, however, and such a report does exist I would appreciate a photo-copy (or original!) of same donated to the BCSFA/WCSFA Archive in time for me to revise this history before May. I would be most grateful.

THE 1990/1991 CUFF NON-CAMPAIGN:

The Target convention was ConText '91/Convention 11 in Edmonton as, to the best of my knowledge, no Eastern concom came forward with a bid at Convention 10, so the CSFFA Awards wound up being presented in the West two years in a row. Paul Valcour was Fund Administrator in the East, but I don't know if there was a Western Administrator. Perhaps Runte? Skene?

In April '91 #166 of the OSFS Statement published "Fire Burn and Cauldron Bubble", an article by Duncan McGregor on the status of CUFF based on an interview he'd conducted with Paul Valcour. Here is part of what McGregor reported:

When Paul returned from Calgary, he started to advertise CUFF. Unfortunately, he ran into some problems. The expenses of the Westward trip, as well as leftover expenses from Pinekone II (a huge problem in itself, resulting in fund-raising efforts by fans across Canada, but that's another story.--RGC), prevented him from doing much campaigning on its behalf. A bigger problem was the lack of suitable conventions in Canada where CUFF could be advertised. He was still on his trip when Toronto Trek IV happened in early August; the only other Canadian conventions since then (ie. Aug 1990 to Mar 1991) were Convalescence (in Ottawa) and Concept (in Montreal). BOTH these small conventions had OTHER fund-raising objectives.... Very little money, therefore, came into CUFF. Given these circumstances, the "nomination deadline" of 4th February that Paul set was probably overly optimistic. That deadline was publicized in several places, including the OSFS STATEMENT (a short blurb in January), CONTRACT (a Fanzine from Winnipeg in early winter), and ConText '91 PROGRESS REPORT #1 (last fall). No formal "nomination ballots", however, were issued -- it's not part of the tradition.

The BCSFA/WCSFA Archive has a copy of the ConText Progress Report #1. Not one word about CUFF. And it came out in April. Perhaps McGregor was referring to #2?

And as for nomination forms not being "part of the tradition", this is incorrect. As mentioned way above, Mike Wallis sent out nomination forms in 1987. The BCSFA/WCSFA Archive has a copy of that too. (We got all kinds neat stuff!)

McGregor went on to say:

One person was nominated during this period by John Mansfield. He proposed (and the nominee agreed) that, should the nominee win, she would go to the Westercon convention, rather than ConText -- even though

the latter convention was selected as the Convention for this year. The nominee later changed her mind and withdrew; there are therefore NO nominees for the CUFF award at present. Worse, there is also not much money in the fund. Paul hopes to hold more fund-raisers: I suspect the recession will make people more reluctant to contribute. Thus, as it was before, CUFF is on hold till next year at least.

According to Ron Currie in XENOPHILE #10, ConVersion VIII planned (and presumably held) a Turkey Reading to raise funds for CUFF. If so, at least some fund-raising was being done.

At Convention 11, the three Fan Achievement awards given out were:

- Fan Achievement (Organizational): to Dave Panchyk, for his "activities as President of the Saskatchewan Speculative Fiction and Comic Arts Society and for chairing Combine 0 (Regina)."

- Fan Achievement (Fanzine): to Catherine Girczyc, for editing NEOLOGY (Edmonton). -- (As Editor of BCSFAzine, I lose again, for the second time in a row, sigh.)

- Fan Achievement (Other): to Al Betz, for his "Ask Mr. Science" column in BCSFAzine. (Al maintains that he is merely the "Social Secretary" for Mr. Science. Yeah, in the same sense that Mr. Hyde is Dr. Jekyll's butler!)

THE 1991/1992 CUFF CAMPAIGN:

The target convention was Wilfcon 8/Convention 12 to be held at Wilfrid Laurier University in Kitchener Ontario June 27-28, 1992. Paul Valcour served as Fund Administrator in the East. Again, I do not know who, if any one, served in the west. (My sources are quite limited from this point on. I would LOVE more information!)

The March 1992 issue of the OSFS STATEMENT contained a CUFF Ballot (hopefully distributed elsewhere too!). There were four choices, the two candidates, a "No Preference (take my money anyway)" and a "Neither (hold over funds)". On the ballot it was stated: *"The following is a preferential ballot: please rank 1, 2, 3, etc."* (With all due respect, this is needless complication. There are only two real choices. A simple straightforward vote is all that is required.) The deadline was set for April 18th, 1992. A voting fee of \$3 was required, with all donations welcome.

The two candidates were David Panchyk and Linda Ross-Mansfield.

Panchyk was described as *"past President for the Saskatchewan Speculative Fiction Assoc. and won the 1991 Aurora Award for Fan Achievement (Organization) for his role in chairing Saskatchewan's first SF con, Combine 0. He has also won much critical acclaim for his editing of the literary SF Fanzine, THE SPINTRIAN. This year, David is also Fan Guest of Honour at NonCon in Vancouver."*

(Yes, the Alberta Regional SF Convention was indeed held in Vancouver, B.C. in 1992, at the University of British Columbia in fact. I should know, I ran the video program.)

Linda Ross Mansfield was described as being *"involved in Fannish activities all across Canada: in particular, the Maritimes, Ottawa (an early member of the Ottawa SF Society) and Winnipeg. She has devoted many hours of work and travel promoting the Winnipeg in '94 Worldcon bid (which we are all glad they won), taking her turn chairing the bid committee for a year. She now moves on to be President of the Board of Directors for Conadian. Linda has also co-chaired Keycon Twice in Winnipeg."*

(To which, I might add, she edited at least 4 issues of her Fanzine NORTHERN LIGHTS out of Oromocto, New Brunswick circa 1981.)

For the record, Panchyk's nominators were: Steve Forty (past Editor of BCSFAzine, Vancouver); Dennis Mullin (Co-Chair of Wilfcon, Waterloo); Robert Runte (Publisher/Editor of NEW CANADIAN FANDOM, Lethbridge), Michael Skeet (Past Editor of MLR, Toronto); Keith Soltys (Editor of TORUS, Toronto), and Eric Tilbrook (Calgary).

Linda Ross-Manfield's nominators were: Keith Braithwaite (MonSFFA President, Montreal); Terry Fowler (Westercon 44 Chair, Vancouver); Ron Gillies (Lloydminster); Janet Hetherington (past Maplecon Chair, Ottawa); Lloyd Penney (Ad Astra Director and LoCer extraordinaire); and Cliff Samuels (past Co-Version Chair).

1992 -- THE THIRD LEGIT CUFF WINNER BY VOTE:

Linda Ross-Mansfield won, but I have no information on the election results so I have no idea by how many votes. And apparently the CUFF fund contained only \$200 when it was transferred to Linda. I would very much like Linda and Paul to contact me with the details on these matters.

1992 -- LINDA ROSS MANSFIELD AT WILFCON/CANVENTION 12:

Again, I have very little information, but I am hoping Linda will fill me in. I do know that Valcour worked out an astonishing deal with Wilfcon (out of sheer desperation perhaps, considering how little money was in the CUFF fund, making it perhaps the apogee of CUFF/Host Convention relations. To quote from the election ballot:

"This year, we are not only fortunate in having two deserving candidates, but CUFF is recipient of the generous offer by Wilfcon 8/Convention 12 to pick up the tab for accommodation and food for the CUFF winner. And for the first time in CUFF history, the CUFF winner will be the 'Fan Guest of Honour'. (CUFF winners have always been treated especially well by Conventions in the past.)"

In sum, the CUFF fund would need only to pay air fare, the rest: hotel, food and membership, were taken care of by the Host Convention. Words fail me. This is the height. This is Nirvana. This is the perfect symbiotic relationship between CUFF and Convention.... Mind you, Wilfcon lost \$300, but... hey, just a coincidence, I tell you. Don't want to discourage future hosts from making similar arrangements.

Did Linda make a CUFF speech? Conduct a CUFF panel? Write a CUFF report? I hope to find out.

Meanwhile, John Mansfield described the convention this way: *"Think of a relaxacon with three tracks of programming. The consuite/registration desk, artshow and dealer table were all in one one. Being Convention, attendance was up 30% and the vast amounts of pros meant that panels were well stocked and lively. SFFWA, SF Canada and Convention all held business meetings.... Even the dorm rooms were excellent... everyone had a great time..."*

And Joseph Casey, writing in the OSFS STATEMENT #181, commented: *"This was the first time in its history that Wilfcon has been a two day con instead of a one day con, and the organizers carried it off well.... Quiet and laid back with much serious programing instead of the fan centered stuff that I am more used to, and an entire track of readings by local, and not so local, Canadian authors."*

Note: at the CSFFA awards ceremony, the following fan awards were issued:

- Fan Achievement (Organizational): to John Mansfield, for his highly successful Winnipeg in '94 Worldcon bid.

- Fan Achievement (Fanzine): to Larry Hancock, Editor of SOL RISING, the Newsletter of the Friends of The Merril Collection (formerly the Spaced Out Library). -- (As Editor of BCSFAzine, I lose for the third time in a row, double sigh.)

- Fan Achievement (Other) to David W. New, Editor of HORIZONS SF, the magazine of the UBC SF club.

THE 1992/1993 CUFF NON-CAMPAIGN:

The target convention was Wolfcon VI/Convention 13 to be held in Wolfville, Nova Scotia March 12-14, 1993. Linda Ross-Mansfield was CUFF Fund Administrator for the first time (and possibly Paul Valcour was CUFF Administrator in the East).

CUFF apparently was running into trouble. A brief note in the Nov-Dec '92 ConTRACT read: *"An open letter to all conventions and clubs is in the works and will be sent out in early December. Basically, there are currently insufficient funds... suggestions for fund-raising, and of course money are always welcome."*

In the Jan/Feb '93 ConTRACT Linda elaborated further: *"The status of the fund is, to be exact, \$200.00 thanks to a kind donation from Paul Valcour to help round it out when he handed over the funds."*

I'm a bit confused about this. Is this figure before or after any travel expenses covered during Linda's trip to Wilcon the year before? Or did Linda simply pay her own travel expenses? At any rate, it's not very much, as Linda goes on to say:

Obviously this amount is insufficient to send anyone to Convention in 1993, never mind cover any per deim. It is my hope that I can encourage fans, clubs and conventions across Canada to either raise funds or make contributions to the fund, and raise enough to cover travel expenses for 1994, when an Eastern fan should travel to, and attend a Western convention. I am writing a specific letter to conventions and clubs that I know of, and any interested individuals. It will contain a few ideas for fund-raising, plus some background info on the fund as to who has gone where, and the requisite "my trip as a CUFF winner" reports. I would like to again thank Paul Valcour for his help.

I would like to see a copy of this letter. It's not in the BCSFA/WCSFA archive, alas.

John Mansfield described Wolfcon VI as follows:

A very enjoyable convention in a very remote sight. Attendance and break even was c.350. Four tracks of programming was very adventurous and as a result, there was always something interesting going on.... The climax of the con was a medieval banquet held during "the storm of the century." The CUFF auction at Wolfcon raised \$92.

The fan achievement awards given out at the CSFFA ceremony were:

- Fan Achievement (Organizational): to Adam J.K. Charlesworth, Chair of NonCon 15 (Vancouver).

- Fan Achievement (Fanzine): to Karl Johanson and John Herbert, for UNDER THE OZONE HOLE (Victoria). -- (As Editor of BCSFAzine, I lose for the fourth time in a row, triple sigh.)

- Fan Achievement (Other): to Louise Hypher, for the SF2 show at the Ontario Science Centre.

Some further CUFF fund-raising results ensued later in 1993, so evidently Linda Ross-Mansfield's publicity efforts were producing results. For instance, in July ConVersion 10 held a CUFF auction and raised over \$250. Excellent! All was not lost, maybe.

THE 1993/1994 CUFF NON-CAMPAIGN:

This time the target convention was no less than a Worldcon! Namely Conadian/Convention 14 in Winnipeg September 1-5, 1994. Linda Ross-Mansfield was CUFF Fund Administrator in the West for the second time in a row, and Paul Valcour served as CUFF Administrator in the East.

Nomination ballots were distributed in January 1994 with a deadline set for 15th April, 1994. The background information contained a couple of errors, such as the fund being created in 1984 (1981 actually) and Fran Skene being a previous winner (she was an Administrator many times, but as she confirmed in a recent personal communication over the phone, she was never a CUFF winner. What she did do was help revive it in 1986 and keep it going.). This illustrates the need for a comprehensive (albeit incomplete) historical overview such as this history.

Perhaps for the first time, a new approach was tried. Instead of sending out nomination ballots to potential nominators, this ballot was aimed at the potential nominees themselves. They were instructed to *"give a brief written platform, provide the names, addresses and signatures of six fans (three fans in both Eastern and Western Canada). They must also promise (barring acts of Ghod) to travel to Convention... The 1994 winner will also be responsible for administrating the next CUFF race.... All candidates will be listed, along with their platforms, in a VOTING BALLOT (it actually reads "NOMINATION BALLOT", but considering the context, this must have been a typo) released on 1st MAY."*

Well, this certainly appeals to me. Instead of trying to force a number of fans to get off their Fannish butts and nominate somebody, Fannish egos are cleverly targeted in the hope that nominee wannabes will exert themselves to convince their Fannish friends to put aside their Fannish inertia just for a moment and nominate, by Ghod! Unfortunately, the results were typically Fannish....

In the May/June '94 issue of CONTRACT a brief mention of CUFF appeared: *"Looks like no CUFF candidate again this year...."*

This was followed by a strong editorial blast (not credited... Linda's? John's?) in the July/Aug issue:

This year's CUFF Administrator offered up free transportation, accommodation & membership in the World Science Fiction Convention to ANY member of Canadian Fandom East of the Ontario/Manitoba border. NO ONE took them up on it!

How are we supposed to deal with this? Heck, if they are not interested in the World Con, why should we try to offer them a trip to Convention?

Does this prove that paying for food for 5 days is a financial burden to every Eastern fan?? Or is it the fact that news just does not get passed on in Canada unless it deals with the colour of Picard's underwear or is PC??

So now we have around \$1,000 in the bank, thanks to donations from William Gibson & others, what should we do with it?? Shall we let CUFF die too... Or will we watch Western Canadian fans and Pros squabble over the \$\$\$?

No wonder the tone is bitter. It's unbelievable no one responded. A free Worldcon trip? If I'd been living in the East I would have been on my knees to every eligible nominator I knew begging and grovelling for their vote.... but of course, ahem, my sense of personal dignity may be unique among fans. Oh well.

At Conadian/Convention 14 the fan achievement awards given out at the CSFFA ceremony were:

- Fan Achievement (Organizational): to Lloyd Penney, for Ad Astra (Toronto).
- Fan Achievement (Fanzine): to Karl Johanson and John Herbert, for UNDER THE OZONE HOLE (Victoria). -- (As Editor of BCSFAzine, I lose for the 5th time in a row, quadruple sigh.)
- Fan Achievement (Other): to Jean-Louis Trudel, for promotion of Canadian SF.

It seems that a number of people complained that they never heard of CUFF and were unable to respond to the call for nominations. This led to another bitter editorial outburst in the pages of ConTRACT, the Sep/Oct issue specifically, to wit:

There has been some discussion as to "why we were not told" as to CUFF. The Vol 6#1 issue... carried a 3/4 page ad telling all who read it that we were looking for candidates for this year's CUFF... If you receive this issue you should have received that issue. What more can you do within the existing Canadian Fannish community?

Please don't start me on the fact of why Canada does not have a newszine and if it even deserves one. OR on how so called CDN Fandom works as a series of city-states. Also, since there has been no interest in CUFF for two years running, do we carry it on???

However, since the matter was not brought up at Convention biz meeting and will never be a program item at any con, I consider that CUFF has died.....

What a fall from the glory days of Robert Runte's candidacy. Fannish apathy was driving CUFF into another grave, it seemed. Still, there's always hope?

In #258 of BCSFAzine (Nov 1994) Lloyd Penny had some thoughts on the subject:

No one bid for CUFF this year because one issue of John Mansfield's ConTRACT, a limited distribution Fanzine, contained something about bidding CUFF, and the whole of Canada's Fandom didn't read it. Therefore, John is angry, and he has announced that CUFF is dead. John had little time to promote CUFF, understandably, so few people knew it was in operation. Is there anyone willing to pick it up, promote it the way it needs to be promoted, and make it work in time for the next Convention...? There's plenty of deserving Western fans who could come out, the CUFF bank account appears to be healthy, and I have \$188.70 in Conadian Fanzine room sales to be put into the CUFF account. Will anyone take on this task?

As might be expected, this led to an immediate response from John in the Nov/Dec issue of ConTRACT:

Lloyd Penney... seems to have gotten it all wrong. First he says that ConTRACT is a limited distribution Zine. It's not, it goes out to anyone who wants it. What he seems to have forgotten is that of all the CDN Zines

that received ConTRACT, not one thought CUFF important enough to reprint, bring up at club meetings or pass on. The Aurora ballot certainly was though.

(I noticed this phenomena myself while searching through the Archive for CUFF info. In fact, as Editor of BCSFAzine, I stand guilty as charged! From my current point of view, devoted to Fanzines and Fandom, I find this inconceivable, but I guess at the time my focus as a clubzine editor was too narrow. Mayhaps there's something to this 'isolated city-state' theory after all! At any rate, through my own apathy and inertia, I darn near helped kill CUFF! Now, as 1998 CUFF Administrator, I'm trying my best to keep it alive, I swear!)

He goes on that we had little time to promote CUFF. He does not realize that while attending Ad Astra in his city., we mentioned CUFF at every opportunity. We held CUFF auctions at those cons that allowed me -- Wolfcon, Keycon and ConVersions. Those auctions are why there is money in the account. Each auction brought in hundreds of \$\$, much more than the "turkey readings: brought in years before.

Well, at any rate, Lloyd helped jumpstart renewed controversy over CUFF and this helped keep it in public view.

THE 1994/1995 CUFF NON-CAMPAIGN:

This year the target convention should have been Cancon 95/Boreal 12/Canvention 15 in Ottawa, May 12-14, 1995, but wasn't (for reasons explained below). And once again Linda Ross-Mansfield was CUFF Fund Administrator in the West, for the third time in a row. (And in East we had?)

The Mar/Apr 1995 issue of ConTRACT included an information sheet by Linda Ross-Mansfield *"for reprint by any and all interested persons."* She had quite a lot to say:

There has been a small amount of discussion recently about the lack of entires for CUFF in 1994.... I am hoping that... CUFF can rise from the ashes of apathy....

How do we get the information out to people?... Although the info is sent to as many clubs/Fanzines as the Administrator has addresses for, the people who receive such a mailing don't seem to realize how important it is for them to disseminate this info to their fellow fans, and to encourage someone to enter....

While there is normally an East-West rotation, when there has been a year with no nominees, the next opportunity is open Canada-wide....

If there is no response to a call for nominations this year, and no one gives me any feedback, the fund may possibly fold....

And then there was an unusual situation she described under the heading "Anomaly Creates Problem":

Since I, as current Administrator, was unable to attend the business meeting of Canvention in 1994, apparently no one mentioned or reminded the 1995 Canvention winner about the usual tie between CUFF and CANVENTION. As a result, there was no one set as a liaison to contact me, and they have apparently announced that there will be no fan guests at their convention. This is a bit embarrassing, since one of the committee members of the 1995 Canvention, Paul Valcour, is a former CUFF winner himself, and he was the Administrator prior to my winning CUFF....

Since I for one, would not want to force any group to host the CUFF winner, I would like to suggest that IF there are nominees for 1995, that... if the winner lives in the West, he or she should be sent to Ad Astra, and if the winner is from the East they should go to Conversion....

...I am open to other suggestions, but we can't procrastinate too long. The only other option is to wait until 1996. If we do that, then I will continue fund-raising, to pass on a healthy fund.... (Meanwhile) I have stopped doing auctions to raise more funds until I receive some input from my fellow fen as to what to do if CUFF doesn't receive nominees again....

This broadside triggered a response all right, but not precisely what was hoped for, as Linda reported in the May/June '95 issue of ConTRACT:

CUFF has received requests for info from at least three people interested in running for CUFF. However no one provided the required supporting paperwork... in time to produce a voting ballot for Convention 95, and no one responded in a positive fashion to the suggestion of using funds for a '95 convention OTHER than CUFF. It is the decision of the Administrator to hold funds until 1996. Another announcement will be made when the 1996 Convention is awarded, so they can try again.

The info requests were from:

1) A husband and wife who wish to run as a team. It is the current Administrator's opinion that there is no precedent for funding two people. They COULD run as a team with the understanding that CUFF would pay the expenses for one person and the couple would cover additional costs over that.

2) A dealer. CUFF is to provide a winning FAN candidate to Convention for the purpose of fully participating in FAN activities.... if he were making personal sales contacts, visiting buyers, or sit at a dealer's table, this would not be in the spirit of the fund.

3) Someone who apparently missed the part about being "sponsored" by six FANS... The person presented for nomination had been at the previous Convention as an Editor representing a professional magazine....

All of the above situations are useful in defining the perimeters of eligibility. Linda then proposed to do something about the prevailing misconceptions over the purpose and function of CUFF:

While many fans are vaguely aware of CUFF as a fund, they are unfamiliar with the details of TAFF & DUFF upon whose example CUFF is based, which means they do not understand its general premise and the spirit behind it. Therefore the Administrator is researching past TAFF & DUFF as well as CUFF paperwork to put together a "guideline" info sheet. A preliminary draft of this may be available at Convention. Please remember, the fund lives or dies on the active, or lack of, participation and support of Canadian fans.

At Cancon 95/Boreal 12/Convention 15 (which was sponsored in part by the National Library of Canada and featured the theme: "The History of Written SF in Canada"), the fan achievement awards given out at the CSFFA ceremony were:

- Fan Achievement (Organizational): to Cath Jackel, for NonCon and ON SPEC magazine (Edmonton).

- Fan Achievement (Fanzine): to Karl Johanson and John Herbert, for UNDER THE OZONE HOLE (Victoria). -- (As Editor of BCSFAzine, I lose for the 6th time in a row. ARRGH! And this was my last chance, for I had stepped down as Editor last year, with John C. Wong replacing me, and also losing (as co-nominee) Double ARRGH!)

- Fan Achievement (Other): to Catherine Donahue Girczyc, for being the host of the Ether Patrol Radio Show (Vancouver).

1995 -- THE FIRST OFFICIAL CUFF GUIDELINES HANDBOOK:

Or at least, there was a preliminary draft by Linda Ross-Mansfield in the Jul/Aug '95 issue of ConTRACT. (I'd love to see a copy of the final draft!) Concerning the purpose of the fund, she wrote:

Its objective was to promote and encourage Fans from either side of Canada to maintain closer contact.

Unfortunately, there appears to be very little put into general publication about the fund and therefore it has only a nebulous existence in many fan's minds, and needs clarification.

...CUFF is administered by the previous winner. The Fund's Administrator is obliged to raise funds to pay for an elected fan to travel from one side of the country to the other to:

- meet and visit with fellow fans,

- attend any convention(s), club meetings and events during the visit time period, within reasonable travel range, (This is new, but a darn good idea!)

- and promote closer ties between Fannish communities.

.....since CUFF is still in its infancy, and has a smaller financial base than its sister funds, it does not run an election until funds have reached a reasonable quantity.... it usually takes a couple of years to build up the fund again to such a point.

It's not for lack of trying! Linda addresses the issue of getting the message out:

Clubzines and Independent Fanzines can help the process by publicizing the existence of CUFF, encouraging the fans in their area to run for CUFF when it is announced, both by nominating, contacting fans in other areas and encouraging their Fannish contacts to vote, and by publishing and promoting circulation of the voting ballot.

Clubs and conventions and yes, individuals, can help by fund-raising and making donations to the fund. Hold Turkey readings...Have a fudge or home-made cookie sale. Ask local book stores for the donation of posters, books or old display goods, and auction them off. Ask members to purchase draw tickets where half the money goes to the winner, the other half to CUFF...

The clubzines and Fanzines, clubs and conventions have been alerted to the vital role they play in disseminating the information to the general Fannish community. It is my fervent hope that this first draft of information will reignite the interest of Fans and we will have a Phoenix-like rising of CUFF from the ashes of apathy.

To which I can but applaud. And hope. Then Linda writes: "I am also taking a NEW step and providing a current finances report." In fact Runte had printed one in his trip report. Nevertheless, the figures are interesting, because they indicate the CUFF fund itself was slowly getting healthy indeed:

- Received: \$200.00 from the previous Administrator Paul Valcour.

- Raised: \$593.86 from assorted auctions and donations.
- Latest Donation: \$188.70 from the CONADIAN Fanzine Lounge (courtesy of Lloyd Penney).
- Current total: \$982.56 (taking into account banking fees and interest).

Then Linda gets down to the nitty gritty of eligibility and procedure:

It is my considered opinion that CUFF nominees should be put forward for "recent Fan activities", perhaps within 2 or 3 years of the nomination announcement.

I agree with this, as far as accepting those who are not lately active but still renowned for recent activity. I would amend the above to read "recent Fanzine activities", however.

Each Fan Nominee is expected to provide a brief synopsis of why they are running, and Supporting Nominators must be: three each from the East and West Fannish communities, preferably listing their most recent Fannish resume, to assist the Administrator in overseeing the proper voting ballot.

Nominees and Nominators should provide their mailing addresses and contact phone numbers to the administrator.

I agree with all of the above.

IF we incorporate a voter fee into CUFF of possibly up to \$5 this may or may not deter voters, but it would certainly put the Fund into a better state and more likely to be able to afford an ANNUAL balloting. Even if only 50 people voted at \$5, that would be \$250 to push start the next year!

Yes, a nifty idea, but... \$5 may be a trifle high. \$2 seems low. \$3 feels awkward somehow. \$4 might be about right. I need to make a decision soon!

Linda concludes by writing:

I would like to be able to get input in time to publish a nomination call in JULY 1995, for 1996 Convention, so that possible nominees will have ample time to put together their nomination form and the six supporting nominators, and get the vote finalized in time to permit a reasonable arrangement of travel, visit and return timings for the winner.

This latter point is important. Being declared the CUFF winner means you have to, in effect, prepare for a mini-vacation which may or may not tie in with your previous vacation plans, time off from work, etc. Having plenty of preparation time is vital!

THE 1995/1996 CUFF CAMPAIGN:

The targeted convention was ConVersion XIII/Convention 16 to be held in Calgary July 19-21, 1996. And for the fourth time in a row, Linda Ross-Mansfield was CUFF Fund Administrator in the West.

The following note appeared by John Mansfield in the Sep/Oct '95 issue of ConTRACT:

Garth Spencer has been contacted by Joyce Scrivner, who is putting together a display of CUFF, TAFF, GUFF, etc. This display, if ready, will be previewed at LACON III, Labour Day, 1996. Garth has contacted all the CUFF winners and is helping as much as he can.

Hmmm, this sounds like a good idea for Conventions.... hmm...

John then went on to comment: *"The current CUFF Administrator is pleased that her comments on CUFF have been reprinted in several places. Yet, she has only received one response asking for the fund to continue... Does this mean it should die? Is anyone concerned about the fund at all?"*

The answer was: maybe.

The Jan/Feb '96 issue of ConTRACT contained two reminders about CUFF nominations; one from John: *"It's 1996 and again we look forward to seeing if CUFF can find a candidate (after three years of trying to get anyone!)..."*

And one from Linda: *"Nominations are now open to every fan across Canada to attend the 1996 Convention in Calgary..."* She explained the rules of eligibility (as per her guide) and set the nomination deadline as March 1st, 1996. The actual voting deadline was to be May 31st, 1996. She also noted that *"If possible, a report on the trip should be published in a Fanzine."*

I'd like to make that a mandatory condition of winning, though I suppose that's not possible in the practical sense. Still, I'm thinking of offering the BCSFA/WCSFA archive as a permanent repository for all trip reports, and the BCSFA Press as the publisher of such (expenses to be born by the author, however). Hmm, possibilities...

The response to the Mansfield's pleas, as so often happens in Fannish circles, was totally bizarre. Hence Linda's desperation as expressed in the May/Jun '96 issue of ConTRACT:

Folks, you are reading one frustrated puppy's lamentation here.

This year, despite hoping that it was just a tardy post office's efforts, and waiting for nonexistent nomination sponsor's mail to arrive, neither of the two nominees received the six sponsors required by the rules.... I am going to leave it up to the Fans of Canada to make a final decision here. The vote will be as follows: Voters may EITHER choose one of the two partial nominees to go to Calgary, OR vote to fold the fund and I will disburse funds equally between the CURRENTLY EXISTING GENERAL SF CONVENTIONS...

WARP (V.10, Aug 1996) reported the situation as follows:

"Canadian Fannish institutions never die, they just fade away, and it looks like the Canadian Unity Fan Fund (CUFF) may do just that.... Interest in and support for the CUFF has been lukewarm, at best, in recent years. Neither of the two nominees this year received the necessary six sponsors required by CUFF's rules and the current Administrator, Linda Ross-Mansfield, who has doggedly stumped for the cause, now appears ready to pack it in. CUFF could well be history by year's end..."

Make or break time, Fen. The fate of CUFF hung in the balance, slowly stirred about by waves of Fannish apathy and inertia. A critical point in time indeed!

The two candidates were Brian Davies and Rene Walling.

Brian Davies was described as: *"In Fandom since 1978, Brian is currently Chair of the Fredericton Science Fiction Society, and Treasurer of inCONsequential. He has also attended and volunteered at innumerable conventions in both the Maritimes and Toronto areas, and been a panelist at some cons. Brian publishes, edits and writes for FASTFORWARD, the FSFS Newsletter, and is well known in his support of, and work on, Fanac in his area."*

Rene Walling of Montreal was described as: *"Having been involved with Con*Cept since 1992, Rene has been in charge of Consuite, Registration, Program Book Translation, through the years, moving up to Vice-Chair in 1995 and Chair in 1996. As part of the Montreal Smoked Meat Parties, and Con*Cept, Rene has been promoting Canadian Cons at various US cons, and has worked on joint mailings and program book ad exchanges with cons."*

No list of nominators was provided. The third choice on the Ballot was to "Fold the Fund." Ballot receipt deadline was set for June 15th, 1996.

1996 -- THE FOURTH LEGIT CUFF WINNER BY VOTE:

The following announcement appeared in ConTRACT V.8#4 (Jul/Aug 1996): *"CUFF Administrator Linda Ross-Mansfield, after three years of trying, is pleased to announce that the 1996 CUFF winner is Rene Walling of Montreal.... As CUFF winner Rene will be attending the 1996 Convention in Calgary. He will also take over the duty as Administrator of the CUFF awards."*

I'll bet Linda was pleased! CUFF must have begun to seem like the proverbial albatross around the neck by this time. At last she had someone to pass the dead bird on to....

1996 -- RENE WALLING AT CONVERSION XIII/CANVENTION 16:

I will be sending this special CUFF edition of SPACE CADET to Rene in the hope that he will provide extensive details of his trip. If I remember correctly a recent phone conversation of ours, he mentioned that he was only able to raise 50 cents (via donation cup) at the Convention business meeting. Apparently, after years of being submerged beneath a tidal wave of Fannish apathy, CUFF was now regarded as a bit of a joke, even by, or maybe especially by, the Convention actifans. Sad, if true. Got to do something about that, by Ghu!

At Convention 16 the fan achievement awards given out at the CSFFA ceremony were:

- Fan Achievement (Organizational): to Jean-Louis Trudel for SFSF Boreal and Prix Boreal.
- Fan Achievement (Fanzine): to Karl Johanson and John W. Herbert for UNDER THE OZONE HOLE (their fourth Aurora in a row! Fantastic! And well deserved).
- Fan Achievement (Other): to Larry Stewart, listed as "Entertainer". (I believe this was for his entertaining contribution to numerous Eastern conventions, in his role of MC and such.)

THE 1996/1997 CUFF CAMPAIGN:

I have no idea how this was conducted. Rene mentioned he had done a "media blitz" but to no avail. As his deadline approached, he sought assistance from Cath Jackel in Edmonton, who immediately began phoning around, looking for people who might be willing to run.

On Wednesday, July 30th 1997, Cath phoned me and asked if I'd like to be nominated. I thought about it for a moment, decided I wasn't well enough known in CanFandom to stand a chance of winning, but might as well run to show support for the cause, so I said, "Sure. Why not?"

"Good", Cath replied. "I'll round up some nominators."

Hmmm, I thought. This could take a while.

Only two days later, Friday August 1st, Cath phoned back to say she'd lined up the required number of nominators. From Western Canada: herself (Aurora winner), Steve Forty (former BCSFazine Editor), and Karl Johanson (Co-Editor of UNDER THE OZONE HOLE). From Eastern Canada: Benoit Girard (Editor of THE FROZEN FROG), Tommy Ferguson (Irish Fanzine Fan then resident in Toronto, Editor of TASH), and Lloyd & Yvonne Penney (Aurora-winning actifans).

I was impressed. Still didn't think I could win though. Whoever was going to run against me was probably a SMOF or at least someone more active and better known than I, or so I assumed.

1997 -- THE THIRD LEGIT CUFF WINNER BY FIAT (SORT OF):

I was totally discombobulated and all gibbled up when CUFF Administrator Rene Walling of Montreal phoned me on Sunday August 3rd to tell me I had won by default as no one else had slipped under the deadline for nominations. (Must have been circa the day before, Sat Aug 2nd?) Man! Talk about efficiency! A 5 day campaign/election! Must be some kind of record.

Now I know why dictators are so fond of single candidate elections. They're so stress free. A nice, pleasant, relaxing way to win, I tell you.

Many thanks to my nominators, and especially to Cath Jackel, for thinking of me as a likely victim. (How many hundred fans did you phone before I was first to say yes? Don't tell me, I don't want to know!)

'Winning' CUFF was certainly a shot in the arm for me. Got me all excited.

1997 -- THE SECOND OFFICIAL CUFF TRIP REPORT:

This not written yet. But it will appear in the next issue of SPACE CADET (#10) hopefully by mid-summer if not earlier. I promise! And of course it will be wittily entertaining, wryly amusing, etc., etc. (More promises!)

SOURCES:

I didn't have room to list them here on first publication, but now print them in full. I consulted 58 articles & notices in back issues of 17 different Titles of Canadian Fanzines. I couldn't have done it were it not for the fact I am the 'Anti-Archivist' of the BCSFA/WCSFA archives. Without the archive, this history could not be written.

Now you know why CanFandom NEEDS archives. BCSFAns can be proud their archive plays such an active role in preserving and promoting CanFandom's heritage.

SOURCE MATERIAL: (All courtesy of BCSFA/WCSFA Archives)

BCSFAZINE

#258, Nov 1994. Editor: R. Graeme Cameron, Vancouver.
- LoC by Lloyd Penney, pg 20.

THE CANADIAN SF & FANTASY AWARDS

by Garth Spencer, Email version, July 1996 (A previous version serialized in OPUNTIA ##13-16 May 1993 - Jan 1994, Editor: Dale Speirs. Calgary.)
- 'I shamelessly mined this for tons of CUFF stuff' - Graeme.

CANADIAN UNITY FAN FUND

- 1987 Nomination Form, by Michael Wallis.

CANADIAN UNITY FAN FUND

Info sheet, Mar 1995, by Linda Ross-Mansfield. Winnipeg. (Distributed with ConTRACT Vol 7.#2, Mar/Apr 1995.)
- "Is There A Place For CUFF?" by L. Ross-Mansfield, pg 1.
- "Nominations Required!" by L. Ross-Mansfield, pg 2.
- "Anomaly Creates Problem" by L. Ross-Mansfield, pg 2.

CASPERAPA

#4, November, 1987. Editor: Fran Skene. Burnaby, BC.
- "Canadian Unity Fan Fund" by Fran Skene.

#5, Feb 1988.
- Assorted LoCs, by Mike Glicksohn pg 3, Robert Runte pg 4, Garth Spencer pg 5, Steve Pikov pg 11.

#6, April 1988.
- "News" by Fran Skene, pg 2.
- Assorted LoCs, by Michael Skeet pg 4, by Bryan Q. Morlidge pg 5, by Lloyd Penney pg 7, & comments by Fran Skene pg 7.

ConTRACT

#V4.4, Jul/Aug 1992. Editor: John Mansfield. Winnipeg.

- "Wilfcon 8/Convention 12', by John Mansfield, pg 5.

#V4.6, Nov/Dec 1992.

- "Canadian Unity Fan Fund", by Linda Ross Mansfield, pg 7.

#V5.1, Jan/Feb 1993.

- "CUFF Fund Status", by Linda Ross-Mansfield, pg 6.

#V5.3, May/Jun 1993.

- "Wolfcon 6/Convention 13", by John Mansfield, pg 5.

#V6.1, Jan/Feb 1994.

- "The CUFF Ballot", by Linda Ross-Mansfield, pg 6.

#V.6.4, Jul/Aug 1994.

- "CUFF", by Linda Ross-Mansfield (or John?), pg4.

#V7.3, May/Jun 1995.

- "CUFF Part 2", by Linda Ross-Mansfield.

#V7.4, Jul/Aug 1995.

- "The Canadian Unity Fan Fund" by Linda Ross-Mansfield, pg 9.

#V7.5, Sep/Oct 1995.

- "CUFF Goes Worldwide" by John Mansfield, pg 3.

#V8.1, Jan/Feb 1996.

- "CUFF & Aurora Awards" by John Mansfield, pg 1.

- "CUFF" by Linda Ross-Mansfield, pg 2.

#V8.3, May/Jun 1996.

- "Canadian Unity Fan Fund Report" by L. Ross-Mansfield, pg 1.

- "Canadian Unity Fan Fund Ballot" by L. Ross- Mansfield, pg 2.

#V8.4, Jul/Aug 1996.

- "CUFF Winner" by John Mansfield, pg 1.

CUFF-LINK

#1, July 1988. Editor: Taral Wayne. Willowdale, Ont. (A rider with MLR #7, Michael Skeet: Editor)

#2, Nov 1988. (A rider with MLR #9?)

#3, Mar 1989. (A rider with MLR #10).

DNQ

#32, Oct 1981. Editor: Taral Wayne. Willowdale, Ont.

- "Can Faan Ban" by Gerald Boyko & Taral Wayne, pg 6.

I'M NOT BORING YOU AM I?

#7, 1989. Editor: Robert Runte. Edmonton.

- Special Cuff Report Issue: Convention 9 (Pinecone II) report pg 11 , Cuff speech pg 14, all by R. Runte.

LONG DISTANCE VOYEUR

#1, Dec 1990. Editor: Paul Valcour. Nepean.

- "Incident in Northern Ontario" by P. Valcour, pg 4.
- "Con-Version VII/Convention 10" by P.V., pg 5.
- "1990 Canadian Fan Fund" by P.V., pg 6.
- "1991 CUFF" by P.V., pg 6.
- "A Midsummer's Night in Edmonton" by P.V., pg 7.
- "Last Comments About the 1991 CUFF" by P.V., pg 7.

THE MAPLE LEAF RAG

#23, May 1986. Editor: Garth Spencer. Victoria.

- "Canadian Unity Fan Fund Re-Established" by Garth Spencer, pg 8.

MLR

#1, Aug/Sept 1987. Editor: Michael Skeet. Unionville, Ont.

- "Fund-amental trouble" by Michael Skeet, pg 2.

#8, Sep/Oct 1988.

- "CUFF drawn into BC feud" by Michael Skeet, pg 2.
- LoC by Joe Casey, pg 7.
- "A gram of common sense or a kilo of feud?" by M. Skeet, pg 8

#11, Apr 1989.

- "Forty & Runte run for CUFF" by Michael Skeet, pg 1.

#12, May/June 1989.

- LoC by Mike Glicksohn, pg 8.

#13, Jul/Sept 1989.

- "Go East, young man" by Michael Skeet, pg 1.
- "Off The CUFF, a True History of the Fund" by Taral, pg 4.

NEW CANADIAN FANDOM

V1.#2/3, Jun-Sept 1981. Editor: Robert Runte. Publisher: Michael Hall. Edmonton.

- "Canadian Unity Fan Fund Launched" pg 3.
- "Torque 2" by Michael Hall, pg 7.

OSFS STATEMENT

#159, Sep 1990. Editor: Lionel Wagner. Ottawa.
- "1990 Canadian Unity Fan Fund Report" by Robert Runte, pg 8.

#166, April 1991.
- "Fire Burn and Cauldron Bubble" by Duncan McGregor, pg 5.

#176, Feb 1992.
- "CUFF '92", Back cover.

#177, Mar 1992.
- "1992 CUFF Ballot" by Paul Valcour, insert.
- "Prez Release - CUFF" by Beulah Wadsworth, pg 3.

#181, Jul 1992.
- "A Tale of Two Conventions" by Joe Casey, pg 10.

TORUS

#7, April 1990. Editor: The Kamikaze Editorial Collective: Lloyd Penney, Keith Soltys, Nancy Soltys.
- Editorial by Keith Soltys, pg 2.

WARP

#V4.2, April 1990. Editor: Keith Braithwaite. Montreal.
- 'CUFF 1990 Ballot' pg 18.

#10.3, August 1996.
- 'CUFF Fading Away' pg 23.

XENOPHILE

#10, 1991. Editor: Ron Currie. Calgary.
- Editorial, pg 2.
- The 1991 Canadian Unity Fan Fund (CUFF), pg 5.