

## UP THE TUBE?

by Stan G. Hyde

Up the Tube (or Up the Tubes, as it became known in its second issue) was the first SFAV-produced clubzine. The first issue appeared in June of 1978, and a bit<sup>2</sup> of "prehistory" is in order, if only to understand the origin of the name.

The first attempt to create a clubzine occurred when the founding members of SFAV were still in high school and called themselves NOVA. Among other things, that never-published zine was to have featured the adventures of a superhero named THE WENDIGO. The first page of comic art for that strip, as well as a character sketch, were completed. Several other pieces of art were completed, including a sketch of three happy sea monsters which later became the cover of Up the Tube #1, and several early SFAV membership posters, drawn by David Ross. A piece on Torcon 2, the 1973 World SF Con, written by sports-writer-to-be Murray Greig, later appeared in a Victoria paper, but was originally scheduled for that fanzine.

By 1975, the original version of SFAV had formed and, in their desperate search to discover what a science fiction club was supposed to do, the fanzine was again suggested as a way of giving the club direction. This time there was a title, Incredulous Tales, and the cover was prepared again, a stunning black and white illustration of an astronaut about to be devoured by a bulgy-eyed BEM. The editors of that clubzine were to have been Pattie Whitehouse and Steve Jackson. Un-

fortunately, production stopped once printing costs were discovered. (The cover, by the way, was by John Newberry, the<sup>2</sup> original owner of Island Fantasy.)

By this time, two attempts had gone down the tubes, so to speak. In 1978, after four years of university, my wife and I decided to take a year off and remain in Victoria. As it happened, a group of active fans had joined the club in the<sup>2</sup> meantime; among them were Gary Harper, Dixie Sackett, Garth Spencer, Paul Fryer, David Thomson, Paul Delany and Ellen Battle. As well, long-time members of the club like Lynne Fonseca, Linda Thompson, Geoffrey Edwards, and myself were anxious to do more than just get together for movies, cons, and meetings. A little identity was needed. In short, the time was ripe for a fanzine. As well, I had access to a Xerox machine for artwork, and Dixie Sackett owned a mimeograph machine.

The club decided on a name: Up the Tubes, in reference to two previous attempts that had gone down the tubes.

Issue one featured an editorial by me, poetry by Gary Harper and Anne Cave, an article on "Farming the High Frontier" by Katie Cordingley (who was in Agricultural Sciences at UBC), a story by David Thomson, a humorous contribution by Zeno Woloszczak, an article on alien races in the fiction of Andre Norton by David Thomson, a series of book reviews by yours truly, and back-cover art by Martin Rayner. (There was some incidental interior art, again by yours truly, under the pseudonym "Clyde."). Issue two, for July-August, featured cover and interior illustrations by Martin Rayner, and contributions by

Gary Harper, Dixie Sackett, Garth Spencer, David Thomson, myself, and poetry by Martin Raynor.

That was it. Though I could have sworn that there were four issues, there were only two. (It just seemed like four to the editor.)

Though its print history wasn't long,<sup>2</sup> Up the Tubes did serve as a catalyst for what was to come. From the Ashes and Phoenix got their symbolic names in exactly the same way Up the Tubes got its. Looking over the contents page of Up the Tubes, the future editors of the SFAV clubzines are well represented: Gary Harper, David Thomson, and Garth Spencer; from the ashes of the first clubzine, the future clubzines<sup>2</sup> would rise.

That period of 1978-79 was an important one for SFAV because the club stopped being complacent. The club began actively searching out new members and began questioning the reason for its existence. Future fanzine editors would start trading with

other clubs, thus opening up all-important lines of communication with the rest of the fan network across the country.

It's an important process for, as far as I'm concerned, the reason for the existence of fandom is to open up lines of communication creating a forum for the exchange of ideas and establishing a medium through which people, perhaps separated<sup>2</sup> by thousands of miles physically, can become close friends.

I'm happy to have played a small part in setting the tone of SFAV's zines, which in the capable hands of editors like Gary Harper, Paul Delany, David Thomson and Garth Spencer, have developed into some of the best clubzines around.