

by R. Graeme Cameron

*"grossly egocentric personal memoirs"* -- Victor M. Gonzalez, Apparatchik #56

## ON REACTION TO FHAPA #1:

The above quote is part of a full page review of FHAPA #1 by V.M. Gonzalez titled: "HOW MANY TREES HAD TO DIE?" It's fair to say he didn't much like #1, calling it "*one of the more schizophrenic apas in existence.*" And so it is. No wonder. FHAPA is primarily a vehicle for sharing information between Fhistorians about anything to do with Fan history. To my mind that includes everything from 'what to archive' to 'how to archive', from personal anecdotes to lists of raw info, and even archivist self-parody. All of that was present in FHAPA #1.

Granted, not all of it was of interest to the general fan reader. When I was 'God-Editor' of BCSFAzine (for six years...seemed more like six centuries...) I tried to get my contributors to bear in mind that even if the reader is not interested in what they write about, the reader should find their writing worth reading. For example, if they wrote a game review, make it interesting for non-gamers to read. Or to put it in Fhapan terms, say a list of zines published in the 1940's, throw in a few paragraphs on the best and the worst and why, in order to retain reader interest. I think Fhapa #1 was a brave first effort, all of us feeling our way, but in the issues to come we should always remember we are not only writing for each other, but for a 'general readership' as well. It never hurts to entertain.

Though to be fair to FHAPA, I think Victor (being a working journalist) was anticipating a collection of finished fan-history essays, something on the order of Harry Warner Jr's work, when in fact we're nothing more than an ongoing exchange of info and ideas. Mind you, as time goes by, I hope such essays will appear.

Which brings me back to the line quoted above: "*grossly egocentric personal memoirs.*" Victor doesn't actually name me, but I think in

context it's clear I'm the guilty party. I hope so. I'm rather proud of it, and want to place it on the cover of each issue of FC.

In #58 of APPARATCHIK, V.M.G also makes the comment — in reference to FHAPA. and probably to me: "*Minutia is not history.*"

Yes, I agree.

And at this point I would refer Victor to the title of this zine: THE FANTIQUARIAN CHRONICLER. I consider myself an antiquarian, not a historian. So what's the difference? Think of the Romans. In their day proper historians were people like Livy or Tacitus, men who wrote virtual epics centred on grand themes: in Livy's case, the glory of Rome: in the case of Tacitus, the decline of Rome's glory. In both, mere facts were never allowed to stand in the way of moral lessons to be imparted. Livy, for instance, did no original research, relying entirely on already published sources, and used them very selectively. For example, he read a memoir by an officer who served under Hannibal, but as it consisted of nothing but "barn yard anecdotes" illustrating Hannibal's sense of humour, chose not to make use of it. More's the pity.

Antiquarians, on the other hand, ruthlessly competed in researching obscure temple archives and the like, searching out every scrap of surviving information on the history of, say, their home town. EVERY ancient city had it's antiquarians. Today many a modern historian would willingly trade a historian like Livy (with his made-up speeches, poorly reported battles and bald propaganda) for the works of the antiquarians which were chock full of original source material and raw information. Alas, only the 'great' historians have survived.

Now, I am not so absurd as to suggest that my antiquarian writings are somehow superior to proper history. I AM stating that I am quite consciously

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NOT writing history. I am simply gathering and collating as much surviving information on the early history of BCSFA as I can find and getting it down on paper, throwing in personal anecdotes whenever I was a witness or a participant, in the hope that someone someday will use this mass of material to compose a coherent thematic history in some way related to what actually happened. What I'm doing is saving them the trouble of amassing the basic research material. Being club archivist makes the task relatively easy. Of course, there's a lot more I could do, like interview people who were there, but as I find the most common comments are "I don't remember" or "Did I say that?" most interviews produce generalities at best. In consequence I tend to limit myself to the written record. I have a specific, very limited goal, and am trying to live up to it. So I wish people would stop beating me over the head with "*You're nothing but a bloated pufferfish of a historian.*" I know that already! It's because I'm NOT a historian, I'm an antiquarian! So there!! Nyahh nan nah....

After all, only an insane loonie would write a day-by-day event-by-event HISTORY of an SF club, but I'm writing a chronicle, so my method makes sense. A HISTORY attempts to interpret, make judgements, whereas all I'm doing is listing events; I don't even TRY to look at the overall picture. I'm assembling the framework, the canvas, and the paint; someone else can paint the portrait.

And if you think all of the above is just a load of cod's wallop, all I can suggest is: read my zine the way I read EVERYTHING, ie. as fast as possible, skimming over the dull crud in order to find the good bits (if any).

And now, a further sampling of the wit and wisdom of the bloated pufferfish.....

### INTRODUCTION:

Having described "V-Con 1" in FHAPA #1, the obvious thing to do — given my intention to write the history of V-Cons for FHAPA — is to

describe the second "V-Con" which had P.K. Dick as GoH. However, I am still gathering material and consequently will put off that article till FHAPA #3. In the meantime, I thought I'd have some fun by excerpting some of the neat and nifty stuff I found in the BCSFA archives when I recently became the new archivist for the club.

### A BRIEF SUMMARY OF F. C. #1:

- In the fall of 1968 University of British Columbia students founded an on-campus SF club called "UBC SFFEN".

- On the 30th of January 1970 the UBC SFFEN created an off-campus SF club called the "B.C. SF Association" or "BCSFA".

- In April of 1971 both the UBC SFFEN and BCSFA (along with the Simon Fraser University SF club "SF3") sponsored THE VANCOUVER SF CONVENTION (later called V-Con 1).

### SOME BACKTRACKING:

#### 1968/1969 ACADEMIC YEAR:

Among the five thousand-plus zines in the BCSFA archives are back copies of BCAPA, issues #10 (Feb 1979), #11 (March 1979) & #12 (April 1979) featuring the article "IN THE FEN COUNTRY" by Ed Beauregard, covering the history of the UBC SFFEN from 1968 to the founding of BCSFA in 1970. In addition, BCAPA #14 (June 1979) includes a short article by Mike Bailey on the origins of the UBC SFFEN. Both Mike and Ed attended the very first meeting of that club.

From Mike Bailey I learn that the club evolved from an SF library maintained by a bunch of UBC students who worked part time in the University computer centre. Claire Toynbee took the next step and put a notice in the student newspaper "The Ubysey" to promote a meeting (at Noon, October 9th, 1968 in Math 104) to establish a club. About 25 people attended, including Claire Toynbee, Maynard

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Hogg, Brent MacLean, Mike Bailey, Ed Beauregard & Daniel Say.

Ed Beauregard remembers the meeting as rather dull and the only activity the new club offered was a lending library operating out of locker 16 in the Student Union building (it was open only two afternoons a week). However, membership was just 1 or 2 dollars and 5 books. As Ed put it: *"At the next meeting I coughed up the \$1 plus the five worst books culled from my collection."*

The second meeting was held October 29th, 1968, in Buchanan 222. At this time Maynard Hogg was elected Chairman, Claire Toynbee Librarian, and Mike Bailey Publications Officer because he actually knew something about fanzines. However, the club published nothing this year, not even a newsletter (so my speculation last issue that Mike Bailey, being Pub Officer, must have published something, is incorrect. As far as genuine history is concerned, you cannot use logic to fill in the blanks!) Apart from a few more meetings, nothing much happened. For one thing, the club lacked an office and, as Mike Bailey put it: *"It neither received nor published any fanzines and had no contact with fandom at large. Most importantly, no personal bonds were welded among club members and consequently the club was weak."*

### 1969/1970 ACADEMIC YEAR:

The first meeting was held 16th September 1969. It was decided to man a booth at the UBC Clubs Day and recruit like mad. Last issue I wrote: *"This academic year witnessed an incredible spurt in the activities of the club. For one thing, membership exploded. At the 1969 Clubs Day alone, 40 to 50 members were recruited, primarily due to the energetic efforts of Daniel Say."* This is only partially right. 40 to 50 names and addresses of interested parties were taken, but only some of them eventually joined, not all. One of them was Norma Hele, whom Ed later married. I wrote that Ed joined at this time, but I was a year off. Ed joined in 1968 as above. Ah, writing history, a matter of making corrections with

each and every draft...

On either 7th or 17th of October 1969 the club's second executive was elected: Maynard Hogg as Chairman, Norma Hele as Secretary/Treasurer, Christina Moore as Librarian, Nadir Mirhardy as Public Relations Officer and Ed Beauregard as Publications Officer.

In Mid October the club discovered that the University AMS was going to grant them use of room SUB 216F as an office. This inspired Ed to publish Vol. 1, #1 of the UBC SFFEN Newsletter, dated October 1969, with a banner headline reading: "GLORIOUS NEWS FROM THE BUREAUCRATIC FRONT!" In it he announced the acquisition of the office and encouraged members to bring their friends.

During November 1969, the office now available, club activity picked up. For one thing, members thought it would be wonderful to have the University pay for Isaac Asimov to come and lecture. The club contacted the AMS Speakers Committee and they wrote to Asimov. He wrote back: *"I am the last person left in our jetset society who absolutely refuses to use airplanes. Consequently I don't travel long distances and will probably never see British Columbia."*

Vol. 1 #2 of the newsletter was published in November. Again Ed pleaded for members to encourage friends to join. He also advocated showing a film to raise funds sufficient to produce a fanzine, but what with the spectre of impending Christmas exams, this was put off till January of 1970. Meanwhile the club did find enough energy to apply to Canada Council for a grant paying the expenses of four people to travel to Heicon, the 1970 Worldcon. In spite of, or perhaps because of, the many hilarious reasons put on the application form, the request was turned down.

Vol. 2 #1 of the Newsletter was printed in January of 1970. In it Ed announced a new office for the club, SUB 216B, which was smaller, but better

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located. It was hoped that this would help bring in more members (the club membership not having reached 50 as yet).

In his account Ed then goes on to describe the film showing which lead to the emergency birth of BCSFA and the publication (in March 1970) of the oneshot publication "Stage One" (as described last issue of FHAPA). He then writes: *"This high point of my tale is perhaps the best place to stop. Next month, sadly, it is all downhill as conflict and confrontation come to dominate UBC SFFEN."*

Alas, a quick search through subsequent issues of BCAPA indicate that Ed Beauregard never continued "IN THE FEN COUNTRY." So naturally I was extremely delighted when I found the following document in the BCSFA Archive:

### 1969—1970 YEAR END REPORT BY DANIEL SAY:

Unfortunately, it was indeed written by Daniel Say, which means that it is a unique and highly individual document. By this I mean that a straight-forward accounting of events is not what Say had in mind.

For instance, in reference to actual events in the course of the year, Daniel has only this to say: *"As you were here most of last year, you know most of what happened."* Undoubtedly this was true for the readership at the time, but for a contemporary historian-wannabee like myself, this minimalist approach is extremely frustrating!

The rest of the 12 page document consists entirely of Daniel Say's personal recommendations to the club executive. It is to be born in mind that Daniel was intensely energetic, both physically and mentally, and that sarcasm was but one of many rapier-like weapons his wit employed. Here are some of his suggestions:

*"RECOMMENDATION: That the General Chairman keep a most secret and personal file on*

*the members so that we can get the most of their power relationships and knowledge."*

*"RECOMMENDATION: That we take over and/or change the Summer Session into the Summer Science Fiction Society."* (Beside this someone drew a clenched fist and the words "All power to SF Fen!")

*"RECOMMENDATION: How about we sign up some honorary members? Say people of stature in the SF world, like Isaac Asimov, Raquel Welch, and others?"*

*"RECOMMENDATION: That the Vice-Chairman be made responsible for the complete takeover of the UCC (University Clubs Committee) and assist in the takeover of the AMS (Alma Mater Society)."*

*"RECOMMENDATION: That the Vice-Chairman try to get as many of our members as possible onto the University Speakers Committee, the Special Events Committee and academic activities as possible with the purpose of making UBC one of the major ports of call of the SF writer and for the purpose of holding a Worldcon (or a con with so many great stars of SF that it could be called the GREATESTCON)."*

*"RECOMMENDATION: An Annual SF film festival, with lots of publicity among the psuedo-sophisticates and therefore movie-symbolist members of the press..."*

*"RECOMMENDATION: That the Secretary act as archivist and keep a record of events and what happened, collect all accounts from the press and other fanzines and mentions on radio and TV about us and form an archives with lists of members and as many group photos as possible. These should be stored in yearly vaults and with a list of contents on the outside of the steel box..."*

*"RECOMMENDATION: The President should be able to recognize on sight every member*

of *UBC SFFEN*.” (In ink beside this is the note: “I hereby resign, Pres.”)

“*RECOMMENDATION: The Secretary should write letters to the editors of such rags as ‘The Ubssey’ complaining about the lack of SF in the paper, complaining that they have very little SF, complaining that they don’t have enough SF, complaining that they should devote a whole issue to SF, complaining that they should change their name to the ‘SF FEN WEEKLY NEWSLETTER’.*” (He also suggests sending the papers “*distorted pictures of small lizards crushing the life out of dolls....*” )

“*RECOMMENDATION: That the Librarian and a team of musclemen go to the domiciles of delinquent borrowers to get the books back and make sure the borrower regrets owing any books to the library and will never do it again.*”

“*RECOMMENDATION: That as Vancouver will become the world centre of SF.....*”

And concludes with: “*Good luck. You will need it.*”

To be fair, there are lots of practical suggestions, but the above are samples of Say’s style of humour which I suspect he was employing to tweak fellow members over various grandiose plans being bandied about. That his humour was, if anything, understated is shown by the plans drawn up the following year:

#### 1970/1971 ACADEMIC YEAR:

As noted last issue I have very little info on UBC SFFEN for this time period, and so concentrated on describing my involvement with BCSFA and the first convention (held April 1971). However, there are several documents in the BCSFA archive which throw light on plans for a superduper convention so huge and comprehensive (at least in terms of Guests of Honour) as to defy belief.

First, evidently another try was made at

getting Isaac Asimov to come out. His response, dated 2 November 1970, was written to Mr. John Thomson of the Science Undergraduate Society, UBC:

“*Dear Mr. Thomson, I’m afraid it’s worse than not taking planes. To go to B.C. and back by train would cost me ten days away from my typewriter which I cannot afford and would inflict on me a long boring train ride each way (I’m afraid I hate travelling) which I could not endure. I’m afraid I shall never see the Pacific Ocean. Please forgive me. Yours, Isaac Asimov.*”

Somewhat odd, in that, while in the army, he sailed to Hawaii by troop ship and, upon discharge, was flown back to the US mainland. So unless he kept his eyes closed, he must have already seen the Pacific! I guess he was just trying to elicit a little sympathy. If so, it didn’t work, for he was still under active consideration by the club when the following document was delivered to the UBC Special Events Committee on 5 January, 1971:

#### PLANS FOR A SCIENCE FICTION FESTIVAL:

(Read this proposal very carefully and see if it doesn’t take your breath away. Ambitious doesn’t even begin to describe it! And as far as I can tell, unlike Daniel Say’s yearend report, this proposal was dead serious.)

“*FILM FESTIVAL: Continuous films in the SUB auditorium with series and individual tickets being sold. The theatre would be cleared between showings. Because of problems with the distributors of these films they would rent for about \$100 each and to this must be added the cost of projectionist facilities. Experimental and short science fiction films will be shown also. These would be shown in the old auditorium. If Ed Emshwiller comes he will bring many of these including his own.*”

“*TALKS BY AUTHORS:*”

“*Topic: Science Fiction; what was it, what is*

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*it, and what will it be. Speakers to be experts in the history of SF as well as being authors. Suggested speakers are Judith Merril and Harlan Ellison."*

*"Round table discussion on the present state of Science Fiction and what the trends in it are. Suggested participants; Robert Heinlein, Isaac Asimov, and Poul Anderson as well as any others willing to participate."*

*"Fritz Leiber and Jack Vance talk on the Sword and Sorcery side of modern Fantasy. Poul Anderson stages one of his world famous jousts."*

*"Local Paul Green gives a talk on Cycles in SF with some readings of SF prose and poetry."*

*"John W. Campbell Jr. talks on the History of Astounding and its effect on the market."*

*"Robert A. Heinlein and Harlan Ellison give illustrated talks on prediction and the future of SF."*

*"Keynote address by Ursula K. LeGuin and Frank Herbert on SF and today's society."*

*"Dinner, (with recipes from the SCIENCE FICTION COOKBOOK edited by Ann McCaffrey) with short statements from all guests."*

### *"OTHER FEATURES:"*

*"Display of SF art. Artists will be present to answer questions and to sell their work."*

*"Special showing of 2001 with a discussion with Stanley Kubrick following."*

*"Auction Bloch. The fans bid for exclusive time with an author and the money going to charity."*

*"Displays from NASA on the main mall."*

*"The main library to display their extensive collection of SF magazines."*

Wow! What a lineup! If I interpret the above correctly, their projected Guest of Honour list included: Ed Emshwiller, Judith Merril, Harlan Ellison, Robert Heinlein, Isaac Asimov, Poul Anderson, Fritz Leiber, John W. Campbell Jr., Ursula K. LeGuin, Frank Herbert, Stanley Kubrick and Robert Bloch! And, as the following selection makes clear, Ted White, Frederik Pohl and Philip Jose Farmer! And who was to fund this gathering of giants? The university of course. In terms of fees and plane fares whoever drew up this document figured the above guests could be brought in for about \$3,400. In 1971 dollars. That's a lot of money. Somewhat understandably, the author of this proposal took the trouble to explain why the authors were worth it:

### *"SF AUTHORS:"*

*"We have phoned many of these and they all seem to say the same thing: they need two months notice and will come if all expenses are paid. They often want an amount of money as well as expenses and they definitely must get part in advance. They all belong to a union SFWA Science Fiction Writers of America which is cracking down on the authors who will come for next to nothing, in an attempt to upgrade the profession and stop groups getting a writer for exploitation purposes. These authors may have some arguments with each other or dislike a certain person. Care must be taken that they do not come into conflict."*

*"ISAAC ASIMOV: Anybody's first choice. Fantastic personality in his own right. Prolific writer, over 100 books.... Devised a whole series of books around the three laws of robotics.... The classic trilogy of the Galactic Empires end and attempts to save it. Is a warm, humane man with a good sense of humour.... Get him at any price.... Get him here a week early and you will have a self-made publicity machine...."*

*"JUDITH MERRIL: The den mother of SF. Burst on SF scene like a nova with a fantastic story. Never looked back.... Knows almost every good*

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*author in SF. Reads everything with the slightest bit of SF in it. Lived in Rochedale College for a time. New Canadian. Public library created a special SF branch to house her collection of 8,000 books which she donated...."*

*"TED WHITE: Author, editor. Will talk at the drop of a hat. Fastest rising young magazine editor in the world. Is attracting writers to his magazine like flies to honey. Well respected by many authors. Will come for plane fare and a lot of flattery."*

*"JOHN W. CAMPBELL JR: Editor. Was author. Started the modern branch of SF. Offensive or controversial in his philosophies. Many dislike him as a person...."*

*"FRANK HERBERT: Author of the award-winning and monumental DUNE. Proposed arctic submarine tanker in 1957. Strong mystical streak, ecologically minded, university affairs reporter...."*

*"FRED POHL: Author editor. Part of a famous SF team. Is nowadays trying to introduce SF to non-readers. Good editor and talker. Has done a lot of hotline shows...."*

*"PHILIP JOSE FARMER: Brought sex into SF. Used to write porno. Very funny novelist but has a deep concern for the world and its problems, supporter of Triple Revolution...."*

Since this magnificent convention never took place, I can only conclude that the University of B.C. Special Events Committee turned down the proposal. Pity.

I particularly like the pithy capsule descriptions of the various authors; I find them quite charming in their naivete. Whoever wrote them evidently had no idea he (or she) was making them out to be a right lot of loonies that nobody in their right mind would ever fund to speak on campus. But full marks for trying. It was a grand vision.

Fortunately Mike Bailey and Daniel Say were pushing ahead with plans for a much more modest convention. On February 11th, 1971 Daniel say wrote the following to Usula K. LeGuin:

*"We would very much like to have you as Guest of Honour at the Vancouver Science Fiction Convention held on April 9-11, 1971 at the Hotel Georgia 801 West Georgia Street."*

*"The first evening will be a socializing and getting together."*

*"The convention will start in earnest on the Saturday with an introduction of the more prominent members and then a panel discussion which we hope you would take part in. I would hope that you would also give a short talk in the afternoon on one of these suggested topics: Fantasy; My life as a mother and SF writer; What it feels like to win a Hugo and a Nebula; Sex and gender in SF; or you may suggest one yourself, whatever you wish. There will be a fan panel and a proposed multi-media presentation at other times in the day."*

*"A short film and slide show will be going on between major events. At the banquet that evening there will be several after-dinner speakers and perhaps you might want to add to their diverse ramblings. Parties will continue in the evening and this will be the end of the formal convention."*

*"We shall pay your expenses and if you want get you a babysitting for your children. The convention will be a relaxed affair and you may participate at any event you wish, but please come as our star."*

*"Please come! We want you as our first Guest of Honour at the first Vancouver Convention. Ever since the interview in November, we have had literally hundreds of people want to meet you, and now everyone seizes on your stories."*

*"Please come! A splendid time is guaranteed for all!"*

LeGuin wrote back quickly. on February

17th, 1971, confirming that she would come, along with her husband and children, providing that a prior commitment to a SFWA meeting whose date was not yet set did not stand in the way. (It didn't.) She also made it clear that her family would not attend the convention but would go sightseeing. She, on the other hand, would be willing to be on a panel, and would bring a short speech "*which if forced I will deliver. Call it Style and Fantasy, tentatively. Style in Fantasy? But not after dinner!!!*" This would become "THE CRAB NEBULA, THE PARAMETRIUM, AND TOLSTOY." (See last issue for an account of this talk.)

As for the "interview in November" Say referred to, this must have been one of many interviews with SF authors that he conducted for his SF3 Newsletter over the years. (For example, he conducted an interview with Frank Herbert at the LA Worldcon in 1972, and distributed it at V-Con 3 in 1974 when Herbert was Guest of Honour.) In other words, he and LeGuin had already met, and this contact, plus her desire to see Vancouver, not to mention the thrill of being Guest of Honour for the first time anywhere, induced her to accept.

A poster was quickly drawn up for publicity purposes. The heading read: "*Where the mountains meet the sea in a kiss..... VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Canada.*" A bit sappy, but why not? A drawing of North America with a dot to mark Vancouver's location may have been of some limited use (I'm sure most of the people around town who saw the poster already possessed some notion of where they lived....). Of particular interest to me is the notice at the bottom of the poster: "Sponsored by UBC SFFEN, SF3, and BCSFA." Confirming once again that we were the BC SF Association (and not the BC SF Society) well before the convention.

The convention and subsequent history of BCSFA up to the end of June 1971 was described in FHAPA #1. Here follow my notes on the club to the end of 1971:

### **OCTOBER 1971:**

The UBC SFFEN Newsletter #1 (for 1971/1972) came out October 24th, 1971, with the following handwritten note: "Since *the BCSFA was not active this summer we are extending your membership for another year.*" But in this new academic year UBC SFFEN was certainly active. New members were reminded "*to bring in their five books in order to complete their membership fee... the office (open every weekday from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm) has over 1,000 books, so come in and borrow them.*"

This issue, a 2 page ditto, was edited by Robert Scott & Robert Leung. After mentioning the Hugos (Larry Niven won for RINGWORLD), they comment: "*All kinds of good things are planned for this year in SFFEN.... One such plan is the running of films... Another convention is in the planning stages.... BCSFA will be more active than ever in the months to follow so try to make it to the meetings. We hope to have a party in the near future....*"

### **NOVEMBER 1971:**

A general meeting was held 9th November, 1971. UBC SFFEN executive were confirmed for the academic year 71/72. Chairman - Robert Scott, Vice-Chairman - Brian Greiner, Secretary - Rebecca Bradley, Treasurer - Mike Bailey, and Publications Officer - Robert Leung.

In the UBC SFFEN Newsletter #2 produced by Rob Scott & Rob Leung the workings of the club library are explained. For example, recent mail order books by LoveCraft not available in Canada "*will not be placed on the shelves but in the club's locker....A deposit of one dollar must be placed on each book you borrow.... All newsletters such as LOCUS or LUNA cannot be borrowed until one week after they have been received. They will be on the bulletin board.....Private orders may also be sent through the club at a 20% discount...*" Ah, the advantages of belonging to a club with an office!

Other interesting tidbits of info to note: "*Harlan Ellison has a bit part in an orgy scene in Bill Rotsler's movie 'THE GODSON'. The scene*



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was filmed in Harlan's house.... Phillip Wylie, author of 'WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE', died Oct 25 of a heart attack at his Florida home.... George Pal, producer of many grade B SF movies, has acquired the movie and TV rights to all 181 DOC SAVAGE novels. These will be played in order. He plans to start with movies and move into TV when interest in the films decline." DOC SAVAGE, MAN OF BRONZE came out in 1974. It bombed.

Also in this issue it is announced that: "On February 18th & 19th, 1972, the UBC and SFU Science Fiction Societies are hosting the 2nd annual Vancouver SF Convention. The Guest of Honour will be Philip K. Dick, author of MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE, UBIK, A MAZE OF DEATH and about 25 other novels. The convention will be held at the Biltmore Hotel on 12th & Kingsway. There will be a banquet at which the Guest of Honour will speak, panels, a varied program of speakers, films, symposiums, parties, an art show and a fashion show. The rates are \$3.50 before Feb 4th, \$5.00 after. Banquet tickets are \$4.25... there is a choice of Salmon steak or veal cutlets...." Not all of these promised items were to occur. It is of interest to note that no mention is made of BCSFA as a sponsor for the second convention. In fact, the flyers produced for the convention say: "SF3 with the cooperation of ubc sf fen PRESENTS" etc., so it looks as if the concept of BCSFA as a coordinating entity had been discarded.

### DECEMBER 1971:

A party was held Friday, December 3rd in the Clubs Lounge of the Student Union Building at UBC, beginning 7:30 pm. A BYOB affair, slides of various conventions were shown. One of the highlights of the evening would appear to be the subject of an apology printed in #3 of the newsletter in January of 72: "Apologies to any of you who were injured at the party when Mike Bailey jumped off the top of the door. It seems Mike misunderstood when we asked him to be doorman." And then there was that obscure reference in #2: "At the age of 4 years Mike Bailey started the SFFEN tradition of standing on the tops of doors and leaping onto anyone unfor-

tunate enough to walk through." Hmmm. can't quite picture it.

Meanwhile, on behalf of SF3, SFU student Daniel Say was producing a monthly newsletter. The December issue makes for an interesting comparison with the UBC SFFEN Newsletter. It has nothing on club activities, other than mentioning that the SF3 membership fee is \$1.00 and seven books (as opposed to SFFEN's \$3.00 & 5 book fee). In general SF3's newsletter is more literary, with comments like "EXTRAPOLATION is now in the SFU library. This is a Mod. Lang Assoc. fanzine. [Academic zine with articles like] 'Olaf Stapledon, Saint & Revolutionary', & 'Intelligence Testing in Utopia.'" And "You may be tempted to buy the 'Science Fiction Story Index 1950-1968' by Fred Siemon. DON'T!... He only indexes 200 anthologies and has left out at least 50 that were published in 1968.... doesn't even know the many pseudonyms of the various authors..." and more in that vein. I found particularly interesting the announcement: "New World will begin filming DUNE in Czechoslovakia in summer. Producer: Roger Corman..." Sigh, was not to be. Would have been a wonderful B movie....

### NEXT ISSUE:

- "WEIRDS DID IT" chapter detailing Philip K. Dick's visit to Vancouver in 1972 for the Second Annual SF Convention.

- Interview with Michael Walsh on P.K. Dick as a house guest.

- P.K. Dick's own account of his experiences in Vancouver.

- (With any luck) Mike Horvat's recollection of Dick at the Con.

(P.S. -- It occurred to me that you may have found the print size last issue just a wee bit too tiny to make the effort to read. Hope this is better. Now turn the page for one last article by the pufferfish.)

## THE FANTIQUARIAN CHRONICLER (continued)

### 1968 TRIPLE FAN FAIR

*This is a version of the Timebinders posting I made Aug 8, 1995. I include it here because It is early Cdn. fan history, and mainly, because I have a page yet to fill:*

The Toronto Triple Fan Fair of 1968 was the first SF convention I attended. It was sponsored by OSFIC, the Ontario SF Club, their address given as 594 Markam Street, Toronto, which explains why the fair was held in Markam Street Village, an area of Toronto close to Yorkville. That is to say, OSFIC was ONE of the sponsors. The Memory Lane Bookstore (at the address above?) was another. Two other sponsors were the Canadian Academy of Comic Book Collectors and the Markham Village Film Club.

I still retain the 'passport' issued which entitled members to enter the booths and buildings where events took place. (Membership cost: \$1) It depicts a three-headed dragon chasing hippies and beatnik artists through the streets, art canvases flying in all directions. The implication is a fan invasion of a district notorious for its artsy pretensions (all the student artists lived there). Fans took over the whole neighbourhood that weekend (Saturday June 29th to Monday July 1st, 1968). Each neck of the 3-headed dragon carries a different label: 'films', 'comics', and 'Science Fiction', hence the triple nature of the fair.

I also still have the 3-fold single-sheet program book. Among info provided, Roger Zelazny was sponsored by OSFIC, Stan Lee (Marvel Comics) by the Canadian Academy of Comic Book Collectors, and Canadian comic artists Mauro Martini, Vincent Marchesband and (possibly Cdn?) Derek Carter by Memory Lane Bookstore.

The bulk of the fair took place in Poor Edwards Garden, which I remember as a large patio-like affair of pink and white tiles hidden behind a row of houses and approached by a narrow L-shaped lane about 50 feet long and too narrow for more than one person at a time. Talk about crowd control! Filled with booths and tables (maybe tents as well), PEG provided both static displays and events. The passive exhibits included: Star Trek stuff, SF art, the history of Tarzan, a pictorial display about SF TV and Films, a 'complete selection' of Marvel superheroes, and a hucksters room. Events included magicians, a stunt men demo, Zelazny mingling with fans, Stan Lee likewise, an auction, a masked ball, a slide show on WorldCons, a discussion on the adult comic scene, and a bunch of silent films like 'Metropolis' and 'Birth of a Nation.'

The Pollock gallery exhibited original comic-book art from Marvel, the Markham Street Village Town Hall ran Charlie Chaplin films throughout, and the Poor Alex Theatre on Brunswick Avenue showed selected SF TV episodes and feature films, George Pal's "THE POWER" being a sample of the latter.

At 1:30 pm on Sunday Roger Zelazny, Stan Lee and Phyllis Gotlieb met in the Poor Alex Theatre to debate the significance of the movie "2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY" which was still in first release at the time, being shown in "Super Panavision Cinerama" at the Glendale Theatre on Avenue Road on a reserved seat ticket basis only. In the program book Ken Smookler, then President of OSFIC, said of the film: "It is one of the few movies I have ever seen that could honestly be described as "stunning" in every meaning that is carried by that word." How many meanings is that, Ken?... And to digress, the only member of OSFIC whose mugshot appears in the program book is Peter Gill, the "Sec. Treas.", something to do with controlling the purse strings mayhaps?

Personal memories: Not many. Dimmed by time.

- sitting in an uncomfortable chair outdoors in PEG (along with 150 other fans) watching "KING KONG" projected on two wrinkled sheets stapled to a (house?) wall. It started circa 11 pm on a warm night, two hours late. It was the third time I'd seen the movie, but enjoyed it nonetheless.

- perusing the huckster's table in PEG. I picked up issue #2 of SPOCKANALIA for 55 cents. It was published and edited by Sherna Comerford and Devra Michele Langsom, and featured articles by John Mansfield, Lois McMaster, Poul Anderson, the editors, and many others.

- buying ten 'slides' taken from "STAR TREK" episodes. OSFIC had obtained several film strips from someone at the studio where ST was made and cut them into individual frames to sell at 25 cents a piece. Unmounted. I never did mount them. Just held them up to a lightbulb from time to time.

- Watching two episodes of the original "OUTER LIMITS" on the big screen in Poor Alex's Theatre.

I doubt that I saw Zelazny. My interests at that time were strictly SF films and magazines about SF films. I attended opening day (Sat June 29), skipped Sunday (when the bulk of the events were scheduled), and returned on the Monday (July 1), the last day of the fair, only to discover that most booths were closed, and that attendance was sparse. So I left.

I talked to OSFIC people at their table on Saturday. Why didn't I join? I guess I wasn't interested. Given my current interests, I can only say: AARRGH!