

NORTHERN LIGHTS #6 & 7

NORTHERN LIGHTS 6&7 is a fan information line, presently situated in New Brunswick and attempting to keep fans in Canada in touch with each other. Subscriptions are \$2.50 for six issues, and we trade with club zines. For information write-Linda Ross-Mansfield, 46 Carleton St., Oromocto, N.B., E2V 2C8.

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Down But Not Out

Despite strange and nasty things (such as the Post Awful) creating difficulties for NL it is not yet dead. For those who get this via the mail, yes this is a combined issue, and yes you did not get number five. 5 actually got run off in time for me to take it with me to Maplecon last October. (I spent half the plane trip colating) The ones to get mailed out were left neatly? piled at home on the reasonable assumption that I would mail them when I got back from Maplecon. Unfortunately, I came back from Maplecon somewhat worse for wear and spent a week recuperating from a bad cold/cough/larengytis/ attack, and when I rose from the dead my neat little pile and been misplaced. It was unearthed during a major clean-up about a month later and immediately put in a "safe" place, you know what happened then right? I couldn't find them again!!! 6 which should have gotten out in December, got neglected in the crazy rush of the season, so this is a combined issue of 6 and 7 which ought to get safely away. Why? Because the 3rd wierd thing to happen is the decision by my Husband and I to move to Winnipeg, after taking a quick trip there to help us make the big descision. We will be taking up residence there come the beginning of July. As you can tell there may be a few ripples in the publishing schedule come summer time. But at least I am continuing it. The SF fans we unearthed there pointed out that although NL may lose its Maritime flavour, since there is nothing being published in Wpg. and no one planning to do any, NL could fill a new niche there. If anyone out there thinks this is a bad idea tell me why and if you think it will still be worth a read simply resub.

NEW AND NOT NEW

Later in this issue, you will find some articles by a fan in the Fredericton Science Fiction Society, Kevin Holden. He is presently president of said club and a person of various opinions. You will also find his address at the end of this zine so that if you disagree with anything he says, you will be able to complain directly. If you really disagree with some idea or statement and wish to refute it here, as with my usual policy, I will publish a refutation but that will be the end as I don't like to carry on feuds, and all the really nasty words can be sent to the original writer anyway.

Also new is the idea of running a combination of full section, and half section columns. It will, I think help to break up the monotony of long page after page of type. If I can manage it, I shall try to insert some art as well, although with stencil and Gestetner that is a good deal more difficult than with Xerox, and I can't put in art on every page and every issue.

Not new is the use of Gestetner to print NORTHERN LIGHTS. I had hoped that we would be moving over to Xerox copy with this

NEWS

Ms. Bramstrup, author of STAR DESTROYER, has a new book, COURIER ready for release. You will really have to push in order to find either of these at the moment, though, because they are published by a very small company in the Maritimes, and not well distributed either. Price on STAR DESTROYER is \$4 at most reasonable places. If you want to give either one a try it might be best if you order them directly. The address is as follows. LARSON PUBLISHING CO., Woodstock, New Brunswick. Ask for either title by Marion Bramstrup. She is a young author from New Brunswick who is also a medical intern. How this woman can find the time to write as well as do her work in the hospital is simply amazing to me. I met her just recently and she is a rather shy person about her writing, but if you go to Halcon this year, she will be there as a guest and on a panel or two. Look for the quiet one with glasses and short curls. She'll surprise you too.

Barry B. Longyear has fallen prey to one of our society's more insipid creations. As a result he is in hospital in Minniapolis in a detox ward (voluntarily by the way) fighting back against acchol. He

issue, but that plan fell through and since it won't be available in Winnipeg anyway, it is perhaps just as well. I would have liked the more professional look, but can't afford the cost, so I'm stuck with what I can manage. It is just not covered by the sub cost and I don't want to price NL beyond the reach of newer and often poorer fans.

* * *

at least has realized his problem in time to do something about it. We all wish him the best and hope he will be back to his word processor soon. I understand that he is not allowed a typewriter or recorder because the hospital doesn't want to be responsible for any theft. Hang in there Barry, your handwriting will have to do.

A NEW VOICE...

Everyone has their own sense of humour, and I can honestly say that the following "article" is not to be taken totally seriously, although Kevin does mean certain parts to be taken as his opinion. I think the best way to describe it is to say that he calls it, "something from my fertile imagination"...

Byline... Kevin Holden...

There I was, peacefully minding my own business, leafing through a copy of "The Amateur Astronomer's Guide to Household Furniture Repairs", when suddenly the phone rang.

Instantly, mind raced over the index of possibilities. My boss, calling to tell me I was fired for borrowing brake fluid from that DC-9?

My black market videotape supplier, informing me that we'd been infiltrated, and I'd best erase my copy of "Candy Stripes and Her Amazing Dog Bruno" right away?

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, about those packages I sent to Poland?

A deep, hidden voice told me not to answer the phone, it was bound to be bad news. Every fibre of common sense and wisdom in my body urged me to let it ring. Every instinct of survival screamed not to pick up the receiver.

Fortunately I never listen to any of those, so after shuffling through the pile of fanzines on my desk, I listed the receiver to my ear.

"Hello?" I queried.

"Hi!" came the brilliant comeback. The voice was female, so it had to be Linda Mansfield, the only such type with which I was still on speaking terms with, at that time.

She explained to me that she was aiming to expand her audience for her newszine NORTHERN LIGHTS, and would I care to contribute something? I glanced at my typewriter sitting in a corner with a broken margin adjuster and an "L" that kept sticking the the page, making it difficult to type words with more than two syllables.

"Well, gee Linda I..." I started.

"But I've got tons of mail to go through," she cried, "and articles to write, and I need artwork and..."

I waited for her to finish, then said, "Gosh, gee willikers, Linda, I'd really love to help, but I've got an SF club of my own to run, and our own little newsletter and..."

"Yes, I know," she replied, "That's why I need you, you're the only person around here with any real skills at this,"

I felt a distinct uneasiness in the back of my mind, a little voice told me to get out now while I still could.

"Go on!"

"Well," she said, "We in the club all know what a charismatic kind of guy you are, so ready and able to communicate an idea or emotion in your own flamboyant style."

I could see snow falling outside my window, in the second week of July.



"So" she continued " I thought we should introduce you to a larger number of fans, so that evryone can benefit from your keen insight and skill..."

"Alright, alright" I said. "Enough already, so I'll write you a column an VD in fandom or something. Just lay off the manure." The plain fact was I was the sole person stupid enough to get hooked into it and she knows how much I love to get mail.

"Great" she said happily. "I'll need two articles by tommorrow morning." Then she hung up.

So here I sit at 2:40 A.M., bleary-eyed and nearly comotose from typing two syllable words all night and trying to dredge up something from the back of my mind to relate to Linda's readership. Therein lies theproblem you see, for I don't know many of you, and I don't know what kind of feedback I'm going to get. This is chiefly Linda's project, and I don't want to do anything to cost her any of her loyal readers, but I have a tendency to, well, shall we say, b*tch at considerable length about things that annoy me. The category of things that annoy me, covers a very wide spectrum, and I'm likely to step on a few toes, so please bear in mind that all retaliations should be directed to me, personally, and that I am solely responsible for the contents of this column, so don't edit one word, Linda!

Well, folks that is part of Kevin's fertile(izer) imagination. I haven't edited a thing except for one "i" which was replaced with an * and didn't fool anyone for a minute. For ye of strong stomach, pray continue with the ~~left~~-hand column. (The serious ramblings of KH). Those who wish to get thier poison pens redosed first, should read the right-hand column while waiting for the vitriole plus to soak well into the nib.

KEVIN CONT'D...

Now allow me to introduce myself. Kevin Holden, male, english caucasian, age 20, brown hair, blue eyes, 5' 11", with an interest in the future of the human race.

I pretty much have to be interest-ed in the future 'cause I gotta live there. I am president of New Brunswick's largest SF club, a member of Amnesty International, and an outspoken critic of mostly everything sacred. I love every kind of music in the world, I love art, phil-osophy, science, history, and film.

My favorite writers are Richard Matheson, Harlan Ellison, Stephen King, Ben Bova, Robert Siverberg, Philip José Farmer and a few others who I shall remember when its too late.

Favorite films are the Star Wars films, 2001 A.D., Silent Running, Brave New World, and a host of titles too numerous to mention.

Hobbies are film, as in making them, photography, travel, (when I can afford it) women, and pirating video cassettes, not neccesarily in that order.

I love debating sensative subjects like religion, politics, sex and so forth. I have a very low tolerance for stupidity, which manifests itself in many forms. I can often be seen berating fans who carry dangerous sidearms at conventions, playing mental chess with astrologists and accultists, and attacking Von Daniken's followers with aluminum paresol hats. All of thsese things, I think, give one a nice even perspective of life. I

SHE SAID...

I believe I once said I wouldn't publish fiction in NL. Does the preceding count as my exception to my rule? I have been known to grovel at some peoples feet, in order to obtain some favour or other, but the above described conversation does not recall itself to my mind, except perhaps for the word "Hi" and the sentence, "I'll need two articles by tommorrow morning."

I did try to obtain airsick bags to accompany this issue but Air Canada refused to part with any. I did however manage to dig out a rather appropriate piece of cartooning to forwarn the more alert and experienced fans. To those trying to identify the artist, he is William Rostler from England.

Speaking of said mystic isle, I am attempting to get over there for a week or two (in about three days) and I shal try to pick up a bit of info to pass along to Doctor Who, HHGG, Sapphire and Steel, and other angliophile fen.

As I mentioned previously I was in Winnipeg and found some fans there. From the info I could glean there. I discovered that activity there had fallen off when a large number of activators moved away in rather a bunch, leaving a gap that has yet to be properly filled. John in his usual inimical style may soon be putting a bit of his "oomph" into the group when we move there. We quite literally caught Mike Nichols and Sue Robinson as they were on thier way

love to get into a fierce, (but polite) debate on virtually anything and I don't mind having my ego trashed, if I can learn something in the process. So, to illustrate my point, I'm going to throw myself at a speeding locomotive first time out and see which one of us gets up smelling like roses.

I predict that science fiction fandom as we know it now, will not exist in five or six years time, at the outside.

Now when I say science fiction, I mean spaceships, ray guns, futuristic cities and such. I mean SF as opposed to fantasy, with its dragons, unicorns and magic spells. I can see SF fading quietly into the woodwork, as people become disillusioned with technology and science, and become more interested in pseudosciences like the occult and psychics. The intrusion of fantasy into SF fandom is growing rapidly, and as science and advanced technologies fail to meet our expectations, or, in some places, exceed them, it will continue to gain a following among the younger generations of fans. The reason why this alarms me so, is because of the underlying difference between SF and Fantasy. Leaving out such masterpieces as The Lord of the Rings or the Dragonriders of Pern series, one finds little to admire in most fantasy. The Conan and Gor type of books leap to the forefront of my mind. Books where the main theme is needless violence, the subjugation of women, and the suppression of all but the most primeval human emotion, hatred and anger. Even though many fans deplore this type of offantasy, it continues to be the most popular seller at bookstores and art shows, so somebody's lapping it up, and with the growing popularity of Dungeons and Dragons, it looks like it is going to continue to find an audience.

Does this kind of fantasy really threaten Science Fiction? I think so, because it is the younger generations of fans, aged 13-16 who are supporting it, and they are the ones who will rule fandom ten years from now.

UNLESS a concerted effort is made to maintain the basic concept of SF, which is a hope for a better future by preparing for it now, rather than surrendering the future and allowing ourselves to slip into the worlds of barbarism, then our future is going to be very bleak.

SEND ALL NEUTRON MINI-BOMBS TO:

Kevin Holden
Rowan St.
R.R. 1, Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 4X2

to the closest thing to an SF meeting in Winnipeg these days. They were just walking out their door to go to a Chinese brunch one Saturday morning, when we leapt out of nowhere, and managed to get invited along. I learned about what had been happening in recent years there, since their 500 strong convention of I think it was 5 years ago. No one is really sending out too much in the way of info to many groups outside of Winnipeg, but there is certainly plenty of SF being sold (7 or 8 different stores in a five block area with huge sections of SF plus two comics stores less than two blocks away from each other) so the potential is there for fan activities to begin again any time a bit of space and time can be found to work at it. A challenge if I ever saw one.

CONVENTIONS...

CHICON...Chicago

Well Chicon is really going to be big from what I can see. The convention hotel is right in the heart of Chicago with an immense number of rooms for attendees and a very big convention area. Organization also seems in tip-top shape and with a FROG. Report due in Feb., it must be time to make hotel reservations, and start finding out who in your groups of friends will be at the con and arranging meeting times and places. This thing really looks to be huge, so you may want to get an appointment book set-up to make certain that you will be able to meet long unseen friends. At present the cost to join is \$50 U.S. until July 15th and will probably be \$60 at the door. (supporting is only \$15 for those who can't attend but want all printed material).
Write: John Millard, 18-86 Broadway avenue, Toronto, ONT. M4P 1T4.

CONSTELLATION...Baltimore

Now is the time to sign up for '83 worldcon. Cost for an attending is still only \$20 U.S. and available from John Millard (see above) Their first progress report will be coming out sometime in February, so keep your ear to the ground for some info.

Well that was the plug for the big cons. Now some info from our regional Canadian ones.

MARCH- Halcon...Halifax.

Word coming down the grapevine is that the "new" committee for this con is really trying to pull together a much better convention than last year. I certainly hope so. I still have not decided if I want to take another shot at this one, but my husband will

CONVENTIONS, continued...

be going to it, so you will get a con report on it at any rate. If you want to get more info from Halcon itself, write, HALCON, c/o POB295 Station M, Halifax, N.S., B3J 2N7. The con itself is taking place March 5,6 & 7 at St. Mary's University.

MAY-Ottawa...CANGAMES. Held on the Victoria Day weekend, this games con has finally recieved confirmation on thier site. For better info, contact: Bruce Knight, 2011-B St. Laurent Blvd., Ottawa, ONT.

JUNE- Toronto...AD ASTRA, according to info, Ad Astra moved its dates back to June in order to raise money for GoH Mike Jittlov's plane fare. Anyone in TO willing to update my info please.

OCTOBER- Ottawa...MAPLECON. Rumours are starting to get around that the committee is having difficulty obtaining hotel space. It seems that with all those gov't bigwigs calling meetings any time they feel like spending some taxpayers money, the hotels are not worried about filling up space. Hope the committee can manage something soon, so we can get the word around.

- Calgary...NONCON. For info on this one write, c/o POB 475, station G, Calgary, Alberta, T3A 2G4. Since I will be living in Winnipeg by then, I just might be able to get to this one. Maybe I'll se some of you there.

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FANZINES & CLUBZINES

BCSFazine-is a clubzine with a little bit of every-thing. Book reviews, a local events calendar, club minutes, comics, rules for contests, and bits of info and messages. If you are moving to Vancouver, or even just visiting it might be worth your while to get a copy ahead of time, so you can drop in on some fannish activity there.

ZOSMA- well, it is a zine with lots of reviews of books and films, some done by the ed. and others done by contributors, and these are interspersed with letters and other columns on varying subjects, odd cartoons, and the occasional article with strange ramblings and various four letter words. Now I can swear with the best of em but somehow I don't see that the printed words of the average zine column really rate the use of cuss words in the abundance that they seem to appear in some places. I guess that my real hang up about it is that I don't want my seven and twelve year olds to assume that a zine should use em when there are no really important reason to. But if you have no impressional persons in your place, give it a try. It is \$1 for a sample ish.

NEOLOGY- Edmonton's clubzine is really nice to see. The group is large and active with a lot of variety and lots of goings on in the area. Even if you aren't a member this club zine should provide you with a lot of ideas and views.

TO CONTACT THESE PUBLICATIONS...

OOPS...

This is where I get to apologize for my typos, and misspellings, and put in all those little things that got missed elsewhere.

I hereby apologize if you get confused by the switches from the full page section to columns and back again. Someone said that my pages were difficult to read as they were previously, so I am trying to break up the monotony. I hope to get somewhat better with the spacing as we go along, so if you can bear with me, I shall keep trying to give you all something worth reading.

I did miss one con listing. In MAY, in Vancouver is the annual V-CON. (21-23) Info from V-Con, POB 48701, Bentall Station, Vancouver, B.C., V7X 1A6. BEN BOVA is main GoH.

WHATCHA DOIN'?

If you or your club are up to interesting things, how about writing a paragraph or two & sending it to me? Then again, considering how expensing a letter is today, maybe you should write more than that? I am interested in con reports, club reports, reviews of books, news of Canadian authors, and publications etc. Next ish is suppose to come out in March, so you have a reasonable amount of time to get your article together. I am fairly easy going, so you don't have to type it as long as your hand writing is reasonably readable. P.S. I didn't major in cryptography so do try to be neat.

To those who are being asked to resubscribe, if you feel you can't afford the money, how about trading

BCSFAZINE, P.O.B. 35577, Station E,
Vancouver, B.C., V6M 4G9

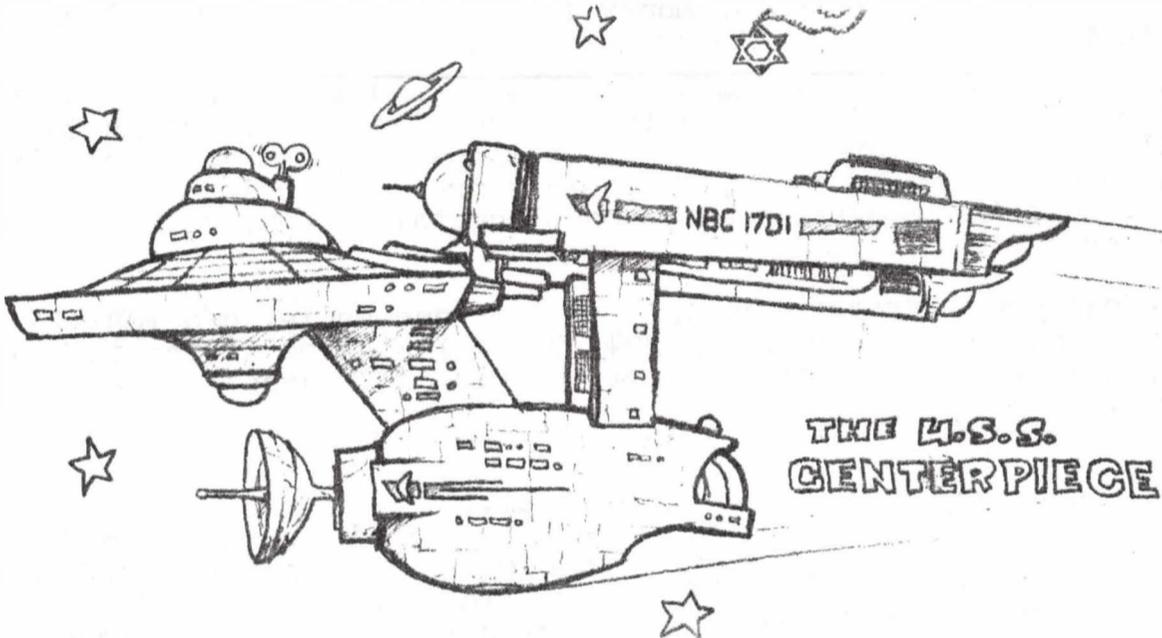
ZOSMA, c/o Steve George, 94 Brock St.
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3N 0Y4

NEOLOGY, P.O.B. 4071, Edmonton,
Alberta, T6E 4S8

your info for my zine? It would
mean having to send info on a reg-
ular basis, but...(how devious we
editors can get.)

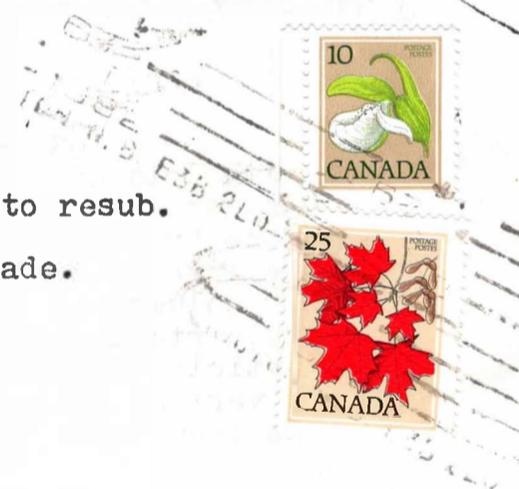
Come July you will all be getting
change of address for me but I can
still be reached via this address,
as I shall pay the Post Awful its
pound of flesh to forward our mail
for a full year.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE...



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46 CARLETON ST.
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CANADA, E2V 2C8



Time to resub.
 We trade.

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