

NORTHERN LIGHTS 1

NORTHERN LIGHTS is a fan information newsletter which is tentatively published on a bi-monthly basis and whose main aim is to keep Canadian fans in touch with each other. A nominal subscription of \$1.00 is requested for 6 issues to help cover postage costs. Mailing address is: NORTHERN LIGHTS, 46 Carleton St., Oromocto, N.B., E2V 2C8

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THE FIRST ISSUE-

Well, here is the first official issue of Northern Lights and the initial response to the flyer has been very good. It is encouraging to me to know that there are a lot of fans out there who think that my idea is a good one and that they are interested in getting and keeping in touch with their fellow Canadians. I should use this first issue to establish the policies of this Fan Information Line.

1. Since the idea behind this is to help communications between fans, NORTHERN LIGHTS would like to remain above any fan feuds which are presently taking place or might occur in the future. We are all human and personal disagreements between people inevitably take place. The most notorious fan feud is an on going item in Toronto, and some of the fans who have written me ask me how I think TO fandom would react to the idea of a Canadian World Con if one of their "enemies" were to volunteer to help that con. Well I would hope that any fan would want to see such a Con be a success, so I hope that somewhere along the line at least some of the TO fans will decide that if they don't want to help it at least they shouldn't hinder it. SO I REINTERATE- NO FAN FEUDS PLEASE!! A reasonable request I think.

2. FANZINES will not be reviewed as such but if your club or you are putting out a zine and would like it mentioned, in order to expand this type of Fan communication, NORTHERN LIGHTS will publish the title, address and a two or three sentence description of what kind of zine, (along with sub rates) it is and whether or not it is a club zine. Two such mentions can be found later in the newsletter.

3. CONVENTIONS are great places for fans to meet and I will try to give mention to any I can, US, Canadian, UK, or whatever, so if you know of an upcoming Convention, here in Canada, or anywhere else, send the following information (preferably 4 months prior to event since we are operating on a bi-monthly publishing basis) Make certain you send your own name and address, plus- Name of Con, What Dates, Location (city, province, hotel or university) membership fees, Confirmed Guest of Honour and the address fans should write to for information.

If you attend a convention and wish to report on it to us, we will print it if it is accompanied by your name and address in print. I reserve the right to delete portions or reject outright anything which is blatantly biased, in compliance with the 1st policy statement above. If a con is poorly run, say specifically what was wrong. That I will print. (I will also send a copy to the convention involved) Not every Con is a success but I want to be fair in reports so if it is a first con, say so Everyone has to get their experience from somewhere, and even a disaster or two doesn't necessarily mean the whole con is terrible. So try to keep a balanced view.

4. CLUBS NEWS is of interest to others out there. If your club has a special event. I want to let others know what you do. Of course I can't justify 15 paragraphs of club minutes, but I would like to mention what you plan and publish your club address so other interested fans can write YOU and say hey that sounds like a great idea, how did you do it, did it work? etc. Small clubs and large ones can exchange ideas and learn from each other. FAN NEWS such as marriages, births etc, also are of interest to us and as we get to know one another better, will be a major section of this newsletter. This also includes news of fans meeting other fans from far flung places, or someone who makes a sudden move and wants

make certain she or he doesn't become "lost" to fellow fan. Or if you have "lost" someone we are more than willing to contribute a few lines to getting you back in touch.

5. FIAWOL- Fandom Is A Way Of Life to many of us but for some it can be awfully lonely. If you are looking for someone to correspond with on YOUR favorite fan activity, we will let you "advertise" your need here.

6. A CANADIAN WORLD CONVENTION- As I mentioned in the flyer, I would like to see not only a World Con here in Canada, I would also like to see cross-Canada support for this. Some people have written and asked how I thought a fan in New Brunswick would react to, for example, Vancouver winning such a bid and what possible help he/she could be. Of course the most obvious form of support is buying a membership in such a Con, either supporting (which means you pay a sum and receive progress reports and a program book plus a chance to vote on the Hugos, even though you can not attend in person) or attending (which means of course, you get all the stuff of a supporting PLUS you get to go to the convention!!) If you are going to attend, you can offer your body...either as a humble go-fer or assisting or running discussions, panels, seminars, art show, etc. Even if you only want to volunteer one or two hours of a specific day, it does help. If you haven't done anything like that before, and think, well I won't be any help because I don't know anything about it, well how do you think the people who are running things got started? I have seen people who said I would like to help but don't know how, end up being quite competent in some area they would not originally have dreamed they could ever do. My immediate reaction to a World Con is, lets have a cross-country Train and I would immediately start investigating the possibility. You see, you can give as much or as little as you like but it would be nice to see the support I know we Canucks are capable of.

7. POLICY number 7 is that there is no policy number 7. I think the 6 rules will keep me and others on an even keel, and if we really get chummy and write each other and find out what everyone else is doing, I may just put myself out of a job here. Hurrah. This is obviously a labour of love, but it has been started to fill a void. When the void no longer exists, there will no longer be a need for Northern Lights.

Future things...

The Fan Address list is coming along nicely, but I am going to make certain that addresses culled from other sources are re-printable. The projected release date therefore is set at mid-April. An addition/changes/update list will be issued every 6 months, at the end of September & March respectively of each year. This will help to keep people who move a lot I.E. University students, in touch with pen friends and catch anyone they forgot to send a change of address card to.

The Authors and published works list will take a bit of time to collate and some of the authors haven't replied yet. If anyone knows a published author who is residing in Canada, but isn't listed with SFWA (which is where I've started from) please either send me their address, or ask them to write me.

The Hugo nomination ballots are out from the Denvention World Con people with a return deadline of March 31st, 1981. If you want to purchase a supporting or attending membership and perhaps get a nominating ballot, send a money order in U.S. funds for \$15 supporting or \$35 attending, to DENVENTION TWO 39th World Science Fiction Convention P.O. Box 11545, Denver CO. 80211, USA.

Continuing on the topic of Conventions, In March of 1981, here on the East coast, there will be another HALCON (no.4) This convention has had greater and greater numbers with each year, but it is still being held in a University, during March break, but no dorms available, so if you intend to come to it, you will need a vehicle since there are no hotels close enough to walk unless you are a daily jogger or hiker. Also, Halcon uses a rather odd three price membership system (I'll let them try to explain it) For information write to HALCON IV, c/o John Bell,

POB 3174 South, Halifax, N.S., B3J 3H5- A self addressed envelope with a stamp may help speed an answer on its way.

Success has a tendency to help con committees make a mad commitment to another one. Noncon will next be held in Calgary by people eager to continue its success, and Maplecon is again being planned for Oct. 31 although I am not certain if it will remain with the Chateau Laurier or if it will move elsewhere yet. Anyone out there got info on the next V-Con? If you send it to me I'll happily include it in the next ish, which will be ready for Boskone in February so I can catch any Canadian fans who may be waiting down there.

FANZINES LIST-

NEOLOGY- POB 4071, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 4S8...is the newsletter for the Edmonton Science Fiction and Comic Art Society. Send 75¢ for a sample and more information.

THE MONTHLY MONTHLY- is now the BIMONTHLY MONTHLY, with a subof \$6 per year. Its nice zine with articles, interviews, stories and art all contributed by fans. It comes from the Edmonton area also. For info, write to Robert Runté, 10957 - 88th Ave., Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 0Y9

MIRIAD-Miriad Productions, 61 Warner Ave., Toronto, Ont. M4A 1Z5. a hopeful quarterly, for the movie buff, Miriad is put out by some fans in TO who also are very big Clockwork Orange fans. For a single copy, send a \$1.50 to the above address, Subs are \$6 for 4 issues.

NIGHTWINDS- POB 1442, GUELPH, ONT. is put together by fans from Guelph, who are members of the Guelph Science Fantasy Guild. Cat fans beware, these people have a hilarious article that strikes back against those zines which praise cats to the heights, so remember it is all tongue in cheek... I think. If you would like to take a gander at it, write to above address and ask for a sample of ish no. 3. (\$1)

ALIEN PARCHMENTS- c/o Ken Duffin, 137A Arthur St. N., Guelph Ontario, N1E 4V4. It is a personal zine which carries the following disclaimer. "If you don't like it, big deal." This sentiment is one that I am certain all publishers would occasionally like to print. If you are interested in reading a copy, I suggest you write and ask. Ish 5/6 does not mention if there is a sub rate but I sure Ken will write and tell you if there is one.

LOCUS- is not specifically Canadian, but it is one of the best zines to know what is happening in Fandom everywhere. A Sample costs \$1.25 US funds, from LOCUS PUBLICATIONS, POB 3938, San Francisco, CA, 94119.

A PASSING- Being an optomist, I hope I won't be printing too many of these notices.... I don't know if she would ever have called herself a "Big Name Fan" but Susan Wood was well known to many people active in fandom. She died November 12, at the age of 32, at her home in Vancouver. Fans in Ontario, and in B.C. will remember her from personal contact, and others will have known her through her articles in various zines. An ardent feminist, she started Women in Science Fiction panels at cons and the Room of One's Own suites. Susan Wood was a do-er, and she accomplished many things in the short time she was amongst us, and her death leaves gaps in our lives we may not know about for a while, but we will all feel the loss. Condolences should be sent to Mrs. Elsie Wood, 1945 Garfield Ave., Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 0W8.

Canadian Authors

From time to time, as the information becomes available, I will be passing on to you information about Canadian authors (authors who are residing in various parts of Canada and writing and publishing their works) Towards this, here is some info on...

AUGUSTINE FUNNELL-has published BRANDYJACK..Laser Books...1976...novel.

REBELS OF MERKA.. -"- ...1976...novel.

he has also done some scripts for b/w comics which some of you Horror comics fans may know of. Since he has not specifically stated that I can publish his address, I won't but if you want to write to him, c/o me,

I will forward your letter, and that may set up a direct contact for you when he replies.

William Gibson-presently in print are: FRAGMENTS OF A HOLOGRAM ROSE in UnEarth.....THE GERNSBACK CONTINUUM will be in Universe 11.....THE BELONGING KIND will be in the current SHADOWS..... in 1981, in OMNI, will be JHONNY MNEMONIC.....He says he is "just barely starting to happen as a writer" but maybe if some of you want to read some of his stories and write him via NL, it might offer some nice encouragement. I promise him I will mark all things I send him as "to be read in the Evening" because like many of us he has a tendency to get distracted in the morning and not get work done.

Toronto Green-novels...THE NIGHT ABOVE THE DINGLE STARRY...OTHER WORLDS anthology (ed. Paul Collins, Void Publications '78)

...JAPANESE TEA... ALIEN WORLDS anthology (ED./PUB. as above)

...OF CHILDREN IN THE FOLIAGE...Aurora: New Canadian Writing '79(ed. morris Wolfe, pub. Doubleday, Canada)

article-SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW 17-on Philip Dick
" " " 18-on Barry Malzberg
reviews- " " " 33&34-of books

UNEARTH 2 -of books
SF COMMENTARY 47,48,49,50-of books
newsarticle in the current SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE entitled SF & F IN CANADA

Contact with Mr. Green should be made through Northern Lights for the time being.

Well, in order to entice you to want to read the next Northern Lights, it will carry a list of Phyllis Gotlieb's works and she is allowing me to print her address!!

Our own club here in Fredericton is having a 12th Night party and I will be telling you how we did it and what happened. I will also have a short article on amateur films and tell you all about our own production, and others and if anyone wants to contribute on the subject, I'll be interested in hearing from you.

What are you doing? I hope to have some feedback from other clubs out there, and I will have a few hints on how to start your own group if there is no club in your area.

UNTIL FEBRUARY... I hope that you enjoyed this first issue and I am interested in hearing from you if you can provide new contacts, new ideas, or just want to say hi. I have recieved a great deal of encouragement and hope that I can succeed in connecting fans all across Canada.

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