

NORTHERN LIGHTS 2

NORTHERN LIGHTS is a fan information newsletter which is 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 for 6 issues is requested, to help cover postage costs. Mailing address is: NORTHERN LIGHTS, 46 Carleton St., Oromocto, N.B., E2V 2C8. Editor, typist and all round cook and bottle washer is Linda Ross-Mansfield.

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Here it is again, and on time too! Those of you out there who know me personally, know I always like to be punctual. You also know that it is a real struggle to manage same. This my second issue, will be carrying some interesting (I hope) news, reports, and other good stuff. There is also a section written by one of my "honoraries", ie someone who may not live in, have been born in, or carry a passport of, Canada, but who has a special place in thier heart and mind for it or its SF fen. If you have anything you want printed in NL or comments please do write. I can't promise to write long letters back, but at least I'll write a short note at the top of your copy when I mail it.

POWER OF YOUR PEN- Microfilm is a great way to preserve and find things. Mr. D.H. Blair has been doing some correspondence with University Microfilms International, and reports that ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION is available from the year 1930 right up to 1960. Thirty years worth are contained in 15 35mm reels (\$53.60) for a full cost of \$804.00. A large investment for most individuals, but just the thing to coerce your college, university or local library to obtain. Apparently, if there is enough demand, the Micro-edition of UNKNOWN will be done up, so if you have any library or want to write for yourself to request this, send it to- University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI, 48106 USA (313-761-4700) OR 18 Bedford Row, London, England, WC1R 4EJ, (01-242-9485)

THE CANDIAN CONSULATE SEZ I DON'T, BUT LINDA R.M. SEZ I DO, is an exercise in restraint authored by elessar m. tetramariner, 1218 Washtenaw Ct., A2, Michigan 48104 (313)-996-0934 for Northern Lights 2, upon slight provocation by the editor, on this 3rd day of Freezeyourtushy, 1981. Allrights reserved and bottled in bond.

...After reading NL 1, I was trying to descide if I qualified to contribute to this newsletter. Verdict was YES, for two main reasons: 1) Linda is sending me this newsletter, and 2) I lived in Oakville, Ontario for a double decade. So what if immigration won't give me a Visa! This place looks like that in the wintertime, and the only thing between me health and frozen fingers is a space heater propped on a case of books next to me.

Further fannish fusings, the lady doth propose, eh? Well, I certainly read my mail and femail, but I've got something that will preclude all but the most ~~important~~ vital communications: a brief bio.

- '54 Virgo baby with sagitt. moon, yank parents, canuck bringupping with doses of yank influence. Toured 45 states and 9 provinces, britain and the u.s.v.i. media arts graduate. vegetarian smoking alcoholic. sensual empath with majors in jacuzi, trimedial massage, body photography, archive construction and cordon bleu musique. non-interests in winter, fanfeuds, programming at cons, trite s.f., rerun excuses for not engaging insex/sense activities, wargaming and poverty. Favorite authors/friends: Spider & Jeanne Robinson, Phyllis Gotlieb, James P. Hogan, Joe Haldeman & Bob Asprin. Other favorite authors; Roger Zelazny, U.K. LeGuin, Robert A. Heinlien, John Varley & James Tiptree. Current ststus: semi-celibate, solo, semi-solvent, unemployed, bitter at self. My favorite fans are: sexy, highly intelligent, into dancing and drinking and progressive music with razor sharp wits and high self esteem. All others need not apply.

Here's a free plug for L.R.M. from LSR: Hey everyone, these things cost money to do. Send Linda some material, but more than that send money. I don't know whether she's got access to free dittoes and machine, ((free machine at least-L))but verily the post orifice is sticking it to her!

Our house just aquired its 25th cat through natcheral birth--both new moms and kids doin' great. Anybody need something extra "for the pot" as they say? You pay the frieght mate.

Seriously, folks, I don't answer letters. I scandalize the sender instead.

-((Wish I had the knack of concisely portraying myself, my own bio. would probably ramble for pages, and not see to much.))

ULTRA-word from Joe MacDonald is that he will (Forces of the Universe being benevolent) have ULTRA's first issue on the presses at the end of February. That means with luck I can meet him at Halcon and have a peek at it to review in time for the next issue.

ANSWERS- To the person who asked where Oromocto is, it is a small village 22 km from Fredericton, N.B.

- My FIL (fan information line) is put out by just me but I'll accept info, articles etc., and I will occasionally report on doings of our Fredericton S.F. Society here.

-To those who don't know who the I in this zine is; re-read your masthead at the top of page 1. My name is Linda Ross-Mansfield, I am not any sort of Big Name Fan or SMOF (Secret Master Of Fandom) or anything, I just got tired of never finding out about what was going on amongst fans in my own country and after talking to a number of previously unmet fellow fans at Noreascon II decided to try and do something about it.

NEW CANADIAN FANDOM, formerly a column in NEOLOGY will soon appear as a zine itself. Robert has been making great efforts to cover clubs, events and activities from everywhere in Canada, so if you have any meetings, events, conventions or other activities going on in your area, why not get in touch with him ((me too)). Write to Robert Runte/10957 88Ave./Edmonton, Alberta/ T6G 0Y9. A newszine is only as good as its readers make it so give the man a fan hand, since this will be his personal baby, with no other backing than what work and info he can squeeze out of his fellow fen.

12th Night Party- As promised, here is a report on the party. We are a small club, so we planned for only twenty people. Each person was asked to contribute either beverage or side dish and say ahead what he/she would bring. Club funds were used to buy some wine, for the blog, and the roast beast. I roasted it at home. How do you get a roast to stay piping hot for a 22 km drive? There in hangs a tale. It was d*mned cold that night but I put the stuff that could get cold (juice, pop etc) into the car 20 min. ahead. then, the potatoes done 'round the roast were foil wrapped and put back in the oven to keep warm, same with the meat. Next the gravy was made in the roast pan and when ready, put into a tupperware container. meat, plates, potatoes and gravy were packed into the styrefoam "cooler" and the lid put on and off we sped. A batch of scalloped potatoes from a member closer to the party, had no problem arriving in a large metal pot. We were luck that the local gaming store owner is a club member and provided a room at the back of the store to serve as buffet area. We had set up two TVs and had planned to eat and watch the season premiere of BUCK ROGERS which had been advertised. So everyone dug into the delicious eatings and turned on the sets. It was enough to turn the most hardened tummy when instead of BR we were presented with a Benji movie! Off went the sets and we sat around muttering against undependable TV stations and conducted some of the club buisness. We had mellowed out by the end of the evening, (midnight) and spent some time telling fannish stories and plotting what the scene of BR meeting Admiral Asimov might be like. Concensus agreed that Dr. A should have been hired to write the first scene of introduction. (At this point I think somebody else should have written the whole second year series.) We all had a good time and went home happy. The ultimate judge of a good time.

ZINES-

WATSNEW- is a computer print-out newsletter under the auspices of WATSFIC (Waterloo SF Club) It is done Capsule news style, carrying info news, articles and ads from club members. Since ther is no club address listed in the zine itself, I'll put any interested persons onto you Dennis. Write care of DJ Mullins/6-69 Donald St./Kitchener, Ontario/ N2B 3G6. (Sorry about that DJ, but if you want me to direct them else where, include the sddress on your next newsletter.)

SIDETREKKER- is the STAR TRK ONTARIO fanzine. Number 5 caries a

little bit everything Dr. Who articles, con reports short SF story, Star trek trivia questions, a rap of Heinlein's NUMBER OF THE BEAST. An interesting zine for Trek fans, but if you hate ST you might not enjoy the zine. Take it into consideration okay?.

-NEOLOGY-the club zine for the edmonton Science Fiction and Comic Art Society, will be changing editors. Lorna Toolis and Georges Giguere have taken up the mantle Robert has laid down. Since they will no longer be carrying NCF and Roberts Skywritings editorials so it will be very interesting to see what the next issue will bring. It is to be expected that there will be more of a club centre to the zine now, and we wish luck to the new editors.

SOLARIS- Those of you lucky fans out there who are fluently bilangue will appreciate this very slick zine out of Longueuil, Quebec. Beautiful artwork and interesting articles, along with some fiction and book reports. It certainly makes me wish that my comprehension was a lot better because there was just enough uncertainty in my reading to make it difficult to be sure I had caught everything the writer wanted to say. I wonder if I could advertise for a francophone columnist there I really suggest at any rate, that you obtain at least one copy, and if you can find a translator, you might easily find yourself hooked on this zine.

OSFS- newsletter for the Ottawa group, is an excellent piece of club reportage. There are letters, meeting minutes and all sorts of good stuff that pertains to the interests of the club members and is strong enough to carry the complaints too. I have a soft spot for the newsletter and the club since Ottawa was where I first got involved in the marvelous whirlwind of fandom. As my husband says, when you read SF, you are an SF reader. When you join clubs and attend cons and all the rest of the things entailed in socializing with your fellow fen, then you have become a fan. Well, I became a fan with this group, and I still manage to attend Maplecons, and greet old friends.

NEOLOGY/POB 4071/ South Edmonton, ALBERTA/T6E 4S8..sub, \$4/yr.
SOLARIS/1085 St. Jean/Longueuil, QUEBEC/J4H 2Z3....sub, \$8/yr.
OSFS/POB 2912, Station D/ Ottawa, ONTARIO/K1P 5W9..sub, \$9/yr.

CONVENTIONS-

report... BOSKONE, is the annual SF con in Boston. Since NESFA had just finished hosting the World con in Sept.80, you know relaxation was the key for this con. First the bitches...Dealers room was too small. Since they had a waiting list of dealers, they should have found more room and made it easier for us all to spend our money....Since there was such a short time since Noreascon, there was no play this year. But instead of moving the costume party into the now vacant Sat. night spot, they left costumes on Friday night and Sat. night very loose. Undeterred, we went out on the town for 3½ hours to revel before returning to the usual parties. (For those who don't attend cons it is very unusual to leave the con hotel and proceeding for more than an hour, is extremely unusual) Now the good stuff...Costumes were great as usual. Words cannot describe so if you hear from someone who has pictures, ask them to show em off. The art show was very good, and the art of Guest artist Don Maitz, breath-taking. The print job on the bookcovers of KILL THE DEAD and DAY AND NIGHT just doesn't do them justice. The originals were absolutely vibrant. Thats why, when the fire alarm went off for the first time, my initial reaction was is that the...? SAVE THE ART SHOW!!! Thank goodness it was only a small fire and the other alarms that week end were false. It certainly adds a new dimension to your appreciation when you are also thinking-if there is another alarm what should I save first?

Tanith Lee was GoH and a delightful person she is. Joan Vinge was there too and they were both on a delightful panel-WHATS IN A NAME-about the significance, pronunciation, choosing and changing of character names. Then there was this strange little panel at midnight called Creature Comforts. Consider the title being read by Boris Karloff and you'll get a good idea. I managed to get all my books autographed. There was the 24 hour a day movies too some good, some camp, some grwat, and somme... Attack of the Killer Tomatoes...arrrrgh, grrrk, gag, grak.

Surprise of the convention occurred during the costume party friday.

John had just bought me a drink and was handing it to me, when he looked over my shoulder and said "Douglas". I turned around and was introduced to Douglas Adams who John had met in England last year. Adams is the author of Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy (if you haven't read it, do. If you get a chance to hear the tapes, do. If someone is willing to lend you either, resist the immense urge not to return them) A typical innocent writer who was in Boston to see about flogging his marvelous works to the americans, heard there was this SF thing on at the Sheraton, so he had dropped in. It was too good an opportunity to miss. John finked to the costumes announcer, and had him stand up. He was immediately swamped by the knowledgable american HHGG fans.

The ultimate test of a good con is, did you have fun. I certainly did so it was a good fanfun con.

Maplecon 4 is well into the planning and will be held this year in the Skyline hotel Rooms are \$64 for a double eep!! per day!

Halcon report next issue. Hope the problem over it being at a University with no rooms isn't as bad as it was last year.

AMATEUR FILMS are very much fun for clubs to make and not really very expensive. Thats the way Hardware wars started out. Start with a plot, work out your staging and your props. do a talkthrough, set up your camera(s) and shoot. You may figure on 1/3 to 1/2 your film being usable due to cutting and splicing and the stuff that just doesn't come out right. I'm interested to hear what others of you out there have done in this area. Most poeple work in 8mm or Super 8 and some conventions are willing to show them if given enough advance warning so they can provide projectors and sound equipment if necessary. Anyone game?

BOOKS IN CANADA- January 81 issue carries a few goodies. First article is FUTURE IMPERFECT by Terence Green about Canadian SF. An excellent article. Terence at one point however mentions Room of One's Own and adds in brackets taht its guest editor Susan Wood suicuded. Does he know something that the rest of us don't or is the SF grapevine so badly warped that the heart attack became suicide by the time it reached Toronto? I'll have look into it. The rest of the article however, I recommend, if only to find out what the book merchants are reading on our favourite fetsh.

Following ternece' piece is a marvelous interview with Spider Robinson. It was great to read and really is something that every potential writer should read. I wish I could send everyone a copy but if you write they may be willing to send you one (sounding scholarly wouldn't hurt) Don't read the article on page 20 or you will get pissed off like I did and write nasty letters to the editor. If you have great restraint you might read it to get a view of the grey corporate view of SF. ARGH!

WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

This is a column that will continue at various times in Northern Lights as space permits. It is aimed athe the solitary fan and the small club looking for new members. It is sometime difficult to find others who share your interest in SF and Fantasy. Sometimes you think, no one else reads it around here but me. But its not true. A book store would not carry those books if it had only one customer for them. There must be others who buy them and others, therefore, who read them. It may be that you are part of a small group of friends, say six or seven. But even seven people buying two or maybe three books a month, are not enough to make it worth the book sellers time to stock those many volumes. So there are other people out there. How do you find them? First, realize that not all of them will be interested in being part of a club. But that doesn't mean that all of them won't be. If you want to be the searcher there are certain ways to discover others and have them discover you. Here is your first step. Make up a neatly lettered sign on standard sized paper, using a brightly coloured marker. Put the words- Science Fiction in big letters. This will get people to look at your sign and if they are interested in SF they will keep on reading. Give a name (preferably male since there are sickies out there you really don't want to have your phone number if you are female) and phone number of someone to contact. State that you are interested in meeting and talking about SF. You could perhaps arrange a meeting in a church hall or community centre if you can get the space free. Ask your book store to allow you to post this sign in or near the cash

register. (Maybe even on the cash register if it has its back facing the customer) Other places you could post your signs are, in the library, a school bulletin board, in the drug store, or variety shop that sells the SF zines. Always ask, & point out that this is just a non-profit organization and that the group would be very likely to provide clues as to what they are interested in and are willing to patronize those places which help them to advertise for members. Any good business person will not turn up their nose at the idea of what would bring more and better business. When you start to get enquiries, get the person's name and phone number, explain that you want to start a gathering and ask each which is the best day or evening for them to come to this type of meeting. Get an alternate day also so that you can make arrangements for the time that you can get the most people together. Try to find out what each person's "line" is. Flexibility and width of appeal are very important to the life of a club. That doesn't mean that making it exclusively Star Trek or only for Marion Zimmer Bradley fans, is wrong, but you will find that the best running and longest living clubs are those which are very general. Each member may have one or two things they are very "into", but the club itself tries to do things and discuss, each and every aspect of SF and Fantasy. This lets everyone find out about the interests and ideas of fellow members, giving them the opportunity to become interested themselves. In the next column, whenever I find space, or make space, I will be talking about how a club can organize travelling to cons, or other SF events, and how to arrange various events for club meetings. Feedback both on this column and the next one are welcome, since I am certain there are ideas I have never thought of or heard about yet.

A QUICK RUNDOWN on where I will be just in case some of you will be in the same place at the same time.

In a couple of weeks I'll be attending Halcon, flogging Northern Lights and stuff like that.

Come the Victoria Day weekend, John and I will be attending Can-games, in Ottawa. It will be in the Carleton University, and is a gaming con, so if you would like to talk in the evening, write and we'll see what can be arranged.

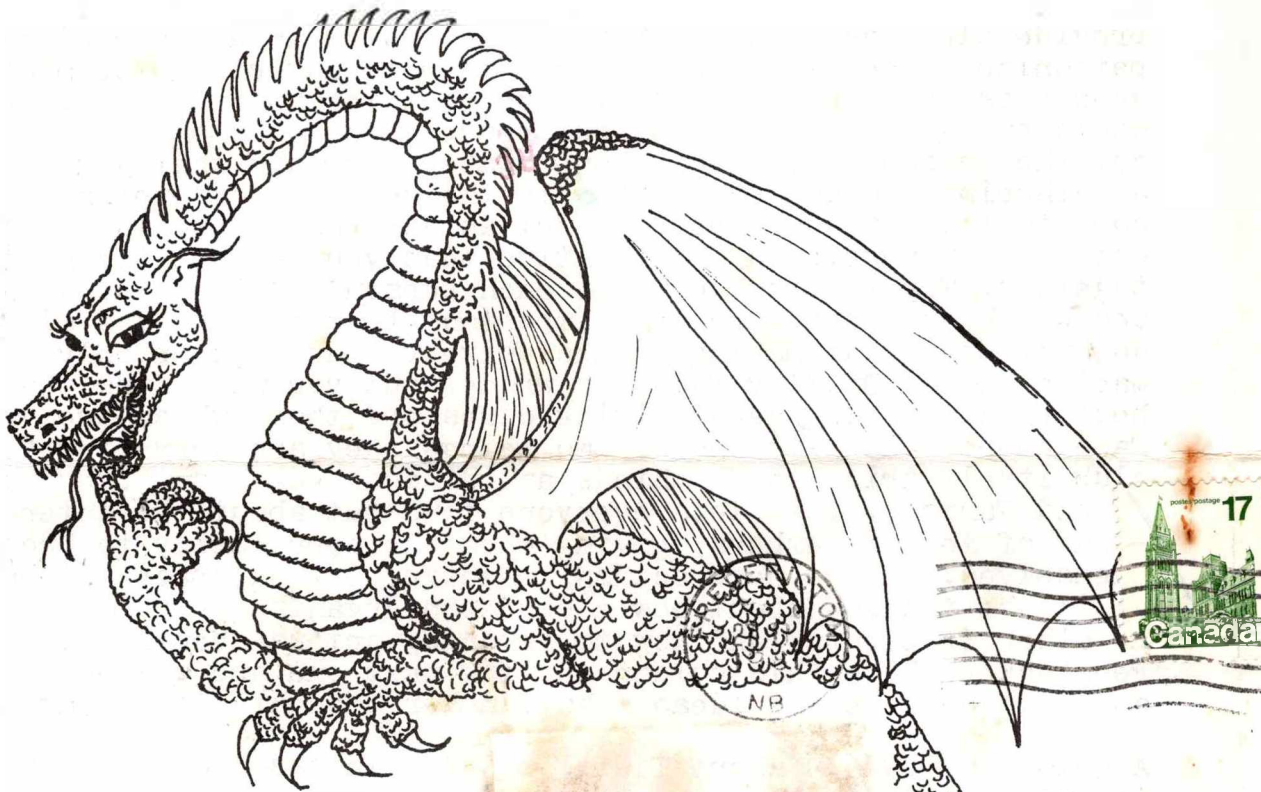
God willing and the income ~~tax~~ tax doesn't take all our money, we are hoping to make it out to the WesterCon the July long weekend.

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

Since conventions don't always get the coverage they should I'd like to hear about the ones I can't afford, or get to. I can't promise to print it all but....

The same applies to SF related happenings, like if you attend a lecture or talk by an SF writer, or publisher or find a printed interview, I'd like to know about it.

PLUG- I have a vested interest in spreading the word about this person because he is nice to talk to, one of my "honouraries", and a very good author. Barry Longyear's book Circus World, is one of this month's selections and I highly recommend it. Barry is one of the newer authors in SF and has managed to gather two different groups of fans. There are those who really loved Manifest Destiny, a different kind of alien story, and there are those who really love the stories about momus, which are about a circus group stranded on a far-away planet and the society which evolves over the years until the planet suddenly becomes important to the vying political groups. Read both books. Good stuff.



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