

Missed you at Easter con

# NORTHERN LIGHTS # 3

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 for 6 issues is requested, to help cover postage costs. Mailing address is: NORTHERN LIGHTS, 46 Carleton St., Oromocto, N.B., E2V 2C8. ED.-Linda Ross-Mansfield.

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Well, this month I'm a touch late, but I have the best of reasons.. a convention, in England. I'll be do a report on that con, and carry some news on other events. Does anyone out there want to say something too? If you want to say something to your fellow fen, send it along. Just because I have to type up all this by my lonesome doesn't mean I want it to be just me!

## LOCAL EVENTS-

Our club is always interested in promoting SF and finding new fans, so we made arrangements to put on a one day display cum discussion and talk, on various aspects of SF, and we managed to persuade the University of New Brunswick to provide space and funds to pay for a guest speaker- Barry B. Longyear. They put up posters to let the University people know and did a small amount of newspaper advertising as well. The nice thing about having it on the campus in St. John was that since it was rather hard to reach the people who came were there for good reason. They wanted to know more and were interested in meeting others who did. We are hoping that the people who are presently members of our club in Fredericton, but who live in St. John will now use the list of names they collected to start a club in St. John. We don't want to push them away we just want them to have fellow fen in thier own city, instead of an hour and a half down the road.

Our own activities are always running. We are presently planning trips to Delta Draconis in Toronto, our summer picnic, the travel plans for Maplecon in October, and believe it or not, even the plans for next years Boskone since we have six people already who definitely plan to go and a probable eight more . I think it is safe to say that travelitis is definitely a disease in our club members. If you have been afraid to travel "far a field" in fandom by attending conventions more than three hours away, consider that the costs shared is the costs deminished and than going to a con as a group is really a lot of fun. Do plan it well ahead of time. I'll talk about how to do that later on.

## OBITUARY-

For those fans who are active in the Toronto area and the reachable areas of TO, I am sorry to have to report on the passing of Phillip Stevens, this past April. He was affectionately know to many of us as Squirrel, and was a member of the Dorsai Irregulars. He was alone in his parents home when he suffered a series of svere epileptic attacks which caused his death at the age of 28. I personally send my sincerest sympathies to both Mr. & Mrs. Stevens and to the young lady to whom he had proposed marriage just 3 days before. Some of the TO fans are planning to set up a fan award in Phil's name and possibly a bursary or scholarship for visual arts at his University. Anyone who is interested in contributing to this effort or finding out more about it, should contact Greg Hagglund, 261 Howland Ave., Toronto, Ont, M5R 3 B7. I have fond memories of you Phil and you won't be forgotten. (cards may be sent to Mr. & Mrs Stevens at 43 Northampton Dr. Islington, Ontario, M9B 4S5)

## CONVENTION REPORTS-

### HALCON-

Well I'm not the only one who thought that this year's Halcon was below thier usual standard. I have recieved my copy of NEOLOGY and the two Edmonton fans I met at Halcon did a rather scathing report of thier own on Halcon. They are used I expect to a fair amount of organization from thier experiences at NonCons and the Vancouver and Seattle efforts. Well, I don't want to make any excuses for the Halcon Committee but to the best of my knowledge, only one of this year's committee has ever attended a con outside of Halcons so... However I do think that I would not really recommend the Con to anyone and John (my husband) and I are not particularly interested in going to any more other than to enjoy the company of the fans we know there. Poor Gordy Dickinson was taken ill and unable to make it to the planned events, although Ben Bova and Barry B. Longyear and Spider Robinson did everything to fill in where needed on the panels. I did happen to

see Gordy (Saturday evening) he was not in the best of shape (I thought I was seeing a ghost, for a second) I certainly hope he is fully recovered by now. Organization at Halcon was not the greatest, but I must commend some of the committee members for finally attempting to have an art show (at least it had its own room and rules about eating and drinking there, to protect the work. Last year it was just a few things hung on a wall in the dealers area) I think that all the Halcon committee really needs is to attend a few cons other than thier own. Then they will be able to correct thier own errors. The problem is to convince them that they have problems in the first place. In the land of the blind...

#### EASTERCON-

I had the chance to go to England over the Easter weekend and attend thier Eastercon which this year was called YORCON. To set the mood let me re-print what is written on each membership badge, below the number name, and YORCON 2..."reserves the right to photograph, embarrass, deprave, corrupt, and generally abuse in any way they see fit." This is what you wear on your person to gain entry to all sections of the convention! I like the idea! As usual we arrived Friday evening after Registration had closed. The train ride up to Leeds took about 2 hours you see and we hadn't left London until 6:30 P.M. The convention however was in full swing. (The hotel bar in England is required to remain open for as long as there are two or more hotel patrons present and requesting drinks...in other words the bar is open all night.) It was nice to go about meeting acquaintances and people John knew and I had heard all about. I can honestly say that it is a much more relaxed style of convention than here, probably in large part due to the fact that you don't have to worry about finding the room parties since most of the fans are there in the reception/Bar area anyway, and they don't get all out of joint if you want to wander about the con with your drink in hand (Except of course the art show area) One of the programming highlights for me was Bob Shaw's "talk" We all spent almost a full hour laughing groaning and otherwise rolling on the floor in exstastic mirth. I swear that man cannot say more than two sentences together without a joke, pun, or other witticism. Afterward you need to sit for a few minutes to make certain that there is still some portion of your funny bone left. The art Show had some really gorgeous pieces and nothing bad enough to be considered to be just "good". I would have loved to bring a piece or two home but my poor pocket was not healthy enough after paying about \$65 a night for our hotel room. I did manage to buy a few HHGG buttons and for those of you who have not experienced the Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy read it, if you can get the tapes listen to it and be prepared... the TV series is out and someone is eventually going to gather enough brains to realize that this is great stuff and import it. The next British Con I may try to get to will be in November. If anyone is planning to be over there write and I will try to get some info to you on the cons there.

#### THE STARTREK CON..by John Mansfield

In England, John was lucky enough to attend the ST con a week before Eastercon and reports-

North American ST cons have a tendency to live off thier guest list. Hence you see a long list of ex-actors on the program and little else. In the UK, the actors aren't there and instead you find a mass of fans that get together to just talk & enjoy. Thier "guest" was an official of the ST-The Movie, that was enough of an excuse. The rest of the con was fun and playing. The Art Show was poor, I must admit, but where else could you find a show of stuffed pets. Including a tribble that could trace his line back to Claude Rains and the Invisible man, mind you I couldn't see it. Movies were mainly ST episodes (two were banned from TV in the UK). A great plus to these conventions, outside mature people and an open bar, is the fact that they have TWO costume balls and a fantastic Disco Dance!! Saturday is the costume ball with great ideas and fantastic outfits. I could go on for pages on the idea. Then on Sunday they have a "fashion show" which is really an excuse for a lot of excellent skits with comedy, acting, costumes and lots of FUN. a fantastic Con and I look forward to the next one of these annual events and RECOMMEND them to anyone.

IN FANZINES-

NEW CANADIAN FANDOM is now out (Arrived just in time Robert) and th first newsy page has a short but complementary review of FAIR-ISLE a one day con, first effort by the Victoria fans. Then they gave a report on Halcon... batting 1000 guys, all baaaad. Only mistake on the reviewer's part was in identifying Jean Longyear as Barry's sister. Sorry but I know the Longyears well and Jean is Barry's wife. There is a plug for NonCon 5 listed in this issue as October 82. Ther isn't one thisyear? Ther is a lot in this zine and if it manages a regular schedule it should be very popular. An excellent place to find clubs all over Canada, as he provides a list of known clubs in various cities. I have a new one for you, Robert since I neglected to give you its address before Robert...Fredericton SF Society (FSFS) c/o Fantasy Forest, 384 Queen St., Fredericton, N.B. (That is where we hold our monthly metings, every first Friday of the month) I recommend NEW CANADIAN FANDOM to everyone because it provides a good view of fandom as seen from the West. A perfect example of why Robert and I seem to balance each other is seen in the convention listings. He lists Torque 2 and not Delta Draconis both of which are in Toronto. Then, later in this FIL I'll list DD but omit T2, because fans from this end who wrote Torque 2 for memberships had thier letters returned as addressee unknown whereas Delta Draconis has been easily contactable. Obviously Robert has heard from folks that I don't know about, and I would guess that the DD people didn't send much info westward. So, if you get both of us, we will hopefully cover most of the fan info for Canada. Write- NCF, POB 4655, Southside Post Office, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 5G5/sub 4/\$2 but the rates will be going up so sub now.

OOPS- Oopses will show up wherever necessary to correct my own dim-wit errors as soon as possible- I just noticed the NonCon 4 listing at the back of NCF, there is one this year!

DOPPLEGANGER has chanced upon a way to cover being late. For various reasons he wasn't able to put out the usual issue, so he sent out a 1 sheet with a few newsy items (free, not as an issue) and subscribers will get the usual size zine whenever He can manage. It at least lets folks know he is still plugging. This is a personalzine from a fan and gamer in the Ottawa area, heavy on the gaming end. For info write to Neil Kaden, 3-1309 Henry Farm Drive, Ottawa, ONT, K2C 4H7. A sample cost \$1, subs 4/\$3

ULTRA has been delayed in its first publication again. According to its ed./pub. the next projected date is Sept. 81, and I will keep my fingers crossed for him. Good luck.

DENVENTION PR 4 may not exactly be a zine but it is mighty close. There is one huge chunch of important info in this and I don't just mean as regards Denvention either. Anyone who is even thinking of running a convention should read something like this to get a good groundwork for thier own. Of course not many folks plan thier first con on a worldcon scale, but all the basics are there for any size con to apply them. There is Membership info, Programming info, hotel info(including a poorfans guide to the cleaner fleabag-read cheaper-hotels in the con area. Rides & rooms listing, Masquerade and Art show poop and gamers info, interspersed with humour, letters, and the odd bit of fiction thrown in too. IMPORTANT FOR ALL FANS to note is that there is a motion to ban all weapons from Worldcons, whether or not it is part of a costume. I think this is in large part due to the over abundance the electronic beepoe guns that many of the fans have been assaulting the ears of thier fellow fen, but there is also the rather low mentality of some of the fans, who are more than over enthusiastic, and are just down right dumb. The reason I make this stand is that at Boskone this year, someone pulled the security alarm and the S.W.A.T. team burst into the Lobby of the hotel armed to the teeth. Some of the fans reaction was... heh, neat weapons.. and the dumbies actually aimed thier toy weapons at the police. Lets hear it for police quick judgement that there were not pieces of fen all over that lobby. It was an awfully close thing. I can't say how much I appreciate the training and minds of these cops. What would YOUR reaction be if YOU entered the building thinking that there were armed thugs inside and You saw someone aim something at you? I think that there should be an in-between position. Let there be a rule ENFORCED rule, that all weapons worn outside of the convention specified areas WILL be confiscated for the duration of the con or the descision to return of an assigned commitee member(s).

This type of rule would certainly quash the ninnies, and still alot time for those who are careful and/rhave a weapon that is an important part of thier costume, to display properly. You must admit an unarmed Barbarian, or Starship Trooper isn't quite the same now is it? They need feed back on this for Denvention and the consideration of other World Con committees, so now is the time to write your one letter of the year. to make a stand. Apathy on this may get you a descision you and your friends won't like. Write c/o Phil Normand & Ed Bryant, Denvention 2 POB 11545, Denver, CO 80211, USA, or attend the forum meeting palnned for very Early in the Con where a vote will be taken to apply for the duration of the con. This is precedent setting folks so make yourself heard. Now out are site selection ballots (Baltimore, Australia, and Denmark, with a voting fee of still only \$7.50(US).)Hugo ballots, which require at least a supporting membership (\$15) to vote, so look for them in the zines such as locus etc.

SPACE SEEMS TO BE RUNNING OUT FOR THIS ISSUE, so I will give a quick rundown of what will be included in the June issue of NORTHERN LIGHTS. Number 4 will carry the Phyllis Gottlieb list that I had promised for number 2 but didn't get in (and for the fan who wrote and thought she had died, I don't think I've been corresponding with a ghost) Another section of WHERE ARE THE OTHERS? On how to find other SF fans and start your own discussion group or club. And a few other interesting things.

Upcoming CONVENTIONS-

MAY 22-24 V-CON 9...Vancouver B.C. \$15...POB48701, Bentall Stn. Van, B.C. V7X 1A6. no phone no. available.

JUNE 12-14 DELTA DRACONIS.. Toronto Ont..Dragonstar, POB 293, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4Y5 \$10 now, \$12 after May 30.

JULY 10-12 GREAT WHITE NORTH CON...Vancouver B.C...(this is a comics convention)...POB 48873 Bentall Stn Vancouver B.C. V7X 1A8

SEPT 3-7 DENVENTION TWO- 39th World Science Fiction Convention over the Labour Day weekend, this year held in Denver Colorado, \$45.00 membership until 15 July (probably \$50.00 at the door) Write POB 11545, Denver, CO 80211, USA. In US funds please.

OCTOBER 9-11..NONCON 4, Calgary, Alberta, \$10 to may 30, \$12 to Aug 31 \$15 at the door. POB 475, Station G, Calgary, Alberta T3A 2G4

OCTOBER 23-25, '81..MAPLECON 4..Ottawa Ont. Skyline Hotel \$10 to May 30, \$12 to Aug 31, \$15 at the door. POB 3156 Stn D. Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6H7

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