

**BCSFA NEWSLETTER****MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next meeting will be held Saturday, October 20 at Chuck and Edna Davis' house, 1704 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave, in the city. The reason this newsletter is out so early is to give everyone adequate notice of the meeting. We'd like to get a large group together for this meeting.

The main - indeed only - general topic to be discussed is the upcoming convention. February 22-23 1974 are the days. Other details await brilliant ideas and hard work. 7:30 pm.

**TOLKIEN DIES**

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien died September 2, 1973 in his 82<sup>nd</sup> year from the effects of a perforated ulcer. His death was announced at Torcon and caused some concern among fantasy readers who were eagerly awaiting the publication of The Silmarillion. There have been rumours that Tolkien's will specified that any unfinished works were to be destroyed upon his death. However, apparently The Silmarillion doesn't fall into this category - Allen & Unwin have announced its publication for 1974 edited by Tolkien's son.

**TRIP TO SEATTLE**

Seattle has a fan group known as The Nameless Ones and they meet once a month (the second Friday thereof) in a bookstore (most often) which sells much SF, Horizon Books. If you're interested in attending their meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup> let me (Mike Bailey, 731-8451) know ASAP.

The Nameless Ones has been established for a long time and, in fact, they organized a World Convention in 1961. The people in the group are much more varied in their background than we are - from doctors to college professors to students to SF writers to porno-sellers and from 15 to about 60 years of age. They have no officers, no dues, no objectives - they just meet once a month and have a good time, talking about SEX, politics, and science fiction.

**MICHAEL G. CONEY VS. JOANNA RUSS AND HARLAN ELLISON**

When local author Michael G. Coney read Joanna Russ' Nebula-winning, feminist story, 'When It Changed' (in *Again, Dangerous Visions* edited by Harlan Ellison), he was angered and wrote a letter attacking the story to Richard Geis' widely read fanzine, THE ALIEN CRITIC. Three excerpts of what he wrote are:

*"The hatred, destructiveness that comes out of the story makes me sick", "...I've just come back from the West Indies, where I spent three years being hated merely*

*because my skin was white - and for no other reason. Now I pick up A,DV and find that I am hated for another reason - because Joanna Russ hasn't got a prick...", and "...I could write that type of story, and write it better, about blacks and whites, Catholics and Protestants, any the-majority-is-a-bastard situation..."*

Subsequently Harlan Ellison sent him a letter challenging him to write a better story and holding up Last Dangerous Visions for it. Although Ellison gave him only two weeks to produce the story, Coney accepted the challenge and - who knows?

### **OTHER NEWS**

STAR TREK producer Gene L. Coon died on July 8 1973 of cancer.

Lancer Books, publishers of the "complete Conan", has suspended operations.

John Brunner will be the subject of an entire course to be taught at Central Michigan University this year.

Dell Books has announced the publication of Venus On The Half Shell by well known Kurt Vonnegut character, Kilgore Trout. Incidentally, Philip Jose Farmer has denied that he is the culprit.

Philip K. Dick writes that he has written his first non-commissioned story in six years, and also that his wife, Tasso, gave birth to a boy, Christopher, in July.

### **OTHER CONVENTION NEWS**

Although we haven't made reservations yet, we are reasonably certain that our 1974 convention will be held at the Hotel Georgia in the downtown area. Rates for persons staying in the hotel will be \$16/night for a single, \$21/night for a double. The guest of honour will hopefully be announced in the next newsletter - or perhaps at the next meeting.

As of September 29, 1973, Vancouver is bidding for Westercon in 1977. We have booked the Hyatt Regency, a 700 room hotel, for June 30-July 4, 1977. Westercon is a large annual SAF convention which takes place on the west coast, alternating between the north and the south. Because Westercon must be bid for two years in advance and because odd years are "north" years, 1977 is the earliest year on which we can hold this convention. (Incidentally, Phil Dick is the guest of honour at next year's Westercon which will be held on the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. If you're interested in going, plan now. I am.)

### **FOR ARTISTS ONLY**

We need designs for flyers (8½X11) and posters (?X?) for our 1974 convention. We would prefer a design which we could use for several years and thus become familiar to SF fans everywhere. "The Third Vancouver Science Fiction Convention" is not exactly a catching name - other suggested names are Vancon III, Van3Con, Vanclave, etc. So, if in conjunction with designing a flyer you can think of a better one, let us know. The flyer and the poster, then, should have an eye-catching logo and information such as when, where, who and how much. Besides a flyer and poster design(s), we're also going to need a cover for the convention program book. If

you're interested, be sure to be at the next meeting and I'll be sure to bring examples of other program books and flyers.

### **BOOK COMMENTS**

I recently struggled through Bernard The Conqueror by Sam Lundwall, an attempt at humour, and What Entropy Means To Me by Geo "Piglet" Effinger, a book apparently written as an exercise in self-gratification. Much superior was a collection of short stories by James Tiptree Jr. published by Ace Books entitled Ten Thousand Light-Years From Home. The mysterious Tiptree (who wrote a fan letter to Michael G. Coney) makes several references to Western Canada and I wonder if he ever lived in Canada.

Looking ahead on my reading schedule, I find myself anticipating with some hope Arthur C. Clarke's Rendezvous With Rama, High Deryni by Katherine Kurtz, and The Godmakers by Frank Herbert... Mike Bailey