

# Lasting Impressions: News from the World of Fanzines

## Ditto 14

"You thought it was a fanzine con," Leah Zeldes Smith mused when she counted six former Worldcon chairmen among the members of Ditto 14: Sims, DeVore, Olson, Siclari, Veal and Sapienza. Ditto, combined with FanHistoricon 11, convened in Bob Tucker's home town of Bloomington, IL over the October 12-14 weekend. Afterwards, Tucker distributed an issue of *eZombie* advising connoisseurs to search Keith Stokes' online photo gallery < <http://www.kcsciencefiction.org/01ditto01.htm> > if they want to....

- See Jack Speer accepting the coveted Jim Beam Shotglass Award!
- See Dick Smith and Leah Zeldes Smith plotting control of fanzine fandom!
- See D. Gary Grady, Steve Francis and Tucker plotting to abscond with the treasury!
- See Joe Siclari demonstrating his secret mastery of Fanac fandom!
- See Edie Stern and Mark Olson seizing control of the convention!
- See Rob Chilson, D. Gary Grady and Carolyn Doyle just plotting!
- See the birth of SMOFF = Secret Masters of Fanzine Fandom!
- It is midnight -- do you know where your mimeograph is?

Toronto will host next year's convention, Ditto 15, in October 2002. Attending memberships are \$30 (US), \$45 (CDN). Make checks payable to Ditto and send them to Murray Moore, 2002 Ditto 15 CC&BW, 1065 Henley Road, Mississauga, ON L4Y 1C8, Canada. Supporting memberships may be purchased for \$10 (CDN or US).

## Zine Raising Funds For Fannish Charities

*Spirits of Things Past 4: The CONTACT Fanthology*, published by Dick and Leah Smith in conjunction with ditto 14, is a sparkling 100-page fanzine in which 72 fans tell how they found their way to fandom. (P.S. The zine literally sparkles!)

The contributors include fanzine fans, convention fans, techies, pros, Hugo winners, Worldcon chairs, and more -- among them Forry Ackerman, Jack L. Chalker, Howard DeVore, Phyllis Eisenstein, John Foyster, Gordon Garb, Deb Geisler, Mike Glicksohn, Mike Glycer, Rob Jackson, Terry Jeeves, Dave Langford, Eric Lindsay, Rich and Nicki Lynch, Craig Miller, Jodie Offutt, Mark and



Jack Speer and Bob Tucker in high spirits at ditto 14. Photo by Keith Stokes.

Priscilla Olson, Bruce Pelz, Andrew I. Porter, Tullio Proni, Mike Resnick, Jon Singer, Jack Speer, Bob Tucker, Tom Veal, William R. Warren, Peter Weston and Tom Whitmore.

Copies are \$10, including U.S. postage (add \$5 for copies to be sent outside the United States, \$10 for overseas airmail). The proceeds benefit ditto, FanHistoriCon and DUFF. Send a check or money order made out to Richard Smith to P.O. Box 266, Prospect Heights, IL 60070-0266, USA.

## Canadian Fanhistor: A Help Wanted Ad By R. Graeme Cameron

I was on stage as one of the presenters when I won the Fan Achievement (Organizational) Aurora award. I was stunned, since I hadn't expected to win, figuring other nominees were more deserving. I staggered forward and delivered an impromptu thank you speech meant to be funny but which was probably rambling and incoherent. Still, a delightful surprise.

As many of my Fannish contacts are aware, I gaffiated a few years back due to personal problems. I made one attempt to degaffiate, but that proved premature. My 11th issue of *Space Cadet*, for instance, is prepared, but I lack funds to repro and distribute it. Likewise my last issue of *CanFapa*. To top it off, things have gotten so bad I've been forced to file for bankruptcy and must account to my trustee for literally every penny I earn and spend. Not much fun this.

On the plus side, however, in casting about for a fanac hobby that won't cost me

anything I've restarted work on the biggest project I've ever attempted, namely "The Canadian Fancyclopedia: An Incomplete Guide to Twentieth Century Canadian Science Fiction Fandom". This will be an A to Z listing of fannish lingo, legends and fhistory as complete as is sufficient to convey the nature of the beast, and will include as many Canadian fanzines as my research reveals. I'm not interested in providing a Swisher style checklist/index, as that would be of use only to collectors. What I want to do is describe the zines so that the casual reader (who will probably never actually see any of these zines) gains a sense of what they were like and per-

haps, just perhaps, will feel inspired to revive the archaic practice of pubbing your ish.

My sources are the usual suspects, the first two *Fancypedias*, classic works by fanhistorians like Harry Warner Jr. and Garth Spencer, whatever I can glean from the net, my personal zine collection, and the 5,000+ issue zine collection of the BCSFA which originated with a bequest from the Susan Wood estate. But I need more.

What I would like is for those fans who pub, collect or are in any way familiar with Cdn zines to send me capsule comments and reviews on individual or entire runs of Cdn zines. I am particularly interested in the zines of the '30s, '40s, '50s and '60s as these are the decades for which I have the least information. All sources will be credited. I wouldn't mind being sent photocopies of legendary zines like *A Bas* or *Energumen*, but I can't afford to reimburse anybody. Truth to tell all I really need are people's opinions and views on these zines. My ultimate goal is to provide a reasonably entertaining glimpse of Cdn fandom in the last century in the hope it will inspire others to carry fandom forward well into the 21st century.

I've begun to transfer my working notes for "The Canadian Fancyclopedia: An Incomplete Guide to Twentieth Century Canadian Science Fiction Fandom" to a newly created web site which can be reached at:

<http://members.shaw.ca/rgraeme/home.html>

Now my project has become an interactive research project! I'm hoping for massive amounts of feedback from fanzine fans and collectors as I add more material on an ongo-

ing basis. People can contact me at < rgraeme@home.com > or by writing to me at: 86 Warrick Street, Coquitlam, B.C., V3K 5L4, Canada.

## *eFNAC:* *A Private Fanzine?*

*Commentary by John Foyster*

In the August 2001 *File 770* Mike Glycer wrote that I wanted to keep my fanzine, *eFNAC*, "a private fanzine." It took me some time to adjust to this description, because up until now I had thought that all fanzines were "private fanzines."

But then I had never seen the expression before, so perhaps I misunderstand.

To me, all the entities I think of as fanzines are "private"; the editor-publisher enters into a relationship with her/his readers that is personal - the readers are known to the editor. Since you mail out your fanzine, you have to know a name and address (or at least something approximating that) for each recipient (except for those copies you give away at a convention).

I realize that this isn't a universal rule. Sometimes fanzines are sold at newsstands, although nowadays I would guess such "fanzines" would fit, Hugo-wise, into the semi-pro category. But once you start using the Internet to distribute a fanzine, some new questions come up, and perhaps this is one of them.

When I started publishing *eFNAC* a year and a half ago I just emailed it to a few friends. But because *eFNAC* is typically a shade over a megabyte in size, this can be an expensive business for the recipient; so why not let them download it from a web-site at a time when they get a price break from their ISP?

That seems easy enough. So for a time there was a dual method of distribution: you could get it by direct email or you could download it from the web page. Having *eFNAC* available on a web-page did mean that anyone could download it, but *eFNAC* and "Foyster" are pretty obscure words to be looking for, so I didn't think that too many non-fans would lumber onto the site. And since *eFNAC* is published in Adobe's PDF format, the contents would be protected from search engines so that the mention of a more illustrious name in the fanzine would not drag surfers to the page. But then GOOGLE began indexing PDF files.

That meant that any word in the fanzine might drag in the surfers. Does this matter? Perhaps not, but it does change the relationship between the "fanzine editor/publisher" and the "reader." Putting a publication on the web is like hanging up an advertising hoarding. There's nothing wrong with advertise-

ments for dishwashing liquids, but they seem to me to be inherently different from what I understand fanzines to be, and both the content and the attitude of the reader seem to be different.

So I consulted my web page handler (Erika Lacey) and we stuck a password protection scheme on the page. That prevents GOOGLE and other search engines from indexing random phrases in the fanzine. But the web page itself gives a short summary of the contents, so someone seriously interested in one of the main topics will find themselves (probably) directed to the web page.

And I give the passwords to anyone who writes to me. As a result I now have two *eFNAC* mailing lists - those who get a direct email copy from me, and those who use the passwords to download a copy from the web-page. Every month - well whenever I publish an issue - both lists get a letter advising the availability of an issue and some other notes. So I know (more or less) who my readers are, just as is the case for a regular fanzine.

Some users of the internet are reluctant to reveal their identities, something that is comparatively rare in oldstyle fandom. It's not something I worry about - you can find out plenty about "John Foyster" in a websearch (and sometimes the web page actually does refer to me...) - so I'm generally happy to have my name listed anywhere (spell it right, though), although there was an Australian Senate enquiry last year that I wouldn't have minded being left out of...

But some take anonymity a little too far. Around the time we were adding the password protection to the web-page I got an email whose entire content was, in the subject line, "please subscribe me." I suppose this might have been an enquiry about *eFNAC*, but I am also the owner-moderator of three mailing lists (only one anything to do with fandom), so I wrote back saying (in essence), "sorry, your request is unclear - what do you want to be subscribed to?" But I didn't get an answer; presumably the anonymous would-be subscriber thought I was being too intrusive.

Going a little further, the way information is being handled on the internet creates new privacy questions. Suppose in his privately-circulated fanzine M\*k\* Gly\*r remarks, in frustration, "my boss is a real dickhead." Then I, in my webzine, reviewing fanzines received, choose a particularly juicy quote from M\*k\*'s



Leah and Dick Smith, organizers of ditto 14. Photo by Keith Stokes.

fanzine to illustrate, say, how fans are frustrated on the job and get their own back in their fanzines. M\*k\*'s vindictive boss does a websearch to find out whether he can get evidence to sack M\*k\* and comes up with this quote that M\*k\* possibly doesn't even know about...

As it happens, I don't know anyone called M\*k\* Gly\*r, so this is an entirely fictional example. But I do see a few privately-circulated fanzines in which editors or other contributors sound off about their bosses "safe" in the knowledge that what they say won't go any further. No, indeed.

I think we will still be working out how to link the traditional idea of a fanzine with "new technology" for years to come, but for the time being I prefer to retain, for any fanzine I publish, an old-fashioned idea about the relationship between editor/publisher and reader. There are other ways in which fanzines may make the transition - for example the various diaries - but that's a different path.



Alex Eisenstein and Roger Sims at ditto 14. Photo by Keith Stokes.



## Obituaries

### Milton A. Rothman

Milton Rothman, 81, chairman *emeritus* of Millennium Philcon, died October 9 of a heart attack after battling diabetes and Parkinson's disease. Services will be held November 4 at 3 p.m. at the Trinity Center for Urban Life, in Philadelphia.

Rothman was a prodigy in fandom and the wider world. He founded clubs and conventions, wrote for the prozines, and chaired two Worldcons. Rothman's career as a scientist included ten years of nuclear physics research, ten years of fusion energy research, and ten years of teaching.

He began in fandom by writing letters to the prozines. The earliest he signed "Milton S. Rothman," but he later adopted the middle initial "A" for "Arcot," after one of John W. Campbell's heroes.

In 1935, the 15-year-old Rothman sent *Wonder Stories* the modest sum required to join the Science Fiction League and became member No. 34. The same year, he co-founded (together with Jack Baltadonis and Bob Madle) the Philadelphia chapter of the League, soon renamed the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society.

In the autumn of 1936 at the Rothman family home, five or so Philadelphia fans

hosted six New York fans at a meeting they announced as the first science fiction convention. The New Yorkers returned the courtesy by nominating Rothman to chair the meeting. He was a prodigy who graduated high school at the age of 16 and entered Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science to study chemistry, yet in his

own view, "I was very young, inexperienced and very impressed by the visitation of the New York contingent. They were a little older, on the average, and vastly more sophisticated."

Time proved his leadership skills to be much more than honorary. He was elected president of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA), became a director of the ill-starred Fantasy Foundation, and chaired the board of advisors for the fledgling N3F. He served as chairman of the Fifth World Science Fiction Convention (Philcon) in Philadelphia in 1947. He assumed the duties again in 1953 for the 11th Worldcon (Philcon II), after the death of its original chairman, James Williams. At Philcon II, the first Hugo Awards were presented. (Rothman thus became the first fan to chair two Worldcons, solo. Only one other fan has chaired twice, J. Ben Stark, co-chairman of both Oakland Worldcons.)

Rothman also published a popular fanzine, *Miltie's Mag*, from 1939-1945. It continued under the name *Plenum* until 1950. *Plenum* won the first FAPA egboo poll, in 1948.

Rothman earned a doctorate in physics from the University of Pennsylvania in

1952. He worked until 1959 at the Bartol Research Foundation investigating nuclear-energy levels. From 1959 to 1969, he worked at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory on Project Matterhorn, studying methods of heating ionized gas to very high temperatures. Rothman then joined the faculty at Trenton State College, now the College of New Jersey, where he taught until 1979. He also had a 15-year association with the Franklin Institute Research Center, from which he retired in 1985.

Rothman also wrote for the prozines, using a pseudonym to keep his science career separate from his science fiction. Between 1939 and 1951 he published five short stories as "Lee Gregor," including the oft-reprinted "Heavy Planet." He modestly asserted, "I wrote my most important story when I was 19 and as far as fiction was concerned it was downhill all the way after that."

Twenty years after the last "Lee Gregor" story, he resumed writing fiction for the prozines under his own name, his very last story appearing in 1979. Rothman also wrote popular science articles for the prozines, including several in the late 1970's for *Isaac Asimov's SF Magazine*, edited by fellow Philadelphian George Scithers. He authored eight nonfiction books, including *A Physicist's Guide to Skepticism* and a "massive chemistry text," and humorously observed, "Curiously, doing the textbook does not seem to have damaged my fiction style."

Rothman was honored as Fan GoH by the 1998 Worldcon. Considering that his name seems to appear on half the pages in *All Our Yesterdays*, it was a homage long overdue!

### Alan Dodd

#### Appreciation by Mike Deckinger

Alan Dodd died of natural causes on June 5, 2001 at his home in Hertfordshire, Great Britain, a suburb of London. The local Borough Council conducted a funeral on June 28, in which many local friends attended. He had no living relatives.

Alan Dodd was a very active fan in the 50s and 60s, both as a contributor to other publications and as editor of his own fanzine, *Camber*. He earned the reputation of a hermit because he never appeared at any local club meetings, and only attended one conventions (which he left halfway through.) In later years, ill health and low funds forced him to curtail most of his activities, though he remained an avid letter-writer and had a keen interest in amateur photography. Alan Dodd achieved his greatest fame when Michael Moorcock christened him "Uncle Alan Dodd" in a Tarzan comic book Moorcock serialized for a local newspaper.

### Milton A. Rothman

#### Appreciation by David A. Kyle

Milty Rothman, like so many of us youngsters of the 1930s, was part of my life, from the distant past right into the new millennium. Some of us in the days of Gernsback's *Wonder Stories* were regularly published as letter writers, an elite group such as Forry Ackerman, Jack Darrow, and Bob Madle. I have pulled out the *Wonder* copy of October 1934 and looked into "The Reader Speaks." I had a letter in it and so did Milty. Milton A. Rothman asked plaintively why "my pal Ray Mariella can get two letters in one issue with his hands tied behind his back" and Milty doesn't. And, like Ray, he told of receiving his Science Fiction League certificate and pin, proud of being member number 34, stating his intent

to form an SFL chapter. He was stimulated by sf and wanted more of the "Science Questions and Answers" department. No wonder, or should I say because of *Wonder*, he did become a scientist. He and I lived far apart, but we met at the first sf con ever in 1936 and actively participated in fannish affairs. We were especially together when I stayed at his home for a week in the final days before 1953 worldcon helping in his chairmanship.

Goodbye, Milty. You were one of the originals. You were kind and thoughtful and a good friend throughout our occasional moments together. I do miss you, along with those others of First Fandom who have passed on. Goodbye, Milty.

### *In Passing*

Rhode Island fan **Mark M. Keller** died on September 1 of adenocarcinoma. He was a scholar in the fields of biology and history. His specialty was the "Columbian Exchange," the biological interaction of the Old World with the New World after 1492. He frequently appeared on programs ranging from alternate history to hard sciences, at Boskone, Readercon and other conventions. He was a member of the SCA. [[Source: *The Kessel Run #9*]]

**Walter H. Costello**, long-time sf reader and occasional fanwriter, died September 1 at home in Cincinnati after a lengthy battle with cancer.

**Michael Anthony (Tony) Oliveri** died on June 23 of respiratory failure at age 60 at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C. Tony Oliveri was one of the founders of Knossos, the Washington branch of the Mythopoeic Society, when the group was re-formed in 1984. Oliveri also founded the Children of the Night, a horror book discussion group that lasted for a few years. He was also a collector of fantasy and horror art, and talked about his collection at local conventions in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Oliveri, who spent most of his career as a mechanical engineer for the General Services Administration, is survived by his second wife, Leonicia Icyan, and Elena Oliveri Hiatt, a daughter from his first marriage. [[Source: *Martin Morse Wooster*]]

**Laurie Koon** of Redmond, WA died from a heart condition on August 17. A frequent attendee of NWSFS social events, she was 29.

### *Heinlein Chair Filled By Dr. Vincent Pisacane*

The United States Naval Academy Foundation has announced that Vincent L. Pisacane Ph. D. will fill the first endowed chair in aerospace engineering at the Naval Academy. The Robert A. Heinlein Chair in Aerospace Engineering was established with an anonymous gift of \$2.6 million in honor of the renowned science fiction author and graduate of the Class of 1929.

Dr. Pisacane comes to the Naval Academy from the Space Department of the Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins, where he has been a staff member since 1962. In this position, Dr. Pisacane did fundamental work in astronomical engineering and development of space instrumentation, and small and large spacecraft. His involvement as Associate Director of the

Maryland Space Grant Consortium gave him the opportunity to help direct an undergraduate satellite development program. In addition, Dr. Pisacane teaches masters level courses in spacecraft systems at the Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Whiting School of Engineering and courses in space system design and engineering at the Applied Technology Institute. He most recently served as the Director of the Institute for Advanced Science and Technology in Medicine (IASTM); Assistant JHU/APL Director for Research and Exploratory Development; and Assistant JHU/APL Director for Biomedical Programs.

### *Ignotus Awards 2001*

The Ignotus awards recognizing outstanding Spanish achievements in the field of fantasy and science fiction from the year 2000 were presented Saturday, September 29, 2001 in Zaragoza (Spain) Hispacon. Recognized were:

Best novel: *Nuxlum*, by José Antonio Suárez (Espiral)

Best novella: "Rax," by Eduardo Vaquerizo (Espiral)

Best short story: "La canica en la palmera", by Rafael Marín (Artifex 2E)

Best Anthology: *Besos de alacrán y otros relatos*, by León Arsenal (Metropolis Milenio)

Best related book: *Paradojas: ciencia en la ciencia ficción*, by Miquel Barceló (Equipo Sirius)

Best Article: "Viajando hacia las estrellas, naves estelares en la CF", by Cristóbal Pérez-Castejón (BEM WEB) and "¡Bester! ¡Bester!", by Juan Manuel Santiago (Gigamesh)

Best Illustration: Cover from *Snow Crash*, by Juan Miguel Aguilera and Paco Roca (Gigamesh).

Best Audiovisual : *El corazón del guerrero*, by Daniel Monzón (film)

Best Poetic: *Desert*

Best Magazine: *Gigamesh*, Alejo Cuervo Editor.

Best Foreign Novel: *Snow Crash*, by Neal Stephenson (Gigamesh)

Best foreign short story: "Entra un soldado, después otro", "Enter a Soldier. Later: Enter Another" by Robert Silverberg (Gigamesh)

Best Web site : Bibliópolis, crítica en la Red (<http://www.bibliopolis.org>"), Luis G. Prado Ed.

### *Jedi Makes the UK Census List*

It's official: "Jedi Knight" is ON the list of religions for the 2001UK census. According to the BBC, a campaign to get people to write the entry on their census forms has succeeded in the term being included on the list of religions, alongside Church of Eng-

land, Roman Catholic, Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu.

Sufficient numbers of people wrote the entry in for it to be allocated its own code for the census processing team to use -- but officials from the Office of National Statistics are keen to point out that just because Jedi Knight has been given its own code, that does not confer on it the status of official recognition.

"We are not defining what a religion or a faith might be," a spokeswoman said. "We are recognizing what some may have entered on their census form and ensuring that our coding framework will cater for it."

Other religions which are included on the list, alongside the better known cases, are the Church of Free Love, Wiccan, Divine Lightmission, and Coleraine Christian Centre. Also on the list: Druidism, Satanism, Free thinker, Celtic Pagan.

Shortly before the census last April, an e-mail was circulated in the U. K. stating that if 10,000 people put Jedi on the census form, it would become a "fully recognized and legal religion." A similar thing had previously happened in New Zealand, when citizens were led to believe they needed 8,000 signatures to make Jedi an official religion.

It is not yet clear how many people will have written Jedi on their form, as the counting process is still going on. Results are to be published in Autumn 2002.

### *Letterhacks' Addresses*

Allan D. Burrows, 320 Maple Grove Ave., Mississauga, ONT L5A 1Y2 Canada  
Marty Cantor, [louisshooah@netzero.net](mailto:louisshooah@netzero.net)  
Raul G. Capella, 904 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Upland, CA 91786-3911

Paula DiSante, E-mail:

[Paula\\_DiSante@ars.aon.com](mailto:Paula_DiSante@ars.aon.com)

Tom Feller, E-mail: [TomFeller@aol.com](mailto:TomFeller@aol.com)

John Foyster, E-mail: [foyster@senet.com.au](mailto:foyster@senet.com.au)

Jerry Kaufman, 3522 NE 123rd St., Seattle, WA 98125

Robert Lichtman, E-mail:

[robertlichtman@yahoo.com](mailto:robertlichtman@yahoo.com)

Eric Lindsay, [fiawol@ericlindsay.com](mailto:fiawol@ericlindsay.com)

Yuri Mironets, Oktyabrskaya St. 2 Apt. 15,

Vladivostok, 690000, Russia

Elizabeth Osborne, E-mail:

[ElizabethCatmom@aol.com](mailto:ElizabethCatmom@aol.com)

Lloyd Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, Canada

Mike Rogers, E-mail: [mleerog@vol.com](mailto:mleerog@vol.com)

Ron Salomon, 1014 Concord St.,

Framingham, MA 01701

Joy V. Smith, E-mail: [Pagadan@aol.com](mailto:Pagadan@aol.com)

Henry L. Welch, E-mail: [welch@msoe.edu](mailto:welch@msoe.edu)

Martin Morse Wooster,

E-mail: [mmwooster@yahoo.com](mailto:mmwooster@yahoo.com)