

Well, Well . . . if it isn't Virus 23 . . .

by "Switch"
Virus 23

There's something odd going on in Red Deer, Alberta. Last I heard, a couple of guys with some pretty strange ideas had gotten together and started researching them.

Lo, the dawn breaks from the depths of darkness and light falls on a populous suffering the effects of **Virus 23**.

Virus 23, a new strain of disease, is eating away at the ignorance of the unenlightened. Those who contract the affliction are suffering the pains of light after a long period of darkness, but they are surviving.

The nature of **Virus 23** causes those affected to develop a stronger and more informed mind and to have a tendency to ask more questions than is normal. After effects include heightened observation skills.

Virus 23 is the answer to Canada's need for a magazine of non-mainstream thought. THE underground magazine? No, **Virus 23** doesn't seem elitist at all, rather its purpose is to inform those who wish to experience a little of the unknown, or misunderstood, first hand.

The first flight of **Virus 23** came out last year and formed itself around the issue of Cyberpunk. The issue (now sold out) contains interviews with Tom Maddox and William Gibson (*Burning Chrome, Neuromancer*...), articles on **Psychic TV** and one on commercials. There was a short look at Dr. Future (otherwise known as Frank Ogden), and book and record reviews (including one of Crowley's recordings).

The second trip, Issue (we have no key for it so 3.1415 . . .) came out last summer. Issue 3.1415 . . . is dedicated to Shamanism but deals with a more diverse range of subjects.

Ordo Templis Orientis has their say in an interview in this issue, with David Macpherson and Ana Morgaine Anubis; there's an article on

the Temple of Pshychick Youth's magick, one of Cree Shamanism and *Virus'* own interview with the man behind the blood, Clive Barker among other articles and interviews of note.

If none of these topics ring a bell, don't let that alarm you. The articles are accessibly written, even the one on "new" physics, and they are informative for the layman.

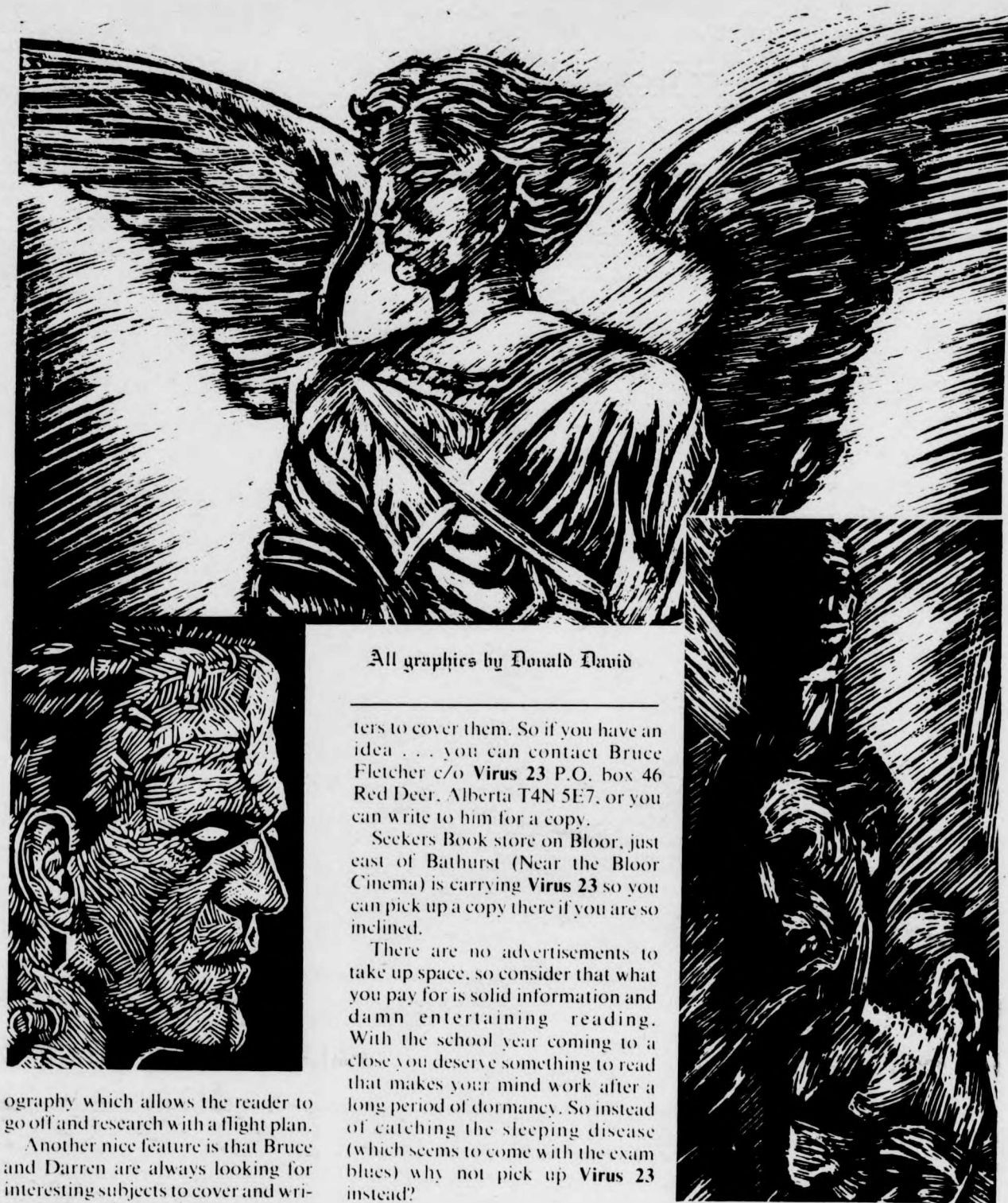
Even if all of this stuff is old hat to you, it is not unlikely you'll find something you didn't know or find yourself setting off to new horizons when an article sparks your interest.

Behind the *Virus* are Editor in Chief Bruce Fletcher and Associate Editor Darren Wershler-Henry. Their next strain is an Arts and Literature issue which is planned to include articles on Rose McDowell (*Strawberry Switchblade, Death in June*) Guy Maddin (dir. of *Archangel*), Zendik Farm (this quasi-religious organization from Calif.), Shaun Pinchbeck (*Her Arm was His Leg*) and Jack Womac (sci-fi writer). It should be out in May.

There is also the Editorial to look forward to . . . whatever else comes up between now and when they get to press and of course the insightful review as well as the explanatory graphics.

Just a word on those graphics which permeate **Virus 23**. Donald David is responsible for the cover art for the recent issue, which reminds me of a Barkerish sketch. The other artists, Le Arnold, Dion Botcher, Jack Cymerman, Jack Germshied, Anne Grant, Pat Naldi, Mike Olito, Tristan, Sheila Spence, TOPY, Keith Wedesh and David Young, contribute to make the glossy pages a powerful venue open for the written word to achieve its full impact.

Poetry interspersed among the articles gives even more dimension to **Virus 23** along with creative layout and photos. One of the special features, is that articles and interviews often include a comprehensive bibli-



All graphics by Donald David

ters to cover them. So if you have an idea . . . you can contact Bruce Fletcher c/o **Virus 23** P.O. box 46 Red Deer, Alberta T4N 5E7, or you can write to him for a copy.

Seekers Book store on Bloor, just east of Bathurst (Near the Bloor Cinema) is carrying **Virus 23** so you can pick up a copy there if you are so inclined.

There are no advertisements to take up space, so consider that what you pay for is solid information and damn entertaining reading. With the school year coming to a close you deserve something to read that makes your mind work after a long period of dormancy. So instead of catching the sleeping disease (which seems to come with the exam blues) why not pick up **Virus 23** instead?

ography which allows the reader to go off and research with a flight plan.

Another nice feature is that Bruce and Darren are always looking for interesting subjects to cover and writ-

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