

The Shape of Research Libraries in Canada's Future

a lecture by

Dr. Guy Sylvestre

Director, Canadian Institute for Historical Microfilms
former National Librarian of Canada

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1984
8:00 pm

Humanities Centre Lecture Theatre 1

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SF author encourages new writers

by Anna Borowiecki

NonCon VII, Alberta's seventh annual science-fiction conference, was held at the Regency Hotel this Thanksgiving weekend.

The guest of honour was one of America's wealthiest and most prominent science-fiction writers, Alan Dean Foster. His popularity with fans was evident when he was listed as one of ten American science-fiction writers able to earn a living exclusively through writing.

The 38-year-old Foster was born in New York and raised in Los Angeles. He received a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Master of Fine Arts Motion Pictures from UCLA.

Like most writers he also received opposition from his parent when he informed them of his decision to become a writer instead of a lawyer. To date Foster has had eight novels published and has been the author of five film novelizations including *Alien*, *Clash of the Titans* and *The Black Hole*.

The organizational committee of NonCon VII invited Foster to judge the Moonspinner's Writers' Workshop along with Matthew Callaghan, Doug Barbour, and Dr. Jan Svilpus. This workshop is designed to critique, encourage and possibly help publish new science fiction writers.

Having taught literature, screenwriting and film history at UCLA and Los Angeles City College, Foster is not a stranger to criticizing other writers' works. His comments at the workshop were bluntly honest, probably causing pain to some of the entrants.

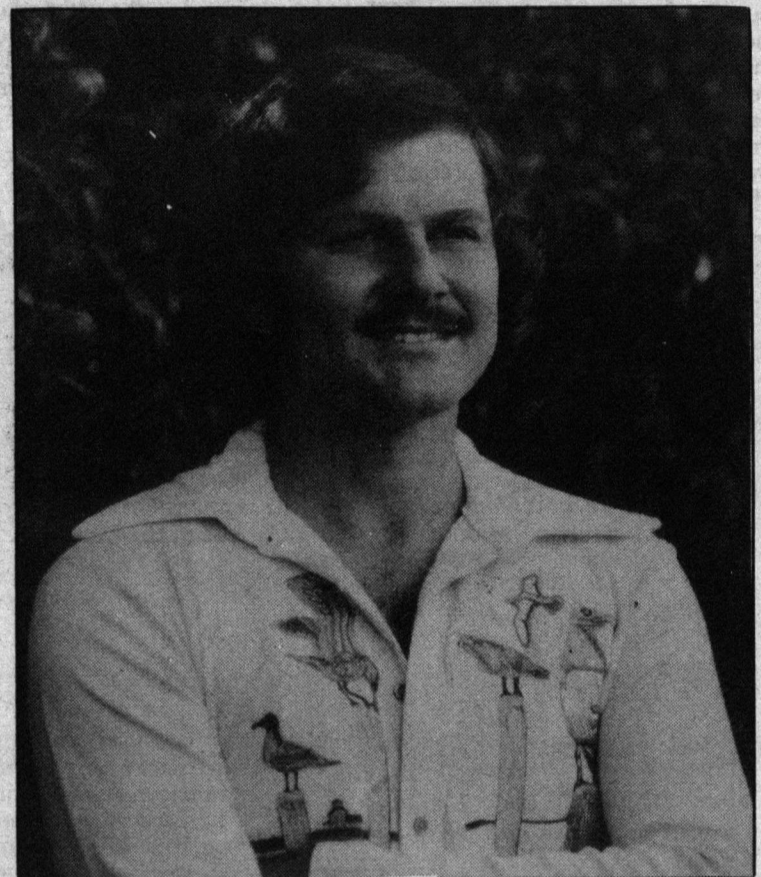
However, he encouraged writers to keep trying regardless of whether they would ever be published. The sincerity of this remark became obvious when he allocated several hours of his time to teach several entrants some of the finer points of writing.

Foster also gave a reading of one of his yet unpublished works, *Diesel Dream*. This short story of a trucker who stops at a small town cafe is at once humorous, poignant and mysterious, with a twist ending that is characteristic of much of Foster's work.

This reading was also a chance for the audience to get to know the man behind the author's mask. Foster is a natural storyteller with a confident but casual style that unconsciously relaxes the audience and develops that special rapport needed to make a reading a success.

Science-fiction writers travel to at least one conference a year and Foster is not an exception. Although he is a high calibre writer with mass appeal, NonCon VII paid him only his air fare and hotel expenses - traditional of a science-fiction conference.

But Foster should have few economic concerns. His eighth novel, *The 1 Inside*, which was released in Canada several weeks ago, is already zooming towards the best seller list. And at his home in Prescott, Arizona several book and film projects await him.



Sci-fi writer sports souvenir shirt from Tarlok IV.

Gateway hosts jr. journalist bash

by Suzette C. Chan

While everyone else was cutting up the turkey this Thanksgiving weekend, 45 journalists were talking turkey at the fall Western Region Canadian University Press Conference.

The conference, for CUP member papers from BC to Manitoba, was hosted by the Gateway.

Most of the business discussed was of internal nature, including job descriptions of WRCUP staff, but a number of interesting seminars were open to the public.

On the topic of Law and the Press, Edmonton lawyer John Cote shocked his audience by guessing correctly that no newspaper was

represented at the conference.

He said a proper newspaper sports the name of its proprietor and publisher "in a prominent place." He recommended the publisher be an individual, not a body, such as the Students' Union. "I'd say use the name of the janitor if you can get him to agree," he said.

He added that newspapers must publish at least once a month. Most university newspapers do not publish during the summer.

Cote is frequently consulted by the *Edmonton Journal* on potentially libellous stories.

Reverend Brownlie of the Edmonton Unitarian Church took his

turn enlightening CUPpies in a seminar entitled Religion and the Press.

"I don't see any conflict between being an atheist and a minister," he said.

Brownlie, who had worked as a Chrysler salesman, said "After car dealing, the only way to atone for your sins is to go into the ministry."

Also frowning brows that weekend was Professor Philip Knight of Edmonton, who questioned the relevance of the terms "homosexuality" and "heterosexuality".

CUPpies were treated to some superior local talent as well.

Teatro la Quindicina performed one of its Fringe Festival hits of this summer, *Helen Avoids a Decision*. The wit of the play and the presence of the actors transcended the sterile stage of room 142 SUB (that's the L'Express Overflow space), to bring to life a comedy of manners set in the Belgian Congo in 1934.

Folk singer Lynne Weeds presented a mixed repertoire of children's and adult folk songs, much to delight of a room full of appreciative CUPpies.

To cap off a very constructive and thought-provoking weekend, the CUPpies requested and got a guided tour of West Edmonton Mall, replete with stops at the monkey cage, the jumping water fountain, and Harry Rosen.

Before the conference broke up, about fifteen CUPpies were seen attempting to demolish the mall by jumping on the upper level parking lot until it vibrated at the proper frequency necessary to cause the building to explode.

The \$3500 cost of the conference is expected to be matched by delegate fees. The Gateway may request that CUP pick up the projected deficit of \$200.

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