

IT'S TOO GOOD TO KEEP A SECRET

Our first members certainly seem to be excited about all the things we can do with our new organization. But as good as it is, we just can't afford to keep our idea a secret. We have to launch an all-out campaign to spread the word throughout the ranks of fandom so that all who are interested can join us.

The extent of our CHFC operation, particularly when it comes to producing the kinds of specialized publications we can all enjoy, will obviously have to depend largely on the number of members we are able to enlist. No matter how much we enjoy the experience, there is a limit to how much we can afford to produce if we do not have enough interested people ready to share the necessary costs involved.

We are not a big profit-making organization, and we can't simply place ads like crazy in the comics and other obvious media. (Maybe we could afford a small ad in the yellow pages, but who would ever think to look there?) So how do we spread the word?

We have a CHFC membership committee, for one thing. These energetic, reliable members are working hard (we hope) to spearhead a recruiting drive. They are writing to the lettercols of various DC and Marvel mags (although it will be several weeks before we can see anything in print there) and contacting other potential sources of publicity. Your editor has also been trying to do his share even while working on other aspects the club.

But that isn't enough. All of you will have to pitch in and help in any ways you can. We have a good "product," but if we are going to make a success of it, we are all going to have to be salesmen (that is to say, salespeople). Write or talk to everyone you know who might share our CHFC interests. If you have any contacts with fanzines or other publications which could give us useful plugs, give them the information and ask them to do so.

We can afford to place our newly-designed and illustrated ads in some key spots if the rates are low, so let me know about any publications in which you think a CHFC ad would be a (Continued on page 3)

POTENTIAL LOOMS FOR CLUB 'ZINES

Among the first to join the ranks of the CHFC have been fans who are both willing and able to help produce intriguing club publications. Our prospects look great!

We have some opinionated but articulate and well-informed writers ready to form a staff of regular contributors to a colorful new fanzine. One of the many features of the fanzine can be a live-wire letters column, for all of our members seem happy to sound off with their ideas and opinions, and the debates should be well worth following.

As for the art, we are anxious to have you see the work of some very promising CHFC illustrators. The CHFC is going to be introducing you, if all goes well, to some delightful new comics heroines!

And now for the big news: fanzines are not all we have in mind! Many if not all of our members are disappointed that DC and Marvel have not been giving more emphasis to their adventure heroines. They are not satisfied with the numbers and/or the types of heroines who are appearing in the prozines each month. Okay, suppose the CHFC not only campaigns to change that situation, but at the same time proceeds to do something about it. Suppose we create and publish original stories with brand new comics heroines of the kinds our members want to see!

Assuming we are able to develop a membership which can support such a project, we plan to unleash upon comics fandom a series of special CHFC fiction publications created by our own talented writers and artists. These may include illustrated short stories as well as graphic strips. We should be able to advertise these special publications through the various fan media, and hopefully their successful sale will help support an increasing range of CHFC activities for everyone's benefit.

Our members will be in a unique position to influence the kinds of characters and stories we develop, for naturally we will be responsive to your preferences. How's that for taking direct action to meet a problem! We promised you a chance to take part in an active club, and you can see we weren't kidding. (Continued on page 3)

LET'S NAME OUR FANZINE

So far we have no name for the fascinating fanzine we plan to spring upon an as-yet-unsuspecting comics fandom. This is one of the many areas in which we want ideas from the CHFC membership. Let's hear some nominations!

The name should be short, with no more than three words if possible. It should somehow identify - or at least relate to - the general subject with which our fanzine is concerned. It should not suggest a range of subject matter which is either broader or more narrow than our fanzine will actually involve. (We should not include the term "superheroines," for instance, because this implies characters with super-powers, which not all the comics heroines have.)

An ideal name would also be catchy and attention-grabbing. (For a while I considered "The Heroine Addict" - but that might grab too much attention on the part of postal inspectors who don't know how "heroin" is actually spelled.) At the same time, we wouldn't want a name which might "turn off" or insult any particular group of fans. After all, there has to be room in the CHFC for everyone, from the ardent Women's Libbers to the avid girl-watchers.

So all of you give this momentous problem a lot of thought and then send us your best suggestions. The member who drops the best name on us will forever more be honored as the CHFC's grand old name-dropper.

On the subject of names, what do you think of "The Comics Heroines Fan Club" as a name for the organization itself? Is it a little too narrow in scope? Since we will presumably take an interest not only in the comics themselves, but also in stories involving adventure heroines on TV, in books, and of course in our own CHFC-published literature, would "Adventure Heroines" be a better term to use than "Comics Heroines"? Or would it only confuse things as to our primary focus of interest? And which term would be more likely to attract potential new members?

I don't think we should change the name of the club right now during our initial membership drive, but let me know what you think about a possible name change for the future and what suggestions you would have. Be sure to explain your reasons.

To Vote For CHFC Awards:

(2)

KEEP YOUR COMICS

Don't lose track of your copies of *Wonder Woman*, *The Avengers* and the other heroine comics. You'll want to refer to them when you submit your nominations and votes for such CHFC awards as "Best Story" and "Best Art In A Single Issue."

Part of the fun of the CHFC is going to lie in selecting the winners of an appropriate set of national awards. We will officially notify the comics industry of the results of our balloting, of course, and won't the winners be proud to be honored by us real experts? (They will probably pretend they aren't thrilled to death, but we'll do it anyway.) And if that doesn't get us mention in the lettercols, then nothing will!

How should we handle the awards? Shall we spread the various awards out throughout the year? That would involve working with perhaps three awards at a time and (1) announcing in one issue the categories for which we wanted nominations submitted, (2) publishing the nominations received and the voting ballot in the next issue, and (3) publishing the results in the next issue. Of course every issue could deal with three different groups of awards, one in each of the three procedural steps. It may sound confusing, but it should work just fine, and I personally think it's the best system to use because it would spread the voting interest out over the entire year and yet let each award be an annual one.

The other obvious possibility would be to go through the three steps once every year for all the awards at the same time. You'd have to vote more often under the first (rotating) plan, but I wonder if that isn't just what you would rather do - and I hope you'll be corresponding with us regularly anyway, for that matter! Well, let me know whether you prefer the first (rotating) or the second (simultaneous) plan. Also, what categories would you like to see included in the CHFC awards?

HISTORIANS, TAKE NOTICE

The collector's item you are now reading is the very first bulletin to be published by THE COMICS HEROINES FAN CLUB, Box 10956, Baltimore, Md. 21234. Albert Tanner, Publisher and Editor. A.S. Turner, Treasurer.

TOO GOOD TO KEEP SECRET (From page 1)

good investment. By the way, I have just written a one-page mailing flier to give potential new members a basic description of the CHFC. I will inclose one with this bulletin, and I'll be glad to send you more if you can put them to good use.

Most of you probably write to the DC and Marvel lettercols at least occasionally. From now on, when you do, why not mention The Comics Heroines Fan Club just briefly. If you can slip in our Box 10956 address, so much the better, but remember they won't publish a lot of detail about the club so don't overdo it. (Someday we're going to write a CHFC article for you on "How To Write Letters An Editor Will Publish.")

Yes, we'll have to get a real membership in full swing as soon as possible and keep it going. I'm optimistic all right, but I feel a lot better when a steady stream of letters is coming in from prospective new members. And let me point out that practically everyone who has written to inquire about the CHFC so far has ended up joining!

CLUB 'ZINES IN SIGHT (From page 1)

Offset booklets, offering high-quality art reproduction, would be ideal for our fiction. The greater our sales (membership), the less the cost per copy would have to be.

As to the fanzines, by using electronic stencils for some of the pages I believe we can include very satisfactory artwork in mimeographed copies. That would not only keep the costs down, but should also allow us to publish more frequent and up-to-date fanzine issues.

The flexibility of such a dual system of publications seems to offer many advantages. Among other things, it will let make step-by-step improvements in the make-up of our publications as we develop the membership to support them. The first step should be our premiere CHFC fanzine issue within just a few weeks!

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

(3)

Here's what some of our first mail had to say about the new CHFC idea:

Dear Al,

I am a feindish fanatical fan of the femme fatales. I really hope that you'll start a fanzine! I'd be happy to do some illos and articles for you.

Scott R. Taylor
Rockville, Indiana

When you see Scott's illos, you'll be glad we didn't give him the brush-off!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dear Albert,

I was extremely happy to learn of someone else who supports the women crime-fighters of the comic world. I would be honored to become a member of your COMICS HEROINES FAN CLUB.

Scott Gibson
Evergreen, Colorado

Okay, Scott, let's rally all their supporters under the CHFC banner!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Mr. Tanner,

Yes, I'd be very glad to join your club. How do I go about it?

Arnie Starkey
Tacoma, Washington

We hope this bulletin explains everything, Arnie. And welcome aboard - even though your name isn't Scott.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Mr. Tanner,

I was really very interested to see your ad in TLO as I have always felt that such a fan club was needed. I would be interested in helping in any activities the club might become involved in, including its own fanzine or bulletin. I would be interested in doing art for said publication.

Frank Travellin Jr.
Jersey City, N.J.

We've seen some of Mr. Travellin's art, and Frankly - we're interested too!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Al,

Count me in on the Super-Female Fan Club. The setup as you've described it sounds terrific! I agree with everything so far.

Ted Delorme
Charleston, S.C.

Glad to hear it - and you ain't seen nuthin' yet! The CHFC is on the rise!

WE'RE PLANNING LIKE THIS

We are now in the process of organizing a fanzine staff made up of capable writers and artists who are ready and able to contribute regularly to bimonthly issues. If you are interested in such a role, tell us what you would like to do.

We welcome outspoken writers who have interesting ideas and can express them in a clear, creative, colorful style. We would like to include on the staff writers of factual articles, columns, reviews and special features of any appropriate kind. Well-handled humor is, of course, quite in order.

We are also looking eagerly for capable artists who can produce effective original drawings of comics heroines and other characters. Note that we need black-and-white artwork only, no color.

Those who are interested in writing and/or illustrating original comics-heroines fiction should contact the editor regarding the separate CHFC fiction publications we are planning.

Before we give any definite assignments to either writers or artists in any field, we will want to see appropriate samples of their work. We will be glad to receive any such samples at any time.

We welcome "letters to the editor" from anyone dealing with subjects related to the CHFC or to adventure heroines in any media. *We urge our members to write frequently.* Feel free to express controversial ideas or opinions because that's the name of the game. We will publish letters of general interest as time and space allow, along with our editorial replies.

Unsolicited articles, artwork, etc. will be considered, but we do not guarantee that they can be published. We suggest that you first send us a summary or sample of what you have in mind; we will be glad to respond in terms of publishing possibilities.

Note that our CHFC publications will be adult-oriented in the sense that their reading level and content will not be directed primarily toward readers below high school age. They will not, however, be obscene, pornographic or "counter-cultural" in nature. In that sense, we will publish no material which is in any way unsuitable for younger readers, who we do very definitely welcome as CHFC members.

A PROBLEM SOLVED

(4)

As indicated by this bulletin, we figure to alter and expand the form of our CHFC publications as our membership increases and as the fans make their wishes known. This means we cannot predict the cost of any given number of future publications at this point, and thus it would be foolish to try to establish a definite subscription rate to charge.

Nevertheless if the club is to accomplish anything worthwhile, each member will obviously have to pay his share of the expenses involved. This creates a problem. I've given it a lot of thought, and I think I have a sensible and practical solution.

We'll ask each member to make dues payments as necessary. We will use your payment to set up an individual club account for you, against which we will charge your fair share of the cost of each CHFC publication you receive. (These "prices" will be listed in the publications.) When your dues have been used up in meeting these necessary costs, we will notify you and you can renew your membership by making another payment. Fair enough?

We ask that you make a first payment of \$3.00 now, making you eligible to receive our next few publications. Make checks payable to A.S. Turner, our treasurer; mail cash at your own risk.

We will send all publications by first class mail unless the majority of our members say they would prefer to save some money by switching to the less-reliable third class.

While postage is a major item, it is by no means our only publishing expense. Note that no one will be making a profit from the operations of the CHFC, not for the foreseeable future at least. Those of us who handle the work would like to be able to do so, however, without incurring personal net losses in the process.

If you have received this bulletin free and would like to send me stamps in return, I'd appreciate your thoughtfulness. A.T.

- HELP WANTED -

CRITICS who will write maturely-conceived reviews combining meaningful description and intelligent criticism. We want regular contributors who can report on comics, fanzines, adzines, books, movies, etc. which might be of interest to CHFC members. Experience not necessary.

TYPISTS who will volunteer to retype some of the material slated for CHFC publication. Perfection is not demanded, but conscientiously neat and accurate work is naturally our goal. You will not be overloaded with work.

ADVERTISING MANAGER to handle fan ads that our members may place in CHFC publications. Inquire about details if interested.

VOLUNTEERS to send personal letters and printed CHFC information to prospective new members, including those whose letters in the Marvel comics indicate they should be interested in the CHFC. Initiative and mature judgment is required.

Write to the editor, Albert Tanner, if you think you can help the growth of the CHFC in any of the above roles. Don't be shy about volunteering; you don't have to be a "pro" to aid our amateur organization. And your contributions here may turn out to be a valuable and exciting experience. Remember, it takes active, participating members to generate and maintain a really dynamic and worthwhile club!

A WORD OF THANKS

On behalf of all fans of the comics heroines, including the many potential future members who are as yet unaware of the existence of the CHFC, we wish to thank those of you whose first letters of enthusiastic encouragement and support inspired us to push on with our ideas for the creation of a COMICS HEROINES FAN CLUB.

Because of you, the CHFC now exists. No one knows what the future may hold, but in the end perhaps a host of rabid members and contributors will realize that your initial response to the CHFC concept was the vital inspiration for the development of one of the nation's most active and extensive fan organizations. I hope so.

In any case, your response already makes me very glad that I happened to be the one to come up with the CHFC idea.

AT

COMING

(5)

In future CHFC publications...

- PROVOCATIVE ARTICLES by such fan-writers as Dwayne Best, Lester Boutillier, Scott Taylor, and Jeff Thompson!
- ORIGINAL ARTWORK portraying new comics heroines as conceived by such illustrators as Ted Delorme, Scott Taylor and Frank Travellin Jr.!
- OUR RECOMMENDATIONS for an active CHFC campaign to get our views across to the DC and Marvel decision-makers - and advice to CHFC members on how to make their point!
- A COMICS HEROINE questionnaire giving you a chance to tell us what kinds of new adventure heroines you would most like to see in original CHFC fiction publications!
- CHFC AWARDS announcements calling for your nominations and votes!
- CHALLENGES for fans: special comics-heroines puzzles, quizzes and contests!
- FAN LETTERS from many of you expressing your own ideas and opinions!

Don't miss an issue!

JOIN THE CHFC NOW!

Remember to mail your dues soon, making your check payable to A.S. Turner (see page 4). If you are a newcomer, we will need your name, full mailing address and age.

WE RECOMMEND...

We know many of you already subscribe to *THE LEGION OUTPOST*, but those who don't really should. For the full story, write to editor Harry Broertjes, 1865 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, Il. 60201. Harry's fine offset 'zine is primarily devoted to The Legion Of Superheroes (and heroines!). We wish he'd give more emphasis to the latter, but his nifty quarterly issues are of interest to all real comics fans.

We've heard good things about a projected new comics-and-Star Trek fanzine named *MENAGERIE*. The first issue is due soon, and it sounds interesting. Why not write to Randy Emenhiser, 1312 Pennsylvania Ave., Tyrone, Pa. 16686 for details.

CHFC member David DeLorme is editor of *THE MONSTER SCENE*. If you're a horror-monster devotee, this neatly-done little mag might be a good addition to your subscription list. Write to David at 5 Lakewood Drive, Savannah, Ga. 31404.

SUPERGIRL FANS IN REVOLT

Our mail shows a distinct regret on the part of many fans that new Supergirl yarns have been limited to two yearly in *Superman Family*. We are not surprised to find that Supergirl is obviously a favorite among comics-heroines boosters.

Many of you may have seen announcements of PROJECT REVIVAL'S campaign to pressure the publishers to produce more and better Flash, Green Lantern, Hawkman and X-Men mags. You may not know, however, that the same fan group is also interested in seeing Supergirl reinstated in a regular mag of her own.

Lester Boutillier, who seems to be the standard-bearer for Project Revival and is also a CHFC member, has written us to explain his displeasure with the current DC policy which limits the individual exposure of Supergirl and Lois Lane so drastically. He feels there may be a possibility that fan reaction can cause DC to alter this policy. We agree.

Les's group are writing to DC publisher Carmine Infantino and also to William Sarnoff, Chairman of the Board of Warner Publishing, Inc., DC's parent company, both at the published Rockefeller Plaza address. Apparently Project Revival is concentrating primarily on supporting the male comics characters mentioned above, but we hope they are also making an effective pitch for Supergirl.

We are not going to plan a CHFC mail campaign in detail just now; that will come a bit later. Nevertheless, some of you may want to write DC now (whether or not you have previously done so) to protest the present *Superman Family* setup. If you do, you might mention your membership in the CHFC and the club's endorsement of this fan protest. We suggest also that you keep your letters on a positive plane, stressing what you like about Supergirl (and LL?) rather than simply attacking DC for its current policy.

As for the CHFC's move to exert its organized influence on the publishers' policies, you will hear much more about that in future issues. It will involve several aspects, some of which will take time to develop. In the meantime, DC is already quite aware of the existence of the CHFC, as is Marvel, and we hope to have the cooperation of both publishers in various important ways. So keep your CHFC letters to them in a cooperative tone even while urging the changes you would like to see.

PEN-PALS COLUMN TO COME (6)

In their initial CHFC questionnaires, the majority of our first members have said yes, they would like to have their names, addresses and ages included in lists sent to comics-heroines fans who are interested in corresponding with one another. Some also wrote added notes saying the CH pen-pals plan is a fine idea.

We have decided that instead of mailing such lists separately, we will publish them in pen-pals columns in future CHFC publications. If you would like to be included, please confirm by sending us (1) your name, (2) your mailing address, (3) your age [or simply write "adult" if you prefer and if that applies], and (4) a summary in one sentence [no more, please!] of your main interests in regard to correspondence. Note that if we do list you, it will be with the understanding that you will answer all letters you receive.

Actually, we would like to have someone with a typewriter and a little spare time take over as Pen-Pals Editor. His or her job would be to handle the layout of the column for each issue, type it up on a mimeograph stencil, and mail it to us all ready for duplication. Simple enough - but an important job. If you are interested, write me about details.

Last-Minute News

AS WE GO TO PRESS...

I'm ready to finish typing this final page, run it off on the mimeo, and collate and mail these bulletin copies...and right up to the last minute new CHFC developments are breaking at a pleasantly hectic pace.

For one thing, I just received a reply from Carmine Infantino at National (DC) to an "introductory" CHFC letter I sent him recently. (They are "happy to hear about...") Yes, the publishers do know we exist, so don't be hesitant about writing their various editors.

A tremendously encouraging progress report from our membership committee chairman, Scott Gibson, also arrived just a few minutes ago. He's really on the ball!

I'm really happy about a system which allows us to publish completely up-to-date club bulletins like this. (For your reference, I'm writing this at one p.m. on June 21.) I hope you agree that a similar system - but with artwork too! - will be great for our CHFC fanzines.... See ya!