

Einblatt

Special Issue -- October 1983

Mike Wood was found dead in his apartment on Monday, October 3, 1983. Several Minn-Stfers who had expected to see Mike before then checked, learned that he had not been at work since Thursday, and got the caretaker to let them into Mike's apartment. Susan Grandys made the actual discovery; Matthew Tepper, Virginia Nelson, and Ed Eastman were also in the group, and Dean Gahlón arrived about ten minutes afterwards.

The Hennepin County Medical Examiner's office says Mike died of natural causes; the probable cause of death was insulin shock.

Calls were made to people who had known Mike through fandom and in other ways to (among other places outside the Twin Cities) New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, and Canberra. The majority of calls that night were made by people gathered at Carol Kennedy and Jonathan Adams's house (as of the time of writing, a complete list was not yet available). Out-of-towners in several areas took the responsibility of breaking the news to others in their areas.

Mike Wood's most enduring legacy will probably be MINNEAPA. MINNEAPA began on July 12, 1972, and has been collated at intervals of two to five weeks since then. In most of that period, it has been the most successful local apa. Usually, the founder of an apa resigns after no more than a year or two; Mike ran MINNEAPA continuously, except for two collations when unexpected circumstances required him to turn it over to an emergency editor.

The next MINNEAPA collation (MINNEAPA 174) will take place as Mike had planned on Saturday, October 15, at Steve Glennon and Karen Schaffer's, 3528 Colfax Avenue South, Minneapolis (Phone: (612) 825-5528). The copy count, as announced, will be forty. Matthew Tepper is the new Official Editor; he warns that collating will start promptly at 2 pm.

MINNEAPA 175 will be a memorial to Mike Wood. Copy count will be 80. Time: Saturday November 19, at Joel Halpern, Beth Friedman and Nate Bucklin's, 727 East 28th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407 (Phone: (612) 874-1547), at 2 pm.

Mike Wood was born October 2, 1948. He joined fandom through the Michigan State University Tolkien Society in 1968. (He returned to East Lansing at least once a year after he moved to the Twin Cities in mid-September 1971). His first apa was APA 45; his zine for that apa, COLOG, was enjoyed and admired both within APA 45 and among those of us outside the apa fortunate enough to receive it.

Shortly before his death, he mentioned that he was in ten apas. A current complete list has not yet been compiled. An incomplete list of apas he was in over the years: APA 45, Blue's Apa, LASFAPA, APA NESFA, Apaloosa, RAPS, SLANAPA, APA 69, MINNEAPA, TAPS, Windyapa.

Of the songs Mike wrote, those which Minn-Stfers and other fans are most likely to have heard him sing are probably "The Queen's Gambit Declined," "When it's Midnight in Grove City, it's Nine in LA," and "Lord, Won't You Buy me a Fulvous Treeduck?" He also wrote "Waking Up to Find You Here" (which Nate Bucklin considers his best), "Aware of You," "The Other One," and "The Zap Gun". His nonfannish musical activities included singing tenor in the Unitarian choir.

Mike's other interests included feminism, ducks, and spelling reform.

A memorial gathering was planned for Windycon, the next weekend after Mike's death. As of this writing, there were no definite plans yet for a memorial gathering in the Twin Cities.

Cards may be sent to Mike's parents: Henry and Jean Wood, 488 Milbeth Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15228.

(Thanks for information to Denny Lien, Carol Kennedy, Matthew Tepper, Nate Bucklin, and Dean Gahlon. Any inaccuracies are due to my misunderstanding of what they said.)

EINBLATT is the newsletter of the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, Inc., and is edited by Dan Goodman and published by Erik Biever and M. K. Digre.

Minnesota Science Fiction Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 2128 Loop Station
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

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Pipestone, MN 56164

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