

What We Are About

"We'll build a stairway to the stars,

A wondrous stairway to the stars--"

SO DOES the popular song. It's several years old, but man's desire to conquer space is older. And his desire for utopia is older still.

We of the Cosmic Circle realize, as do most thinking people, that this world of ours is in one hell of a mess. It's easy to throw up your hands and say "Don't look at me! I know that's true, but I didn't cause it, and what can I do about it?"

In the opinion of this writer, no one creed or manner of government now in use is anywhere near perfect. We all know our own democracy is shot through with dirty politics, but we won't go into that here. "What can I do?" You can't do anything at all, by yourself.

And neither can a score of us, or five hundred of us. But if enough people decided to do something about it, something would be done.

At this time there seems to be a widespread desire among the peoples of this earth to improve things. In the words of a British military commentator whom I can't remember, this is one of those times in human history where we must either get a lot better or a lot worse. We can't just skid along in the same old rut.

Science-fiction fans aren't in the rut. (Real fans, that is.)

A number of weeks ago I was privileged to talk to Don Rogers the principle fan of Indiana, about this and many other subjects. He stayed several days at my home. One of those days we held an uninterrupted session from 11:00 P. M. to 7:00 A. M. Rogers told me of a proposed organization of his. He had thought out the details carefully. My first thoughts were, This isn't anything new. The readers of Vom have been tossing it around for months. The general fan impulse is toward the improvement of world conditions.

(It is sometimes greatly enlightening to read Vom. The fans can write very well. Their ideas, most of them, are basically sound, and at least something to think about.)

Rogers had a proposal. A definite beginning. The organization of a club to be titled "The Cosmic Circle."

I expressed the opinion that the word 'circle' implied a restricted organization. I suggested 'thinkers'. Rogers stated that then the implication would be that the members thought, and did not act. That, too, was out.

But it was agreed that the organization was for thinkers, people of tolerance, not bound up in a narrow, warped creed. In other words, people not in a rut.

There must be many such people. Fandom is the only kind of fraternity (a very improper word) where people are expected to be of a certain intelligence, as far as I can see. And, since the directors are all science-fiction enthusiasts, our primary desire is to obtain the support of fandom.

What are our aims? I understand them to be the betterment of world conditions, the forming of a bloc of voters who want a scientific and liberal government, a club to unify people who think and who favor the cosmic ideals of science fiction. We intend to advertise for members in professional publications when it seems advisable. We hope to bring about great changes for the better in future years, but we acknowledge that it will be a slow and tedious process.

But there's got to be a starting point somewhere. We don't expect to accomplish miracles overnight. But we do expect to accomplish something.

When any group of people decide on accomplishing something, the first and foremost thing to do is to get organized. That is what our society is for. We need your support.

The final details are not worked out yet, but they are in the process of being worked out. A Constitution is being prepared. Meetings are being held. Publications are being planned. Stationary has been ordered, and stickers shall be forthcoming.

This is not "just another club", a passing whim, or a wildly impossible venture. The officers are sincere, and mean to carry on regardless of obstacles. There is little chance of the society being dissolved because of the officers being inducted. Their positions are pretty stable at present. The High Command, Cosmic Circle Society, consists of four people; one is a girl; one has been rejected by the Army; one is under-age and shall continue to be for months to come, and the remaining officer seems to breeze along with no fear of the long arm of his Uncle.

When our membership expands, we may hold conferences at the central headquarters in Indiana.

We do not set ourselves in rivalry with any existing fan organization. This is one of our basic premises.

If you are interested in the society, and wish to know more about it, write to Vergie Allen, 214 N. 20th, Newcastle Indiana.

—The Editor.



Join:

The
Cosmic Circle
Society

An Organization of Thinkers.

Headquarters
110

214 E. 20th St.
Newcastle, Indiana.

The COSMIC COUNCIL

Don Rogers

Ray Matthews

Helen Wright

Raymond Washington, Jr

Purpose:

- To unite cosmic-minded people
- Lay a foundation for improving world conditions
- Exchange ideas

If you wish, you may be listed as an outer-circle member by writing to Don Rogers, expressing your sincere interest in this society, and your willingness to have your name listed in the book of members, a publication to be issued when the society gets well under way. Your name will be then entered in the ledger of the Outer Circle, you will receive, free, each issue of the Digest, and perhaps other information. The dues for the Inner Circle will probably be announced later, in a future issue of the Digest, or the Cosmic Circle Monthly.

at any rate, you can all write Rogers and ask to be listed in the Outer Circle. Further details will be sent you.

All comments on this issue reaching the editor will be forwarded to Rogers and the others.