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~~ETHERLINE~~

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THE SCIENCE
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This Issue Gratis.

TALKING POINT

The idea of a regular Australian newsletter has been knocking around in our collective editorial minds for some time now. It began with "PERHAPS", was pushed on a bit more when it became established, and now becomes a reality. Our aim is to pump the news out as fast as it comes in, and fear the not that you will have to put up with an editorial every issue -- that's for "PERHAPS" and --- "BACCANALIA", our companion magazines, as if you had'n't heard. Our duty is to supply NEWS, and that is what we will feature, not long solemn heddy-torials. With the co-operation of a bunch of British and U.S. fans and professionals, as well as an odd - very odd- Aussie or two to dish out the news from this side of the globe. Before I leave you, in this, my first and last editorial, I will put in a plea for "PERHAPS". We want artwork and articles by our own Australian fans. The U.S. and British fans are only too willing so what about it, Aussies. LJH

VIEWPOINT

Now that "PERHAPS" has hit the streets, I think it timely to make known the apathy and lack of interest which is rife in the Melbourne Stf. Group.

If science fiction is to go ahead and take its rightful place among the literature of the world, then it must have the absolute support of all fans. The best way of showing this support is to help and encourage the publishers of the amateur fanzines. Its no good relying on promags to 'spread the word'. After all, their main object is to make money.

Unfortunately, most of the people who attend the meetings in Melbourne think only of "PERHAPS" as a big joke, a subject to be held in disdain while petty little cracks are made at its expense.

Apparently these people are the type who read their stf furtively, afraid of the general public knowing them as 'one of those cranks'.

Leo, Dick, Rade, Mervyn are making a sincere attempt to put out an adult fanzine capable of holding its own among the best in the world.

the EC comics as an important adjunct to the fantasy field

RD

Therefore I think it time a few 'fans' stopped being childish and gave them some support and encouragement.

It doesn't help any to try and build up a world circulation, and then find the rot has set in at home.

GROW UP, MELBOURNE!

IJC

DEPARTMENT FOR EGO--BOO!!!

Bradbury now writing for
THE COMICS!!

After you revive from the swoon you must have gone into let me assure you that this is authentic. The enterprising EC comics group (small in numbers but big in ideas) have latched onto the great Bradbury with the result that he now has stories in their comic magazines.

First Bradbury yarn to appear was in the March 53 issue of 'The Vault of Horror' and was followed by another in its companion magazine, - 'Weird Science'. Many fans, who have been hailing him as the 'Hemingway of Stf' will probably be disillusioned now that he appears in the comic books, even though they are of an adult type.

However, I don't think that Ray will worry greatly over it, as he obviously regards

BRADBURY ENTERS POLITICS!

Paying 200 bucks for a full page advert in the Nov. 10 'Variety', Ray let his hair down in an article addressed 'TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY', and dated the day following the Republican sweep on the American polls, threatening the party with the fear of God and the wrath of Bradbury should they do any of the various things which, in the short time in power, - less than 24 hours they would have hardly had time to consider - - let alone commence.

KFS.

DOODLINGS

Due late in April or early in May is Gold's new fantasy magazine --- 'BEYOND', 160pp, 35c same format as 'GALAXY'.

GSF is now printed in England by Thorpe and Porter, same format as US edition, beginning with issue No 1.

'SPACE STF' now monthly and is reprinted in UK by Archer Press, beginning with issue No 2. Both out in January.

'NEBULA' No 2 features 'Thou Pasture Us' - Rayer 'Atoms and Stars' by 4sJ Ackerman: 'Dark Solution' by Tubb: 'Brainpower' by

Brunner: Film news by 4sJ Ackerman and fan column by Willis,

KFS.

BELIEVE-IT-OR-NOT DEPT....

It has been announced that at the magazine with the highest circulation of any in the Stf field is none other than the reprint? FANTASTIC STORY MAGAZINE !!!!

This 'zine not only outsells its companions, STARLING and THRILLING WONDER, but also ASTOUNDING and GALAXY.

This could prove the point that that many fans have been pressing for some time, that the readers are turning back to the old-time authors, to the chaps who really wrote science fiction, before the field went 'adult' and 'mature'.

RD.

FUTURE AUSTRALIAN REPRINTS.

It has been revealed to us by Malien Press that the following stories will appear in their 'American Stf' series.

'The Monster' by Nelson Bond. March.
'Refuge for Tonight' by Robt. Moore Williams. April.
'Adventure in Time' by Phil. St John May

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'WHO GOES THERE' BANNED IN AUSTRALIA.

The Customs Dept. have announced that the British PB edition of Campbell's 'Who Goes There' - retitled 'The Thing from Another World' is officially banned.

The reasons for this absurd situation are somewhat obscure. Certainly the book cannot be classed as deserving of being banned on the merits of the story itself.

Someone has suggested a more plausible explanation, that as there is an Australian edition featuring the same story, the presence of an overseas edition would be a handicap to the sales!

As it stands, it is yet another disgusting example of the moronic tendencies of the Customs Dept. in Perth to take offence at a simple tale like this, and that means simple to the average citizen, not just the avid stf fan.

LDH.

HERE AND THERE

Heinlein's popular novel from GALAXY, 'The Green Hills of Earth' is now available in PB form.....

At present there is a radio programme in US which takes all it's material from GALAXY and is one of the best shows on the air.

BOOK NOTES

In browsing around the newsstands and bookshops; you may have noticed a series of PB's bearing the label of 'Corgi Books'. Most of them are of the detective and adventure type hence of little interest to the Stfan. They, however, bear watching as already two fantastic stories in 'Donavans Brain' and 'Castaway' have been published and a letter to me from the publishers gives me the interesting news that in March this year they will be publishing "Space on My Hands" by Frederic Brown, at 2/- Stg.

Hitherto this book was only obtainable in the expensive Shasta edition.

They also promise to publish further stf titles, and it would be worth your while to keep your eyes on these people.

Better still, a letter to Transworld Publishers, 26 Manchester Square, London W.1. England will place your name on their mailing lists. RD.

PRELUDE TO WHAT-?-

St. Louis University have announced the inclusion of a course in space travel in their curriculum starting February

IJC

FLASH!!!!

GERNSBACK BACK!!!!

The best kept secret in Stf circles broke on the 13 Feb when a new mag hit the streets.

The name is 'SCIENCE FICTION PLUS' and the editor is HUGO GERNSBACK, returning to the publishing field after an absence of 20 years.

The mag is 68 pp, with a full color cover back and front, price 35¢, and printed on slick paper.

Gernsback has gathered around him a dynamic crew headed by Sam Moskowitz as managing editor, and Frank Paul as art director. Paul was responsible for the old AS covers.

The author lineup in the first issue is as follows:

'Exploration Of Mars' by Gernsback; 'The Biological Revolt' by Philip Jose Farmer; 'The other side of Zero' by Donald H. Menzel. All above are novelets.

Shorties are 'The Time Cylinder' by Eando Binder; and 'Utopia' by John Scot Campbell. Articles in plenty including 'Rapid Wonder Plants', 'The Evolution of the Space Ship', & 'The Impact of Stf on World Affairs'. Book review and as expected in a mag

bearing the Gernsback imprimatur, plenty of science facts.

CA(USA)

REVIEW OF ASFm NO. 28.....

Just recieved is our copy of ASFm No 28, 'We Cast NO Shadows' by F.G. Rayer. This one string author has added another plot to his bow, -- that of the alien invasion of earth.

Rayers version makes it gripping and fast reading & reading.

'Frontier Legion' by S.J. Bounds continues on its dreary way, reaching no logical conclusion.

However, this issue is a good buy if only for the Rayer yarn.

Now available at McGills

DJ.

NEW WORLDS NO. 19

First thing which stands out is the colossal art work by staff artists Quinn & Hunter, who really have excelled themselves in this issue.

As far as the lead story is concerned, it is a rehash of the much punished theme -- a super weapon hidden somewhere in the galaxy. New author George Duncan handles it in a fairly convincingly

and he should bear watching.

Of the remainder; I think the best is 'Assisted Passage' by James White, Apart from a distinct Aussie flavor about it, it is quite a convincing story of a mystery scientist who turns out to be an extra-terrestrial being.

Does Ray Bradbury know that Mr. Tubb has annexed Mars?

The others are fair samples of the present trend in British Stf.

IJC.

FEBRUARY STARTLING APPEARS WITH TRIMMED EDGES

An excellent issue and the lead novel is space opera at its best (why wasn't this in Space Stories?), 'Troubled Star' by Geo. O. Smith. It deals with an attempt by aliens to turn Sol into a 3 day variable for a beacon for their over-crowded space lanes. The solution is obvious and one wonders why a 'simple earth man' should solve the puzzle before the genius like aliens. On the whole a terrific story.

'Monkeys Finger' by Isaac Asimov is a light hearted story dealing with the perfect author - a cybernetic monkey.

Another good story.

"P E R H A P S " ? ? ? ? ?

Besides the lead novel there is a long novelet by Fletcher Pratt, 'Potemkin Village' - supposedly a satire. Personally I could see no satire in it and read it with enjoyment.

An inconsequential story - good but not unforgettable

Only other story is a Damon Knight opus, dealing with altruistic aliens who must be turned away from earth because their altruism is dangerous. Quite good.

All SS stories are well above the usual average -- for SS anyway

DJ.

SPACE STORIES NO 7

A new mag from the Thrilling group. Editorial policy says all stories are to be space opera, but its first issue leads off with a novel length fantasy by Bryce Walton.

Another story by St Clair is opposed to the editorial policy, being a thought type story.

This magazine could be much better -- seems as if its trying too hard and getting nowhere.

If it stays at its present level it will most definitely won't be on my list

DJ.

STATESIDE

STATIC

A Report on current affairs
In US by the WESTFAN -----
Charles Anderson.

Well, Leo has kicked me out of "PERHAPS", seems to think I'll be doing a better job on a regular newsletter than in the bi-monthly magazine, so here goes the first report.

First off, Lester del Rey's new magazine 'FANTASY' came out early in January. Featured is 'The Black Stranger' by Robt. E. Howard (and finished by L Sprague de Camp). The only article is a half page book review of two of Howards books, 'Conan the Conquer' and 'The Sword Conan'. His stories must be well liked by del Rey as this is another 81st story to be printed by him. The cover is a beautiful fantasy picture by Hannes Bok. Three fantastic cats and an unworlly girl comprise this fine example of true fantasy art.

The pocket book publishers not been inactive; bringing out four new issues recently.

First place goes to the Frederic Brown opus, 'Space on my Hands' so don't

miss this excellent collection. It features: 'Something Green', 'Crisis 1999', 'Pi in the Sky', 'Knock', 'All good Bems', 'Daymare', 'Nothing Sirius', 'Star Mouse' & that masterpiece of sheer terror - "Come, And Go Mad!"

Next in quality; Robt. Heinlein's 'The Puppet Masters'; good reading, if you haven't read it as it was previously as a GALAXY serial.

The Aldous Huxley epic, 'Brave New World', also came out at 3/6. This book is not recommended to the average stf fan, and the extra 1/- is most unwarranted.

A novel by Sax Rohmer -- 'The Fire Goddess' has also been issued. This writer has not read it, but if it like most of Rohmers, he lost nothing.

The next 'Amazing Stories' to appear will be digest size (at a 1/- hic) and it will be an attempt to bring AS out of the doldrums and juvenility it descended to under the guidance of Howard Browne, & return it to the high standard set by its founder, Hugo Gernsback. Then it can be honestly called the 'Aristocrat of Science Fiction'.

Also from Ziff Davis comes the news that FANTASTIC ADVENTURES has merged with FANTASTIC. A note on FANTASTIC its quality has slipped considerably since the first i-

ssue last summer.

WONDER STORY ANNUAL, the 5th of the Standard group, came out with a big name issue - even a Bradbury!

TOPS IN STF has folded up after only one issue. What, no tears anybody?

On the musical side, a song has recently come out titled 'My Flying Saucer Baby'. The lyrics must have been written by a frustrated PLANET writer!

From the Netherlands came word that their 2nd STF mag has appeared - a reprint of the Old Growler series. PLANET seems doomed from the start, due to lack of authors and readers, and for those who might be wondering, it has no connection with the US crudzine PLANET STORIES. The only other Dutch mag to appear was titled FANTASY and SCIENCE, and only lasted four issues in 1948.

In case you are interested (Plug) there is a fanzine here in the US trying to build up a world circulation. It offers articles of fandom the world round, reviews of new and classic books, poetry, and is titled PAGODA.

A free sample of the 'zine will be sent by writing to :-
Charles Anderson,
311 East Polk St.
Phoenix, Arizona USA.
Yours till the next,

USITAN

THE ONE SHOT CLUB

The idea of this - ah - organization is to produce a series of 'one shot' fanzines throughout the year plus a few odd (very odd) newsletters. The majority of these - ah - magazines will be slanted towards the less serious side of STF so the staid GALAXY and ASTOUNDING worshippers had better forget this announcement. But those of you who can still get a laff and a yuk in your STF diet may participate by dropping a line to the editorial address enclosing 5/- for a year's supply of 'one Shots' of an indefinite number but around three a month.

So come on and join, 'cos the more subs we get, the more mags (sic) we can put out.

LJH

MLLB. STF. GROUP NEWSLETTER

In this, the first issue of INTERLINE, it has been decided to incorporate the group newsletter, which was originated and so ably presented by Bob McCubbin, who, however has had to discontinue publication owing to pressure of business.

As from March 5, the meetings will be held weekly
IJC

BESTIR OURSELVES OR BUST!

In the history of the human race, things have a tendency to go up and down. Elevators for example, and so I'm told, empires, businesses and of course, fandom.

In most places where fandom rears its sensitive head, the beginnings are very stumbling and usually end up flat on their face shortly afterwards. After ten, twenty or more years of staggering aimlessly about, (as in the USA), suddenly something appears to take hold, enthusiasm rises spontaneously, started no doubt by rugged individualists, ego-booster (who often become 'ego-bust'), and others of the ilk; but at the transition point, the masses take over by sheer weight of numbers.

"Fandom has gone to the dogs" is the inevitable verdict of the suffering martyrs of yore, but in doing so, it seems to admit a wider range of people, who, while they have a tendency to muddle through for a while, sometimes seem to get under way.

So it could be in Australia at this moment. Ten years ago, the feud

wracked few fought and fandom fligeted furiously, while the fandom flopped. As of writing however, the ASTF has around 140 financial members in the Australian and New Zealand area, and self-supporting and self-propagating groups are springing up in at least four states and New Zealand.

Rumor has it that this is due for higher pressure selling in this part of the globe, so that with this as a spur for recruiting, and the terrific splurge of publicity that is reflecting in this direction from the US, we could shortly see fan clubs busting out all over more numerical than swy schools.

The science fiction convention to be held in Sydney in May of this year, in spite of the intense secrecy with which the organizers are surrounding it, could well out-do the previous convention in bringing new faces into fanactivity. Plans are being laid by fans outside NSW to visit, and that will be the time to get to know the individuals behind the names on the bottoms of letters.

So be it! A boom in fandom will come if it comes; and although capable organizers can nurture it along, it's you who count L.Crane

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MELBOURNE GROUP NOTE!!

Owing to the high cost of producing this newsletter, & the present rate of postage, it has been decided that if the undermentioned names do not communicate with either Leo Harding, Mervyn Binns or myself within 7 days of publication- that is 8th March, they will be removed from the mailing list.

Since the inception of the newsletter under Bob McCubbin they have regularly received a copy without acknowledging it in any way, and now circumstances force to take this step.

R. Brissenden,
English Dept.
University Of Melb.

Ian McKay,
Ormond College
University Of Melb.

H.E. Coultas
Teddington Rd.,
Hampton.

Fred Dorman,
1 Outlook Drive,
Burwood.

Frank Grech,
73 St. Leonards Rd.,
Ascot Vale.

E.B. Hales,
Popes Rd.,
Dandenong.

M. Maizels,
36 Trevascus St.,
Sth. Caulfield.

I.J. Clark,
16 Marmo Rd.,
Murrumbeena.

A.R. Goode,
21 Rubens Gve.,
Canterbury.

D.C. Towes,
77 Canterbury Rd.,
Middle Park.

E.R. Edwards,
4 Ash Grove,
East Malvern.

A. Durose,
11 Leith St.,
Sunshine

P. Flynn,
13 Salisbury St.,
East Coburg.

C.J. Hill Jr.,
330 Smith St.,
Collingwood.

I. J. Crozier.

REPORT ON 2ND SYDCON.

As your editor hopes to be able to attend the 2nd Sydney Convention as a representative of AFPA there will be a full report of the doings in the first issue of ETHERLINE after the close of the proceedings.

IJC

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McGILL'S

McGILL'S NEWSAGENCY HAVE PLEASURE ANNOUNCING THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE BEING TAKEN FOR THE SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB, WHICH IS RUN BY MESSRS. SIDGEWICK & JACKSON. THE CLUB WILL ISSUE 6 BOOKS PER YEAR AT AN INTERVAL OF 2 MONTHS, AND INTEND TO PRESENT THE BEST OF THE MODERN AUTHORS TOGETHER WITH A FINE SELECTION OF OLD CLASSICS.

THE FIRST THREE ISSUES ARE AS FOLLOWING :
APRIL/MAY- EARTH ABIDES by GEORGE R. STEWART.
JUNE/JULY- THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES.

by RAY BRADBURY.
AUG./SEPT. - LAST & FIRST MEN.
by OLAF STAPLEDON.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:-

52/- COVERING 6 ISSUES (1 YEAR)

NEW BOOKS ON ORDER:

An Untitled Novel by Dr. Wernher von Braun.
'Prelude To Space' by Arthur C. Clarke
'Man Who Sold the Moon' by Robt. Heinlein.
'Demolished Man' by Alfred Bester.
'Man on the Moon' reprinted from Colliers.