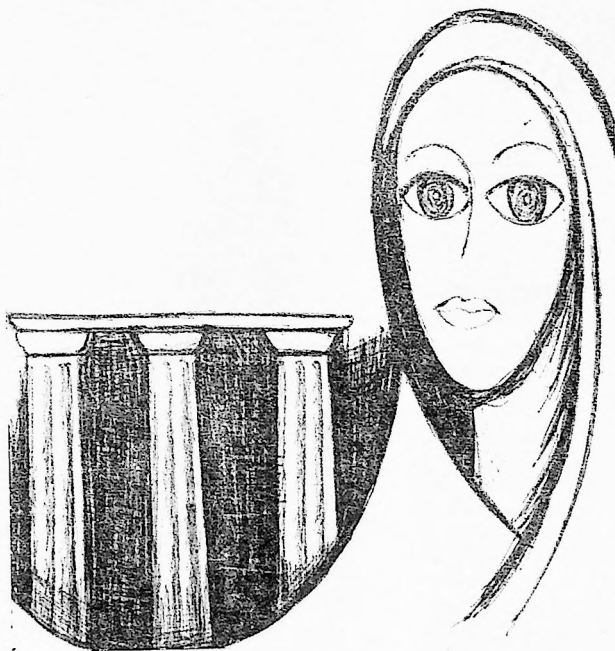


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Etherline.

Science Fiction Journal.



ISSUE No. 1

Estados Unidos

Libro de Registro



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* * * * *

Would you believe
that ETHERLINE is
produced by Leigh
Edmonds, and that
he spent the whole
night getting the
stencils typed.

You wouldn't,
I don't blame you.

* * * * *

ETHERLINE may be
purchased for 10¢
or subscribed to at
the rate of \$1.20
for twelve issues

* * * * *

An AFPA Publication 10th. & 11th. December

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ARTWORK: Cover by Peter Toyne and interior by
Jonh Breden and Michael Lawson

EDITORIAL (or whatever they call it)

An Explanation

You may, or may not, have heard of the old Melbourne Science Fiction Club journal, ETHERLINE. When it finally folded in 1959 it had run for a total of no less than one hundred and one issues, and it would have lasted longer if the then editor, Ian Crozier, had not married.

The fanzine was in those days, a news and letter 'zine and now, when Australian fandom is in need for such a journal, I hope that this revival will carry on in that role.

John Bangsund made some sort of effort to do this sort of thing in ASFR but with the success overseas, and the bi-monthly schedule, only dated and sometimes, late, news is possible.

It is felt that fans should have some way of being made aware of any important developments in the local sphere, that they should be able to inform others of their activities and that there should be a market place for fans outside personal contact sale.

I will try to bring out ETHERLINE on a regular monthly basis or even less if there is a need for it, that is, if something of importance occurs that demands notification. Anything that you think might be of interest will possibly find a place in these pages, so please let us hear from you.

There will appear in these pages, a regular list of new and reprint releases and possibly reviews of some of the new books. Reviews of the latest SF and Fantasy films will be printed as the films are released, if they are released.

Before I continue, let me thank both Ian Crozier and Mervyn Binns, Ian for allowing me to continue ETHERLINE and Mervyn for encouragement.

And Remember.... MELBOURNE IN '84

FILM REVIEW: 'FANTASTIC VOYAGE' or
baddies and bacteria in Disneyland

Paul Stevens and Philip Butkus

In recent years the cinema has produced few good science fiction films: "Destination Moon", "The War of the Worlds", "This Island Earth" and "Forbidden Planet". These, while being good, were



not exactly without faults in the eyes of the critical science fiction fans, demanding perfection. The rash of science fiction and horror films produced during the 1950's seems to have died down over the past few years.

We'll admit that perhaps one or two reasonably watchable films were seen:

"Robinson Crusoe on Mars", "The Crack in the

World" and the banned-in-Australia "Day of the Triffids". Now the long-awaited renaissance seems to be here (we hope) Twentieth Century Fox's 'Fantastic Voyage' heralds the start of this long-awaited era in better-than-average science fiction films.

Producer, Saul David and Director, Richard Fleischer, spent two million dollars on sets alone, depicting various parts of the human body traversed by the 'Protaeus', a miniturised nuclear submarine who's crew perform a delicate operation from within the brain of an Eastern scientist, to remove a blood clot.

The idea of shrinking people to microscopic size is an old one in science fiction, but never has the idea been so brilliantly employed, as in 'Fantastic Voyage'. The story is first class

science fiction, although during the opening one gets the impression that one is to expect a James Bond fantasia. This is soon remedied after the first few scenes when a Soviet bloc scientist, escorted to the United States by a secret agent (Stephen Boyd), is injured in an attempt on his life. The scene changes to an operating theatre with whit-gowned doctors and nurses clustered around the injured scientist. At this point the credits flash tastefully across the screen in computer like regularity and the SF fan realises he is not going to see the run-of-the-mill extravaganza. Meanwhile, back at the secret agents apartment, three stern-faced, lantern jawed security men arrive to convey him to some mysterious, unknown destination. He soon finds himself inside an advanced, underground, scientific research complex. General Carter, (Edmund O'Brien) informs Boyd of the attempt on the scientists life and the resultant complication of a dangerous brain injury. He is also told that the only way to save the scientist is by removing the blood clot from within his brain and that this can be achieved by shrinking to microscopic size, a newly developed submarine and it's crew of five: three medical experts, a naval navigator and Boyd (who is included for security reasons).

The portion of the film most subject to critical scrutiny is that of the submarine's actual reduction to microscopic size. The effects were handled very well, however, making a most difficult job of picking out any really objectionable faults.

The Submarine's entry into the patient's bloodstream (via a hypodermic injection) commences the best phase of the film. The initial view of the bloodstream, with red and white corpuscles drifting past the submarine surrealistically, is most awe-inspiring. The fantastic voyage then takes place amidst all kinds of adventures, misadventures and

some subtle sabotage. Among some of the more notable scenes were the replenishing of the craft's air supply, from the lungs: a 57 second dash through the heart, stopped for 60 seconds to enable the crew to correct their course after taking a wrong artery; an attack by antibodies in the inner ear and so on until eventually the brain is reached, minutes before the nessecary extraction time of the submarine from the scientists body. The blod clot is dissolved with a laser beam and a final attack by white corpuscles wich finally absorb the submarine and sabateur (quite effective). The four survivors make a hasty escape through the tear ducts of the cured scientist. The free world lives on.

Although the eagle-eyed critic might pick out one or two minor inconsistencies in the story, these are easily overshadowed by the superb photography and magnificently conveyed effects, making this one of the most beautiful films ever made. Any SF fan who is not thoroughly delighted with this work of art should be reduced to a microscopic size and left for the bacteria to feed on.



* * * * *

The MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION CLUB,
2nd. Floor, 19 Somerset Place Melbourne, 3000

INVITES ALL SF FANS TO MEETINGS HELD EACH
WEDNESDAY AT 7.45 PM

A LARGE LIBRARY OF SF MAGAZINES AND BOOKS
IS AVAILABLE TO ALL MEMBERS. YOU CAN DISCUSS SF
WITH OTHER MEMBERS OR JOIN IN GAMES OF CARDS,
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McGills 601475 or 932123

BOOK REVIEWS

The Coming of the Terrans by Leigh Brackett
 This Ace edition of reprints, originally published in some of the pulps of the forties and early fifties will delight fans of Miss Brackett. They are all reasonably competent stories and if you have money there is no reason not to add this to your library. Unfortunately there are no new stories in this collection.

Road to the Rim by A. Bertram Chandler
The Lost Millenium by Walt & Leigh Richmond
 A new Chandler although nothing to write home about. It traces the early career of 'That crusty old bastard', Commodore Grimes of the earlier Rim-World stories. (i.e. Contraband from Outerspace). This double is worth having for the second novel by Walt and Leigh Richmond, those refugees from Analog. One gets the impression that they based the novel on a good half dozen of John W. Campbell's editorials. It traces a very fanciful explanation of the most read book in the world, the Bible, and tries to give it all a scientific basis of historical fact. You might get a good laugh out of it, although a rather expensive (70¢) one.

Too Many Magicians by Randall Garrett
 The novelisation of the Analog serial of last year. It's a parallel worlds idea of a world where magic works to strict rules. Rather surprisingly, although it is mainly a murder mystery disguised as SF it is rather good. Worth the 70¢ or whatever.

Night Walk by Bob Shaw
 Space Opera it might be, but I've read worse

Galactic Odyssey by Keith Launer

Yet another serial, this time from IF. It should have stayed there. I don't know what Launer is supposed to be writing, but it is not science fiction! He gets worse and worse.

11th Annual Edition Years Best SF by Judith Merrill

The title means just what it says, Thoroughly recommended.

The Palace of Love by Jack Vance

The third of the 'Star King' series, unfortunately it does not measure up to the other two books in any way. How the villain of the book ever came to be a villain and manages to maintain this reputation provides more food for thought than the rather meagre plot does.

-- Heronious J. Fluglemeyer.

International Science Fiction No.1 edited by Pohl

The whole magazine can be reviewed in the words, "not too bad".

In a whole the stories are not all that bad, but alongside the other Pohl edited 'zines they are a pretty mouldery lot, the only ones of any note being the one by Philip E. High and a couple of the Russian stories. The Australian story is putrid and if Pohl had to use a Damien Broderick story, he could have chosen a reasonable one.

The article on SF in Italy, Germany and Russia was extremely interesting as was the Editorial, the Trieste SF Film Festival.

"Worlds of Tomorrow" was better.

appcl(2)

The MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION CLUB FILM GROUP,
Originally The Melbourne Fantasy Film Group.

Among the films to be screened during 1968
there will be:

'Postman's Knock'... with Spike
"Goon Show" Milligan. On Jan 5th.
'The Seven Faces of Dr. Lao'
On Jan 26th.

Also to be shown....

Forbidden Planet
The Time Machine....

and other films chosen by the Film Group
Members.

A selection of NASA documentaries will be
screened with every programme.

* * * * *

-OPUS-

IT'S TRUE.....OPUS DOES EXIST.
If you are lucky you might get it 30¢ each
for a christmas present (?)....

CONTRIBUTERS to issue 1 are

John Foyster
Noel Kerr
Bob Smith John Breden
Alan G. France Michael Lawson
Olsen Marks
Leigh Edmonds

EDITOR... Paul Stevens, M.S.F.C.,
19 Somerset Place

A couple of months ago some fans of the MSFC got together and decided that if something didn't happen soon, there would be no convention for the fans during 1968. We had hoped that there would be something this year from Sydney, but nothing....

After a lot of mind changing it was finally decided that the conflagration would be held over the easter of '68. A committee was formed, some of the members being Mervyn Binns (organiser)

Dick Jensen (sec. and treasurer)

John Bangsund (Publicity)

Paul Stevens (assistant organiser)

Tony Thomas (assistant sec. &

Leigh Edmonds (assistant pub.) and

at two meetings most important points have, at least been roughed out. The program, for example, will include some of the following items:

Films, including one in 35mm and colour and a 16mm. serial, "The Undersea Kingdom" We are going to try to get some sort of guest speaker, author and or notable personage personagepanel and we will will have some tapes from overseas authors.

What else.... well we hope, think, pray, there will be offered an extensive auction of all sorts of crud. Ancient and mouldy magazines and rare copies of Starship Scoopers. Some artwork and.... any thing to do with SF and fandom will be offered up by Dick Jensen. If you were there last time you won't want to miss the auction, even if you don't want to buy a thing.

There is going to be a real time and if you can get to go, do so on pain of really missing a high point in Australian fandom. It will cost you \$2.50 true, but then what would you get for nothing. If, by some-strange coincidence you can't come, then for the paltry expenditure of a mere dollar, you can get all sorts of all interesting pieces of paper that tell of the lewd and disgusting proceedings that take place.

And remember.... MELBOURNE IN '84

BOOK LIST

Arnam & Archer	Lost In Space Pyramid USBP .70
Asimov, Isaac & others	Time Untamed Belmont USBP .60
Belchin, Nigel	Kings of Infinite Space Wln Collins BBK
Bernard, Rafe	The Halo Highway Corgi BPB
Biggle, Lloyd	The Rule of the Door (and other Fanciful Regulations) Doubleday USBK \$3.95us
Blish, James & Knight, N.L.	A torrent of Faces Doubleday USBK \$4.95us
Blish, James	VOR USPB .70
Bloch, Robert	The Living Demons Belmont USBP
Brackett, Leigh	The Coming of the Terrans Ace USBP .60
Brunner, John	Born Under Mars Ace USBP .60
Budrys, Algis	Asmirs & The Iron Thorn USPB .60
Carr, Terry	New Worlds of Fantasy Ace USBP .90
Chandler, Bertram A	The Road the the Rim
Richmond, Walt & Leigh	The Lost Mellenium Ace Double USBP .70
Clarke, Arthur C.	Against the Fall of Night .70
deCamp, L. Sprague & Pratt, Fletcher	The Carneliah Lancer USBP .70
Dickson, Gordon R.	Near Room For Man USPB
Ellison, Harlan	Dangerous Vision Doubleday USBK \$3.95us

Garrett, Randall	Too Many Magicians	
Geston, Mark S.	Doubleday USBK	\$3.95us
Greenfield, Irving	Lords of the Starships	
Heath, Peter	Ace	USPB .60
Bar Javel, Rene	The Waters of Death	
Trans. Damon Knight	Lancer	USPB .70
Jones, D.F.	The Assassins From Tomorrow	
Keys, Daniel	Lancer	USPB .70
Knight, Damon	Ashes, Ashes	
Knight, Damon	Doubleday	USPB \$3.95us
Laumer, Keith	Colossus	
Laumer, Keith	Berkley	USPB .70
Lupoff, R.A.	Flowers For Algernon	
McDavies, David	USPB	
Merrill Judith	Orbit One	
Merrill, Judith	Corgi	BPB
Mills, Robert P.	Orbit Two	
Moskowitz, Sam	Berkley	USPB .90
Munday, Talbert	Enemies From Beyond	
Neville, Kris	Pyramid	USPB .70
Arnham	Galactic Odyssey	
	Berkley	USPB
	One Million Centuries	
	Lancer	USPB .90
	The Arsenal of Time	
	Ace	USPB .60
	11th Annual Edition The	
	Years Best SF	
	Dell	USPB .90
	SF Best of the Best	
	USBK	6.50
	Worlds of SF	
	Pb Library	USPB .90
	Seekers of Tomorrow	
	Ballantine	USPB
	Liafail	?
	USPB	.70
	Special Delivery	
	Star Gladiator	
	Belmont	Dbl USBP

Norton, Andre	Moon of Three Rings Ace USPB	.70
Reynolds, Mack Tubb, E.C.	Computer War Death is a Dream Ace Double USPB	.70
Santessan, Hans	Gods For Tomorrow Nova Books USPB	
Shaw, Bob	Night Walk USPB	.70
Silverberg, Robert	Voyages in Time Meredith	\$4.95us
Simak, Clifford	All the Traps of Earth Macfadden USPB	.70
Sturgeon, Theadore	The Synthetic Man Pyramid USPB	.70
Temple, Wilian F.	Shoot At the Moon Macfadden USPB	.70
Thomas, Martin	Beyond the Spectrum USPB	.60
Vance, Jack	The Palace of Love Berkley USPB	.70
Ackerman, F.J.	A.E. vanVogt: Monsters USPB	.60
White, James	The Secret Visitors Ace USPB	.60

* * * * *



THE RUBBISH BIN(NS)

circa? 1967

What have I done? Me organise the 1968 Melbourne SF conv....oops...conference?. With assistance from an enthusiastic committee I will, but we have no ambition to do any more spectacular than the last get-together in Melbourne, organised by John Foyster, except a 35mm movie show at a theatre, and more wider discussion and talk sessions. We believe the tapes went over well last time and we are counting on more tapes from overseas this time. More details on this part of the programme soon. Our publicity officer is John Bangsund, and who better for the job after his great efforts with ASFR. His decision at the last one to publish ASFR, was just the shot in the arm that Australian fandom needed. He has succeeded in bringing into contact with us again, many fans all over Australia.

We are counting on you country, interstate and overseas fans for your support in Easter '68 and more than ever in '69. Elaborate plans are afoot for 1969 in which everyone can help, but these will not be discussed until the buisness session in '68.

Next year we will be showing possibly four feature movies, plus shorts and for laughs, a serial. The auction could be interesting as we have been promised some very rare magazines. The Auction Catalogue will be out atleast a month before the conferance and we invite everybody to send in their auction items now! There will be a lot for sale as well as the auction, the actual auction time being kept to a minimum. All members will be entitled to enter bids and the auction committee will appoint somebody to bid for non-attending members. More details will be announced by the publicity section soon.

Your membership subscriptions would be appreciated now, \$2.50 for attending members and

\$1.00 for non-attending. We will guarantee you a good show, but if you would rather wait for more details.....

With the conference and all, and trying to run the MSFC I find I have less and less time than ever to write to people. Please accept my apologies if my replies to your letters are overdue.

The MSFC is going quite well. New members are continually replacing the dropouts. 'Bluey' Glick scootered in from Sydney recently and we welcomed him as an old member of the club himself.

Film show attendances have not been good but we really have something in line for shows available next year. Our new scheme of membership will also ensure that better movies are shown. Both at the club and at the theatre we have seen some good SF movies this year. "Robinson Crusoe on Mars" was extremely good but we did not get the turn up for it that it deserver. "Farenheit 451" and "Fantastiv Voyage" were both excellent. Even "Alphaville" was interesting and pointed the way to a new trend.

BARBARELLA, the French SF comic strip heroine played by Jane Fonda will really be something if it gets past the censor. Charlton Heston is coming in "The Monkey Planet" with Enlyn Williams and Rodney McDowell, in monkey suit yet. CAMELOT, though not SF, has fantasy elements and is, on the best accounts, fabulous. A souvenire programme from U.S.A. is packed with illustrations of the wonderfully designed sets, costumes and artifacts....I hope they release it here.

If some of these films are a box office sucess, I think we may see many more SF and and fantasy movies. There is no sign of the Kubrick-Clarke epic yet, not even the book, let's hope it's not a bad sign.

That just about puts the lid on that
Mervyn Binns

THE COMING CLASSICS

Paul Stevens

The other night Leigh Edmonds and myself were discussing the future trends of science fiction. Leigh was bemoaning the fact that there were no writers of the stature of Isaac Asimov and others nowadays.

"There are just no authors capable of writing works of lasting stature," He said, "Not that there is no good SF being written you understand, but nothing that will go on to be a classic in the future."

This statement horrified me, but for the life of me, I just couldn't think of any authors to throw back in his prejudiced teeth. To Leigh, life begins and ends with Asimov.

Several days and two books later I was able to stand up to this vile canard with concrete proof that he was talking through his space helmet.

The moment I saw him I pounced.

"Ha! Ha!" I cried, "So you say that SF lacks authors capable of writing classic SF?"

He rose to the bait, "Yes, I do."

"Then read these," I snorted triumphantly, "And see if you can still say that." I shoved two Ace SF publications into his claw. He needed only to glance at the authors names on the covers to admit defeat, Ursula K. LeGuin and Samuel R. Delaney.

These are only two of SF's 'new generation' writers. There are also, Roger Zelazney who picked up a Hugo last year with his magnificent, "This Immortal". There is Thomas M. Disch who gets better all the time. There is Thomas Burnett Swann and Delaney who should have both won the Hugo this year with their "Day of the Minitor" and "Bable 17" respectively. There is J.G. Ballard, Avram Davidson, Philip K. Dick, Harry Harrison,

Philip E. H'gh, Daniel Keys and several others.

No my dear friends, SF
will continue to put out
it's classics. The authors
are there, we just have to
wait patiently, that's all.
If you don't belive me,
read Le Guin's latest
novels, and Delaney's,
"The Einstein Intersection"
you'll see why I am so
confident in SF's futre.

* * * * *



I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING
ELSE TO GO ON THIS PAGE SO
I WON'T BOTHER.

We wish to announce that hence forth the MSFC will be open on Saturday mornings between the hours of 9.00 and 12.00. You will be able to borrow books from the library during this time and we hope that many members who are unable to get in on Wednesday nights will make use of this service.

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