

# newsletter



The Bulletin of The Irish Science Fiction Association

NOVEMBER 1976

NUMBER 5

If this Newsletter comes to you slightly later than usual, our humblest apologies. There have been several factors involved. Our Chairman (who bungs everything in the post) has had the current 'flu and Robert (who types everything) has had a surfeit of ill parents and '9 to 5' work to contend with. Having got that over, here is the latest monthly effort which as you may have noticed is slightly thicker than usual. The reasons for this will become obvious as you read on so, please read all.

## SPORTSMAN INN RULES O.K.!

Once again, we held a well-attended get-together at our monthly local. At the October meeting, patron Harry Harrison told us of the possible delights of holding our own I.S.F.A. Convention early next year and if you will read on you will find details of the work which the committee has done in that direction. Being Hallow'een, member David Lass gave a short talk linking science fiction and fantasy with elements of the supernatural. At our next meeting on Sunday November 28th at the usual time of 7.30, we would like to take a discussion one stage further. The committee will pick a topic and hope (with fingers crossed) that some members might like to add their view points to the ideas being put forward. O.K.? Possibly the biggest surprise of all was the appearance of the first issue of STARGATE at the last meeting. After months of slog, Robert finally completed the task and all members at the Sportsman got their copy. Other members should have received theirs in the post by now. Robert has started work on STARGATE II so, all being well, it should rear its ugly head by the end of January (1977 that is). One apology is due regarding the cover of STARGATE I. One cover designed by Michael Gardner was in preparation but owing to printer difficulties, it did not see the light of day in time for journal publication. At short notice David Norman prepared another cover which was to be photocopied. More difficulties ensued - the photocopier began chewing up the paper before spitting it out. Panicking frantically, Robert drew the design directly onto a stencil so that your STARGATE would have a cover. David Norman's artwork was a hell of a sight better than what you received. However, in the near future we will do him justice. Apart from that, how did you like STARGATE I?

## IRISH P.E.N. DISCUSS SF.

Shortly after the last meeting we heard from Anne McCaffrey that she was to give a talk to the Irish P.E.N. Dublin Centre in the Clyde Room of the Burlington Hotel on Wednesday November 3rd. Frantic phone calls were made to all the member phone numbers we had on record (some 46 in all) and of those people called, 10 turned up to support our patron. Also present were Harry Harrison and his wife, Joan.

Anne was introduced to the P.E.N. members by Charles E. Kelly and set out on a path which covered the origins of SF literature, the current trends and success of the genre and also her own literary career which has entered fields other than science fiction. P.E.N. is the International Writers' Union and for most of its members, who

are straight poets, literary critics and novelists, Anne's talk opened a whole new area of interest for their speculation. Several were amazed by her revelations as to science fiction's world-wide popularity. Anne described how S.F. fandom in the States has reached such a peak that there is approximately one S.F. convention a week over there. There are even cultist elements involving fans who follow one particular facet of the genre ie:- the followers of STAR TREK who are referred to as Trekkies. Indeed, it is getting to the stage when the fans are beginning to wonder if they "actually need the writers at all."

Our patron asked the other members of F.E.N. to consider S.F. as a valid literary form and suggested that they might care to try writing it themselves. Science fiction after all makes money and although Anne has no intention of denegrating art for art's sake, she still doesn't believe in being penniless.

Mr. Alan Llewellyn, in proposing a vote of thanks, discoursed briefly but eloquently on the religious and mythic origins of science fiction in such works as "The Epic of Gilgamesh", The Old Testament, Plato and Celtic legend. Non-addicts then went home to ponder this new dimension in literature while we, the converted, adjourned to the bar to commiserate with Joan and her broken amphora.

FORTHCOMING FILM PREVIEWS from Pearse Mooney.

#### LOGAN'S RUN

Set 300 years in the future, "Logan's Run", the latest S.F. film from M.G.M. could prove to be the most spectacular S.F. film since "2001 - A Space Odyssey."

Life in the 23rd Century is geared totally to pleasure. There is no war, sickness or poverty. The people live in a huge domed city, hermetically sealed off from the rest of the world. They spend their time in shopping areas where they can have anything from a safe drug trip to a 3-minute face lift. Love shops are also available and everything is free. Money does not exist!

The big flaw however, is that nobody reaches their 30th birthday. By law, everybody must die before they reach 30 years of age. This fatal day is known as 'Last Day'. When some of the people reach 'last day', they try to escape. These are called 'runners'. Logan 5 is a member of the 'Sandmen', the police unit whose job it is to catch and eliminate the runners. When it comes to Logan's time to face last day, he opts out, and with a girl Jessica, he too becomes a runner. Hence, the film's title "Logan's Run".

"Logan's Run" provided M.G.M. with quite a challenge. Virtually everything from the interior and exterior sets, to the giant domed city itself had to be designed especially for the film. They created methods of transportation, and the studio workshops designed and built the electrically powered 'maze cars' which you can see shooting through transparent tunnels. M.G.M.'s carpenters and technicians had to construct a variety of futuristic sets which finally occupied five of the studio sound stages. Some scenes, however, required sets that it seems were beyond even the resources of M.G.M.. For such scenes they moved outside the studios to futuristic buildings already in existence in Texas. One of these was the Dallas Market Centre and it provided some very impressive exteriors for the film.

What sets and locations couldn't supply was provided by the special effects department. This department provided the elaborate models and came up with such futuristic ideas as laser beam surgery and robot workers. In the film, the people have an apparent chance to increase their life span by 'renewing' at a mysterious public ceremony on the 'carousel'. This carousel was built on Stage 30 at the M.G.M. lot. The great roundabout and its 500 seater amphitheatre

were constructed by the studio staff. In this film Michael York becomes the first film actor in history to perform in a hologram scene. This scene was shot at the Holographic Laboratory of the Multiplex Company in San Francisco. Holograms are three-dimensional images suspended in mid air. They have depth and texture and solid objects can be passed through them without distorting the image. The three dimensional hologram is, however, trapped on the screen by the two dimensional aspect of the film itself. This opens up the possibilities of future television and film making, using holograms, where the audience might be seated in football stadiums with the hologram being projected into the centre of the stadium. The possibilities for such an application in films and television are endless.

"Logan's Run" was directed by Michael Anderson.

Original running time: 119 minutes.

#### FUTUREWORLD

FUTUREWORLD, the new SF film from American International is a sequel to the already successful WESTWORLD. The film is set in the holiday camp of the future, Delos, where those who can afford to pay may realize their wildest dreams and fantasies, with the aid of a highly complex computer system. Some of the guests at this unique holiday facility are high ranking officials of several different governments. Peter Fonda, as a newspaper reporter, and Blythe Danner as a TV reporter, are determined to find out why so many important people are in Delos at the same time. They find themselves, however, caught up in murder, robots, and the inevitable plan to take over the world. In the film, Yul Brynner makes a brief appearance as the gunslinger (from WESTWORLD), when he is the object of Blythe Danner's dream. As with MGM using existing buildings in LOGAN'S RUN, so the makers of FUTUREWORLD used existing structures which look futuristic. For this film the producers got permission to use the N.A.S.A. Lyndon Johnson Space Centre at Houston in Texas. The film had to be made at night, as during the day N.A.S.A. uses the Space Centre for their own purposes. When the producers first went to Houston and saw the facilities that were already available, they went back, and rewrote the script to suit the locations and backgrounds, because there was no way they could possibly be duplicated anywhere in the world. Some of the hardware used are actual models and simulations of the craft that actually went into space. One scene in the film shows a chess game, where the figures on the board are real miniature people, who engage in battle and the winner takes the square. Well, for 1,200 dollars a day - board and lodging - you would expect at least, a good game of chess.

FUTUREWORLD was directed by Richard T. Heffron.

Original running time: 104 minutes.

#### AT THE EARTH'S CORE

This is a film based on a book of the same name by Edgar Rice Burroughs. The film stars Peter Cushing and Doug McClure heading accidentally for the centre of the earth. They burst through the surface (the underside of the earth's crust) to find themselves in a strange world with a pink sky. This strange land is ruled by lizard-like bird creatures who have a sort of telepathic communication with half humans - the 'Sagoths'. The Sagoths feed their rulers with primitive human slaves. Peter Cushing plays perhaps his first comedy role as the quirky professor who fights monsters with his umbrella. He also uses it to protect himself in lava showers. The prehistoric-type monsters in this film will probably take most of the credits as they engage in combat and swoop down to catch a tasty titbit for dinner.

Running time: 90 minutes.

BOOK NEWS from F.J. Goode.

Those of you who have difficulty in obtaining books in Ireland could take note that ANDROMEDA BOOK COMPANY Ltd., 57 Summer Row, Birmingham B31JJ, operate a mail order service (minimum order £2) and stock a most comprehensive list. Catalogues are available from the committee. The first issue of the Canadian fanzine 'The Science Fiction Collector' may now be obtained for 75p from Fantasy Centre, 43 Station Rd, London, SW104UF. ++ At last - a comprehensive reference book of S.F. authors for your library shelves - WHO'S WHO IN S.F. by B. Ash (Elm Tree Books- £3.95-) ++ From Quartet a new novel from one of my favourite writers - Michael Moorcock's ADVENTURES OF UNA PERSSON AND CATHERINE CORNELIUS IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY (£3.95)++ Some Arrow reprints - E.C. Tubbs' 'Toyman' and 'Kalin' - good fantasy well worth reprinting. +++ New from Corgi "Star Trek Log 5" by Alan Dean Foster - Have fun, all you Trekkies! Also 'Nebula Awards 9' edited by Kate Wilhelm; and 'Powers of the Serpent' by F.V. Timlett +++ N.E.L. reprint Robert Heinlein's 'Starman Jones' and Tandem reprint 'Land of Hidden Men' by E.R. Eerroughs +++ New from Sphere: 'East of John W. Campbell' also 'Food of the Gods' by H.G. Wells ++ 'Illuminatus' by Shea and Wilson, and finally 'Darker than you think' by Jack Williamson +++ Panther: 'Starlost 1': 'Phoenix without Ashes' by Harlan Ellison and Edward Bryant; for fans of the 'master' himself 'The Science Fiction of Isaac Asimov' by Joseph F. Patrouch Jr.; and reprints of two of his oldies - 'The Stars Like Dust' and 'Second Foundation'; also 'City of Illusions' by Ursula K. LeGuin and out again 'First Lensman' and 'Masters of the Vortex' by E.E. 'Doc' Smith + Mayflower: Science Fantasy from Mick Farren 'Synaptic Manhunt'. Also from Mayflower 'Christopher Lee's New Chamber of Horrors'. - Potted Dracula?

I.S.F.A. LIBRARY

F.J. Goode will have our library at the next meeting and it will be run on the following lines. First of all, there will be a membership fee of 50p (or a donation of 5 books) which will make you a library member for as long as you wish. After that (to help with running costs and proposed shelves) it will be necessary for members to pay 10p per book which they borrow. The maximum number of books per borrowing will be three and you may have these for one month. Anyone who cannot return books at the next meeting should try to get them to P.J. by some other means so that they will not have to pay out a further 10p on each book per month overdue. The library will be open at each monthly meeting for the whole evening so, please do not all rush at once. F.J. will try to cope with everybody as quickly as possible. Remember, if you have special requests for listed books, a note to P.J. giving titles will secure them for you and they will be ready for collection at the following meeting. (That is, providing they are available.)

Unfortunately, we must say that if books are lost or badly damaged while on loan, the member involved will be asked to pay a further 50p to renew library membership.

To give you an idea of the books at present in F.J.'s care, there now follows a complete book list. This will be updated in every Newsletter and in each Journal a complete list will be published.

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I.S.F.A. LITERARY BOOK LIST.....

- ALDISS (Brian)                   Space Odysseys: Earthworks: The Shape of  
Further Things: Years Best SF 9 (edited with  
Harry Harrison)
- ANDERSON (Poul)                 A Midsummer Tempest: Three Hearts and Three  
Lions.
- ASIMOV (Isaac)                 The End of Eternity: The Stars Like Dust:  
Earth is Room Enough: The Martian Way:  
Pirates of the Asteroids: The Caves of Steel:  
50 Short SF Tales
- AVERY (Richard)                The Expendables: Books 1 to 4
- BASS (T.J.)                     Half Past Human
- BEARNE (C.J.)                 Vortex - New Soviet Science Fiction
- BESTER (Alfred)                Tiger! Tiger!
- BLISH (James)                 A Case of Conscience: Jack of Eagles:  
Spock must Die: Star Trek 1
- BRADBURY (Ray)                The Day it Rained Forever: I Sing the Body  
Electric
- BLUM (Ralph)                  The Simultaneous Man
- BRUNNER (John)                The World Swappers: Not Before Time:  
Born Under Mars
- BURROUGHS (William)           Nova Express
- BURROUGHS (E.R.)              Savage Pellucidar
- FULMER (Kenneth)              Swords of the Barbarians
- BUDRYS (Algis)                The Falling Torch
- CARTER (Lin)                  Beyond the Gates of Dream
- CHEETHAM (Anthony)            Bug-Eyed Monsters (editor): Science Against Man
- CLARKE (Arthur C.)            Rendezvous With Rama: A Fall of Moondust:  
Expedition to Earth
- CLIFTON (Mark)                When They Come From Space
- CONEY (Michael G.)            The Hero of Downways
- COOPER (Edmund)               Tomorrow's Gift: Who Needs Men: Kronk
- COWPER (Richard)              Twilight of Eriareus
- DELREY (Lester)               The Man Without a Planet
- DICK (Philip K.)               The Zap Gun: Now Wait For Last Year:  
The Preserving Machine: Clans of the Alpha  
Moon: Galactic Pot Healer
- DISCH (Thomas M.)             The Ruins of Earth: 334

DOLINSKY (Mike)	Mind One (2)
ELLISON (Harlan)	From the Land of Fear (2)
ERNSTING (Walter)	Perry Rhodan 4 (with Kurt Mahr)
FARMER (Philip Jose)	To Your Scattered Bodies Go: The Fabulous Riverboat: Traitor to the Living: Times Last Gift
FERNAN (Edward L.)	Final Stage (Editor)
GERROLD (David)	The Flying Sorcoress
GREEN (Joseph)	Conscience Interplanetary
HARRISON (M. John)	The Machine in Shaft Ten: The Centauri Device
HARRISON (Harry)	Bill The Galactic Hero: Technicolor Time Machine: Planet of the Damned: Prime Number: Backdrop of Stars (Editor): Years Best SF 8 (edited with Brian Aldiss)
HEINLEIN (Robert)	Starship Trooper: Space Cadet: Time Enough For Love: Podkayne of Mars
HERBERT (Frank)	The Eyes of Heisenberg: The Green Brain
HJORTSBERG (William)	Grey Matters
HOLLY (J. Hunter)	The Mind Traders (2)
HAY (George)	Stopwatch (editor)
JANIFER (Lawrence M.)	Masters Choice (editor)
JAMES (Lawrence)	Earth Lies Sleeping
JORGENSEN (Ivar)	Ten From Infinity
JONES (Langdon)	The New SF (editor)
KIFFAX (John)	Where No Stars Guide
KING (Vincent)	Candy Man
KNIGHT (Damon)	Analogue Men: Towards Infinity: Natural State and other stories: Elsewhere X3
LAUMER (Keith)	Nine by Laumer: Worlds of the Imperium: The Other Side of Time
LEIBER (Fritz)	A Spectre is Haunting Texas: The Secret Song: The Big Time
LeGuin (Ursula K.)	The Dispossessed
LEM (Stanislaw)	The Invincible
MANNES (Marya)	They
MACKLEWORTH (R.J.)	Tiltangle