

ISFANEWS-APRIL 1973

NEXT MEETING AT: Jim & Lee Lavell, 5647 Culver St. , Indianapolis In. 46226,
Saturday April 7, @ 7.30

Last Meeting, despite the attendance of such notable personalities as Jerry Hunter, Jim and Lee, the Coulsons, the Clarkes(Mindy and Laura), the Niesels, and cat, was an average meeting. The highlight was ~~the~~ a Babylonian(?) seal for official documents that the Niesels had bought from down and museum. They also had a catalog of rare and useless objects like seals, cuneiform tablets, and whatnot. My mother had recently gotten a book, "The Search for Dilmun", and soon she and Sandra were swapping stories. (One of these was the records of E. Nassar, a business man. One of the letters to him was asking, in somewhat heated tones, what had happened to the 100 or so pounds of ~~the~~ bronze he had ordered, and threatened to brick up Nassar's house unless the Headbeat paid up. Another was the complete transcription of the complicated redtape it took to join the Egyptian army and die for his country. Some things don't change, even after two thousand years!)

Jim and Lee (well, Lee actually) got interested in all this, and were peering through the catalog. Since the cheapest item in there was about \$75, I just took a quick glance. Lee was interested in some necklace in there, but I didn't see anything worth spending my money on. Now, if they had been selling ancient chess sets, I would have been interested.

The rest of the meeting went as usual, with people discussing everything from Nixon's policies to the teaching of science fiction in schools (more about that later). All in All, it was an interesting, but average, meeting.

The teaching of science fiction in schools is fascinating. My father received requests from two schools that teach science fiction to send them sample copies of Yandro. One of them was from an english teacher who doesn't know how to spell, and the other was from a parochial school. (and one wonders what they will think of yandro?) In return, we got a copy of the teachers manual for this course. Inside, it has a list of recommended novels and short stories(including a special section for girls!), and advice on how to teach this course. (At least, I think that's what it had. Sandra can correct me if I'm wrong) I got interested enough to think about suggesting it for our school, and then taking the course. (an easy two credits!)

Our school curriculum is in danger! At least, that was the cry of several of the seniors. One of the members of the school board had said in public that some of the courses should be evaluated. All right; but then, in a private meeting, (which wasn't so private), she made the suggestion that all unnecessary courses be closed down. (This would include debate.) That's when the fireworks started. Everyone who could circulate a petition was doing so, and everything came to a finale during an open board meeting. The board member ~~she~~ hastily ~~did the the the the the the the~~ took back everything she said. The best comments of the evening were made by a member of the tax department(who wanted to know what had happened to the 150,000 dollars that the board member had cut out last year and had mysteriously disappeared) and the other was made by Bob Beymer, who wanted five specific, logical reasons why the curriculum should be cut back. (He never got them.) It ended up with a very shaky compromise and an ambiguous area that is to be cleared up in the next meeting.

That seems to be all of the general information, and I've been warned away from making this a personalzine. So, I will either see you at the meeting or next month when Isfanews comes out. Don't miss it!