

The SOUTHERN FAN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTHERN FANDOM GROUP

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By ALFRED McCOY ANDREWS
(Official Director of the Southern Fandom Group)

You have in your hands the first issue of THE SOUTHERN FAN, which is the official publication of the Southern Fandom Group. Perhaps you are wondering just what all this is about, so let's have a brief question & answer session and see if we can't clarify matters.

What is the Southern Fandom Group (SFG)?

The SFG is a newly formed organization whose sole aim is to provide activities, benefits and representation for Southern fans. Southern fans being those persons who are genuinely interested in sf (& fantasy) and fandom, and who live in any of the following 13 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

Why was the SFG formed?

It is no secret that the South is practically devoid of any fan organization of any size, and this fact causes many a genuine fan to be a "lone wolf," as it were...and indeed a lonely wolf. The SFG was formed to activate and unify Southern fans and to aid them by providing varied activities and benefits, and forceful representation on regional and national levels.

How can one become a member of the SFG?

The SFG was formed several months ago and was comprised of eight charter members, whose task it was to set up a functioning fan organization and map out the SFG's regional limits, plan of activity, organizational mechanics, and general scope. The SFG was not open to membership until this was accomplished. Having now accomplished this, we are opening our doors for application of membership.

The SFG wants, not "natural joiners of anything," but rather persons who are truly interested in sf-fantasy and fandom, in short, genuine fans. For after all, if the SFG is to aid fans it must be composed of fans. To make this possible, membership in the SFG is By-Invitation-Only. You will find in this issue a questionnaire which is designed to ascertain to a reasonable degree a person's interest in

sf-fantasy and fandom. One who desires membership in the SFG should fill out this questionnaire as fully as possible and mail it to our Corresponding Secretary, whose address is given on the questionnaire. Your questionnaire will be viewed by the Corresponding Secretary and Director of the SFG and if approved you will shortly receive an invitation to become a member. And let me say that it is not necessary to qualify in all four categories to receive SFG approval--in fact, usually a reasonably good degree of activity in any one category will qualify you for membership.

Please send no money with your questionnaire. SFG dues are \$2.00 per year, but they are not payable until one receives his invitation to membership.

Why join the SFG...NOW?

This is indeed the "right" time to join the SFG. The charter members set up the SFG on general lines, yet we did not completely solidify those lines, but chose to wait in order that when we opened our doors for membership our new members could become an integral part of the organization by helping form the SFG's plans of action. Persons who become members now will play a vital part in the elections of SFG officers to be held in the not too distant future. There are many important activities and benefits that the SFG may elect to sponsor and we want YOU to be planning these things right along with us. Shortly two committees will be appointed to discuss all phases of various benefits and activities, and then to work out detailed plans of the most promising and important ones. You can serve on these committees and be one of the guiding hands that shape the SFG for the future. When these plans are submitted to our membership for approval or rejection by majority vote, you can cast your vote to help gain the things YOU want. The SFG is on the move; it will not stagnate as some "clubs" have that went out only for an impressive tally of members, who later became listless and dissatisfied with a do-nothing policy. The SFG is vitally progressive, constantly doing in the Present and constantly planning for the Future. Neither does the SFG launch a raft of jittery and jerry-built activities that tickle the ear with impossible schemes of benefits that never come. The SFG intelligently discusses, examines and explores possible activities, inviting all of its members to take part. The SFG plans and works towards practical and solid benefits for all its members, depending on its membership to dictate their needs to the organization.

We are not playing; we are in dead earnest. Why not submit at once the enclosed questionnaire and be invited to join the SFG. Join us as SFG becomes the voice of a unified Southern fandom.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred M. Coy Andrews

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

By HARRY THOMAS
(Official Historian, SFG)

As our organization is in its very young stages, there isn't much for me to report on this time. I will, however, give a report on our group's movements to date.

Our organization, the SOUTHERN FANDOM GROUP, consists of eight charter members. These eight original members consist of Al Andrews, Bob Farnham, Bernie Wermers, Jerry Page, Jerry Burge, Bob Jennings, Emile Greenleaf and myself. From these eight the following officers have been elected: Director: Al Andrews. Corresponding Secretary: Bob Farnham. Historian: Harry Thomas. Official Editor: Jerry Burge. Associate Editor: Jerry Page. State Secretary for Louisiana: Emile Greenleaf. State Secretary for Tennessee: Bob Jennings. Since the appointment of the officers the group has been rolling along rather smoothly.

As Historian it has been part of my job to keep a complete file of all fanzines published by our members--or by any Southern fan, for that matter. So far I have copies of only two different 'zines published by Southern fans. Their editors are Bob Jennings and Billy Joe Plott. Please, if you know of any other Southern fan editing a 'zine, let us know.

I have also set up a file of prozine sales by any of our group's members. So far there have been only two pro sales by members of our group; one by Al Andrews and one by Bob Farnham. As the SOUTHERN FANDOM GROUP grows, however, so should this file.

That just about winds up things from this end so I shall exit by saying, "The South IS rising again!"

-*-*-***-**-*-*-

REPORT ON ACTIVITY

By BOB FARNHAM
(Corresponding Secretary, SFG)

To date there have been letters written to some 72 southern fans asking if they were interested in seeing southern fandom made active again, and thus far approximately 30 fans have replied in the affirmative. There should be a listing of the fans written to in this issue of The Southern Fan.

I am constantly on the lookout for 6th Fandom Era fans and if anyone knows the address of LEE HOFFMAN, I would appreciate their notifying me as soon as possible. Hoffman was just about the leading fanzine publisher in Dixie, having hit the top and holding it with her QUANDRY.

Some officers have been appointed; two State Secretaries, a Director, a Club Historian and the Official Editors. Their names should also be designated in this issue.

Dues--which have been set at \$2.00 per year--should be sent to Director Andrews, who is acting Treasurer.

Correspondence will be answered promptly.

EDITORIAL

This first issue of The Southern Fan is rather slim, we know, but it's to be regarded merely as a get-acquainted issue. Later issues, we hope, will see added pages and more varied material.

If there is a certain repetitiousness in the reports this time, you can put it down to enthusiasm, or esprit de corps, or lousy editing (pick one, two, or three choices). We were in something of a hurry to get this first issue in the mails and the old ball rolling. Now that we've got the matter of the "eight charter members" off our chests, the reports should begin to diverge as the officers concern themselves more with their own specific duties.

This issue is going to all of the active southern fans whose names and addresses we've been able to find (over 70 as this goes to mimeo). We hope to get 100% response. This wide-eyed optimism is not, we think, so preposterous as it may at first appear. You are an active fan or you would not be receiving this magazine. And certainly there is not an active fan in the south who has not felt the dearth of activity here--and wanted to do something about it. Spread out as we are here in the south, we stand in real need of an organization such as the SFG to serve as a rallying point. For years the south has had no centers of fan activity, no conventions--not even a decent feud! The SFG is the first organized effort to remedy these shortcomings and restore to the south at least the position it held in fandom during the early part of this decade.

Please send your completed questionnaire to Bob Farnham now while you're thinking of it. As Al Andrews has pointed out, the SFG is still in process of formation. If you join now, you will have a voice in all important decisions still to be made. As a matter of fact, the SFG has no members yet. The "charter members" are so called only by courtesy. We will not be members officially, any of us, until we've submitted our questionnaires and received our invitations to join (if we don't flunk out). So we'll all be starting out on a more or less even footing except that the present officers will continue at their posts at least until the constitution (now being prepared) is approved by the membership and elections held.

In the next issue, a letter column will be inaugurated. We'd like very much to see your comments and ideas on the SFG, southern fandom, The Southern Fan, or anything else you'd care to write about. We hope to make the letter column the backbone of this OO. As our principal vehicle of discussion it should also have great effect on the development of the SFG's future policies and purposes, particularly in the formulative period we'll be going through for the next few months.

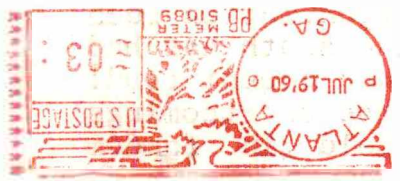
Future growth of The Southern Fan will depend on the growth and interest of the SFG membership, to say the least of it. We would like to have more pages, artwork, articles and columns of more general interest, of course. But all such developments--as we may have intimated before--are in YOUR hands. Your interest and response will determine how far we will go.

--Jerry Burge

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EDITORIAL #2

JERRY PAGE was supposed to have a few final words in this space, but he phoned a short time ago to tell me his typewriter had broken down, so I'll have to try to fill in for him, covering briefly the things he wanted to say.

First, my editorial and possibly the Director's report may have given a certain air of impermanence to the SFG. We are not really so disorganized. The important basic organizational machinery has been definitely established. Policies for contacting and determining the qualifications of prospective members, for setting up member-clubs in the separate states, for publishing the OO, and of course for collecting the all-important dues, have been settled. We did want to make clear, however, that the final word on future policy and goals of the SFG and certain projects we have in mind will belong to the membership. The SFG is not fixed in a rigid mold.

Secondly, the SFG Constitution, as I only hinted vaguely, is now being drawn up by a committee (Jerry Page and myself, with help from Al Andrews). The "charter members" are now deciding on the method we will use for ratification. There will be more about this next issue.

Finally, Jerry was going to add a further plea for letters. We do want to hear from you, if only a card blasting us for invading your mailbox. Constructive ideas will be welcome, too, as well as any opinions you may have, pro or con.

--Jerry Burge