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WHILE
IT'S
HOT!

FANTASY-NEWS

the sciencefiction weekly newspaper

SUBSCRIPTION
HAS EXPIRED

PRICE:
THREE
ISSUES
TEN
CENTS.

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 9

FEBRUARY 18, 1940.

WHOLE NUMBER 87

WRIGHT'S DISMISSAL ROUSES PUBLIC OPINION!

WEIRD TALES MAY BECOME HORROR MAG

AUTHORS TO ORGANIZE BOYCOTT!

READERS CIRCULATE PETITIONS!!!

Latest reports from an irreproachable source indicate that Farnsworth Wright removal from the staff of WEIRD TALES was an out-and-out dismissal. He did not resign because of ill health. The reasons for this action were twofold. The magazine was losing money under its present policy, and since it was only appearing bi-monthly, arrangements were made to assign the work to Miss Dorothy McIlwraith, editor of SHORT STORIES. Mr. Delaney, the publisher of WEIRD said that he felt the magazine was too "high-brow" and should be written down to the level of the "ordinary reader". He said that WT ought to compete directly with HORROR STORIES and TERROR STORIES "since we are displayed on the stands near them whether we like it or not." No effort was made to consult with Mr. Wright concerning a change in policy probably because it is well known that WT's former editor spared nothing for his efforts to keep WEIRD TALES at a high literary level.

Most of WT's regular and well-known authors have stated they would not submit stories unless a man of Mr. Wright's calibre was at the helm. Old and new readers of WEIRD TALES are circulating petitions all over the nation protesting his removal, and requesting a continuation of Mr. Wright's policy of a high class literary magazine. Mr. Wright has encouraged such well known authors as Robert E. Howard, Seabury Quinn, C.L. Moore, Donald Wandrei, A.W. Derleth, and others

NEW MARS BOOK JUST OUT!

A new Burroughs novel-"Synthetic Men Of Mars"-is now being made ready for publication. Vor Daj, a Martian warrior, leaves the kingdom of Helium with John Carter, Warlord of Mars, to locate Ras Thavas, the Master Midd Of Mars. John Carter disappears and there is a chance meeting with a beautiful girl prisoner named Janai.

A new Tarzan game, named after the great Burroughs character has just been produced by Parker Bros.

HOT OFF THE GRIDDLE by Lee Stone.

The last of Weinbaum's novels, a 50,000 worder named "The Mad Brain", may soon see print. It has a Dr. Jekyll, Mr. Hyde theme.*** R. M. Farley has just sold AMAZING a story with a new time-travelling twist that is sensational.*** Wellman's next yarn in ASTOUNDING is titled "Lost Rocket". His working title on this was "Spacewreck" but in the interim ASTOUNDING printed a story with that title.*** MILTON Kalitsky has sold another short to AMAZING, "Homer Higginbottom's Hypnoray".*** Edmond Hamilton will reappear in FANTASTIC ADVENTURES with "Moonfire". "Roar Of the Rocket", in the April THRILLING WONDER, is Oscar Friend's seventh and longest story. It did not cop the cover. That's news when you consider his six previous stories all copped covers.

ODD ITEMS by FN Reporters.

J. Michael Rosenbloom is going on trial soon in England for refusing to bear arms against Germany. Altho willing to join the army for any other duties, the British Gov't still sees fit to have a military trial. (ju)

Mel Schmidt, stfan, has been forced to drop out of school for the next semester due to ill health. (wss)

Jerome Siegel and Joe Shuster, publisher and illustrator of the old "Science Fiction", a fan mag from way back when (1933) are featured as creators of SUPERMAN, a stf cartoon feature in LOOK for Feb. 27th. (mr)

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----- B O O T S C I E N C E F I C T I O N -----

EDITORIAL by Will Sykora.

Farnsworth Wright's dismissal from the editorial staff of WEIRD TALES is arousing public opinion all over the country. Authors are threatening boycott and readers are signing petitions addressed to SHORT STORIES, INC. protesting Mr. Wright's removal. The article on Page One of this paper, gives the facts in the case as brought out by the latest developments.

In an effort to determine the opinion of its readers, FANTASY NEWS hereby requests that each and every one communicate immediately with this office stating whether or not they would like to see Farnsworth Wright at the helm of WEIRD TALES and why.

THE COMIC MAGS by John Giunta.

Stfcartoon mags are still pouring out. WEIRD COMICS, EERIE COMICS, COSMIC COMICS, WHIRLWIND COMICS, SUPERWORLD COMICS, are a few of the latest. WEIRD COMICS is another one of FOX PUBLICATIONS, while SUPERWORLD COMICS is the long awaited GERNSBACH publication. WC features "Thor, God of Thunder", and other weird and stf comics, while the Gernsy mag has the old-time flavor. Mitey Powers Battles the Martians on the Moon is by FRANK R. Paul, while Charlie Hornig, under his pseudonym of Derwin Lesser, writes the continuity for Buzz Allen, the Invisible Avenger.

Harry Francis Campbell, who draws "Jon Linton", a scientist adventurer in AMAZING MYSTERY FUNNIES and "John Law, Scientific" in SMASH COMICS, besides another in KEEN DETECTIVE COMICS is also an stf author writing under a penname.

ADVERTISE IN FANTASY NEWS AT PAID

FAN MAG REVIEW by Harry Warner, Jr.
THE ALCHEMIST: Vol. 1, no.1. Exceptionally good first issue. 24 hectoed pp, fine mat'l. A dime from 1258 Race St, Denver, Colorado.

THE SATELLITE: Vol.3, no.3. 10 oct. pp, mimeod. Fine cover by Turner. Mat'l by Smith, Medhurst, and Hopkins. A quarter will bring you any number of issues from 57, Beauclair Drive, Liverpool, 15, England.

ULTRA: Vol.1, no.2. 14 sm. carbon copied pp, "The first Australian fan magto have a 2nd issue." Good contents, nice format. A nickel, 274 Edgecliff Rd, Woollahra, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

FUTURAN OBSERVER: Vol.1, no.1. 2 legal size pp, mimeod. Aussie news; no connection with U.S. or British of similar name. 5¢, from 10a, Sully St, Randwick, Sydney, Australia.

THE TIME STREAM by Sam Moskowitz.

The cover for BLUE RIBBON'S SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY is all ready. A swell job by Jack Binder showing the Earth being cut in two by a tremendous metal disk. Silberkleit, owner of BR, states that the quarterly will go to press as soon as a paper shipment arrives from Europe. He seems to be waiting for that shipment before he pays his contest winners as well.*** Stardust's second issue will appear March 1st. The cover picture is by Jack Binder, originally painted for "Giants Of Anarchy" in WEIRD TALES but never used. Jack Darrow now has the original.*** New stfan new papers soon coming out are "Midwest Fan News" by Meyer, Le Vombiteur revived by Lowndes, and Science Fiction Weekly by Joe Fortier who is dropping the Scientifan with an uncompleted 2nd issue. All seem to have the motto "the only unbiased fan newspaper" much to Tucker's disgust who originated the phrase.*** Decker, Ind. has a "Literature, Science and Hobbies Club" composed of stfans according to Marvis Manning of that town.*** Whatever became of English fan, Gerald Evans', story accepted by TWS over 1½ yrs ago? They should "discover" in the Amateur Authors section at least.*** Ray King's yarn in PLANET STORIES no.2 has a title error.

SEEING PALMER by W. Lawrence

Hamling.

David Verne, of AMAZING STORIES, is his real name. It is not a penname. However, Dave has a penname -- David V. Reed. Many of you may recall his interesting story, "Where Is Roger Davis?", which captured a prize early last year in AMAZING. Dave Verne now has charge of all mss. for AMAZING STORIES and FANTASTIC ADVENTURES. This has relieved Ray Palmer of a lot of work, and Dave is showing his merits by buying the best of stories available. Dave is a conscientious worker, and is very patient. He often allows visitors a three minute interview after travelling far to see him, and he counts to three before throwing them out.....(I've never seen him smile..How about it Dave?)

Here is the lineup for the May AMAZING:

"Giants Out Of the Sun" by Peter Horn, is the cover story. It is a 10,000 worder, illustrated by Julian Krupa. The cover scene is done by Hartman.

"The Time-Wise Guy" by Ralph Milne Farley is a 4000 word short, illustrated by Paul. This is a contest story. For the best ending written to the yarn, \$25.00 will be paid. Here is a chance to break into print, Fans, so watch for this contest yarn...

"Hok Draws the Bow" by Manly Wade Wellman is a continuation of the Hok Series. The first of the series was "Battle In the Dawn". The present yarn is 15,000 words, and is illustrated by Robert Fuqua.

"Adam Link, Robot Detective" by the ever popular Eando Binder, continues the Adam Link series. It is a 12,000 word yarn illustrated by Fuqua.

"Watchers of the Frozen Flame" by Edmond Hamilton is a 12,000 word yarn illustrated by Frank R. Paul.

"Ebb-tide, Whirlpool, Girl", by Miles Shelton, is a 7000 word short illustrated by Krupa.

Ray asked me to pick the best titles of these stories, and I picked "Giants Out Of the Sun" and "Watchers Of the Frozen(next column

BLUE RIBBON NEWS by Chas.D. Hornig.

As told to Sam Moskowitz.

The Next issues of SCIENCE FICTION and FUTURE FICTION are particularly notable because of an article on Technocracy by Westcoast fan, Russ J. Hodgkins, who will appear professionally for the first time with "Continental Engineers", and the inauguration of a new department in FF called "Fan Mag Digest", to contain gleanings and excerpts from various fan mags.

The lineups of the mags appear below:

SCIENCE FICTION, May 1940:

The Voice Commands-Dennis Clive; "Castaways In Space"-Amelia Reynolds Long; "Continental Engineers"-Russ Hodgkins; "Mad Virus"-Paul Edmonds; "Doom From the Void"-John Coleridge; "Price Of Escape"-Henry J. Kostkos.

FUTURE FICTION, June 1940:

"Liquid Hell"-Neil R. Jones; "City Under the Sea"-Duane W. Rimel; "Prophecy Of Doom"-Ross Rocklyne; "How To Write Science Fiction"(article)-Derwin Lesser; "Gravity Off!"-Leslie F. Stone; "The Poison Realm"-John Coleridge; "Magnificent Possession"-Isaac Asimov; "Laughter Out Of Space"-Dennis Clive; Fan Mag Digest-Excerpts from fan mags; "Fantasy Times"-James V. Taurasi; "Future Fantasy"(editorial)-Charles D. Hornig.

SEEING PALMER Cont'd.

Flame". Then Ray informed me that those were the two titles he had supplied to the lineup. The others are as the authors wrote them.

The lineup for the May FANTASTIC ADVENTURES is as follows:

"Whispering Gorilla" by Don Wilcox is the cover story, a 20,000 worder illustrated by Fuqua. Cover scene is by a new artist, Mulford.

"Lancelot Biggs: Master Navigator" by Nelson S. Bond is a continuation of the Lancelot series. It comprises 6000 words and is illustrated by Julian Krupa.

"The Shining Man" by Noel Gardner, a new writer, is a 10,500 word story illustrated by Leo Morey.

"Worlds At War" by Ed Earl Repp is also illustrated by Leo Morey, and totals(Con. P. 4, Col. 2)

SEEING PALMER Cont'd. some 11,000 words.

"Wizard Of Baseball" by Milton Kaletsky is a 5000 word short illustrated by Jay Jackson.

"Case Of the Laboratory Monsters" by Peter Horn is a 7000 word short story illustrated by new artist, Rod Ruth.

The back cover is of course by Paul, with another of his "Life On Other Planets" Series.

All of you recall the article in the Jan. WRITERS' DIGEST by Jerry K. Westerfield, in which Jerry stated some things about fandom, for example that fan mags have a circulation of about 1000 readers. Well, recently some of our energetic fans have written to WD ridiculing this and other statements. The irony of the situation is this: We all know the statement is wrong, but we also know that in these last few months we have been gaining more recognition in major publications. Just when people are beginning to notice the field, and are impressed by our backing, along come some smart boys and tear all the work down by denying the very things they would have the public at large believe! One of these indignant fans boasted of his actions in a recent supplement to FANTASY NEWS. In some cases, and this one in particular, discretion is the better of valor. Take this to heart, boys.....

In the April AMAZING, the story, "When the Ice Terror Came", by Jack West, is really authored by Jerry Westerfield. Jerry is no longer connected with Ziff-Davis, but is in the advertising business now, connected with his father's chain of meat markets.

Ray says that contrary to some reports every story that comes to ZIFF-DAVIS receives complete reading. Also no letters are faked in the Discussions columns. This might happen only in a first issue.

Well, that about winds up another interview with RAP of AMAZING. So until next month, I'll be seeing you---with Palmer.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO SUBSCRIBE TO
FANTASY NEWS NOW!!!

SCIENTIFILMS by Mario Racic, Jr.

"Flash Gordon Conquerors the Universe" is the title of the new stf serial now in production at the stfilm studios of UNIVERSAL PICTURES with Larry Crabbe, Charles Middleton, and Carol Hughes.

Boris Karloff, who recently played the title role in "The Man They Could Not Hang", has been signed for principal role in another stfilm, "The Man Who Would Not Die."

RKO has bought the screen rights to "The Water Gypsies" from HAL ROACH. It will soon be filmed, starring Maureen O'Hara.

MGM is making a film called "The Ghost Comes Home". Fantasy???

In the UNIVERSAL jungle drama, "Green Hell", the South American Indians speak Esperanto, the Tong of Tomoro.

John Argyle, British producer, who is transferring his activities to Hollywood, is dickering with Bela (Dracula) Lugosi for a series of Edgar Wallace mysteries.

Harry Brandt, head of the BRANDT THEATRE CIRCUIT, is organizing an independent film company to start production in the spring. Their first film is to be a "super-horror-epic".

Donald Meek has been added to the case of the fantasycomedy yarn "Turnabout".

MORE ODD ITEMS by FN Reporters:

Eric North, author of "Three Against the Stars" has a new serial starting in the current (Feb.24) ARGOSY titled "The Green Flame".

Joe Fortier is starting the Golden Gate Fantasy Progress, a new stfan club in Oakland, Calif. In it already are Tom Wright, Joe Fortier, E. Jorgenson, Jim Bush, and Bob Millar. Joe says that Tucker has admitted to Tom Wright in a letter that Tucker is none other than Jim Tillman. The GGFP will connect with the SFL and IFF. (if)

The current MOVIE STORY has a fantasyarn called "And So Goodby". "Topper"-like, in it three millionaires, living in a "between world mist" watch over two young lovers, while the former are waiting to be called to heaven or hell. (well)