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THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY —

FIRST STEP INTO SPACE POSES PROBLEM FOR SCIENCE-FICTION

by Ray Van Houten

Favorite S-F Theme Will Become Fact
Instead Of Fiction; International
Cooperation Urged

New York, N.Y., 1 August, (CNS) - Newspapers for the past few days have read like an epic by ~~Cuba~~ Willie Gail from the old Gernsback "AMAZING" as the announcement of plans for a minimum orbital satellite vehicle was splashed across front pages all over the world.

Thus another of science-fiction's favorite realms of speculation begins to move from the area of fiction into the reality of fact, along with television, jet airplanes and atomic power. Realization of science-fiction's long-scoffed-at "dream" seems slowly but surely to be catching up --- where will s-f lead the way next?

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SECOND SON FOR TAURASIS

Flushing, NY, 30 July, (CNS) - James V. Taurasi, editor and publisher of "Fantasy-Times", today became the father of his second son, Robert Alfonso.

The new arrival, who weighed in at 8 lb., 7 oz., at 11:30 a.m. at the Flushing Hospital, joins a brother, James Vincent, Jr. Mother, Millie, and child are doing well.

AUSSIE MAGS FOLD

by Graham B. Stone

Sydney, Australia, 13 July, (CNS) - "Future S-F" and "Popular S-F", the two
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FIRST STEP INTO SPACE

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Comments on the satellite announcement from around the science-fiction circuit were as varied as might be expected:

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Willy Ley, science-fiction's leading authority on things scientific, and author of a first-day United Press report which was featured by dozens of daily newspapers from coast to coast, says:

"I am convinced that the announcement of a satellite program will do the same for science-fiction the atomic bomb did, namely convince a large number of people that most science-fiction is built on a solid basis of scientific fact. To you and me it may sound superfluous even to state this aspect, but I know from experience that very many literate people know so little about what is scientifically possible right now that they are hopelessly lost if somebody thinks only five years ahead."

"The simplest way, in my opinion, of convincing them about what can be done is by demonstrating it. If things progress as we now have reason to hope for, people will soon cease to use the meaningless word 'fantastic' when confronted with a space rocket."

Horace L. Gold, editor of the top-flight "Galaxy S-F", says:

"Certainly I'm pleased that we've finally launched --- well, if not an actual space satellite, at least a program. My one worry is whether we're really in competition with the Russians; it may be that we are merely dunking our little toe in the ocean of spacewhile the Russians are in it up to their armpits. Naturally, I don't know and I'm concerned about the prospect."

"The only effect I can see the project having on s-f stories is that an ungodly number of them will now be written, same as the swarm of flying saucer yarns I had to beat off. Smart writers understand that it's sound editorial practice to be wary of a theme that is getting worked over by countless writers --- the reason being that anything done in profusion is bound to appear in other magazines and the best

an editor in that circumstance can hope for is merely to put out better stories on the same subject, which isn't good enough for a magazine that really wants to competex--- and so the smart authors won't touch the subject. Mind, now, I'm not including the virtuoso jobs. They happen and it doesn't seem to matter what the theme is. I just don't count on their coming in, but welcome them when they do. Smart writers shouldn't count on them at all.

"I don't know what the result will be in popularizing s-f. I could give you a communique, but it wouldn't be anything more than guesswork, even if it turned out right."

"My own attitude is that s-f has no real trouble keeping ahead of current scientific developments. Why should it? This project is the equivalent of a dugout canoe competing with the jet liners of s-f; it can't. How can a basketball-size unmanned satellite make the faster-than-light behemoths we deal with seem obsolete? And don't forget all the other themes we explore that we're an astronomical distance from reaching."

"Something that isn't generally realized is that speculation has an immense influence on research; the very fact of prediction is an influence that helps to bring about the achievement."

"Yes, it's wonderful publicity for s-f. But most mundane people and publications have a strange myopia --- what's attained is possible; what isn't can't be until it is. When we reach the planets, there will be dogmatic statements that we can't reach the stars. And when we do, there is always the question of time-travel..... and so on and so on. The readers of the future will be the kids of the present. They're the ones I'm looking forward to to build circulation that we can only dream of right now."

James L. Quinn, editor of "IF, Worlds Of S-F", says:

"Every science-fiction fan knows that the U.S. has been probing the ionosphere and subspace for the past ten years or so, that scientists are right now two or three steps ahead of the announced satellite. But the general news that will be accorded this experi-

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WORLD CON PREVIEW

Program Booklet Will Feature 4-Color
 Cover by Frank R. Paul

Cleveland, Ohio, 8 July, (CNS) - Plans for the 13th World S-F Convention, as reported by Chairman Noreen Kane Falasca, which will be held here on September 2 to 5 inclusive, shape up as follows:

Among the speakers will be Wallace West, Dr. E. E. Smith, Mark Clifton, Bob Tucker, James M. Gunn, Willy Ley, Judith Merril, Frank Robinson, Isaac Asimov, Anthony Boucher, and Robert Bloch. Attending, but not sure of program appearance, will be Leigh Brackett, Edmond Hamilton, Robert Abernathy and L. Sprague de Camp. Many, many more of the top personalities of s-f and fantasy, from whom definite word has not yet been received, will undoubtedly be there.

Wallace West's talk, titled "Industry's Interest In S-F", will feature the demonstration of the latest equipment for detecting H-bomb fall-out.

Fritz Leiber, Jr., and Judith Merril have collaborated on a skit which will be presented.

There will be movies, a book-and-magazine collectors' panel, a fanzine editors' panel, and an editors' panel featuring audience-participation.

A highlight of the convention will be the banquet, with Isaac Asimov as guest of honor and Anthony Boucher as toastmaster. The "mystery guest of honor" will be revealed at the banquet.

Another highlight will be the presentation of "achievement awards" to authors, editors, illustrators and fans for the best novel, novelette, short story, pro-mag, fanzine and illustrations. These will be trophies in the form of 20" rocket ships on a mahogany base, with an inscribed plaque.

The program booklet will sport a full-color cover painting by none other than the Old Master, Frank R. Paul, dean of s-f illustrators.

Souvenirs in the form of decks of
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NOTES TO THE EDITOR

by Our Readers

Amherst, Wisc.
1 July 1955

Dear Jimmy,

I find that my recent communications have been full of errors. First, that Hamling quoted me circulation figures. He says he did not. They were reports from a source other than Hamling, and I confused them with some speculations on his part. In other words, they were not "official". However, from a recent check-up I have made, I am convinced that they were highly accurate. In short, I don't believe Mr. Gold's figures at all. Local dealers (one of them is a cousin) showed me actual figures for his outlets, and I am very much surprised. Galaxy has been bringing up the rear. I had expected it to be at least 9th on the list. But then, Wisconsin figures are not really fair, as I have Wisconsin all tied up. In Illinois, where Hamling lives, Galaxy undoubtedly has Hamling all tied up. I cannot say otherwise, because I don't wish to quote Mr. Hamling, who is very bitter about sales of all science-fiction magazines, including mine. Mr. Quinn struck the nail on the head when he said nobody in the stf field is making money, which is why he went bi-mo. Next error: I said Gold went to 128 pages with Galaxy. He went to 144. This is an easy error for me to make, as I don't read Galaxy (it is unobtainable in my local drugstore --- the only one in town --- because I threaten to buy all my marijuana in another town if they handle any stf mags but mine one must have loyalty; locally, don't you think?) and thus, not reading Galaxy, I didn't actually count, only assumed that the "drop in pages" reported to me (not by Hamling) was the usual 32 pages. My reason for
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WORLD CON PREVIEW

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playing cards, with an illustration by Virgil Finlay on the back, and costume jewelry with a s-f motif, will be available. The cards sell for \$1.25 per deck. Orders will be taken for earrings, pins and cuff-links.

Arrangements had been made for the Convention to take over the entire Hotel Manger for the four-day affair, but the slowness at which reservations for rooms are coming in threatens to open 200 of the hotel's 325 rooms to outsiders. If you are planning to attend the World Con and have not yet made your room reservations, please do so immediately, the committee urges, and save the hotel for the exclusive use of the convention.

The first representative of the Transatlantic Fan Fund, Ken Bulmer, and his attractive wife, Pamela, will attend. Undoubtedly, Mr. Bulmer will make a bid for London for the 14th World S-F Con.

There is still time to enroll yourself as a member of the 13th World Science-Fiction Convention. The fee is \$2 and should be sent to Ben P. Jason, Treasurer, 13th World S-F Con, P.O. Box 588 Edgewater Branch, Cleveland, Ohio.

AUSSIE MAGS FOLD

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Australian s-f mags published at 1/6 a copy by the Blue Diamond Pub. Co., have ceased publication, issues No. 6 of each title being the last.

First Vol Molesworth, then I, selected most of the stories for these mags, also writing column-editorials. Most of the material was imported, mainly from the Ackerman Agency with some from the Kline firm, but some locally-written stories were used. In principle, the publishers aimed to make it all-Australian eventually, but the outlook for contributions was poor.

Reason for suspending was insufficient sales: they weren't actually losing, but the return was too poor to bother with. Sales averaged about ten thousand copies per issue.

Actually, for Australia, this is quite good — the BRE "Astounding" sold only about a third as many.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

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not reading Galaxy is because it makes me so furious at what this type magazine has done to my beloved "old-time" sf. And my reason for assuming 32 pages drop instead of 16 is that most presses print 32-page forms. I hear Galaxy is printed on equipment not generally devoted to this type magazine. For which, I beg your readers' pardon. But the fact does remain, Galaxy had to cut pages for economy reasons. This is my point, and no other. All over the country, I hear growing statements against sf., and resentment over what is being presented as sf. with the Galaxy influence. I and Howard Browne and Bill Hamling have decided to do something about it. So we've begun to insist on our authors writing for us, instead of for the high-and-mighty "literate" magazines, then sending us their rejects. We know that Galaxy won't buy a Shaver epic, or a Byrne epic, or even an A. Merritt epic (were he alive). Just plain sf. is sneered at by Galaxy. Horse opera, space opera, slam-bang westerns on Mars, they call them. Well, pardon us, but we think the stuff Burroughs wrote, which falls into this category, was TOPS, and will never be equalled. Burroughs and others (Jules Verne included) made sf. popular. Gold and others (including Boucher) made it unpopular. That is my FIRM belief, and I stick to it. I not only stick to it, I RESENT it, and I will fight to the last ditch to destroy this influence (not by murdering Gold or his magazine, but forcing him to switch to true science-fiction, or go under). What happens to Galaxy will be strictly due to competition! We (the big three) are going to bring back sf to its former respectability if it takes the rest of our lives. I am a Fan, Horace Gold is not. All is not gold that glitters, and Horace doesn't glitter. He just shoots off his mouth about how wonderful his circulation is, and by Heaven, he hasn't got it! Lay it on the line, Horace. If you have the circulation you intimate, you can shut me up for good. But you haven't, and that's that!

- RAP

FIRST STEP INTO SPACE

(Continued from Page 2, Column 2)

mental satellite, the 'size of a basketball', will force attention on the subject which has never been focused there before. Therefore, it will help science - fiction --- if only from the space-travel, other-planets aspect. It seems to me that editors, who want to benefit from this national propaganda, will plan new and stronger space stories, while writers will have to find new approaches and concepts of space fiction. The new readers, who buy a science-fiction magazine because of its space stories, will then be introduced to the myriad other aspects of science-fiction --- providing some much-needed new blood. There won't be a big science-fiction boom, but the overall market will be somewhat healthier.

"As far as 'IF' is concerned, we will probably do what other magazines will do, and that is give more attention to good stories that project ideas suggested by the newspapers in order to tie in with what is national news. We won't, however, turn the editorial contents over to space opera.

"Finally, fact science will profit more than fiction."

Ted Sturgeon, award-winning s-f author, says:

"'Inner Messes And Outer Spaces'

"Don't you think that before we start trying to find out what's happening in outer space, we should set to order the space we know of?"

"I'm sure if the little green men took a look at our world they'd say: 'What a mess!' Ten million dollars would get rid of a lot of slums."

"That's from the letters column in the Aug. 2 New York Post, and in its way it points up what is, to me, the most important facet of this sudden splash of publicity on MOUSE. For a long time now I've been saying as publicly as possible that the greatest virtue of the flying saucer is that it makes people look up --- makes them regard humanity as a species and human effort (even yours and mine) as fair game for criticism. I've been delighted to see this effect burgeoning after the President's announcement. Any ef-

fort to make the 'new moon' national or even international must prove laughable in the long run; it's supra-national by its nature and will do far more than alphabet - bombs to make people think that way.

"As to its effect on s-f, it may well increase the readership --- but not necessarily of 'our' magazines. Expect a rash of SEP yarns that Campbell wouldn't have touched 10 years ago or Gold ever. As for myself, I'll go on writing about people and leave the gimmicks to the Leinsters and Clarkes who do them so much better than I ever could."

Howard Browne, editor of "Amazing" and "Fantastic", says: "The effect MOUSE will have on s-f stories from now on: none. S-f has passed the 'test satellite' stage long ago; using it now as something new would be like putting a blackjack in a detective story as an amazing new gimmick.

"Will it give s-f a shot in the arm: yes --- insofar as the general public is concerned. Not enough to put all the magazines in the 80% sales bracket, of course; but at least it will shut up some of the wise-guys who mutter: 'You mean you actually read this crazy junk?'

"The announcement has had no effect on my own personal relation with s-f. Both 'Amazing' and 'Fantastic' place emphasis in stories on the human element, leaving the 'science' pretty much as background."

"Fantasy-Times" does not consider itself either qualified or justified to enter the realm of international politics, but there was one idea expressed by Dr. I. M. Levitt, director of Philadelphia's Fels Planetarium, as reported by the N.Y. Journal - American, which has often been presented by s-f authors and which seems to have a great deal of merit.

"Actually going to work on the conquest of space", Dr. Levitt is reported to have said, "is the finest substitute for war the world has ever known.

"If we come to space travel --- and we are on our way now --- a global effort will be required for success.

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FIRST STEP INTO SPACE

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All the world's countries will have to participate and there will be no worries about war or time for war."

With the announcement that all information gained from this first satellite vehicle will be freely available to the world's scientific community, with groups of Russian and American farmers touring each other's lands, and with other similar exchange visits planned involving medical men and other professional people, it seems that the time is at hand when productive efforts toward cooperation on such projects as the conquest of space might be made.

"Fantasy - Times" does not presume to make any suggestions whatever regarding the political connotations of such a move, but from the standpoint of successfully and quickly embarking on what has often been called "mankind's greatest adventure", international coopera-

FANTASY FORECASTS

Coming Up Next In The Pros

Magazine Of Fantasy And Science-Fiction

The October, 1955, issue will contain: "Project Nursemaid" by Judith Merrill, a short novel; "Dywyk" by Doris P. Buck; "By A Fluke" by Arthur Porges; "Uncle Phil On TV" by J. B. Priestley; "Recommended Reading" by Anthony Blumner, a department; "The Cricket Ball" by Avro Manhattan; "The Talking Stone" by Isaac Asimov; and "An Appointment For Candlemas" by Robert Graves. Cover is by Mel Hunter.

tion among the world's scientists seems to offer the most promise.

It has often been suggested by s-f authors that "Spacemen should take no boundaries with them into space". Will this science-fiction "dream" also come true?

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