

MICHIGAN SCIENCE-FANTASY SOCIETY

790th AO/W Squadron  
Kirksville, Missouri  
May 31, 1952

Greetings,

Please pardon me if this is a bit incoherent, but it is being composed directly on to the stencil. And the reason for its composition is a circular letter I received, and you, no doubt, received from Martin Alger, president of the MSFS.

That letter announced that Alger was dissolving the MSFS because it had failed to live up to the Activities Requirement Program enacted sometime last December. So, taking the easiest way out, Alger states that the Michigan Science-Fantasy Society is no longer in existence. Simply because he doesn't care to take any sort of active part in the club management any more.

I say that Alger has no right to do this. If the Activities Requirement Program ~~can~~ not be made to work, then let's junk it rather than the group.

Let me review a little of the history of Michifandom. Sometimes in the thirties there was Slan Shack in Battle Creek which migrated, en masse, to Los Angeles to form the nucleus of the LASFS. Michifandom was declared dead. In the last thirties and early forties there was the Galactic Roamers which counted, among its members, Alger and Doc. E.E. Smith. This organization too felt the ax, possibly because of the WWII draft. In 1946, the Detroit Hypoberians held the lead until various members, bolting from Technocratic rule, formed the MSFS.

The Michigan Science-Fantasy Society has had many stormy and turbulent days and was thought dead many times, only to arise again. But we have never willingly declared ourselves out of the running. The entrance of Ben Singer into the Air Force in 1948 saw the departure of the man who, single handedly, had raised the Misfits to national, even inter-national prominence. Singer came back a changed man. The departure of Art Rapp and George Young, several altercations between the various factions and other things led to further fissures. The DSFL and the Wolverine Insurgents, the "true Fen" and the "poker players," every thing testifies to the fact that StFen in Michigan still want to get together. Why, then, destroy our best organization?

I declare that the Michigan Science-Fantasy Society is still a going organization. I was elected interim vice-president last December to help re-form the club. I re-claim that position and declare that a committee composed of Martin Alger, Ben Singer, Howard Devore, and myself shall meet at a date to be set later (probably in July) to re-organize the MSFS on a different footing, as a fun and social group, to be connected with two inter-national groups, the BACHELOR'S STF ASSOCIATION OF THE WORLD and THE LITTLE MONSTERS OF AMERICA, whose numbers will soon be affiliated.

We rode along without any sort of Activities Requirements in 1947-48 (as I know from personal experience) and probably a few more years, with members doing work because they wanted to work for the club, not because they had to. The MSFS was at the top of the heap. Now look at us, if you care.

I expect to be discharged from the AF this year. Art Rapp and George Young and other Misfits in service will be discharged soon. I expect to come back to a young and healthy organization. I want the other servifens to do so too. Let's resurrect George Young's old rallying call and "Get on the beam with the Michigan team."

*Hal Shapiro* 46  
Hal Shapiro, DB