

THE MENTOR.
Published periodically.
Editors:-
Ron Clarke
Chris Guy
Editorial address:-
Ron Clarke,
78 Redgrave Rd.,
Normanhurst,
Sydney.
APRIL 1965.

EDITORIAL:

As usual, we begin this editorial asking for material. The method of exchange pertaining to THE MENTOR hasn't been settled yet, but there are three ways to keep your "subscription". These are:- 1) Money. (at 6d an issue, this covers postage and 1d for expenses, i.e. the envelope.) 2) A letter of comment. The latter is the more welcome, as it gives us some idea of what the reader wants and will help us raise the standard of this fanzine (after all, we can't go any lower). The third alternative is to send in stories, articles or reviews; in short anything which you think will be interesting enough to print.

We do want stories and reviews of books. One of the aims of this fanzine is to bring to the Australian reader information about s.f. which he may not have heard elsewhere. The editors would like reviews of books especially. If you don't you could write a story, try a review- preferably a new hardcover or paperback. Reviews of current s.f. magazines are welcome, too.

This is a "Strine" production (except maybe for illustrations) and we hope to help the Australian s.f. reader to get all the enjoyment he can out of science fiction. When we receive a letter that we think merits printing we will publish it.

The MENTOR is usually published fortnightly; however since we are not now a school production and don't have that source of material to fall back on, we don't know when the next issue will be out. We're fairly sure of a sixth issue, (depends on the response to this one) but we're hoping!

The editors would like to thank those people, many that they are, whose help insured this issue reaching you. There are too many of them to record all their names but a few are Kevin Dillon, Grahame Stone, John Baxter, Bob Smith, Pat Terry, Lianne Hall-Clarke, Mr. & Mrs. Forster and many others whose advice and help we much appreciate. I would like to end with this apology- please forgive the typing errors, I only started typing two weeks ago.

Now that you've read the editorial, read on, McDuff!

-0-

By-the-way, if I don't receive any contributions I shall be forced to write the "Clarke Chronicles" concerning my first attempts to construct a workable rocket which would work both on land and on water unfortunately it couldn't fly. so you see, if you don't want to be bored to tears (a pun?) try doing what was suggested in the editorial, I don't think you'll regret it. (much).

I see there is still space below, so please pardon me while I think up something to fill it.

The "Hugo Winners" is out in Penguin paperback. If you have a friend who is interested in s.f. this is the book to get him or her.

*+think

The stories in the "Hugo Winners" may not be the best s.f. story to be published in their respective years, but a reader cannot deny that these are above average science fiction stories. An excellent buy at 7/-.

--oOo--

CORRESPONDENCE:-

Keith Lay.

(on "The Stars My Destination.", by Alfred Bester.)

You asked for comments on this book, so here we go.

Although the book held my interest & was full of surprises, I cannot say that it held any special qualities which made it especially enjoyable. This was mainly because of technical inconsistencies.

1) When Foyle was aboard "Nomad", he had one rocket motor, off axis. Firing this motor would produce tumbling, not spin as the book suggests.

2) A technology which has developed anti-personell fields and anti-gravity beams for launching would have forgotten how to build chemical rockets instead of using them.

3) Teleporting is included in the (as-of-now) pseudo-science of Psionics and I see no reason why a future society should rename it "jaunting" even though the means-to-the-end was discovered by a guy called "Jaunte".

4) Early in the book the following "facts" are given about jaunting
a) destination must be previously seen.

b) co-ordinates of destination must be known. No definition as to origin of co-ordinates is given. Later Foyle & everybody else is jaunting to places which they have never seen, much less learned the co-ords of.

And lastly, 5) The atmosphere of Mars is not CO₂ : it is methane & some nitrous oxide.

Well, there you are. These are basically my comments.

Keith Lay.

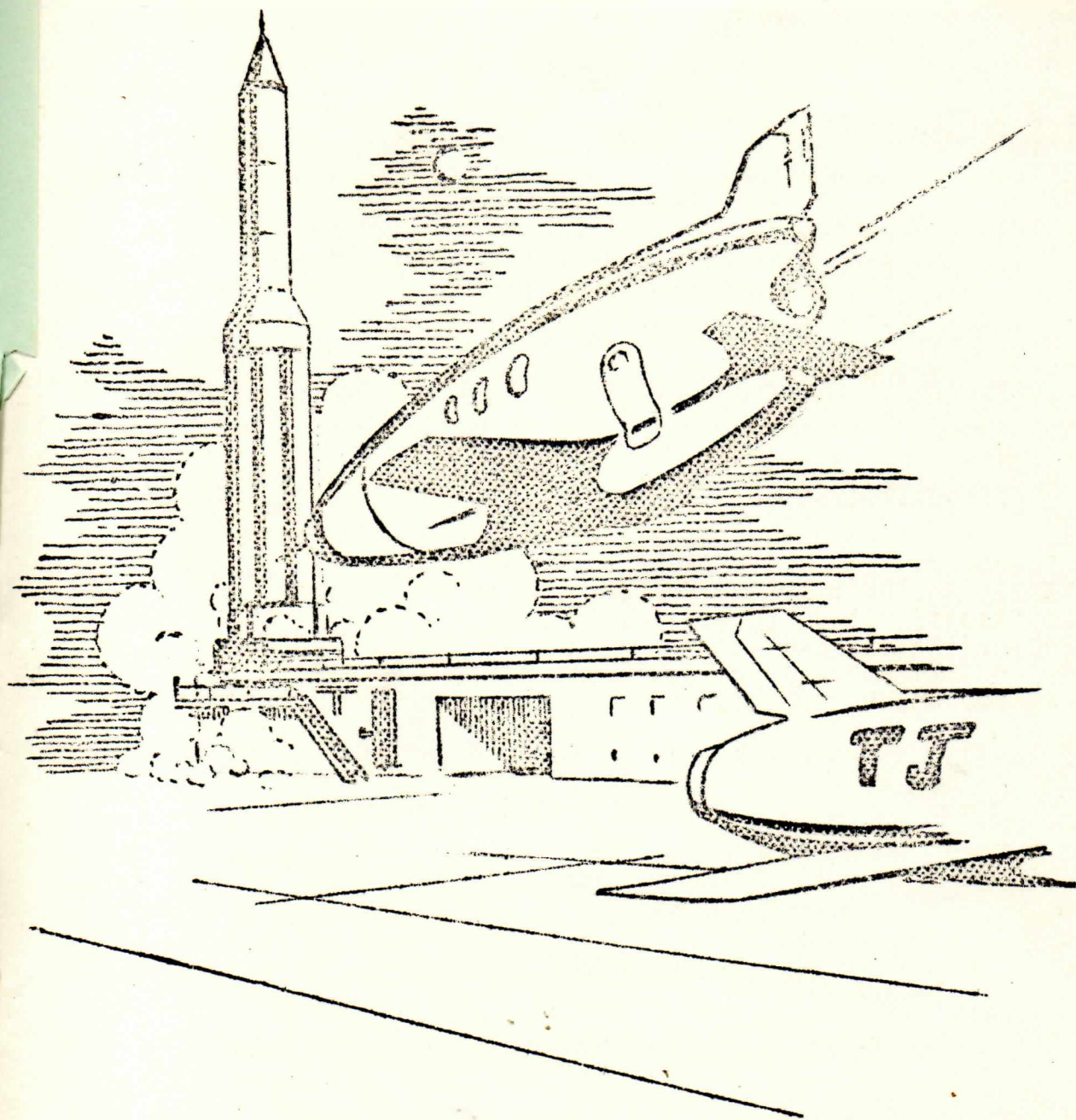
There you are. Would anyone care to comment on this letter? I think there may be some people who don't agree with some of Keith's comments and would like to answer him. Send any comments to the editorial address.

////////////////////////////////////

IS SUPERMAN REALLY S-F?

The true sf fan would probably laugh scornfully if it was suggested that SUPERMAN was sf; but if superman is divorced from the children's comic book, and TV series, he could be regarded as sf. Possibly not very logical, and rather far-fetched by today's standards, but still sf. A superior being; the last of a destroyed race, dwelling on earth and striving to enlighten and help us poor, bewildered earthmen. Think of the numerous sf stories that contain this basic plot. Perhaps in the hearts of superman's creators lay a dormant desire to create sf of real literary value. Imagine their satisfaction of having produced a work of some merit, balanced against the lure of money (£££) to bastardise their brain-child. In such a situation would not you have chosen money?

There is possibly a redeeming factor in the act. Apart from



cont. from p2-

teaching children that 'right' triumphs, and the ~~serious~~ always win, SUPERMAN prepares them, subconsciously, for more mature sf later on. Their idol comes from outer space, therefore stories containing other planets are more readily accepted.

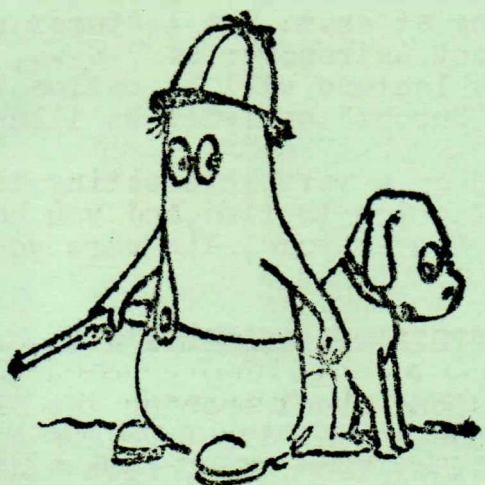
Those of you who have decided to watch an episode, or buy a comic, of SUPERMAN: I am afraid I have bad news for you. Captain Marvel, Space Angel, Jet Jackson and many more could also be regarded as 'junior sf' and the combined forces of these characters would, in all likelihood, send you stark raving bonkers. When next reading sf, please be careful about reading near small children: if they accidentally mention superman, you may lose interest in your book.

- K.H. Hobson

(if you have any comments on Ken's 'treatise' the editors would be glad to hear them.)

—vVv—

ADVERTISEMENT.



Fishing?

One Bakelite Reel, Free Spool,
Star Drag Capacity 600 yds. 13 lb.
breaking strain - nylon -(used twice)
Is one of first made of it's type &
cost £14.14.0.

Offer?

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

The F.S.S. meets on Saturdays from
one to five o'clock. If you are interes-
ted in sf, come along one Saturday: you
may like to discuss sf with other fans.

Everyone is welcome!

If you have any, bring some money. There

are hundreds of sf magazines for sale - you
might find one that you missed, for your collection.

The address is 26 Philip St. Sydney. Please note that
the library is now on the second floor: not the first.

Hope to see you there.

ONLY THE MAD DESTROY THEMSELVES AND ALL THEY HAVE BROUGHT.
AND ONLY THE PHOENIX LIVES FOREVER.

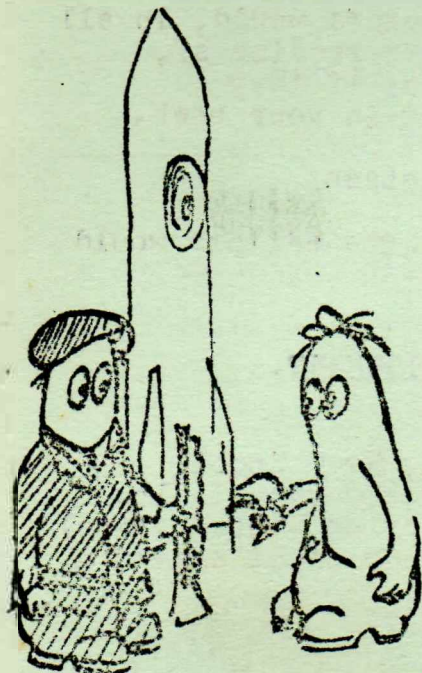
ADVERTISEMENT.

"If anyone is interested, I have a complete run of F&SF from
Mar '63; these are for sale, and all in good condition. (wuns, a
mistake. From 'from' read as follows:) Vol I, No I (Fall '49) to Dec
'62, plus 63/64 complete to date except for Mar '63 (sorry, Bob):

these are for sale and all in good condition. I've got piles of NEW WORLDS going back to around 1955, couple dozen SCIENCE- FANTASY, the four issues of FANTASY FICTION (Feb- Nov '53)."

Any fans interested in buying contact:

Sgt. R.F. Smith,
c/- Sgts Mess, I COD.,
Bandiana, Victoria.



~~~~~

### THE BRITISH INTERPLANETARY SOCIETY

#### SYDNEY GROUP

Meets the second Friday night in each month. At each meeting there is usually something of interest to the sf fan, and to anyone interested in science. For instance, there is a meeting on Friday, April 9th at Philips Auditorium (69-79 Clarence St.) starting at 8p.m. The lecturer will be the Chief Government Astronomer of N.S.W., Mr. Harley Woods. The lecture will be called "An Astronomical Tour of Europe" and will be illustrated with slides.

This promises to be a very interesting talk: If you receive this fanzine in time, and you have the time, go and see the lecture, I'm sure you'll enjoy it.

~~~~~

There have been discussions about opening the FSS (or ASFA) room on lunchtime on a week-day (Wednesday,

One to two o'clock) or on a weekday from, say, five 'till six. This all, however, depends on whether there is anybody who will benefit from this. For instance if a person can't make it on Saturdays for some reason, but could make it on the way home from work.

If you are one of these people, please write to this fanzine or to the FSS and give your advice, or reasons.

~~~~~

Well, that's about it for this issue. I hope you stood up to it this time. Better luck next issue. Now for a few credits.

Stencils with the courtesy of John Baxter.

Electro. stencils by Roneo.

Technical assistance by Graham Stone, John Foyster and John Baxter. Encouragement by Bob Smith.

There were divers others involved, but as I said before, they all know who I mean. Illustrations by Jeeves.