

PROSPECTUS 31

10/17/72

PROSPECTUS is the irregularly published newsletter of the Fantasy and Science Fiction Society of Columbia University (FSPSCU). It is available to all dues-paying members (dues for the fall semester are \$1.00). Capriciously edited by Arlene Lo. For information about the Society or any of its activities contact:

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FSPSCU Officers, Fall 1972

Grand Marshal: Eli Cohen
Petit Marshal: Arlene Lo @
Acting Seneschal: Fred Lerner
(under protest)



The next meeting will be held Thursday, Oct. 26, at 5:30 P.M. in Fayerweather Lounge. We have Fayerweather Lounge reserved for our use every Thursday beginning Oct. 26th but only from 5:30 to 6:30 so I expect to start the formal meeting promptly at 5:30. There's no reason, though, that people can't start arriving at 5:00 -- it'll give you a chance to get acquainted. I still figure on only about one formal meeting a month, but the lounge is ours to use every Thursday.

The guest speaker on the 26th will be George Alec Effinger. He's had short stories published in various places and his first novel, WHAT ENTROPY MEANS TO ME, was put out by Doubleday earlier this year. Just to give you an idea of his writing I'm including an excerpt from his short story "Wednesday, November 15, 1967" (published in Tom Disch's collection THE RUINS OF EARTH). The story is a very effective description of a near-future ecological disaster told by one of the few remaining people. ('Most everybody else has asphyxiated by this time, even with their gas masks.) The following is part of a review of the disaster the narrator does in one of his more ironic moods:

"The current disaster suffered quite a bit, in my opinion, from all the excited press it received before the actual opening. But be that as it may, I'm quite certain that there is still enough enthusiasm in the production to impress even the most sophisticated and jaded observer. It is definitely worth the time to investigate.

The tendency is toward REALISM, a trend quite at odds with the current crop of modish theater to which we have been "treated" in recent seasons, and the realistic turn

is one which I, personally, endorse. It is a refreshing respite from the self-consciously kicky or (at the opposite extreme) the altogether precious. At times certain elements of the staging become obtrusive, to the detriment of the overall effect; but generally speaking the disaster is a remarkably well conceived and, above all else, professionally executed affair. Although it attempts to deal with absolutely every aspect of our environmental disintegration -- and succeeds -- the direction never becomes heavy-handed. One is always made subtly aware of the interrelations of all those environmental factors, to a degree that was undreamed of before, and without sacrificing the total devotion to the basic, the simple and, always, the natural.

...The pace is sluggish at first, but one is given such a fascinating wealth of visual detail that one hardly notices. And then the direction accelerates breathtakingly until the end (there is no intermission), leaving the viewer literally gasping. As the first legitimately mounted example of this sort, it comes off splendidly, and so all-encompassing in scope is it that I do not at all fear a rash of lesser, cheaper imitations. This disaster does it all...."

from "Wednesday, November 15, 1967"
by George Alec Effinger
in THE RUINS OF EARTH (ed. Tomas M. Disch)

EVENTS The 1972 Philcon will be held November 17th, 18th and 19th with John Brunner as the principal speaker. It will be at the Philadelphia Sheraton Hotel, 17th Street and John F. Kennedy Boulevard, in Philadelphia. It's not that difficult to get there by bus, and there will be numerous New York fans going, so car rides may be available. Singles at the hotel are \$18.50 a night but it's usually possible to cram at least four people into one of them (for a total cost of about \$10 a piece over the weekend). If anybody is interested in going, let me know.

INFINITY CON will be held on January 19th, 20th and 21st at the Hotel Commodore right here in New York. The program as promised will include science fiction, sword and sorcery, comics and SF films. Isaac Asimov, Keith Laumer and Fred Pohl, among others, will be speaking. Advance registration is \$3.00 (checks should be made payable to Ralph Tripodi). Write to Infinity Con "73", R.R.1 Box 50F, Longview Avenue, Rocky Point, New York 11778.

If anybody knows of any events that seem relevant (and especially events on or near campus) please let me know.

KEEP OUR CITY CLEAN: GIVE SOME GRAFFITI A BATH

OLD
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Agenda for the meeting of October 26, 1972

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Treasurer's report (@*!we have a treasurer?)
3. Date of next meeting
4. Any new business
5. Old business

We have a motion tabled from the last meeting: "That we discuss a new name for the organization" @

6. Guest speaker: George Alec Effinger
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NOTES FROM THE FUNNY FARM OF BROADWAY

@ ...which motion will undoubtedly be tabled again, but before that, ye not-so-humble ed presumes to suggest "Pick One from Coulomb A"...What's that? I think I prefer the blindfold.

Obviously, I'm trying to fill up space. Send us so many articles, stories, cartoons, IDEAS that I won't have time to consider my mediocrity (that's a poke, son. Actually I know I'm brilliant.). Meanwhile, thank ~~goodness~~ for Hallowe'en.

HAPPY

HALLOWEEN

