

Science Fiction Weekly

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WRIGHT BOOM WRONG

New York, Feb. 22: Ever since Mr. Farnsworth Wright parted company with Weird Tales magazine, there has been a movement among fans to have him reinstated. Petitions have been made up and a large number of signatures obtained. Science Fiction Weekly would be playing its part in this drive were it not for one thing: Mr. Wright doesn't want to go back.

This statement was given out recently in a personal interview with Weird Tales' ex-editor. He states categorically that he is not interested in Weird Tales "under the present set-up". The reason for this is the circumstances of his dismissal, which we are not at liberty to divulge. It may be said, however, that he is considerably angered at the way in which his parting with Weird Tales was accomplished and that this irritation is not without justification.

However, in the light of these developments, it is manifest that the Wright-reinstatement campaign is licked before it starts -- a well-meaning gesture which can benefit no one.

The Weird Tales situation, however, is not a thing settled and done. Fans would do well to keep their eyes peeled, and their ears cocked, on this affair, because there are likely to be surprise developments at any time. Watch the headlines in this magazine for the next month or so: Science Fiction Weekly has been promised an exclusive story if and when it breaks.

PHILLY NOTES

Philadelphia, Jan. 27th: (Exchange) By unanimous vote the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society chose to become an affiliated chapter of the Science Fictioneers.

The PSFS is now composed of both the SFL and the SF. In other words, if certain SFL conductors deem it advisable to slander the PSFS, they'll be slandering their own organization. This also applies to the Science Fictioneers.

In a letter to John V. Baltadonis, James V. Taurasi stated that he would have appointed Robert A. Madle, PSFS President, to the Executive Directory of the SFL if the latter had not accepted the offer of Frederik Pohl to become a member of the Advisory Board of the Science Fictioneers. Taurasi said that would now be impossible as the SFL and the SF are "rival clubs".

When questioned as to what he intended to do, Madle replied: "There is nothing I can do. Although I have every right to be appointed to the SFL Board, it's up to Taurasi." Later, Madle said: "I'll be goddam good and sore if he doesn't appoint me after the way I've stuck up for Taurasi, Moskowitz, and Sykora."

This affair started when James V. Taurasi, after taking over the SFL management, set out to pick a new staff of "active fan" executive directors. Among those picked is that very "active" Jack Darrow, whom some may remember; the only other named thus far is Sam Moskowitz.

Science Fiction Weekly

THE NATIONAL FAN WEEKLY

Published every Monday at 2574 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. Volume One Number Two; Whole Number Two. February 25, 1940. Five cents per single copy; three issues for ten cents; eight issues for twenty-five cents. Full-page ads accepted at flat rate of seventy-five cents only; each time such ad. is received, an extra page of reading matter is guaranteed. We will air-mail SFW to any cross-continent fans who so desire, providing payment for such service is received in advance.

Editor-in-Chief

Robert W. Lowndes

Associates

Leslie Perri

Dick Wilson

WOLLHEIM TO ANSWER FANTASY-NEWS

Brooklyn, Feb. 22: Donald A. Wollheim stated here that he would make public an answer to the article in the 86th issue of Fantasy-News alleging him the inventor of malicious libels against Street & Smith. "When Sykora interpolated amid Campbell's statement the remark that I have 'publicly admitted membership in the Communist Party' he committed a malicious and false libel. I am not a member of that party, or of any other political party, never have been; nor have I ever said or wrote any claims or admissions to membership in that, or any other party, nor have ever advocated such membership, publicly or otherwise. If Mr. Sykora continues this type of libel, and I determine that any damage has been done me in my daily life, I may find it necessary to take these matters to the courts."

ROSENBLUM TO FACE COURT FOR PACIFISM

Reports reach us from England that J. Michael Rosenblum of Leeds, editor of The Futurian, and well-liked fan, will stand trial in London as a Conscientious Objector. He has already appeared before tribunals in Leeds when he refused to accept active military duty. After a stormy session in Leeds, which was reported in an issue of the paper Peace

News, Rosenblum was denied Objector rating and assigned to Military Medical duty. This he has refused to accept and is thus being re-tried in London. Rosenblum is a member of the Peace Pledge Union, an organization of British pacifists who flatly refuse to participate in any way in any war. It is possible, that he stands liable to a prison sentence for his anti-war convictions.

CHICON CLAIM DEPARTMENT

Feb. 22. Staff Meeting: It was suggested that this claim department be made more interesting by adding a twist: that you fans send in suggestions as to which other fans should go to the Chicon as what stf characters. No one, of course, will be bound to such recommendations, and any reservations made here for particular impersonations must be respected.

John B. Michel hereby lays claim 2 the impersonation of Hawk Carse.

Don Wollheim hereby lays claim 2 the impersonation of Ming the Merciless.

Doc Lowndes hereby lays claim to yo impersonation of the Bar Senestro.

ETERNAL CONFLICT DEPT.

Art R. Schnort, of 791 Maury Apt. #1, Memphis, Tenn., writes: "I have only one kick against the science fiction that is written today: not enough science. Two years ago when I first began reading science fiction, each story that was written had some scientific theory to back it. At the present time the stories consist of adventure, mostly -- I am not saying that the stories aren't good. They are. But if it is to be science fiction, let it be that and not fantasy. The authors, it seems, have taken for granted that we will accept anything their imaginations can concoct whether it be backed by theory, fact, or nothing. *** In the first issue of Super Science Stories there is a story: "Guyon 45 X" which illustrates my point perfectly. It is pure and simple adventure -- an excellent story as far as entertainment goes, but you can't call it science fiction."

Don't stop short with good intentions;
People are what make conventions!

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Editor Science Fiction, and Future Fiction arrives in LA to stay! History in Reverse: Hornig, who met us 3 (Ray Bradbury, 4e, & me) in NYC at Convention time, was greeted by Brad, the J, & your correspondent on this, his 9th trip across USA! Tells hilties of trip over breakfastable at "Leag" cafeteria: meeting of Moonstruck Press publishers Dikty & Shroyer along way, & 4 hr stay in Chi with Reinsberg, Korshak, Meyer, Wilcox, & ex-Angelene Tullis. Feted by 25 Esperantists in Okla City Okla. Reveals will institute feature, Fanmag Digest, (interesting quotes excerpted from recent copies) in June Future Fiction. No more Schneeman in SF. Whether we'll have an SFQuarterly to be known within a month. His initial 2 scientificcartoons to be augmented by no less than 5 more in 2nd number of Gernsback's Super-World Comics. Charlie announces he will be returning as far as Chi this summer to attend the Convention -- in his own auto if he has an auto then. *** To the Ladies: LA's Louise Taylor Hanson reveals RAP has requested to see some work from her. Leigh "Martian Quest" Brackett learned to be Angelene girl! *** Flash! VOTI, affectionately known as Vom, to be issued independently! News withheld from Gen. Public till now as coeditors were unable to believe LASFL would not reverse decision, was serious in abandoning support of such a popular project. Club sponsorship was withdrawn from Mikros, Futuria Fantasia, and Voice of the Imagi-Nation some weeks ago as a preliminary step to discussion of a possible combined club-pub. Ce-eds of Vom, feeling this best-seller to be too important a publication to be discarded or submerged in a new mag, favored its continuance in conjunction with Shangri-LA (a la TWS, frxample, & a single-feature companion Captain-Future) After some 4 weeks of local dither, 4e made a final altruistic offer to edit the mag (Vom) in collaboration with your correspondent as an LASFL publication. Paul Freehafer made motion that club re-assume sponsorship of VOTI aroused such a furor -- especially from Der Fuhrer of FuFa whose protest of "unfair! unfair!" struck a discordant note -- that 4e recommended the moms "forget the whole business. Jealousy rarely rears her

shambleauic head among the usually friendly Ellayesseffellers & gals but in this instance was the obvious answer to the defeat of the motion. Confronted with this antagonistic attitude, 4e himself was for voting in the negative. Now that Vom is independent, U can depnd on plenty Vom-shells! Ray Bradbury says he will continue Futuria Fantasia and make it "neater, niftier, & more neotric", containing, of course, those naughty nudes by Bok! Russ Hodgkins declares "Mikros is dead! Long Live Shangri-LA!"

D.C. FANS VISIT N.Y.

by Cyril Kornbluth

My Own Apartment, Feb. 21: Frederik Pohl, editor of Astonishing Stories and Super Science ditto, Jack Gillespie, Washington Hts fan, and your sleepless correspondent were on hand at 5:50 A.M., Sunday, Feb. 18, to greet Milton A. Rothman, President of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association, and Elmer Perdue, of Washington, D.C., and the Federal payroll, late of Caspar, Wyoming, (& Wyoming University) at Penn. Station. Their flying visit to the city was to be in celebration of Rothman's promotion to Senior Typist at an incredible salary.

The two showed up on schedule, and, after some loose talk about seeing dawn from the Staten Island Ferry, there was an early breakfast on coffee, pie, and assorted sandwiches. We headed East on Thirty-eight street, facing the sky-blue pink (said Rothman) of a Manhattan sunrise. Gillespie left us at Broadway to walk home, and is probably walking yet.

There was an abortive attempt to get into Pohl's office on East 42d st., which got absolutely nowhere. By the time we were on River Street (which is East as you can get without being either in Brooklyn or shot as a Japanese spy) the sun was up. So we walked back to Broadway.

There are vague recollections of an almost infinite series of Automats punctuated by Perdue's candid camera shots of Pohl and me in front of Father Duffy's statue on Times Square, but ye Gay White Way was sober, particularly, that Sunday morning, and the only white was to be seen on the coats of the garbage men. Things only picked up when we

found ourselves on a train to Flushing, (minus Pohl) for a visit to James V. Taurasi.

We woke that gentleman up --- it was about ten --- and extended the fraternal hand of Washington, Wyoming, and Manhattan. He apologized for his bleary eyes; it seemed that he'd got to bed at two that morning. We, who had had no sleep for at least 24 hours, laughed gently and excused him.

Mr. Taurasi displayed his collection of magazines and books (including such rarities as "Intrigue on the Upper Level", "Tarzan and the Ant-Men", "The Rover Boys in the Jungle" and the almost priceless Volume I Number I of Spicy Western Stories) and graciously answered the questions of his visitors on a ny phase of fan and professional activity.

He also turned over to Rothman vital records of the FAPA, which have been in his possession since his term of office expired, over six months ago, explaining that they had been lost while moving his quarters from the second to the first floor of his parents' house.

With the taking of some candid camera shots by Perdue, we left our Flushing friend and fan to head for Brooklyn and the co-op apartment of Wollheim, Lowndes, Wilson, Michel, et al.

On arriving, your reporter fell in to a nearby coma and the night-shift took over the tourists.

((Report of the night-shift will appear next issue. Editor.))

CITY DESK

THE BEST WAY to help something that you think should succeed is to plug it; the only worth-while way of plugging a thing is to give it all the space available. Which is why we start "City Desk" this week with a reminder to all fans to buy the Lovecraft Omnibus as soon as they can get five dollars together. (("The Outsider and Others" by H. P. Lovecraft. Write to August W. Derleth, Sauk City, Wisconsin, enclosing remittance. Editor.))

DAVID H. KELLER, through his agent, Robert W. Lowndes, is attempting a come-back in the science fiction and fantasy field. Although he has had but few new stories published in the last

several years, Dr. Keller is still a favorite with fans, remaining as one of the all-time greats of science-fiction. As you know, Captain Future is currently reprinting his "Human Termites".

Another old-timer who expects to be making a comeback via Doc's agency is Mr. Charles R. Tanner of "Tumithak" fame. Mr. Tanner is now at work on another tale in this famous series.

THE QUEENS SCIENCE FICTION LEAGUE held a regular meeting on February 4th. 36 persons were in attendance. Besides regular members, a number of professional sf persons were visitors. The meeting proceeded without undue variance from the usual run of such meetings. Farewells were said to Charles D. Hornig, editor of Science Fiction and Future Fiction, the QSFL presenting him with tokens of their esteem. Also in attendance was Mr. John W. Campbell, Jr. of Astounding and Unknown and Miss Mary Gnaedinger of Famous Fantastic Mysteries. Nothing of any outstanding significance occurred. (Exchange)

ADDENDA: Frederick Shroyer, of Deoatour, Indiana, has dropped his work on the Bibliography of Sf Books pending his return from Florida where he is vacationing. *** Edgar Rice Burroughs' "Synthetic Men of Mars", which appeared serially in Argosy last year, will soon be available in book form. It is the latest in the John Carter of Barsom series. *** Several Futurians have recently made sales to Ten Story Book. Among these are Don Wollheim, John B. Michel, and your editor.

THE FIRST FAN MAG.

While on a recent excursion to the abode of Julius Unger, oldguard fan (and we mean old guard; Julie was one of the Scienceers) we were told of the very first fan magazine ever to be issued.

It was a printed issue of "The Planet", published late in 1929 by The Scienceers, under the direction of Allen Glasser. Between 35 to 45 copies were made, the contents consisting of a list of members of the organization at that time.

((Every fan has his Shangri-L.A. -- have you yours? Editor.))