

SCIENCE &
FANTASY

ISSUED
WEEKLY

VOL 1 - NO. 9

1950

7/10/50

SAWYER'S GREAT FAN CONTEST I. AIM FOR BETTER MAGAZINES.

From Bruce Sawyer comes a great idea for improving the quality of fan material and magazines. He has announced a contest that should make all fans redouble their efforts to turn out good material, and all editors put a little more into their magazines than they have in the past.

During the week Sawyer announced his scheme, which is to award prizes to the winners of the following contests.

Writer of best story published from September to December, in any Australian fanmag.

Writer of best article, over same period.

Writer of best poem.

Illustrator of best cover, back cover, book-jacket, etc.

Editor of best fan magazine issued during period of contest.

The prizes are famous scientibooks, including S.G. Weinbaum's "The New Adam" and other well known novels that are worth a place in any collection.

All magazines issued between 1st. September, and 31st. December are eligible for the competition, as is all material in these issues.

The readers will be the sole judges of the competition, and are asked to vote as soon as possible after the issue of the last fanmag for this year.

Sawyer chose Ultra as the magazine to run the contest, and complete details of the competition as well as full list of prizes, will be printed in next issue.

POLLSNo. 2 .. AUTHORSSMITH TAKES LEAD WITH ELEVENTH VOTE

In our poll for authors, Robert Heinlein managed to hold his lead until we received the eleventh vote, which put E.E. Smith one point ahead.

There are only a few scattered votes to come in, thanks to a very prompt response from most fans, and we have hopes of finishing the poll next week.

Present positions are:

Total number of votes.....	11	
E.E. SMITH.....	6	points
J.T. CAMPBELL, R. HEINLEIN.....	5	"
LOUECRAFT, VAN VOGT.....	3	"
ASIMOV, BINDER, DE CAMP, E. HAMILTON, N.R. JONES, KELLER, MERRITT, WEINBAUM.	2	"
AYRE, BIERCE, BLOCH, BOND, EDGAR R. BURROUGHS, R. CUMMINGS, DEL REY, FRIEND OLSEN, V. PHILLIPS, POE, QUINN, ROCKLYNNE, SCHACHTER, STUBER, H. VINCENT, A.G. WELLS..	1	"

If anybody had any doubts about "one man's meat", this poll should cause them to quietly fade away.

It seems that anybody with two votes is extremely well liked, and those with five or six are immensely popular. And yet Smith, the top man, has received only fifty per cent of the votes.

It now seems almost certain that one of the first three on the list will eventually win. Who it will be we do not know, but would like to announce the final result in next week's issue. So send in your vote during the week. Don't be left out.

A SUGGESTION

Sooner or later we will run a poll for the most popular story. Probably, in view of the large number of yarns to pick from, we will ask you to choose your ten best liked, instead of the usual five. But before we run this poll, we would like you to re-read what you think are your ten favourites now. Perhaps you will find that some stories you previously raved about are not quite as good as you thought.

We will hold this poll back a little while to give you the necessary time.

RANDOM .T. RANDOMMelbournews by Wog Hockley.VOL MOLESWORTH IN HOSPITAL

Sydney fans this week were surprised and sorry to hear that Vol Molesworth was in hospital again.

Vol informed Bert Castellari, who posted a letter to Eric Russell. Ted Russell told Graham Stone, who saw Colin Roden, and so most fans got to know.

The Russell Brothers, Roden, Stone, Castellari, & Arthur Duncan visited him on Sunday afternoon, and deluged him with pro and fan mags, at which the man in the next bed unsuccessfully made a swipe. Vol was glad to get these, as he claimed he was gradually going mad with boredom. He would also appreciate letters, and fans can address their notes to Mater Misericordiae Private Hospital, Pacific Highway, Crows Nest.

The F.S.S. meeting, scheduled to be held at Vol 's place on Oct. 4, was put off tentatively to Oct. 18 when Vol hopes to be out of hospital.

Cosmos, of course, will be a little later than was expected.

FACTS ABOUT HARRISON

"Harrison, I fear, is a bit of a disappointment. However, he knows his stf. He is more of a weird and horror fan than a stfan, but is very interested in it all. Strange to say, he doesn't like Astounding. He likes human interest much better than heavy science. Therefore he likes AMS and TUS. He doesn't seem terribly interested in fanmags."

"About his night reading - the reason for this is that is the only time he is able to read.....that's how bad his parents are on stf!"

That is the news Wog sent about Harrison. So it seems that he will not be an active participant in Melbourne fandom. However, he would like to contact other fans with a view to obtaining magazines. Fans who have any stf mags to sell (except large size) are asked to write Wog Hockley for particulars.

NO ADVERTISEMENTS

There are two requests in this issue. One is for letters for Vol, the other about Harrison. These are against our policy, and were printed at special request, usually we do not print requests or ads.

EDITORIAL.. Sawyer's contest.

There were two important happenings in Australian fandom this week. One was Vol Molesworth's return to hospital, and the other was the announcement of Bruce Sawyer's competition. Thus we had two subjects to pick for an editorial. There is not much to say about Vol, however, except that we hope he is well again soon, so we chose to give our opinions on the competition.

Bruce's idea in running the contest, of course, is to make fans produce better work than their previous efforts.

When Mr. Evans told of the proposed pro mag, there was a tendency among certain fans to write stuff of a higher grade than before, to help the mag. But the step between fan and pro material is a big one, and some fans thought it was too great to be overcome. So while there was a stir amongst fandom, there was no continued effort toward higher quality material.

With the new competition, however, material does not have to be up to pro standard, though we are not saying it won't be. And furthermore, the contest is rather thorough, including all subjects that should tend toward a general rise in fan publications.

It is now up to the fans. Bruce Sawyer has made an extremely generous offer. If we were to let it slip as we have let slip other opportunities, it would mean that we did not care very much about our fanmags, also that we did not appreciate Bruce's offer.

It is fortunate that Bruce has set the competition to start from the beginning of September, for we can compare the early entries in the contest with those towards the end, and see what improvement has taken place.

THE EDITOR..

Science and Fantasy Fan Reporter is issued weekly by Sanfan publications, edited by Eric F. Russell, and Colin Roden. Editorial address 115 Bondi Road, Bondi New South Wales. Price - 1½d. per issue up to three months, which is thirteen for 1/6. Special rates for longer subs. Next issue out Tuesday October 14th.

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