

SCIENCE &
FANTASY

ISSUED
WEEKLY.

F.S.S. PLANS BIG BIRTHDAY PARTY.

November 5 will be the second birthday of the FSS, and, unlike last year, its members plan to do something about it.

Secretary Vol Molesworth's stay in hospital has hold up F.S.S. meetings. However, Vol hopes to be out next Thursday, and if this is true, the meeting will be held at his place on Sunday, 26th October, when all details will be fixed up.

At present, while things are not definite, it seems that the birthday meeting will be something like the following.

First and foremost, the meeting will be held solely to celebrate the birthday of the F.S.S. No business, or very little at most, will be discussed. Most of the time will be taken up with quizzes, lectures, and stf games and competitions. In other words, it will be more of a big party than a meeting.

It will be unusual in other respects, too. Attendance will probably not be confined to members alone. The meeting may not be open, but the "two guest" rule of the club will probably be waived, giving many interested people a chance to come. New fans, too, may get their first glimpse of fan activities at the birthday meeting.

The meeting itself will probably be held on the Sunday following November 5, that is, on Nov. 9. At present it is not known where it will be held. This will depend on the number that will be coming along.

As we said before, nothing definite is yet known. We hope, however, to publish full details in our next issue.

POLLSNo. 3. MAGAZINES.BIG LEAD FOR ASTOUNDING. UNKNOWN.

Last week we predicted that there would be heavy voting for Astounding in this poll. We thought that it would have an easy victory. But we were wrong.

We forgot about Unknown.

We have received four votes so far. Each vote has run "Astounding, Unknown," then some other magazine. It has almost got to the point where we ask:—"What is your other favourite magazine?".

Positions at present are:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Number of votes received..... | 4 |
| ASTOUNDING, UNKNOWN..... | 4 points |
| OLD AMAZING..... | 1 " |
| ASTONISHING..... | 1 " |
| PLACUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES..... | 1 " |
| OLD SOLDIER..... | 1 " |

We do not know if, or when, Astounding and Unknown will be separated. Nor do we know who will fill third place. We urge all those who have not voted to send on their vote as soon as possible. Three favourite magazines are wanted, and they will receive one point apiece.

PARDON US, BUT...

We don't like to say this, even though it does fill up space. But, alas, we must.

Firstly, there was no date line on last issue. Don't blame anyone but us. (In fact me..C.R.)

Second, we put Graham Stone back on the editorial staff. Follows the reason. Issue had to be rewritten at last minute owing to news arriving late. Typing was still going on at 10.30 pm Sunday, so to save time we (C.R.) cut off our little statement from an earlier issue. Unfortunately, it was too early. Again my fault.

Third, details of prizes in Bruce Sawyer's competition (which was promised) were not published. This was because the competition is being run by Ultra, which already has details on stencil.

We don't ask forgiveness. We thought you might like to know the reason for these mistakes.

FANDOM AT RANDOM.Vol MOLESWORTH'S PROGRESS.

Vol Molesworth is recovering from his illness and operation, and has hopes of leaving hospital next Thursday.

Having plenty of time, he has been thinking, and has reached the conclusion that nothing he has yet written is worth reading.

BOOKS.

Astounding reprint for Feb. 41 is now selling in Sydney.

Someone has travelled into the future and obtained some copies of Futurian Observer, complete with posters.

Annish of Ultra will have fifty pages.

Arthur Duncan hopes to put out the next issue of Spacward in November, to keep its quarterly status.

FROM THE PAPERS.

This week comes news of a Russian scientist, who predicts that soon we will see the atomic bomb, which will be capable of destroying a whole city.

We dug this scientijoke out of a humour magazine.
Professor: The light of this star I am about to show you takes four years to reach the Earth.
Student: Very interesting, but I'm afraid I can't wait that long.

FILMS

Not much is doing in the way of stfilnery of late. "Fantasia", in Sydney, is being shown four sessions a day, at reduced prices. Booked for the Capital is "King of the Zombies", but we do not know anything about this film at present.

BITS.

Bruce Sawyer is selling part of his collection. Cosmics and Comets have been sent to Hobart, and other mags are being disposed of.

Venus has a third editor. He is Peter Bayliss, an interested reader, and perhaps a future fan. Venus should be out in November or December.

EDITORIAL. Is Fan Fiction Worth It?

The subject for our editorial this week was given by Vol Molesworth, when he said that nothing he had yet written was worth reading.

We could treat this as a joke, saying that at last Vol has found a point on which he agrees with all other fans. But we prefer to take it seriously, because Vol appeared to mean it seriously.

So we ask the question "Is Vol's stuff worth reading? In fact, is any fan stuff worth reading?"

The answer to both questions is "Yes".

Fan fiction may be bad. A great deal of it undoubtedly is. But it is still worth reading.

When a fan becomes a fan, he first digests as many fanmags as he can. It serves to introduce him to fandom in general, also acquaint him with the quality and standard of fan writing. At first it may seem to him to be very bad, but as he becomes used to it he learns to appreciate it, and judge it on its own level. He also finds an outlet for his own material, the first of which is usually very poor, even in comparison with other contemporary fan efforts.

There is a reason for this. Most fan stuff in Australia to-day is written by fans who have been interested for a considerable time. They are not new to fan writing, and as a result are writing better stuff now than they used to. They have improved.

When the new fan sends in his first effort, it is judged by the standards of the current issues, and so suffers in comparison.

Which means that fan fiction has improved.

So fanmags not only give a fan a chance to start writing, but they also enable him to continue writing, which is the surest way of improving.

Reading, and writing, fan fiction is definitely worth it.

THE EDITORS.

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