

SCIENCE & FANTASY

FAN REPORTER

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ISSUED WEEKLY

JAN
20

VICTORY FOR STFI! SCIENCE WRITER ADMITS MISTAKE.

Fans in Australia do not have a very good chance to spread stfi. They are too few and too little known. Occasionally, however, an opportunity arises, and when it is up to the fan to do something about it.

Such an opportunity presented itself not so long ago. There is a series of "popular" scientific articles being published in Smith's Weekly. The author, H. J. McKay, writes to suit public and editorial taste, and his usual efforts come close to sensationalism. He is pro-science, however.

One of his recent articles concerned prophets. He praised Verne highly, and criticised Wells, as regards their prophetic qualities. Passing on to the present, he attacked stfi cartoon strips, calling Buck Rogers, Flash Gordon and Co. the prophets of to-day, and very bad ones, too. He pointed out that the cartoonists lacked imagination, that the only difference between their "future" civilizations and the present was the date.

Indignant at Buck Rogers being compared with Wells and Verne, I wrote to McKay, asking him why he called the cartoonists the present-day prophets, when there were others more deserving than they. I tried to explain exactly what good science-fiction was, something that was doubly hard because I had to also explain science-fiction itself. However, I sent the letter.

I waited for a reply, but got none, and finally forgot about it. So when a strangely addressed envelope (Continued page 4).

POLLS.No.6 - STORIES."WHO GOES THERE?" IN LEAD.

Votes are coming in at a steady rate, and with two weeks gone, eight votes have arrived. So it looks as though the poll will be a success after all.

Leading story at the moment is Don A Stuart's "Who Goes There?" which has received 50% of the total number of votes. Sixty two stories are in the poll so far, and full positions are;

Number of Votes - 8.

4 votes - Who Goes There?

3 votes - Lost Darkness Fall.

2 votes - Black Flame; By Jove!; Child of Power; Cometeers; Final Blackout; Green Man of Graypec; Gray Lensman; Into the Darkness; Professor Jameson Series; Shadow Out of Time; Sinister Barrier; Skylark of Space Trends.

1 vote - Adam Link Series; Alas All Thinking; At the Mountains of Madness; Before Atlantis Was; Black World; Blue Barbarians; Blind Spot; But Without Horns; Chapter From the Beginning; Council of Drones; Divide and Rule; Elimination; Exile of the Skies; The Ghoul; Greta, Queen of Queens; He From Frocyon; He Who Sings; Impossible World; Indigestible Triton; The Invaders; I Robot; Inner World; Life Everlasting; Lingers of Time; Locked City; Maiden Voyage; Moon Pool; Moon Pool & Conquest; Morons; None But Lucifer; Nymph of Darkness; Peril Among the Drivers; Portrait; Second Dulage; Smile of the Sphinx; Skylark 3; Son of the Stars; Spacehounds of I.P.C.; Terror Out of Space; Triplanetary; Uncertainty; Via Series; Wanted - Seven Fearless Engineers; Witch-Makers; World Reborn; Zagribud; Half Breed.

Unless enough votes come in during the week to allow the poll to close in the next issue, it is unlikely that the complete list will be published. However, if it is not, then it will be, when the poll does close.

I need not repeat that I still need votes. The poll now is at a critical stage, but only needs three or four votes more to make it successful. Also, what fan polls do you want?

TASMAN NEWS - By Bob Geappen and Dun Tuck.

PROFAN.

Bob Geappen is trying hard to push the next issue of Profan out. He has lost one page of the stencils and is short of paper; according to Don, however, he'll get it out somehow.

GEAPPEN GABLES.

Profan's editors have just come out of camp with the "St. Virgil's College Cadet Corps." Art editor (Corporal Johnston) and editor (Corporal Geappen) were in for ten days, and associate editor (Cadet Symons) for five.

Science-fiction is so scarce in Hobart that you can't even buy New Amazing.

"The Reluctant Dragon" is scheduled for Hobart seasons.

Bob Geappen received his third stripe while in camp, but lost it again before camp was over.

EDITOR'S NOTE: That is Bob's first "communiqué" from the Hobart front. How do you like it?

WOG - By Wog Hookley.

The Mutual Store Playhouse (A Melbourne equivalent of the Lux) is putting on a play called "Glowing Death" which Wog is almost certain is an adaption of the film "Man Made Monster." The plot is exactly the same and so are the names of the characters. Lloyd Lambie is playing Dr. Rigas.

Reluctant Dragon will soon finish at Melbourne's Plaza, and will be replaced by Citizen Kane.

ONE MORE, PERHAPS.

There is a possibility of another issue of Melbourne Bulletin coming out soon. Wog has some comments to make, mainly on the Conference and the Court of Inquiry. Perhaps a poem by Wog, too.

Don Tuck is still grabbing all the old mags he can get. He proposes to send them over to Hobart. Looks like he will need a special boat.

VICTORY FOR SF (from page 1)

ope arrived from South Australia, I did not know from whom it had come.

A glance at the contents revealed a hand printed letter, with the name H.C. McKAY at the bottom. The letter started: "Mr. Colin Roden, Dear Sir, Thanks for your letter re science-fiction. After careful reading I believe you are right - that is, it is unfair to call Buck Rogers and Co. samples of modern scientific forecasts."

He goes on, stating that the idea of his article was to show the lack of imagination. He mentions being "an S-F hound once, in the 1920's and early 1930's (I used to get Amazing Stories and Wonder Stories.) in his opinion, the sf of the early thirties contained more and more adventure, so he left off reading. He ends: "Otherwise I agree with everything you say, and admit my mistake in confusing sf strips with genuine SF."

Thus, through a fax getting wild because of a remark in an article in a paper, sf has one more supporter.

It is to be hoped that more opportunities like this soon arise.

FPA TROUBLES.

At the Conference, Arthur Duncan announced his resignation from position of co-ordinator, but agreed to stay on. Reason was bad appearance of Spaceward, the FPA organ. Position is still doubtful, but should be made definite at the next FSS meeting.

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