

SCIENCE & FANTASY

FAN REPORTER

ISSUED WEEKLY.

FE 3

ANOTHER STF VICTORY. SOLDIER NOW READER.

Two weeks ago the front page contained news of the successful attempt to alter H.C. McKay's opinion of stf. This was, at the time, an isolated example of how a fan could do a little bit to help stf.

Now, only two weeks later, comes news of another stf "victory", which I consider so important that it wins the front page from quite a lot of other important news items.

Vol Molesworth met a soldier, whom he knew only slightly, in a canteen where he lunched. The soldier, by the name of Bill, asked him if he could lend him anything to read. Vol lent him the "New Adam", having the book with him at the time. The soldier promised to return it that night, and, true to his word, gave the book back, praising it very highly.

Vol took him to a bookshop, and picked out several stf magazines for him. Bill bought them, and took them away to read.

On meeting Vol he was extremely enthusiastic about stf in general. So enthusiastic that he had mentioned it to a projection man at the Kings Cross Theatre, who also admitted being a reader, saying he usually kept quiet about it because of the reception people gave the announcement that he read stf.

In camp now, too, Bill is popularising stf, lending magazines to others. Most soldiers, glad of the reading matter, signify their approval. So stf has gained a new hold, and has won another victory.

IMPORTANT FSS MEETING.

The last FSS meeting, held on Sunday at Eric Russell's home, was a very important meeting.

DWYER'S LETTER OF CONDEMNATION.

Noel Dwyer, who had been invited as a guest, sent a very long letter explaining why he would not come, and what he thought of the Society. We would very much like to reproduce that letter in full, but it is twice the length of this whole issue, so reproduction is out of the question. However, I will give you the general outline, without comment.

First, he stated that he had no particular desire to attend a meeting, although Eric Russell and Vol Molesworth still say he did express a desire to come. Reason for not coming is that he considers the FSS a "petty, paltry and deceptive thing" that is of no use at all. Only use it ever was, he says, was to give adolescents an interest as they grew up. Now that use is past, so the club has "outlived its aim".

He admits the members are sincere in their efforts but says this makes matter all the worse. He says that the members should direct their effort towards the war, and not science-fiction. At present, he states that no member is doing anything at all to help the war, and to carry on with having "meetings, discussions and putting out fanmags" is "disgusting".

Various comments on this letter were made by members, but of these nothing will be said at present. At the special meeting on Tuesday night (see elsewhere for details) the FSS will decide what is to be done, so I will leave the matter until then.

STP FOR THE AIF.

In direct answer to Dwyer's statement that the FSS has done nothing, and will do nothing, was the announcement of this new scheme to help the men of the fighting forces.

The idea is to get parcels of stf magazines to send to men in the forces, preferably those in hospitals, who would appreciate the magazines.

Magazines will be bought from the bookshops, and fans will donate some from their collections, if they think fit.

Only objector to this scheme was Graham Stone, who stated that if magazines were bought from the shops (Continued on page three.)

STF FOR THE AIF (continued)

this would make the job harder for collectors of the future. This objection did not alter the scheme.

This, too, will be fully prepared at the special meeting next Tuesday.

SPECIAL FSS MEETING.

A special meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, to settle several business matters which have been put off from time to time.

In the past the FSS has had a reputation for shelving things, a condition which is not always brought about by the members themselves, but sometimes by certain important details not being known at the time of discussion.

The FSS has several of these matters on its hands, and will hold the special meeting to decide them for good. At the same time, this will leave the meeting after this for stf discussions. One of the subjects for discussion is the possibility or otherwise of intelligent crystals. Members do not agree on this subject.

INQUIRY EVIDENCE COMPLETE.

Twenty one pages of evidence from the Futurian Court of Inquiry were read out and passed at the last FSS meeting. This was a complete record of the evidence, and from this will now be prepared the examiners report. Vol Bolsworth has stated that there was some perjury at the Court, but refused to give examples until his report was ready.

FSS AND SCIENCE FICTIONEERS.

A point debated in the club from time to time was settled last Sunday, when a definite decision re the Science-fictioneers was reached.

For a long time it has been argued that being a chapter - Chapter 9 - of the Science-fictioneers has done the club no good. Finally it was decided to break contact with this body, and a letter will be sent informing them of this.

Two members of the FSS are Sciencefictioneers. So there are only two members in chapter 9. This is another reason why the break is being made. These two members, however, need not resign from the Science-fictioneers.

Tales of Wonder No.15 is out in Sydney.

Graham Stone says Ron Levy says Observer will be continued.

EDITORIAL. Petty and Paltry and Deceptive.

This week the Intermediate results came out, and Ted Russell got six A's, one oral A, and one B - an excellent, in fact a brilliant pass. Ted is to be congratulated.

But not only for his pass is he to be congratulated. He also deserves praise for something he did three months before the examination started--something that without doubt made his pass a little better than it would have been otherwise. He resigned from the FSS.

And right on top of this comes Noel's letter stating that the FSS is "paltry, petty and deceptive". It looks true, doesn't it?

But it is not, just the same. The members and a large number outside the club know this. If anybody doubts this, I will readily supply him with proof. There is no room for it here.

However, even though the club's existence is justified, it is not, under any circumstances, what David Boadle termed "the be-all and end-all of our lives". It is certainly more than "just an interest", but to put it before everything else would be a stupid and extremely near-sighted mistake. For the good of the club, its members must be aware, and not only aware but play their part in outside events. On the other hand, they must not neglect their activities in panic.

So while at present the club is apparently going on as before, I am sure no member would have any objection if its activities were cut down because and when the war situation necessitated it.

Colin Roden, EDITOR.

Full Poll results next week. No room now.

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