

NEWSLETTER



An A.F.P.A. Publication, 19 Somerset Place, Melbourne CI

NEWS and VIEWS:

The headlines these days are what 'we' expected to see in the daily news around about now, but now that the time has come when every day a little bit more science fiction becomes science fact you still can't realise that it is fact. Seeing the United States Gemini film on TV tonight was not the letdown that I thought it would be. It was really terrific and I can't wait to see a better version of it in colour and so on as soon as we can get it from the local N.A.S.A. branch. The Russian 'walk' in space was not very clear and I think the American film has had a much bigger impact on everybody. The frontiers of space are slowly but surely being turned back and we are very privileged to be here watching man's greatest adventure. Many people who knock the space program are unable to see the significance of it all. SF has prepared us to a certain degree so please let us be patient with the 'uninitiated'. The fact that we, the Earth, are just a speck of dust on a gigantic plain means nothing to people involved in their everyday efforts to just go on living. What is happening today will have more effect on the people of the future, though we are already beginning to feel the benefits of the space program if only in small ways. Whether we, that is homo sapiens or his descendants, ever do do the things we dream about with the help of our SF authors, we now will never know, but at least we can say we saw the promise of things to come.

Will it ever come to countless worlds populated by people from Earth? Will man ever learn to control his urge to fight with his brothers? To the first question I like to think he will but I also think the basic patterns of man's behaviour will never change, because without them he would not be man and the human race would just stagnate just the same as it will if we don't get off this 'godamn' planet.

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Need we say we told you so Mr Campbell? Very few people liked the large size Analog but we got used to the idea after a while. Now to change it back to the digest size three parts of the way through a five part serial was a filthy trick. The serial 'The Prophet of Dune' is the best thing I have read this year. I have not read anything to beat 'Davy' by Edgar Pangborn as the best novel this year but with the World Convention being held in London this year, we don't know what influence this may have on selection of the Hugo.

We have not seen anything worth mentioning in the SF movie line in Melbourne of late. Two fantasy movies have been shown though and barely rate a mention. 'Gorgon' a Hammer film - I think our censor may be relenting a little though they banned King Kong on tv the other night - is a good example of a weak story well carried out. The plot briefly being about a reincarnation of Medusa's sister Medera if I remember rightly who goes about turning people to stone. The other movie which I do not recommend is SHE with Ursella Andress. If you liked her in Dr No you will like her in this, her costumes were terrific. The effects were fair but nothing startling. The story bore only a slight similarity to the original and was so weak it needed more than crutches to keep it together. Nothing on TV much either of late. Twilight Zone has gone back to the half hour episodes and Outer Limits has finished. Living Doll is a disappointment but we are awaiting JOURNEY to the BOTTOM of the SEA which starts on Channel 9 on Wednesday the 16th of June. It would be MSFClub night!

Nothing further to report on the 7th Australian SF Convention. Everybody will be receiving a report very soon from the organiser John Foyster. One thing we can promise is a very good movie program. I am told we have now over 50 paid up members both here and overseas. Your subscription is needed now! What about sending 15/- to John Foyster at Box 57 Drouin, Victoria.

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