

SOUTH AFRICAN SF FAN CLUB.

NEWSLETTER NO. 2.

Club Name. The voting on the Club name - S.F.S.A. vs Sci-Fi S.A. has been even money so far (11 votes each way.) The closing date has therefore been moved to the day of the Annual General Meeting - October 3.

Annual General Meeting. This will take place on OCTOBER 3 at 8 p.m. at the home of Simon Scott, 5 Jessie Avenue, Norwood, Johannesburg. Refreshments will be served - any eats which members bring along will be welcomed (and eaten!)

Subscriptions. Please send these (those who have not paid yet) to the South African SF Fan Club, 1208 Carter Avenue, Queenswood, Pretoria. The entrance fee is, for adults - R1 each, and the annual subscription R2 per person or married couple. Scholars are entitled to a 50% reduction.

NOTE: AFTER OCTOBER 3, ONLY PAID-UP MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVING CLUB PUBLICATIONS.

Contributions. Members are once again requested to send written contributions - these may be letters giving opinions on any material published in past Newsletters - or on any other topic relevant to SF, reviews on films, books, mags and plays, etc., or even short stories (original ones, please) or articles on Science Fact. Please limit yourself to a maximum of 500 words.

LETTERS: The Editor is pleased to report the receipt of our first letters. Due to space limitations, however, they have been shortened.

"Joe" Hay, Pretoria.

A criticism of the criticism of '2001 - A Space Oddesey' - I feel the critic rather missed the point of the film. The message only came across the second time I saw it.

The opening scene is Prehistoric Man, directionless - a mere animal. Suddenly the plinth of black is set among them - and man advances the great step forward (not taken by any other animal) the use of the first machine - a femur used as a club.

We are brought forward into a world where man could not live without the aid of machines. The finding of the second plinth on the Moon points to the next step in the progress of man. Man and machine have evolved together, so the ultimate man must be accompanied by the ultimate machine - H.A.L. (transpose the letters: H(I) A(E) L(M)!)

Man must confront the machine and defeat it if he is to continue and he does. The sperm-shaped space-ship continues towards giant Jupiter. But the real quest is something only one man can achieve and he should be the

ultimate man.

At Jupiter, the plinth again makes its appearance, hurtling through space - indicating that Man's future knowledge is not to be Earth-bound.

This concept continues- man is reaching his rebirth - the sperm enters the ovum and the old man (the inferior type of man) dies and is reborn, as a concept, a foetus as yet, but already comprehending the whole Solar System. The film ends with the wise young eyes gazing out into eternity.

((I have yet to see it a second time - am looking forward to seeing it with your comments in mind. I wonder how many people realized the significance of the letters HAL - I, for one, did not = ED.))

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Niels Christiansen, Port Elizabeth.

There are three shops I know of in England which specialize in SF books. V. Lay, 52 Oakleigh Gardens, London. N.2. Arthur Ley, 23 Keld Drive, Uckfield, Sussex. Fantast (Medway) Ltd, 75 Norfolk Street, Wisbech, Cambs. England. Upon request, Fantast will open an account for one to make it easier to buy books without constantly sending money over. The shop deals mainly with second-hand books, but also supplies new books. Another suggestion is Ace Publishers in New York. With all these places there are frequent delays due to the amazing regularity in which the dock Workers, postal workers, etc. go out on strike.

I fancy the idea of the annual short story, especially as I have been Chairman or Secretary/Treasurer of the Eastern Province Writer's Club for the past four years.

I have a suggestion as far as the Club is concerned. How about dropping the 'Fan' in the Club's name? Just seems to sound better to me.

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Mark Floyd, Warmbaths.

Regarding the suggested names, I feel that neither of the two titles are fully representative as today's trend is most certainly veering towards the 'light fantastical'. SFSA is concise, but maybe too concise. It is likely that I am among the youngest of the Club, but as time passes there will be more emphasis on the fantastic aspect of SF.

The words 'Science Fiction' and their abbreviation 'Sci-Fi' are reminiscent of little green men and H.G. Wells' school of thought. Besides, man has reached the Moon, so space travel no longer holds the mystery of 10 yrs ago. We are in a progressive age - so why not be progressive?

It is my contention that the word 'Fantasy' should be incorporated in the title of a club formed along modern lines. Furthermore, the trend in reading habits favours not only the hypothetical, but the unknown.

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SF IN THE U.K.

by: A.B. Ackerman.

(Mr. Ackerman is the S.A. agent for the B.S.F.A. and if anyone is interested, they may contact him at P.O. Box 6, Daggafontein, Transvaal. The following article is printed with acknowledgements to the B.S.F.A. for permission to use the information.)

Organized SF in the U.K. is on two levels.

(a) Local clubs in the cities and large towns. There are not many!

(b) National level: The B.S.F.A., mainly U.K., but with members from many parts of the world. It has, I think, about 400 members.

The Association is incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee, under the title of "The British Science Fiction Association Limited". The controlling body is called the "Management Council", and has the powers of a Board of Directors.

The Chairman is Bruce Montgomery, better known under his pseudonym of Edmund Crispin. Other well-known members of the Council are: Brian Aldiss, Kenneth Bulmer, Dan Morgan and E.C. Tubb.

The B.S.F.A. has three publications: a regular Bulletin of up-to-the-minute news, an approximately quarterly magazine 'Vector' and the excellent 'SF Writer's Bulletin', a quarterly publication by and for authors. 'Vector' has critical comments of SF in general and also features book reviews.

Various services are offered to the members, such as the tape-response section. Apart from message passing, special tapes of plays, serials, etc. are available for sale or hire. There is also a SF magazine on tape.

An Information service answers questions about SF, Fantasy and related matters.

'O.M.P.A.' the 'Off-trail Magazine Publishers Association', members of which receive and comment on each other's publications.

Then there is the 'Central Contributors Pool', the purpose of which is to provide editors with material for their fanzines and to help contributors place their work, art, poetry, stories, articles, etc.

The B.S.F.A. also organises an annual SF Convention. The 1969 event, called the "Galactis Fair", was held in London over Easter. The programme included discussions and speeches by both professional SF writers and publishers and amateurs. SF films were shown, art shows held and a museum of the future - the latest technical marvels; lasers, computers, rocketry, etc.

A great deal of socialising took place at events

such as the "Cosmic Carnival" - a costume ball (?) with drinking, dancing, dalliance, cabaret, competition, comestibles... The grand climax was a Banquet held on the Sunday evening, featuring the Guest of Honour's speech, (By Judith Merrill, the first ever woman GoH) and the presentation of the '69 British Fantasy Award.

A major international SF Convention (HEICON '70) will be held in Heidelberg, Germany, from 21 - 24 August 1970. If anyone is interested in attending I'll try to get details of registration, etc. This Con may be the next WorldCon, depending on the voting at the '69 WorldCon at St. Louis.

SF is taken seriously in the U.K. A long series of lectures on SF will be given at London University by Philip Strick of the British Film Institute.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1969 AT THE HOME OF SIMON SCOTT, 5 JESSIE AVENUE, NORWOOD, JOHANNESBURG, AT 8 P.M.

Pretoria members who would like transport to the Meeting, please contact Tex Cooper, phone 9-1733.

Will those members who will be attending, please let Simon know. Phone 728-1777. Those who will not be attending, please send your apologies.

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To get to Simon's place: Travelling from North to South along Louis Botha Avenue. Turn RIGHT into Louis Road. This is the robot at the ORANGE GROVE STER CINEMA. Continue along Louis Road for EIGHT blocks. At the eighth block, turn LEFT into Jessie Avenue. Cross THREE streets. Simon's place is on the RIGHT HAND SIDE.

If you will not be able to attend the Meeting and would like any suggestion or complaint discussed at the Meeting, please let Tex know in good time. Please try to attend.

Remember, eats would be appreciated. So bring your fish and chips and share them with the rest of us.

We have the nucleus of a lending library in the form of Fanzines from America, as well as a few books. You will hear more about this after the Annual General Meeting.

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