

THE WASTE MAKERS.

As I am unaccustomed to writing, let alone writing sub-editorials, I attempted to obtain some assistance. All my friends and acquaintances quailed at the enormity of this request and suggested that I hie myself along to the editorial offices of the local rag and prevail upon them to write the sub-editorial for me.

Time, however, shortens, so it has become incumbent upon me to write this with no assistance at all. This fact will be readily apparent to the least discerning reader as he, she or it (for extra-planet readers) continues following these lines of excellent Xerox-ed print.

Designers are playing a major part in the proliferation of waste in our society. All life is bound by certain ecological laws pertaining to the use of materials and their subsequent disposal as waste products.

When Ug, way back in the dawn of Man, fouled up his cave to the extent that he didn't like it any more, he was able to move to another cave.

Now that we are more civilised, we have garbage collections, city dumps, sewage systems, etc., for the disposal of waste. Man no longer moves himself to escape his waste, he moves his waste away.

This is an improvement over the practice of having to change residence every so often and leaving behind an uninhabitable mess.

Designers are now aggravating this waste problem enormously by constantly re-designing and re-modelling existing equipment and incorporating built-in obsolescence factors. Manufacturers employ designers for economic reasons and are forced to have them, because of competition. We have been, for so long, exposed to advertising that exhorts us to purchase NEW goods that reason, in most cases, is no longer the arbiter, but rather, "What will the Joneses think if I keep my old car, even though it's still going strong?"

Disposal of waste products is now a major world-wide problem. Industrial effluents are poisoning our rivers and coastal areas, and upsetting the delicate marine ecological balance necessary for life-maintenance. Smoke and exhaust fumes are poisoning our atmosphere and have already had measurable effects upon temperatures all over Earth.

Nuclear waste products are being dumped, radio-active ton after radio-active ton, in the sea. One effect of this has been to cause total disruption of the life-cycle of the Australian turtle, which now has percentages of radio-active elements in its shell several orders of magnitude higher than it had forty years ago.

Even beyond the atmosphere we have a veritable junkyard of rocket and satellite debris. The U.S. spends a great deal of money simply to keep track of this whirling confusion.

So, next time a market researcher knocks on your door and asks you what improvements you would like in your next washing machine, motor car or tube of toothpaste, remember - You are helping the designers foul up Your fair planet!

Despite the gloomy tenor of the waste problem, your sub-editor wishes you all a Happy Christmas and a Resolute New Year.

Colin Mallinick.

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A REQUEST:

Please address all correspondence concerning the Newsletter to - The Editor, 5 Jessie Avenue, Norwood, JHB.

DEAR ED., (Even though my name is Mary.)

P.C. Wagener, University College, Fort Hare, C.P.

In your editorial, "What is Science Fiction", you state that Science Fiction generally concerns the events that could take place in the future. This is the view generally held and which, especially in scientifically-minded circles, often brings discredit to Science Fiction. Speculation on the future allows too much scope for exaggerated phenomena where the author tries to impress with weird inventions rather than with the subtlety of an idea.

My own preference is for a story which shows what extra-ordinary events can be constructed solely from our present scientific knowledge. Descriptions of the future must evolve from our present situation and all events must have a logical foundation. This is, of course, personal taste, being scientifically trained. But it is really delightful to see what twists can be given to our present theories and which then result in the most bizarre conclusions.

Could any reader propose an acceptable translation of "Science Fiction" in Afrikaans?

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Joyce Burton, P.O. Box 9811, JHB.

Thanks for the latest Newsletter. I think Simon's article on fluorine is masterly and for the first time I have a clear idea of what it is - sounds pretty deadly to me.

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KEVIN McDonnell, Paxvillia, Gardens, CAPE TOWN.

I'd like to bring up a few points. We have a thirty strong membership. This is too few. How about advertising? A concerted letter writing attack on local newspapers, a few strategically placed classified ads, word of mouth. How about holding some outdoor mini conventions? Let the people know by putting up posters and distributing pamphlets. How? you may wonder. Well, I have a duplicator and can turn out whatever is required. Let's have the Newsletter at least bi-monthly. One final request: I wish to buy 'Amazing', 'Fantastic', 'If', 'Galaxy', 'Analog', New Worlds and any old pulp magazines. Anyone wishing to comply, please send dates of magazines offered. Thanks.

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Bernie Ackerman, P.O. Box 6, Daggafontein, TVL.

Regarding the proposed lending library, I feel that this will be one of our Club's greatest drawcards. A way to get books, apart from member's donations, might be to get in touch with publishers in S.A., tell them of our aims and existence and offer to review new books in our newsletter, when they might donate such books to our library.

Another service the Club could perform is to set up a Magazine Chain. The idea is like this: The Club subscribes to one or more magazine. Each mag. goes the round of interested members, who pay a nominal yearly fee as well as the postage to the next 'chainee'. What do you think?

Regarding the 'Swap Column', I think a better idea is to allow members to insert their own free, small-ads, advertising anything they like in the SF or Fantasy line. One needn't sell such things of course, if you merely want to give them away.

I would also like to drop the Fan from the name and rather than use 'Club' would like to see 'Society'. To me Fantasy is even more reminiscent of little green men and BEM. What about S.A.S.F.S/A. South African Speculative Fiction Society or Association?

Most people are wary of putting themselves forward. Perhaps they think their ideas are old hat, etc. I feel this way too, but realise that unless our Club gets plenty of ideas

for services to its members, it may fade away. The Club must provide not only a meeting-place for SF fans, but also solid, money-saving services.

A few points strike me about Newsletter No. 3. Surely over R22 for, so far, two Newsletters is very high. At this rate the remaining R41 will not last very long. What about using both sides of the paper? The paper even seems high quality. I understand many churches have a roneo machine and will print for outside groups quite cheaply.

The Secretary/Treasurer.

I am sure that more of our members have the same forebodings regarding the cost of printing of Newsletters as Bernie has. Thus a few words of explanation are needed. Firstly, the R22 is not only for two newsletters, but also includes the cost of printing Application forms, Minutes of the inaugural meeting, stationary and postage. By publishing a Newsletter every two months, we should have a balance of approx. R10 at the end of the year, assuming no increase in membership. As far as printing on both sides of the paper is concerned, the cost is exactly the same. The firm that does the printing discourages it as it is extra trouble for them. At the present moment, I have not been able to find out about the roneo machines. If they do work out much cheaper maybe we can overcome the difficulties involved.

The following letter was received from America.
Mark Owings, 2486 Elm Place, Bronx, New York, 10458, U.S.A.

I am involved in listing all books about Science Fiction. Bibliographies, indexes and literary criticism. Would you know of, and could you send me information on any S.A. indexes to prozines or author bibliographies? Do you know of any general books on Science Fiction? To be listed, an item should be a separate book or pamphlet and not an article in a magazine or one chapter in a book.

Any member that is able to help, please contact Tex,

Please note the following change of addresses:
 Tertius du Plessis, 412 Rosemary Avenue, Lynnwood, PRETORIA.
 Ashley Pease, 3 Robinson Street, CAPE TOWN.

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER.

Every so often your Chairman is persuaded against his better judgement to interfere in the able activities of our Editor - until now with no unpleasant consequences - but should this occasional feature of the Newsletter suddenly be discontinued together with the appearance of my obituary notice, this may be interpreted as a drastic change in the composition of your Committee. But, I'll take a chance.

At this time of the year many of us will be looking back over the year with many various emotions. (Typically: "Thank goodness. 1969 is almost over." Or: "I hope 1970 is another good year.") But, whatever your personal feelings may be (Mine: "B... Stock Exchange.") I think that all SF fans must agree that this has been a wonderful year for us.

From the world-wide point of view, of course, the launching and landing of Apollo 11 and 12 were the great events. But, on the local scene, I think that the launching of S.F.S.A. was an event of almost equal importance, albeit of a totally different nature. Let's all do our utmost to ensure a successful landing.

REMEMBER THAT THE SUCCESS OF S.F.S.A. DEPENDS

MORE ON THE ENTHUSIASM OF IT'S MEMBERS THAN ON IT'S COMMITTEE - LET'S HEAR FROM YOU ALL.

Sketches of possible emblems appear elsewhere in this Newsletter for your comment and VOTE!!

Best wishes to you all for a joyous Festive Season and a very prosperous New Year.

P.S.

Before reporting any U.F.O.s or little green men, I suggest a good night's sleep and gallons of black coffee.

~~~~~ Robbie.

### S.F. MAGAZINES.

Not many people that I've met who read Science Fiction, have a liking for S.F. magazines. The usual argument is: The magazine only contains short stories and no decent novel.

Magazines do have short stories, but, a great many novels make their debut there, prior to book publication. Not only that, they receive added enhancement by being liberally illustrated, usually by fine artists. If that isn't enough, one enjoys the various departments, i.e. Letter section - there ain't nothing like a letter page. Oft times it's more interesting than the stories. Books, movies, Fanzines and general Fandom reviews not only give immense satisfaction, but, they help one keep a finger on the pulse of current news, trends and writings. Some mags even feature a classified ads section where many a bargain or titbit of information may be gathered. Added to this, what's wrong with a short story? One gets all this for, often, less than the price of a p.b. novel.

It's all a matter of taste, I suppose, but, for better or worse, here is a summary and general review of various, current S.F. Magazines. (N.B. The order in which they are reviewed does not denote quality or popularity, they appear merely as they came to mind.)

#### No. 1. : IF.

According to S.F. REVIEW, one of the top Fanzines, IF is a slightly juvenile magazine. I have yet to define as to what the word applies to in this field. However, the 'Zine in question offers the following:

A battery of short stories, a smaller battery of novelettes and a serialised novel. The usual assortment of departments are also prevalent, mainly, at most times, a good editorial, an apology for a letter page, a pleasant book review feature resided over by Lester del Rey and, of late, some quite factual fact articles. The various writers it features are usually all big names. However, the magazine has a policy of featuring a new, first time published writer each month to give new and younger blood a chance. A fine idea. (So c'mon all you budding souls with a story to tell, like make with the story scene, here's your chance.)

Jack Gaughan, current Art Director for IF, is responsible for most, not all, of the artwork. I mean self-contributed work, not chosen from contributions. Jack has obtained Hugo Awards for best Pro Artist and although I personally do not like his style, it has something, and judging from his Fanzine letters, he is one hell of a nice guy.

The Editorship recently changed from Fredric Pohl to Ejler Jakobsson, although, I believe, Pohl still exerts some influence. Changes can definitely be noticed, a crisper appearance, I think. Not that the mag did not do well under Pohl, it won four successive Hugos for Best Mag. It missed this year, the award going to Fantasy and Science Fiction.

It is an Old Wave 'Zine. Traditional SF that is opposed, sometimes vehemently, to current New Wave prevalent in Britain. To sum up: WORLDS OF IF, to give its full title, is a good, sometimes very good, magazine. The usual inconsistencies, as in anything, can be found if looked for.

It is not my favourite mag, but try it, you may not

be disappointed. The price: 50c per copy. Published monthly. A tip: It's quite a bit cheaper to subscribe direct.

Kevin MacDonnell.

The above is the first in a series of Articles. The second part of the series will appear in the next Newsletter. That is, if it arrives on time.

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SF IN THE U.K.

Probably the biggest news in Europe is that the Heidelberg Con. is to be the 1970 WorldCon after all, it being so voted at the '69 St. Louis WorldCon. Details are rather sparse at present.

A coach trip to and from Heidelberg is being arranged for U.K. fen, departing 16th, returning 29th August. The cost will be approximately £20, covering overnight stops and meals.

Arrangements for the BSFA EasterCon '70 include a panel chaired by Dr. Kit Pedler, on the need for a science ombudsman and a talk by Harvey Matusow, founder of the Society for the Abolition of Computers.

Other BSFA news: A reference library to gather under one roof as much bibliographical material as possible, and also to assemble a library of important SF and Fantasy literature for reference and research purposes. A ramification is the 'BBB' or 'BSFA Bibliographer Board'. This is to take the form of a chain letter circulating among 6 or so people.

Club members may be interested in hearing of similar groups in the U.K. One is being started in Oxford. Cambridge University has a SF Society. Another is in Stevenage, Herts.

Details of a series of lectures by Philip Strick are at hand. They will be delivered in London at the City Literary Institute. About 20 are planned, the pattern being one hour of Strick-chat (Stricktutes?) followed by an hour of free discussion. In addition to such things as the nature, future, etc. of SF, detailed talks cover all the more well-known authors.

The first issue of the eagerly awaited British/Australian SF Magazine, "VISION OF TOMORROW" is out. 64 pages 8" x 11". It has been well received by all accounts.

Dealers in SF: J. Barnicoat (Falmouth) Ltd, Box 11, Falmouth, Cornwall. No catalogues. Often has out-of-print Books.

Premier Book Centres Ltd, 476 Chiswick High Rd, London W.4.

Plus Books Ltd, 19 Abbey Parade, Merton High Street, London S.W.19.

The BSFA has set up a checklist Foundation, which has compiled a list of most wanted. In the Magazine field, ANALOG, GALAXY, NEW WORLDS and MAG. OF F & SF head the list. A.C. Clarke, C.D. Simak and E.F. Russell were top of the author pops. Nearly 60 authors were asked for. All will be dealt with eventually.

There are some very interesting articles in VECTOR 53. The Editor points out that anyone who has ever argued the case for SF invariably ends up on the defensive and says part of the trouble is that people still have the mid '50's view of SF as a juvenile thing of no literary merit, unable to stand up alongside general fiction. He says that if we want SF to be read by all, we should drop the name. Let the books get independent reviews and maybe all the trash will disappear.

Another contributor approaches from the direction of 'we should classify SF.' Mainstream is about things that can happen in everyday life. The character/plots are drawn from life. The main concern is the way people react to each other. SF is more difficult. It is not limited to science, nor in plot, nor in characterisation. Even the style may vary.

A tentative definition of SF was established, namely that it constituted stories which explored the possibilities

Then, along came 'new wave' and upset all the standards. Now science is relegated to the background and style is the important thing. In fact, speculative, not science fiction.

He cannot accept fiction which speculates without providing some kind of solid framework. One is left with the investigation of pure thought, imagination and emotions with no rational limitations. This he objects to. . It is no longer SF. We must lay down a boundary line - decide and make clear just where SF differs from Fantasy.

It is Brian Aldiss's opinion that the generation gap is splitting the field. The older writers believe in the machine and its technology to pull us through to some sort of Utopian world. The 'younger' writers tend to be more cynical, sceptical of technology and its effects. But, Harry Harrison proclaims, no clash. The old and new are merely different facets. "There is no new wave, save in the eye of the beholder. Some writers are experimenting but then, some have always done so."

I could fill another half-dozen pages from VECTOR, but I think our Editor is already cursing.

(My grateful acknowledgement to the BSFA Ltd, its Editors and contributors for making the above article possible. Any errors and omissions are mine, of course.)

We must apologise to Bernie for having to shorten his article. Unfortunately space ran out on us.

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NOTE: Should any further details, addresses, etc. be required in connection with the above article, please write to: P.O. BOX 6, Daggafontein, Transvaal.

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The following member is welcomed to the Club:

Henry Crawley, Bantu Affairs Commissioner, Private Bag,
STERKSPRUIT, C.P.

Our thanks to John Lyle who recruited the above member.
Other members note. How about the same?

%..%..%..%..%..%..%..%..%..%..%..%..%..%..%..%

Ex Libris. Attached is a list of books at present stocked by the library. We are now open for business. One request: Please address all correspondence in connection with the library to Tex. Other correspondence in connection with the Newsletter must be sent to the Editor, 5 Jessie Ave, Norwood.

[illegible]

EMBLEM: You will find five suggested emblems attached. Members are requested to vote on the one they would prefer. The following rules apply to voting. Please read them carefully.

1. Each member must vote for three emblems.
Mark your choices 1st, 2nd, 3rd. Only give the numbers of
the emblems.

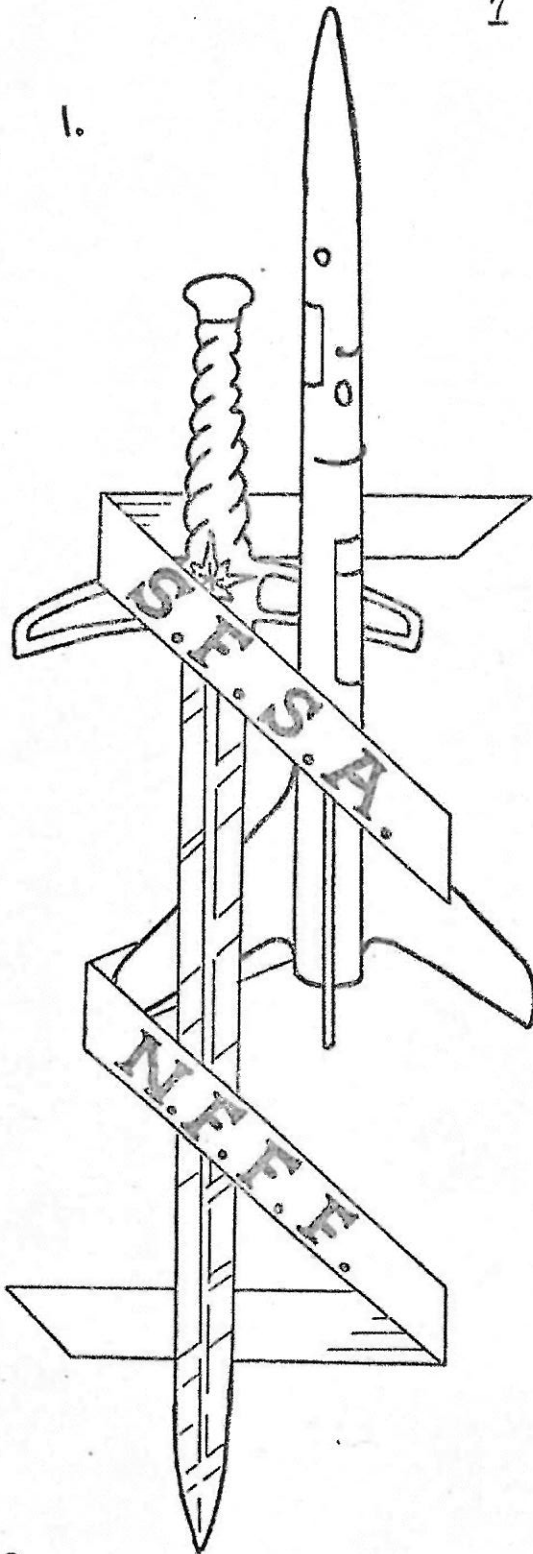
2. A points system will be used to determine the result. Every 1st gets 3 points. 2nd gets 2 points and 3rd gets 1 point. The greatest number of points will be the chosen emblem. In the event of a tie, number of 1sts or 2nds will be the decider.

3. Voting will definitely close on January 9, 1970. So, please get your votes in early. Remember this is YOUR Club and this will be YOUR emblem, so pour in the votes.

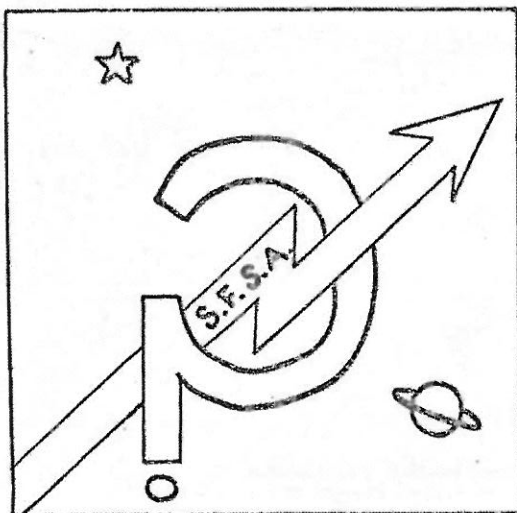
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HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU.

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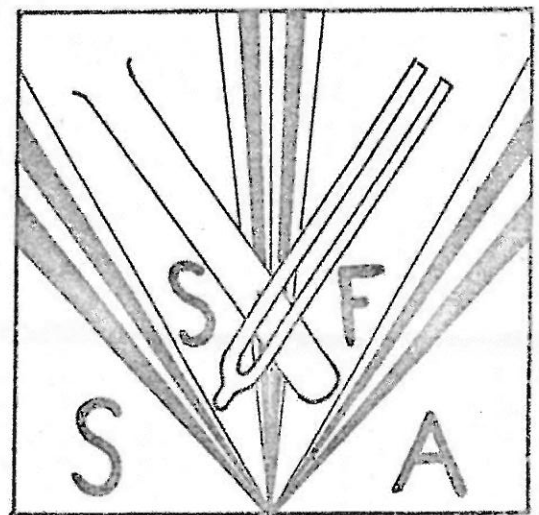
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My humble apologies to the artists for the terrible reproduction of your sketches. I hope that you won't be offended. Well, let's see those votes.

TEX.