

FUTURIAN OBSERVER

No. 9.

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LATEST ON THE BAN:- No important developments have taken place since the last issue of OBS. It is interesting, however, to note some of the methods being made to overcome this obstacle. Firstly, we have been informed by several bookstall proprietors that a protest has been lodged by the N.S.W. Newsagent's Association, and the suggestion made that only a cut of 10% be enforced. When this is refused, as expected, then the Newsagent's Association will "compromise", and "modify" its demands to a 20% cut. The Government cannot ignore this offer and will probably (yes, only "probably") suggest a 50% or even only a 25% cut. Secondly newspapers report that thousands of letters have poured in to the Government from all parts of the Commonwealth protesting against the ban. This may have some result as elections are in the offing! We can only wait and hope.

FAN ACTION!:- Already science fiction fans have leapt to the attack and a number of letters have appeared in the evening paper, THE SUN, which has the largest circulation of any Australian daily. These letters are advocating an Australian sf magazine --- and the readiness with which this publication prints these has led to some optimism that possibly that company may enter the field! So far, letters from L. Sinclair of Waverly, "Two Others" of Edgecliffe, "Vomoswoth" (Vol Molesworth), and Bert F. Castellari have appeared. According to advice received from inside the SUN office, (Molesworth, Friedlander, Castellari, Collins and Jefferys all work there), more letters are awaiting publication. So far, attempts to operate on the TELEGRAPH and other leading papers have failed, but Futurians are now preparing for a concentrated attack on the former paper, advanced letters of which have already been mailed.

FROM KEITH MOXON:- (This is taken from a personal letter. We hope you don't mind Keith!):
"This magazine ban!! Isn't it awful!! Disgusting!! Obnoxious!! Now this is what I suggest you do, Bill. In your capacity as Director of the FUTURIAN SOCIETY of SYDNEY, write to each of the science fiction magazines and tell them that after the war is over to forward their monthly magazines semi-monthly until all the past issues are used up, and the dates are again back to normal. A crude way of putting it, but can you understand what I mean? If you don't, I certainly will!"

TO WHICH WE REPLY:- An excellent idea and we certainly shall try it, but it is doubtful if the U.S. companies would hold up thousands of magazines per month for possibly several years, on the remote possibility of selling them. After all, back issues are obtainable from the magazines' subscription departments.

NEWS ABOUT THE "MOXON MAG":- Owing to the increase in the price of material, and the poor response to his circular, Keith Moxon regrets to announce that his proposed new publication will be mimeographed, and not lithographed as previously announced. However, an attempt will be made to increase the number of pages and even possibly other improvements will be made before the finished magazine appears. Incidentally, if you wish to support this ambitious venture with material or subscriptions, then write to J. Keith Moxon, C/- Y.M.C.A., Edwards Street, Brisbane, Queensland, or if you reside in Sydney, to the editors of OBS, and information will be gladly given.

F S S NEWS:- On Sunday 25th April the Futurian Society of Sydney its ninth meeting, at the home of Ronald B. Levy in Randwick. The meeting commenced at 2.40 and, as is usual, the minutes of the previous meeting were read by the secretary.

The first important point brought up for discussion was that of the F.S.S. Becoming affiliated with SUPERSCIENCE STORIES' Sciencefictioneers. Everyone agreed on this point and the addresses of members were taken to be forwarded to Frederik Pohl for membership cards. Pohl had stated in a letter to Director that as SUPERSCIENCE STORIES might not be released in Australia the application forms would not have to be attached. Incidentally, these addresses have since been sent. Next item was the election of Noel Dwyer and Keith Hooper to membership. This was carried unanimously.

Then came the only unpleasant part of the meeting. This was the settlement of Vol Molesworth's reasons for resignation. After a deal of discussion the situation became very mixed, so it was decided to contact Molesworth for his side of it. Having argued with him for some 15 minutes over the 'phone the case became very much more mixed, so it was decided that Molesworth, who intended to make an application to become a member again, should be present as a guest at the next meeting to stand his chance for re-election. Molesworth said he would be present and was satisfied with this decision.

The question of what will be done now that the ban on magazines has been imposed was then brought up and many interesting (and annoying) points were brought to light. A statement that the United States will not accept money orders from the British Empire was proved wrong just recently, but at the time of the meeting it had the members worried. The decision to get the magazines through the British Science Fiction Service was about the only possible solution brought to light, apart from that of changing British mags for American mags through American correspondents. Magazines for the library will be obtained from the BSFS and Forrest J. Ackerman's Fantascience Field. Also any other services which may exist. The fact that a Sydney company was thinking of sending to Canada for the magazines proved to be news to some members.

The club will in future hold bi-weekly meetings beginning on the first Sunday afternoon and the third Wednesday night of every month. Director Veney said that the Wednesday night would probably all be held at his home, but this is not yet certain. Eric Russell's quiz was found to be rather hard this time, but all the same, it was entertaining. WDV's team won over BFC's team with 16 points to 5 points. Though lagging at some times the meeting progressed in a very orderly manner, everyone acting in co-operation. Refreshments were welcomed and after this the final item on the meeting agenda commenced.

This was the discussion on the works of Stanley G. Weinbaum. It drifted many times to scientific arguments, all the result of points noted in some story of SGW's. However, it was most enjoyable. . .The fact that letters regarding the ban on magazines and in particular stf magazines had appeared in the SUN brought about a decision among members to deluge the papers with letters.

NOTES:- Keith Hooper and Ralph A. Smith have stated that they are building a model rocket ship which will incorporate a new idea they have discovered. . .Several magazines were given to Librarian Ronald B. Levy as donations to the library. . .RBL said he was glad to say there was a small balance left over from the first amount of subscriptions collected. . .Eric Russell may be able to bring along a new fan, Bruce Sawyer, to the next meeting. . .David R. Evans will, according to Vomawoth, be present at the next meeting also. . .Next meeting by the way, is on Wednesday, May 15th.

<p>STOP PRESS:- We have already stated that despite increasing difficulties we will carry on! Leo Margulies has helped make our task easier.</p>	<p>Futurian OBSERVER: (9). issued fortnightly from 10a Sully Street , Randwick, NSW. Singles – 2d. 7 for 1/- or 20 cents. A V-C Publication.</p>
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