FUTURIAN OBSERVER

NO.19. 22And September, 1940. 2d

OBSERVATIONS: (by Vol Molesworth.) Australian fandom is entering a new era. With the resignations of Smith and Hooper, the likely suspension of the Futurian Society of Sydney and one general unsettled atmosphere, comes the time to draw two neat lines under the pages in Australian Fan History devoted to the last era. But we have learnt by our mistakes in the past, and so we may assuredly expect a rosier time in the new era.

We have sifted the casuals and sadists from our ranks. We have run fan mags, some failing, other succeeding. We have made true friends and deadly enemies. In other words, we have matured. From the last era there remains a few scattered fragments of its creation.

We find William D. Veney, Bert F. Castellari, and Ronald B. Levy with their two publications, OBSERVER and ZEUS. We have Eric F. and Edward H. Russell and their ULTRA. And we find your author undecided as to publishing LUNA and/or COSMOS. A few bedraggled fans also survive, but as a whole the more active ones are sick and tired of wasting their spare time, cash, and energy on an unappreciative, egotistical pack of casuals.

And so we have decided to try the policy of self-preservation. To succeed, we must be selfish. A caucus of fans was held and it has been decided to form The Fantasy Club, a clique of real fans which will not number among its ranks casuals or semi-adventurists.

And so the Fantasy Club is on its way, with a membership of six – Levy, Castellari, Veney, EFRussell, Molesworth, and EHRussell. Small but secure – and scientifictionally important. Director: self. Secretary: Ronald B. Levy.

A new club, another trend – another fanmag! The TFC Bulletin is also on its way – a six page maglet with each member writing one page. But this is unimportant. And why write on the Fantasy Club as only a select few will be offered membership?

I suppose I had better conclude – but I cannot resist a crack – you fans and casuals who have caused so much trouble – won't be troubled by an offer of membership.

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KEITH MOXON'S ILLNESS:- The following letter was received this week from Brisbane: “This is to notify you that Keith Moxon has been suffering from a relapse after a severe bout of pneumonia. Unable to continue his activities, both personal and professional, as he has been removed to a rest home on the coast for a few months, he has asked me to communicate with each one of his correspondents. Mr Moxon has requested me to tender his humblest apologies for any confusion and delay occasioned by his silence, and to say that his incapacitation is only temporary and that he will soon be with you again per medium of his letters. He does not want to lose touch, however, and has made a request that you continue to drop him a line occasionally to the old address and they will be forwarded onto him. As soon as the doctor will permit him, he assures you that replies will be forthcoming.

“It is only last week that he was sufficiently well enough to make this request to communicate with you. At present Mr Moxon is a very sick man, but as said before, he will be”

(Continued over page.)

MOXON'S ILLNESS: (Cont.) "back on the job as soon as circumstances permit. Thanking you, I remain , His friend, (Miss) L. York"

We are indeed sorry to hear that Keith is so ill and hope he will soon be well again. Our thanks to Miss York for her kindness in communicating with us regarding Keith's position. Most certainly we shall continue to maintain contact, and it is hoped that fans will not neglect to send copies of their magazines to JKM.

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Correction: The name of the club mentioned on page one has been changed to "The Science-Fantasy Club".

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JOTTINGS: Many fans have been writing in Le Zombie lately on dens, which they inhabit. Judging from what's been written, some of them indulge in nurseries, not dens!!. . .Two members of the FSS stood on Coogee Beach. A number of barking, biting dogs attracted their attention. Said one: "Look, an FSS meeting!". . .And on looking over things in general, we have come to the conclusion that there is only one thing to be done with the brains of the FSS – fry them!!. . .Name of a candidate for the Watson Electorate (Randwick, Coogee etc) is Dick Wilson. No reports of Lowndes, Wollheim, etc etc.

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To The Smart Alec Who Said We Should Now Try New Fandom:- Remember that the Futurians have a purpose – an aim! New Fandom has a dictator!

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FUTURIAN SOCIETY SUSPENDED!! The scene at the eighteenth meeting of the Futurian Society of Sydney would have given any outsider the impression of absolute boredom. For the faces of the members showed nothing but disinterestedness and some even appeared to be asleep! And it was not for no reason at all that this attitude was adopted. The plain facts of the matter amounted to this: During the last few months the Society has been aimless! Most proposals have been squelched, and, even with the change in the Executive Committee, there has been nothing to keep members interested. As a result everyone is fed up.

When David R. Evans became Director he asserted that he would use some form of dictatorial power on the FSS. He has attempted to apply these powers but, quite evidently, the members do not like them. This, added to already general disinterest, has been more or less responsible for a drift. Vol Molesworth showed that that he was fed up by walking out on the position of Secretary. During the proceedings at the eighteenth meeting Bert F. Castellari proposed that the Society be dissolved. William D. Veney promptly stated that it was not actually dissolution that was necessary and proposed suspension for a short period. Castellari agreed to the amendment and later in the evening the motion was carried. The Futurian Society will not meet again until its First Anniversary meeting in November.

The editors of this publication will print the following statements which they feel should be made public: The members' ages in the Futurian Society range from 16 years to 18 years, some going on for 19 years. They have been acquainted with adult science fiction fans and have got on well with them. However, none of these adults have had the time to join and take part in the activities of the Futurian Society though many have wished they could. The first adult member in the Futurian Society was David R. Evans. When with other adult fans we have felt more or less as their equals and have been treated as such. David R. Evans, we are sorry to say, has treated us as his inferiors! We realise, of course, that Evans has seen much more of life and world than have we. But when he entered the Futurian Society and treated us like this he took the wrong attitude, and we therefore took the wrong attitude towards him! The editors feel that, in a way, this whole matter could be cleared up! We should therefore like to hear from all Sydney fans on the matter, particularly the members of the Futurian Society

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