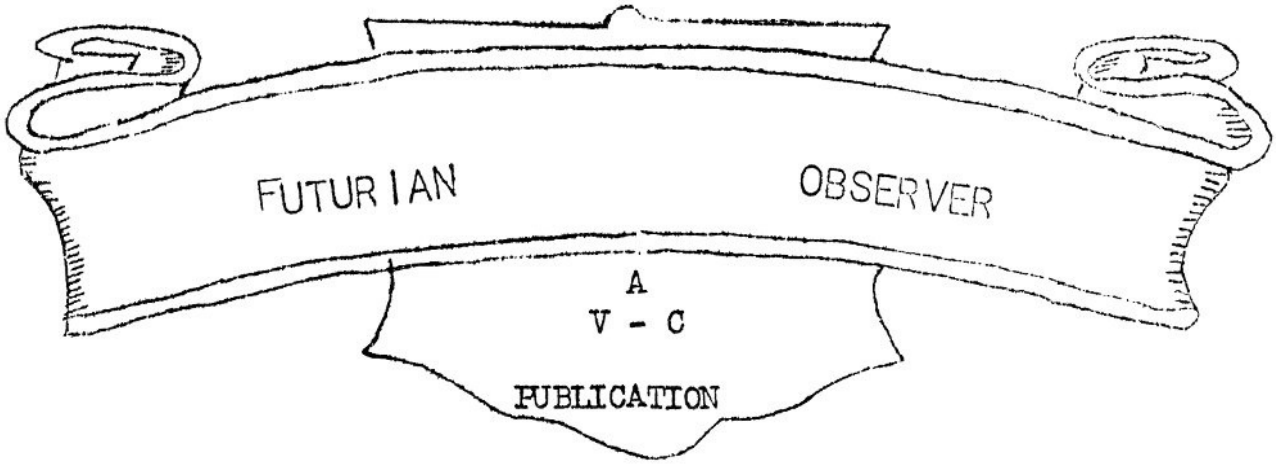

NO. 22. 3rd November, 1940.

FUTURIAN SOCIETY OF SYDNEY - - ONE YEAR

The Futurian Society of Sydney has now completed its first year of existence. There were no celebrations and no conferences to commemorate this event. Not even a general fan rally, with possible exception of a gathering at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital when Vol Molesworth, Bert F. Castellari and William D. Veney chewed the rag over the past years activity. Only apathy, disinterestedness and personal feuding marked the date of Australia's oldest and best known fan organisation's birthday.

But now that is past, thank goodness, and instead of looking back over the errors and mistakes of yesteryear let us look ahead to the new, virile and re-organised Futurian Society of Sydney that is about to enter fan activities with a wealth of experience at its fingertips. There are many problems to be solved, many wounds to be healed, but we are confident that a permanent solution will be found, enabling us to proceed rapidly with much needed progressive discussion. Briefly we will review the situation as it stands.

The FSS officially has thirteen members, but actually has about eight. Two fans, Keith Hooper and Ralph A. Smith had announced their resignations before the disintegration, but for some reason their names had been left on the club register by Director Evans. Also, Director Evans himself, has announced his resignation, but this cannot be recognised until a new executive is elected to the vacated positions. Len C. Stubbs hasn't communicated with any fans for about three months so it seems as though he is out. And finally, via Bruce M. Sawyer, we hear Eric F. Russell will not occupy the position of secretary allotted to him by Evans. In short, the club is leaderless, is holding no meetings, and for all intents and purposes, nonexistent.

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The club is being called together by William D. Veney and in all probability the next (19th) meeting will be held at 10a Sully Street, Randwick, on the evening of Friday, November 29th. Only a few members will be invited and even all these may not be present at future meetings. There is to be stricter control on the entry of new members, and these, along with present members desiring to remain within, must come up to a standard in regards to the basic essentials required for an active participant in club affairs. No more slackers are wanted. For a club to be successful it must be capable of maintaining the interest of members all the time, and for us to be able to do this we must have fans who are interested in similar topics without making disgusting gestures and yawns or indulging in some form of idiotic tom-foolery.

There is little further that remains to be said except to point out an odd coincidence. Before the FSS disintegrated Director Evans' last act was to appoint Eric F. Russell his secretary. Now, with Smith, Dwyer, Hooper and, we assume, Teddy Russell and Colin Roden, both these fans are “out”. We wonder if their previous bombastic utterances about “unity” and “organisation” had any backing or were merely so much hot air and actually their entire policy of fan development depended upon the solidarity and support of the Veney-Castellari-Levy triumvirate.

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ITEMS:- Reviews of "1,000,000 B.C." in daily and weekly papers provided mixed opinions. Some treated it favourably, some unfavourably, others treated it similar to "Tarzan" films.

"Sunday Sun" gave a favourable review to "The Last Man" stf book by Alfred Noyes.

Posters for "1,000,000 B.C." and "Turnabout" were placed side by side in Sydney recently. Possibly the only other time this has been done with fantasy films was when "Things to Come" and "The Tunnel" appeared.

Thank you to the following editors for the continued reciprocation of their mags for OBS (overseas eds this is):- Harry Warner Jr, Bob Tucker, Vincent Manning, J. Michael Rosenblum and Paul Freehafer. Thass all!! (All others kindly take the hint!)

Corrections to items in the last issue:- ZEUS should have been priced at 4d. Not 6d. As we stated last ish. Americans will be unable to purchase cheaper than 3 for 25 cents. 'Twill be worth it too! . .Editor Ronald B. Levy, by the way, does not go into military camp until December and at Long Bay, not the Showground. . .

This being the first Anniversary of the Futurian Society may we mention one very interesting point which has cropped up in the course of discussion recently. Of the members who are – or rather – were pro-"new"-Amazing only one ever lasted. The rest have at some time or other quit. To quote D.R.Evans:- "Such inconsistency."

We recollect a statement by Chas. S. Mustchin of Coolangatta, Queensland, to the effect that he would be in Sydney in October or November. What's happened Chas?

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Futurian OBSERVER:- This is number 21 and as always comes from 10a Sully Street, Randwick, Sydney, NSW, Australia. Editors are William D. Veney and Bert F. Castellari. 2d per single copy – 7 for 1/- and lowest acceptable from Americans is 7 for 20 cents. .

NEW FANS REPLACE EX-FANS

During the rather erratic course of the history of the Futurian Society of Sydney quite a number of fans have come and gone. Just before the Society's suspension in September we lost Ralph A. Smith, Keith Hooper, Noel Dwyer and one or two others. After the last meeting of the Society David R. Evans stated that he wanted nothing more to do with it (and is having nothing more to do with it incidentally) and Len C. Stubb has not been heard from for quite some time.

However, with the reviving interest in fandom, several new fans are coming into our midst. Already with us is Alan Cordner, member of "a certain secret scientific organisation". Randwick offers one or two possibilities now being investigated by fans living in that district and there is a possibility of "grabbing" Alan Connell. Though we think he might be in the A.I.F. Wonder! . .

Cordner is of extensive scientific knowledge and at a gathering at the home of William D. Veney everyone became involved in deep discussion on everything under the sun. Or rather nearly everyone.

The first topic of discussion that night was on the problems confronting a publisher who might endeavour to publish a professional science fiction magazine in this country. Cordner said he could have a professional magazine promoted if he was certain of worthwhile circulation. The question was not considered as important as that of getting authors for the project. As yet we know of few professional science fiction authors in this country. The fact remains that with sufficient material and circulation an Australian professional science fiction magazine of about 96 pages for the first issue could appear!

STOP PRESS:- A new aspect has caused the alteration of the pro-mags chances. It is extremely doubtful if the Registrar General would permit the appearance of a large magazine. Probably the publication would be allowed no more than 28 pages, and the publisher is not interested in anything as small as this. . .

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