

# SCIENCE FICTION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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## THE SIXTH SECONDARY UNIVERSE

During the banquet at SeCon VI at Pennsylvania State University, the 1973 Pilgrim Award was presented to Jack Williamson. He received it not only because of his recent study of H G Wells and his activities in promoting the teaching of science fiction, but also in recognition of the many, invaluable contributions which he has made thruout a career which spans the entire history of the modern American science fiction magazines.

It was a popular award, and may well have been the catalyst setting the overall mood of the conference, for in many ways it fulfilled the promise of the title, "The Writer and Science Fiction".

More than 150 people attended the sessions over the three days. In actuality, SFRA members were in a minority, for the audience included a great number of teachers and students from thruout the East, as might be expected, altho individuals came from as far as Montana, California, Wisconsin, and Texas.

Some of the papers from the conference will be published in the new book to be released by Bowling Green University Popular Press in 1974; others will appear either in the volume tentatively planned by the Pennsylvania University Press or in Extrapolation within the next year or so.

Both Phil Klass and Dean Arthur O Lewis, Jr -- as well as the staff of the Institute and the students of the Penn State SF Society -- deserve high praise for arranging one of the most successful SFRA annual meetings.

-- Thomas D Clareson  
SFRA Chairman

## SFRA BUSINESS MEETING

Hal Hall is preparing the official minutes of the business meeting at Penn State and will circulate them to the entire membership. High points of that meeting were as follows:

(a) The election of Tom Clareson, James Gunn, and Leslie Kay Swigart to three-year terms (1974-1976) on the Executive Committee.

(b) The membership decided, after extended discussion, in favor of a new procedure for election to the Executive Committee, which takes effect in 1974. In the Spring there will be a nominating ballot; the committee in charge will then make up a final ballot listing at least two candidates for each vacancy. Information regarding their qualifications will be circulated at the time of the formal mail ballot. In short, once the nominating ballot is completed, election procedures will conform to the practises now used by such organisations as MLA and ASA.

(c) The Executive Committee was instructed to draw up the by-laws governing SFRA and submit them for the approval of the general membership early in the New Year.

(d) Beginning in 1974, annual dues for both individuals and organisations will be \$15. Family membership will be \$20. Student membership, renewable for no longer than five years, will be \$10. The reduction came about because it was decided that only those members attending the annual conference should pay its fees. Too many people unable to attend the conference because of its time and location have received no benefit from this portion of their dues. Beyond this, the distinction between voting and supporting membership was done away with.

## MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

By the time you receive this issue of the Newsletter, questionnaires will have been sent to you, asking for information required to make up the much-needed membership booklet. If you will please return them to Tom Clareson, Box 3186, The College of Wooster, Wooster OH 44691 USA, by Thanksgiving at the latest, that booklet can be ready early in 1974.

It is imperative that we have it so that we can become better aware of just who we are. It is essential as a means of communication between members, especially those in the same area of the country or those having the same or overlapping interests in the field.

And, speaking of means of communication: Fred Lerner will continue to edit the SFRA NEWSLETTER. To a large extent we have all failed him in the past, and we must remember that no editor of the Newsletter can publish one regularly if we, the association's members, do not keep him supplied with current information about our own research; meetings we are aware of or participate in; and all events which have a bearing on the study of science fiction.

In short, tho he has responsibility as editor, we share the greater responsibility of supplying him with news. Within the next year there will be a number of important events that we must keep up with, but equally important is the news of us as individuals.

-- Tom Clareson

Please note the editor's new address:

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#### NOTES AND NOTICES

The annual MLA Seminar on Science Fiction will meet on Friday, 28 December, at the Palmer House in Chicago from 8.45 to 10.30 am. The title this year is "The Shaping of Science Fiction by the American Magazines". Prof Philip Klass, English Dept, Penn State Univ, is chairman. For reservations write to him at University Park PA 16802.

The official SFWA Nebula Ceremony will be held in Hollywood on 27 April 1974 at the Century Plaza Hotel. The banquet will be preceded by a day program. SFRA members are invited to attend; attendance is by invitation only. There will be a limited number of banquet tickets available. SFRA members may purchase banquet tickets at the special rate of \$15 each until the first of the year. This rate will be doubled after that. So, SFRA members who want to attend the banquet should send in their checks (payable to SFWA) early, to: Science Fiction Writers of America, 12051 Laurel Terr, Studio City CA 91604. The special rate is available to SFRA members only (one guest is permitted per member). More information on the Nebula Ceremony and other SFWA activities will appear in future Newsletters.

Advent: Publishers has now set February 1974 as the target date for publication of the first volume of Donald Luck's Encyclopedia of Science Fiction.

T-K Graphics of Baltimore plans 1974 publication of Ned Brooks' Hannes Bok Bibliography, as well as critical essays on Dick, Zelazny, and Anderson. And Mirage Press will finally be publishing J B Post's Atlas of Fantasy around Thanksgiving 1973.

A "Kohoutek Celebration of Consciousness" will be held 26-27 January 1974 in San Francisco; this is but one aspect of the activity the comet is stirring up in the consciousness/parapsychology wing of the futurology movement. For information, contact: Ann Howell, Box 1256, San Rafael CA 94902.

"Beyond This Horizon", a month-long Festival of Science Fiction and Space Exploration, is being held in Sunderland, England, 23 Oct-25 Nov 1973.

Work in Progress: Scottish librarian Gordon Johnson (82 Barnes Street, Whitecrook, Clydebank, Dumbartonshire, G81 1QY, Scotland) is reportedly working on an update/revision of Cole's Checklist of Science Fiction Anthologies.

T-K Graphics (Box 1951, Baltimore MD 21203) has issued a new catalog of their own publications and those of other publishers. They handle SF-related publications of many specialty houses, and are willing to put up with university library billing and payment practises.

Donald M Grant (West Kingston RI 02892) is another publisher/bookseller with a newly-issued pricelist.

More on Kohoutek: Wes Thomas of the Kohoutek Intergalactic Network sent us the following. "An event of overwhelming cosmic significance is about to occur. The arrival of the giant Comet Kohoutek at Christmas will be accompanied by a global consciousness extension of the magnitude of the first moon landing. Groups around the world are now planning 'consciousness celebrations', observation cruises, space studies (NASA), amateur radio networks, etc. KIN seeks to link with comet-watchers, event coordinators, and 'psy-phi scanners' everywhere to plug in to a rapidly-evolving global superconscious synergistic network for this once-in-a-century phenomenon which may radically alter the consciousness of mankind. This may be our last chance to globally redirect man's energies from killing and exploitation to cosmic consciousness. Science fiction writers and readers are invited to participate in KIN, to plan celebrations on 26-27 January 1974 around the world to create a one-world consciousness and the beginning of the age of the stars. Contact: KIN, 606 5th Avenue, East Northport NY 11731."

We wonder if these Kohoutek-watchers have read The Day of the Triffids. Wyndham detailed one possible "radical alteration of the consciousness of mankind" that we could well do without.

From the "We're-Not-Prophets-We-Just-Do-It-to-Buy-Groceries" Dept: An AP story in the New York Post (12 Sep 73) datelined Lexington KY reports that "Motorists can now pay traffic fines in blood at Fayette Quarterly Court. The option is donating a pint of blood to a blood center instead of paying a fine and costs. Offenses for which blood may be donated include disregarding an electric traffic signal, disregarding a stop sign, speeding, reckless and careless driving." (Are you listening, Larry Niven?) And Veronica Kennedy calls our attention to Stephen G Bloom's article "A Cannery Connection" on the New York Times' Op-Ed page for 20 September 1973. "In the article", she writes, "the resemblance to the soothing of the workers by the distribution of soma in Brave New World (1932) and the selling of "Victory Gin" in 1984 (1949) is startlingly paralleled by the taking of various drugs and alcohol by the cannery workers."

A "grandiose film convention" is being advertised for New York on 24-27 May 1974 by the Convention With No Name (Box 561, New York NY 10022).

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