

RUNE 7

MINN-STF NEWSLETTER

The Minnesota Science Fiction Society Newsletter, RUNE, is published for the seventh time for the week beginning 24 JUNE, 1968, by Jim Young; 1948 Ulysses St. N. E.; Minneapolis, Minn. 55418. JMI PUB NUMBER 50.

OFFICERS OF THE MINN-STF: Frank Stodolka, President; Jim Young, Vice-President; Ken Fletcher, Treasurer; and Nate Ducklin, Secretary.

FRED HASKELL RESIGNS

Fred Haskell resigned this week from the Minn-Stf, and as the Minn-Stf's "Official Happy Deadwood". Haskell's move was caused by the changing of the NEWSLETTER's name to RUNE. "If the name had been 'Grok'," said Haskell, "I wouldn't have had to think about it."

Brainstorming Session: Something Happening at Minn-Stf

The meeting of 15 June produced many thoughts, as well as a constitution and a name change for the NEWSLETTER.

The constitution (which appears later on in RUNE) was drawn up with the aid of practically everybody attending the meeting. Marge Lessinger, Bob Halfhill, Tom Vest, and Frank Stodolka are to be congratulated for the efforts they put out so that the constitution could be drawn up.

After a first draft of the constitution had been drawn up, it was decided that a vote should be taken on whether to change the name of the NEWSLETTER. As you can see by this issue's logotype, the name "Rune" won over "Somewhat Vaguely", "Glacial Times", and "Grok". It was suggested by several members that the other names be used for departments in the RUNE or for special Minn-Stf publications.

The "special publications" would include such things as a membership bulletin (a pamphlet explaining the Minn-Stf to prospective members), Minicon material, and a possible club fanzine (publishing material written by members.)

Some suggestions for MINICON II were made. This reporter suggested that the second Minicon might be made into a two-day affair. Marge Lessinger added that it might be possible to have such a convention without being affiliated with a hotel; "...it might be possible to have out-of-town guests stay at peoples' homes," said Mrs. Lessinger.

SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB ENLARGING PROGRAM

The Doubleday-run Science Fiction Bookclub has enlarged the "Things To Come" pamphlet (which shows the books currently available to members). Photographs of the books available are printed along with short blurbs on them. The selection of books other than the monthly choices has been increased from the normal Doubleday SF list. Books such as the Sam Moskowitz-edited THREE STORIES (by Jack Williamson, Murray Leinster, and John Wyndham), Norman Spinrad's THE MEN IN THE JUNGLE, and John Brunner's QUICKSAND, are now available.

FARNHAM'S BANKRUPTCY: "WILL NOT AFFECT STORES"

Farnham's, the largest office supply company in the Twin City area declared bankruptcy recently. With all its ditto and mimeograph supply equipment, Farnham's has naturally become a haven for overcharged fans. It would seem that the company's insolvency might seriously affect area fandom. However, an employee of Farnham's said that the stores will remain open "no matter what." The employee added, "They think they can get out of it" — meaning the bankruptcy of course.

-----THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MINN-STF: 29 June-----

The next meeting of The Minnesota Science Fiction Society will be at Room MP4.

(Mechanical Engineering Building), University of Minnesota Minneapolis Campus. The location is halfway between Washington Ave., and University Ave. (On Church St. -- as you come in on Washington; or 17th Ave. as you come in on University) The time is from 12:00 to five or so. Topic of discussion: The membership bulletin and/or, the club fanzine.

"2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY" PREMIERS IN MINNEAPOLIS JUNE 26th

2001 will premier at The Cooper Cinerama 26 June. If 25 people can be found who want to go (at the same time) it's possible to get group rates of \$2.00 per seat. I'm willing to go; I want to see what I'll have to say about this. So: What say you all?

MINNEAPOLIS IN '73 WORLDCON BID TO BE ADVERTISED IN "BAYCON" PROGRAM BOOK

The Minneapolis in 1973 World Science Fiction bid will be advertised in the 1968 Worldcon Program Booklet. I'm backing most of the expense; Ken Fletcher and I will draw up the advertisement. While '73 is a way off -- it's never too early to plan....

Also: The Minn-Stf officially supports the St. Louis in 1969 bid for the Worldcon. If you're at the Baycon in San Francisco, why not think about it?

IN THE GOOD OL' SUMMER TIME

(A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE OF SORTS)
by FRANK STODOLKA

According to the psychologists, dreaming is one of several possible responses to any interference with an initiated line of action. It is, in a sense, a form of gratification or consumation of our desires, which also tends to reinforce our initial impulses and thereby eventually increasing the need for gratification.

Well...Minn-Stf has been dreaming all winter about a lot of things. Stranded under mounds of homework with cold gales from the north rattling our windows we have had strange fantasies about U. of M. recognition, fanzine publishing and MINICOOL II. These dreams have been far beyond our reach due to the demands placed on our time and money by studies.

But summer is upon us at last and for many of us part-time jobs have replaced more scholarly pursuits. With more time and money at our disposal the dreams that have sustained us all winter are coming tantalizingly close to being realized.

Our first meeting of the summer was a regular brainstorming session. We worked out the rough draft of the Minn-Stf constitution (refer to the following pages) which

MINICON TIME (continued):

will be voted on at the next meeting. If this constitution is accepted it will be added to the SAB and Minn-Stf will have taken its first step towards U of M recognition. Now if framing this constitution had been all we accomplished at the first summer meeting everything would have been just fine. But, like I said, we had a regular brainstorm. We came up with all sorts of ideas for the recruiting bulletin, for MINICON II and for having an all around good time.

I think it was Tom Vest who suggested that we compile a list of all the bookstores having a good collection of SF as part of the recruiting bulletin. This is a suggestion which should not be ignored. As a matter of fact, it might be wise to start a regular department in the RUNE with a list of bookstores and a brief description of the quantity, quality and/or range of selections available at each store. This fund of information could be periodically updated and printed in the recruiting bulletin. In times to come, when RUNE reaches more distant towns, the benefits which may accrue to us from this policy are not hard to imagine.

It might also be a good idea to use the recruiting bulletin as a means of advertising special Minn-Stf events such as, say, a party on campus or, perhaps, in that back room we hear is available at M. Golob's Bookstore. When the Minn-Stf becomes an official campus organization scheduling rooms for meetings and events becomes much easier. But even if bureaucratic difficulties hamper us I don't think any store with the available space would object to turning a multitude of potential customers loose in it. Of course, the recruiting bulletin will also provide us with many opportunities for advertising other activities of course such as MINICON. As a matter of fact, if we can maintain a good balance between informing and entertaining in this fanzine it will probably be very successful.

It was generally agreed at the last meeting that we ought to print as many as 500 copies of this bulletin with between 12 and 16 pages. As yet, we do not know what exactly will go into it, or who will edit it and publish it. (I'd like to take this opportunity to volunteer my meager resources as editor -- do I hear a second for that notion?)

But, of course, the recruiting bulletin is a mere stepping stone. The hottest item of discussion (besides the constitution) at the meeting was MINICON II. Margo Lessinger suggested that we use posters of different shapes, sizes and colors to attract interest in it. To this I might add a few things we learned from MINICON I:

- 1) If we schedule the Artcraft Studio press well in advance and use our own paper for the really big posters, the printing won't cost an extra cent (normally they charge 35¢ a piece for their poster boards and let organizations use their press free.)
- 2) Unlike the posters for MINICON I, these posters should display in large letters the words "science fiction". That way we will attract better attention.
- 3) We should organize the display management so that members can alternate. Rather than having a few members managing the tables or events during the entire convention we should work in shifts so that everyone gets a chance to circulate.

These are some of the more important lessons from MINICON I. The most important, of course, has already been learned: we are starting to plan for this event now rather than at the last minute (like last time). We were doing such a last minute job then that many con-attendees were showing up at the event before some of the club members. However, people are already popping up with ideas about what to do at MINICON II. Anthony Tollin and I bumped heads (a hard thing to do over the phone) and came up with the possibility that perhaps Minn-Stf could produce an amateur SF movie. Ken Fletcher has had experience in making titles and in stop animation techniques. Tollin, Haskell, and the Lessingers all have lights, cameras, projectors and so on. By pooling our equipment and experience (a year or two before Minn-Stf was officially organized we produced a film) we could put together a really neat movie. Off hand, from that information is available in ANALOG, THE AMERICAN CINEMATOPHILE, and POPULAR SCIENCE articles I do not think it would be very hard for us to duplicate some of the more spectacular special effects boasted for 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY.

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 SUBJECT (continued):

Of course, what we film is another matter. Should we try to film a screen version of a short story or should we write our own story -- say an SF satire, starring the notorious Flash Hotpants?

Another good possibility for the MINICON would be a slide show of the Baycon. We could easily donate some funds for part of the film and developing costs so that someone who goes with a camera (like Jim Young probably intends to do) can afford to take lots of pictures. We could also try converting some of my pictures of the RyCon into slides.

I'm sure that in the weeks ahead we'll come up with many more suggestions for the MINICON. By the next meeting we should be able to report on some of the other ideas that we came up with. I will be checking with the Post Office on their rates if we qualify for a non-profit organization mailing-status. Tom Vest will be checking with Walter Library about their funding service for monies Minn-Stf will be donating for SF magazines. Eventually we will also be getting around to checking with Golob's about their back room and we will be getting a letter off soon to Fred Pohl concerning his rates for mailing lists in Minnesota.

All this brings us to that almighty question of money. \$strange as it seems, there is not much Minn-Stf will be able to do unless we develop a very healthy bank account. Here is a statement of our financial standing since MINICON I:

| | |
|---|---------|
| REGISTRATION FEES FOR MINICON: | \$14.50 |
| (That represents 29 non-Minn-Stf attendees -- just about what we expected.) | |
| DISBURSMENTS: | |
| Refreshments..... | 3.00 |
| Poster printing..(Kuhfeld)..... | 4.00 |
| Newsletter-program printing..... | |
| (JMY)..... | \$5.50. |
| <hr/> | |
| TOTAL..... | \$10.50 |

Thus, despite the fact that many of the costs, both for the MINICON and for the duplicating and mailing costs of our newsletter were sustained by individual members whenever possible, we still have only \$4.00 available. This will probably be spent as soon as we can make arrangements with the library funding service to pay for a subscription to IF as was voted at the MINICON.

Therefore, in concluding this little review of our activities, I should put special emphasis on yet another point that was brought up at the constitutional convention: Minn-Stf needs a financial plan. This plan will have to be centered around the two or three major projects that we are currently considering. We will have to consider the cost of the recruiting bulletin; the costs of any pre-convention events we may schedule; and the costs of the MINICON itself. Each of these will have to be balanced against what individual members expect to be able to assist on their own and against the income expected from new members. Registration fees, donations, membership dues -- all these should be topics for discussion at the next Minn-Stf meeting.

Yes, summer is here, and Minn-Stf is through with its idle dreaming for now. And, if the meetings to come are anywhere near as productive as the constitutional convention, we'll have no difficulty facing the challenges we've placed before ourselves. What's more, we'll be meeting a lot of new fans this summer. We'll be working together on a lot of projects too. So who says fandom ain't a way of life?

---Frank Stodolka.

CONSTITUTION

OF MINN-STF, THE
MINNESOTA SCIENCE
FICTION SOCIETY

PREAMBLE

When a group of science fiction fans come together, they find that an organization may be formed that will be a pleasurable and enjoyable activity over a very long period of time. The Minn-Stf, formed in 1966, records this document on 15 June, 1968 so that future members of the organization may have something on which to work and mold the club for its benefit.

ARTICLE I Name and Purpose

- Section 1 This organization shall henceforth be known as the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, or in abbreviated form, "Minn-Stf" (pronounced "Minn-Stef".)
- Section 2 The purpose of this organization is to foster an interest in science fiction and a general involvement in fandom.

ARTICLE II Membership

- Section 1 Membership is open to any entity regardless of race, creed, color or planet of origin. If he, she, or it can attend a meeting they are a member.
- Section 2 Lifetime membership in the Minnesota Science Fiction Society is granted to all those admitted to this organization.

ARTICLE III Officers

- Section 1 The President of Minn-Stf shall be responsible for liaisons with the Student Activities Bureau and all other groups or University of Minnesota organizations. The treasurer shall be responsible for reporting for reporting to CAD the state of Minn-Stf finances when and if regular dues are collected.
- Section 2 Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership at large on the first meeting of each quarter of the college year. Any tuition paying student at the University of Minnesota is eligible for the office of President or Treasurer. Other officers shall be elected from the membership-at-large as are necessary. An officer may be impeached through a unanimous vote by the rest of the members.
- Section 3 The committee of the Whole will be responsible for the conduct of members at group sponsored activities. The President shall be responsible for reporting the implements of this policy to the appropriate advisor in the Student Activities Bureau.

ARTICLE IV Amendments

- Section 1 Any two recognized members may propose an amendment at a meeting. Such proposal must be passed at two regularly scheduled meetings by two-thirds (2/3) of the attending members plus all absentee ballots. Absentee ballots must be signed and compared to the signatures of recognized members before they will be accepted. A published copy

(Constitution, continued.)

of each amendment proposed must be distributed to all registered members and to the Senate Committee on Student Affairs at least five days before the next scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE V By-laws

Number 1 --- By-laws may be established and changed by simple majority vote.

Number 2 --- Committees shall be established by the President, the Treasurer, or by majority vote.

(End.)

MAGAZINE REVIEWS

BY IM YOUNG

This issue of RUNE, the reviews are going to be somewhat limited, seeing that we're being published half-way between prozine distributions. However...

FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION; August, 1968; 50¢. 6 New Stories.

Recently, one of F&SF's best selling points has been its features. This time, the features are varied and very good. There are a group of statements by several authors about Anthony Boucher; I think that F&SF is the best memorial that might ever exist for a man -- and particularly for a man who was so alive as Anthony Boucher.

There are two reviews of the Clarke-Kubrick 2001 -- the reviews being done by Samuel R. Delany and Ed Fushviller.

Best stories (of course the most important part of the magazine) are COS THE HOPE (Piers Anthony) and "The Devil and Jake O'Hara" by Brian Cleeve. The Piers Anthony serial is turning into something good -- the Brian Cleeve is very funny, and (at least) always interesting.

"I LIKE IKF"; and it's true -- Doctor Asimov is still plugging away with a very competent article on "The Terrible Lizards". Did you know that there never was/were a group of animals that you could call "dinosaur"? All explained in the article.

F&SF has some originality in it, more so than it has in the past. Judith Merrill quotes Anthony Boucher many times in her "Books" column: "The Science of tomorrow or the day after will, unquestionably, out run the science fiction of today...But as creative, imaginative minds keep thinking ahead to the step beyond the next, it is exceedingly unlikely that tomorrow's science will outrun the science fiction of tomorrow... What prophet can dare to prophesy the utterance of a prophet yet to come?"

MAGAZINE OF HORROR; July, 1968 (#22); 50¢. 2 New Stories

MoH is pretty good this time; one of the new stories I liked particularly well, even for its clumsinesses: "The Castle in the Window" by Steffan B. Alatti...it's a Lovecraftian type ditty, without all of H.P.'s stodginess about "unspeakabilities" that he spoke about for five or ten pages.

The three other stories that are important are "Worms of the Earth" (Robert F. Howard in a non-Conan vein...somewhat spooky); "They Called Him Ghost" (by Laurence J. Cabill...rather interesting, a little too Horatio Algerish at times, though --

and generally a good story); and "The Psychological Invasion", by Algernon Blackwood. I liked the Blackwood a lot, although there are some very bad points to it; I really think the writing is poor. Judge for yourself.

FAMOUS SCIENCE FICTION; Summer, 1968 (#7); 50¢. 3 New Stories.

This magazine is the kind of reprint magazine AMAZING ought to be -- if in fact it ought to be a reprint magazine at all. (I think some reprint magazines are good. We don't need major SF zines going reprint on us like AMAZING did.) I personally think this the best SF reprint zine there's ever been. (FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES et al were something, but they were fantasy zines. MoH is trying to be somewhere like WEIRD TALES, not so much FAMOUS FANTASTIC. Marginal: I think that this is Lowndes' (the man who also edits Magazine of Horror) second best zine; MoH is older and editorially, a little more "polished".) PSF reprints from the Gernsback WONDER. Gernsback's WONDER turned out to be better than his own AMAZING (at least to me because WONDER used more new material). In PSF you're getting material that hasn't been seen since STARTLING had the Hall of Fame reprints, and then...a reprint companion.

In review: "Men of the Dark Comet" is a novella by Festus Pragnell. It's somewhat effective, playing up to the "sense of wonder" more than to the story, I felt. "The Elixir" (Laurence Manning) is nice mood; unfortunately it trails off (it being the end of a five part series.) It's too bad that Manning didn't steal from Olaf Stapledon, and written about a Starmaker....

Those are the reprints. You get a nice story by Robert Silverberg (albeit that this one's not as good as the one he did for DANGEROUS VISIONS); you get a middlin' good Philip K. Dick story -- a somewhat gross-out typething, unfortunately; and a trick-ending gross-type story by Gerald U. Page. The Silverberg is the "wonder" aspect type of story that Lowndes is looking for, I'd say.

Another good point is the editorial. This one actually explained some of my own feelings about SF; and believe me, those feelings are very deep. I'm glad I read it.

This is a good zine. Try and get it.

MORE PROZINE REVIEWS NEXT MONTH.

(ERRATUM: Last issue or so, we said that Lowndes' magazines had all gone bimonthly. This is a falsehood, unfortunately. Only MAGAZINE OF HORROR is bimonthly, PSF and STARTLING MYSTERY being quarterly (and WORLD-WIDE ADVENTURE irregular)...but the first three magazines do take subscriptions at the rate previously mentioned (6 for \$2.50.)

NEWS BRIEFS

Here are shorts on late or crowded out news; more for sure soon.

Harl Vincent (Harold Vincent Schoepflin) died May 5th. He was a veteran writer of SF; he sold his first story to AMAZING in 1928. Mr. Vincent's last story appeared in IF, September, 1967. ... Rights have finally been granted for the reprinting of the rest of Robert E. Howard's "Conan" stories. Lancer will publish the rest of the Conan Saga in paperback by the end of the year (apparently.) ... A Conan pastiche by Lin Carter will appear in the first issue of the new Lester del Rey-edited (and GALAXY-published) zine, WORLDS OF FANTASY.... The Melbourne, Australia SF Conference was termed "Minicon". If worse comes to worse, Minn-Stf has the "rights" to the name; we used it first. Actually, there will be little problems: Melbourne's in another country, and "Minicon" is a colloquialism for them -- it's the only name the Minnesota convention has had. ... There will be a fanzine review section next issue. ... A. E. van Vogt has sold Frederik Pohl "The Proxy Intelligence" for IF. This story is a sequel to the old classic, "Asylum". A third story, "I.C. 10,000" will be written, published in IF, and put together with the other two stories to form a novel-length book. ... After ten years, an SF group has been formed again in Chicago. The first meeting was held April 16th.

BOOKS COMING SOON....

JUNE BOOKS FROM ACE: A PRIVATE COSMOS (Philip Jose Farmer, 50¢); ACROSS TIME (David Grinnel, 50¢); RITE OF PASSAGE (Alexei Panshin, 75¢); THE VILLAGE IN THE TREE-TOPS (Jules Verne, 60¢). DOUBLE: MERCENARY FROM TOMORROW (Mack Reynolds)/THE KEY TO VENUDING (Kenneth Bulmer), 60¢.

JUNE FROM BELMONT: A PIECE OF MARTIN CAINE (Laurence M. Janifer, 50¢); DOUBLE: A LAMP FOR MEDUSA (William Tenn)/ THE PLAYERS OF HELL (Dave Van Arman), 60¢. AUGUST: THIS CROWDED EARTH and LADIES DAY (Robert Bloch, 60¢.)

DOUBLEDAY CLOTH-COVERS: OPERATION MALACCA (Joe Poyer, July, \$4.50); TWILIGHT JOURNEY (L. P. Davies, July, \$4.50); NOVA (Samuel R. Delany ---i---, \$4.95, August); ENGLAND SWINGS SP: STORIES OF SPECULATIVE FICTION (---edited by?---Judith Merrill, August, \$4.95.)

RUNE 7

RUNE (Minn-Stf Newsletter)
% Jim Young
1948 Ulysses St. N. E.
Minneapolis, Minn.
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL