

D.L.S.F.

ARCTURUS



NOTES
TO YOU

November, 1956

Vol. I, No. 6



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The Cover

This month's cover depicts Ghu-Ghuism, with GhuGhu emerging from the EGG, while the Devil looks on below.....by David A. Kyle.

After more than two months, Arc-turus returns to you. (Loud cheers). We hope this time, as we have hoped each time in the past, that we will achieve the height in mimeographed work. Our content does not give us cause for worry; it has proven itself every time. But it is unfortunately true that our mechanical work has been very poor. Each time, like the Brooklyn Dodgers, we have been forced to firtify ourselves with "next time - maybe". At the time of this writing, the chances look very good that we will put out a more than presentable issue, Ghu-Ghu willin'. Let us pray, bretheren.

The beginning of a new year for our organization calls for an election of officers, as provided for in our Constitution. The procedure will be as follows: Each member will receive with his issue of ARCTURUS, a voting blank. All members of the League are eligible for all of the offices, with the provision that a member may only hold one League office at a time. The ballots may be sent either in a sealed envelope, marked election ballot, or may be treated as a postcard, the reverse side being used for stamp and address. All sealed votes will be opened November 13 and counted with all the others. Any votes arriving at League headquarters later than November 22 will be disregarded. A list of members follows:

Herbert Bridgewater
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Mervyn Evans
Louis A. Heynick
Richard Kindig
George A. Lahn
Harold W. Kirshenblit
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Robert W. Lowndes

Lorris Miller
Arthur B. Selikowitz
Lernard A. Beufert
Hilton L. White
Olson F. Wiggins

GA. COL'S DAY-OFF
by
DQ. G. JOTE

3

At a meeting of the Headquarters Chapter held on Friday, November 6, the following members resigned when the other members of the chapter refused to allow the chapter to become a branch of the ISA: David A. Tyle, Donald A. Volheim, Frederik Pohl, John L. Michel, William S. Sykora. All five are members of the ISA.

The next issue of ANCESTRUS will see a change in format. The issue, which begins a new volume, will be reduced in size to 5 1/2" x 7 1/2", the same size as the British NOVAE TERRAE. This will be compensated for by an increased number of pages. The new size, it is hoped will permit us to publish every month.

The Denver chapter of the ILSF has been organized and chartered. The members are Olson F. Wiggins, chairman, Herbert Bridgewater, Mervyn Evans, and Richard Findig. The printed SCIENCE FICTION F.M., already known to many of our readers, is to serve as their organ. GOOD LUCK, DENVER!

(Continued from page 9)

They twist and they turn in their struggle,
But all their attempts are in vain.
They cannot escape from the forces
That ruthlessly tears them in twain.

It is silent. No sound now disturbs
them.

No sound ever can, nor e'er will.
No pseudopods wave nor do cilia;
The two tiny creatures are still.
Above them, a spectacled human,
Looks up from the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~
two he had slain,
Removed the dried slide from the
holders,
And washed the two mites down the
drain.

- FINIS -

Garçon swung carelessly through the trees. His heart was light, his mind at ease. As he moved easily through the verdure, he sniggered into his four months' old beard. And well might he snigger. For, was he not John Dayton, Lord Sunstroke? And was he not lord of all he surveyed?

He dropped to the ground as he heard loud approaching footsteps, his hand on his genuine Barlow knife. In the jungle one could never be sure of what might befall one, could one? No, one could not. And so Garçon waited. He waited-and waited. And waited.

Then, slowly, majestically, there stalked into view in the clearing, Garçon's pet Pekinese, Mike. Garçon took his hand off his knife, disgustedly. Aw shucks, he thought, there just wasn't any more fun in the nasty ol' jungle. First thing he knew, he'd be heading back to civilization, and would have to confine his thrills to pictures about G-Men. Ah, well, such was life. He heaved a prodigious sigh, and sat down on the camp chair left there by the director of his last picture.

Suddenly he stopped (i.e. stopped thinking), and flexed his nostrils. There was something wrong. He could not figure out for a moment just what it was, but there was definitely something wrong. Suddenly, in a flash of inspiration, the great truth dawned on him. He was aware of absolutely no odor. He couldn't smell a thing. Suddenly he realized why, and suddenly looked stealthily around to see if he was being observed. Then, suddenly, he leaped behind the bole of a large tree and suddenly whisked out his handkerchief. Screening it carefully from possible Peeping Toms, he suddenly blew his nose. Before you could say "GhuGhu is Ghu-Ghu and Selikowitz is his prophet" he had jammed his linen hanky back in his loin cloth (genuine imitation leopard skin-Sears Roebuck, 6.93) and looked around again. He wiped his

took a deep breath and plunged his
all.

The mangy cur-rer-Pekingese, reeled under the blow. His brownish-green eyes imploringly searched Garçon's adamant orange ones, but they saw no hope there. The Pekingese, in sudden terror cried:

Five minutes later, the happy jungle family was eating Irish beef stew.

:-:-:-:ADVERTISMENT:-:-:-:-:-:
OUT SOON!

The First Authoritative, Complete, Authentic, Interesting, Analytical Survey of Science Fiction Fandom. Includes Fans, Publications, and Organizations. Watch for it!

"Listen, Mike, have a heart, will ya? You know Kala won't give me anything to eat unless we're all there. And I'm starved to death, too. What's more, if you don't come, I'll be mad at you." There was no answer. Garçon

Sprayer-greener.

Fastener - owner to treeser

Xicker-upper

GUARANTEED NOT TO WORK.
But - You never can tell

-De Wols
... (given
free)

(Also supplied with sprayer-oranger-and-redder to keep fall through the year - if you like fall better. All a matter of taste, of course.

LONDON NEWS REEL

by

EDWARD J. CARNELL.

One advantage of living in London is that most stf. fans in other parts of the country pay a visit at some time or other to the Metropolis. Two weeks ago Eric Russell, BIS Counsellor from Liverpool, paid a surprise business and pleasure trip to this burg, coinciding with a stf conference of Wally Gillings and myself. Also present was Art Clarke, a newcomer to reside in London, but, an old and enthusiastic fan, whose home has been in Devonshire, 200 miles south.

Uncle Eric--to his intimates, as he is the oldest fan in England--has been spending most of his spare time writing stf stories, many of which you will be hearing more about in the near future. He has some unique thought-variant ideas tucked away in his dome, but, mentions that all of them are nothing compared with Olaf Stapledon's latest "classic", which is now well under way. Stapledon, if you remember, knowing nothing about stf wrote "Last Men and First", and "Last Men in England", back in 1930.

Eric was officially here to fix up the transfer of the BIS HQ from Liverpool to London, and to help him in this respect, we all met the next day at the Radio Exhibition, where J. Hoppian Edwards, London's enthusiastic astronaut and radio member, was displaying the latest radio tube designs from his brain. The meeting lasted all afternoon, during which we sank deeper and deeper into the realms of rocketry discussions--the one bright spot, apart from that was a complete explanation and viewing of the latest television sets available here--the IIC having completed experiments this year, and will be televising full time programs from the Fall.

Uncle Eric departed in a cloud of cosmic dust--he's as dynamic as the combustion in a rocket chamber--and

for a few days there was comparative peace in the land. Then Maurice Hanson and colleague Denny Jacques, the two pioneers of NOVAE TERRAE, arrived from Leicester. Wally Gillings met them, and parked them in John Deynon Harris' flat for the afternoon while he did some mysterious business elsewhere. Later they met Art Clarke and myself and we spent the evening migrating from one restaurant to another, while Clarke and Jacques thrashed out some obscure scientific point which was still unsolved when their train steamed north five hours later.

Looks as though England's most prominent stfans are moving to London--Clarke is already here, so is Jim Barnes, one of Hanson's SFL members from Leicester, and Hanson himself will soon be joining us and probably Jacques later on.

In view of the amount of ballyhooing that has been done about England's proposed professional stf mag--and that still there isn't one on the market--I feel that it is best not to pass on the latest rumours that have cropped up over it.

Leeds SFL, in the far north, have circularized all prominent fans and authors in the country with the idea of holding a convention in their city on Jan. 2nd, 1937, for a discussion on how best to advance stf in this country. Said fans and authors have agreed to rally round, but dissension has arisen over having to travel such a long way to Leeds. It is thought best that the convention should be held in London, or one of the Midland Towns more central.

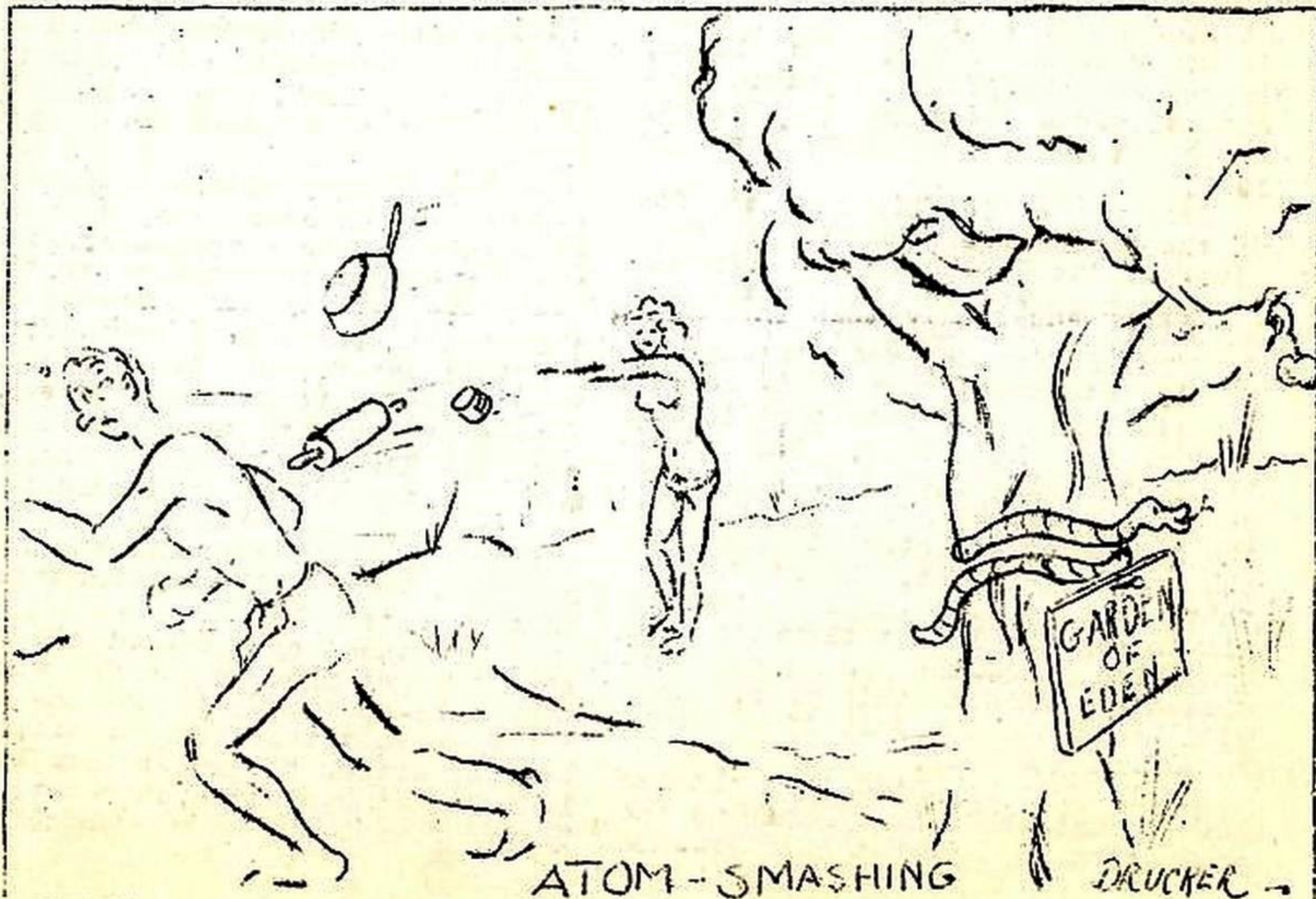
Gillings' fan mag is still being held up owing to the amount of other important items that seem to be occupying his time. He had hoped to be able to publish by the beginning of October, and judging by the enthusiasm shown over his idea, the mag. will be more than welcome to fans in the British Isles.

An instance of the sort of co-operation we have to put up with over here--somewhere in England are three collegiates from Harvard, members of either the American or Cleveland Rocket Societies, on vacation. Their arrival was known only to Phil-

6.
 lip Clantor, President of the BIS, more than fancies his chances---good and he preferred to entertain them luck, Irv, but I ought to beat you. and keep their identity secret, after THIRILLING WONDER is not on sale which, no trace has been found anywhere in England, owing to Stand- of them. I should say, here, that any ard having no agents here yet--per- Americans, either rocketry or stfens haps that's a blessing in disguise. planning a trip to England will be. H.G. Wells' second movie, "The Man extended a warm hand of welcome, pro- Who Could Work Miracles" had an ad- viding that we know when they are co- verse criticism from all the film ming, and that I shall be only too critics when it appeared on August 28. glad to make any arrangements for Seeing the film myself three days then that they wish. later, I quite realized why. It was

The July Issue of NOVAE TERPAE dull, with very few bright spots of found them in trouble with John Bus- either acting or cameracraft. The "mi- sel Fern over an article in their racles" appeared as if they had been "Hymn of Fate" series in which they shot by an amateur, and the dialogu said a few hard things about him. was flat and unimpressive. After the Fern threatened legal action for wonders of "Things to Come" this so- libel unless a retraction was forth- ond one was about as thrilling and coming--which followed in the August magnificent as the early British issue. The "Scientijazz" Contest ov- films eight years ago. olved by them in the last issue a- "Food of the Gods" is now in pro- roused much enthusiasm, and we are duction--let's hope that it will be hoping that the winner will be an Eng- better than this one. lish fan---I notice that Irving Kosow

SCIENCE-FICTION VOCABULARY



XANTHIPOPOLOUS X. XILCH

(Editor's note - commemorating the resignation of five ISA members from the ILSF, and especially that of Mr. Sykora, who admittedly joined the ILSF in order to get it to become an ISA branch, Mr. Xilch has written a poem.)

Sykora, servant of the members,
King pin of the ISA,
Authority on club histories,
Made ILSF assay;

Sykora, psychologic expert,
Sees through members at a glance
And can easily determine
If a club will have a chance.

Sykora seeks, not unlike Brutus
To save our little group from
doom.
A ray of hope he then proposes,
A beam obliterating gloom;

Sykora states in touching
phrases,
Advantages of ISA
Unattainable emoluments
Can't be got another way.

Sykora speaks in tones convincing
"Beneath the wing of ISA
Your fears are groundless super-
stitions -
But if, however, you say nay -"

Sykora sneeringly then threatens
"Without the ISA support,
Your club is doomed, will cease
to function.
Join our club, you really ought."

Sykora slyly joined our group,
For science fiction? Oh, dear no!
He watched our organization sink-
ing.
But he wouldn't tell us so.

Sykora says he can't afford
To withstand such great competi-
tion
As offered by our little group
So he perpetrates sedition.

Nothing I read, once, long ago,
Somewhere in characters clear,

The following lines in his won IO
(To think that I thought them sincere!
That the ISA (the ICSC)
For s-f advancement had stood
And yet Sykora "cannot afford"
(I won't make so bold as to call him
a fraud!)

But I'd like to point out an apparent
discord

A point that must be understood --
If ISA for s-f progress doth stand,
And Sykora doth stand for the same,
And Sykora for our s-f progress
won't stand -

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG SOMEWHERE
----- Finis -----

WINCHELL, 2000 A.D.

Good evening, folks, This is your
favorite reporter, P-29, coming to you
with the latest news of the month.

Flash! The insurrection which star-
ed some months ago in Es Pannia, Mare
is still flourishing. The entire situ-
ation is due to the fact that someone
cut the emperor's beard off while he
slept, and he caught a bad case of
laryngitis. It is believed that the
notorious radical, S-04 is back of
this.

Flash! Televisoptostoroscopic
reports bring us the news that the
Jovians have just succeeded in van-
quishing the New Englanders in the
first all-Solar System Galactic Seri-
of Baseball in years. Solar System
votes of the ancient sport are deli-
ed at the idea of a five-credit seri-
and televisions have been turned on a
massa for a record attendance.

Flash! All Venus has been struck by
the new fad "A disturbance is made on
the surface of a wooden door". A spe-
says the above. His conspirator ans-
"Who is without to have made such di-
turbance." The first: "Ackorman" The
tor: "Ackorman who?" The first: "Kin-
erman? I'm selling books on Esperanto

This is your favorite reporter
signing off for another month. Remember
these late news flashes come to you by
the courtesy of the Interstellar Medi-
cal Diaper Changer Company. Have you
little child in your home? Then use
MDC for quick results. So long!

CURIOUS COSMOLOGIES

IV.

by

HAROLD W. KINSLEY

After Pythagoras, the astronomical philosophers came thick as flies. Most of them contributed little or nothing of value either as curiosities or as genuine scientific theories. We will pass over them rapidly.

Xenophanes of Colophon believed that there were many suns and moons according to certain zones of the earth, and that eclipses were caused by the particular sun that belonged to a particular region "stepping off into another region". The sun, he said, goes forward to infinity, tho it appears to revolve about us due to the distance.

Heracitus of Ephesus contributed one important fallacy to our history of misconceptions: He proposed the theory that the sun was shaped like a hollow hemisphere, the open concavity being the face towards us. The same was true of the moon. "Exhalations" from the earth, and the ~~xxxxx~~ flames of the two two bodies and of the stars. A solar eclipse was caused by the open face of the sun being turned away from the earth, and the phases of the moon were caused by a similar if more gradual turning.

Empedocles of Agrigento is notable as the first philosopher to propose that the universe was made of four elements: earth, air, fire, and water. He also proposed the theory of two suns revolving about the earth. One is fire, the other merely a reflection of the first. The latter is the size of the earth, thus explaining how such an apparently small body can give so much heat.

Anaxagoras of Clazomenae may be remembered as the founder of the theory of nous, (the ancestor of the Laplace Nebular Hypothesis.)

That most interesting group of philosophers, the Pythagoreans, blossomed out soon after the death

of Anaxagoras. They re-nounced their master's theories and added some of their own. For them, the center of the universe was occupied by Antichthon, the Counter-Earth, or the central fire of the Universe, "for they consider that the worthiest place is appropriate to the worthiest occupant, and fire is worthier than earth..." (Aristotle - De caelo) After Antichthon came the earth, moon, sun, planets and fixed stars, in that order. The sun, here, was also a fraud, being a transparent body which received the light and heat of the central fire and condensed and retransmits them. The bodies which revolve about the center have their distances in certain proportions, so that, some revolving more quickly, and others more slowly, they produce a harmony in their tune. The slower the motion, the deeper the note; the more rapid the motion, the higher the note. "They conceived that the whole heaven is harmony and number... and if there was anything wanting anywhere they left no stone unturned to make their whole system coherent. For example, regarding as they do, the number ten as perfect... they say that the bodies moving in the heaven are also ten in number, and as those we see are only nine, they make the counter-earth the tenth." (Aristotle - Metaphysics.)

Democritus of Abdera believed the earth to be disk-like laterally, but hollowed out in the middle. Following from this idea came a statement that seems well-nigh incredible. It is doubtful, at least to this writer, that Democritus ever believed it himself: "The earth inclines south because the southern portion of that which enveloped it was weaker, for it is in the south that the earth sows, namely, where fruits and all growths are in excess." (Aëtius - Works, III)

It would be imagined that the immortal Plato might, in the course of his writings, propound an elaborate cosmogony and cosmology, and such is the case; but his universe is pure poetry, except for the conclusions he makes to the effect

Harold W. Kirshenblit

by

Irving L. Kosow

A paramecium and an amoeba
 Were strolling together one day
 The cilia moved along gaily,
 The pseudopods leading the way.
 The Day was a triumph in brightness
 The watery medium shone,
 And save for a few small euglenae,
 The pair were completely alone.
 Paramecium turned to amoeba,
 Emitting these fond words of love:
 "Pseudopodia, dear, I adore you
 By yon cover glass up above.
 Your nucleus ah, what a brightness
 It fair makes my vacuole burst.
 Oh, tell me you love me, my dearest.
 Speak let me know now the worst."
 The amoeba contracted most sharply
 Upon her two pseudopods reared.
 "Sir ciliate scam! I don't know you
 You're a masher!" she haughtily sneered.
 "Why madam, I think you're mistaken,
 'Twas only last year I believe
 We swam in a bathtub together.
 Now look at me, would I deceive?"
 The amoeba naively "remembered"
 Paramecium encouraged, went on:-
 "I'll fight the whole world to protect you
 Until my last trichocyst's gone."
 The amoeba's small nucleus fluttered,
 Pretty speeches like this turned her head
 (Although to be sure, no head had she)
 She blushed very coily and said
 "I'll wager you tell the same story
 To other amoeba like me,
 But I must admit it is pleasant,
 Go on with your smooth flattery."
 The ciliate's rapid cyclosis,
 Increasing immeasurably,
 Denoted a state of excitement,
 As he came closer rapturously.
 The amoeba ecstatically quivered
 But slyly drew further away
 Paramecium, the faster, pursued her.
 Such sport always made him quite gay.
 And so, thus for a time did they gambol.
 These two microscopical mites,
 Not a care not a thought for tomorrow,
 Could lessen their carefree delights.
 But what is this sudden cloud o'er them?
 What causes the swirl and the pull?
 What tears them apart from each other.
 Just now when their love is so full?

(continued on page 3)

cessions he makes to the philosophers of the time. Since space does not permit of our delving into either cosmogony or religion, it behooves us to omit a large portion of his works--so large a portion, in fact, that when we examine his ideas concerning the material universe, we find nothing whatever that is entirely new to us.

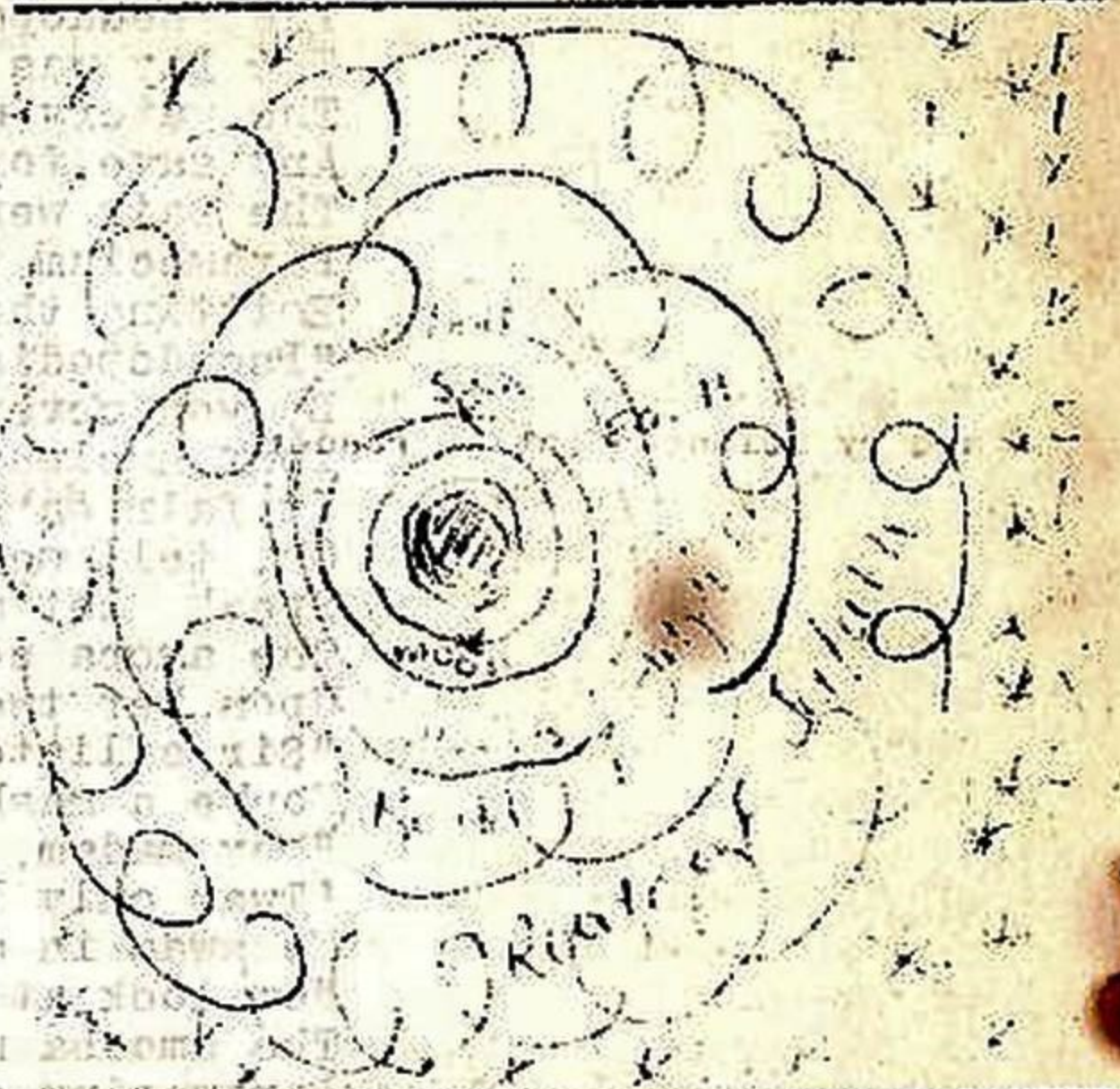
The names of Eudoxus and Calippus are linked together because of their work on a purely geometrical system of concentric spheres, altho they really worked separately. Altogether, the result of their work explained perfectly those phenomena that had been puzzling cosmologists since Homer. The system was one of concentric spheres, rotating uniformly about different axes. For each heavenly body, a certain number of spheres was designed, the outermost sphere in each case, being that of the daily rotation. For the sun and moon, three spheres were required, while each planet rated four spheres.

Aristotle's universe was spherical in shape, and finite. It was made of five elements, the original four, and "aether", the quintessence. The stars, sun, moon, and earth, he proved spherical in long discussions. Interested in the theory of concentric spheres, he proceeded to substitute one set of spheres for the sun, moon, and planets together instead of a separate system for each. For this purpose he assumed sets of reacting spheres between successive sets of the original spheres. He found it necessary to use fifty-five spheres (there were thirty-three in Calippus' system). The change was no improvement.

Who first formulated the theory of epicycles as such is uncertain but the idea is generally credited to Ptolemy. "In the general case of an epicycle, the planet moves uniformly round the circumference of a circle, the center of which itself moves uniformly round a large circle having for its center the center of the earth. Motion in an eccentric circle is motion of the same kind--here the planet moves on the eccen-

tric circle and the center of the eccentric circle simultaneously describes a circle smaller than, and included by the eccentric circle." (Heath-Greek Astronomy) (An eccentric circle is merely one with a roving center.)

THE EPICYCLES OF PTOLMEY



Continued Next Month

Tell Your Friends About ARCTURUS !

A Bigger subscription list means a better magazine for you. Help ARCTURUS and help yourself to a bigger and better magazine every month.

WATCH NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE FOR:

1. The first stf. operetta
 2. A History of GhuGhuism
 3. The new, handy format
- AND ALL OUR REGULAR FEATURES, INCLUDING
- Cartoons by Drucker
 - Poetry by Xanthippopolous X. Xilch
 - Curious Cosmologies
 - Reviews
 - Articles.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE INDEPENDENT LEAGUE FOR SCIENCE FICTION

ARTICLE I:

This organization shall be known as the INDEPENDENT LEAGUE FOR SCIENCE FICTION, hereinafter called "The League".

ARTICLE II:

1. The purposes of the League shall be the following:

- a. To further the cause of science fiction as a form of literature.
- b. To bring the science fiction devotees of the world into closer contact with each other through the medium of an organization sponsored by and conducted for and by science fiction readers.

2. In order to better carry into execution these purposes:

- a. The members of the League shall be empowered to form local chapters and branches of the League, said chapters to hold formal meetings at regular stated intervals.
- b. There shall be placed at the disposal of all members a mailing list from which members are at liberty to choose correspondents.
- c. The League shall publish a fan magazine devoted to science and science fiction. This shall appear not less than three times nor more than twelve times in each year.

ARTICLE III:

1. Any person may become a member of the League by making written application to the Secretary of the League. If the Secretary can see no objection to the acceptance of that person's application, he shall notify him of his acceptance, and membership shall take effect immediately.

If the Secretary considers that acceptance of any person as a member of the League would be contrary to the aims of the League or to its welfare he shall refer the application to the Executive Committee. A unanimous vote of the Executive Committee shall be required to reject the application of any person.

If an application is referred to the Executive Committee, the Secretary shall furnish the applicant with a complete account of the proceedings of the Committee with respect to his case, regardless of the decision of the Committee.

2. Duties and privileges of members:

- a. Each member of the League who is not a member of a chapter of the League shall be required to subscribe to the League publication. Each chapter of the League shall be required to subscribe to that publication. The League shall have no other compulsory fees or dues.
- b. A member in good standing shall be one who corresponds regularly with other members of the League, or with any other science fiction fan or fans. He shall actively collect science fiction magazines or contribute articles, news, or stories to some fan or professional magazine. If not a member of a chapter he shall subscribe to the League publication.
- c. All members of the League shall have the right to contribute articles and stories to, and to take part in discussions in, the League publication.
- d. All members shall have access to the mailing list of the League.
- e. All members shall have a right to be present at open sessions of the Executive Committee, and
- f. All members shall have the right to examine the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee.

3. Expulsion of members:

- a. A member of the League may be impeached at the request of the Executive Committee, or at the request of any five members of the League in signed petition. The reasons for impeachment shall be publicly stated, and a closed ballot of all members of the League shall be taken to decide whether the member shall be expelled. A majority vote shall be sufficient to expell the member. The votes shall be counted by the President at an open meeting of the Executive Committee.
- b. Any expelled member may be present at any open meeting of a chapter of the League, unless, by a vote of the members of the chapter, he shall be excluded from all such meetings. In attending meetings, he may not denounce the League or any member or officer thereof, under penalty of being refused admission to any meetings thereafter.
- c. Grounds for impeachment for members of the League shall include making slanderous statements about the League or any officer or member of the League. Such

statements must be made either in print, by letter, or by word of mouth in the presence of two witnesses.

ARTICLE IV:

1. All officers of the League shall be elected by the vote of all the members once every year in the month of September, the date to be set by the Executive Committee. Each office shall be filled by the person receiving the greatest number of votes for that office, providing that that number of votes is at least five in excess of the number received by the member receiving the next highest number of votes. If a sufficient plurality is not secured by any member, those members receiving the first and second highest number of votes shall be renominated by the Executive Committee, and a new vote shall be taken of all the members of the League. The member receiving a majority of the votes, if two are nominated, or a simple plurality if more than two, shall be considered duly elected to the office.

Any member of the League is eligible for any office of the League, but no member shall hold more than one office of the League. If elected to more than one office, he shall occupy the highest one, in the order: President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a new vote shall be taken of all the members of the League for the vacant office or offices.

All ballots shall be counted by a date set by the Executive Committee, the date not to be later than one week after the deadline for voting. The count shall be made by the President at an open session of the Committee, and the ballots shall be kept on file by the Secretary, and shall be shown to any member so requesting.

2. An officer of the League may be impeached, for good and sufficient reason, upon the signed petition of five members of the League. Two-thirds of the members of the League, voting in closed ballot, shall be sufficient to remove an officer from office. The ballots shall be opened before the Executive Committee, sitting in open session, by the highest officer not under trial, and the ballots shall be kept on file. The date of counting shall be not later than one week after the deadline set by the Executive Committee.

3. There shall be a President of the League, who shall

- a. Preside over meetings of the Executive Committee,
- b. Appoint temporary chairmen of chapters in case of vacancy, until such time as a regular chairman shall be elected, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee,
- c. Appoint members of all committees, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, with the exception of such committees whose memberships are expressly stated herein.

4. There shall be a Secretary of the League, who shall

- a. Enroll members of the League, and notify applicants of their acceptance or rejection,
- b. Issue charters to chapters at the order of the Executive Committee,
- c. Keep a card file of all members of the League,
- d. Send a list of all members of the League to any League member so requesting, not more than once in each year.
- e. Send out ballots to all members, at least a month before the deadline set, for voting, by the Executive Committee,
- f. Take minutes at all sessions of the Executive Committee.

5. There shall be a Treasurer of the League, who shall

- a. Hold all moneys belonging to the League,
- b. Render to the President a monthly report of all expenditures or gains of the Treasury of the League. This report shall be kept on file by the Secretary and a copy shall be sent to any member so requesting.

6. Any officer of the League may requisition a reasonable amount of postage and stationery, and other appurtenances to his office from the Treasurer. Abuse of this privilege shall constitute suitable grounds for impeachment.

7. If for any reason an office of the League become vacant, the Executive Committee, shall appoint a member to fill the place until such time as the original officer return to duty, or until the next regular vote for League officers.

ARTICLE V:

1. A new chapter requesting a charter shall be granted charter if the Execu-

tive Committee so votes. If the application be refused, reasons for the action shall be made known in the League publication.

2. Each chapter shall as a unit, subscribe to the League publication, or have at least one member in its membership who does so.

3. All chapters of the League must hold regular meetings at least once each month, except during the months of July and August.

4. Chapters which have not held meetings for two consecutive months, excepting July and August, or have held less than ten meetings during a year, shall have their charter revoked.

5. Each chapter shall hold meetings under regular parliamentary procedure, at least three members of the chapter being present at each meeting. There shall be a duly elected Chairman and any other officers deemed necessary by the members.

6. Minutes shall be taken at all meetings of chapters, and a copy sent to the League Secretary, who shall keep them on file. If a chapter so requests, the minutes of its meetings shall be published, at the discretion of the Editorial Committee.

ARTICLE VI:

1. There shall be an Executive Committee, consisting of the officers of the League and the officers of the Headquarters Chapter, who shall hold meetings in the City of New York, U.S.A. The highest officer present shall preside over each meeting. Every member of the Committee must be represented at each meeting. The Secretary of the League, or his representative, shall take minutes of all meetings of the Committee. The Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

- To set dates of voting on all League matters.
- To count ballots in open session and to publish the results.
- To appoint and dismiss the editor of the League publication.
- To impeach a member of the League, if necessary, giving reasons.
- To vote on applications for membership or charter.
- To take to itself all executive powers and functions concerning the good of

the League, if these are not provided for herein, unless these powers or functions belong, by parliamentary procedure, to a specific chapter or officer thereof.

g. The Committee may not delegate any of its powers to any member of the Independent League for Science Fiction.

2. There shall be a Ways and Means Committee, consisting of three members of the League, whose duty it shall be to devise ways and means of securing revenue for the League, and to examine into and advise about the expenditure of any large sum of money from the Treasury.

3. There shall be an Editorial Committee, whose duty it shall be to attend to all matters pertaining to publication and content of the League paper.

ARTICLE VII:

And amendment to this Constitution may be proposed by the signed petition of five members of the League. Three-quarters of the League members must vote in favor of it, for the amendment to take effect.

ARTICLE VIII:

Three-quarters of the members of the League must vote in favor of the Constitution in order for it to go into effect.

:-:-:-:-:- -o- ARCTURUS -o- :-:-:-:-:-

MEMBERS! What do you think of the Constitution? Send your votes to Harold W. Kirshenblit, 928 New Lots Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.

:-:-:-:-:- -o- ARCTURUS -o- :-:-:-:-:-

DON'T FORGET to mail in your vote for officers of the League. All ballots must be in by November 12. Mail your ballot in now!

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READ 'EM

AND WEEP!

by

FREDERIK POHL

"Not bad!" I says to myself, when I sees the December AMAZING STORIES "Not bad at all!" And, after I got around to reading it, I discovered it was pretty good! "Uncertainty", by John W. Campbell, was, for instance, pretty near perfect for my money. A story about the Solar System being invaded by a race from another star may not be the acme of originality, but Campbell's treatment of the old theme made it entirely acceptable. Campbell and E.E. Smith are in a class by themselves when it comes to working mathematics into the gaps in an old plot, and, in view of "Uncertainty", it's hard to tell which has the edge.

The rest of the issue isn't hopelessly bad, either. P. J. Bartel's "The Time Control", about a machine to see the future, came second, with "Devolution" by Edmond Hamilton, a close third. "The Space Marines and the Slavers", "Death Creeps the Moon", and "When the Earth Stood Still", by Olson, Wade, and Vance respectively, complete the issue, and are at least as good as the average in AMAZING STORIES.

ASTOUNDING STORIES, as of November, has, I regret to say, decreased in quality. "Anton Moves the Earth", by Ross Rocklynne, is, despite its title, good, and so is Schachner's novel, "The Eternal Wanderer". But what remains in the magazine is far below previous ASTOUNDING STORIES standards. But, bad as it is compared to itself of a while back, it is still better than any other newsstand s-f mag.

IT must be that science fiction

magazines are getting bad, and the bad ones are improving. THRILLING WONDER for December instances my statement, with Campbell copping the honors again, with "The Brain Stealers of Mars" and Stanley Weinbaum's "Last" story making a pretty good try. "The Brain Stealers of Mars" is that rare bird, a humorous science fiction story which doesn't depend on too-obvious satire. It is considerably like "A Martian Odyssey" in spots, but it's not too slavish a copy. Weinbaum's story, "The Brink of Infinity", is also humorously inclined. The only fault to be found with "The Brink of Infinity" is that it is not science fiction. It is more like a riddle in story form. As for the "Special Picture-Story Feature", "Zarnak", there are no words. It is difficult to see why Mr. Margulies, a man whose judgement I had previously respected, continues anything as hopelessly bad as this.

For sheer horror, the November WEIRD TALES beats anything that either HORROR STORIES or TERROR TALES can offer. The stories have a peculiar subtlety to their horror, an odd elusiveness, so that you believe at first that you are reading a quite innocuous, if faintly erotic, tale of ordinary humans doing ordinary things. Then, after you have finished the story, laid down the book, --- then comes to you suddenly, the realization of what you have read; you utter a horrendous shriek; you almost faint; you are never, never the same again. In this connection I was thinking of "Black Hound of Death" particularly, and "The Crawling Horror", "The Dark Demon", and, most especially, Lovecraft's reprint, "Pickman's Model".

CONSENSUS:

WEIRD

ASTOUNDING
AMAZING
THRILLING WONDER.

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