

## SCANSION

Thursday March 3rd. Science Fiction Newsletter

Number 28

It is with interest, that I have read in recent weeks denials of a banned list and a change of heart policy in a pamphlet issued from the headquarters of the Futurian Society of Sydney, and with even greater interest the replies to this by some of the individuals who had been actually affected.

In my opinion the real reason behind this soft soap screed has been deliberately overlooked by the people who have replied to it. Undoubtedly this attitude was taken in order to secure Convention support from the Futurian Society, its members and affiliated fans.

Now this should not really be necessary, all active fans (that adjective has altered considerably in meaning lately and should now apply to any fan participating in group activity) regardless of personal likes and dislikes, have pretty much the same goal in common. Thus open participation in any activity, regardless of organizers' identities, should be accepted as a matter of course. Which is reasonable when one considers that all concerned benefit in the long run.

So let us analyse these brave speeches and speak our true opinion. If co-operative support falls off as a result, how much worse off are we. After all we have had none to date, we expected none and further sabotage of the Convention at this stage by any member acting without "official" instructions will only condemn that person and his/her associates in the eyes of fandom.

It is all very good, soul saving and inspiring to move a motion completely absolving the Society from the misdeeds that have been accredited to it, but that does not prevent them from having happened. A banned list was in actual operation, whether officially or not is impossible for anyone not an executive of that august body to say, but it certainly had the approval of some officials. Members were openly insulted by executives who claimed they were acting officially, and either told to get out of the clubrooms or to keep out they were not welcome. A member was told by the Director to keep away from the Bridge Club Group and Convention activities or she would be expelled.

Those things have happened and can not be buried by any notice reading 'This Society has taken no action against any other Fan Group or Organization, and takes no responsibility for statements in publications of any individual members, unless acting under official instructions.'

Further this Society which has at various times expelled, banned and/or publicly rebuked members for un-Futurian behaviour between meetings takes no action against members (executives at that) who have taken the Society's name, without approval we are told, and have hidden behind it in scurrilous attacks that have besmirched the Society's reputation.

No gentlemen, the change of heart has not occurred because they want us back but because they want our money. Look at the minutes of meeting 181 for the first indication of this;

STONE: Why worry whether members attend or not so long as we have their dues to play around with.

Read Mr. Glicks comment in the pamphlet under discussion, I personally will approach as many of them(ex members) as possible and tell them we need their guineas in a hurry!