

# SCIENCE



# FICTION NEWS

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The current choice is

## FAHRENHEIT 451

by Ray Bradbury

(Hart-Davis 9/6 : SFBC 4/6)

*Reviewed in the last issue of SF News*

## A PLEA FOR ACCURACY

This was the title of an entertaining talk by Patrick Moore, the astronomer and author, at a recent meeting of the Science Fiction Luncheon Club. Mr. Moore said that there are two kinds of science fiction, that which makes no pretence at scientific accuracy, and the more factual kind typified by Jules Verne. He is convinced that the day of the first one is doomed.

In the early days of science fiction Bug Eyed Monsters and little men from Mars seemed reasonably plausible, but now most of us are aware that it is a scientific fact that a form of life *similar to our own* is impossible on any of the larger planets. You cannot make an historical novel convincing unless you get the history right, and this, argued Mr. Moore, is paralleled in science fiction. If you are writing a novel about Mars you must make Mars as Mars is known to be.

On Mr. Moore's argument for authenticity how is one to defend, for example, the "false science" in Ray Bradbury's MARTIAN CHRONICLES? There are those die-hards who won't



(from *The New Yorker*)  
"A wave of horror sickened her as she saw the creature approach. Its hands were a grotesque cluster of five fingers; its head, if it could be called that, was small, with slits for eyes and a shapeless blob for a nose, and crowned with a rank, repulsive growth..."

### DETAIL

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