

B L U S H : a fanzine for Dick Ellington and far too many others  
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Australia for the August 1969 (128th) Mailing of the Fantasy Amateur Press  
Association. E&OExpected.

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Dick Ellington 'and the others' are those several members of FAPA who  
so kindly sent me their fapazines on various occasions over the last six  
years or so: that in almost every case I did nothing to show that I appreci-  
ated receiving those fanzines is the reason for the blush. Sometimes, if  
I had known the sender from some other situation, I would write a letter of  
comment. Even then I didn't always manage so simple a task.

The reason for this, or rather, the story I keep telling myself, is  
that I know I don't write much of a letter of comment. I know this isn't  
really good enough, but it is what I used to justify myself.

Some of you took the hint, of course, and after wasting (though it  
wasn't really wasted) several issues and several lots of stamps you quit.  
Well done! I've always done that myself. But Dick Ellington is singled out  
above because, for some reason I still puzzle over, he kept sending KIM  
CHI to me constantly despite the coolness of my welcome. This is made worse  
by the fact that I really enjoyed KIM CHI as much as any other fanzine I've  
received in that period of time. I guess this means that Dick Ellington is  
very kind and generous, or else that he is very stupid. And I haven't come  
up against very many stupid fans: not overseas, anyway, but of that more  
anon.

I don't list 'the others' because that list would be incomplete: as  
some of you know my fanzine collection cuts off suddenly in the middle of  
1966, and I just don't trust my memory. But I remember most of you, and  
thanks.

INTRODUCTIONS

I don't intend to do it, really, so it is quite safe to read  
on. FAPA gets new members fairly slowly, so that the problem  
of new members introducing themselves cannot be acute. But nevertheless the  
cases I've seen recently suggest I should not aspire to this art.

Anyway, looking at it candidly, I'd have quite a task. Some of you  
will know me from SAPS, either as present members or as dear departed. Some  
of you may recall a fanzine I published in '64-'65 called THE GRYPHON, which  
was, I think, the first Australian fanzine to try earnestly to get away from  
science fiction (and in seventeen issues it succeeded fairly well). Some of  
you may know of me as a clapped-out writer about science fiction in John  
Bangsund's AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW (R.I.P.).

Collating those images, plus any strays which may be floating around,  
is too much for me: I'll prefer to talk about the present.

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## HERE AND NOW

The present, of course, is a pretty tricky thing: we've never come across it before, and it'll never happen again. But dealing with new situations is good for the soul, I'm told. As far as science fiction fans in Australia are concerned, fandom means John Bangsund and AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW. The Australian circulation of ASFR is something like 150 - I daren't figure out a US equivalent. I mean "was", up there. With the passing of ASFR, at any rate, Australian fandom will now shrink back to a reasonable size, probably clustered around ANZAPA, the local apa which will complete a year in action this August. The number of inactive fans will remain constant, naturally.

All of these fans are members of a later generation, fan-wise, than I am. John Baxter, who almost made it into FAPA several years ago, got me interested, and for the years 1960-1964 he and Bob Smith and I more or less constituted Australian fandom, though Mervyn Barrett arrived in '61 and was, if anything, an honorary Aussiefan. This later generation mainly derives from the '66 Australian Convention, I think, and with the exception of John Bangsund, all of them are younger than I am (sob).

The image of Australian fandom now, overseas, as I imagine it to be, is just about that image of serious discussion of science fiction which the four of us were trying to break down in the first half of this decade, follow-on the earlier attempts of Mike Baldwin in Sydney. Leigh Edmonds is possibly offsetting this to some extent now, but Bob and John have both broken off with this new madness, and Mervyn has been in swinging England for the past few years. Perhaps the final dissolution of ASFR will mean a swing back: I certainly hope so.

I could ramble on in this vein for quite some time, but foreign fan history is probably not particularly exciting reading. But would other material be any better?

Here and now I am a university student, which at my age is ridiculous. But that is what happens to drop-outs who drop out. Having failed to pass the course of their choice, I taught for some time and then went back to do the course of my choice: and I am not experiencing a great deal of difficulty. One factor underlying many failures in tertiary education, and one not often if ever admitted, is plain bone-headed advice given to incoming students. Another factor, possibly of more importance in Australia than elsewhere, is the attempt to teachers to stack the university entrance by teaching their students just for that examination. The result is a large number of students at university with an over-inflated reputation. In the long run this does not pay off. But taking a longer view does pay off, it seems to me. Of the students I prepared for this examination and who entered university there has not yet been a drop-out (from about 15 students, or roughly half of those prepared), and all who have graduated to date have gone on to post-graduate work. With luck I'll be joining them shortly.

My interest is mathematics, and the field is indicated by the other

contribution I have to this mailing. I should remark that I do realise that this is not standard FAPA fare, but it is, on the other hand, something I've been wanting wanting to do for some time. And after spending so long on the Waiting List I feel like celebrating a little. That celebration would probably be more joyous if my fanac hadn't suddenly taken a turn for the worse. Until just over a year ago I published about four fanzines a year, and had done so for some time. Now I have to face 14 apa deadlines a year (which means missing some, of course) and I also have a quarterly fanzine (fortunately with a small circulation) which has had four issues this year already.

### THE WAITING LIST

The impression I have from the FA, and also from quite a few of the fanzines I've read, is that many members are just about neurotic when it comes to the WL. Perhaps I'll know what is so worrying when I've been around a little longer, but I guess that if new members have any duty at all it is to assure the older members that they didn't really mind waiting. Since it took me seven years from go to whoa (i.e. from July 1962 to date) to get in, I must have had about as much experience of the WL as anyone who didn't stumble.

There is the problem I mentioned above: that by the time one ascends the heights one is no longer young and enthusiastic. This is not always the case, of course, and by "enthusiasm" I meant rather that feeling of elation that comes with the discovery of something "new". The kind of enthusiasm that pays, I think, is the kind that is not withered by age. But the new system seems to be cutting down the waiting time, so that there is more chance of fans being caught in that first flush. On the other hand, the people I'm looking forward to seeing in FAPA, located near the bottom of the WL, don't seem to have a flash-in-the-pan eagerness.

The only thing that worries me about the WL is the people who stay on it for a long time and then simply vanish. I suspect this might not have happened had these people been in FAPA, but can't be sure. On the other hand I am pretty sure that it was not the long wait that made the obvious example, Walt Willis, drop off. Because I've had some slight contact with two former WLers I was very anxious to contact them again in FAPA, very soon after I got into FAPA. But Tom Seidman dropped off from 17, a spot which must have been the result of at least 3 or 4 years interest, and, unless I'm very much mistaken, Tom Perry dropped out more or less from under my feet. John Baxter dropped when he was either 2 or 1 on the WL. Perhaps someone knows why these people suddenly lose interest, but my only clue is that I almost did it myself.

Perhaps the explanation is that things move very slowly up at the top. For instance, I was effectively in place 2 as of the August 1968 mailing, but didn't get in for another year. Would it be possible to hang on to a few more of these fans in high places by giving them additional encouragement? I can think of a way, but it probably isn't acceptable. The three extra copies of the mailing are, as I understand it, for emergency replacement of lost-in-the-mail copies. Soon after the mailing is distributed it must become clear whether or not these copies will be needed. On a fixed date after the mailing could the OE then offer, through the Sec-treas if necessary, these copies to the three top WLers instead of waiting until the Surplus Stock sale later on?

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In the event of a refusal this process could be continued, say down to fifth spot, at which point any copies left would be kept for the Surplus Stock sale. This would mean that long-serving W/Lers would have some encouragement to stay on just that little bit longer, and, if they were interested in seeing the mailings, wouldn't be penalised by spending a year cooling their heels without moving on to the higher things they might have expected. I guess there are plenty of reasons for not doing this, but if the wastage at the top is as high as I expect, then it might pay off.

#### REPRINT DEPARTMENT

##### PREMIER WARNS OF BRISBANE ANARCHY

Brisbane - The Premier (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) will appeal to Queensland parents today to alert their student children of moves by malcontents to undermine authority and democracy.

"This is a well organised and insidious move to undermine the maturing and impressionable minds of young people," Mr. Bjelke-Petersen said.

"The Government is aware of a deliberate, highly-planned movement to spread an insidious gospel of anarchy."

The Premier said a parent had sent him a copy of a pamphlet outlining "rules for revolution" which was being distributed through a suburban postal address.

Among the pamphlet's rules were: "Corrupt the young, get them away from religion, get them interested in sex, destroy their ruggedness, destroy the people's faith in their leaders by holding them up to ridicule and contempt."

"I appeal to parents and to all young people to think seriously before accepting the specious arguments of people who are not really interested in their future welfare but in the disintegration of our democratic way of life," Mr. Bjelke-Petersen said.

... THE AGE (Melbourne, June 9 1969)

Alas, no matter how hard I looked in THE AGE for June 10 I couldn't find the follow-up report I was expecting. I couldn't find it in the other morning daily, THE AUSTRALIAN, either. But the national radio network reported, on the evening of June 9, with some relish that it was all A Big Mistake, and that the pamphlet had been published by the Australian League of Rights, an anti-Semitic organisation whose political philosophy is somewhat to the Right of that of the Australian Nazi Party. The pamphlet was claimed to be a reprint "captured from communists in Dusseldorf in 1919". I suppose the idea of sending it to the ridiculous Bjelke-Petersen was to warn him against the horrid students, who presumably were following the document of 1919 to the letter. But I'm glad the papers managed to be as one-sided as ever. If that hadn't been the case then there would have been yet another reason for believing Bjelke-Petersen to be contemptible as well (being ridiculous is his trademark).

#### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

John Bangsund and I have set up a university (free?).

Since John lives on the borders of the shires of Knox and Ardeer we have naturally called it the University of Ard-Knox. John holds courses in Biblical Engineering and Biblical Accounting, while I run the Omphalistic Epistemology classes. More news next mailing - the next one I make....

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