

FUTURIAN OBSERVER

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WE ASKED A QUESTION.

Since the Sydcon idea bit the dust we have been doing a little investigating and have recorded beneath the reactions of several Sydney fans when asked: "What do you think of the Sydney conventions's apparent collapse?" We had intended to get everyone's opinion but as everyone was not available we give the few we did get. They're interesting.

Here is what they said:

Graham Stone: "It seems to me that after the build-up it had it could not have had very sound foundations."

Edward H. Russell: "Would have liked to be along to such a function. Pity it collapsed as it would have been a great success if planned properly."

Eric F. Russell: "The Sydcon idea was good. For it to be held next year however, would be far better as there would be more time for fans to prepare ..."

David R. Evans: "Another tragic illustration of inconsistency."

Bert Cas: "Inevitable."

Now what sayeth Vol Molesworth, William D. Veney, Ronald B. Levy, Bruce M. Sawyer, Kenneth N. Dwyer, Charles La Coste, Colin Roden and you Melbourne fellows? Let's hear from you.

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FUTURIAN SOCIETY NOTES: The following may not be accurate but it will be correct in the main detail. We've been two months doing this job and our notes are somewhat mixed. However:

Meeting number 24 of the FSS was held on the 21st March. The most important facts were that it seemed likely that William D. Veney would resign and that Eric F. Russell would succeed him as secretary. Ted Russell - official editor - raised objection over the latter fact as it would seem too much likely a majority control. No one seemed to think this particularly likely.

Graham Stone's lecture on why he believed Wonder Stories better than Amazing (the old not the new) raised much controversy. It was decided that in future there would be more lectures. (Shades of the past - how many times has that been decided?) There was some discussion on "Future" the club organ.

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We'd give anything to have some fillers for these small spaces!

And yet another drops the torch

At the last meeting of the Futurian Society William D. Veney resigned from the position of secretary and also as a member. Reason? He has joined the Young Men's Christian Association and will not have time for the Society.

As I write this I seem to recall a conversation which we had once after I had resigned myself (this is RBL's work). He told me that he would never resign even if the club's membership was reduced to only two people .. he even went on to say how two people could carry on quite successfully, as though he were anticipating the occurrence with ~~relish~~. Anyway the main drift of the conversation was that I and people like me could retire if they liked for all he cared - he wasn't going to. (Ikky, ikky - a sentence ended with preposition - bfc.)

I don't want you think that I am blaming him for resigning. I understand perfectly the way he feels -- the Y.M.C.A. is far more interesting than a lot of bickering idiots who do nothing but put things aside for future reference. -- Not that I am blaming them for bickering - I was one of the "idiots" for over a year and I might become one again (after my period of retirement is up) if they begin to wake up. But if I do I won't give boasts of sticking to it. I don't profess to be that great a stoic. Not that I blame Bill for boasting ... he thought he was on a good thing, and isn't there some advertisement which say that when you're on a good thing to stick to it. Trouble is that it doesn't say what to do if something better ~~turn up~~ so he just had to decide for himself what to do. I do not blame him for deciding to do as he did.

BFC Comment: Hon. Dr. Levy ended his dispatch here with three words, being "etc. etc. etc." expecting me to write the rest. No will do - and can you blame me rbl?

RON RAMBLES: Amongst the last lot of American fan magazines received by Sydney fandom came news which saddened the heart of many. The saddest was that Pluto - the epic of colour, its sixth and incidentally, first anniversary issue, has ceased publication owing to the drafting of some of its editors. I think that I am speaking for all Sydney fandom when I say that we are all sorry - extremely sorry - about this loss ... Pluto was becoming one of those mags which one "waits for." (Ikky, ikky, ikky - again he's done it. - bfc.)

The second piece of sad news was the announcement that "Le Zombie" is suspending publication for three months; this may not seem particularly sad but I would like to assure Bob Tucker that those three issues of his mag are going to be sorely missed by the many fans who have become so fond of it. (Bardon me interrupting, but this last statemtn will certainly be news to be in view of what some people think! Still, I must admit that LeZ helps to keep up my morale in these "hard-to-get-stf" times! - bfc.)

Apart from fan mags Sydney fans have received a varied assortment of professional magazines. I myself, received the 6th issue of Captain Future and an Unknown from Forrest J. Ackerman, to whom I think a great number of Australian fans are indebted for the receipt of the majority of their pro mags. He has sent these magazines to nearly every fan, knowing that he will receive in exchange, if anything, only a badly mimed fan mag containing only stale news and poor material. On behalf of those fans I wish to thank 4SJ (although most have already done in private letters) for his generosity and his understanding of the craving which most fans experience.

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