

THE NEW

FORERUNNER

AUSTRALIAN FANDOM'S MONTHLY NEWS ZINE



DESTINATION, MEL- BOURNE!

SYDNEY, March 28th - All roads lead to Melbourne for Australian fandom, as convention fever mounts. The 8th Australian Science Fiction Convention will be held in Melbourne during the Easter holiday weekend. According to the revised programme, the Con opens at 10 a.m. on Good Friday, 4th April with registrations and what is described as "informal mingling" at the Melbourne Science Fiction Club rooms, 19 Somerset Place, Melbourne. (Which is a devil of a place to find; it's directly behind

McGill's Newsagency---

but you can't get to it that way. Try a road map.) After that, the programme goes:

- 1.30 p.m. - Official opening & introductions.
- 1.45 - Business session.
- 2.30 - Address by Guest of Honour, Lee Harding(!).
- 3.00 - Panel discussion with Lee Harding, George Turner, David Boutland, Philip Collas, Wynne Whiteford & Ron Smith.
- 7.30 - Announcement and presentation (if possible) of the Australian Science Fiction Achievement Awards (Ditmars).
- 8.00 - Film: *Seconds*.

Saturday, 5th April:

2.00 - Auction.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT)

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION

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DARLING IS PRESIDENT

BUT WHO'S

TO BE SEC'TY?

THE SYDNEY SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION is a non-profit association of people of all ages with a sincere and serious (but not over-serious) interest in science-fiction and related fields. It holds regular meetings in the homes of members, where informality is the keynote. Science-fiction is a principal, but by no means the only, topic of conversation. The club holds various functions (e.g., theatre parties to science-fiction movies and tours of the Sydney Observatory have been arranged) for the enjoyment of members, and it boasts a small but rapidly-growing library of science-fiction and related books, magazines and fanzines. Visitors are always welcome.

The new President of the Sydney Science Fiction Foundation is Peter Darling, who has accepted the position as a replacement for Zian Wilkinson until the Annual elections in May. Peter has also consented to stand for election as President for 1969-1970.

Peter's appointment was announced to a hushed Committee, meeting at Campsie on 7th March, and was unanimously approved by all present.

At the Formal Meeting held the same evening, Zian formally presented (CONTINUED PAGE THREE)

THE NEW FORERUNNER is a non-profit fan magazine which specializes in reporting news of interest to fans of science-fiction, the comics, and related fields. It features Australian Notebook, the column that began as a feature in one of the editor's limited-circulation magazines reporting the goings-on of Australian fandom to an audience composed mainly of American comics fans, and which has now expanded to carry news of a more general interest to Australian science-fiction and comics fans, with a growing science-fiction content. NF also regularly carries an extensive section dealing with the latest activities of the Sydney Science Fiction Foundation and its members, and is circulated to all members free of charge. For this reason, NF is described as "Newsletter of the Sydney Science Fiction Foundation."

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her resignation to the meeting, made a stirring speech about personality conflicts in the club, and announced Peter's appointment to the meeting. Peter later made a motion that the club's thanks be extended to Zian for the devotion she has given to the club since its inception and especially since becoming President last year---a motion that was seconded unanimously in a chorus of all the voices present.

Zian remains a full member until August, when it is understood that she plans to become a postal member.

ANOTHER RESIGNATION:

Gail Purcell, who stepped into the breach when over-committed Ron Clarke resigned as Secretary of the Sydney Science Fiction Foundation last February, has herself resigned from the position. In her letter of resignation she apologised for her inability to continue, and said that she had derived great pleasure in working with the other members of the committee. However, transportation and domestic difficulties precluded her from attending meetings very often and she did not think the secretary, who was supposed to keep the minutes of meetings, should be a person who could not promise regular attendance.

A replacement has not yet been announced.

RAIN PREDICTED FOR MAY ...

Following the recent visits of the club to the Sydney Observatory, which were dampened by rain that made looking through telescopes impossible on both nights, a further tour has been scheduled. It will take place on a Monday or a Tuesday night in May. The President, Peter Darling, has requested that members who wish to attend this new tour notify him of their interest as soon as possible. (Non-members are also welcome to come along, but they risk having the question thrown at them---why don't you join?) Peter's address is 56 Pembroke Street, Epping, N.S.W. 2121, and his phone number there is 86 4075. The exact date of the trip will be announced in THE NEW FORERUNNER as soon as possible. Again, we must acknowledge the help of Mr Bill Moser, our friend from the U.F.O. Investigation Centre, in arranging the visit. Thank you!

RECRUITING DRIVE GETTING RESULTS

As reported last month, the Gala Cinema in Pitt Street is running a series of screenings of science fiction movies ("for the addict") on Saturday mornings. The streamlined, no-interval sessions begin at 9.30 and end at 11.30. Admission is one dollar. Still to be screened are Jean-Luc Godard's Alphaville on Easter Saturday, James B. Harris's The Bedford Incident on 12th April, and John Frankenheimer's Seven Days In May on 19th April. With the free notes distributed to patrons is a slip of paper advertising the Sydney Science Fiction Foundation in these terms, "Are you a Science Fiction 'addict'? If so you will be interested to hear that a group of people with this common interest have formed a club. Regular meetings are held and club members have access to a fast growing library of sf and related literature.

"Join other addicts! Write for details to:- SSSF."

To date, there have been five replies to this advertisement, and Peter Darling, whose address was given, is hopeful of enticing some of these people to join us. It was suggested that we prepare a booklet (with offset covers, maybe) to distribute to patrons at the last screening of the series, explaining all about the club and fandom in general, but with only three weeks before the end of the series—and with the next meeting of the club scheduled for only the evening before—it seems that the idea is not going to be implemented.

The club was happy to welcome one new member during the month, though. He is Dr Alfred J. Van Der Poorten, who attended the meeting of 7th March. Dr Van Der Poorten, not a respondent to the Gala advertisement, is a lecturer and tutor in the School of Mathematics at the University of New South Wales. He has a collection of over 900 science fiction books, having been a serious collector since about 1965, and a reader for about eight years before that, I think he said. He tells us he is always on the lookout for new items to add to his collection, and will be glad to pay reasonable prices for anything he needs that NF readers may have. He also has a small number of duplicates to trade, I understand. Readers with books to offer should get in touch with him, Dr Alfred J. Van Der Poorten, School of Mathematics, University of N.S.W., Box 1, P.O., Kensington, N.S.W. 2033.

RETURNING OFFICER APPOINTED.

The returning officer for the coming elections was appointed at the Formal Meeting of 7th March. He is Gary Mason (who?). Ballot forms and instructions for their completion and return will be sent to members eligible to vote with the next issue of THE NEW FOREBURNER. Note that people whose membership dues are in arrears will not be allowed to vote. Please check the back of this NF to see if you will be financial at the annual meeting, which has now been rescheduled for 16th May, 1969 at Flat 12, 13 Second Avenue, Campsie, N.S.W. 2194.

So far, candidates are Peter Darling (nominated Zian Wilkinson, seconded Gary Mason) for President, John Dowden (nominated Zian Wilkinson, seconded Gary Mason) for Treasurer, and Debbie Dowden (nominated Zian Wilkinson, seconded Gary Mason), Richard Wrobel (nominated Zian Wilkinson, seconded Gary Mason), and Gary Mason (nominated Zian Wilkinson, seconded Ron Clarke) for ordinary committee members. Warren Glass was also nominated by Zian Wilkinson and seconded by Gary Mason for a position on the committee, and his acceptance is awaited. To date, there are no candidates for the position of Secretary or Vice-President; nominations (seconded and signed by the candidates) are invited. Note that 20th April is the deadline for all nominations. In the absence of a secretary, these things may be sent to the returning officer whose address may be found in the indicia at the foot of the front page of this fine publication.

The election is also the occasion for the presentation of constitutional amendments (see below, "Amendment Motions Spark Discussion") and motions to create life members. Pat Terry has been nominated by Zian Wilkinson and seconded by Gail Purcell for this honour. Further motions should be addressed to the returning officer to reach him (me) before 20th April.

The Service Page...

OLD ADDRESSES.

John & Diane Bangsund,
P.O. Box 19,
Fernree Gully,
Victoria 3156.

Leigh Edmonds,
Flat 3,
13 Cardigan Street,
St Kilda, Vic. 3183

Paul Stevens,
2/20 Merton Street,
North Caulfield,
Victoria 3161.

NEW ADDRESSES.

John & Diane Bangsund,
P.O. Box 109,
Fernree Gully,
Victoria 3156.

Leigh Edmonds,
P.O. Box 74,
Balaclava, Vic. 3183.

Paul Stevens,
P.O. Box 74,
Balaclava, Vic. 3183.

Following is the schedule of meetings of the Sydney Science Fiction Foundation for April, May and June, 1969. All meetings will be held at Flat 12, 13 Second Avenue, Campsie, N.S.W. 2194 and the library there will be open during meeting hours.

- 8 p.m., Friday, 18th April
(April formal meeting).
- 8 p.m., Friday, 2nd May.
- 8 p.m., Friday, 16th May
(Annual general meeting).
- 8 p.m., Friday, 30th May.
- 8 p.m., Friday, 13th June.
(June formal meeting).
- 8 p.m., Friday, 27th June.

ZIAN SAYZ

Hail and Farewell.

The HAIL is to the new President and to the club, with my heartiest best wishes for a long future of success.

The FAREWELL is to the many friends I have made in the club. Believe when I say I shall miss you all. It has been fun and I have taken a great deal of pleasure being your Treasurer and President. I could never have done anything without the fullest co-operation I have been lucky to have from my fellow members and my committee. You were a great team to work with. I know you will work with the new President and help him as much as you have helped me in the past, and that the club goes on to better things in the future.

Of course, I hope to keep in touch as a postal member after my departure and hope to hear from you now and again. I shan't forget you all, or the club. The SSFF has survived a bad beginning and lack of projects. It is picking up gradually and is a friendly place to meet people with similar interests. Informality has proved to be a good thing up to now. Who knows what will be forthcoming in the future? From some of the ideas currently in discussion it should be a real swinging year, busy and full of interest for all in the club.

Well, I guess that's it folks—all that's left except "thanks" and "good luck". Until we meet again in a few weeks' or months' time. Au revoir.



AMENDMENT MOTIONS SPARK DISCUSSION

Several of the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Sydney Science Fiction Foundation have come under fire in the past month. Specifically, Pat Terry attacks all three of the amendments moved by Gary Mason.

The first is a motion to amend Clause 28 to read, "Any motion in the Minutes may be rescinded at any formal meeting. Amendments to this Constitution can only be made at a formal meeting by a 75% affirmative vote of all members casting ballots. Motions must be in writing and must bear the signature of the originator and that of a seconder. Notice of intention to amend must be circulated to all members at least thirty days in advance of the meeting at which the vote is to be taken. Members unable to attend may vote by post or by proxy." The purpose of this amendment is to enable changes in the organization of our rapidly and constantly changing club to be reflected in the rules governing that organization, rather than lagging a year behind as at present. Says Pat, "Your proposed amendment to Clause 28 of the Constitution fills me with absolute horror. The very reason for the clause as written at present is to avoid a constant monthly flow of petty amendments, which take up far too much valuable time. Long experience in Executive positions in many and varied organizations such as the T.P.I. Association, The Australian Legion, The R.S.L., and The Legion of War Relatives has proven that the wastage of time thus caused results in the loss of many a good executive, whereas being able to amend the Constitution only once, annually, results inevitably in any proposed amendment being extremely well studied beforehand and then is usually well worth while. I strongly oppose your proposal." If I may be forgiven for taking the editorial liberty of answering immediately, I would point out that comparisons between the T.P.I. Association and those other worthy organizations and the Sydney Science Fiction Foundation can hardly be valid. The former are long-established, well-financed and comparatively stable national institutions; the SSFF, despite its grandiose title, is a rather tiny, particularly unstable group of friends---without even a meeting place of its own. When was the last time the RSL met in members' houses? A large, respectable, settled body can afford to have a rigid unyielding Constitution. When our club becomes settled in its ways---say in about ten years' time---I will definitely agree that one annual opportunity to amend the Constitution is sufficient, but not now. And, um, I hate to mention this, but time at formal meetings can hardly be described as particularly "valuable" at all. In fact, the occasional Constitutional amendment might even serve a good purpose in giving monthly meetings something to discuss! Lastly, I point out that amendments under my proposed rule would be a lot better studied beforehand than under the present provision---which does not mention any minimum period for discussion.

The second amendment is to change Clause 15 to read, "Persons unable to attend meetings may be permitted to become Postal Members on payment, in advance, of an Annual Subscription as per Clause 14, except that no person living within fifty miles of the G.P.O., Sydney, may become a postal member. However, persons living within this distance may, at the discretion of the Committee, become Associate Members with subscriptions payable at the same rate as postal members' subscriptions." Pat's reaction is "that the part about the 'living within 50 miles of the Sydney G.P.O.' is so plainly ridiculous. How many members living

much more than only 5 miles from the G.P.O. would you have left? A member living, say, at Katoomba (well inside your limits) finishes work, goes home, has dinner, changes clothes and then has to travel the distance from his home to a meeting, and get home again early enough for a necessary night's rest—absolutely ridiculous." Such a member would be granted permission to become an Associate Member. I envisage that people would be granted such permission almost automatically, the main point being that the Committee has this check if it thinks it is being done.

Katoomba is $68\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Sydney, Mr Terry.

The third amendment was to delete the words "but there must be at least one Committee Meeting held during Formal Meetings" from Clause 19 on the grounds that it simply is not a practicable requirement: the necessary quorum is not always available. Pat objects that "unless there is a Committee Meeting at stated and known intervals and they are regularly attended—inevitably—everything gets pushed on to the shoulders of (usually) one willing worker, and—also inevitably—such a willing worker generally gets all the blame for anything that goes wrong, and darned seldom gets any credit for good work done. This matter was very thoroughly thrashed out before the Constitution was even drafted, and the holding of a Committee Meeting during the monthly Formal meeting was a compromise to remove the necessity for Committee Members to make extra nights and journeys each month. Remove the obligatory Committee meeting—then, very soon, you end up with a petty dictatorship—or is that the underlying object?" I still think that impossibility outweighs desirability every time. And what do you mean by that last sentence, Pat?

Three other amendments have been received so far. The first is a motion to renumber Clause 17 to become Clause 2, and that Clauses 2 through 16 be renumbered accordingly, so that the Clause setting out the purposes of the club takes its rightful place at the head of the document. This was moved by Pat Terry and seconded by Zian Wilkinson. The second is a motion to delete Clauses 36, 37 and 38 which set out certain procedures to be followed in the event of the dormancy and/or winding up of the club. These procedures involve a library in ways that no library will become involved, it has been discovered. This motion was originated by Pat Terry and seconded by Zian Wilkinson. The third motion is to amend Clause 16 to read, "Associate and Postal Members have the same voting rights as other members." At present, these members can only nominate, second and vote on the election of officers and on amendments to the Constitution directly affecting them. This motion will be the first matter on the agenda, so that if it is passed postal members' votes on the rest of the agenda may be counted. (If it is rejected, their votes on matters which they can't vote on will not be counted, of course.)

Further Constitutional motions should be sent to the returning officer, signed and seconded, before 20th April. Copies of the Constitution may be obtained on request from Ron Clarke, 78 Redgrave Road, Normanhurst, N.S.W. 2076.

CLUB DUES REVISED - The new fees set by the Committee on 7th March are: \$3 for one year's full membership (\$1 quarterly if preferred), and \$2 for a year's postal, associate, or special membership. A subscription to THE NEW FORERUNNER is included in these amounts, and you can save your club money by collecting your copy personally at the first meeting in each month.



AUSTRALIAN NOTEBOOK ...

... Sydney, 28th March, 1969.

SOURCES THIS MONTH: John Bangsund, Ron Clarke, Chris Collier, COSMIC DUSTBUB, DAILY TELEGRAPH (Sydney), Peter Darling, Leigh Edmonds, Bruce Gillespie, Ron Graham, John Ryan, Paul Stevens, THE SUN (Sydney), THE SUNDAY MAIL (Brisbane), THE SUN-HERALD (Sydney), THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, Pat Terry, TV TIMES, Bill Wright, and (Pardon the deviation from alphabetical order, but this one only came in late) THE AUSTRALIAN.

(CONTINUED) 3.30 - Fan Guest of Honour, John Foyster.

4.00 - Fan panel discussion, chaired by Leigh Edmonds. (Last I heard, the panellists were going to be John Foyster, John Bangsund, Bernie Bernhouse, Paul Stevens, Ron Clarke, Gary Mason and Leigh Edmonds, discussing such exorciating questions as "What makes a fan tick?", "What is a fan?" and/or "Why do fans exist?")

8.00 - Wild party (whatever that means).

All this for only \$1.50. The last part of the programme is a film festival scheduled for the Capri Theatre, Murrumbidgee, starting at 2 p.m. on Easter Sunday, 6th April. Among the fine films to be shown are The Fabulous World of Jules Verne ("a continental sf film," says organizer Paul Stevens), and hopefully the Russian film Planet of Storms. There may be a panel discussion on sf films and censorship later, I understand. \$2 will get you into the Sunday fun.

The picnic previously scheduled for Saturday has been cancelled. Convention membership fees can be sent now to Bill Wright, 53 Celia Street, Burwood, Victoria 3125, if you get this issue of NF before Easter, or can be paid at the door.

Many observers see this Convention as a crucial test for Australian fandom: depending on its success or failure, it will either bring about the proverbial fannish revival or nail the proverbial lid on the proverbial fannish coffin. For its part, Sydney will have a rather larger contingent there than last year; expected attendees are John Brozman, Ron Clarke, Peter Darling, Chris Guy, Gary Mason, Alex Rebb, Alfred Van Der Poorten, Zian Wilkinson, and perhaps Richard Hrobel. We're going to try and organize a special get-together on the Friday evening.

Voting on the Ditmar awards is proceeding at this writing, and winners will be announced at the Convention and in the next issue. Nominations were John Baxter (ed): PACIFIC BOOK OF AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION, A. B. Chandler; FALSE FATHERLAND (SPARTAN PLANET), and Stephen Cook; Final Flower for "Best Australian Science Fiction of any Length, or Collection"; Brian Aldiss: AN AGE, Thomas M. Disch: CAMP CONCENTRATION and Charles Harness: THE KING OF HITORNEL for "Best International Science Fiction of any length, or Collection"; Brian Aldiss, Samuel R. Delany, R. A. Lafferty and Roger Zelazny for "Best Contemporary Writer of Science Fiction"; and AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW, THE LETTER and RATA-

PLAN for "Best Australian Amateur Science Fiction Publication, or Fanzine." Write-in votes were allowed. The official closing date was 23rd March, and ballots arriving after 29th March cannot be accepted.

Science fiction writer John Wyndham died on 10th March, 1969 at his home in England. Wyndham was the pseudonym of John Beynon Harris. One wire service described the 65 year old author of THE DAY OF THE TRIFIDS (set in some school literature courses now) and THE CHRYSALIDS as the best known British science fiction author other than H.G. Wells.

Two issues of Frew's THE PHANTOM have been published since last issue. They are No. 388, 6th March, 1969, featuring "A Storm in the Caribbean" drawn by Wilson McCoy, a story that previously appeared in Nos.147 and 251, and No. 389, 20th March, 1969, which featured Part I of the two-part story of the "Lady Luck" whose all-girl pirate crew kidnaps Diana Palmer. The "Lady Luck" story was drawn by McCoy (possibly in his collaboration with Moore, since it isn't signed by McCoy), and Part I has previously been in Nos.148 and 252.

Two issues of Disney comics contained other than straight reprints of Dell or Gold Key comics this month. They were:

G.448 UNCLE SCROOGE, 20th March, 1969.

UNCLE SCROOGE Robbery Under Alarms (European, 21 pages).

UNCLE SCROOGE Big Rescue Operation (European, 7 pages).

J.55 ACTION-PACKED SPECIAL!, 27th March, 1969.

DONALD & FETHRY The Barn Stormer (American (not Hubbard), 12 pages).

O.O. DUCK The Picnic (Al Hubbard art, 11 pages).

MICKEY & GOOPY The Great Invention (Paul Marry art, 9 pages).

MAGICA & MIN Success Through Goodness (European, 9 pages).

BEAGLE BOYS Nor Iron Bars A Cage (American, 9 pages).

Nothing from Page Publications except a comic-book reprint of DAISY THE PUP or some such; no new Spanish translations from Colour Comics.

The first issue of VISION OF TOMORROW is scheduled for June. It will be bi-monthly at first, and may become a Monthly later. The first three issues have already been planned. No.1 will feature as its lead story a novelette by Jack Wodhams titled "Anchor Man", as well as "The Vault" by Damien Broderick and "Around The Corner Is Too Far" by Eric Harris. Unless negotiations fall through at the last moment, it will be distributed by the Transworld Circulation Company Limited of England throughout the English-speaking world (excepting the United States). Phil Harbottle, the editor, and Ron Graham, the publisher, who is travelling to England especially for the purpose, will be addressing the Oxford Science Fiction Conference on their publishing plans. during Easter. John Foyster, Ken Slater and Franz Rottensteiner have been retained as Australian, British and Continental reviewers respectively for the magazine, and John Bangsund, the Australian editor, of P.O. Box 109, Ferntree Gully, Victoria 3156, is looking for manuscripts suitable for publication. The British retail price, I understand, will be 5 shillings; I wonder what the Australian price will be?

Another professional sf magazine, NEW WORLDS, has a new editor. James Sallis has succeeded the controversial Michael Moorcock, it is reported.

A new fortnightly magazine of political comment and satire, BROADSIDE, has been published in Melbourne. It is published by David Syme & Company Ltd (publishers of THE AGE), and is priced at 15c. As from the second issue, 20th March, 1969, it carries a regular strip entitled Fabula, The Super Secretary (from the Great Typing Pool in the Sky). Fabula is secretary to Prime Minister John Grey, who is besieged by such enemies as Black Mack and ... well, you get the picture. It is by Gerald Carr, who I understood at one stage was working on one of the *fantastic* features for the mythical OPUS No. 3. The editor of the magazine has approached Sydney comics fan John Ryan for a 2,000 word article on the comics. All in all, a fascinating new magazine.

A new representative of the literary estate of the late Cyril Kornbluth has been appointed. He is Robert P. Mills. A collection of Kornbluth's Cecil Corwin stories, entitled THIRTEEN O'CLOCK AND OTHER DEADLINES, is being compiled by James Blish.

During the 1968 circulation year (generally October, 1967 to September, 1968), there were ninety issues of the various American science fiction magazines ... one less than in 1967. ANALOG, GALAXY, and IF gained in circulation while the MAGAZINE OF FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, AMAZING and FANTASTIC all showed losses. ANALOG reported the biggest gain---6,000 copies, which brings the total to 100,863 per issue, and makes it still the largest selling sf magazine, 25,000 more than GALAXY, the next largest seller. (Comics' circulation figures are now appearing, too, although only the Disney figures have reached me so far. The key figure, that for WALT DISNEY'S COMICS & STORIES, is up slightly, reversing the trend of the past several years. 1967's figure was an average 311,242 per issue, with 298,598 for the issue closest to filing date; 1968's is 312,930 average, 316,605 nearest. UNCLE SCROOGE is a remarkable 281,459 average figure, with 256,201 nearest as compared with 1967's 279,492 average, 247,884 nearest---particularly amazing considering that the departure of Carl Barks only took effect in this year. I haven't seen the figures for other comics groups, but understand that there are small gains for most Marvels, and that BATMAN has lost what for other titles might be the total circulation---272,250.)

The Newberry Award, described as America's most prestigious award for children's literature, has been won for 1968 by Lloyd Alexander. Alexander's book is THE HIGH KING, the fifth and final book in a series of fantasies set in the kingdom of Prydain.

The 14th annual conference of the Science Fiction Writers of America will be held at Madeira Beach, Florida (instead of Milford, where it is usually held) this year, from 7th to 14th June. The Science Fiction Writers of America is the organization that presents the annual "Nebula" award.

Another English author, Mervyn Peake, writer of THE GORMENGHAST TRILOGY, has died. He was 57 years of age at his death, on 17th November, 1968. He had suffered from encephalitis for ten years.

Baird Searles, c/- WBAL, 30 East 39th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016, seeks information for record purposes on the identity and whereabouts of the pseudonymous "Jane Beauclerk" who had two stories published in R&SF five years ago.

The book STAND ON ZANZIBAR by sf author John Brunner is the subject for discussion at the 1969 Conference of the Modern Language Association, chaired by Dale Mullen. It is published in New York by Doubleday. (My thanks for the last few items to Pat Terry, who kindly heeded my request for science-fiction-oriented news items from those sfans who had been complaining of their lack in NF. It wasn't Pat who supplied with BATHAN's circulation loss, no.)

Rip Kirby writer, Fred Dickenson, visited Australia last month. "Kirby is ageless, a dashing, determined, indomitable character, a bachelor, a globe-trotter. He has his own valet, Desmond, and an apartment on Fifth Avenue," he said in an interview. "I'm 60---but through Kirby I can do ANYTHING!" Dickenson said that Kirby may come to Australia, now that he has done some research into the environment. "He may have to bring his own villain," he said, "It would hardly be fair to have him capturing Australian criminals under the very nose of the local police." "Will local people feature in such an adventure?" asked one reporter, Rosemary Munday. "Finding new names is always a problem," answered Dickenson playfully. "How is it you spell yours?" "I won't turn up as his wife," commented Miss Munday later. "Rip is a bachelor, and as long as I have anything to do with it, he'll stay that way," Fred said. "He's been in love a few times, but I'm holding him in his liberty. Fictional heroes are never the same when they marry." About 463 newspapers around the world carry Rip Kirby in 12 languages to 80 million readers. The strip was "created" in 1946 by the great Alex Raymond, who died in a car smash ten years later. Unexplained is the noticeable and always-pointed-out resemblance between Rip from the very start and Dickenson, who is not supposed to have been connected with the strip at first---since Raymond is supposed to have created it alone. "Today," says Miss Munday's report in an amusing but no doubt unintentional reference to another aspect of the strip, "author and artist seldom meet." Most of the strip (apart from John Prentice's signature) has been ghosted for some time now---by such as Al Williamson, for example.

Are there any old radio serial fans in the audience? You have a kindred spirit in former pop star Johnny Tillotson, a recent visitor to Sydney. In an interview, he admitted to being a collector of old radio serial prizes.

Vintage copies of the boys' book, CRUMS, are selling in Sydney for between \$3 and \$4, reports a Sydney Sunday newspaper. And in most cases, according to a spokesman for the secondhand bookshop Ashwoods, says the newspaper, the buyers are "nostalgic old gentlemen". One of the owners of Ashwoods is quoted as saying, "They are so scarce they have become collector's items. We have about half a dozen copies in the bound annual form dating back to 1925. We got these from a man who was going to live overseas. But we don't normally get more than one a year. People who buy these old copies of CRUMS say they take pride of place in their libraries. They look upon them as a prestige book. They are very much in demand, but the supply just isn't there." The old volumes, now musty smelling and yellowed contain more than 800 pages and 40 years ago sold in Sydney for 12/6. "It was good value and great reading," said one of the "nostalgic old gentlemen" interviewed at Ashwoods.

A second PACIFIC BOOK OF AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION is contemplated, I understand. And there is apparently a series of books associated with VISION OF TOMORROW.

The book, THE DISNEY VERSION, alternatively titled WALT DISNEY, by Richard Schickel, has received a lot of publicity in Australia of late. While it is certainly a book of great interest (I'm hoping to obtain a copy), readers should be warned against accepting all its sayings without a very large grain of salt. Its prime purpose is the tearing down, as best Schickel can, of the Disney image of paternal benevolence and replacing it with an image of Disney products as cheap and nasty and mass-produced and Disney himself as a money-grubbing despot. Certainly there is something to be said for these latter propositions, but they are far from the whole picture, and Schickel presents them as the whole picture. In other words, beware.

Another book of interest to comics fans, THE PENGUIN BOOK OF COMICS, is back on sale all over Australia after having been out of print for almost a year. Even if you don't want to buy it (it's \$4.30), it's certainly worth a look. I would not necessarily agree that all the things loosely described as "comics" in the early chapters really were, but for plenty of information about the ancestors of the modern comics, and things about the much-neglected British comics that you never realized---as well as the answer to the question: just how broadminded did newspapers carrying the Jane strip have to be?---THE PENGUIN BOOK OF COMICS cannot be beat. George Perry and Alan Aldridge are the authors.

The February issue of PLAYBOY was on sale this week all over Sydney---the first issue since September's last year. Naturally, it was also the least politically controversial issue since then. Now that the U.S. cover price has gone up from 75¢ to \$1, the Australian price has risen from \$1 to \$1.10---which ain't bad. And Little Annie Fanny is in this issue---fun, fun, fun. (See if that doesn't convert you to comics, Bruce Gillespie!) This brings the total of PLAYBOY issues since the first release in 1967 to eight available---September and December, 1967, January, February, March, May and September, 1968 and February, 1969. Ten have been banned in that time.

Sticking with the subject for a moment, we see that the Customs have lately come under from several sources.

Sculptress Daphne Mayo compared Customs methods with those of Nazi Germany, following a raid on her home on 5th March. The Queensland Collector of Customs, Mr Reid, apologizing on the 8th, said that anonymous information which led to the raid on the previous Wednesday had not been checked beforehand. The informant gave her address in Highgate Hill, Brisbane, and said there would be an exhibition of pornographic material there. Members of the raiding party, however, were unaware who lived there. Miss Mayo is a former Queensland Art Gallery trustee and is listed in WHO'S WHO, the book of Australian VIPs. The raid on her fashionable home and studio took place at 10 p.m. Miss Mayo alleged that the leader, a plain-clothes Customs officer, repeated several times, "Open the door or I'll smash it in." The man was alone, but ten others, including nine policemen, appeared from various hiding places around the house. They searched the house and adjoining studio for 20 minutes, but found nothing. Miss Mayo is reported to have said, "I feel like taking this all the way to Canberra. The whole thing is absolutely shocking. The whole business reminded me so much of Hitler's Germany---the element of terror created by this great

pack of men, the anonymous charge, the midnight knocking on doors to search premises ... " One of the raiding party looked "more like a man who had come to steal the milk money," Miss Mayo said. Her local member, Mr Killen (Ib., Moreton), said he would ask the Customs and Excise Minister, Senator Scott, for an explanation. The raid was an invasion of Miss Mayo's privacy, he said. "If Miss Mayo is correct, an explanation must come from the Minister, and I will certainly see it does come."

In the Senate on 18th March, Senator Wheeldon (Labor, W.A.) waved a copy of a marriage guidance book which was banned last year after three years of sale. He challenged the Minister for Customs, Senator Scott, to read sections of the book and report whether he found himself depraved. The book, by Joan Wallison, was a serious social study, Senator Wheeldon said. It was withdrawn from sale last August by the Customs Department, yet it had been used for marriage guidance by the Marriage Guidance Council of New South Wales. "Why has it been banned?" asked the Senator. "If the answer is based on the grounds that it is blasphemous, indecent or obscene, will the Minister be prepared to accept the copy I have and read the offending sections? Will he tell us to what extent he finds himself depraved?" The Minister asked that the question be put on notice.

As a by-product of the Hoffman case, wide charges of malpractice, corruption and general incompetence have been levelled at the Customs Department. The Federal ALP Caucus Executive has given the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator Murphy, full authority to gather facts and to move a censure motion on Senator Scott whenever he thinks it advantageous, following the revelation that 77 Customs officials have been charged for various offences in the past two years. However, a departmental spokesman said that many of the offences were only "administrative", mostly carrying fines in the order of \$1.

In "And The Children Shall Lead" episode of Star Trek, Lt Uhura's "beat"--- a figure in a mirror of her aged and diseased---was cut out completely each time it was shown. In "Is There In Truth No Beauty?", there appeared to be a cut as Larry Kaverick experienced the agonies of watching the Medusan ambassador. "Elaan of Troylus" seemed to get by without any cuts.

And Mr Willis, the NSW Chief Secretary, has said that he has no objection to pornography---as long as it's in the \$9.75 hardback edition, and not the 50¢ paperback; indicating, in effect, a return by NSW censorship authorities to the "intended or likely audience" test.

The last episode of the television series The Avengers has been filmed. It has been one of British commercial television's most successful series and a huge export dollar earner. But this last series has flopped in America, faced with massive competition from Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In and Gunsnake. The series does not continue to be an economically attractive proposition without the American market, even though fantastically popular in 86 other countries, including Australia. (Which makes one wonder how they did for the several years before the Americans took the series.) The final episode, "Bizarre", will be seen in Britain in the northern spring. Many viewers believed Steed would

marry Tara, his third and last judo-and-kinky-boots girl friend---which, of course, is one excellent reason for him not doing so. Instead, Steed, Tara and Mother end up in a rocket. Tara mistakenly pushes a button in the control room---and the rocket fires off into space. Says Steed as they pass the moon, "Well, we have had a good run!" The picture fades and comes the title: The Very End.

A new fandom that has been reported is a club for Edgar Wallace, who died 37 years ago last month, almost two generations away from James Bond and Napoleon Solo. His books are still earning £10,000 a year in royalties, mainly for his daughter Penelope, who is now 45. Wallace was a big money earner, but was a big spender too, and left debts totalling £100,000 when he died. His widow, and then his daughter, took on the job of paying off every penny. And in a few years they had done it, for the world has never quite lost its appetite for the great storyteller who still has 50 books in print and who is still collecting film and television credits in dozens of languages. The club is organized by Miss Wallace (who is married, but uses her maiden name for this sort of thing), who has just produced her first "fanzine", it is reported.

The schoolboy's hero, Sgt Bigglesworth, is flying again. A pilot flew a £10,000 replica of a World War I Sopwith Camel for a six-minute flight over Berkshire for a test run. The plane was built for the first full-length film (there have been several television serials featuring Biggles) about the hero of 94 of the about 150 books created by the late Captain W.E. Johns. The flight was watched by James Fox, the actor who will play Biggles, who said "The flight was a thrilling experience to watch. I hope very much to be able to fly the Camel at some stage." He is to take his pilot's test shortly. The film, Biggles Sweeps The Skies, will be shot on location in Tunisia, Spain and Belgium later this year. In the books, Biggles was a schoolboy who ran away to join the RFC early in World War I, as I recall. After distinguishing himself, he became an adventurer in the inter-War period, fought in the RAF during the Second World War, and joined Scotland Yard as a special investigator afterwards until Capt. Johns's death in 1967.

Meanwhile, the new supervisor of school library services in Queensland, Mr Bahnisch, has condescendingly said that libraries should keep "a few" Biggles and Enid Blyton books on their shelves. "Parents think librarians who ban the Blytons and Biggles are snobs," he said. "The main danger is not that children should read Enid Blyton or Biggles. It is that they might read nothing else. They are not very good as children's literature." Of another type of literature, Mr Bahnisch said, "A genuine type of literature for children. They should always be made aware that the monsters and things in the tales are not real. But the stories stimulate the child's imagination." Comics? Oh, no. Those are his views on fairy tales. On comics he said, "I have nothing against entertainment, but I don't think they are necessary to our civilization. I heard recently---but not to my surprise---that many adult readers of comics don't read the text. They merely follow the pictures."

Yeah.

Isn't it wonderful what people---even educated, responsible, and supposedly fair-minded librarians---will believe ... and repeat ... from hearsay?

The Fred Bassett Sunday strip in a national women's magazine has been getting a big publicity build-up, comics fans will have noted. The magazine is THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S WEEKLY, and the strip started in the 2nd April issue. Frankly, the organization of it doesn't seem at all exciting. The drop-out panel in the first sequence, for example, should either have been dropped out or put in its position as second last panel on the first line---not put next to the logo.

Legislation to enable Sunday papers to be published in Melbourne, by the way, was passed through the Victorian Parliament last week. The first issues are due in July, I understand.

Fanzine news---the first issue of Bruce Gillespie's SCIENCE FICTION COMMENTARY arrived here the day after the last NF was mailed. It read very much like ASFR, but it didn't look like ASFR---and it wasn't until then that I realized how important looking like ASFR was (is) to ASFR. Still, if the layout and typographical problems can be sorted out, a fanzine to watch! (I should talk about typographical problems ... NF 2 was downright embarrassing in the ferocity of its typographical errors; this issue is being typed at a more leisurely paced and should be more thoroughly proofread.) The official communique on SFC from Bruce goes, "Communications between Ararat and the Ferntree Gully printer sometimes prove difficult, but with a bit of patience and a few bank cheques, all those who received Number One will receive Number Two. After that, a letter of comment, article, cheque, or nothing. NEW FORERUNNER/SFC readers are warned." Forty cents for one or \$3 for a year's worth of SCIENCE FICTION COMMENTARY (a bargain rate!) can be had from Bruce R. Gillespie, P.O. Box 30, Bacchus Marsh, Victoria 3340. (Which is his postal address ... his residential address is in Ararat, a long way away from there.)

THE NEWTOR No.15 is out, but hasn't reached me yet. 25c to Ron Clarke, whose address is on page 7.

THE COSMIC DUSTBUG No.10, with an incredible number of attachments, has been received from John Bangsund. It's a newszine, it appears (several items in this NF were, shall we say, borrowed from it), and a much more authoritative and---sadly---generally better-looking magazine than NF. It doesn't seem to be something one can subscribe to, but if it should turn out to be regular, perhaps NF would be better to just quietly fold ...? John also mentions a publication called SCIENCE FICTION NEWS No.1 published by Canberra's Graham Stone. All this competition!

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW lives, says John Bangsund (the very same). It will be irregular and probably quite tiny after the forthcoming No.19, but it will continue, and that's the main thing. 40¢ each, \$2.40 for six, and---as a special enticement offer---four issues (any two back issues, plus current-issue No.18 and next-issue No.19) for \$1. (Or those four and Nos.20-24 for \$%).

The next mailing of ANZAPA, to round out the list of current Australian fanzines, is due just after Easter. There are still ten places open on the roster, and new members will be welcomed. The main requirement for membership in this apa

(the initials stand for "Australian and New Zealand Amateur Publishing Association") is that you send thirty copies of six pages of material on any subject (but preferably of interest to other members, please) to the central mailer, who calls himself an Official Editor, every six months (or more often if you wish; there is a mailing every two months, and members are encouraged to contribute to each one if they can). The OE staples your contribution with other members' contributions together into one big fanzine and send out one copy of the complete thing (called a "mailing") to each member. Each member pays \$2 per year to cover mailing costs and various other expenses that may crop up. The OE is Leigh Edmonds, P.O. Box 74, Balaclava, Victoria 3183, who will be glad to give prospective members full details.

NEXT ISSUE: For members of the SSFF, policy statements from candidates for the annual election. For non-members, no dreadfully extensive conreport; I figure that if your interest is great, you will either attend and find out all about it in person, or at least join as a non-attending member and get the official Report in October, 1972. (Did I mention before that non-attending memberships cost \$1? Well, they do.)

THE FOLLOWING APPLY TO YOU AS CHECKED ...

- () You are a permanent recipient of all my publications (what did you do to deserve that, you poor ...?)
- () You are a member of the SSFF. According to my records, your renewal is due on _____.
- () We would like you to become a member of the SSFF. Full membership is \$3 yearly (or \$1 quarterly, if you prefer), or \$2 yearly for associate, postal, or special (student) membership. Consider this a formal invitation.
- () You are Ron Gramam; your very generous \$2 carries you through to No.15, if NF lasts that long, and carries my gratitude a lot further than that.
- () You are a paid subscriber; your subscription expires with No. ____.
- () I would love to have you as a subscriber. This is a sample issue, and further issues are available at 15c each, 75c for five, postage included. Note, though, that if you are contemplating joining the SSFF as any class of member, a subscription to NF is one of the dubious benefits of that membership.
- () Your letter of comment or other acknowledgement puts you on the free list for the time being, but I hope you'll want to subscribe eventually.
- () Can we arrange to trade publications, or would you rather trade subscription money?
- () I would adore to be plugged in your publication.
- (x) If none of the above are ticked, either you are getting this issue as a favour or bribe or because your importance impresses me---or you, like myself, are a fanzine completist who doesn't like his copies marked.
- (x) Or you bought this copy from me at the Con, and I didn't have time to mark anything. I hope you won't consider the 10c you paid just another wasted amount from the Con, and that you might consider subscribing in due course.