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**MELBOURNE FILM FESTIVAL:** The two day festival of films shown by the Fantasy Film Society on Good Friday was apparently well attended, 73 memberships being sold. Your humble editor and reporter only attended the afternoon session of the second day so knows little about what happened otherwise though the venue appeared to be reasonable if a little dismal and quite cold. The sound was not all that one would have hoped for but the films "animal Farm" and "Bride of Frankenstein" were well worth the slight inconvenience - though I don't know if this would be true of the full two days.

A contingent made the trek from Adelaide, Mike O'Brien flew up from Hobart (Mike is to be found in Melbourne every Easter so it's a wonder he doesn't have a fixed booking with one of the airlines) and Leigh Hyde from Canberra also appeared. It was good to see them all.

The event was rounded off with a party hosted by John Breden on Sunday afternoon and can be read about under the heading:

**PARTY FUN:** The party began with fans sitting around reading comix (of which John has a bountiful supply) and listening to Electronic music from the record plater (whic I liked). After a time the tongues of the attendees were loosened by the usual beverages and the event became more convivial to the extent that it was downright enjoyable. The evening drew to a close at about 11 pm (it had begun at about 3) with a spirited discussion of telepathy and other select topics as outlined in the editorials of John W. Campbell and John G. Bangsund.

This section of FANEW SLETTER has achieved a state of permanence of late but we hope that it might be going into recess for a short time as the effects of the events written about are beginning to catch up with many Melbourne fans, especially when they come on top of the regular alcoholic bouts at Degraives Tavern every Wednesday evening.

**FAULCON 6:** (or perhaps 5 or 7, count has been lost) occurred over Easter at the Eric Lindsay establishment. Eric expected a minimum of ten fans and reported that for the first time it looked as if he might have enough beds to accomodate them all. The visiting celebrity, John Brosnan was expected to attend.

Notice of the Minicon was very short, Leigh Hyde said that he and Helen received the letter telling them that it was on just as they were leaving to come down to Victoria to visit some parents. If it had arrived earlier they would probably have attended. Perhaps we will have a fuller report of FAULCON next issue.

**SYNCON 3:** Rooms are now \$38 for the entire period of the convention, all meals included, but the organisers are still uncertain as to whether all meals will be available seperately. It doesn't look like it. No rates are available now for staying a single day, and for various reasons the University wants to have an idea of whether we need more than seventy rooms by sometime in June. Convention rates themselves will be set in a short time, but look like being \$4 - if you get them in before June - rising to \$5 or so later. Present thinking is to have a refund on memberships if the Con makes a profit. (EL)

**PROFESSIONAL NEWS:** The latest book to be published by an Australian author is "The Soft Kill" and the author is Colin Free. He is well known as a freelance writer with many publications behind him as well as a couple of excellent radio plays for the ABC. His short story "Weather in the Underworld" was published in one of the first Ace anthologies in, say, 1966.

"The Soft Kill" is published by Berkley and I bought my copy (which looks to be quite good up to page 8 which is all I've had time to read so far) at Space Age. There is nothing anywhere on the book to indicate the author is an Australian but I guess that sort of thing doesn't count for much in publishing.

The AUSFA: The Adelaide University Science Fiction Association recently held its AGM at which the new committee was elected: Paul Stokes - President; Mike Clarke - Vice President; Alan Sandercock - Secretary; Monica Adlington - Treasurer. Other committee members include Jeff Harris, Paul Day, John Hewitt and Chris Brown. The Agm was over in about 35 minutes; a record time considering that last years went for over two hours. Since the evening was still young the meeting all adjourned to a nearby hotel where it played pinball etc. It was certainly better to spend the evening in a hotel than at a dry old meeting and they will probably be doing it more often (AS).

OZCON '74: Ken Ford is now the Boss of OzCon '74 and is being supported by a band of trusty and experienced helpers. The convention will be held over the weekend 16th to 18th August at the Victoria Hotel, Little Collins Street, Melbourne. Prices will be \$ 8 attending, \$5 for students and children attending and \$3 supporting membership. Programme items so far include "Education for the Future", "SF and Fantasy films in Australia", "Libraries and Resource Centres", "Childrens and Adults Literature - is there a difference?", films, art, auction, awards, fun, games and a party at Lee Hardings to finish. Bill Wright is taking care of the finance angle so send money to him at 53 Celia Street, Burwood, Victoria 3125 and write for information to Ken Ford, 11 Mandall Avenue, Ivanhoe, Victoria 3079.

TRANSCRIPTIONS: Tony Thomas has transcribed about 150 pages of last years EasterCon (about three quarters) and if any faned wants tp publish all or part of it he should contact Paul Stevens at Space Age or Tony (486 Scoresby Road, Ferntree Gully, Victoria 3156).

MORE PRO NEWS: Lee Harding has been commissioned to write two more books for Cassells Australia; one of them will be another remedial book, this time with a girl as the heroine. Lee reports that the pay now-wrtie later business is very encouraging to a writer, but I wouldn't know anything about that.

WRITERS WORKSHOP: The AUSFA will be holding a thing which it calls a "Writers Workshop" in the Adelaide hills at Bimba Lodge over the weekend Friday 28th to Sunday 30th June, though these dates are not certain yet. These functions are usually very casually scheduled and between the boozing and watching of films, some typing of stories is usually attempted. (AS)

READING ABOUT OURSELVES: The July issues of "The Australian Author" (journal of the Australian Society of Authors) and "Reading Time" (journal of the Children's Book Council of N.S.W.) will contain articles by John Bangsund about the 1975 WorldCon and Ursula LeGuin. (JB)

The BFSFA: The next meeting of the Brisbane Fantasy and Science Fiction Association will be held on Wednesday 24th April at Room 6, Second Floor, ANZ Bank Chambers, 134 Adelaide Street, Brisbane. Items on the agenda will consist of a look at the world of Fanzines, H.G. Wells and the 1938 recording of his "War of the Worlds", a tape of which will be played for the members enjoyment. (DS)

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