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**JOHN BANGSUND WITHDRAWS FROM DUFF RACE:** With barely a week of the DUFF contest left to run John Bangsund had most fans jaws on the floor with his announcement that he has pulled out of the DUFF race. His reasons were quoted as being ill-health, financial problems and a possible conflict with his job which is connected with the Senate in Canberra. With the recent elections he claims that the workload will be high at about the time he would be in America if he won and there would be the likelihood of not being able to get leave now, or if he could it would cause considerable conflict between him and his bosses.

Whether these reasons are acceptable or not John has seen it as his duty to withdraw at this late stage and I feel it is a great pity and will be a great disappointment to the many who have voted for him since, to me atleast, that he should have been the first choice of the majority of fans who have voted.

This situation also now puts the eventual DUFF winner in an unenviable position of representing Australian fandom on a "stand-in" basis for John unless they win in their own right. But that is probably something we will never know about.

**PRO NEWS:** Lee Harding is writing yet another remedial novel which will be called "Children of Atlantis". This trendy little book will be combining all sorts of legends about lost continents and the usual pre-history subjects.

The working title for the anthology Lee is editing which we announced last issue is "Reasonably Good Science Fiction" but you can bet your last cent the book won't appear with that title on the cover. (LH)

**FANTASY FILM SOCIETY HIBERNATION:** The Fantasy Film Group appears to be going into hibernation after the showing of the Marx Brothers "Monkey Business" tonight. Their latest publicity says that until they can make arrangements for 35mm projectors they won't be doing any more 16mm screenings as they "are starting to scratch the bottom of the barrell as far as Fantasy films are concerned." They hope to be in operation at the Ritz again by July or August but in the meantime they might be able to show films somewhere else.

**AUSSIECON:** The second Progress Report is in the process of being posted, 24 pages chock full of all sorts of interesting information which will be more interesting to overseas people than Australians. However publishing a Progress Report 2.5 has been suggested, the idea behind this being that it will be directed at Australians, and in particular Australian non-fans.

**SSFF:** The make-up of the committee of the Sydney Science Fiction Foundation which was elected at the recent Annual General Meeting is: President; Ronl Clarke, Secretary/Treasurer; Dick Faulder, Editor; Sue Clarke, Librarian; Peter Miles and other members are Chris Smith, Shayne McCormack and Blair Ramage. Keith Curtis and John Snowden have been co-opted onto the committee. (SC)

**SYNCON 3:** After some debate about the matter, MacQuarie University will be the site of Syncon 3, Australia Day weekend 1975. The committee is Ronl & Suep Clarke, vice-chairmen, Shayne McCormack, Blair Ramage, John Snowden, Keith Curtis, Chris Smith and Eric Lindsay. An attending membership plus accomodation (which includes meals) will be \$42, an attending membership by itself will be \$4, a non-attending or postal membership will be \$2 and meals only for the three days will cost \$18. You can send money to Sue Clarke.

The committee is asking for people to volunteer their services as speakers or panel members at Syncon. It is hoped that the noted comic artist Stan Pitt will be able to attend and that there will be an art show at which art may be sold, as well as a few of the usual convention features. There will not be an auctionthough,

unless a sufficient number of people write in demanding one. Further details will be published as they come to hand but if you want to know anything more contact Sue Clarke, 2/159 Herring Road, North Ryde, NSW 2113.

P.S. The committee is willing to accept payment of the attending membership plus accomodation (\$24) in bits and pieces during the year but the full amount must be paid up upon actual registration at the con. (SC)

OZCON '74: The flyer with this issue tells you far more about the event than I ever could.

FANZINES: GEGENSCHWEIN 16: Eric Lindsay, 6 Hillcrest Avenue, Faulconbridge, NSW 2776/35c per copy or 4 for \$1 or the usual/19pp. Jack Wodhams draws some vague conclusions from the difference between the USA and USSR, Eric writes about extortionist prices for books in Australia, reviews fanzines, answers questions about fandom as asked by Ken Ford and has a few letters as well. Eric manages to fit a fair bit of interesting material into his limited number of pages and his layout this time is pleasant and unobtrusive.

SPACE AGE NEWSLETTER 12: edited by Lee Harding for Space Age Bookshop, 317 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000/free to good clients or \$1 a year sub/ apparently monthly/8pp with an 8 page "Cinema Booklest" enclosure. Even for a devoted non-book-buyer this is the publication to stay away from. There are fourteen books listed here I would like but I don't have a spare \$38.55. Thankfully I already have the most expensive of the items but I think I'll have to go without another eleven. One should keep away from this unless one is rich or strong willed. It is also very well produced and this time has a nice Helena Roberts drawing of Tom Bombadil (who?) on the cover.

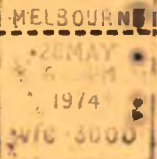
RATAPLAN 16: Leigh Edmonds, PO Box 74, Balaclava, Victoria 3183/for the usual or \$1.60 for four issues/irregular/18pp. Half of this issue is John Foyster reviewing an issue of the Times Literary Supplement and the other half is a couple of letters. Stephen Campbel drew the dirty pictures and Valma Brown drew the nice clean ones.

IN CANBERRA:- the group's library is open every Tuesday from about 7.30 to 9.at the Griffin Workshops-Reid House. On the first Tuesday and second or third Friday of the month there is usually a meeting in the homes of one of the members. These meetings are usually far better attended than the Library on a Tuesday evenings, which sounds pretty normal in comparison to other fan groups.

APA CORNER: APA45 39 - 184 pages. APA45 is one of the best quarterly apas in existance and it might be worthwhile being a member. At the moment there is no waiting list so if you think you might be interested write off to the Official Editor: Don D'Amassa, 19 Angell Drive, East Providence, Rhode Island 02914, USA for information. MINNEAPA 43 97 pages.

Mrs Maureen B Smith, 9 Freeman Street, Melville, Perth, WA 6156 is a post-graduate student at Murdoch University, and has commenced a thesis on science fiction. She would like information and fanzines. (EL)

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