

FANEW SLETTER SEVENTY - SIX

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PROFESSIONAL NEWS: In September Cassell Australia will publish, in hardcover, THE WEEPING SKY by Lee Harding. The novel is a juvenile only in the sense that such books as THE FARTHEST SHORE by Le Guin and RED SHIFT by Alan Garner are so classified: because they have adolescent main characters. Lee has been working on THE WEEPING SKY for seven years, "on and off", and regards it as the best work he has ever done. Michael Payne, the artist responsible for the superb cover of BEYOND TOMORROW, will be doing the wraparound cover, as well as several double-page half tone illustrations for the inside. Should be quite a package...

And the latest word from N.E.L. is that their pb. edition of BEYOND TOMORROW will not be released in the UK before February 1978. Lee has received no reply from them to his request to leave the book uncut, but hopes that they may yet change their mind.

George Turner was runnerup in the 1976 Allan Marshall Award for Fiction with his novel TRANSIT OF CASSIDY (which is non-sf). The winner was Geoff Taylors' YEAR OF THE OCTOPUS which gains the author \$1000 and an option on publication by Thomas Nelson. All George gets is kudos. (Lee Harding)

The Sydney small publishers, Wild & Wolley, have released a collection of short stories by Dal Stivens (Australian novelist and former President of the Australian Society of Authors) called THE UNICORN AND OTHER TALES. Many of the stories are short-short sf or fantasy. It sells at \$2.95. (Van Ikin)

CONVENTIONS: Easter races up and with it the conventions in Sydney and Adelaide, both of which have been mentioned several times in recent issues of FANEW SLETTER. Also extremely close is the Sydney Science Fiction & Fantasy Film Festival which runs over the weekend coming, 1st, 2nd and 3rd April. 22 films will be shown, it promises to be an exhausting weekend for all who attend.

As for the conventions, the Sydney one is SYNCON '77, it will take place at the Phillip Lodge Motel, 156 Parramatta Road, Ashfield and the membership at the door is \$8.00. In Adelaide there is UNICON III at Christies Beach Hotel/Motel and the at the door membership is \$10.00. Either convention should be interesting to attend but if you're wondering which one I have decided to attend, I've decided to hold my own private convention in Brunswick and the main item on my agenda is the digging of the back garden. I hope that everybody has an enjoyable easter.

GRANT STONE LEAVES MURDOCH: Almost since the days when FNS started fans in Australia have known that sending copies of their fanzines to Grant Stone at the Library of Murdoch University assured them of a good restingplace. However Grant has resigned from the University and he and his wife will be leaving for a couple of years overseas, first to Europe via the UK and then onto the US. Grant hopes that fans who have been sending their fanzines to Murdoch will not stop just because he has left "... it would be a pity to see something collapse after such a grand beginning".

In his letter Grant also mentions that the SWANCON 1 report is almost finished and that another convention is planned for the long weekend over in October.

FANZINES: ENIGMA Vol 8 No 1, edited by Van Ikin for the Sydney University SF Association, Box 249 Holme Building, Sydney University, NSW 2006/ subscription is \$4 for 4 issues/three issues per year/68pp. Although ENIGMA has shrunk in size to B5 it is much improved in page count and so you get more than ever for your money. Most interesting of the contents is a double-barralled review of "Poker Ball", very well considered and the best thing in the issue.

As well there are the usual well written book reviews and three stories this time which are reasonable, well two of them anyway. There is an article by Peter Knox about the problems he has had trying to get his sf magazine going and a good but short letter column. Good, as always.

In addition to ENIGMA Van Ikin tells that he will be producing another fanzine later on in the year, to be called "SCIENCE FICTION: A Review of Speculative Literature". In this Van hopes to achieve three things; firstly publishing good material on sf fiction, criticism, arts etc., secondly the publication of as much good Australian fiction as possible and finally the arousal in the more staid universities in Australia of an interest in sf. All three are noble aims and we hope that he can carry them through. The first issue should be out in a month or so and the cost is \$1.70 per issue and available from V. Ikin, Department of English, University of Sydney, NSW 2006. The first issue will publish extracts from George Turners forthcoming sf novel, and that alone is just about worth the price of admission.

THE EPSILON ERIDANI EXPRESS 1, Neville J Angove, 13/5 Maxim Street, West Ryde, NSW 2114/\$1 per issue or the usual/32pp.

If the first issue of the first fanzine I had ever published was as handsom as this first issue I would still be proud of myself. And if the contents of it had been as good as the contents of this first issue are I would still be smiling about them. The main thrust of this issue is made up of three articles which say some hard things about sf fans and sf fandom. Arsen Darnay says some interesting things from the point of view of a writer, Heber Decknam reaches the conclusion (after having been to AUSSIECON and BOFCON) that fans use fandom to protect them from the real world and Frank De Gripe wonders why fans put such bad writers on a pedestal. If this stuff goes to the right people there should be some firey replise in the next issue, on the other hand the fans may decide to ignore it. Also there are some interesting reviews and we look forward to seeing more of this fanzine.

ZERINZA 2, edited for the Australasian Dr Who Fan Club by Anthony Howe, 7 Rosedale Road, Gordon, NSW/\$2 for 4 issues/18pp. As you may expect the majority of this fanzine is taken up with the matter of Dr Who, and a very enjoyable matter it is too and consequently the fanzine is a very enjoyable one to read. Main feature of this issue is a checklist of all the Dr Who series, listed by episode. As well there is some fiction and some reviews of items related to Dr Who. Well worth getting if you are interested in the Doctor.

SOUTH OF HARAD, EAST OF RHUN 9, Jon Noble, c/ Willyama High School, Murton Street, Broken Hill, NSW 2880/for the usual/three issues per year/2pp. Jon calls this a "Special Loneliness issue", the result of being posted to Broken Hill, miles from almost anywhere, to teach. It is a couple of pages of personal gnatter about having moved, a little on Tolkien and a few other things. Good quality for something so short.

THE NEW FORERUNNER 17, Gary Mason, PO Box 258 Unley, SA 5061/\$3 for 10 issues/often/20pp. Another fun packed issue with the main points of interest being articles on the three DUFF candidates written by Roy Tackett, Bob Tucker and an Australian. The other major item of interest is a discussion of the recent hubub about the Ditmars in which Lee Harding withdrew himself from the convention and the running for the Awards. And apart from these two there are many other shorter items of interest. No Bangsund, though. Perhaps the most useful of all information in this issue is a comprehensive listing of the meeting places and times of most of the known sf clubs and groups in Australia.

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY SF ASSOCIATION NEWS-LETTER Vol 2 No 1/1pp. This issue makes several announcements of interest to the members of the Association, a showing of "Logan's Run" the deadline for material for the second issue of ARGO NAVIS and notices of meetings. People who got the first issue of ARGO NAVIS who are not members of the association need not expect to see the second unless they responded to the first.

WORLDCON STUFF: Carey Handfield, who is agent for SUNCON, has copies of the HUGO nomination forms for this year. However he does not yet have from SUNCON a list of the Australians who are members and should receive copies. So if you reckon you should be getting a copy write to him at 33 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, Vict 3065. I don't know how this applies to people who were paid up members in MIDAMERICON and are therefore eligible to nominate this year.