

FUTURIAN OBSERVER

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A STATEMENT OF FACT

No doubt by this time readers of Futurian OBSERVER have seen and read the Anniversary and December issues of ULTRA. Editor Russell in his editorial has stated three reasons for the lateness of ULTRA's appearance. The object of this article being to show the true state of affairs behind the first two of these, we shall quote them: "1. The exorbitant price asked by the party who duplicated the first, second and fourth mimeod issues" and "2. The refusal and inconsistency of certain Ausy fans when asked to contribute material to an All-Australian issue." We'll deal with the first.

What, Eric Russell, is your idea of an "exorbitant price." Might we point out to our readers (who by now, have guessed that this was aimed at us) that whereas we offered Eric Russell a reasonable price for the use of our machine he refused it, and then went so far as to accept a higher price from other fans in Sydney. (We have actual facts and figures to back up our statements, but deign to use them as it would probably embroil neutral fans. Should Russell press the issue we shall produce these facts.) Russell has previously been allowed the use of OBS duplicator absolutely free of charge provided he used his own materials for the actual printing. However, the screen of OBS machine is good for 5,000 copies and at the most 5,500, before having to be replaced. Russell is well aware of this fact, but expected that we would run off some 2,000 sheets of the Anniversary issue free. The fact that this would depreciate the value of the screen much sooner than was anticipated did not matter to him! As a result when OBS placed the price of two copies of ULTRA for every ten run off, he would not accept. (He had previously stated that some 50 copies would have to be printed so we requested 60 copies to be done, the extra ten being given to us in payment. Between us we had intended to buy or exchange this number so actually what was asked was merely our copies free and thus would not infringe on his regular subscription list.) Russell's first act then was to accept a higher price from other parties!

Russell's object in doing this is fairly obvious - he wanted to stir up trouble. He turned down the VC offer as an excuse to recommence feuding in Sydney. This deliberate trouble-making effort is significant of past actions of Eric F. Russell and must be opposed by every progressive Australian fan! Russell has caused trouble aplenty before now --- he cannot be allowed to continue in this manner. This is something really serious and Australian fandom cannot afford to be hampered by such a state of affairs time after time! --- It must be stopped!

To deal with the second reason: This is nothing more than an open attack on such well-known and well-liked fans as H. Pinnock, Charles La Coste and Marshall D. MacLennan! These fans have not the time to devote to science fiction fandom as have younger fans and this despicable attack only shows the selfish, egotistical nature of Eric F. Russell in expecting the fans to devote their time specially for his benefit.

Reading futher down the page we learn that ULTRA has been receiving the moral and active support of Dwyer and Smith. These two readers of ULTRA have openly attacked all branches of fan activity and refused to co-operate with other fans in the maintainance of a science fiction club. Also in the Decmeber ULTRA we hear Noel Dwyer is to contribute material during 1941. May we suggest that Dwyer write up the pretty li

(Cont. from P.1.) little speech he delivered to BFC and WDW on how he sold up his collection and was fed up with fans in general. It should certainly appeal to the readers of ULTRA, but true fans will no doubt classify it as sadistic. As for Smith in the Anniversary issue. We all noted his little ditty on the back page of ULTRA. Well, speaking of piffle, RAS, don't you think that's what you have there addressed to "critics." Such a childish statement would not be found in the magazine if Editor Russell did not estimate that the mental status of science fiction fans is far below that of himself, for such is the only indication such a statement allowed in the magazine can give. (Or don't science fiction fans read ULTRA?)

At the bottom of the second page of "Fan's Forum" Russell has the hide to speak of the "non-co-operation of other fans." Before Mr. Russell goes about saying things like this, shall we refer him to his own wonderful record of non-co-operation in the Futurian Society. Perhaps the most outstanding point of this fix was his refusal to introduce new members. Russell knew of fans in Sydney who would join the Futurian Society, but refused to bring them along to the club. It remained for others to bring them in. Just another instance as the affair of the Futurian Society Library. This was supported by about three fans in the club - Russell would have nothing to do with it and eventually it had to be abandoned because of the very poor support it was given. These are just two cases of Russell's hypocrisy. Again we note the cracks at CBS duplicator placed in parenthesis in the centre of a letter from John Cunningham, to the effect that they have definitely scrapped the VC machine. Well, Mr. Russell, before you start making these wisecracks just think where ULTRA would be today if it had not been for this machine. It would certainly be in a very different place to where it is now! Dwyer has another hypocritical letter printed in the December issue. He speaks of childishness in the FSS - and who acted more childish at meetings than the rest of the group ever did in the whole career of the club? -- "Twas little Noel! Dwyer speaks of "jealous attempts" - we laugh! Dwyer, to you it's jealous attempts", but actually it is really an attempt to get a fair deal out of one who does not seem to know what a fair deal is! How strange that Russell got away with such a lot -- --- when exposure threatened his throne he climbed down from his imaginary level of superiority and remained equal to other fans until such time as he felt he must again dictate!

However, despite these facts we, the editors of Futurian OBSERVER, are even now prepared to discuss unity with Eric Russell and the ULTRA group! If Eric Russell is prepared to talk this whole thing over in a gentlemanly manner with a non-participant fan in the Chair and agree to any decision decided upon, then we are prepared to meet him any time suitable to all and settle the whole matter. If Russell is not prepared to do this then it will definitely show him up before all fandom and conclusively prove every statement we have made. (Not that it's necessary!)

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I T E M S: Many thanks to a gentleman who wishes to remain anonymous, and who presented CBS with a full ream of fociscap duplicator and a full ream of quarto duplicator paper. And who will also obtain our paper for us at a minute fraction of the usual cost, when our present supply runs out..... First of the new Randwick fans is Graham Stone, who is fast becoming acquainted with other fans and their ways! And how!..... Bruce Sawyer will be in military camp for 71 days commencing on December 8th.....

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