

FUTURIAN OBSERVER

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SYDNEY BUNFIGHT GREAT SUCCESS !!

Wonderful Waste of Time.

Last issue Obs drew the attention of its readers to the fact that Sydney would hold a second Conference in place of the Sydney Convention (the latter being a furphy from the start!) Obs stated that at the Conference there would be discussion on problems of Australian fandom (or rather, so said EFR in a postcard dispatch to fans). It was also expected that the Futurian Association of Australia would come under notice as well as all appertaining to fan clubs and mags. The personal hopes of the editors of this mag were that there would be time for the discussion of relationships with British and American fandom.

Briefly, the whole affair flopped. And in its place was held the most glorious science-fiction bunfight which ever rivalled the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society's best beach party! We do not intend to report fully what went on, but suffice to say that though attendance was reasonably large, accomplishments amounted to one or two only.

Let's look to the attendance, the accomplishments not being worth immediate attention. Sydney fans present were Eric F. Russell, Edward H. Russell, Ronald B. Levy, David R. Evans, Charles La Coste, William D. Vanev, Colin Roden, Graham Stone, Vol Molesworth, Alan Cordner and Bruce Sawyer. There were, we think, others, whom we can't remember at the moment. No, Bert Castellari didn't attend lucky guy. From Newcastle was R. Cudden. Bert Castellari made representation through a two page epistle read by Ronald B. Levy and jumped on by most of those present, finally disregarded. More on it further down.

For some time all present were under the belief that Warwick Hockley would be in attendance due to a telegram sent to Eric Russell signed "Hockley" stating that he had arrived in Sydney and would be at the conference. Accusations were made as to who really sent it and the editors take time and space to absolutely deny it, 'cos more accusations have been levelled in this direction than any other. We have more use for our money than to waste it on telegrams to - task, nearly a dirty crack!

For a while there was a lot of fan mag distribution. Eric Russell issued a conference pamphlet of four pages, which he had the nerve to call a booklet. All right, Eric, we know you didn't really mean it. But just the same Sydney fans are not as lazy as you think. We refer to that little gem on the back page viz: "We've Got To Work To Make The World Of Tomorrow - It Just Won't Happen." So it won't eh, Eck? So we just won't work! All right, duckie, we know you meant "It won't just happen" but never, never, never, do that again. Mean to say, old top, even though some of us don't work that's not the case with every fan.

(Continued over page.)

(Continuing the conference comment.) After the magazine mess-around everyone settled down to talk, and talk they did! For a while it was fan affairs, but eventually drifting off onto anything which interested them being anything but fan affairs. The arrival of refreshments finished of all serious (ha, ha!) discussion. The accomplishment was the changing of the name Futurian Association of Australia to Australian Futurian Association, motion being forwarded by Mr. Cudden. It was also decided that all fans should be invited to register in the Association along with their mags - a decision reached some months ago, when the Association was first proposed. Something also went on about a pro mag library, but we have great doubts as to the success of any such venture in this city.

Castellari's representation spoke of the real reasons for the collapse of the Sydcon, but as no one was prepared to admit it (the Sydcon) was a flop or could disprove some of the statements effectively, it was "disregarded" and "allowed to pass" as wasting the time of the meeting. Say who wasted time? The representation was supported however, by two people openly and one who preferred not to comment until after. Robert Cudden made numerous motions which were shelved one by one. Mr. Cudden made more motions than anyone else on the floor of the gathering.

Possibly the greatest joke was some-one-or-other's proposal to discuss the possibility of a Melbention being held! Some people have a remarkable sense of humour. Still it keeps up the morale of the people in times of war, excessive taxes and cutting of this and that to aid the war effort!

Photos were taken, mostly by Eric Russell and Ted Russell. Some also by Vol Molesworth. On the Sunday night William D. Veney, Vol Molesworth, The Russell Bros., and Colin Roden all crowded into one tiny telephone box and called Bert Cas who was working at a switchboard at the time. The latter complains that his ears have never been the same since. However:

BFC: "How did the Convention go? What was accomplished?"
V M: "Nothing! But we had a swell time."

Boy, that convention pamphlet : certainly gave mis-
impressions! Quote: "-- action must be taken!" unquote. It will
be - for damages to room which was hired, we should think! The fact
that Mr. Cudden's motions were shelved as fast as they were proposed
shows that things were somewhat like an old FSS meeting. Mr. Cudden
has now seen Sydney fans in action - what do you think of them, friend?
Write and let us know.

A perfect illustration of American interest in and knowledge
(more than anything else) of the convention (note: not conference)
lies in that only Forrie Ackerman sent any contributions and only
Tucker mentioned it in his magazine! As far as the Sydcon goes it was
a case of opening the bridge before the foundations were even laid!

Anything further we have to say on the Sydcon^{HERE} will be printed
in a later issue. Although we have a job to fill these issues we are
too disgusted with this fiasco to waste any more time and energy
making remarks. If you have any to make send 'em in! We'll
gladly print anything which is said.

REPRINTS ROLL IN: The Battle of Britain has not yet squashed English
science fiction, fan or pro, for quite recently
Sydney newstands have displayed and sold quite a number of copies of
the reprint editions of the September '40 UNKNOWN and the August '40
ASTOUNDING. More are expected as well as the thirteenth TALES OF WON.

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