

NORSTRILIAN NEWS

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EDITORIAL NOTES: This is the last NN I'll be doing for a couple of months: the next three or four will be edited by Leigh Edmonds, who already does most of the work anyway. After that I'll be back if he will let me in. There may be some slight changes in policy as a result of the increase in price (which couldn't be avoided, really - we are going to suffer with the present subscriptions as it is), and the flyer with this is the start of that policy. Next NN should see the flyer announcing the 10th Australian SF Convention (to be held at the New year in Melbourne). as a companion to the regular sheet. I haven't talked to Leigh about this yet, but he's a good listener. I'm mentioning the matter here so that my vast army of spies can send messages to Leigh direct for the next two months, instead of via me. Ta. Now read on.

HUGO CORRECTION: Seven am does not seem to be my best time for fanzine stencilling. It was 'Ship of Shadows' by Fritz Leiber which won the Novella Hugo.

US Paperbacks - September: Ace - 'Tunnel In The Sky' (Robert A. Heinlein), 'The Fire Eater' (Ron Goulart), 'The Ship That Sailed The Timestream' (G C Edmondson), 'The Mad Goblin'/'Lord Of The Trees' (Philip Jose Farmer). Berkley - 'You Will Never Be The Same' (Cordwainer Smith), 'The Daleth Effect' (Harry Harrison), 'Out Of Their Minds' (Clifford D. Simak). Notes: it is good to see YOU WILL NEVER BE THE SAME available again. The Panther paperback UNDER OLD EARTH is apparently a collection of short stories, presumably those not yet collected in the USA. As a result of the highly complex distribution system in Australia, UNDER OLD EARTH has only been released in Sydney, so far as I know. (Info from LOCUS, FOCAL POINT)

AUSTRALIAN FANCLUBS: Friday September 4 was apparently the big night - maybe the first Friday of the month is too popular. Last issue of NN I was supposed to announce the meeting of the Brisbane Group for Michael Cameron. But at least in not mentioning that meeting I also ignored the meeting of the MSFS and the meeting of the SSFF. // The SSFF meeting was not attended by its president, Peter Darling. However, Alex Robb distributed WINDUS 3 and Gary Mason distributed New Forerunners 9 and 12. // In Melbourne 35 - 40 fans gathered at John Bangsund's for the second meeting of whatever it is called. Peter Darling attended from Sydney, and Bruce Gillespie came from Ararat (in a way) to talk about Philip K. Dick, which he did to kick off the (formal? informal?) part of the meeting. John Bangsund was unable to open with prayers (who has a pulled hamstring), so I strapped on the pads to assist. Definite decisions by the meeting (and therefore subject to change at the shortest notice): the group will be called THE NOVA MOB, the monthly apa-thing will be named APA-NOVA, and one day something will have to be done about finance. For further notes on APA-NOVA see Australian fanzines. The next meeting of THE NOVA MOB will be held at the Degraeves Tavern, 25a Degraeves Street, Melbourne, on October 2 1970, when John Foyster will speak briefly on Something (not overpopulation, but considering the interests of Melbourne fans, that would be wasted). The deal at the Degraeves is this, roughly: the proprietor is willing to give us a trial run, but if we don't make it worth his while then that's it. So the idea is to turn up at the Degraeves for your evening meal then, when the place officially 'closes' (at about 8.30) we have the continued use of the tavern - and drinks can be purchased as long as we stay. But if the proprietor doesn't get his money's worth - that's it. Considering that so few fans have been prepared to bring along their own drinks to past meetings (preferring to scoff those of the more generous) this notion seems to be doomed to failure - but I guess it is worth a try. John Bangsund will again send out a leaflet at the appropriate time.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Tony Thomas, 486 Scoresby Rd., Ferntree Gully, 3156, Vic.
Gary Woodman, 6/27 Hartoury Street, Elwood, Victoria.
(I don't think he was too sober when he wrote it down)
John Ryan, somewhere in Brisbane, soon.

Australian Fanzines: Did John Bangsund's advert. for the second meeting of TNM appear after the last NN? Two pages, foolscap. //THE NEW FORERUNNER nos 9 and 12 (Gary Mason, 8-14 Warili Rd., French's Forest, NSW 2086, 15¢ a copy) have already appeared, and another issue will reach you slightly before this issue of NN. No. 9 runs 22 pages and consists of a transcript of the SSFF AGM (for 1970) which, as a member of the SSFF, I appreciated. I am not sure whether others would feel the same way - but then they probably won't read it. No. 12, 16 pages, is nearer to standard NF fare. There is a one page report on the 'bus travellers, which contains a good deal more news than has appeared elsewhere, five pages of club news (including some comments on THE NOV. MOB which indicate that the nature of Melbourne fandom hasn't been completely understood by interstate fans - hmm, it probably hasn't been understood by anyone). Then there are roughly three pages of news concerning Australian fanzines, and a couple of other pages of assorted material. The only mention of comics (as opposed, that is, to identifying John Ryan as a comics fan) is the proud boast that NF leads Australian newszines on the subject of comics - to each his own. (Is that cynical enough, Gary?). NF 13 is devoted to the HEICON. Don't subscribe beyond NF 17. My plan is to kill it by number 18, you see. //THE SLITHY TOVE 4 (David Grigg, no address given, but I am too kind - 1556 Main Rd, Research, Victoria) used to be the journal of the Melbourne University SFA. Twenty pages, and much improved in many ways. Mostly noodlings, but a couple of reviews and letters. // WINDUS 3 (Alex Robb, c/o 120 Herring Rd. Eastwood, NSW 2122, 10¢!) was a surprise, being by far the best fanzine Alex has published to date. It is on pricey paper (you'll never learn, will you Alex?) and the contents are of around average SF Commentary quality, except that Alex has a more vigorous personality in print. This issue runs to 36 pages, with long pieces on Ballard by Gillospie and Robb, some reviews, a survey of fanzines and a long letter column (as well as Alex's regular feature, a Hugo listing - but this time it must be the most up-to-date one....). Alex wants contributions. Frankly, at 10¢ this is far too cheap, and I think it would tempt too many people into fulfilling their obligations the easy way. Oh well. // Apa-Nova, as I shall call it in future, ran to 34 pages this month (up 1000% on last month) from three contributors (up 50%). John Bangsund wrote some humorous little essays and drew a dirty cartoon, Lough Edmonds reprinted some stuff from ANZIPA and called the result RITAPLAN 6, and David Grigg entered a single sheet. Melbournians just bring along about 40 copies of a contribution to the NOV. MOB meeting - others could make private arrangements with either Lough Edmonds or John Bangsund (now the owner of a Gestetner) or myself. Which takes us to the next item:

THE APA CORNER: Apa-Nova 2 - 34 pages. Apa-45 24 - 460 pages. Apa-Nesfa 1 - 20 plus pages. I lost count on Apa-L, so here goes: Apa-L 266 - 100, 267 - 107, 268 - 111, 269 - 89, 270 - 118, 271 - 112, 272 - 116. I think that brings me up-to-date without any holes. M IAD 15 - 98 pages. (I pinch some of this stuff from LOCUS and FOCAL POINT, but it isn't berry complete - surely someone ought to try!)

FANZINES: WINNIE 50 is the last from Michael Ward. CRY 186 from Elinor Busby and company was another last issue (again). But SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW 38 from Richard Geis isn't a last issue. This issue has an interesting column from Ted White and, er, some reviews and letters. You may be wondering why I'm not flogging SFR (being its Australian agent). Friend, when a fanzine has won two Hugoes on end and looks set for more and has J J Pierce in the WAHFs it doesn't need a plug (subs at 50¢ a copy from me at the above address). // SF WAVES (David Gorman, 3515 Lauriston Drive, New Castle, Indiana 47362, USA, 6 for \$1) arrived airmail. Twenty pages, with the best item being a piece on Barry Malzberg. The WEIRD T. LES history is more like a table of dates. It is very well-duplicated, like. I guess the problem is getting contributions, but somehow that's a problem which seems to be solved fairly simple in US fandom.

AUSTRALIA IN '75 - PROVIDED YOU'RE NOT A N---- OR A PACIFIST DEPT.: Last week the Australian Government refused a visa to Dick Gregory. No reason, just our policy. This we really need. The next issue of AUSTRALIA IN '75 will run something like a transcription of the HEICON BUSINESS SESSION. Killforpeace

n o r s t r i l i a n c o m m e n t s

number one, September 5 1970. FF193

Written and published by John Foyster, 12Glongariff Drive Mulgrave,
Victoria 3170, Australia, and distributed with NORSTRILIAN NEWS 13.
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'Demonstrating seems to be, to me at any rate, a useless sort of thing to do. I can achieve more for whatever cause I like to choose, simply by sitting here and bashing away from my typer. I see no point in going out and spending the day tramping around for a cause I believe in but which I don't believe I can do any good for by tramping around.'

(Leigh Edmonds, TRISTAN und 4, Apa-L Distribution 270)

Quite possibly this is a common attitude amongst Australian fans. Many subjects are discussed in fanzines - mostly by people who haven't the vaguest notion of what they are talking about - but it is probably true that there are more subjects which are simply not discussed. I rarely have any urge to print any of my own opinions of this subject, but there has been a confluence of events which, to my mind at least, justifies the exercise.

The most interesting thing about Leigh's remark, quoted above, (as I said to him just a couple of days ago) is that the only occasions on which I have observed Leigh rallying to a cause behind his typewriter is when he has been defending himself against charges of inaction in real life. He more or less agreed.

In the June mailing of Apa-L I made some brief comments about the events in Adelaide involving the withdrawal of penalties imposed on some soldiers following their beating-up of several demonstrators (mainly girls, I understood) and the implications of that withdrawal. This evoked the following comment from Bob Smith:

'and as its the home of 3 Battalion the Moratorium people were probably lucky they were not really done over, but then that's the privilege of a free country, eh? Your citizens can practically take over the damn place and disrupt things whilst they voice their mainly un-realistic ideas, but the military has to bite its tongue and shaddup. No doubt drink played a large part in the soldier's attitude in Adelaide, but the general feeling of frustration because this emotional attitude, so well organised, gives, to the soldier, an unfair picture of things, isn't hard to spark off. And for a young man, no killer but probably fairly proud of his uniform, to be ordered not to wear it on that day doesn't help either. Your Moratorium marchers, so proud (and not a little relieved) of their non-violent day apparently want it both ways: peace they want, but are not particularly enthusiastic about paying the sacrifices that the true believer usually cops, and has down through the ages. Its interesting to note that the two countries demonstrating so hysterically for Peace, both very much involved in SVN, have never been pounded into their own home ground by an

n yonomy... Okay, I'm sure the academic, the intellectual, the student (always the student!) and the pacifist can blow great holes in my views (and of course I'm a soldier so I'm unable to think for myself), but while they are doing it some one else is making sure that they are free to do it... One doesn't have to make a big noise to know. I believe your Puppet-Master, Dr. Cairns, is going to try again (this month?)...'

(Bob Smith, SORE KAFA, Anzapa Mailing T2)

You will note that there is no reference to the subject of my essay: that the soldiers ran to Mommy RSL for protection. There is much discussion of the whys and wherefores of this rather broader subject. 'Blowing holes' is not a game. But I would like to help Bob (and others) see the possible contradiction in the position described above. For example, the notion that the marchers cried uhelo hardly ties in with the (noted) fact that there will be another march later this month (September 18 to be precise, Bob and others). There are many countries in the world which have never been pounded by an enemy who are neither in Vietnam or suffer demonstrations (for that cause): the connection is between the two last, and the first has nothing to do with the matter. The objection to citizens taking over 'the damn place' seems to suggest that public areas don't belong to the citizens but to Big Brother. For that matter, I should be most interested to see a documented study of the change of government in the various countries of the world, comparing the number of take-overs by (a) 'academics, intellectuals, students and pacifists' and (b) the military. (I mean violent changes, up there). The objection to 'organisation' is hard to follow, unless the Army, the most organised part of the community, fears my rivals.

And finally there is the totally unjustified assumption that the Army is doing anything to keep Australia free (from n----s and pacifists, perhaps?). Australia has three divisions in Vietnam (more or less), the minimum practical size for any sort of operation. If there is a threat to Australia in Vietnam, why are there not more troops over there? Because the public in Australia wouldn't buy it? Or because the premiums on the ANZUS policy are low? Considering that many leading US senators and congressmen have until recently been unaware that Australia was fielding a team in Vietnam, perhaps the premiums are too high. And perhaps that is why one division is coming home later this year. The chances of the ANZUS Treaty being supported by the US in time of trouble seem to decline yearly.

If we are pulling out troops, the battle and the war unwon, how have those troops helped to keep Australia 'free'? This notion, that young men must go to die in Vietnam to 'keep Australia free' is one of the most evil lies propagated in this country, and it has some competition. Precisely because this lie is killing young Australians (even 'students', Bob, my former students killed by the wicked lie) it must be fought with the greatest possible efficiency.

Now it may be argued that it is necessary to 'Kill For Peace', and someone taking that view may be able to point to particular instances which seem to justify it. But this is not the official view of the Australian Government, and I propose to document it.

In explaining the refusal of a visa to the filthy n-----, Dick Gregory, the Minister for Immigration (Mr. Lynch) said (inter alia):

'This Government is not prepared to allow the entry to Australia of persons whose activities are stated to be contrary to Australia's national interest and where their stated purpose of visiting Australia is not judged to be bona fide.

'In the Government's view, this applies where the intentions are related to a one-sided, distorted anti-war moratorium campaign inimical to the objects to which Australian troops are fighting in Vietnam.'

(my underline) (THE AGE, Thursday Sept. 3, page 1)

The appalling grammar may be the fault of THE AGE. The above statement is, however, a carefully prepared one. It has been repeated, with minor variations, by various members of the Government, but always the underlined words (with the very rare exception of 'distorted') have been fundamental to the quotation.

Now the 'one-sided' accusation can be dismissed instantly. The Australian Government's representations on this matter have always been 'one-sided'. The actual objection is to 'other-sided'. 'Distorted' has, I think, a similar connotation, though there is no reason to believe that the 'other side' may put forward distorted views - views just as distorted as anyone might have. On the other hand, there is difference of opinion on that side, whereas the Government is monolithic. Perhaps this should be brought to the attention of those MPs on the Government benches who delight in discussing 'one-party totalitarian' governments.

But anti-war - that's something else. Superficially, the Government of Australia likes to think that it is not pro-war, yet in statements of this kind a truer picture of reality emerges. It is not that young and old marchers are marching which is annoying, it is that they are marching against the war in Vietnam. It is not so much that which is annoying as that they are marching against War. And it is not so much that as that they are marching against the present world-wide systems of government which consider war a necessary part of life (what a peculiar juxtaposition that is!).

Before moving completely away from this view to another one, I'd like to handle a bridging matter: the 'Silent Majority'. It is frequently a fantasy retreat of the inactive and slothful that they form a 'Silent Majority'. (In anarchist terms, these are the slobs who keep the present systems going to voting for persons whose views and actions they know nothing of and probably never will.) This is cold comfort, I'm afraid, on at least two grounds (quite apart from whether or not the view they espouse is correct).

First, in Melbourne alone at the last Moratorium march in Melbourne, 75,000 people marched. This is more than the Australian Army and Government can raise by normal methods (including conscripts and the CMF). It is also about three times the turnout for the last local celebration of Australia's bloody wartime defeats, Anzac Day. Secondly, if there's only you, me and him in the room, a majority ain't many, brother. What are the world-wide views on the subject?

Hard to obtain, currently anyway. There's little point, in most countries. But I have some figures for November 1967 (a Gallup Poll). I'll quote two figures - the first being the percentage believing the US should begin to withdraw, the second being the percentage who believe the US should maintain or increase its commitment.

Finland	81 ... 9	Sweden	79 ... 14	Brazil	76 ... 10
France	72 ... 13	India	66 ... 12	W. Germany	58 ... 25
Argentina	57 ... 12	England	45 ... 30	Canada	41 ... 39
U.S.A.	31 ... 63	Australia	29 ... 55		

Figures change, of course, but how comfortable is that 'Silent Majority'? And I point out that, in deference to the higher feelings of my readers, I didn't include any figures from the USSR.

Moratorium marchers can, of course, draw no comfort from forming the 'Silent Majority'. Their concern is the deaths of human beings, and they will be marching on September 18.

'This bullshit about dissent by ballot box is as ludicrous as we all know it is from experience: the probability of finding a party whose policy fits even fifty percent of your own is almost zero. Hell, it is zero! The majority, the uninformed majority, is nearly always wrong: look at Hitler's democratic majority using its privilege to wipe out the minority, the Jews. Dissent is not only the right of the minority, it is the duty of those who disagree with a vital policy of the government: it is the moral obligation of we who can see the evil being done in the name of our taxes, used by our government, elected by us the people.'

(David Grigg, ALEPH, Apa-M or whatever, dist. 2)

Well, partly. You don't have to vote, you know. But you have to be prepared to tell the Government where to put it. I do whenever they ask. So if you object, don't register and if you have registered, don't vote. Not paying taxes is difficult in a PAYE country, but I managed it anyway (the hard way). Next year when I have some income I must try to get around it.

But elsewhere in ALEPH David draws inspiration from WOODSTOCK and THE GLASS TEAT. Heaven Forbid! Surely as inhabitants of a country crawling with American cast-off crud this is something we can do without.

Why demonstrate? A couple of reasons, I guess. One's a simple matter of standing up and being counted. Not that one agrees with everything which the organisers of a demonstration, but merely that one can't agree with what is the present policy. Not that one feels that one's own presence will change the world, but that marching is more effective than scratching on a piece of paper - that birthright for a mess of pottage.

So stand up if you will, all of you - yes, Leigh and Bob, you too.

Because if we all stand we can change the world. If we want to hard enough.

But it is easier to get calluses on your arse watching the box, isn't it?

(distributed also through ANZOPA and to some disty of Apa-L)