

# NORSTRILIAN NEWS

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## San Francisco Worldcon bid withdrawn: Walkover for Australia likely at Torcon.

Jerry Jacks, of Sampo Productions, which had been planning to bid for the 1975 World SF Convention in competition with Melbourne, has now decided to withdraw. Officially the site will be chosen at Toronto in early September 1973, but it now looks unlikely that a ballot will be necessary. Details are not yet available from the Toronto committee as to how the new situation will be handled. We must wait and see.

So, the Australia in '75 bid has won, in all but official terms, the right to run the 33rd World Science Fiction Convention in Melbourne. As co-chairman, with Leigh Edmonds, I'd like to thank everyone of our supporters for all the help and encouragement we and our predecessors have had in the almost three years this has been a serious aim. We have had enormous support from professionals and fans in the field, and I'm sure that as the first Worldcon in the Southern Hemisphere approached, and the names of those intending to come join an already lengthy list, an enormous surge of interest in this, perhaps the branch of literature most fed by feedback from its own readers, will appear. This has been our aim all along, of course; but we will have a lot of work yet before all this comes to pass. Keep up the contacts, everyone, and let's make the 33rd, if not the largest, the best Worldcon yet.

SHAZAM! Bill Wright passes on this information from Kim Weston of Baltimore: DC Comics have bought the rights to the original Capt. Marvel from Frew Publications. They plan to put out, under the title SHAZAM!, a series of new adventures combined with reprints from 20-30 years ago. The first issue, dated Feb 1973, the origin story of the Big Red Cheese, together with his return from 20 years of suspended animation due to the evil machinations of Dr. Sivana, while the second is to contain the return of Mr. Mind. Artwork is by the original artist, Charles C. Beck.

### M.S.F.C. FOUNDER-MEMBER NEW LABOR M.H.R.

Race Mathews, one of the founder-members of the Melbourne Science Fiction Club, and until recently Private Secretary to Gough Whitlam, managed to oust Peter Howson, Lord High Everything Else in the McMahon ministry, in Australia's Federal lower house election. With seven candidates, including one named Matthews, it was a very confused election under the preferential system - as used for the annual Hugo awards. Even with a high proportion of D.L.P. preferences, however, Howson could not beat off Race's lead in the primaries. Congratulations, Race; I hope you still will have time to keep in touch.

## THIS WEEK'S AUSTRALIAN CONVENTIONS

**RVO CON** is a floating party that starts/started on Boxing Day at the Bruce Gillespie residence, 600 Plenty Road, corner of Wood St. East Preston. As it is a holiday, probably only corner shops will be open: a barbecue is available unless it is a day of total fire ban - in which case the Gillespie stove fills in.

Wednesday 27th Dec - contact John Foyster on 059 - 221468 for details of how to reach the Foyster farm at Kyneton.

Thursday 28th Dec - Ring Space Age Books, 6631777 for up-to-date details. This also applies for the following days. Guest of Honour is John Bangsund, from the Red Heart. Cost is a laughable 5p a day plus anything you bring.

**Q-CON II** runs from Dec 30 - Jan 1 at the Metropolitan Motel in Brisbane and fuller information can be got from Dennis Stocks, GPO Box 2268, Brisbane 4001. Jack Wodhams is now to be GoH in place of Lee Harding, and Christime McGowan is fan GoH, and will also give a talk on The Intergalactic Lawyer. Other features are a retrospective of German fantasy films, a discuss on SF comic strips led by Dennis Stocks, NASA movies, a New Year's party, etc, etc. Membership is \$4.

## **Overseas Convention News - Novacon**

Britain's off-season convention was held at the Imperial Centre in Birmingham (how's that for a name?), and Peter Roberts covered the social side pretty well in CHECKPOINT 26, but did not attend much of the programme, by his own account. Doreen Parker (Mrs. Phil Rogers) was GoH; the only formal items Peter mentions were Brian Aldiss reading some unpublished short stories, and Fancy Dress Party, where he was one of eight people wired up by Tony Walsh with Norman Lights, as in Aldiss' The Primal Urge. The urge was apparently sufficiently strong for him to forget get whether they wan or not.

**Philcon** was attended by 430 at Philadelphia's Hotel Sheraton, with John Brunner as GoH, and also moderating a panel on 'Womens' Lib in Sword & Sorcery'. Ginjer Buchanan's report in LOCUS 128 commends the Committee for a nice balance between formal and informal sessions. From Australia's point of view, it would have been an ideal place to show the Aussiefan film: unfortunately it has been subjected to the tender mercies of the US Postal Service, and was last seen in Pittsburgh. Our fearless agents on both coasts are searching for it and pestering the USPS; no news yet.

APOLLO XVII struck a note from the public media, insofar as it reached them at all, of almost total disinterest. The thing that annoyed me beyond words was the frequent repetition every time the subject came up, of the phrase, 'Man's last voyage to the moon'. Even the commentators who made some attempt to find out what NASA's dwindling plans are seem not to have realied the implications of such ongoing projects as the space Shuttle, which should bring the possibility by the eighties of supplying a permanent base on the moon, as well as earth satellites. A relatively small realignment of priorities in about four years' time might well see plans made for such a permanent base. I'm not optimistic about this happening before then: it seems politically incompatible with the resumption of large-scale US involvement in the Vietnam war.

SF Theatre Bomb: News from both Britain and America is of new theatrical ventures in the genre, and if a certain Lee Harding project comes off there may be local news too. Jim Cawthorn artwork is the backdrop for a forthcoming space (rock) opera featuring Hawkwind, an sf-oriented British group; VIA GALACTICA, a rock musical with music by HAIR's Galt McDermott, bombed on Broadway, losing almost \$1,000,000; an SF farce, WARP, is moving to New York from Chicago after a long run; and a Ray Bradbury play, LEVIATHAN '99, has opened in Los Angeles. These items stolen from mi, Eric Bentcliffe's rider to CHECKPOINT 26, and LOCUS 128.

FANZINES RECEIVED: LOCUS continues its indispensable coverage: Bruce Gillespie is Australian agent and sells a year's issues for \$8 - GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne. CHECKPOINT performs for Britain a similar function to LOCUS in U.S.A. David Grigg sells 6 fortnightly issues for \$1 from Box 100, Carlton South, Vic 3053. The editors sell NN in their respective territories: Charles and Dena Brown, 3400 Ulloa St, San Francisco, CA 94116, and Peter Roberts, 87 West Town Lane, Bristol BS 4 5DZ.

See colophon for prices.

CARANDAITH 6 from Alpajpuri, 1690 E 26 Ave, Eugene OR 97403, 4/\$2, The address & rates seem unlikely to be current, as this issue is around two years old. 92pp of excellent colour mimeo, it is Tolkein-oriented, but not to the exclusion of all else. Local agent Alex Robb has threatened me with cannibalism if I do not mention the special Australian rate of 75¢ a copy until the (imminent) arrival of the next issue, when rates rise to \$1 a copy, from 120 Herring Rd, Eastwood, NSW 2122. Paj has always brought out beautiful work - I'm looking forward to No 7.

VECTOR 60 & 61 are now put out by Malcolm Edwards, 75A Harrow View, Harrow, Middx HA1 1RF, England. It is the journal of the British S. F. Association, and is available in Australia for 60¢ or 10/\$5.50 from Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne Vic 3001. 40pp offset, Vector under its new editor is back to high quality production, and it is getting articles and letters from such as Brunner, Blish, Harrison, Tubb, Aldiss, and Gillespie. Artwork is limited but of good standard - I particularly liked the cover of No 61, by Ames.

KYBEN 3 from Jeff Smith, 4102 - 301 Potter St., Baltimore, MD 21229, appears to alternate with his other magazine PHANTASMICOM. The material is lighter and less sf-oriented than PHCOM; mostly about travel this time, with articles by James Tiptree Jr. on Mexico, and Charlie Hopwood on Austria. Write to Paul Anderson 21 Mulga Rd., Hawthorndene, S.A. 5051, the Australian agent, or send \$1 for 3.

SOMETHING ELSE from Shayne McCormack, 49 Orchard Rd, Bass Hill, NSW 2197 is available for the usual, which is spelled out by Shayne as Trade, Letter of Comment, contribution (if it's used), or request (one issue only), or \$1.50/4. This first issue has 36 pages, and contains part of a Bangsund autobiography, the first instalment of a history of Australian fandom from 1935-44, by Vol Molesworth. The rest is good: (disclaimer: I don't have a lot of interest in the interminable & internecine feuds of the period, and Bangsund is below par) Margaret Oliver's report on the Sydney Convention, Paul Stevens' outrageous Were-Kangaroo tale, and Bert Chandler on the decline of the short film.

GEGENSCHHEIN 8 from Eric Lindsay, 6 Hillcrest Ave., Faulconbridge NSW 2776 for 50¢, 3/\$1 or the usual. Eric is working hard at getting more art into his zine; the results vary from the wothwhile to the horrible. The articles include John Alderson on Why I Read SF, various poems, an interesting column by Leon Taylor, Jack Wodhams on Why I Like ~~the~~ the USA, Darrell Schweitzer on generation-ships, the editor queried by Ed Cagle, and best of all, Christine McGowan on landrights for the aborigines. Some very good stuff here.

ANZAPA 26 for December has 212 pages from 18 of 23 members. This comes as a cosy compendium in one large envelope from the Official Bloody Editor, Leigh Edmonds, P.O.Box 74, Balaclava 3183. Asking for a sample is an easy way of seeing what all this amateur publishing is about. (It's about 50¢, I should think.) Better items on this occasion include Carey Handfield on caving, David Grigg's TOUCHSTONE, a trip report by John Bangsund entitled DON'T RAISE THE FAULCONBRIDGE, LOWER THE RUDDY WA WATER, and Leigh Edmonds' account of getting trodden on for Gough at St. Kilda Town Hall.

TORCON 2 TO DATE: Progress Report 3 for 1973's Worldcon announces membership of 900 which is about 50% above either of the last two at the equivalent time, and that the committee consider the ratification of rule changes at the subsequent Business Session unnecessary. At the same time, they propose to ignore the Nasfic rules, as being mutually contradictory. At the time of writing I have not seen the wording, in PR3, and I expect others will also be interested to see this interpretation. Meanwhile as Australian agent I hereby announce local rates of membership as \$A3.50 supporting and \$A6 attending; rates in North America are \$C 4 and 7 respectively. The Torcon is to be held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto over the Labor Day week-end, September 1st-3rd, 1973. Hotel reservation forms are being mailed with PR3; rates are higher than L.A. and about the same as Boston. I'd suggest any prospective travellers from Godzone should contact me for travel information.

BRADBURY AGAIN: According to DE PROFUNDIS, the newsletter of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Sam Peckinpah (of all directors) is planning to film SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES for 20th Century Fox. Out of STRAW DOGS cometh forth badness?  
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AUSTRALIA

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

YOU HAVE PAID FOR \_\_\_ MORE ISSUES.