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EASTERCON '73: Last issue went to press after the first day, Good Friday, of the Convention in Melbourne, rather than on it: only one recipient praised my apparent 20-20 foresight in giving the results of the Costume Parade. I also may have given the impression that Professor Paul Ehrlich was present. It was only in spirit: John Foyster's talk, billed as 'The Days Before Doomsday: Paul Ehrlich and his critics' purported to be an explanation of four types of opposition to the leading prophet of ecological doom, but turned out to be dispassionate disposal of each type. Saturday's activities started with my talk on Why We Need Space Travel, and reached a high point with Bill Wright's passionate plea to newer readers to look at the works of H. Beam Piper. Bruce Gillespie then introduced Gerald Murnane, who still has high hopes that he will come across some SF that comes up to the highest literary standards, and has really far-out ideas. Trouble is, what he thinks of as far-out merely sounds unlikely to most fans, and what we think of as far-out he considers rather mundane. There were panels on Golden Ages and those mindbenders A.E. Van Vogt and Philip K. Dick, not often bracketed together. Bruce Gillespie was unable on the spur of the moment to think of a Dick passage that summed up Dick as efficiently as Bill Wright's Doc Smith dramatic reading.

A move upstairs to the Jacaranda Room was necessary to hear Peter Waltham play, and sing with Sue Bell, Donald Swann's settings of the songs from Lord of the Rings. For many, this was the high spot of the Convention. The Jacaranda Room was used as a display centre for various publishers and John Breden's work in setting up the displays, particularly of artwork used in RATS, the underground magazine, made it a popular spot for those not attending the main sessions. Another unprogramme area was the floating game of fannish poker (poker with fanzine stakes) at which Michael Creaney cleaned up a vast pile of Science Fiction Reviews from his original stake of one copy of LOCUS. The only time I remember seeing him downstairs was at the Costume Parade, dressed as the King of Id, and that was only because I was in the front row.

After David Grigg's talk on 'Aliens for Neighbours' on attempts to communicate with dolphins, Sue Bell set up a talk which developed into an ad hoc bid for the '74 National Con in Melbourne. Bruce Gillespie tried to get us involved in Hesse and Borges, and Lee Harding introduced Piotr and Laura Olszewski of RATS, and tried to find out why they've been able to keep up a monthly deadline for six issues now, while showcasing some of the most interesting graphics as well as the Lee Harding 'oeuvre' as he insists on calling it. Main ingredients seem to be angels and seven sixteen-hour days a week by each of the editorial staff.

David Peperell's talk on SF in rock music led up to the World Premiere of Minnie Hands' magna opera, JOE PHAUST. As I only opened and shut my mouth roughly in time, knowing my own limitations, I'm free to comment on some of the more interesting phaux pas: Lee Harding as Mephistopheles asking to use Merv Binns' nonexistent phone; Irene Pagram forgetting Joe virility sandwich (peanut butter and pickles, dipped in Milo), and Peter Waltham's reversed ad lib as Joe the Younger anent Frank Zappa when he meant Ann. Highlights for me of the show: Paul Stevens sinking to his knees in ecstasy as Joe recounts his impossible dream of the whole world turning on to SF: Sue Bell as Mae East; 'Don't worry about the six feet, let's concentrate on the seven inches'; and Graham Shannon's 'If I were a Rich Pro' song.

Late night films included MEMOIRS OF A CITIZEN ABOVE SUSPICION, with light relief from START THE REVOLUTION WITHOUT ME; EARTH II was a disaster, some of the effects being the only thing of interest in the soap (not space) opera plot.

(Eastercon '73 contd.) Additionally shorter films were included such as NASA movies on the Apollo shots, and James Gunn's University of Kansas SF shorts. Attendance was around 120 maximum, below esti had been hoped, perhaps due to the suburban railway strike and the coincidence of the Easter period with Anzac Day giving many families opportunity to take a week away. For those attendees however, it was a fine Con.

NEBULA AWARDS: The Science Fiction Writers of America announce that Nebula Awards for 1972 went as follows: Best Novel - The Gods Themselves, Isaac Asimov; Best Novella - A Meeting with Medusa, Arthur C. Clarke; Best Novelette - Goat Song, Poul Anderson; Best Short Story - When It Changed, Joanna Russ. As is now usual, three simultaneous banquets were held in New York, New Orleans, and Oakland, and all the winners were in New York. Arthur Clarke only just made it, after nearly drowning as a result of a vertigo attack when diving in the Virgin Isles. (LOCUS)

OTHER AWARDS: There are two John W. Campbell Memorial Awards: one is to be voted on by members of TORCON 2, and goes to the best new writer in the SF field: the other is awarded by Illinois Institute of Technology to Barry Malzberg's BEYOND APOLLO as the best SF novel of 1972 in the opinion of the judging panel, consisting of chairman Leon Stover, and Brian Aldiss, Tom Clareson, Harry Harrison, and Willis McNelly.

The (US) National Book Award for Children's Literature went this year to Ursula K. LeGuin for THE FARTHEST SHORE, the final volume of the Earthsea series published by Atheneum. The two previous volumes won other prizes and awards, but the prestige of the N.B.A., not to mention the \$1000 cash, completes the hat trick. Mrs. LeGuin's modest and thoughtful speech to the audience at New York's Lincoln Center is printed in LOCUS 140.

PUBLISHING COLONY REVISITED: Due to an error on the part of an American publisher of paperback books, I recently saw the invoice that should have been for the eyes of their agent in this country. Terms were 60% discount of US face value, plus a small charge for packing and shipping. There is of course no duty on imported books here: thus an Australian retailer who gets 33 1/3% discount on the Australian price, and who gets a not-too-exciting markup of 50%, is pretty unhappy about the profit made by the agent. Most agents are owned by foreign-owned publishers, but there are some Aussies along for the ride. The ride is a comfortable markup of 167%, made up thus: US pb, face value 95¢ - Cost price 38¢ + 4¢ packing and shipping (generous), making US 42¢, or Aust. 30¢. Invoice price to retailer, at the new reduced price of A\$1.20 (down from \$1.25!) less 1/3, or 80¢. Profit 50¢ on cost of 30¢. That's one sweet ride the reading public is being taken for. A retail price of A. 75¢ for the US 95¢ book would still give a 2/3 markup to the importer, and the usual retailer's 50%.

ADVENTION UPDATE: Progress Report 1 from Advention 2, GPO Box 1583, Adelaide 5001, announces supporting membership rate of \$2, attending \$4.50 until 1st August, then \$6. The Convention is to be held at Lincoln College, University of Adelaide, Brougham Place, North Adelaide, from Friday August 17 to Sunday 20th. Accommodation is \$5 per night bed & breakfast in motel-type rooms. The sponsor is the Adelaide Uni. SF Association, to whom general queries should go at the Clubs & Societies Council, University of Adelaide, North Terrace, Adelaide 5000. Nominations are also open for the annual Ditmar Awards for 1972. Categories are: Best Australian fiction - I nominate No Award, as usual; Best International Fiction - I nominate There Will Be Time, by Poul Anderson, published by Signet; Dramatic Presentation - I nominate the Aussiefan film, directed by John Litchen; and Best Australian Fan-zine; my choice is SF Commentary, Bruce Gillespie.

1973 WORLDCON: TORCON 2: I'm Australian agent for the 31st World SF Convention. It costs \$A.3 to get a supporting membership from me, or \$4 in North America from Torcon 2, PO Box 4, Station K, Toronto Ont. Canada; attending \$A.5 and \$7 respectively. The Convention is held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, from Aug 31 to Sep 3. Membership currently is 1400; benefits include voting for the Hugo Awards and the above-mentioned John W. Campbell Award, as well as for the site of the 1975 Worldcon, between Los Angeles and Melbourne. (Is there a choice?)

CHAUVINISM CORNER: This is where I review, or at least list, Australian fanzines I have received. I make very few apologies for concentrating on the local product: the readership of this one is largely in Australia, and may not have seen something I mention here: and those overseas readers are presumably more interested in reading what is available than my impressions of foreign magazines, especially the very highly selective listing I would have to make.

KANGAROO FEATHERS 1 is a committee product - editor-in-chief is Bruce Gillespie, and this first issue was edited by David Grigg, with layout and printing by Noel Kerr. The Australia in '75 Committee sponsors it, and the aim is the entertainment of world fandom, and to raise money. Subscriptions are 4/\$2 in Australia, 4/\$3 in North America, and this first issue looks pretty good - I feel safe saying that as there is nothing of mine in it except the address, GPO Box 4039, Melbourne 3001, which is where you send the loot. Cheques payable Robin Johnson, please: but if you write in and threaten not to vote for us if I don't send you a copy, you may well score a freebie. Jack Chalker will have copies to give out in America, hopefully in time for Disclave. Contents: all from ANZAPA between 1968 and 1971, and include pieces by Bangsund, Grigg, Brosnan, Edmonds, Gillespie, and Foyster.

MITHRIL 3 from Dennis Stocks runs around 90 quarto pages of fairly solid type, with much of this issue on the theme of pollution, and a leavening of fiction and letters. Dennis digs up relevant articles by such as John Maddox, stirs with his own sensible and disturbing articles. This fanzine has a lot of meat. Dennis doesn't list a price - write and ask him at GPO Box 2268, Brisbane 4001, or his agent Bill Bowers, PO Box 148, Wadsworth OH 44281.

CHAO 12 from John Alderson has had more success than of late with the reproduction of artwork. 50 quarto pages from the Sage of Havelock are yours for 40¢ A. or 50¢ US. A sort of Victorian Ed Cagle, John here expands on his catastrophic and lengthy struggles with overdrafts, historical societies, and neighbours, and gets what are perhaps the most interesting letters in Australian fandom. His address is John Alderson, Havelock, Vic 3465.

GEGENSCHHEIN 9 came in two parts from Eric Lindsay, 6 Hillcrest Ave, Faulconbridge NSW 2776. Part one is just letters of comment, and part two starts a feud about speed-reading. I incline to Harry Lidgren's view that you cannot get more than an impression of the subject of an article at over 1000 words per minute, although I concede that Ken Ozanne may have a very good comprehension at even faster rates. But he says himself that new facts take longer to absorb. 50¢ Aust.

GIRL'S OWN FANZINE is edited by Sue Smith, 78 Redgrave Rd, Normanhurst NSW 2076.

This is the second issue, and the theme is Women's Lib. John Alderson was one of the people who contributed, to, maybe kicked to death, the debate. Actually more comments are on the first issue, and the burning question - Would you marry a fan?. Good cover by John Snowden.

TOUCHSTONE 3 from David Grigg, currently unemployed operator of Box 100, Carlton South, Vic 3053, has a fascinating cover, being a map of Canberra. So that's why I can never get my bearings up there! This one goes through ANZAPA, CANADAPA, and APA-45, and is not available for money. For my money, David's idea of unstructured interleaving of editorial, article, letter, and reminiscence is working out pretty well. If you're quick, and offer money, David may relent and sell you one - unless he's landed a new job by then. In that case, you'll have to do what is usually the easiest thing to do to get any of the above - write an article, a letter, a poem, or draw something - or even just ask for a sample.

LISTED: Nini Hii, Canberra clubzine. No 8 includes A.P. Herbert on Canberra 1920: Helen Hyde, PO Box 544, Civic Square, ACT 2608.

The Penultimate Blimp. Letter substitute; Sue & Ron Clarke, 78 Redgrave Rd Normanhurst NSW 2076.

Rataplan 11 Leigh Edmonds, PO Box 74 Balaclava Vic 3183. FAPA, or \$160/4. Deserves more comment: reprints Leigh's SLEEPING BEWDY MATE from Rats.

FOR SALE AND WANTED: JOHN G. BANGSUND: AN AUSTRALIAN TRIBUTE. As a mark of respect to the late Mr. Bangsund, many of his friends have combined under the ~~WZP~~ direction of Leigh Edmonds to produce this affectionate memoir. It is a distillation of fond memories, and evokes a faint aroma of performing seals. Non-contributors and the unlucky non-members of ANZAPA or FAPA may obtain their personal copies from: U-Boat Publications, PO Box 74, Balaclava, Vic 3183 for \$1.

KANGAROO FEATHERS 1 is, like NN, available for \$2 from me: the difference is that you get 12 issues for the money if you ask for Norstrilian News and only 4 Kangaroo Feathers. They're rare, you know. Contents of this first issue include something from each of the half-dozen best writers from ANZAPA mailings in the years 1968-1971, selected by editor David Grigg, typed by Managing Editor Bruce Gillespie according to layout sheets from Printer and Art Director Noel Kerr and despite the committee approach the effect is very creditable. I know, my bank advanced \$1.19 on it. Those writers again - Bangsund, Brosnan, Edmonds, Foyster, House, and Stocks. Cover is by Irene Pagram and interior artwork by Weg, Lindquist and Bangsund. Next issue, edited by John Foyster, plumbs pre-Anzapan depths. KF is produced by the Australia in '75 Committee for the entertainment of world fandom, the cause of AUSTRALIA IN '75 (Vote early, Vote often!) and, \$2 in Aust, \$3 in North America, £1.25 in UK for 4 issues from R. Johnson, GPO Box 4039, Melbourne, Australia 3001. DISCLAVE attendees should get a sample from Jack Chalker.

BRIEFLY NOTED: WSFA JOURNAL 81, I'm Australian agent for this excellent fanzine. See enclosed flyer if you are in Australia: elsewhere, write Donald L. Miller, 12315 Judson Rd, Wheaton MD, U.S.A. 20906.

*OUTWORLDS 15. Another graphically innovative OW from Bill Bowers, PO Box 148, Wadsworth OH 44281. Aust agent Dennis Stocks, GPO Box 2268, Brisbane 4001: 75¢ US. 50¢ A. per issue. Beautiful!

*For overseas news, you need LOCUS and/or CHECKPOINT. LOCUS, PO Box 3938, San Francisco, CA 94116: CKPT, Peter Roberts, 87 West Town Lane, Bristol BS4 5DZ. Bruce Gillespie agents for LOCUS, charging ~~like a wretched bill~~ \$3.50 for 10. That's 50¢ US per each, Charlie! His address is GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne 3001. I'm where you order CKPT, for \$1 you get 8 copies airmail. Current issue has conreport on OMPACON, the British Eastercon. Sounds a pretty good Con.

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Sender: R. Johnson
GPO Box 4039
Melbourne
Vic. 3001
AUSTRALIA

Paul Keske
511 W. Melrose
Chicago IL 60657