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A 75 NAME, SITE CHOSEN: The Australia in '75 Committee (address as above) announce that AUSSIECON '75, the Australian bid for the 33rd World Science Fiction Convention in 1975, is to be held at the Southern Cross Hotel in Melbourne from Thursday August 14th to Sunday 17th inclusive. The hotel and the committee have reached agreement on the accommodation to be reserved, which will cost the Committee in excess of \$A 3000. The Southern Cross is a member of the Intercontinental Hotels chain, affiliated to Pan American Airways. The central location of the hotel in the theatre and restaurant section of the city will give our members the opportunity to sample other delights within a few minutes of these of the Worldcon. Australia is bidding against Los Angeles this year for the right to hold this Convention: to vote you must be a member of the 1973 WorldCon, TORCON 2, for which I as agent can sell memberships for \$(Aust)3 to reach my box by Weds 25 July. An additional fee of \$2 gives you a supporting membership of the 1975 WorldCon, which enables you to cast your mail ballot, for which the deadline is extended until 20th August. This fee is \$3 in USA and Canada, payable to '33rd Worldcon' c/o TORCON 2, PO Box 4, Station K, Toronto 12, Ontario, Canada M4P 2G1.

ADVENT OF ADVENTION 2: A Progress Report from Adelaide announces a student concession on room rates for this year's National SF Convention. Bed and breakfast rates for university students are reduced from \$5 per day to \$3.50, and there is no need to book in advance. Other main meals cost 75¢, apart from the Banquet, which is \$4, payable in advance. The Convention, to be held at Lincoln College of Adelaide University, in Brougham Place, North Adelaide, from 2pm Friday August 17th to 5pm Sunday 19th. Membership is \$5 in advance from Gary Mason, GPO Box 1583, Adelaide 5001, or \$6 at the door. Guest of Honour is John Foyster; other features include a Masquerade (Friday evening), auction (items are still sought for this - contact Paul Anderson, 21 Mulga Rd, Hawthorndene 5051), the above-mentioned banquet at which the Ditmar Awards will be given, an R-rated slide show of comix art, a writers' workshop, and talks or panel discussions on SF in children's literature, SF and the media, sex in SF, parapsychology,.....

WESTERCON 26 (from LOCUS): Perhaps the largest of the American regional conventions is the annual Westercon. The enormous and palatial Hotel St. Francis was the locale for 1973's marathon Fourth-of-July con, attended by up to 1500 people. Traditionally at Westercons, the Art Show and the Masquerade are the best features: this one seems from the LOCUS report by Charlie Brown not to have broken that tradition. 65 artists entered over 500 individual pieces to the art show, including a Barsoomian chess set, and there were 53 entries in the Costume Ball, of a very high standard. For reasons unclear to me, 20 of these were on the theme of Earth, Air, Fire and Water. There seems to be a trend towards more and more group entries. A two-hour oporetta by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro entitled "The Little Girl Dragon of Alabaster-on-Fenwick, or, the Crumpet Maker who Was Prince" was a highlight, acto Frank Denton's report. There were three simultaneous panels to choose among during the day sessions, supported well by San Francisco's large contingent of professional writers. The Committee's Sampo Award went to Vando McIntyre for bringing the Clarion Writers' Workshop to the West Coast.

SYDNEY CLUB NEWS: The annual general meeting of the Sydney SF Foundation elected a feminine majority committee for the coming year. Sue Smith, the new President, soon to be Mrs Roanld L. Clarke, Shayne McCormack, Margaret Oliver, and Jenny Stephenson outnumber, not to say outfigure, Eric Lindsay, Blair Ramage, and Richard Faulder. The last-named runs the Sydney Uni SFA, and publishes ENIGMA, which I don't seem to get these days. Blair handles the SSFF's correspondence from 13 Attunga Ave, Earlwood 2206: write to him for meeting details.

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Another club in Sydney is the SF and Fantasy Foundation, Barker College, Pacific Highway, Hornsby 2077. Colin Dagwell, the Secretary tells me the club's zine HRIMM (hmm?) is publishing an A. Bertram Chandler story, and wants to contact other writers.

THAT ANTHEM: Among the finalists in the Australian Anthem quest is David Boutland. Among those who are not overly appreciative may be numbered John Bangsund, who delivered himself of these deathless verses in the CANBERRA TIMES:

The entrants for the Anthem Quest
Have given us their very best;
They make this place sound pretty good,
As any national anthem should;
Their every perfect sentiment
Can surely meet with no dissent:
Those lofty aims! That noble stand!
Those glorious gums! That sunny strand!
They've sung their praise of our fair land -
But none of them is worth five grand!
Allons enfants (and dames and fellers) -
We know Australia's Über alles -
But let us vote (with one accord)
To waltz along with good old Maud!

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L.A. 34.

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I'm not sure I don't prefer the idea of the other letter writer who suggested a two minutes' silence.

I'M NOT PLUNGING INTO THIS WAR! Andy Porter says that he's caught the LACon (last year's WorldCon) with its pants down. He compares figures given in the Convention's report, which I have not seen, in the area of his special knowledge as the seller of professional advertising space in the Program Book, with his own sales figures, and comes up with a difference. The whole subject of the financial probity of major conventions is very much under debate in America at the moment - Ted White's AMAZING editorials, the Bushyager's piece in their fanzine GRANFALLOON, and Andy's SFWeekly Memorial News Service is merely the most circumstantial yet. At this point I drop out of the internecine strife, with a muttered comment referring to the rental rate for function space quoted us by the winning Melbourne hotel for 1975, and mentioned on the previous page.

PAT TERRY AWARD: In memory of the late Pat Terry, the Sydney SF Foundation annually makes an award for Humour in SF. Nominations are wanted for humorous SF of any length published in 1972: send to SSFF, GPO Box 4593, Sydney 2001, before 15th August, so that the Award can be made at Advention 2.

MAE STRELKOV'S FRIENDS: This is a fannish fundraising project run by Joan Bowers and Susan Glicksohn, with the aim of bringing Mae from Argentina to Washington for the 1974 Worldcon. Mae is a fascinating person, and I want to meet her next year, so I'm bidding on some of the items being auctioned by mail by Bill and Joan Bowers, Box 148, Wadsworth, OH 44281. I won't describe the items: get a list. Accompany with a little money: the fund has already topped \$400, and it looks like there will be a good chance of bringing Mae to Toronto!

GROUP FARES for Los Angeles - Sydney roundtrips by scheduled airlines for groups as small as 15 travellers flying together have been agreed by the US Civil Aviation Board. The rate in US dollars is 577.50. When better rates are made available, NN will publish them. Membership of a convention such as AUSSIE-CON '75 is sufficient common interest for these group rates. At the same time, an individual advance-purchase fare has been set, but I do not have the fare as yet in US currency, but it is rumoured to be about \$720. Current Australian rates are \$461.80 and \$579.40 respectively, which may be expected to reduce in line with the US \$ rates and current exchange rates of \$1 Aust. = \$US 1.42. I'd be very interested to hear what rates are offered by travel agents for tours to this country from North America.

AIM BOOKS is the name registered by Jim Thorburn late of Sydney's Paperback Bookshop for his new publishing venture. A. Bertram Chandler is dickering over local publication of some of his earlier work.

MORE ABC NEWS: Captain Chandler features prominently in the June Colour Section of the National Times, illustrating Tony Maiden's article on the 1975 bid and SF generally in this country. I am also to be seen, glaring benignly past Merv Binns and Paul (Ugh!) Stevens and over Batman at the photographer. George Turner also figures reflectively in the coverage, which probably didn't do us too much harm, although I'm not happy with the headline some subber stuck on the piece: IT'S SPACEOP THAT MAKES AUSSIEFAN RUN. Duch. Harlan might not be too happy about being called 'marginally successful', either!

I AM AGENT FOR CHECKPOINT: but something went wrong with Her Majesty's Mails & I had to borrow Merv Binns' copy of CP 40 for this item. The cost in Australia is \$1 for 8 issues (cheaper than NN!) for coverage of the British scene: frequently Eric Bentcliffe's MI is a rider. This issue announces editor Peter Roberts' candidature for TAFF 1974. This is the quest to send a European fan to DISCON 2 in Washington next year. I will distribute ballots as soon as possible, and I support Peter Rabbit for ~~WASHINGTON~~ Washington.

I ALSO SELL: For \$1.50 per 12 (basically fortnightly) issues of Don Miller's SON OF THE WSFA JOURNAL. If you're interested in getting listings of magazine, both fan and pro, contents, and an occasional WSFA JOURNAL, an infrequent but excellent general interest - very strong on reviews - ask me at Adelaide to show you a sample. KANGAROO FEATHERS, \$2 for 4 issues. Another Peter Roberts 'zine, EGG. Current issue (7) contains a John Brosnan piece, the exposé of 'Gray Boak' as a hoax, and a report by Ian Williams of a London Circle meeting at the Globe pub, and an excellent letter column. Price is 30¢ per issue. A75 items for sale in this country include Aussiefan and Antifan tee-shirts at \$2.50 (limited sizes available now, but plenty of kids' sizes), Rotsler buttons at \$1, and the Gerald Carr matches at \$1 for 20 boxes.

GREG AND GRAE, WHERE ARE YOU? I have some news for Greg and Grae of the old IRON OUTLAW strip, if they care to contact me or Space Age Books they will hear something to their advantage. Mail to their old address has been returned. If anyone knows their whereabouts, please let me know.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: I'm moving house in the next two weeks, but thanks to the postbox you needn't worry unless I owe you money.
*Peter Weston, 72 Beeches Drive, Erdington, Birmingham 24, UK.
*Dena and Charlie Brown, PO Box 3938, San Francisco CA 94119, USA.
No more mail to Ulloa St address.

SOYLENT GREEN: The MGM movie of Harry Harrison's MAKE ROOM! MAKE ROOM! is now to be seen at the Metro, Collins St. in Melbourne, where it seems to be reaching good audiences. It just may be that we are seeing an earlier version than that released in America, as I saw none of the jerky cutting mentioned in her review for LOCUS by Kay Anderson. I agree that the revelation of the nature of the new product of the Soylent Corporation is telegraphed (with a sledgehammer) and that the film goes downhill from that point. A beautiful, and excellently underplayed (and sadly, last) role by Edward G. Robinson as policeman Charlton Heston's sidekick was for me the best part of the picture. Good downbeat SF.

VERTEX. This is a new, glossy (and expensive: \$1.50 in America, more here) and quarto format SF and fact magazine. Editor Don Pfeil and Art Coordinator Bill Rotsler have done an excellent job, in what was a very great rush. While I object to the proportion of space given to non-fiction, I think it is an outstanding effort to hit an area of the market that has not been catered to since ANALOG tried in the sixties. With the second issue, a little advertising has started to trickle in, but the real results, on the bookstands of America, will presumably not be known for some time. If Pfeil would just label reprints as such, I'd be a little happier. I've sent in a sub, at \$8 US for a year of six issues. Which brings up:

PUBLISHERS' FUNNY HABITS: This time, the magazines and their sub rates get the nn finger. AMAZING and FANTASTIC have a cover price of 60¢ US, and sell in Australia (finally!) for that same price. Standard sub offer is \$3 for 6 issues plus \$1 overseas postage, and occasionally offers of longer subs at better rates are made. I recently resubscribed to F & SF, cover price 75¢ and normal sub 12 issues for \$8.50, \$9.50 overseas, at a special 5-year (60-cop!) rate of \$25 plus \$5 overseas postage, which means about 35¢Aust per copy. IF and GALAXY, also 75¢ face, charge \$9 and \$10 for US and overseas 12-issue subs, but the Christmas Special Offer (I bet they'd still take it now) of 24 issues for \$14 plus unspecified postage, say \$2, looks attractive. But ANALOG is the odd one out. Not only is it the only remaining magazine in the field with a floppy cover, but US subs for 12 60¢ issues at \$6, 24 at \$10 and 36 at \$13 are matched by only one overseas offer, \$8 for 12 issues. I don't sub to ANALOG, needless to say.

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