

N O R S T R I L I A N
N E W S

Sep/Oct/Nov 1973
20 cents
GPO Box 4039, Melbourne
Registered at the GPO,
Melbourne, as a
Periodical, Cat. B.

Edited by Robin Johnson - Published by Mervyn Binns, for the Committee for the 33rd World Science Fiction Convention Melbourne, 14th-17th August 1975, also known as AUSSIECON. News of, from and for Australian science fiction fans, and our friends overseas. Twelve issues for \$2 payable to Aussiecon in Australia: overseas available by airmail through Peter Roberts, 4/6 Westbourne Park Villas, London W2, UK, at 8/50p, or C & D Brown, Box 3938, San Francisco CA 94119 in the U.S.A. for \$1/5, or \$2/10 issues.

FAN FUNDS: Longest-established of the Fan Funds is TAFF, TransAtlantic Fan Fund, and the current race is on to send either Peter Roberts or Peter Weston from Britain to the 1974 Worldcon, DISCON II, in Washington. Arrangement is that you vote for one or the other on the ballots which are made available widely - Write for your form to me at GPO Box 4039, Melbourne - and include money. The Down Under Fan Fund, DUFF, aims this time to bring an Australian fan to the World Convention: ballots are being distributed now with this issue of NN and elsewhere. Nominees are John Bangsund, Leigh Edmonds, Sue Smith, and Paul Stevens. Closing date for receipt of ballots is June 1st. The third Fund is Mae Strelkov's Friends, also aimed to bring the recipient, Argentina's Mae Strelkov, to DISCON next U.S. Labor Day. Joan Bowers (PO Box 148, Wadsworth OH 44281) is collecting donations for this Fund, and the Bowers' postal auction of donated items has raised \$645.06, in addition to about as much previously contributed. For DUFF, Lesleigh Luttrell, the 1972 trip winner and currently US administrator, is collecting items for a postal auction, and also plans to sell her trip report for the cause. (525 W. Main, Apt 1, Madison WI 53703). Australian administrator is Shayne McCormack, 49 Orchard Rd., Bass Hill NSW 2197.

OTHER TRAVELLING FANS: Still away from Australia at the time of writing are Bruce Gillespie and Ron Smith. Shayne McCormack returned recently after some time in Britain and Torcon. Peter Darling and James Campbell are also back home after lengthy stays in Britain. There's not much word of Ron's travels, but Bruce seems to be covering the top right-hand part of America fairly thoroughly, not to say exhaustively. Alan Sandercock leaves Adelaide for San Francisco and points East on December 11th, and expects to be back in early February, after visiting London and America again.

PAT TERRY AWARD: This an annual award for humour in science fiction, given by the Sydney Science Fiction Foundation in memory of Pat, who died in 1970. Nominees were John Sladek's series of parodies in F & SF Magazine, Dick Geis' TOMB IT MAY CONCERN, John Jakes' MENTION MY NAME IN ATLANTIS, and the winner, L. Sprague De Camp's THE FALLIBLE FIEND. The list of nominees shows how flexible the rules have to be. Perhaps humorous writing is harder to do in science fiction than elsewhere: it certainly does seem a worthwhile aspect to the genre to be boosted. Now if fan artwork were to be included, a much larger supply of potential nominations would be opened up, but the job of the panel would be very much harder.

RETURN TO SENDA? George Senda, one of only three people ever to have been expelled from the Los Angeles SF Society, whose motto is 'Even Death does not release us', sends a news sheet indicating that he is paying back recipients of his rubber cheques last year at the Albuquerque convention a week before LACON, which triggered off his current problems. Bob Vardeman, it seems has been repaid - but I've heard no word of his LASFS reinstatement, which would presumably be considered when all was repaid.

OZANNE'S BIT for fandom currently is a project to compile a fannish Who's Who. Reply, if you feel so moved, to the following questionnaire by numbers, to: Ken Ozanne "The Cottonwoods", 42 Meeks Crescent, Faulconbridge, NSW 2776 (Australia):-
1. Name. 2. Address (*) 3. Age (*) 4. Year started reading SF. 5. Year entered fandom.
6. Fannish activities. 7. Fannish claim to fame (if any). 8. Names of at least 10 BNFs.
9. Proazines read. 10. Number of fanzines you get. 11. Willing to reply to casual correspondence? (YES/NO/MAYBE) 12. Willing to complete more detailed questionnaire? (YES/NO)
13. Anything else you wish known. (** means withheld if desired)

Johnson comment on the above would be to seek reassurance that Ozanne is not a hoax perpetrated by Faulconbridge fandom to ensure all other fan publishers get so tied up with answering that they have no time to publish. If you do reply, Ken requests that you only do so once, and to resist the temptation to dob him in with hoaxes. Cheek sore, Ken?

FREEHAVER HALL is the name of the clubhouse recently purchased by the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, which was officially dedicated November 18th, although the first meeting, attended by over 100 people, was the previous month. The address is 11360 Ventura Boulevard, Studio City, and the phone number is given as SO-WJUT-IF. Dont even try to dial that on an Aussie phone, anyone - even asking the long-distance op might not be too good an idea! Meetings are every Thursday at 8pm. Attendees at the first night included Ray Bradbury, Harlan Ellison, Robert Bloch, Ted Sturgeon, A.E. van Vogt, as well as LASFS regulars Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, and Forry Ackerman. (De Profundis)

MEDIA NOTES: ABV-2 in Melbourne is now running OUT OF THE UNKNOWN again. This is the same title as was used for several seasons by a distinguished series of SF for TV by the BBC. The third season was made in color, I recall, and went on air in Britain at the end of 1968. The new series, only one of which has been as yet aired in Melbourne, though ABC outlets in other cities may have shown more, is still distinguished, judged by TO LAY A GHOST, but is not SF. Let's start a fan petition to the ABC for reruns of the earlier series. Many excellent short stories by well-known SF writers were run, as well as the occasional clunker.

New series now appearing overseas include the cartoon STAR TREK, and the Canadian-made STARLOST starring Keir Dullea, but with no credits for Harlan Ellison's concept or script work - due to his unhappiness with the handling of the project, credit now goes to his alter-ego, Cordwainer Bird. In England, ITC (makers of UFO - no comment) are planning to star Martin Landau and Barbara Bain in SPACE: 1999. This from Don Miller's SOTWJ. A new enquiry into FM broadcasting in Australia appears likely to further delay (beyond 1977) the introduction of better quality radio in this country. Intense lobbying of and by the two Labor Senators McLelland, who are on opposing sides as to UHF or VHF has been going in in Canberra, but perhaps the recent swingeing cut in tariffs on imported electronic gear means that we will have VHF now and UHF later, to keep the Australian manufacturers happy, to get audible sound to country areas as a matter of urgency, and also permit no-compromise, high-quality UHF radio in the metropolitan areas, without imposing narrow limitations to the number of stations permitted.

CHAUVINISM CORNER: Australian fanzines recieved, disposed of briefly. As he is my co-chairman, I'll start with Leigh Edmonds' RATAPLAN 12. 22pp qto, for FAPA, the usual, or \$1.60/4. Leigh's gone free-form: a nice, matey result. John Alderson spins a tale of driving through the back-blocks, with philosophical considerations of our nation's capital, and the intermittent waterspout thereat. Leigh writes on modern music, and surrounds his letters with himself. A very nice zine. Box 74, Blaclava 3183. Bruce Gillespie's SF COMMENTARY 39 arrived from Bruce chez Gorbett, where he was staying with David and Betsy Gorman in New Castle, Indiana. It's 24pp USqto, but it's the same Gillespie creature on view. Also on view: George Turner on Gene Wolfe's FIFTH HEAD OF CERBERUS: 'Takes my present vote as one of the most attractive of all sf books written'; Gerald Murnane on the new version of BEST SF STORIES OF BRIAN ALDISS: - mostly on OLD HUNDREDTH - he liked it; and Bruce briefly on ORBIT 12, and BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS: of the latter he says 'it seems to have been written off the top of his head and not the bottom of his heart'. George Turner then dissects Gardner Dozois' A SPECIAL KIND OF MORNING from Siverberg's NEW DIMENSIONS 1. If Dozois can take it in the right spirit, he may not destroy himself. To be fair, George is making a plea for editors to do now what Campbell always did - guide, help, inspire, and edit, dammit, edit. Box 5195AA, Melbourne 3001 GIRL'S OWN FANZINE 3 shares both envelope and staples with THE MENTOR 23. Sue and Ron Clarke are each ending their runs with this back-to-back issue, and plan to put out ARK from 2/159 Herring Rd, North Ryde 2113. 31+31 pp qto, \$1: Ark is \$2/3, or the usual. Gough's theme this time is education, TM has the usual mixture of fiction, poetry, and articles - the latter including Wodhams on Bunyips. MITHRIL 5 and 6 total about 170 pp qto. Dennis and Del Stocks of PO Box 235, Albion 4010 put this massive pair of tomes out. 5 is a more usual Stocks zine: lots of meaty stuff here, while 6 is an organisers view of Q-CON 2, complete with transcripts. 50¢, 4/\$2. FORERUNNER is both the SSFF clubzine and a Clarke production. No 27 prints Jean Jordan's Torcon report that I should have done if NM had not slipped so badly, while 26 has Peter McKay's trip report on Adventon, and Torcon news. Address is GPO Box 4593, Sydney 2001. Confusingly, Gary Mason in Adelaide is using the NEW FORERUNNER title for his Adventon report, from GPO Box 1583, Adelaide 5001.

EVEN BRIEFER FROM O'SEAS: I'm agent for LOCUS: \$6 buys 18 (one year's) air-speeded issues of the fan's vademecum, or \$6.90 airmail direct. Send me \$1 and you get 6 airmail or 12 surface copies of CHECKPOINT. These are res respectively the US and British news fanzines of record. LOCUS 150 mentions the premiere of THE FINAL PROGRAMME film from Moorcock's book, and that Arisia Films (huh?) have bought TRIPLANETARY rights. CKPT mentions Novacon in Birmingham in November, and the sad news of the collapse of the Belgian Committee for the 1974 Eurocon. This is amplified in MUIRGHEAL, from Simon Joukes, Huize "De Oude Roos", Geleeg 7-8, B-2860 Onze-Lieve-Vrouw-Waver, Belgium. I kid you not. No 4. 50pp A4, mostly English, explains the problems - mainly of co-ordination - that beset the committee, and is very interesting besides. Trade, Loc, or 4/60BF Brian Aldiss' rather sloshy speech from Beneluxcon in May '73 is transcribed. VECTOR costs \$3/6 but membership of BSFA costs only £3, so is a much better bargain, as the magazine is included. Edited by Malcolm Edwards, 75A Harrow View, Harrow HA1 1RF England, it runs 44 A5 pages of offset material. Excellent stuff: 66 has Part 1 of Brian Stableford on Robots, Edwards' review of Clarke's RENDEZVOUS WITH RAMA, Mark Adlard on D.G.Compton, etc. Don Miller's SON of the WSFA JOURNAL is appearing regularly, 10/\$1.50 from me - a listing, at least twice monthly, of What's Where.

Space restricts me in this format from even mentioning all the many fanzines I've seen in the last three months: please don't take me off your lists yet!