

SCIENCE & FANTASY

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ISSUED WEEKLY.

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30

BUSY WEEK FOR SYDNEY

MORE ACTIVITIES TO COME.

Usually it is a hard job to dig up enough news to fill each issue. This week, however, the job will be to squeeze all the news in.

During the past week has come the Court of Inquiry the announcement of Ultra's new policy, the expulsion of Vaney and Levy from the FSS, and a definite statement about the coming Conference.

This is all Sydney news, so it will continue on, without any other headlines, until it runs out. Taken in the order above, there is first:

FUTURIAN COURT OF INQUIRY.

The first sitting of the Court of Inquiry was held at the home of Graham Stone, 30 The Avenue, Randwick, on Sunday, December 28, commencing at 8.15 p.m.

With the exception of K. Noel Dwyer and Ralph A. Smith, all witnesses were present.

Bert Castellari, who was to be called as first witness, did not arrive until late, and Eric Russell was the first witness to be called. Six questions dealing with club matters were put to him, and he answered these to the best of his ability. They concerned mostly the records themselves, and also dealt with F.A.A. matters, endeavouring to clear up some points which had occurred during Russell's secretaryship.

Second witness was Arthur Duncan, who affirmed the statement that all PPA records and correspondence had been handed over to him.

Roden was asked about prospective fan Paul Cudmore and this was cleared up. (Cont. page 2.)

COURT OF INQUIRY (contd.)

At this stage Bert Castellari and Ron Levy arrived but as Bert wanted some time to get ready William Veney was called as next witness.

Amongst his questions, there were two that he objected to, and no answers to these were given at the present. These concerned Veney's statement to Molesworth that when he had resigned, he saved the club a lot of trouble, (this was at meeting No.9) also a request for the names of those members who had gone to Veney and said that they now objected to the club magazine (Futurian Fantasy). Bill answered the other questions as best he could, shedding light on such subjects as Moxon's visit to Sydney, the FAA under his directorship, and leakage concerning the Court itself.

Castellari was then called, and answered all his questions except one, which was because of a technical difficulty. However, his memory was hazy with regard to very old matters, and some points here were not cleared up.

Questions were then asked across the floor, and several things were made definite. Court was adjourned between 9.30 and 10 p.m.

Roden presided. Molesworth was examiner, and he and Castellari took shorthand notes of all that was said. These will be typed out and the answers tabulated, and when this is done a statement will be made.

The above review is very brief.

ULTRA'S NEW POLICY

Sydney's, in fact Australia's oldest existing fan-mag, has changed its policy.

Various things at various times have been said about the old policy. Ultra, Spaceward, and the Melbourne mags have all included letters condemning its old method.

Now has come the change. Evolved originally by Ted Russell and Vol Molesworth, the new policy is, to say the least, revolutionary.

Although staying bi-monthly, size will be reduced to about twelve to sixteen pages. Material will be included in accordance with a certain plan, a brief outline of which is given below.

Short material is now the order of the day. Articles are required to be from 700 to 2000 words. Longer articles must be good to be accepted. Religiously and politically controversial subjects are out (cont.p.3)

ULTRA'S NEW POLICY (cont.)

Stories, which will take second place to articles, should be about 2000 words, and same conditions apply as to articles. Humorous stories, to be accepted, must be exceptionally good. One story per issue will be the average.

Poetry should be confined to one page. Longer ones must be of high merit before being accepted.

Covers in future must be well drawn, and if possible, different from usual. Inside illustrations will be few and good, according to ye eds.

This change will commence with the February issue. It remains to be seen whether this new policy will be kept for long.

Only information I could get on the now due December issue is that "there will be one." Nobody seems to know when.

FLASH! Spaceward will be out next Sunday.

BARRED FROM FSS.

Startling some people, but not surprising others, it was publicly announced by the F.S.S. that Ron Levy and Bill Veney had been barred from the club.

These decisions had been made some months ago, but had been kept secret. However, rumors began to creep out, so to clear things up, also to endeavour to make the decisions permanent, Levy and Veney were handed letters at the Court of Inquiry, informing them of their permanent expulsion from the club.

After Levy had "retired" from the club early in 1941, he began to severely criticize the club and its members, and, according to the club, his statements were not always strictly bound by the truth. His letter in Observer, in which he called club members a lot of "bickering idiots" and a few other things, finally decided the matter, and the club voted that if, at any time in the future, he should ask to rejoin, his application be refused. However, this decision was to be kept secret until he did apply, if ever.

A few meetings later a similar decision was made against Bill Veney. Various instances were quoted when Bill's moves had not been beneficial, but detrimental. At one meeting of the club he had said that "Those who get out can stay out." So, in accordance with his own views, he was permanently excluded.

F.S.S. DECISIONS. (contd.)

To many, these decisions may seem harsh and unjustified, and not in accordance with any other moves made by the FSS.

This may be true. But the club now stands firmer than it ever did before. It makes decisions which it honestly thinks will be beneficial, and everything is decided by majority vote. And now, by announcing these decisions, it further adds to its strength, rather than increase its weakness by keeping them secret.

DETAILS ON THIRD CONFERENCE.

At the end of the Court of Inquiry, Bill Voney gave details on the Third Sydney Conference, to take place next Sunday, January 4.

The Conference will be held at the Y.M.C.A. rooms at the corner of Pitt and Bathurst Streets, commencing at 2.15 p.m. Bill will be in the main lobby from 2 until a quarter past, and asks all who intend coming to meet him during that time, before going into the Conference room.

Space does not permit a comprehensive survey of the main items, but all matters relating to stf may be discussed.

Sorry, but there is no interstate news, no "small" bits, no poll, and no editorial in this issue. Even the news that is in is very much condensed. And there is more to come. There is an FSS meeting next Friday, and the Conference on Sunday. I hope to have a full report in next issue.

Who said fandom was dead?????!!!!

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