

Futurian Observer

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SYDNEY FANDOM'S NEW ERA.

This last fortnight has been one of shocks for Sydney fans. Firstly, the real pioneer of Australian fandom, William D. Vanev, has announced his intention of dropping completely out of fandom. Before him Kenneth N. Dwyer handed in his resignation from the PSS and then came Ralph A. Smith's statement that he would drop fan magazines and appear only at PSS meetings. The most important reason for such action comes from WDV. Putting it into ordinary terms, he is fed up with fandom! Why? Because Australian fandom, particularly in Sydney areas, is making no real progress despite all work which has been put into helping it along! In the last twelve months we have achieved nothing!

When William D. Vanev and I commenced duties in our respective positions as Director and Secretary of the Futurian Society of Sydney, we first applied a scheme which was to net members and bring about a change for the better in the state of the PSS. At that time membership was much lower than it is today. The application of the scheme outside the PSS proved successful to a certain extent! But then we proceeded to bring it right into the club -- to the members-themselves! -- to try and better the internal position! The result was a miserable failure!!

WHY? Our object had been to see the club accomplish things -- to progress!! Everything that was brought up by the Executives or sometimes another member, was promptly downed! Some ideas were supported and then dumped again! If the members had objected to the scheme they had only to say so! If they objected to the Executives' methods in the club, they still had only to open their mouths! Was it because interest had gone -- or was going? If this has been the case the club has been in one big rut since its inauguration -- it still is!

The poor spirit of the PSS is termed by one member as inconsistency -- he is quite right too. The members are far too inconsistent!! Take also the very poor enthusiasm shown recently by the rotten support of Futurian Action!! Is the reason for this inconsistency to be blamed on the Executives? I think not. As stated before, members had only to speak their minds if they were dissatisfied with the club's position. At the next meeting the Futurian Society will have a new Director and Secretary to manage the meeting ---- David R. Evans and Vol. Molesworth. They (or whoever are elected to the position) have a big job on their hands, otherwise -- !! For, after all, what has the Futurian Society to offer new members? The "old guard" of members are being replaced by a "new guard" it is true. But those of the "old guard" who are still hanging on must do something to make the club worth while for the new! There is no thing to hold a new member? ---- nothing to attract him from the moment he enters the club ---- to keep him there, an interested fan!!

In five days United States fans will congregate in Chicago in order to hold the Second World Science Fiction Convention (Chicon.) They will be there from all parts of the U.S. Australian fandom meanwhile is thus -- Victoria -- awakening, Queensland -- confusing, Tasmania -- very little hope, South Australia -- no hope, Western Australia -- ditto, Sydney -- the biggest mess it has ever been in to date!! And so while American fandom flies its flag at the top of the mast, Australian fandom lies in the gutter!!

Admittedly, the ban is spoiling our chances. But wait! Look at the state of British fandom, which, while considered dead in most sources, is really fighting a battle to keep alive! British fans, hampered by the so-called "blitzkrieg" are still keeping together!! They are still issuing three fan magazines! They too are under a ban, but not only that -- under restricted conditions everywhere! Yet they still keep going!!!

Continued over page.

Box F. Castellari.

From ERIC F. RUSSELL: "I read with surprise in the last issue of your news-fortnightly, that the 14th meeting was orderly and enjoyable!!!! To say the least the meeting was rowdy, at time resembling a bear garden and once in every thirty minutes was it any good...." (On the contrary. That meeting was an excellent one! - OBS)

PLANET STORIES yet OBS.)

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owing:-
"Sydney's new fan (Weather: Rather mild at the moment, but rain expected) is Colin Roden of Bondi, Sydney.
A few Sydney people correspond with Wollheim.

being and should he need any more help we suggest he watch the column

...ld make excellent use of some subscriptions.