

# Philosophical Gas

is published by John Bangsund, GPO Box 4946, Melbourne 3001 for the Australian and New Zealand Amateur Press Association. This, however, is not really an issue of PHILOSOPHICAL GAS at all (though you may refer to it as Number 4.5 if the idea appeals to you); in fact, if I had any other suitable paper in the place I certainly wouldn't waste these pretty green headings. No, friends, this is simply an announcement, late as usual, of the next meeting of...

## THE NOVA MOB

... which this time round is being held at the residence of the aforesaid Mr John Bangsund and Miss Valma Brown, commencing about 7.30 pm, on Good Friday next - 9th APRIL 1971.

The address is FLAT ONE, 8 BUNDALOHN COURT, ST KILDA. If you don't possess a street directory, you will find that all good newsagents stock them; and if you can't afford to buy one, you may either steal it (in which case we'll be watching you at our place), or peruse it at your leisure without actually purchasing. (If the newsagent objects, tell him you have been looking for years for a street directory which lists your street - say, McGillicrankie Terrace - and you are sorry, but the directories he sells fail to acknowledge this street, too, and you couldn't possibly buy it, under the circumstances.)

On the other hand, if you forget to call into a newsagency before Good Friday to consult his maps, you should do your best to place yourself in the vicinity of the St Kilda Town Hall - corner of Carlisle Street and Brighton Road (Nepean Highway); from where you will observe a petrol-station at the intersection of Carlisle and Blessington Streets (provided it is not raining at the time, when visibility may be limited); you then proceed in a westerly direction (yes, Virginia - towards the beach) along Blessington Street, until you come to Tennyson Street, where you turn left; the first street on your left then, as you proceed along Tennyson, is Bundalohn Court, and Number 8 is right at the end (the blunt end, I mean) of the court. Flat One is the noisy one, on the ground floor, the first flat you come to.

And if none of this works for you, don't ask a policeman under any circumstances. In your condition, you won't make it.

It is a tradition of The Nova Mob - more honoured, as some pansy foreigner once remarked, in the breach than the observance - to put together something called APA-NOVA. This (you will forgive the explanation if you have been to previous meetings) means simply that anyone who feels like publishing something to be distributed at the meeting may do so. Facilities for running off Roneo stencils will be available between 4pm and 7.30pm only on the evening of the meeting. You supply your own paper, of course.

We supply paper plates and cups, and a floor to sit on - and, of course, the inestimable benefit of our company. If you require something to drink, or eat, or sit on (apart from the floor and what nature has equipped you with) - bring it with you. And bear in mind that the pubs, out of some antick superstition which we do not profess to understand, are closed on Good Friday.

From about 7.30pm, various tape recordings will be played, including some directed to past science fiction conventions by Brian Aldiss, Harry Harrison, James Blish and others, and (if anyone is interested) selections from the SPECULATION CONFERENCE (Birmingham, 1970: speakers include Blish, Bulmer, and other interesting people whose names escape me at the moment). If someone (like John Foyster or Bill Wright)



should happen to bring with him a tape-recorder capable of playing 7-inch tapes (we have sold our Tandberg, unfortunately), there are such things as story-readings - Delany's "Star Pit", Ellison's "Shattered Like A Glass Goblin" - convention tapes - e.g. The Paul Stevens Show from the New Year convention - and Beatles, Simon & Garfunkel, Bach and other purveyors of fine sounds, to be heard (if anyone feels like it, that is).

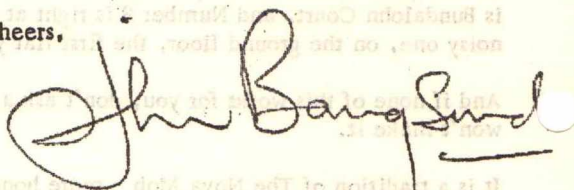
This meeting of THE NOVA MOB is, in fact, the first section of the 1971 Melbourne Easter SF Convention, and it is conceived as a party.

Some people who will be attending have indicated that they will do so in FANCY DRESS. This seems to be a pleasant idea, but will be quite optional. However, if a fair proportion of those who attend are wearing fancy dress, a VALUABLE PRIZE will be awarded to the person deemed to be wearing the most interesting or most impressive or most convincing (or something) garbage. Or garb. Or costume. Unlike the New Year Convention, when at a similar party the winner of the fancy-dress thing was decided by a small group of biased pedants (to a man, they failed to even mention my brilliant impersonation of Leigh Edmonds), the best fancy dress will be decided by the applause of the audience. (To avoid embarrassment and an early termination to the party, I declare myself ineligible for the prize, no matter how incredibly clever my impersonation might be.)

The rest of the convention will, of course, be a miserable anti-climax, but if you have absolutely nothing to do over Easter, and do not have details of the convention programme, I suggest you contact Mervyn Binns - GPO Box 1267L or phone 93-2123 - without delay. The Guests of Honour at the convention are some persons known as "Greg and Grae", creators of a comic-strip (so I am informed) called IRON OUTLAW. There will also be films, discussions, and the usual boring stuff - including another (god help us!) "Paul Stevens Show".

When the idea of a Melbourne convention at Easter was first (as they say) mooted - about a fortnight ago, if I remember aright - I tried hard to have the event officially entitled "The Brisbane Easter Convention in Exile", since, as you probably know, there is a convention there at that time. I failed. However, on Wednesday night next, at the Melbourne SF Club, I will appear with my tape-recorder, and if anyone in attendance is interested, I propose to make a tape to forward to Brisbane. (If you would like to be in on this, and can't get to the club on Wednesday, call in at the flat some time - preferably after 8 - and we'll record something then.)

Cheers,



Phone numbers for further information:

Mervyn Binns - 93-2123; Leigh Edmonds - 37-4613; John Foyster - 560-7452

Melbourne Science Fiction Club:

147 Toorak Road, South Yarra (enter by lane at rear).