

FUTURIAN OBSERVER

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SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINES BANNED!

A grave situation has arisen. The Federal Government has issued a list of American pulp magazines which will be banned from this country. Included in this list are all stf magazines now entering the Commonwealth. ASTOUNDING, FFM, TWS, SS, etc., etc., all fall under this ban. The magazines will continue to appear in Australia for two months, owing to the fact that shipments are already en route. Not content with completely banning the magazines from the stands, the Government has decreed that new inscriptions cannot be commenced. Subscriptions that have already been placed will be allowed to carry on until their expiration.

The latest news on this matter, at the time of writing, comes from Victoria. There, the Federated Newsagents Association has asked the Government to reconsider its decision, stating that the dollar exchange is negligible. Probably the newsagents in other States will co-operate in this appeal and the chances of the ban being repealed may become more promising. Behind them also will be the reading public, who must sooner or later, raised objections to the curtail on this cheap form of literature. It must be borne in mind that already the newer magazines have been prevented from appearing on the stands, that is, ASTONISHING STORIES, SUPERSCIENCE STORIES, PLANET STORIES, etc. etc.

AUSTRALIAN FANDOM CARRIES ON:- Despite these distressing circumstances it is gratifying to know that the small, but active, band of fans intend to carry on their work of popularising science fiction. Hopes are high for the British reprint editions of eight magazines, so that at least we'll have some form of reading. Even if the British reprints fail to appear, American publishers have been considering putting the idea into operation out here.

Futurian OBSERVER will carry on, but it is doubtful whether we can fulfill the promise of four pages, for at least a while. Also Molesworth has quite unexpectedly issued Cosmos – a six pager appearing tri-weekly.

Best news of all comes from Keith Moxon of Brisbane, who has issued a circular giving notice of Australia's first semi-professional magazine. It will be lithographed, containing from ten to twelve quarto size leaves, and will be issued semi-yearly. Departments will include "Have Your Say, Sir", a department in which readers throw their stones or toss their bouquets; a lecturette on some scientific matter; free use of an exchange department in which is stated your willingness to buy or sell or exchange science fiction magazines; a column devoted to the latest news on club activities; and, to top all, will print --- with co-operation of readers --- an everlasting debate, "Are We Any More Civilised Than We Were 200 Years Ago?" Only amateur writer's material will be used and only the very best of these. Scientific articles will also be supplied by amateurs. Cover, will be painted by a talented artist.

The name of this publication is to be HOMO. Watch it grow!

Further information on this magazine will be printed in our next issue, dated May 5th.

