

# BIZARRE

'ALL THE VIEWS THERE'S PRINT TO FIT'

## The Guests of Honour:

*Professional:* George R R Martin

*Finnish:* John Bangsund

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## The Hotel:

The Diplomat, Acland St,

St. Kilda, Melbourne,

A U S T R A L I A

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## The Date:

Easter 1990 (12a--16 April)

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## The Convention:

DANSE MACABRE

*29th Australian National Science Fiction Convention*

PO Box 273, Fitzroy 3065

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Memberships: Attending \$35.00, Supporting \$15.00, till 1st March 1989.

Please make all cheques, etc, payable to 'Danse Macabre'.

## Welcome to BIZARRE

THIS is *BIZARRE 1*, a publication of the 1989 Australian National Science Fiction Convention. The convention, Danse Macabre, has decided to produce this fanzine instead of the conventional form of progress report for a number of reasons, which reasons include a desire to do something different to the sort of thing put out by past national conventions.

*BIZARRE* will be sent free to every member of Danse Macabre. Your entitlement begins with the issue after you join -- if you want back-issues you'll have to buy them separately (so join early to get the best value!). We regret that we cannot offer *BIZARRE* as a trade for fanzines sent to us. There will be a limited number of trades set up (with newspaper fanzines and the like), but unless we contact you and offer to trade, no trade-off will be recognised.

To answer some obvious questions about availability: yes, we welcome letters and other submissions for publication. Issue credits will be given according to the perceived value of your contribution. One feature we would like to see in each issue is a 'Forum', which we offer as a convenient soap-box for the use of anyone who has a penny to polish on some subject of interest to fans, particularly convention-going fans. Jack Herman has started the ball rolling this time round with his piece 'Why Wait For Worldcon?'. This is the sort of thing we would like to use in 'Forum'. So if you have a gripe, a brilliant idea, or simply a deeply-held conviction, write in and tell us about it. If we agree that it may be of interest to our readers, we'll use it (provided it doesn't lay us open to a libel suit, of course...).

We also welcome news -- about conventions, club meetings, births, deaths, and marriages. We regret that our status as a genteel family fanzine prohibits the printing of the really juicy bits of gossip (the ones that could lead to lynch mobs gathering in dark alleys and waiting for us to pass by), though we'll certainly read anything of that sort that comes our way.

*BIZARRE* will be appearing bi-monthly for now, and probably up until the end of 1989, then monthly leading up to the con. The deadline for material for each issue is the 15th of the month before.

The magazine will, of course, be concerned only partially with the subjects mentioned above. Our main interest is in Danse Macabre. We'll be bringing you profiles of committee members; details about the hotels, eateries, entertainments, etc; chat about the Guests of Honour; things to do/not to do in Melbourne; how to find your way around; how much we've jacked the membership fee up to. Unimportant details like that.

-- The Editor

### Members as of 11/12/88:

James Allen  
 Patricia Anderson  
 Justin Ackroyd  
 Peter Burns  
 Dennis Callegari  
 Jenny Chudecki  
 Margaret Hilliard  
 Greg Hills  
 Robin Johnson  
 Cathy Kerrigan  
 Eric Lindsay  
 Mark Linneman  
 Lync  
 Clive Newall  
 David McDonnell  
 John McFarlane  
 Kevin MacLean  
 Sean McMullen  
 Jessica Southern  
 Allan Stewart  
 Roger Weddall  
 Allan Wilson  
 Judy Wilson

### STOP PRESS:

Guest of Honour:

George R R Martin

Our Professional Guest of Honour will be George R R Martin, writer of *THE DYING OF THE LIGHT* (1977), *FEVER DREAM* (1982), and others. His writing career started in 1971, with publication of his short story 'The Hero' in *ANALOG*. Several years later he won a Hugo for his story 'A Song For Lya'. Today he also works in TV. More details next issue.

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 Happiness is a finished fanzine.  
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## BIZARRE One

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The address for all correspondence relating to *BIZARRE* or to Danse Macabre is:

Danse Macabre  
 PO Box 273  
 Fitzroy 3065  
 AUSTRALIA.

No other address should be used unless explicitly requested by the committee member concerned. Please indicate on the back of your envelope the nature of the contents, e.g. 'for *BIZARRE*', 'Memberships', etc.

Deadline for material to be included in the next issue of *BIZARRE* is the 15th of February, 1989. Nominal date of publication will be the 1st of March, 1989.

Current Membership Rates for the convention are:

ATTENDING -- \$35.00  
 SUPPORTING -- \$15.00

These rates apply only on memberships received before midnight on the 28th of February, 1989; new attending rates (\$45.00) will apply on memberships received on or after the 1st of March, 1989. A supporting membership entitles the member to all benefits of membership, (including all issues of *BIZARRE* published after the date of acceptance of that membership), except those associated with attending the convention. A supporting membership may be converted to an attending membership at any time prior to midnight, 31st of March, 1990 by payment of the difference between the supporting fee and the then-current attending fee.

Thanks for this issue go to (in no particular order): Roger Weddall, Jack Herman, Brad W. Foster, Dennis Callegari, Peter Burns, Mark Loney & Michelle Muijsert.

Tanjental Publication 890201/010

# FORUM

## 'Why Wait For Worldcon?'

by Jack Herman

MANY Australian fans want to meet fans from overseas. Many of us cannot afford regular flights overseas to facilitate this, so we have to think up ways in which to entice overseas fans out here.

One response to this problem is fan funds. DUFF, GUFF, PFANE, etc. This is a sensible response and involves little individual expense and lots of good rewards in terms of meeting people and cross-fertilisation of fandoms.

A less sensible response is to bid for overseas worldcons on the grounds that they attract lots of fans from overseas. Aussiecon II demonstrated that, even if lots of fans are brought over by worldcon, they are not necessarily the 'right' fans; nor do we have time to really get to meet them because the whole exercise is too damned large.

Not to mention that most of us are too busy organising the damned thing before and during the con and too damned exhausted after properly to meet the 'right' fans we do attract.

The answer is simple. Instead of sending the message overseas, 'Australia will regularly bid for and hold worldcon, so come over when we do the latter', we should be sending another message:

### 'INTERNATIONALISE THE NATCON'

Theoretically, the Natcon should be our premier con in any year. (Yeah, I know that theory and practice are not the same and that one can cite a half-dozen examples in the last ten years when this wasn't so, but if we internationalise them we will help to make them so.) So we should be telling the world that this is the best time to meet Australian fandom (or the vast majority of it).

(We have a major problem though. Most Natcons are held at Easter. This is not a good time since it conflicts with several regular overseas cons, such as Minicons, Balticons, and the British Eastercon. Which brings me to my second point:

(Which is all very fine unless you live in Perth where the government cannot agree with the rest of the nation when the monarch's birth should be celebrated.)

The second weekend in June has a lot going for it: it is exactly one weekend after the New Zealand Natcon (on their Queen's Birthday weekend -- Chod didn't she have some birth problems?), so we can co-operate with our trans-Tasman neighbour on a joint fannish effort to promote our two fandoms by trying to sell a two con plus tourist package to the visitors from the Americas, Europe, and elsewhere.

And June is low season for those flying into Australia and NZ so we can promote it on cheapness grounds as well.)

Australasia has a lot of attraction as a tourist destination and there are a multitude of foreigners who want to come and see it. Many of these are fans who want to meet other fans at the same time. The reticence of antipodean promoters to push the Natcon as a means of fulfilling these aims represents the latest fannish gasp of the cultural cringe.

I am not suggesting that we should alter the character of the Natcon in any way. (In fact, I find the worldcon concept inimical to the Australian way of conning. Our cons, including Natcons, assume that we are all fans together, while worldcons, dealing with such larger numbers, tend to Balkanise and isolate sections of fandom.) The attendance of six to ten foreign fans (the most I could see) being attracted at any

time) would add immeasurably to the atmosphere of the con, giving more centres of attention and providing fodder for more diverse fan programming.

The only method by which this will be achieved at a reasonable cost is via the fanzines. Fan editors have to take up the call. Use their zines to provide reports (a dying art in Aus) that will make our cons more likely to draw attention from outsiders; print articles that make our fans interesting through 'Cafe Fandcon' style writing; and promoting the Natcon, in particular, by reference to it and by taking up its advantages as a place to meet us, the Aussie fans.

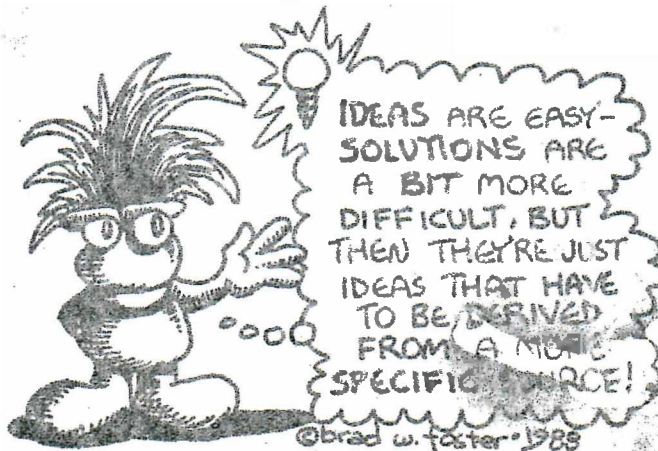
The alternative is for each of us to save enough to singly and in concert go OS to their cons or bid for more worldcons at the possible cost of permanently crippling the rest of our fanac. (The lesson of the first two [British?] worldcons (and their effect on British fanzines in their wake) should be sufficient to frighten us from this course.) If we don't do something we will be forced into being fans by correspondence, to the detriment of the future of fandom here.

-- Jack E Herman

### Editorial Comment:

(While I am inclined to agree with much of what Jack says, particularly about improving overseas awareness of our cons, we disagree over timing. He says he is 'not suggesting we alter the character of the natcon in any way', but in advocating a fixed weekend for it he is doing just that. And why move our natcons in favour of overseas cons using the same weekends? This is surely another case of 'cultural cringe'! It seems to me that the 'premier' con of the year deserves the premier holiday weekend. If overseas fan would rather go to a British Eastercon than an Australian one, good luck to 'em,' I say. But what does everyone else say?

-- The Editor



'QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND FOR NATCONS'

# A Bit About The Hotels

by Peter Burns

## The Diplomat

As veterans of Eastcon '87 will already realise, the Diplomat is a hotel well-suited to hosting of conventions. It has a number of things going for it compared to some of the other hotels we considered as possible sites:

- 1) It is cheap, so we can afford to keep registration rates to a minimum; yet it has function facilities enough to get lost in and resources far beyond those realised by Eastcon '87 attendees.
- 2) It is tolerant of our little peculiarities, seeming unbothered by strangely-costumed guests, late night parties, or even Jack Hermon leading a marching band through the corridors singing 'Ave Maria' at two in the morning.
- 3) It is but a hop, step and a jump from the best eateries St Kilda's Acland Street has to offer, yet is only a short tram ride from the city centre.

The Diplomat has eight function rooms, including one that will seat at least 300 people. Since we don't anticipate an attendance greater than about 100 (though we are willing to be surprised) this will almost certainly be adequate. We have booked several rooms upstairs, so that the hucksters, videos, and fan lounge will have one each. This avoids the problems caused at Eikon by placing the fanlounge and

hucksters together in the one room. (Why can't hucksters and fans learn to get along without fighting?) We do learn from our mistakes. Eventually.)

As well as the function rooms, the Diplomat offers 100+ rooms of various shapes and sizes. Since we anticipate that many attendees will be from Melbourne and that huge numbers will choose accommodation at the 'Spaceline' hotel (see next section) there should be no danger that people wanting to stay in the con-hotel will find that it is booked out or have trouble finding a quiet corner for a good night's sleep if you're that way inclined. Of course, we do recommend that you book your rooms through us so that you can take advantage of the special convention rates. Peter Burns will be handling Hotel Liaison, so if you have any special needs to do with accommodation (the sort of thing that not even Greg Turkish can fix), let us know.

## The Spaceline

One thing convention organisers dream about is the ability to have a convention hotel where there are no other guests to be disturbed and complain about things like room parties. Last year at Eikon the victoria tried its best by putting a convention of deaf hockey players in

next to us. At Sassa Macabre we will be tackling the issue head-on by black booking the whole of a hotel for con-goers.

This hotel is the Spaceline, located about 40 metres away, across the street from the Diplomat. Its 20 rooms represent luxury of the type some may remember from Syncon's Metropole. The rooms come equipped with everything including a kitchen sink and are larger than those found at the Diplomat. There are fourteen twin/double rooms and six two-room suites, one of which will be retained as a con suite for organised room parties.

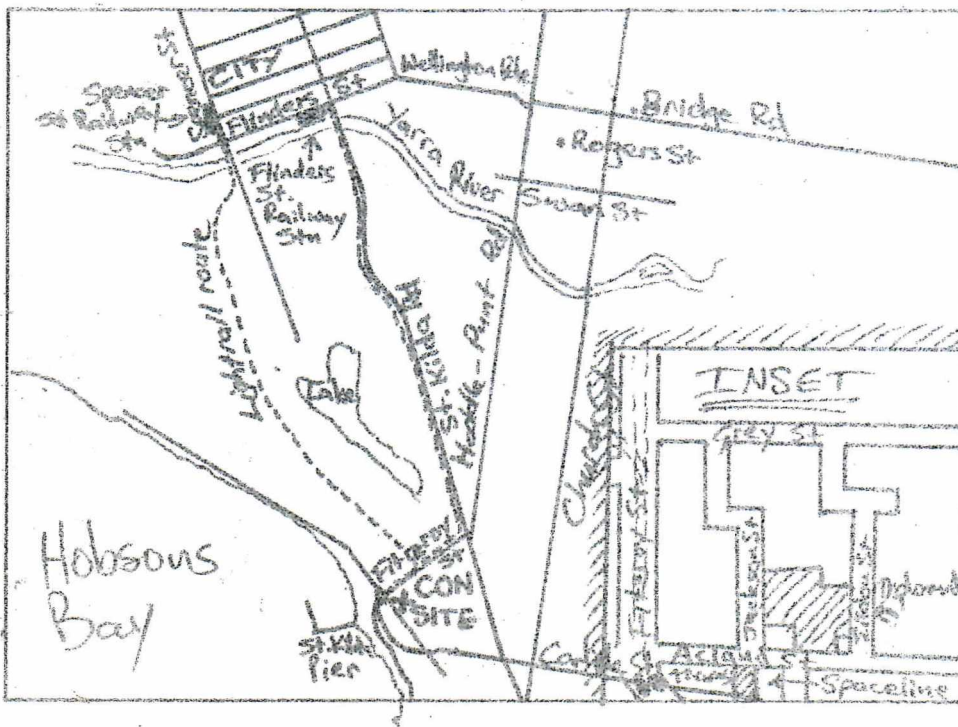
The rate per room that Sassa Macabre has negotiated with the Spaceline is lower than that obtained from the Diplomat. However we cannot afford to have everyone clamouring for rooms at the Spaceline just because they are cheap. So we have decided to charge a standard 'con' rate for rooms which will be the same for either hotel. The difference, which is money in our pocket initially, will be spent on convention activities organised at the Spaceline (though open to all). Anyone objecting to this unashamedly Communist way of organising things is free to write to us.

## Where Are They?

The map at left shows the location of the con site in relation to the centre of Melbourne; the inset shows a detail of the area around the hotels. The nearest tram stops are right on the corner of Acland Street (stop #31 from the city, #32 to the city). These stops are served by the frequent St Kilda Beach trams. The trip to/from outside the Flinders St Railway Station in the city via St Kilda Rd takes less than 20 minutes; via the Highrail Link (the old St Kilda railway line) it takes just over 100 minutes to/from outside the Spencer Street Railway Station in the city. (The important info will be repeated in greater detail in RELEASE closer to the con date.)

-- Peter Burns, 2/88

Con Quest #1: You are on a busy city street. There are many people and tall buildings. You see: A tram. A badge. A large overnight bag. What now? (2)



## About Other Matters:

### Memberships

The present cost of becoming a member of Danse Macabre is \$135.00 for an attending membership, \$115.00 for a supporting (non-attending) membership. These rates will apply until the end of February. On 1st March 1989 the rates will rise to \$145.00, and this new rate will apply until around mid-1989.

If you hold a supporting membership, you can convert it to attending at any time before the end of March 1989 simply by paying the difference between the supporting rate and the current attending rate. (We will not convert them 'at the door' after the con starts.)

All funds sent to us should be cheques, money orders, etc, and should be made out to 'Danse Macabre'. We will not accept responsibility for cash or open cheques sent in the post.

### Hotel Bookings

All bookings should be made through the convention, to assure yourself of the convention rates. (All bookings for the Spaceline must be made through the convention anyway.) The room rates, applying to both hotels, should (we hope) be:

**SINGLE ROOM** \$54.00 per night;  
**TWIN/DOUBLE** \$59.00 per night;  
**TRIPLE/SUITE** \$89.00 per night.

Other types of room are available. Details supplied on request. Note that these rates are not the present rates for the hotels, but are those that we have been advised will actually apply at Easter 1989 (we hope the advice is correct). If you want one of the Spaceline's two-room suites, please let us know.

When booking, please pay at least the first night's fee in advance, to secure your room.

### The Numbers Game

We have not yet formulated our policy on membership numbers. We cannot guarantee you the special number of your choice. When a policy is forged, we will report it here.

### Creche

There are no plans at present for a creche organized by the con. We may help you contact other members wanting a creche, so that you can form mutual support groups, however.

### Banquet

There will be a banquet. Initial guesstimate says cost approximately \$20 per head. (If you have no head, I guess you can come free, but don't quote me on that.) Goff speeches will precede or follow it.

### The Art Show

Conviction '86 showed us that art shows can not only succeed at conventions, but can also enhance the convention-goer's appreciation of the con itself.

So the first point to be made is that there will be an Art Show at the 1989 Melbourne Convention. As in Sydney in 1988, the Art Show will be displayed in a secure area close to the main convention facilities, and will be open for the duration of the con (daylight hours only). All artwork for sale at the convention will be sold by recorded bid and/or auction.

The second point to make is that the Art Show can only be as successful as the artists out there can make it. So go to it. Draw, paint, sculpt, weave, etc, and submit the results. Visual artwork of every category is welcome (though special arrangements may need to be made for recorded or high tech displays).

A couple of 'these' categories are also planned for the Danse Macabre Art Show.

The first of these is the Fan Photos category. This was a successful innovation at Conviction '80 -- fan photographers of all skill levels are invited to dust off their Hasselblads and send in photo-portraits of their peers.

The second category is Unwritten novels/Alternate Universes. Design the dust jacket for your favourite author's next bestseller. Or Spielberg's latest unmade movie. Or...

An Art Show competition for all work displayed in the 1989 Art Show is currently under investigation, but details on the number and value of competition prizes have not yet been finalised.

Since it is still early days, we welcome further ideas from the fan community on how to make the Art Show a useful and memorable event. If you (yes, you) have any suggestions, send them to:

Dennis Callegari  
22 Malthen Street  
Richmond 3121

-- Dennis Callegari, 12/86

### The Party Part

There will be a permanent party-suite open in the Spaceline, with subsidised comestibles. Please don't let this stop you from running parties of your own -- why waste the opportunity?

### The Art Show

Danse Macabre's Art show is being run by Dennis Callegari, who has something to say for himself in the box at left.

### Hucksters

There will probably be a separate hucksters room, though we may combine it with the art show if that seems advisable later on (improved security and accessibility for both areas would be the reason for that, if so). Expect to pay up to \$100. More details in a later issue. If you have questions, please write.

Con Guest #2:

**TAKE ALL**

The people object to being taken and they throw you beneath the tree. You are dead. Bad luck. Start again? Y/N > <

## Guests of Honour

Future issues of BIZARRE will contain information about our guests and what they will be doing during the con. Suggestions under consideration so far include 'take a dinner, Guest' (about the Goll a meal). Details later. Ideas welcome any time.

## Our Committee

Here is the present list of people doing things for the convention, and their jobs. If you think that you can help in any way, please do contact the appropriate person. If in doubt, ring Alan on (03) 297862 or Roger on (03) 6888427 or else drop us a letter.

## The Name

'Dance Macabre' is not, as Jack Dawson was heard to opine, 'another "King'kon"'. Oh, we can't doct the numbers, but it's nothing so simple. What else would you call a con that starts on Easter Friday the 13th? (Points awarded for best answer.)

## The Human Ortery

This Melbourne tradition (it's been done once -- that makes it a tradition) may be constructed in a nearby park one day of the con. If interested in taking part, please drop us a line and tell us what chunk of misc-essential rock you prefer to be.

Artshow: Dennis Callegari  
Sweepstake/mail: Roger Maddall  
Equipment: Andrew Murphy  
GDS Liaison: Stephen Sawyer  
Hotel Liaison: Peter Euron  
Programming: David McDonnell  
Publicity: Peter Burns  
+ Fanzine: Greg Hillie  
Registration: Marn Grollieb  
Secretary: Alan Nilson  
Treasurer: Phil Davis  
Videos: Richard Tomlinson

## Membership Form

Below you will find a membership form with lots of black spots on it. To join, just fill in the correct blocks and send the completed form, with the appropriate amount of money, to the convention address. A receipt will be sent to you after your application is processed by our busy and efficient staff (PH3).

Membership Form: Fill out, detach, and return to: Dance Macabre, PO Box 273, Fitzroy 3065, AUSTRALIA. Please make all cheques payable to 'Dance Macabre'. (If you do not want to cut up your copy of BIZARRE, a photocopy of this page, or a letter with the essential information clearly marked, is acceptable.)

I/We wish to join Dance Macabre as an attending/supporting\* member.

I/We enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_ for membership.

I/We enclose no money but wish to be sent the latest information about the con.

I/We are already members.

I/We wish to book a single/double/other\* room at the Diplomat/Spaceline\* for the nights 12/13/14/15/16/ \* April, 1990.\*\*

I/We will be sharing this room with \_\_\_\_\_

I/We wish to have the convention arrange a room-mate for us.

I/We enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_ as room deposit, being at least one night's payment for the room of our choice.

I/We enclose no room deposit but would like more information about rooms.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\* = Delete inapplicable. \*\* = bookings not accompanied by at least one night's room fee will be recorded by the concommittee but will not be confirmed with the hotel.