

AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS

VOLUME ONE NUMBER THREE

AUGUST 1978

Three Conventions (PART TWO) In Thirty Days

BY A.BERTRAM CHANDLER

Illustrations by Chris Johnson



The train ride from Cincinnati to New York was far from enjoyable. On all other routes one gained the impression that train crews were determined to make a go of it, come hell or high water (the revival of the American passenger train service is an uphill struggle but stands, I sincerely hope, a good chance of success) and were proud to be rail-roadmen - and women. Aboard the Cardinal there was a could-hardly-care-less attitude. Toilets out of order, paper cup dispensers alongside the ice water taps empty...

Arriving finally in New York I got a real beaut of a taxi driver. I had to pilot him from Penn Station to my hotel. (Returning to Sydney I struck another who could have been his twin; I had to pilot him from Mascot to King's Cross.) It was still quite early in the afternoon so, after I'd cleaned up I enjoyed a stroll. When I was in New York in 1976 there was a heatwave - but New York in Spring is still a very pleasant city. On Eighth Avenue I found the cinema where I had seen the two porn classics : DEEP THROAT (just a dirty home movie) and THE DEVIL AND MISS JONES (Grade A fantasy). This time they were advertising something or other - I forgot the title - and Live Girls. Naturally I expected a stage show. Well, the film seemed to have been made up from clips of several hard-core porn flicks spliced together without any thought of sequence. It was all most... unaphrodisiac. And as for the Live Girls... Every so often a pair of pathetic little trollops in their underwear would wander among the audience asking politely "Do you wish for a private session, sir?"

The next day was business - first of all a discussion with Anton Tibbe, who has the misfortune to be my groom in the Scott Meredith stable. Then there was lunch with Jim Baen, now with Ace Books. After what had gone before I shouldn't have had a sweet, but when the waitress tried to tempt me I asked for Pavlova, knowing full well that this delicacy would not be available. I had to explain what a Pavlova was. "Ah, sir," she said, "you must try our American desert - pecan pie." So I did. It was very good. And my next appointment was with the Wollheims, who took me to a very rich - pastrywise - afternoon tea.

The last day in New York was sightseeing. I was amused by the posters on sale in the Empire State building : King Kong standing beside the tower and overtopping it with Miss Liberty - not Fay Wray - clutched in his hairy paw. There was a visit to Baird Searles' Science Fiction Shop. I was pleased to note that he had on sale Paul Collins' ENVISAGED WORLDS. Unfortunately the customers who were on the premises blew all their money on Chandler paperbacks (for the obvious reason) and had none left to purchase the anthology...

The journey from New York to San Francisco was very enjoyable. First of all there was the Broadway Limited to Chicago, then the Zephyr from Chicago to Oakland, the trip being completed by bus. On the Broadway Limited I had a slumber-coach compartment - a two piece folding bed and toilet facilities in a space about the size of a small wardrobe. But it was adequate. And aboard a train there are the public rooms - dining car and club car. You can stroll around and meet people. The meals are quite good and far from expensive. Snacks and drinks are always available in the club car. Aboard the Zephyr I had a roomette - about the size of one and a half wardrobes, with a different type of folding bed and with its own little wardrobe.

The highlight of the trip, perhaps, was the daylight run through the Donner Pass, sitting in the comfort of the club car, sipping a drink and watching the snow-covered mountain scenery sliding past.

Arrival was made in San Francisco an hour early. But nothing was gained. Since the bankruptcy of the major taxi company in that city a short while back there has been a cab famine. But at last I got to the Sir Francis Drake Hotel, the venue of the annual SFWA AWARDS BANQUET, in good time for the cocktail party that opened the proceedings. This was very well attended. It was good to meet not only writers whom I had met before, but many whom I had known only by correspondence or by reading their works.

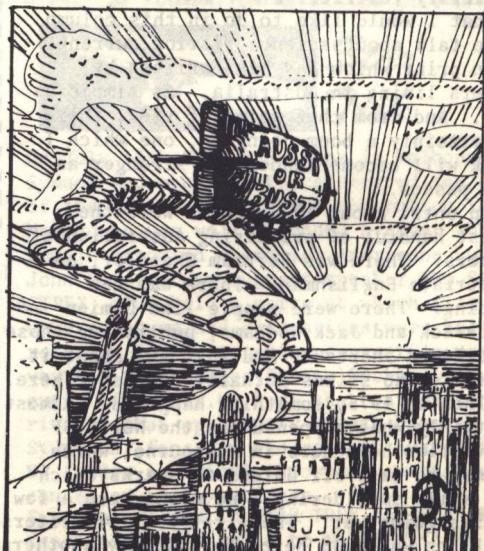
The next day there were panels, on which were sitting editors, publishers and

agents. George Scithers was passing out fliers for the new ASIMOV'S ADVENTURE MAGAZINE. William Rotsler was amusing himself - and everybody else - by doing his own fliers. I was pleased to receive one for CAPTAIN A.BERTRAM CHANDLER'S SCIENCE FICTION - A BEM IN EVERY PORT!

The last official SFWA function was the banquet, preceded by another cocktail party. I'd taken along my tuxedo, having gained the impression from photographs taken at past banquets and published in the SFWA Bulletin, that such a rig would be almost obligatory. But there were only four penguin impersonators - Ben Bova, Terry Carr, Randall Garrett and myself. (Randall - he hates being called Randy - even added a touch of colour to his attire with his WW2 decorations.) Harlan Ellison would have dressed - he almost always does so - but he had left LA for San Francisco in something of a hurry, packing his dinner suit but not his dress shirt and black tie.

But the banquet was worth dressing for - the only official science fictional repast in my experience that has been so. Unofficial ones? There was, some many years ago, Ron Graham's party in the Ascot Motel and, more recently, one in Los Angeles where the guests soon reduced a huge, smoked turkey to a skeleton. (Among the guests at that party was a lady whom all of those who did not already know her assumed was a nun; when she removed her cloak, however, it was to reveal some very sexy black underwear over a white body...)

There was an after dinner talk, on Black Holes, and then the presentation of the Nebula Awards by the Master of Ceremonies, Robert Silverberg. After this there was a minor migration from the Sir Francis Drake to the St. Francis, in which latter hostelry Dave Hartwell, of Berkley Books, was pushing the boat out.



on the following, Sunday, morning, I said my farewells in the Sir Francis Drake lobby to various people who were looking the way I was feeling. My intention had been to make a brief run up and down the West Coast by train before returning to Sydney but, when the time came, I was more than happy to accept the Vances' invitation to stay with them in Oakland for the remainder of my sojourn in the U.S.A. It was my only chance to meet them again, as Jack, who is not fond of social functions, had steered clear of the festivities.

It was a very pleasant, but all too short, period of relaxation. It turned out to be essential: the flight back to Sydney had all the elements of a horror story. I say, as I've been saying for quite some years, that the return of the big, passenger carrying dirigible is long overdue.

A.B.C.

AUSTRALIAN Science Fiction BOOKS IN PRINT

A COLUMN by DAVID GRIGG

Is there a boom in Australian science fiction at the moment? Are we at last on the way to a thriving local community of writers? Well, it depends on your point of view.

I had some recent correspondence on this subject with Mr Graham Stone, head of the reclusive and bibliographic Australian Science Fiction Association. Mr Stone had mentioned in a review that Australian science fiction consisted mainly of "one book a year and some scattered shorts". I wrote to him saying that my count was more than 20 books and dozens of short stories published over the last couple of years.

What it comes down to, it seems, is what you define as Australian sf. To Mr Stone, it is apparently science fiction written for adult Australians by Australian writers, published in Australia by Australian publishers of whom Mr Stone approves. To say the least, I find this needlessly restrictive!

What I would like to do in this column is to talk about science fiction currently in print which has been written by writers living in Australia. As simple as that. And from that point of view, there is certainly a boom going on, one which I think will become louder and stronger as time passes.

Up until about 1975, there were the earnest handful of practising Australian sf writers. There was Bertram Chandler, an expatriate Englishman. There was Lee Harding. There were people like Damien Broderick and Jack Wodhams, publishing those "scattered shorts". And that was about it. Little or no sf was actually published here.

Then in 1975, something happened. Almost certainly what happened was the World SF Convention held here in Melbourne, which seemed to cast off dozens of sparks which are still smouldering. We might have a few blazes going yet. The first real sf writers workshop was held here, followed by another in 1977.

Now there is an exciting crop of new writers around. Cherry Wilder, David Lake, Pip Maddern, Keith Taylor. Others yet unpublished who are improving by leaps and bounds. There are older writers who seem to have been inspired to greater things, like Lee Harding, who has published by far his best work since 1975. George Turner, long-time sf critic and mainstream novelist has written and published his first sf novel. We have a very hopeful new publishing venture, Norstrillia Press, and established publishers are more interested in publishing anthologies of Australian sf.

Oh yes, there's a boom on, all right. In fact, there's now enough Australian sf in print to keep me going for quite a few columns like this.

Well, very good. But let's get on to the real stuff. What is being published, and is it any good?

Let's start with David Lake.

The first I ever heard of David Lake was when I heard a rumour that there was an unknown Queensland writer who had sold no less than four novels to DAW Books in the USA. That unknown turned out to be a pleasant middle-aged lecturer at Queensland University with a long-standing interest in sf, and a devotee of H.G.Wells.

These four novels are now all in print, and I believe there is yet another still to come. They are: WALKERS ON THE SKY, THE RIGHT HAND OF DEXTRA, THE WILDINGS OF WESTRON, and THE GODS OF XUMA.

All four are extremely readable, very entertaining science fiction, if a little light-weight. Judged by the standard of the majority of current American science fiction, they are excellent and well-written. Mr Lake is not yet Australia's answer to Ursula Le Guin, but his books are certainly the equal, if not the superior, of, say, Phillip Jose Farmer at his best.

Of the four, my least favourite are the middle two, THE RIGHT HAND OF DEXTRA (not the author's title, by the way), and its sequel, THE WILD INGS OF WESTRON. These are set in a world colonised by Earth in its last death-throes, on which all life is based on an organic chemistry with opposite handed molecules to ours. The result is that the two life-forms, the native and the imported, are incompatible and antagonistic. The colonists are determined to stamp out the native life, and replace it with their own. Here, I think, there is a strong echo of the attitude of the early settlers in Australia, and this echo does strengthen the author's ideas.

Where the books fall down for me, given this very interesting background, is in the difficult-to-believe reaction of the native life to this invasion, and the subsequent ins and outs of the plot. The suggestion that Earth creatures could be reversed to match the life system of the new planet, I found a little fantastic, and therefore I was unable to let myself be fully carried away by the story. Never mind. Both are still very readable.

The first of Lake's novels to be published was WALKERS ON THE SKY. Here again there is a difficult to accept thesis: that of force-field 'skins' being stretched at various levels across the sky of a world on which people can walk and ships sail. But here the author's writing pulled me in, and I was glad to suspend my disbelief.

The story is a rollicking, almost sword-and-sorcery adventure, but with the very entertaining and novel device I have just mentioned. The plotting and intrigue became a little cursory towards the end, but it carried me on, and I read the book

in one sitting. Definitely recommended. The latest book, THE GODS OF XUMA, is to my mind the best of the four. I should mention first, I think, that all of the books are set in a consistent universe or imaginary history: Earth has been made uninhabitable by a war, and the survivors on the Moon are preparing to fight World War Five between themselves. From this depressing scene, numerous colony ships have been sent out. Lake takes the story of each colony in turn. In this book, the colonists find a habitable world, but it is already inhabited, by a complex if apparently primitive society.

Lake has a lot of fun with the similarity between the new world and the 'Barsoom' of the Burroughs novels of Mars. But, sensibly, he does not let this literary parallel spoil the book at all. The plot proceeds quite independently, and Lake carefully poses a deep moral dilemma with it. The humans have the power to destroy the natives by using their advanced laser weapons, and therefore the natives cannot stop the humans from colonising the world, even though it is clear to all that such colonisation will eventually just as surely destroy them. Again, I think Lake has his eye on the terrible record of Australia's early history and the destruction of the aborigines.

In the novel, however, things work out surprisingly and shatteringly, and Lake springs out the trap into which our own natural assumptions have led us: a primitive society may be one which has never developed technology, or it may be one which has rejected it for its own reasons.

To sum up, David Lake is writing the kind of Australian science fiction we have always wanted to see: well written and entertaining, and using an Australian background not clumsily and obviously, like introducing a kangaroo in a space suit, but to set up ideas and concepts from a particularly Australian point of view. David Lake is going to be a name to remember.

Next month, we'll talk about Cherry Wilder.

-- David Grigg

NEW RELEASES FROM AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTORS

Angus and Robertson will be publishing soon, in the same format as the *Zeitgeist Machine*, a novel called MOON BABY by John Bailey. The setting is a decadent and decaying Earth a few thousand years in the future, reminiscent of Michael Moorcock. More details and a review next issue.

Pergamon Press are publishing in August the title PLAY LITTLE VICTIMS, by the author Kenneth Cook, as featured on the 'front' of this issue of the News.

THOMAS NELSON Australia are releasing in SPHERE this month :MIRKHEIM by Poul Anderson, (a new Polesotechnic League story) and two reprints: VENUS PLUS X by Theodore Sturgeon and THE LITTLE PEOPLE by John Christopher.

GORDON AND GOTCH releases for August include the second half of the WIND'S TWELVE QUARTERS by Ursula Le Guin and a reprint of WAR AGAINST THE RULL by A.E.van Vogt; both in Panther. In the Bantam series they have number 6 in the STAR TREK Foto Novels: ALL OUR YESTERDAYS, plus the last collection edited by the late Rod Serling; ROD SERLING'S OTHER WORLDS; MUDD'S ANGELS by J.A.Larence - a Star Trek novel

Gordon and Gotch are also distributing through their magazine department for HORWITZ Publications, reprints of American Belmont Books. The first two titles we have seen are STAR QUEST by Robert E. Mills, and PLANET OF THE GAWFS by Steve Vance. Not to be confused with Jack Vance.

The RICAL/KENNARD distributing group are now handling the new HAMLYN series of paperbacks. Releases for August include: the Henry Kuttner classic FURY, a very worthwhile re-issue; SEEDS OF EARTH by Robert Silverberg; THE MAKESHIFT ROCKET by Poul Anderson. Also due from this same distributor in the WYNDHAM range, are Roger Zelazny's DOORWAYS IN THE SAND, and fresh stocks of all the incredibly popular DR WHO series.

In their METHUEN releases for Melbourne this month they have the most unusual novel SHINY MOUNTAIN by David Dvorkin. Kennard also distribute ACE books and last month they released the new Poul Anderson reprints; NIGHT FACE, PEREGRINE, LONG WAY HOME, QUESTION AND ANSWER, THE MAN WHO COUNTS, and ALIEN ART by Gordon Dickson. (Eds. note: The titles on some of the Poul Andersons have been changed. See SAB Newsletter #31 for details.)

PENGUIN BOOKS have the bound edition from Viking of John Boyd's latest novel; THE GIRL WITH THE JADE GREEN EYES, while in paperback they are offering two of this author's earlier works; THE LAST STARSHIP FROM EARTH and THE POLLINATORS OF EDEN. Also in Penguin's PEACOCK series they have BEST SCIENCE FICTION OF THE YEAR: 1 Part One, edited by Terry Carr. The SF art book GREAT BALLS OF FIRE edited by Harry Harrison was published in July at \$5.95

WILLIAM COLLINS BOOK DISTRIBUTORS new PAN titles include WREATH OF STARS by Bob Shaw, SWAN SONG and THE FENRIS DEVICE by Brian Stableford, while from FONTANA they have THE TELEPATHIST by John Brunner, THE GARMENTS OF CAEN by Barrington J. Bayley and CONDITION OF MUZAK by Michael Moorcock. These releases are for the July - September period. Fontana intend reprinting all the Jerry Cornelius series by M.M.

TUDOR DISTRIBUTORS releases for the next month will include the first two titles in the new QUANTUM SERIES from FUTURA: IN THE OCEAN OF THE NIGHT by Gregory Benford and THE OPHIUCHI HOTLINE by John Varley. There has been some delay on July FUTURA and N.E.L. releases, and besides LUCIFER'S HAMMER in Futura, THE STONE THAT NEVER CAME DOWN by John Brunner and TRAVELLING TOWARDS EPSILON in N.E.L were not out in Melbourne at the time of writing.

PUBLISHERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

A sensation in the fantasy literature scene in the U.S.A last year was a series of three books by Stephen Donaldson. They are LORD FOUL'S BANE, THE ILLEARTH WAR, and THE POWER THAT PRESERVES.

'The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant' as the complete set of three continuing novels is called, will be published by FONTANA. A full colour circular to hand indicates Fontana are going all out to promote this series. The cover illustrations are quite outstanding. Release date in U.K. is September 18th, so we should have them here by December. The English price is £1.25 each volume.

THAMES and HUDSON who published the book by German sf authority Frans Rottensteiner, THE SCIENCE FICTION BOOK, are doing a new book by this author called The FANTASY BOOK. Presumably in a similar format will be ROBOTS by J. Rechardt. Both in paperback due in a few months.

ALLEN and UNWIN are publishing another J.R.R. Tolkien Calendar for 1979, which features even more artwork they have unearthed by the writer. A very welcome addition to the Tolkien posters is a MAP OF BELERAND. Other items include a paperback edition of the TOLKIEN BIOGRAPHY, THE FATHER CHRISTMAS LETTERS, also in paper, and the first British edition of THE GUIDE TO MIDDLE EARTH by Robert Foster, again paperback.

PROFESSIONAL NEWS • AUSTRALIAN

LEE HARDING is currently editing a collection of three novellas. The contributors are DAVID LAKE, CHERRY WILDER and DAMIEN BRODERICK and the overall title will be THE MAN WHO LOVED MORLOCKS. It will also be marketed on a world-wide basis. Publication will be mid-1979.

GEORGE TURNER'S new 'mainstream' novel (written nearly a decade ago!) will be published by Nelson, Australia, in September. The title will be TRANSIT OF CASSIDY. Hamish Hamilton will publish the book in England.

Simon & Schuster (U.S.A.) recently published THE HERMES FALL by JOHN BAXTER, a long novel concerned with the disastrous consequences of -yet another! - giant meteorite striking the earth,

this time off the coast of Florida. The novel was commissioned by S&S following the enormous success of THE FIRE CAME BY, which Baxter co-authored with Thomas Atkins. Long-time fans and readers will remember what a promising debut Baxter made as a sf writer in the Sixties. He sold many stories to NEW WORLDS & NEW WRITINGS IN SF, as well as breaking into ANALOG under the joint pen-name of 'Martin Loran', which he shared with Ron Smith. He later went on to publish one novel, THE GOD KILLERS, which was serialised in NEW WORLDS and published in pb. by Horwitz in Australia, and by Ace in the U.S.A. (under the title THE OFF-WORLDS). His second novel, written as a serial for the ill-fated VISION OF TOMORROW, failed to find publication. Since leaving Australia in 1970 he has concentrated almost exclusively on writing books about the cinema. We hope that THE HERMES FALL marks a return to fiction for this promising writer. Reliable sources inform us that the novel will be published in pb. by Granada - either as a Panther or Mayflower title - before the end of the year. Apparently there will be no British hardcover edition. (John should also be remembered for his pioneer work as an sf editor promoting Australian sf at a time when very little was being published by local writers : the two PACIFIC BOOKS OF AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION are still in print.)

Last issue we mentioned a volume of sf criticism to be published by Queensland University Press. We now have a little more information on this project, and very impressive it sounds. Kirpal Singh will be editing a truly international line-up : BRIAN ALDISS will examine the works of James Blish; CHRISTOPHER PRIEST will also be contributing; GEORGE TURNER will be dissecting the works of Frederik Pohl, and BRUCE GILLESPIE has also been 'signed up'. More information as it comes to hand.

PROFESSIONAL NEWS •

D.G. COMPTON'S long-awaited sequel to THE CONTINUOUS KATHERINE MORTENHOE (published in the U.S.A. by Ace as THE UNSLEEPING EYE), has been bought by Berkley Books (U.S.A.) The novel is called WINDOWS, and Berkley will also be reprinting some of the author's early books, including SYNTHAJOY and THE SILENT MULTITUDE.

Jack Dann has completed a novel called JUNCTION for Dell, sold a short story collection TIMETRIPPING and a novel, DISTANCES to Doubleday. Stephen Goldin has sold A WORLD CALLED SOLITUDE to Doubleday, and THE ETERNITY BRIGADE to Fawcett. Kathleen Sky's STARTREK novel called VULCAN!, will be published by Bantam books in September.

John Baxter's HERMES FALL will be published by 'Panther' in August U.K. Harry Harrison's new Slippery Jim de Griz novel: THE STAINLESS STEEL RAT WANTS YOU will be published by Michael Joseph in September. Sphere Books have bought the British rights for THE INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS by Jack Finney, against fierce competition they reported. A new film is on the way starring Leonard Nimoy and other big name stars.

SPACE AGE BOOKS

PTY LTD.

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY
ART, FILMS, CHILDREN'S, OCCULT,
PHILOSOPHY, FOOD, HEALTH & SHELTER
RECORDS, COMICS, POSTERS & CARDS

305-307 SWANSTON STREET, MELBOURNE, 3000
Victoria, AUSTRALIA

SAMPLE 'NEWSLETTER' & MAIL ORDER DETAILS SENT ON REQUEST

PHONE: 663-1777
663-1394

AUSTRALIA IN '83!

REVIEWS

THE COLD CASH WAR Robert Asprin NEL
H/C \$13.50

When this story appeared in Analog some months back in slightly more truncated form I liked it, though it did seem to hark back to several themes that Mack Reynolds explored to death in the 1960's. Asprin's future doesn't quite seem to gel with what we know now about multinational companies and national governments, which is a pity because this could have been an interesting bit of work. The trouble is that there is not enough meat in the sandwich. Asprin needs to take this away and write about double the amount because just having got the reader interested, he ends it all rather abruptly.

What happens to a world where the corporations take over control? The reader is just left suspended and this annoys the hell out of me. I thought I was getting a novel and instead I get a blownup novelette, 169 pages of very

large type that costs \$13.50 and put into normal size type would be 70 to 90 pages in length. I think this was a mistake on the part of the publishers who very likely need some experienced assistance in their editorial department. Perhaps when Robert Asprin has written the second part of this story NEL can combine the two and publish them in a paperback format. The reader would be then getting value for his dollar.

THE CABAL Saul Dunn Corgi PB \$2.50

Some time ago, there appeared under the Coronet imprint a series of 3 SF books titled THE STEELEYE SAGA, and they had to be one of the classic

examples of bad SF writing. Unfortunately the author of that series, one Saul Dunn, has perpetrated yet another example of bad writing and storytelling, and this appears in Corgi as THE CABAL. One does tend to wonder how and why junk like this ever sees the light of day when so much good SF still awaits British publication. Avoid THE CABAL like it was poison and perhaps the British publisher might get the message.

HISTORY OF THE SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE
Part 4 1956-1965 Edited by Michael Ashly
Hardcover New English Library \$17.65

A very expensive but important book is offered the reader of SF in this NEL series, parts 1, 2 & 3 already being available. The authors and stories in this volume are all recognised as being important to the development of SF and that makes this book part of the main foundation of a good SF library.

A PLETHORA OF PENGUINS:

BEST SCIENCE FICTION OF THE YEAR: 1 is edited by Terry Carr PB \$1.95. It is the first half of the 1975 collection which Penguin have decided to issue in 'Peacock' series for young adult readers. You can't go wrong with authors like C. Smith, Varley, Wolfe, Budrys, Ellison, and Benford.

THE POLLINATORS OF EDEN and THE LAST STARSHIP FROM EARTH by John Boyd; both at \$2.25 Two of John Boyd's best novels are here reprinted by Penguin, and if you have not read them you should. They will be publishing later his 'Girl With Jade Green Eyes' which is not up to the standard of

GREAT BALLS OF FIRE by Harry Harrison The really interesting item in this bunch is this history of sex in sf illustration. It unfortunately relies heavily on 1970's comics, including the French 'Heavy Metal', for its illustrations, which have little to do with sf. If you know your sf you will realise how thin this "history of ..." really is. The average reader will on the other hand revel in the wide range of sexy illustrations, and overlook the poor text. I predict this will sell very well in bookshops all over Australia. And it's good value at \$5.95

MUDD'S ANGELS J.A. Lawrence Bantam \$2.40 For the Trekkies amongst us a three story romp with Harry Mudd and the crew of the 'Enterprise'. The three scripts were adapted by the late James Blish's wife as an extra to the Bantam/Corgi range already available and selling like crazy. With the movie underway, 'Star Trek' books are going to sell better than ever. and I ask myself where will it end!

SCI-FI NOW! Alan Frank \$2.99 PB . A large format OCTOPUS . If you are into SF movies then this is the book for you; a full colour survey of SF films from 2001 to STAR WARS and CLOSE ENCOUNTERS. I wont say it is the best we are likely to see, but for \$2.99 who is going to bitch all that much. Buy it now for it will be out of print in a few months. A real bargain with naturally loads of photos.

Paul J. Stevens



There is a boom in sf films coming up due to the enormous success of STAR WARS. Where in the past many books have been optioned to be made into films, and then left to gather dust on the shelves, LOCUS reports details of not only deals and projects but actual films in production.

(The following is an abridged report from LOCUS)

NBC plans to do a four-hour version of Huxley's BRAVE NEW WORLD starring Keir Dullea to be aired this fall. New information on GALACTICA: ABC has ordered seven hours of the program and will later decide whether or not to make the show a series. GALACTICA is also a full length movie that will be released in Canada in July. BATTLESTAR GALACTICA is a three hour TV special to be aired by ABC this fall and GALACTICA is a series that will be aired by NBC. Aside from the name, all are appar-

ently different in content. /WEATHERMAN, a film set in the future where man can control the weather is due to start filming soon. /NBC plans three two hour BUCK ROGERS specials for next season. /A new film company has been formed called Limelight Ltd, by Lester Goldsmith. A large group of top sf authors are associated with the company, and each writer has the possibility of having two films made from his novels. THE BICENTENNIAL MAN by Asimov is currently being scripted.

Anne McCaffrey will be technical adviser on a film to be made based on her "Dragonrider" novels. /MORK AND MINDY, a new sf comedy about a being from the planet Ork is due for ABC TV soon. /The filming of PARADISE LOST will begin late this year. /VOYAGE BEYOND THE UNIVERSE is apparently a new film due for Christmas release in the US. /Production of OVERLORDS has been announced by Avco Embassy, and a release is expected about May next year. Producer Milton Subotsky has announced a series of sword and sorcery films from Lin Carter's Thongor series. The first up will be THONGOR IN THE VALLEY OF THE DEMONS, and filming will commence in October. /Stanley Kubrick will start on production of THE SHINING in England late this year. /METEOR, the film about a meteor colliding with the Earth, is due for a release about Easter, 1979. The film stars Sean Connery and Natalie Wood. /WALT DISNEY Studios have two films of interest on the way; KING ARTHUR AND THE ASTRONAUTS and SPACE STATION ONE. The former in 1979 and the latter in 1980. /The remake of the film INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS with Leonard Nimoy in a main role, is due for release very soon. /Grade B movies on the list include: LOVE AT FIRST BITE, (OR DRACULA SUCKS AGAIN); SHOCK WAVES with Peter Cushing and John Carradine; COSMOS: WAR OF THE PLANETS; HIGH SCHOOL 2000; CINDERELLA 2000; THE HUMANOID; MISSILE -X; DEATHSPORT (already screening at local drive-ins); DEATHWORLD; STARSHIP INVASIONS; DOOMSDAY 2000; ALIENS FROM SPACESHIP EARTH; UNKNOWN POWERS. /A remake of THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME will start filming in July this year. Sylvia Anderson of U.F.O., THUNDERBIRDS, and SPACE: 1999 sfx fame will be the "creative consultant". /SOLOMON KANE to be made by Subotsky and Donnally is based on the R.E. Howard character. /David McCallum and Patrick McNee (Steed) will star in a film of Rider Haggard's 'Allan Quatermain': KING SOLOMON'S TREASURE to be made by Canofox Film.

Japan's answer to STAR WARS is MESSAGE FROM SPACE, which despite a bigger budget than any previous Japanese sf film, still does not quite make it from our point of view.

Galaxy
BOOKSHOP

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY SPECIALISTS

106A BATHURST STREET	(BETWEEN Pitt & Castlereagh Sts)
SYDNEY	2000
PHONE	61 7630

Write for our catalogue. And remember we also stock a full range of fabulous DOVER PAPERBACKS.



THE

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION

Whenever two or three science fiction fans gather together, it would be unlikely for the conversation to turn to the Australian Science Fiction Foundation. But if it does, often it will follow the pattern of "why doesn't it..." or "what does it do...?" Merv Binns has asked me to write a little about the Foundation, and I hope I might be able to answer some of the questions that readers might have.

First, perhaps, some history. AUSSIECON, the 1975 World Science Fiction Convention, was held in Australia. As recent conventions have shown, it takes a considerable amount of organisation and hard work behind the scenes to run a large convention successfully. It was natural that after the major effort by many people that ensured that AUSSIECON was a success there was at least some pause in activity. To a lot of us, however, it seemed a waste that all the enthusiasm and experience should just fade. AUSSIECON had shown that it was possible to bring people to Australia to attend our conventions and meet the science fiction community. The Writers' Workshop run in conjunction with AUSSIECON showed the local creative ability that could flower with a little encouragement.

One suggestion we discussed was some form of continuing organisation established to help where and when possible. Our experience prior to AUSSIECON in dealing with State and Federal government bodies and various public companies as well as individuals was that we could get considerable benefit in having a formally constituted organisation. After a lot of discussion and investigation we decided that the best answer would be to form a co-operative, a "Community Advancement Society" registered under Victorian law.

In July 1976 an initial meeting established the "Australian Science Fiction Foundation Co-operative Limited" and agreed to the rules of the society. A little later the Foundation was registered as a Community Advancement Society with the grand aim of advancing science fiction activities in the community. As a co-operative, the Foundation has to comply with various conditions of the law - regular meetings, proper books of account to be audited each year, annual reports to the members and to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. All this can take a rather large amount of effort, and perhaps the anarchic nature of most s-f activities has some advantages! Even so, there have been benefits in having a continuing legally recognized body. For example, we have been able to gain grants for several projects from the Australia Council and assistance from a number of companies with less trouble than would have been the case without a recognisable organisation.

Under the rules of the Foundation anyone may join by buying ten or more shares (at ten cents each, with a further ninety cents payable on each share if

required in the future). Unlike a company, each member has only one vote regardless of the number of shares held. Members elect the committee each year, and the committee has responsibility for the day-to-day running of the Foundation. Members get a report each year on the activities of the organisation, and a chance to say what they want the Foundation to do, and by voting for the committee making sure it is done.

All very well, I guess you might say, but what does the Foundation do? Perhaps I can answer that in two ways, first by looking at what we have done and then at some of the things we would like to do.

In early 1977 Kitty Vigo organised a three week Writers Workshop at Monash University. George Turner was joined by Chris Priest from the UK and Vonda McIntyre from the USA to form a very effective group of leaders, and the Norstrilia Press book "The View from the Edge" shows the success of the venture. This year two Workshops are being organised, a long weekend workshop by Jeff Harris in Adelaide and a two week workshop by Petrina Smith in Sydney. In all cases the Foundation has been able to provide help in approaching appropriate organisations for funding to enable the people attending to pay a reasonable fee.

The Foundation has run short story competitions in association with two conventions, and has been able to lend conventions money in the difficult early stages to meet expenses before memberships are sold. We have taken over the AUSSIECON audio-visual record to ensure future access. And, of course, we have supported the publication of this magazine and, before that, of *The Instrumentality*.

We want the Foundation to operate as a resource centre, to support projects like these I have mentioned and to help people make contact. We intend to sponsor an independent Australian Science Fiction Award and we want to assist in all ways possible the development of science fiction writing in this country.

And, of course, this leads to the question "Why doesn't the Foundation...?" The answer, I'm afraid to say, is time. The members of the present committee (Merv Binns, Carey Handfield, Robin Johnson, Kitty Vigo and myself) have only a limited amount of time after they have earned a living and met the thousand and one demands of domestic and social life. The time that is available is more than needed for continuing work such as the publication of this magazine.

What we are able to do is help people to help themselves. We want applications from people who need a little financial assistance, who want to be put in touch with people who have the information they need, who want publicity for a project or scheme. We don't have any large source of finance, so we can't help out by giving money, and in fact we hope that any project with which we are involved will break even at least.

If anyone does want information or any assistance that we can give, they should write to us at GPO Box 4039, Melbourne 3001. We are not hard to contact, but it does help us to have something in writing. Likewise, for

any information on membership or for an application form please write.

The Australian Science Fiction Foundation is only a small part of the science fiction community in Australia, but it has already shown its value. If it can continue to channel effectively even a little of the growing enthusiasm for science fiction in Australia and can help promote the growth of Australian science fiction it will be a reward for the time and effort invested so far.

Peter Darling

OBITUARIES

ROBERT MOORE WILLIAMS ,70,died of a stroke this past February, exact date unknown. He was born in Farmington ,Missouri on June 19th 1907.His first sf story was published in the July 1937 'Astounding', called "Zero As A Limit"under the pen name Robert Moore.Two of his stories of note;"Robots Return" and Red Death of Mars" have been often anthologised. He wrote many sf adventure stories,mostly in the E.R.B. style.His "Jongor" series was popular .In the fifties he turned out mainly novels which were published by Ace,Avalon, and Lancer .None are in print at present.

SYLVIA TOWNSEND WARNER died May 1st in Dorset,England ,aged 84. She began her career as a musicologist, writing poetry and fiction in her spare time.Her novel ,LOLLY WILLOWE, was a deal-with -the-devil story, which had the distinction of being the first selection of the Book of the Month Club.Her collection of fantasy stories published in '77 KINGDOMS OF ELFIN, was appropriately chosen as the 50th anniversary Book-of-the-Month Club selection.She is perhaps best known to the fantasy readers for her MR FORTUNE'S MAGGOT ,and her biography of T.H.White.She appropriately did the introduction to the recent publication of T.H.White's 'Book of Merlin'.

MAGAZINE NEWS

The Spring issue of ALGOL , the Science fiction fan magazine of professional quality,features a biographical article by A.Bertram Chandler.It also features an extensive section by Harlan Ellison including his resignation speech to the SFWA.(Science Fiction Writers of America Association)ALGOL is not available on subscription to Australia, but it can be purchased from SPACE AGE for \$2.95 per copy .If your local sf specialist book shop has not got it in stock ,tell them to order it from F&SF Book Company P.O.Box 415, Staten Island,N.Y. 10302,USA

ALGOL is publishing soon THE BOOK OF HARLAN ELLISON. It will include material by Ellison and many other sources.Advance price is \$4.00 from Andy Porter at ALGOL.Wholesale enquiries to F&SF Book Company.

DELAP'S F&SF REVIEW has resumed publication with a February issue. This magazine is probably the best of its type. It covers a very large percentage of sf, fantasy, and critical books,paperbacks and records,if not all.

CORRECTION: My apologies regarding the error in that I gave the name of LEE HARDING'S latest novel as 'Fallen Sky' instead of THE WEEPING SKY,in the last issue of the NEWS.

LETTER COLUMN



BRUCE ANTHONY, 40 Douglas St,
Wallsend, NSW 2287

Congratulations on AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS. It's just what was needed. I'm sure you can be relied upon not to let it get too 'fannish' ... and please don't leave out the book reviews, rather, increase their number - they are needed more than ever these days.

ROB GERRARD, 863 Hampton Street,
Brighton, Vic 3186

Very impressive first 2 issues of ASFN. Congratulations.

The NATIONAL TIMES of week ending July 15 has a large review section on children's books. It contains a gem which could serve as an addition to your notice about Lee Harding.

On page 25 there is a review by one Peg Young, a children's librarian, of some 15 children's books, including THE WEEPING SKY by Lee Harding. Lee's book gets third mention, as follows:

(After mentioning Ivan Southall and David Martin) "Lee Harding ventures into science fiction with THE WEEPING SKY. Both characterisation and plot are good, and this is proving more popular than similar offerings from overseas authors."

After your detailed account of Lee's voluminous sf output, I rather liked that "Lee Harding ventures into sf..." And from a librarian, too.

BLAIR S RAMAGE, 13 Attunga Ave,
Earlwood, NSW 2206

For those who might not know I am currently a member of the Awards Subcommittee for SYNCON '79. For this reason your request for letters concerning the 'Ditmar' awards is of special interest to me. We certainly want ideas from everyone about the awards. For example, three of the awards are fixed - that is the categories of "Best Australian sf", "Best International sf", and "Best Australian fanzine", but what of the fourth category? My own suggestion is that it be kept open until we have some nominations so that we can, if necessary, use it to split the "Best Australian sf" award into two: one for novels and one for shorter works should we receive enough nominations to do so.

Now on to the WILLIAM ATHELING Award. Again I have a suggestion here (or maybe two). One of the problems seems to be that while many articles in fanzines seem to receive nomination many other works of criticism are ignored. Some works to think about here are THE HILLS OF FARAWAY: A GUIDE TO FANTASY - Diana Waggoner (Atheneum, 1978), THE VISUAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION - Brian Ash ed. (Pan, 1977), and THE CREATION OF TOMORROW: FIFTY YEARS OF MAGAZINE SCIENCE FICTION - Paul Carter (Columbia University Press, 1977). Please note that the last two named works were published in 1977 and should have been eligible this year.

but who could get them? In fact, should year of publication be dropped as a criterion in favour of year of distribution in Australia, a fairer idea but much harder to police? Let's hear all your ideas as soon as possible.

JF: I am not so sure that it is wise to leave awards so much to the discretion of convention committees - at least so late in the day as after nominations are received.

IRWIN HIRSH, 279 Domain Rd, South Yarra, Vic 3141

I would gather that that is your (MB's) little note about GUFF on page seven. I must say that I agree with you. But I would hate if there was an eligibility rule. Where would we draw the line?

We might say that someone who has attended a worldcon overseas is ineligible. But what about someone who went to America at a time when the worldcon wasn't on, and a year later nominated for DUFF, even though it was quite within that person's means to pay his or her own way back?

We can't limit it to those who haven't been overseas, as places like Bali and New Zealand cost the same to get to as going to Brisbane. But there is still a big set-up in costs when getting to America.

JF: I believe this sort of problem is best handled by letting people vote with their feet: but then I'm a candidate this time around!

FANZINES BY LEIGH EDMONDS!!

At first glance it's only an average lot this month but then we recall what an absorbing fanzine ASH WING turned out to be with some very thought provoking words from Keith Roberts and Reed Andrus on SF and Robert Blenheim on Beethoven. Cliff Wind also recalled his stay in Australia a while back and if we can hardly resist a crudzine on twiltone this has to be well received.

GLASS KEYS was another sercon fanzine that wasn't too serious, the text of a talk by Aldiss in Adelaide, a good article by George Turner on SF awards, reviews and some editorial comment about conventions etc. Not as well produced as Perry's first effort for AUSFA but still good.

I've almost given up trying to think of new ways of praising NOUMENON, the double issue this time is another good one with a special part dedicated to Future Alternatives. Also the usual reviews, letters, etc.

From the US another issue of LOCUS has the latest news of the SF field, this issue looks in some depth at a new authors contract used by Pocket Books. Locally two more issues of CHUNDER contain local fan news with an excellent report of a Star Trek convention in the latest issue and a BayCon report by George Turner in the issue before. SF NEWS from Sydney is badly named since it contains no news although the reviews and obituaries that are the majority of its contents are of

interest.

There were five British fanzines each good in its own way. As we said last issue PAPERBACK PARLOUR is an invaluable source of reliable reviews. In a different way FANZINE FANTASTIQUE is a regular source of reviews of the latest fanzines. Neither of these is very well produced but under the circumstances it is of little consequence. ARENA is a nicely produced and thoughtful sercon fanzine and at the other end of the scale are TWLL-DDU and GANNETSCRAPBOOK with their very entertaining glimpses into British fandom. In particular TWLL-DDU is one of the funniest fanzines I have read in ages and would have been my best for the month if it had been a few pages longer.

Last time I mentioned LAN'S LANTERN is was with a "bleah" comment. However the three most recent issues are much more enjoyable with items of mostly general interest although there is a high proportion of fiction in issue 5.

If you're interested in life in Mexico you will find DANGEROUS CRUDZINES an interesting source of inside news as the editor of this personalzine is studying there. The only other fanzine from North America is XENIUM, one of the most handsome things you could hope to find in your letter box. Mike Glicksohn takes infinite pains with the production and it shows. Contributors are Bill Bowers and Harlan Ellison and they're pretty good too. I'd rate this as one of the best fanzines so far this year.

The only other overseas fanzine to be received was MUNICH ROUND-UP, there is a short English description of the contents but my German isn't too good, how's yours?

We got to see only two of the many Star Trek fanzines produced in Australia. The more frequent is DATA, a newsletter that tells readers what's happening in ASTREX and with Star Trek and the actors from the show. BEYOND ANTARES is the fiction and poetry fanzine of the club, some non-ST fans might find it heavy going as it is all about the series.

GEGENSCHENK is a rather unique sort of fanzine, a personalzine in which the editor likes to discuss some odd ideas in very interesting ways. Unfortunately this looks like being one of the last issues.

The revived fanzine of MUSFAN, COR SERPENTIS, is unfortunately not very good. Some of the contents are passable but the art and the reproduction don't quite make it. Let me just qualify that by saying that I have seen much worse, but also having seen much better too one gets to expect a fairly high standard.

BEYOND ANTARES 7, Sue Clarke, 6 Bellevue Rd, Faulconbridge, NSW 2776 for ASTREX/ for the members of ASTREX/37pp.

CHUNDER Vol 2 Nos 3 & 4, John Foyster, GPO Box 4039, Melbourne, Vict 3001/5 for \$1 or contribution/tri-weekly/7pp and 6pp including,flyers.

COR SERPENTIS Vol 1 No 1, for the Monash University SF Assn, c/ Union Wellington Road, Clayton, Vict 3168 by Daryl Mannell/16pp.

DATA 15, Sue Clarke, address above/12pp. GEGENSCHENK 34, Eric Lindsay, 6 Hillcrest Ave, Faulconbridge, NSW 2776/the usual/irregular/19pp.

GLASS KEYS, Perry Middlemiss, PO Box 98, Rundle Street, Adelaide, SA 5000 for AUSFA/406 per copy or the usual/70pp.

NOMENON 22/23, Brian Thurogood, Wilma Rd, Ostend, Waiheke Island, Hauraki Gulf. NEW ZEALAND (Aust Agent: Carey Handfield, PO Box 91, Carlton, Vict)/\$7.75 for 10 issues airmail, \$5.50 surface/monthly/40pp.

SCIENCE FICTION NEWS 55, Australian SF Association, Box 440 GPO, Sydney 2001/available to members/bi-monthly/16pp.

SPELLING ACTION July 1978, Harry Lindgren, 40 McKinlay Street, Narrabundah, ACT 2604/\$2 per annum/monthly/8pp.

ARENA 7, Geoff Rippington, 15 Queen Ave, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8AY, UK/\$1 per issue/36pp.

ASH WING 23, Frank Denton, 14654 8th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98166, USA/available for the usual/irregular/54pp.

DANGEROUS CRUDZINES 4, Elst Weinstein, 7001 Park Manor Ave, North Hollywood, CA 91605, USA/the usual/irregular/17pp.

FANZINE FANTASTIQUE, Keith Walker, 2 Daisy Bank, Quernmore Road, Lancaster, Lancs, UK/\$1 for 3 issues or trade/bi-monthly/17pp and 8pp.

GANNETSCRAPBOOK 4, Dave Cockfield, 57 Wilson Court, Hebburn, Tyne & Wear, UK/the usual/bi-monthly/25pp.

MUNICH ROUND-UP 146, Waldemar Kummeling, Herzogspitalstrasse 5, D-800 Munchen 2, WEST GERMANY/bi-monthly/50pp.

LAN'S LANTERN 4, 5 & 6, George Laskowski Jr, 47 Valley Way, Bloomfield, MI 48013, USA/75¢ or usual/49, 39 & 44pp.

LOCUS 211, Charlie Brown, PO Box 3938, San Francisco, CA 94119, USA (Aust Agent: Space Age Books, 305 Swanston St Vict 3000/\$18 per year/monthly/20pp.

PAPERBACK PARLOUR Vol II No 2, Philip Stephensen-Payne, 1 Lewell Ave, Old Marston, Oxford OX3 ORL, UK/10p per issue/bi-monthly/10pp.

TWLL-DDU 12, Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Ave, Reading, Berkshire RG2 7WP UK/25p or the usual/irregular (?)/9pp.

XENUIM 11, Mike Glicksohn, 141 High Park Ave, Toronto, Ontario M6A 2S3, CANADA/available at editorial whim/irregular/24pp.

Send fanzines for review to:
Leigh Edmonds, PO Box 103, Brunswick, Victoria 3056, AUSTRALIA.

MORE LETTERS:

Mervyn R. Barrett, flat 4 /151 Abel Smith St Wellington 1 ,New Zealand

Star Wars has just finished here after a run of seven months ,which makes it the biggest box office movie in NZ history. I think how well it might have done if they'd remembered to put the story in it.

Where did you get that terrible photo of Fred Pohl you Ran? The first thing one asks oneself when looking at it is,"Yes but would I buy a used spaceship from that man?"

Say "Hullo" to anyone who knows me that's left alive over there.

IB Hullo Merv! What gives with this con you birds are supposed to be organising? Sorry about the photo of poor old Fred, but it is hard to get photos I can use.

Answering a query from a reader on ANNE McCAFFREY'S 'Dragon' series ; WHITE DRAGON follows on directly from DRAGON FLIGHT and DRAGONQUEST. It has just been published by Del Rey in hard cover in the USA , but it is not available here yet. Further exploration on Pern turns up a wrecked spaceship. The DRAGONSONG and DRAGONSINGER are set on Pern also, but not directly related to the above mentioned titles.

EDITORIAL COMMENT



It is unfortunate that Robert Sheckley will not be able to attend the Sydney Writers Workshop, and the UNICON V convention. And that Robert Heinlein also will not be at SYNCN '79. Some slight confusion apparently occurred over the invitation to Heinlein to attend, but his recent operation ruled out completely any hope of him attending Syncn. However he has definitely voiced a willingness to visit Australia again when able. The good news is that Gordon R. Dickson has most definitely agreed to be G.O.H at SYNCN '79.

Ron Graham is already on route and Paul Stevens will leave August 20th, for IGUANACON. Eric Lindsay will also be at this, the 36th WORLD SF CONVENTION in Phoenix. A report and Hugo's results via P.J.S. will appear in the next issue of the NEWS. Any readers still wishing to join and vote for the 'Hugos' should contact me immediately, and send \$6.50.

AUSTRALIA IS BIDDING FOR THE 1983 WORLD SF CONVENTION. Both Sydney and Adelaide fans want to run AUSSIECON II, which is going to make things quite interesting. So the emphasis is on "Australia in '83", and we hope everybody will continue to add this phrase to all their fanish correspondence and fanzines.

Bert CHANDLER remarking on my comment regarding my enjoyment in putting together this fanzine, says I must be an editor manque- i.e. one who brings out an urban terrorist journal. No further comment. He tell us also that a Sydney film company wants to make a movie of his novel STAR COURIER. Let us hope that this is the beginning of a new aspect of the now growing film scene in Australia. The Captain also reports that his novel MATILDA'S CHILDREN is still up for grabs. Meanwhile he is working on his latest, STAR TRAMP ,while he is looking after a ship moored out in Snails Bay. That is after he has thawed out his fingers enough to 'wallop the keyboard'. You see there is no power on the ship and he even has to stand the LP gas lamps in warm water before they will light. There is some compensation however in that there is lots of lolly going with the job.

New Zealand SF fans are planning to hold a convention in New Zealand in the foreseeable future. I suggest if we Aussie fans who have always been looking for a good excuse to visit Kiwi -land ,keep on the NZ fans wheel about it, they will take a convention seriously. Meanwhile I would like to hear from people who would like to be part of a touring group, to attend the convention and go on and see the beautiful scenery. Can you imagine, a ten day touring convention on a bus?

I have received reports from people such as the TOLKIINFEST in Sydney at which--wait for it-- Shayne McCormack appeared as Merry and Jack Herman as Bilbo, and a film festival come light-show at Sydney's Stanley Palmer Culture Palace (from Kevin Dillon), but it would help if we knew about these things a lot earlier please.

Peter Knox, the editor of BOGGLE has put a lot of his time, effort and cash into his magazine. He has recently purchased new printing and typing equipment, which will enable him to make BOGGLE a much better looking magazine. Peter tells me that despite all his efforts the returns on sales and subscriptions has only been minimal.

The next issue of BOGGLE by the way will include an interview with Roger Zelazny, eighteen stories , and a three-act play. Peter is certainly giving authors a place to get their writing on view, and criticised . And by the way, he is willing to do printing jobs for fans and others.

I will have more to say about my publishing plans next issue.

I am now quite aware of the fact that there is another publication called SCIENCE FICTION NEWS(See fanzine reviews). Until seeing Leigh's review in our last issue I had no idea of it's existence. As I do not want any confusion to occur over same I am considering changing our name. But the attitude of the editor as shown by insulting remarks in his publication, has not prompted me to be in very much of a hurry to remedy the situation.

FAN NEWS.



Sydney fan Keith Curtis has started a booksearching service called MARGINALIA. Keith is incredibly knowledgeable in this field, and continually turns up rare titles in the sf and fantasy genres. He has been a great help to Ron Graham recently in filling gaps in his mammoth collection. Keith has plans to do some limited publishing also: A collection of Bob Tucker's fan writings; a collection of poetry by Roger Zelazny, are a couple of things he is working on. His address is : P.O.Box J175 Brickfield Hill N.S.W 2000

MELBOURNE S.F. CLUB

From a beginning when members were at a bit of a loss to know what to do at meetings, and so took the fatal step of allowing the war games (Dungeons and Dragons) people into the place ,the club has developed, in the words of the classics,"a sense of purpose". More people are attending meetings and ideas and suggestions are being acted upon. Such as the costume group at UNICON , and a convention in 1979. (Thank you Glen Mathews for this report. Sorry it is a bit shorter than you wrote. Incidentally the MSFC is most likely the oldest SF club in Australia, or the SYDNEY FUTURIAN SOCIETY , but not the SYDNEY SF FOUNDATION as stated last issue.)



Star Trek

On July 15th STAR TREK fans in Melbourne, Sydney and other parts, celebrated ten years of the series. The AUSTREK convention in Melbourne was well attended by over 100 people reported organiser Andrienne Losin. John Foyster was a guest speaker. The Sydney ASTREK club held a party at which films were screened, and discussions were held in relation to the upcoming convention next year at which James(Scotty)Doohan will be guest of honour. We hope that rather stupid rivalry that apparently exists between the Sydney ST fans, and the rest of Australian ST fandom is quickly dropped, so that all can enjoy next years con.

Fans interested in STAR TREK and STAR WARS fanzines, should write to Nikki White 31/116 Blamey Cres., Campbell, ACT 2601

HAPPENINGS

CONVENTIONS & OTHER EVENTS

SYNCON 78 will be held at the **TWIN TOWERS MOTOR INN**, 260 Pacific Highway, ARTARMON, N.S.W. From the 25th to the 27th of August (6.00 pm Friday to 5.00pm Sunday).

The Guest of Honor is AUSSIECON Organiser, Robin Johnson. Membership rate now is \$8.00 but it will be \$10.00 at the door. Firm rates for rooms, to be booked with the con-com by the way are: Single :\$26.00 Twin /Double:\$29.00 3 People:\$33.00 All correspondence to SYNCON 78 P.O.Box J175, Brickfield Hill, 2000, N.S.W.

THE AUSTRALIAN STAR TREK CONVENTION

March 10th & 11th 1979
Venue: Menzies Hotel, Sydney
Guest of Honour: James Doohan
Organisers: John & Karen Lewis
P.O.Box 110, Rockdale, N.S.W

EASTERCON 1979 Melbourne
Friday 13th April to Monday 16th
Venue: SHERATON HOTEL
Spring Street
G.O.H: A.Bertram Chandler Pro.
Brian Thurogood Fan
Correspondence: Christine and
Derek Ashby P.O.Box 175
South Melbourne,
Victoria 3205

The **ADELAIDE SF** fans will definitely be holding a convention over the Queen's Birthday weekend in June 1979.

MSFC CONVENTION: The Melbourne SF Club is planning a convention for 1979. Details will be announced soon.

UNICON IV January 27th to 29th 1979
Venue and Guest of Honour to be announced.
Chairman: Tony Howe
Correspondence: SUSFA, Box 249
Holme Bldg., Sydney University, 2006

SYNCON '79 THE 18TH NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
August 3rd to 6th 1979
Venue: not confirmed
Guest of Honor: Gordon R. Dickson

SEACON 37TH WORLD SF CONVENTION 1979
Brighton, England 23rd to 27th August
Address: 14 Henrietta Street,
London WC2
AUSTRALIAN AGENT: Robin Johnson
G.P.O Box 4039
Melbourne 3001
Memberships To end of 1978:
Supporting :\$7.00
Attending :\$14.00

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SF WORKSHOP is being held in the **Adelaide Hills** over the Labour Day Holiday weekend in S.A. 6th of October to the 9th 1978. The writer moderator will be George Turner assisted by John Emery, the South Australian author and film script writer. Entries will close on September 22nd. The all inclusive fee is \$30. An application form can be obtained from Jeff Harris, 95 Second Ave., Joslin, S.A. 5070 The setting for the workshop is in bushland beside a 15 acre lake.

THE SCIENCE FICTION WRITERS WORKSHOP to be held in **Sydney** from the 6th to the 21st of January 1979, will be held at a guest house at **Cremorne Point, Sydney**. Applications and further details can be obtained from **Petrina Smith, 139 Arundel Street, Glebe, N.S.W. 2037**. Robert Sheekley will not be attending due to illness, but another overseas author is currently being sort as a replacement, and as assistant to George Turner, in presiding over the workshop.

THE NOVA MOB. Meeting Schedule 1978

September 5th 'Physics and SF' (Stephen Solomon) at 10 Johnson Street Collingwood

October 3rd 'Beloved Son' by George Turner (A symposium) at 3a/19 Marine Pde St Kilda

November 7th 'John Carnell' (Lee Harding) at 294 Amess St., Carlton

December 5th 'Brian Aldiss' (Rob Gerrard/Bruce Gillespie) at 863 Hampton Rd., Brighton

* (You'll never get him south of the Yarra. Ed.)

SPACE AGE BOOKS ART GALLERY will be opening on Friday the 13th of October, with a costume party. More details next issue or write to Space Age Books now.

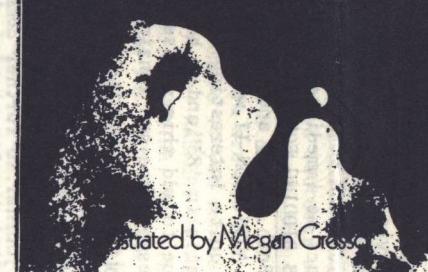
AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS

VOLUME ONE NUMBER THREE

AUGUST 1978

play little victims

Kenneth Cook



Illustrated by Megan Gressor

KENNETH COOK has written nineteen books. His best known would be **WAKE IN FRIGHT** which was filmed as **OUTBACK**. He was born in Sydney in 1929 and has been working as a full time writer for the last six years, thanks largely to the assistance of the Literature Board of Australia. His books have been widely acclaimed and published in many other languages.



PLAY LITTLE VICTIMS is a future fantasy about some mice, who by cosmic accident have become rational and vocal. With Man's literature as their guide they set about building the great society, with resulting events analogous with our civilization today. The story is written in a deceptive style, which is added to by the charming black and white illustrations throughout by Megan Gressor.

AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS

is edited and published by Mervyn R. Binns for the AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION. The address for all correspondence is: 305/307 SWANSTON STREET, MELBOURNE, 3000, Victoria, AUSTRALIA.

SUBSCRIPTION: \$4.00 Australian for 10 issues. Please make payment to the publisher Mervyn R. Binns. Air Mail subscription rates on request.

ADVERTISING: Professional -Full Page \$50.00 Copy ready size 28cm x 37cm
Half page \$30.00 Copy ready size 28cm x 17cm

Smaller advertisements must be a minimum of two columns wide-18cm Height may vary: 12cm \$10.00 17cm \$15 22cm \$20
27cm \$25.00 32cm \$30 37cm \$35

A discount of 10% will apply on advertisements placed on a regular basis.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS: Fans who wish to place small adverts for books for sale or wants, can book a space in the classified section. Minimum charge 50¢ for three lines single column. 15¢ each extra line.