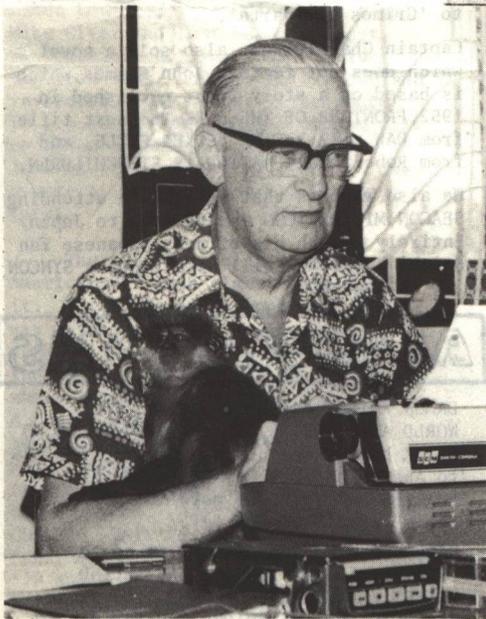


AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS

VOLUME ONE: NUMBER NINE

APRIL/MAY 1979

FOUNTAINS OF PARADISE Arthur C Clarke's last novel



Billy Cutchen

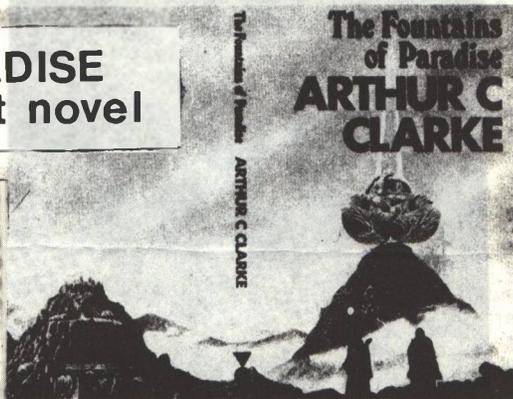
The Melbourne 'Sun' Newspaper published an interview with ARTHUR C. CLARKE on April 7th. He told the interviewer some of his plans for the near future, including the fact that his new novel, which is being published here by HUTCHINSON (Gollancz U.K.) in May, FOUNTAINS OF PARADISE, will be his last novel. He has been living and writing in Sri Lanka for 25 years, and now at 62 he has decided to devote his time to table tennis and diving.

His comments included the statement that the human race has a 51% chance of survival, and that there is no energy crisis, only an intelligence crisis.

He sincerely believes that the idea of a space elevator which he uses in the FOUNTAINS OF PARADISE, may be built 150 years from now. The materials exist now, and it is a dramatic engineering possibility that will enable us to get to the moon with only \$10 in power charges.

"There is a fine line between fact and fiction, and sometimes the line moves one way and sometimes the other."

He warns that with all the new developments, people are going to be bored to death trying to fill in their spare time, unless they are educated to cope with it.



More details of Arthur Clarke's future plans appeared in a letter to LOCUS. He reports that CHILDHOOD'S END is being made into a movie by Universal/ABC. He is hosting a TV program on various scientific mysteries, and he is even playing the part of Leonard Woolf in a movie. SEACON will be part of a goodbye trip he is making, after which he will be returning to Sri Lanka, and has no firm plans ever to leave there again. Nine of his books have just been re-negotiated by NAL. His appointment as Chancellor of the new University of Moratuwa, does not involve him in any administration work. He will be involved in the setting up of an Institute of advanced studies with Chandra Wickremesinghe, who co-authored the book LIFE CLOUD with Fred Hoyle. All in all with his computers, telescopes, and boats, he will have plenty to keep him occupied.

Three books are currently being written about him he says, but he will start writing his autobiography rather late in 2001. Good luck Arthur Clarke, and if you ever do make it south of the Great Barrier Reef, as you did in '52 we will be glad to welcome you.

NEW NOVEL BY ROBERT HEINLEIN

ROBERT HEINLEIN has completed a new novel. Following precedents set by other big name authors recently, the book will be auctioned. That is all the various serialisation, hard cover, and paperback rights individually we understand. BERKLY/PUTNAM who have been Heinlein's major publisher for some years, will retain some privileges in the auction. (PUTNAM incidently had a flood in February which destroyed all current hard cover sf stocks. All had been on sale for a while, but many will now be scarce and become collectors items.)

(continued column one page two)

1979 Ditmar Nominations

THE SYNCON '79 NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN SF CONVENTION AWARDS COMMITTEE HAVE ANNOUNCED THE NOMINATIONS FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS AS FOLLOWS:

BEST AUSTRALIAN FICTION

- TO KEEP THE SHIP - A. Bertram Chandler
(Robert Hale -Daw)
BELOVED SON -George Turner
(Faber -Sphere & Pocket NYP)
PLAY LITTLE VICTIMS -Kenneth Cooke
(Pergamon Press)
PIE ROW JOE - Kevin McKay
(Rooms of Paradise Ed Lee Harding
Hyland House/Quartet)

BEST INTERNATIONAL FICTION

- THE FAR CALL - Gordon R. Dickson
(Dial Press-Sidgwick & Jackson-
Sphere - Dell)
DREAMSNAKE -Vonda McIntyre
(Gollancz-Houghton Mifflin)
STRANGERS - Gardner Dozois
(Putnam-Berkley)
PERSISTANCE OF VISION -John Varley
(Persistence of Vision- Dial
Hall of the Martian Kings-Sidgwick
and Futura)
WHITE DRAGON- Anne McCaffrey
(Ballantine/Del Rey - Sidgwick)
No Award

BEST AUSTRALIAN FANZINE

- FORRUNNER edited Jack Herman
YGGDRASAL -Dennis Callegari and Alan
Wilson
SYCTALE - edited Peter Toluzzi
EPSILON ERIDANI: EXPRESS-
edited Neville Angove
CHUNDER edited John Foyster
No Award

BEST FAN WRITER

- JOHN BANGSUND
MARC ORTLEIB
ANTHONY PACEY
ERIC LINDSEY
JOHN FOYSTER
No Award

THE WILLIAM ATHELING AWARD

- SUSAN WOOD- Women in Science Fiction
(Algol /Starship)
JOHN BANGSUND - Parergon Papers
JOHN McPHARLAN-On the Ebb Tide of a
New Wave
LLOYD BIGGLE Jr-Morasses of Academia

This list was taken down hurriedly by phone, so if there are any errors my apologies. If you are a member of SYNCON you will receive a voting form but if not you should contact the SYNCON Committee at P.O. Box 146, Burwood, N.S.W 2134

(continued from page one)

The first draft of Heinlein's new novel ran to 213,000 words, but has been cut to 175,000. The plot is said to be more straightforward than his last two books. Many publishers have shown interest, and it is sure to bring a high price. Even more than Silverberg's LORD VALENTINE'S CASTLE, which we believe is still uncompleted. From our point of the auction of serial rights could be inconvenient, as it is possible that PLAYBOY, or GOOD HOUSEKEEPING rather than OMNI or GALILEO might win the bidding. However the serialisation will only be part of the book, and in it seems a greatly abridged form.

That report courtesy LOCUS.

1979 NEBULA AWARDS

The ANNUAL NEBULA AWARDS BANQUET was held at the Warwick Hotel, New York City on the 21st of April. The Award Winners are:

Best Novel: DREAMSNAKE by Vonda Mc by Vonda McIntyre (Houghton Mifflin/Gollancz)

Best Novella: The PERSISTANCE OF VISION by John Varley (F&SF)

Best Novelet: A GLOW OF CANDLES, A UNICORN'S EYE Charles L. Grant (Graven Images, edited by E.L. Ferma & B.N. Malzberg)

Best Short: STONE by Edward Bryant (F&SF)

Grand Master: L. SPRAGUE DE CAMP

All winners won by clear majorities, and all received the most first place votes in their categories.

FREDERIK POHL will edit this years ANNUAL NEBULA AWARDS ANTHOLOGY.

Our thanks to Peter D. Pautz Executive Secretary of the S.F.W.A. for these details.

The Science Fiction Writers of America association, have been disatisfied with the way in which the voting for the NEBULA AWARDS has been conducted. The current President Jack Williamson has appointed a committee to consider changing the procedures. The system is not the only problem however, and just getting people to vote is apparently difficult (This is a world wide problem it seems. We have just as much trouble getting people to nominate for the Ditmar Awards, and even DUFF and GUFF Fan Funds. ED)

Authors, artists, editors, reviewers, publishers and other professional people are eligible to join the SFWA now, but for details and clarification I suggest you contact the Executive secretary of the SFWA Peter D. Pautz at

68 Countryside Apts., Hackettstown, NJ 07840, U.S.A. The Australian representative is A. Bertram Chandler, who I am sure will also be happy to give you further details.

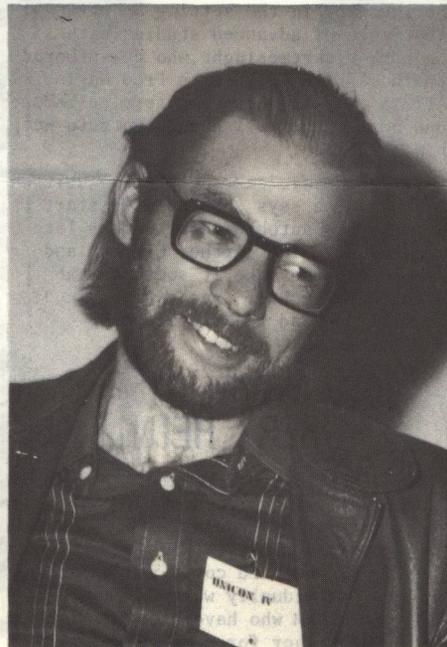
The Australian Professional Scene



Paul J. Stevens

CHERRY WILDER has finished her sequel to her novel THE LUCK OF BRIN'S FIVE. It is currently titled THE NEAREST FIRE and will be published in the U.S.A. by Atheneum, who also published the earlier title. Angus & Robertson, who purchased British Commonwealth Rights to BRIN'S FIVE some time ago have as yet given no indication when it will be released locally. Meanwhile, Cherry is planning a third novel in the series, and Pocket Books in the U.S.A. have recently contracted to publish the entire series in paperback.

*Listed for April publication U.K.



KEITH TAYLOR (Denis Moore) reports that Andrew Offut is currently completing the novel they have collaborated on, tentatively entitled WHEN DEATH BIRDS FLY. He has also had another story accepted by Andy for SWORDS AGAINST DARKNESS #5, THE HUNGRY GRASS.

A letter from A. Bertram CHANDLER clarifies the situation on reprints and new titles he has on the way. Despite information included in the early titles in the new ACE editions, the titles out to this date are: THE ROAD TO THE RIM & HARD WAY UP THE INHERITORS & GATEWAY TO NEVER THE RIM GODS & THE DARK DIMENSIONS INTO THE ALTERNATE UNIVERSE & CONTRABAND FROM OTHER SPACE

The fourth volume was to be 'Alternate Orbits' and 'Contraband from Other Space', but he had intended that the former be retitled 'Commodore at Sea'. However they listed this title as well. Consequently the future sequence is uncertain, but 'Alternate Orbits' now will probably appear with 'False Fatherland' (Spartan Planet) which was published by Dell in the U.S.A. and Horwitz here. It will also suffer another title change most likely, to 'Grimes on Sparta'.

Captain Chandler has also sold a novel which does not feature John Grimes, which is based on a story first published in 1952, FRONTIER OF THE DARK. The next title from DAW will be THE BROKEN CYCLE, and from Robert Hale, MATILDA'S STEPCHILDREN.

He also reports that he will be attending SEACON, MIDAMERICAN and then on to Japan. Entirely through his efforts Japanese fan Koichi Yamamoto will be attending SYNCON '79 in August.

AUTHOR NOTES

DAMON KNIGHT has sold a novel, THE WORLD AND THORINN, to Berkley. CLIFFORD SIMAK has sold a new novel, THE VISITORS to Analog and Del Rey Books. JACK CHALKER has sold two more "Well of Souls" novels to Del Rey.

HARLAN ELLISON has signed to do the film version of TOM REAMY'S BLIND VOICES. L. SPRAGUE DE CAMP is working on CONAN AND THE SPIDER GOD for Bantam and Ace are to publish his two Conan nonfiction books--THE BLADE OF CONAN and THE SPELL OF CONAN, as well as THE GLORY THAT WAS later this year. LARRY NIVEN celebrated the completion of his THE RINGWORLD ENGINEERS, a sequel to RINGWORLD, with a champagne party. Holt will publish the hard cover early in 1980, Galileo magazine will serialise, and Del Rey will do the paperback in 1981. ROBERT SILVERBERG has sold serial rights to his yet unpublished LORD VALENTINE'S CASTLE to F&SF for a reputed five figure sum. Well known in the fan circles LINDA BUSHYAGER has sold a second novel to Dell, following her

MASTER OF HAWKS which will be published by Dell in June. PIERS ANTHONY has finished a fourth novel in his "Cluster" series, entitled THOUSANDSTAR. The British publisher Millington are publishing CHAINING THE LADY, KIRLIAN QUEST, and VICINITY CLUSTER in hard cover. BRIAN STABLEFORD was recently awarded a doctorate from the University of Reading for his thesis on "The Sociology of Science Fiction." The thesis will be published by the Borgo Press late 1980 or 1981.

NEBULA
 AUSTRALASIA'S MOST FREQUENT GENERAL INTEREST SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE
 NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR OF PUBLICATION
 Edited & published by Brian Thurogood, 127 Wilma Rd, Ostend, Waitheke Is., NZ
 (ie. • SA7 75/10 issues airmail; SA6 50/10 issues surface mail)

NEW RELEASES FROM AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTORS

WILLIAM COLLINS BOOK DISTRIBUTORS

In PAN series for this month are two reprints; the Heinlein standard WALDO and MAGIC INC., and Frederik Pohl's DAY MILLION. In the children's Piccolo imprint they have MORE IRISH FAIRY TALES.

In FONTANA art books was THE MAGICAL PAINTINGS OF JUSTIN TODD, whose often bizarre work has been seen on numerous fantasy and non-fiction books. \$10.95 The sf novel about gambling on a big scale is the GRAND WHEEL by Barrington J. Bayley \$2.75. WCBDB also released a new edition of John Brunner's THE LONG RESULT.

Van Vogt's SUPERMIND was the only sf title from N.E.L. for May.

THOMAS NELSON

The main release in SPHERE books for April is the film tie-in title THE INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS by Jack Finney at \$2.75. Keeping the image of the major sf paperback publisher in the U.K. the following seven titles in f& sf are also released in April, at \$2.75 except the last as marked: NEEDLE IN A TIME STACK and UP THE LINE - two of Robert Silverberg's best novels available again, NEBULA MAKER by Olaf Stapledon which I think is the first British paperback edition, THE SECRET GALACTICS by Van Vogt again, DAMNATION ALLEY by Roger Zelazny, and WHO'S WHO IN SF by Brian Ash at \$2.95.

The May titles from SPHERE lead off with two by James Blish; THE STAR DWELLERS, and WELCOME TO MARS. The blood and guts sword and sorcery series by C. Carlsen BERSERKER: 1: SHADOW OF THE WOLF, 2 THE BULLCHIEF, 3 THE HORNED WARRIOR, should appeal to Conan fans, as will MENDAGA'S MORNING by David Ferran and WITHERWING by David Jarrett missed last month.

RICAL/KENNARD DISTRIBUTORS

We as usual have no definite release dates for this distributors titles but coming from WYNDHAM / STAR soon they have: DR WHO AND THE INVISIBLE ENEMY BY Terrance Dicks, STARQUEST - Spacejacks by T. Dicks also, and TREY OF SWORDS, a fantasy by the most popular author of all in the science -fantasy field, Andre Norton.

METHUEN/MAGNUM series have only one reprint sf collection by Peter Haining, THE FUTURE MAKERS. In their new juvenile series MAGNET they have the four titles in the DRAGONFALL Series by Brian Earnshaw available again; THE HIJACKERS, THE ROYAL BEAST, THE SPACE COWBOYS and THE EMPTY PLANET, all at \$1.95

Also due soon from Magnum; ACROSS A BILLION YEARS, a novel by Robert Silverberg

In the HAMLIN Series due from Rical soon is Brian Stableford's second book in the Daedalus series, CRITICAL THRESHOLD, and CAGE A MAN by F.M. Busby about human contact with strange aliens.

An ACE shipment is due, but no details are available on titles expected.

TUDOR/DOUBLEDAY

Distributed during April were the combined edition of Little Fuzzy and Fuzzy Sapiens: FUZZY PAPERS, new editions of a number of Larry Niven titles including A WORLD OUT OF TIME, WORLD OF PTAAVS and GIFT FROM EARTH, plus a new edition with new cover of BATTLESTAR GALACTICA, and new stock of the blockbuster bestseller LUCIFER'S HAMMER. Due May is SHADOWFIRE a science fantasy by Tanith Lee the author of Birthgrave, and a new edition of Jerry Pournelle's MERCENERY which is set in the same universe as The Mote in God's Eye.

Due for general release also in May from BALLANTINE, Tudor have WEB OF WIZARDRY by Juanita Coulson, DARK STAR by Alan Dean Foster, and THE BEST OF ERIC FRANK RUSSELL

GORDON & GOTCH

An original new novel by the author of Hospital Station James White, UNDERKILL, is the sf release from CORGI \$2.95 A science-fantasy title of broader interest is the first ever, never before published novel by Jacqueline Sussan YARGO. In BANTAM series G&G have the Star Trek Novel by Gordon Eklund, and two similar items in THE STAR TREK PUZZLE MANUAL by James Rassi and STAR GAMES by James Rassi, Rick Brightfield and Jack Looney at \$1.95 and \$8.95 respectively.

PANTHER have some important re-issues: for April/May with Silverberg's INVADERS FROM EARTH and MASTER OF LIFE AND DEATH; Thomas M. Disch's GENOCIDES; two ever popular Ursula LeGuin's CITY OF ILLUSIONS and LEFT HAND OF DARKNESS; SEVEN GOTHIC TALES by Isak Dinesen and ECHO ROUND HIS BONES by Thomas Disch.

G&G also have BINARY STAR #2 from DELL and THE MEANING IN STAR TREK by Karin Blair from WARNER.

HODDER

In the CORONET series the last sf title was Robert Silverberg's SHADRACH IN THE FURNACE. Kurt Vonnegut's classic THE SIRENS OF TITAN was also re-issues. A non-fiction science title THE IRON SUN by Adrian Berry, is also of particular interest to sf readers. In May Coronet have another early title of John Wyndham's they have re-discovered EXILES ON ASPERUS.

REVIEW ENTERPRISES

A second book on the new TV series on ABC, BLAKES SEVEN - Project Avalon was released in ARROW. (The first title was published by Sphere). John Brunner's

JAGGED ORBIT has at last been re-printed and due from this distributor. In May or June they will also have two more Marion Zimmer Bradley DARKOVER NOVELS; SWORDS OF ALDONES and HERITAGE OF HASTUR.

It is not possible for us to cover all the hardcover books available from local distributors, but we will be including regularly a complete list of all F & SF titles released in England and the U.S.A. and publishers will be shown in all cases. Two very important releases locally from HUTCHINSON AUSTRALIA are the Gollancz titles; THE FOUNTAINS OF PARADISE by Arthur C. Clarke and the combined volume of the three DUNE novels, THE GREAT DUNE Trilogy. At \$12.95 each

SOME MISSED APRIL RELEASES: NEW ENGLISH LIBRARY

STARBRAT and NAIL DOWN THE STARS by John Morressy were distributed by William Collins Book Distributors. THE GREAT LOS ANGELES BLIZZARD is also from N.E.L.

Robert Silverberg's CAPRICORN GAMES is an excellent collection from PAN along with ARTHUR CLARKE'S collection of memoirs and essays, THE VIEW FROM SERENDIP.

PENGUIN released in April a new original collection of stories edited by George Hay, PULSAR 1.

EDWARD ARNOLD (Australia) Pty. Ltd.

Have available a series of remedial readers, which we would expect quite suitable for school use where pupils are sf minded. The four books in the series VARDO 1 THE GAME, 2 THE EYE OF ALL POWER, 3 THE SILVER CROSS and 4 THE LORD OF SPACE, all of which are written by David Wood and Phyllis Edwards. They also have a small paperback in their HEADLINES Series called MOVIE MONSTERS by Mike Samuda.

AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS is a non-profit publication distributed to science fiction fans, libraries, and professional people. Schools and libraries please note that we cannot allow rebates, so that subscription agents should remit the full \$5.00 and charge any additional costs to the subscriber.

Some subscribers have only enclosed \$4.00 instead of \$5.00, when the rate has been the later amount since issue number 5. We have in these cases recorded a subscription for 8 issues instead of 10.

AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS

ISSN 0155-8870 is edited and published by Mervyn R. Binns under the sponsorship of The Australian Science Fiction Foundation.

ASFN is registered for posting under Australia post regulations category 'B'. The address for all correspondence is 305/307 Swanston Street, Melbourne, 3000, Victoria, Australia.

SUBSCRIPTION: \$5.00 Australian for ten issues. Please make payments to the editor Mervyn R. Binns. Air Mail and overseas rates on request.

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SF In Ivorytowerland

BY NOEL P. GOUGH

In Australia, to my knowledge, there has been no systematic study of the uses of SF in education. At most, one might see an occasional article in, say, THE EDUCATION MAGAZINE, which offers suggestions to teachers as to how SF might be used as a teaching resource in schools. This is not to say that SF is not being used in schools; on the contrary, there is much anecdotal evidence to suggest that SF is being used frequently, and to good effect, especially in the social sciences and humanities. But we (i.e., other teachers, academics, the general public) know very little about what SF classroom teachers are using, how they are using it, or even why they are using it. For example, I suspect that most teachers using SF are fans, and that their choice of SF as a classroom resource is a result of their own interest in the genre. Furthermore, I doubt very much whether their use of SF, unlike many other aspects of their teaching, has significantly been shaped by their own educational experiences, and in particular by their teacher-training courses.

My own professional interest in SF is in relation to teacher education, and in the remainder of this article I want to explore a number of issues which emanate from that interest. Firstly, I want to identify two somewhat conflicting assumptions which underlie much of the thinking on SF in education; secondly, I intend to outline briefly my own approach to SF in teacher education; and, thirdly, I will offer some suggestions for possible future developments and invite further comments and suggestion from ASFN readers.

There is some controversy surrounding the use of SF in education, and the nature of this controversy can perhaps, best be encapsulated by referring to the work of the UK Science Fiction Foundation (based at North East London Polytechnic). Peter Nicholls, writing in a Report of the SFF's work, (March, 1976), is inclined to be cautious about the study of SF as an educational "subject" in its own right, especially in undergraduate courses, preferring instead to see it as one part of a larger context (the whole field of literature), elements of which may play a useful part in conventional courses. Nicholls believes that, insofar as SF bridges (to some extent, though not all the time) the much-publicized gap between technology and the arts, it can have a valuable function as part of course work for Arts and Education students on the one hand, and Engineering and Science students on the other. In a key sentence, Nicholls writes: "Nobody is suggesting... that SF can replace the standard factual texts - but it can illuminate and dramatise them, so that dry facts swell and blossom into meaning."

Brian Stableford, writing in FOUNDATION 13, puts an opposing view, declaring that the attempt to make SF illustrated and dramatise another

subject, that is, the whole notion of teaching (say) sociology through SF. To use his words, "a loser", Stableford believes that the literary text must stand as it is, as a literary text, and not as sociological data: "There is interesting sociological data to be found in science fiction - but that is not the same thing as saying that science fiction stories are sociological data." To Stableford, sociological interest in SF is by no means misplaced, but sociologists should be discouraged if they "misrepresent" or "misuse" SF.

These two views, which are not wholly incompatible, illustrate the delicacy of the subject of teaching with SF. On the whole, I am inclined more to Nicholl's view, since I regard Stableford's position as being unnecessarily over-protective of SF and, worse, encouraging a "little boxes" approach to subject-matter: SF belongs in a box labelled Literature, Stableford seems to be saying, and sociologists should keep their grubby little hands off it unless they are prepared to handle it with the respect due to Literature. But there really is no need to take such an "either...or" approach to SF. My own experience is that it can quite successfully be treated as both a means and an end. That is, while SF can, and should be enjoyed for its own sake, there is no reason why it should not also be used as a means for pursuing other ends.

The two units that I conduct at Rusden State College, which make considerable use of SF, are a case in point. They are not literature courses, but relate to two topics for which I believe SF is an indispensable resource: science education, and future studies. One of these units, "Educating for the Future", is an elective study open to students from any discipline. Over the years, students with backgrounds in home economics, physical education, social studies, environmental studies (including biology and mathematics), and language and literature, have undertaken the unit, which encourages them to build future-oriented topics and resources into their subject-specializations. The unit requires them to read extensively in SF and speculative "non-fiction", since I take the view that nobody who is seriously interested in the future can afford to ignore SF. Although prophecy is not the only aim of future studies, I also accept Arthur C. Clarke's view that, while not all SF readers are good prophets, most good prophets will be SF readers. Very few of the students who have undertaken "Educating for the Future" have initially been SF fans, but the results of their participation have been very gratifying, both in terms of their commitment to future studies (which is, after all, the raison d'être of the unit) and in their enjoyment of SF for its own sake (which, though peripheral to the unit as such, is an important personal objective for me).

The use of SF in future studies may seem self-evident. I have also used SF extensively in science

education, specifically in "Studies in Teaching Science" units, which are the "method" studies for intending science teachers. Most of the use made of SF in Schools is in English and the social sciences, and David Pringle, Research Fellow at the UK Science Fiction Foundation, reports that the situation is similar in the UK; in Pringle's words, there are "very few science teachers who have been brave enough to use SF in the classroom". This is an indictment of science teachers, since SF encourages that most essential of scientific qualities: imagination. Peter Nicholls was quoted above as saying that SF cannot replace "the standard factual texts", but I am not sure that there is any such thing as a "factual" text. Much of my use of SF in science education is thus directed toward breaking down such dichotomies as fact/fiction, real/imaginary, subjective/objective, and knowledge/belief. There is a popular faith in the precision of science, that there exists some single "scientific method" and that it alone is capable of attainment to truth.

The best SF has always recognized that this popular notion of "the scientific method" is faulty. Most real scientists also recognize this, but most science teachers never get to be real scientists. The best SF also rejects the ideal of scientific detachment. In the exact sciences, this false ideal is harmless, since it is in fact disregarded there by practising scientists, but it exercises a destructive influence in the biological, social and behavioural sciences, and falsifies our whole outlook far beyond the domain of science. Today, any fresh line of scientific inquiry has its origin not in "objective" data alone, but in a conception, an imaginative construction of the mind, which tells us what data to look for and what meaning to assign these data.

People who have not worked at the frontiers of knowledge (and this includes most science teachers) are often very uncomfortable with the speculative nature of science, that is, with facing the unknown. J.G. Ballard has suggested that modern SF writers are among "those taking imagination and reality at their face value, never at all sure, or for that matter concerned, which is which." If science teachers can attain something of this view, they will be far closer to acquainting their pupils with the essential nature of science.

I have attempted to explain something of the role of SF within two relatively conventional programs at Rusden State College. I am interested in expanding this role, and there are two areas, in particular, where SF might be studied as a separate subject in its own right. The first is an extra-mural course, open to all members of the public for their own enjoyment and interest, leading to no diploma or degree. The second is as a post-graduate study, either by course work or by research leading to a major thesis.

Continued page 11



OTHER WORLDS edited by Paul Collins

Hardcover. Retail \$9.95.

Void Publications,

P.O. Box 66

ST KILDA. 3182. VICTORIA.

Reviewed by Diane Southgate.

Paul Collin's second anthology, OTHER WORLDS, contains a far greater number of exceptional stories--and even the ordinary ones seem more imaginative--than his first anthology, ENVISAGED WORLDS. Perhaps also, I enjoyed them because they were more fantasy-orientated, that is, relied more on description, rather than on concept. The number of concepts is limited, and many concept-stories seem to be variation on a theme--once the punchline is read, the story can no longer surprise.

OTHER WORLDS has a vivid orange and purple dust jacket by Michael Payne, with a curiously abstract alien-human entity depicted thereon. There are photographs of the author's --- a good idea. It is a more lavishly produced volume than ENVISAGED WORLDS.

The short foreward is by Roger Zelazny, and there is an afterward by the editor, Paul Collins.

The first story, THE HYADES CONTACT by Wynne.N.Whiteford, is a sequel to BEYOND ALDEBARAN, and is slightly more upbeat--the aliens at least have not shown violent hostility and seem interested in communication. It is followed by THE NIGHT ABOVE THE DINGLE STARRY by Terence Green, the title of which is a quotation from Dylan Thomas' poem FERN HILL. A basically downbeat story of mass-marketing techniques and the supercapitalist approach applied to psychiatry; it ends in a suggestion that most people can be bought for the right price. Alan Carr's SWEETBIRD and the BITTERSON is a sad vision of earth abandoned to a few scraggy groups of eccentrics after the stars have been colonized: a well known theme but skilfully treated. The mood is similar to FREEROAMER, but the ending is far more hopeful.

Van Ikin's story "COMBATANT" is a briefer tale than "AND EVE...", with a rather less weighty theme; but it is equally good in its way. The narrator, a stuntman, is suddenly transported to an alien world, where he must save the peaceful inhabitants from a devouring monster. Despite the surprise ending, it is a re-readable story.

Dimitri Kumashov's "BLOOD AND WINE" was a vastly better story than his "THE LIBBER": a straight sword and sorcery, with some Edgar Allan Poe touches, and an Andre Norton influence (the main characters are an

ill-trated dwarf jester and a telepathic witch-cat). But this tale of life in a brutally run Mediaeval castle is vivid, direct and underivative, one of the memorable stories.

Bertram Chandler's "GRIMES AMONG THE GOURMETS" is a much better story again than "NOT WITHOUT PRECEDENT"--though perhaps I am prejudiced, being a Grimes addict and liking food stories and comedy. Obviously Captain Chandler's experience with the odder kinds of Japanese food when he visited Japan, have been the inspiration of this witty tale.

"JADE ELM" by Jack Wodhams is unusual, being a seriously told fantasy: he usually writes edged satire, with an SF setting. This tale is the life of a sentient tree, who turns to carnivorous habits in order to survive, and there are elements of horror.

Reg Harper's "THE SACRED PLACE" is another aine-and-aborigine story: the aborigine character is more believable in this particular story, with a dry sarcastic sense of humour. He seems to enjoy alarming the rather timid alien scientists who he is guiding to a cave containing ancient Earthly culture relics--they are Disneyland artifacts!

Frank Bryning's "MECHMAN OF THE DREAMING" is again an aborigine story; this time a version of the Frankenstein legend! It is also a robot tale, and quite entertaining.

"A FABULOUS FORMLESS DARKNESS" by Darrell Schweitzer is another Mediaeval sword and sorcery tale, part of a series that hopefully will one day be published as a novel. A valiant knight falls into sin, and wanders the world tormented by remorse, sure his soul is eternally damned. He is an Elric figure, yet Schweitzer has made his character more believable and individual by allowing the reader to see the unfortunate knight as a silly immature idiot whose only real sin is to be vain enough to think his sins unforgiveable. In this story he wanders into Tibet, and has some ghastly experiences while dimension-travelling in search of an answer to his questions as to the meaning of life.

"MUSEUM" by Jon Inouye is sf, but it also touches on Eastern Mysticism--the main character has applied Western pragmatism to Eastern meditational techniques to become a superman. He wanders a wrecked, vicious Earth in the Aftermath of World War III, and comes across a supercomputer Museum that holds the total of all human knowledge, which is fed into him.

Margaret Flanagan Eicher's "DEATH AND THE KING" is another Mediaeval fantasy--a King won't allow his subjects to mention death, of which he is terrified. It is a fairy tale with a little more psychological treatment--and like all the best fairy tales, a happy ending.

David Letch's "A SIGH OF ENNUI" is an account of the mythic struggles of two brother Wizards--one good, one evil. I am afraid the titled described my reaction to the theme--yet the blank verse mythological beginning and the end of the story weren't bad. I wasn't terribly taken by "THE SHIP THAT SAVED THE EARTH", either--this John Alderson story didn't seem to have the liveliness of the previous volume's "THE SENTIENT SHIP". However, the bitter comments at the end, and the detailed paragraphs describing wildflowers and birds, were delightful in their different ways.

J.Scott Simpson's "SUCCUBUS OF THE LOST DARK MOON" was one of the better stories--as SF it isn't terribly credible but it is an excellent mythological horror story, eerie and compelling. In a good monster story there should be a certain lurking sympathy for the monster--and the evil Lilith's desperation was understandable, if not admirable. She also survived to make further trouble (and good stories).

Paul Collins seemed to be far more in control of his material in "FOUR AGAINST THE EAST" than he had been in "WITCH OF NORMANSK". His mock-Conan adventure of four dimwit barbarians versus an evil Wizardly Serpent-Lord is a lively and amusing Dungeons-and-Dragons send-up, and seemed the proper note on which to end the book.

There was a reasonably good black and white full page frontispiece drawing by Stephen Campbell and some fannish puns and limericks, set with cartoons, by Susan Thursfield-- not really up to the standard of the rest of the book.

The third volume comes out early in this year--if it is as good as the first two, it will be well worthwhile; if the rising graph of quality is followed, it may even be better than "OTHER WORLDS".

FUTURE TENSE: The Cinema of Science Fiction. By John Brosnan.

(Macdonald & Jane's: 320pp; \$20.95)

Reviewed by George Turner.

Approaching this book simply as a filmgoer-cum-science-fiction fan interested in picking up a little additional information about my pleasures, I found it disappointing, mainly because the major portion of the text is taken up with plot-outlines of forgotten films which even SF convention projectionists fear to have thrust upon them. If there is a public for moribund information, well and good, but for such trivia the price seems excessive.

There is some value, however, in Brosnan's information about technical processes and special effects, sparse though it is. One could wish for this in a single section where it would offer a continuous flow adding up to some understanding of technical progress, but it is in fact patchy and unco-ordinated: 5

one gets no sense of a continuing and growing field.

Illustrations are an essential part of such a book as FUTURE TENSE, and Brosnan's selections compliment the text as well as illustrate satisfactorily the range of camera fantasy. He has chosen, wisely, the useful rather than the spectacular, though one lovely full-pager from THINGS TO COME time-machined me back forty-odd years in a leap of love.

Quotations from the speech and writing of people concerned in the films (such as H.G.Wells, Alec Guinness, Douglas Trumbull, etc.) are plentiful and useful, but Brosnan's own commentary rouses unease by its lack of balance. For instance:-

An important film, THE WAR GAME, is dismissed in 17 lines, including the immortal comment '...and even won an Academy Award', while the trivial VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED gets an appreciative 56 lines.

On page 57 Spielberg's DUEL 'qualifies as sf because its basic themes is that of man versus machine'. That would be nonsense even if such were the theme, which it isn't. DUEL is a modern horror film whose theme is rational man versus humanly irrational. To call it sf demeans its true achievement.

On page 228 '...technically EARTHQUAKE counts as science fiction, since it concerns a future event which may or may not happen.' In fact it concerns a well-known present day event which has been happening off and on since the earth's crust formed.

METROPOLIS, FRANKENSTEIN and DONOVAN'S BRAIN (among others) are characterised as 'Gothic'. In fact, none of them are, with the marginal exception of FRANKENSTEIN. 'Gothic' has a specific literary meaning which does not apply to these films.

Any film involving mass terror, Brosnan is liable to label 'paranoid' in content. Paranoia deals with imagined terrors, not the physical threats sustained by the film's casts.

And on page 99, JAWS is described as 'an sf/horror film'. On such a broad basis of inclusion why are not SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS, MARTIN ARROWSMITH and BLITHE SPIRIT given due honour?

FUTURE TENSE is perhaps a book for the dedicated fan, but relatively uninformative for anyone interested in either film or science fiction as aesthetic or intellectual concerns.

MEANWHILE, by Max Handley.
(Picador; 284 pp: \$4.95)

reviewed by George Turner.

How we all missed the hardcover edition of this novel in 1977 is a mystery. Published then by Arlington Books, a small British house, it seems to have slipped in and out of print

unnoticed until Picador, bless their perceptive hearts, picked it up for reprint.

It is one of the great sf comic novels, of which there are not enough. The butts of the jokes are some of the more prevalent (and silly) 'conventions' of sf plotting, and the real victim of satirical farce is holy sf itself. Not before time.

In a far and very perilous future, all the major objectives of protest and sf doomsaying have come to fruition, so:

Women have developed parthenogenetic birth and forgotten what men look like,,

Men have escaped from the labatory amazons and sealed themselves in seabed cities, where they reproduce by cloning

In the mountains men without memories shovel snow and prepare for sacrifice in one of those meaningless environment beloved of New Wave writers...

Over the sea rove the Ecologists, who, having achieved their dream of eliminating technology, would now like it back, starting with something pretty advanced, like fire...

The insects have begun their carnivorous march to eliminate man and establish mastery of the planet...
Somewhere the last fertile women is preparing to have a baby....

And, as they say, much,much more...

An earthquake brings all these parties, so far unaware of each other's existence, together - and what breaks loose could not be equalled by the Marx Brothers charging the police at a Brisbane street march while Idi Amin preached right-to-life to a cursing Mary Whitehouse and Krakatoa blew it's top again in a Canberra budget session.

It doesn't matter if you have to go without lunch for a week - save up your \$4.95 and buy this one. Such books don't commonly win awards - but by God, they should.

THE MASTER MARINER By Nicholas Monsarrat
(Cassell; 524 pp; no price given)
reviewed by George Turner.

In spite of the famous 'Tarry thou until I come again' quoted on the title page, and in spite of the hero being a cross between the Wandering Jew and the Flying Dutchman, this is only marginally a work of fantasy.

Matthew Lawe, seaman, performs an act of cowardice during Drake's engagement of the Armada of 1588 and falls under a curse involving the doom that 'He will wander the wild waters... till all the seas run dry.' Since this, subtitled RUNNING PROUD, is only the first half of a double volume (the whole will run to some 450,000 words) and finished in 1790, I am biting my nails wondering how the last words of that curse will be effected in the second volume, DARKEN SHIP, when it appears.

Monsarrat, however, is interested in Lawe only as a peg on which to hang a series of violent, ingenious and

historically informative tales of seafaring life across the centuries. The seven section of this volume course from the Armada through Hudson's search for the Northwest Passage, a bloody and brutal term of service under Henry Morgan on the Spanish Main, a perceptive account of Samuel Pepys in his struggle to build the British Navy, a totally horrifying tale of the Newfoundland fisheries of 1720, a first-class description of the death of Captain Cook, and an interesting if superficial view of the nature of Horatio Nelson. The book ends at Trafalgar.

Monsarrat's lack of interest in the hero is a weakness. He links the episodes as an observer but rarely is a prime mover of action, playing second fiddle to the major historical characters; some characterisation of an unaging, cursed man could have had a binding effect on the episodic work.

Given this, THE MASTER MARINER is absorbing in it's separate studies, with the analysis of the opaque James Cook outstanding in a work which looks more to movement and shock for it's effects. And it's effects are pretty considerable.

GLORIANA By Michael Moorcock
(Fontana; 378 pp: \$4.25)

Reviewed by George Turner.

The Moorcock fan needs no urging but if, like me, you find his work infinitely variable, from the fascinating to the Godawful, you may need reassurance. So, right away, GLORIANA is superb Moorcock, the Moorcock of the End of Time rather than of the overblown and interminable Jerry Cornelius, plus a little something different from all his previous work.

In an alternate history line, Elizabeth I of England has a hearty, various and vicious sex life ('so different from the home life of our own dear queen', as someone remarked on a later occasion) but has little joy of it. The one man who can awaken her has never appeared, so she frets away in an enormous, ramshackle, secret-passage-ridden palace which houses more and stranger people than it's official inhabitants dream of. (There's a whiff of TITUS GROAN here, quickly dissipated.)

To the palace comes, for all the wrong reasons, a foul-minded, cold-blooded, criminal, undersized rat of a man - the hero. After which we have 378 pages of glorious sendup of all the historical romances ever written, culminating in the couching of fretting queen and criminal rat, and the discovery of LURV in their empty hearts.

The achievement of this unlikely conclude is by way of beautifully written satire and tongue-in-cheek plotting of a high order, and students will gain extra delight from the gorgeous parody of Spenser's FAERY QUEENE in the Court Masque chapter,

A real gourmet meal of a book.

THE FUND

The down under fan fund was created in 1972 to encourage closer ties of friendship between science fiction fans across the Pacific. The generosity of fans has now made DUFF an established "fan charity". Supported entirely by voluntary contributions from fans all over the world, DUFF has held six races which resulted in the exchange of North American and Australian fans attending major conventions in North America and Australia. This years race will send an American fan to the 1979 Convention in Sydney Australia. Syncon '79. This years race is being run in a very short space of time due to certain problems which were caused by the post office loosing correspondence between the two Administrators. If needed, a full explanation can be had from the Australian administrator for several stamps and any old fanzine.

THE VOTERS Any fan active in science fiction fandom since March 1977 may vote in the DUFF race. Ballots must be SIGNED and accompanied by a donation of at least \$1.50 (US) or \$1.00 (Aust) or the equivalent. Each person is allowed ONLY ONE VOTE. If you think your name may not be known to the administrators, please include the name of a fan or fan group that you think will be known to them and that would be willing to verify your eligibility to vote. We CANNOT COUNT UNVERIFIABLE VOTES.

DONATIONS DUFF exists solely on the contributions of fans and always welcomes auctionable material and donations of money. There have been and will be auctions of DUFF material at numerous conventions in Australia and America, during 1979. Contributions may be bought to these conventions or sent to the administrators. Anyone may contribute, even if ineligible to vote, and donations in excess of the voting minimum will be gratefully accepted. Cheques and money orders should be made out to the administrators and not to DUFF. Trip reports from previous DUFF winners are available. \$1.00 Lesleigh Luttrell, \$3.00 Leigh Edmonds. Christine Ashby's report is due out late 1979 and Paul J. Stevens's report is due by August '79

CANDIDATES Each candidate has posted a \$5.00 bond, provided signed nominations and platforms and has promised (barring unforeseen circumstances) to travel to Sydney Australia to attend SYNCON '79. Platforms are reproduced on the other side of this form as is the ballot form.

VOTING DUFF uses the Australian preferential ballot system to guarantee an Automatic run-off and a majority win. You rank the candidates in order of preference (1, 2, & 3). If there is no absolute majority for one candidate after the first count of votes, first-place votes of the lowest ranking candidate are dropped and the second-place votes on his ballots are assigned to the candidates named. It is IMPORTANT to vote for SECOND & THIRD place-if you wish to vote only for your first choice you may, but if that person loses you have NO CHOICE between the other two candidates.

DEADLINE ALL VOTES MUST REACH THE ADMINISTRATORS BY JUNE 4th 1979. It is suggested that people sending votes to the AUSTRALIAN Administrator do so by AIR MAIL letter. We realise that this gives most people less than one month

but airline bookings must be made in advance to take advantage of the cheaper fares now being offered across the Pacific. The administrators apologise for the short voting time and promise it won't happen in 1980. (Blame Stevens)

AMERICAN ADMINISTRATOR: Bill Rotsler, PO BOX 3780, Los Angeles. CA USA 90028

AUSTRALIAN ADMINISTRATOR: PAUL J. STEVENS, 305 Swanston St., Melbourne, Vict., AUSTRALIA. 3000. phone: 02 663 1777 02 6631394 Monday to Saturday.

DUFF 1979 CANDIDATES PLATFORMS. USA to Australia=

KEN FLETCHER and LINDA LOINSBERRY

Slightly silly platform

Five reasons why Ken and Linda shouldn't go to Australia:

1. Linda doesn't like to eat Eucalyptus leaves (neither does Ken)
2. Ken doesn't know all the verses to Waltzing Matilda (but Linda does)
4. Neither of them is named 'Bruce' (or "Mavis")
5. The Koalas at Quantas don't want us.
6. There will be no reason Three.

Nominated by Fred Haskell, Rusty Hevlin, Susan Wood, Eric Lindsay and Leigh Edmonds.

MIKE GLYER

In ten years as a fan Mike has edited such zines as PREHENSILE, SCIENTIFRICTION and FILE 770. He was one of half a dozen founders of the Ranquet at MacDonalds in 1972--now a putrid fan tradition. Co-chair of Westercon, participant in creating the FAAn awards, officer at various times of FAPA, LASFS, even the Church of Herbangelism, Glycer has been very active in areas of fandom from the most sercon to the most hilarious. Also:Glycer's selection would assure a thorough trip report to share the adventure in Australia with everyone who supports DUFF.

Nominated by John Foyster, Ken Ozane, George Flynn, Mike Glicksohn, Elst Weinstein.

CY CHAUVIN

Cy Chauvin entered fandom in 1969, after reading John Berry's Clubhouse column in Amazing. His first g fanzine contribution was published in an Australian fanzine, the Mentor. In 1973, he went to his first convention TORCON where two of the first fans he met were Bruce Gillespie and Shayne McCormack. In 1975 he was fan GoH at Fanfair 111(while everyone else was at Aussiecon). He edited Seldon's Plan, has been OE of APA-50 and MISHAP.

Helped organise Autoclave and written for scores of fanzines. He promises to write a trip report if he goes to Australia. He promises to invent one if he doesn't.

Nominated by Gil Gaier, Mary Legg, Jeanne Gomoll, Bruce Gillespie and Keith Curtiss.

B
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T

I vote for: (list 1,2,3)

Signature:-

FLETCHER AND LOINSBERRY

NAME(print)

MIKE GLYER

ADDRESS

CY CHAUVIN

If you think your name is not known to the administrators please give the name and address of a known fan or group who knows you:

Reproduction of this form is encouraged provided that the text is reproduced Verbatim.

Trekkers, Trekkies and Tribbles

BY BRUCE BARNES

My decision to go to Aussietrek was pretty much a last minute one. I sent in my membership fee only one week before the thing began, and the speed of the Post Office being what it is, I got there before it did.

It wasn't just at the door that I had problems. I had a devil of a job finding a hotel I could check into. It seems there was some sort of convention going on in Sydney, and people were being sent to Woolongong to find accommodation for the night. However, the Force was with me, and I found a place with one solitary room left.

Came the formal opening, George Takei came up on stage, and the applause was the loudest I have ever heard in my life. It literally hurt the ears. It was even louder than the Welcomite's... and George's wasn't pre-recorded.

Then a bloke in a Starfleet uniform got up and explained that all the movies that were my reasons for coming, were not available.

After a screening of CATSPAW and the lunchbreak, George made a speech of how he loved the hospitality, and what a nice place Sydney was. Short pause while the Melbournians booted. George promised to visit Melbourne while he was here. Short pause while the WA's booted.

He went on to say that STAR TREK: The Motion Picture would be released on 7th December 1979, with a budget of \$30,000,000! (The next James Bond movie has a \$54,000,000 budget. One day one of these ultra \$\$\$ movies is going to flop heavily, the producers will take it as a sign the sf bubble has burst, and there will be a new SF crash. Just thought I'd share this personal gem of optimism.) The new Starfleet uniforms are one piece affairs that require assistance to get into. To avoid smearing makeup while these things are pulled on and off, a silk container for the human head was devised..ending new meaning to the term "Bag your head."

"STAR WARS" said George, "was escapism. STAR TREK is rooted in the concerns of today."

The costume parade was held that evening, and I became part of it at the last moment. I didn't have a costume, but I was wearing a turtle-neck shirt, so with a pen, sci-sors and a bit of paper, I made myself a chest emblem and went as a S.H.A.D.O. technician. (Remember the series U.F.O.?)

I didn't get a prize. After all, there were people there wearing costumes they spent months on. I took all of five minutes making mine.

I didn't bother with room parties that night. I had spent the previous night sitting up in a train, and on this particular night I was ready to flake out at the drop of a tribble.



Bruce Barnes and Tribble friends.

I checked out of my hotel the next morning, and adjourned to the Menzies Hotel and ST con, lugging an overnight bag made bulky by the presence of various purchases including a STAR WARS shooting script.

First on the agenda was a talk on UFOs, in which I learned that if all the stars in the observable universe were the size of pinheads, you could put all of them together in a block of 50km by 50km by 10km. I learned about the UFO that saved Shatner's life in California, when he was on a motor bike trip.

Then came the auction, in which I obtained a copy of Asimov's SF Adventure Magazine for \$7.00. I could have got it for \$6.00 but I bid against myself--something easy to do, especially when the auctioneer is apparently looking 90 degrees from you when he takes your bid, and you think somebody else made the same offer.

One of the films shown was an item presented as a movie short and called HARDWARE WARS, featuring characters like Princess Ann Droid and Auggie Ben Doggie. Believe me, you haven't lived until you've seen Chewbacca being played by the Cookie Monster. It is also interesting to see our heroes -- armed with laser firing electric drills -- board a plant-destroying waffle iron...in a shot-of-steam iron. A blurb at the end goes: "You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll kiss three bucks goodbye,"

Then came the Great Draw where the person whose badge ID number was drawn got to have dinner with George Takei. I looked at my badge number--271 -- and decided that the odds were against me. So, confident that I stood no chance whatsoever, I watched the draw certain I would not win. Sure enough, I didn't.

I did get to see an 8mm version of THE MAN TRAP for the first time. This episode was never aired in Australia, due to the fact that it contained the salt vampire, and vampires on tv were verbatim in those days.

Close to the end of the festivities, Nikki White gave a talk on the noble Klingons and how they were a lot better than Kirk and his cronies. This degenerated into a brawl between Klingons and Federation, in which tribbles were used as weapons. (There were a lot of tribbles at the con-- see the photo).

Someone took advantage of the ruckus and momentary darkness, to steal half the on-sale-for-\$5.00 each tribbles. After pleas for the thief to own up, and a period of darkness for the return of the tribbles... the things remained missing. Not the most pleasant note on which to end a convention,

Afterwards, there was a question and answer period, in which George Takei offered to answer any questions whatsoever. I wanted to ask what the purpose of existence was, but I had to catch the next train to Melbourne, and it was getting late. So I picked up my overnight bag and headed for the door. My big, fat, bulging, stuffed-full overnight bag. And the tribbles were still missing/ A number of icily suspicious gazes followed me out the door.



Bruce Barnes and George Takei.

Other reports on the STAR TREK Con all say it went very well. Except maybe a rather cynical Melbourne SF fan, who I think must be a bit of a masochist to inflict it on himself in the first place. All that counts is that the ST fans loved it. No doubt there will be more ST Cons, as there will be other special interest sf gatherings.

The Sydney Star Trek club ASTREX is having a sixth birthday party on the 12th of May, at 66 Midson Rd., Eastwood. All fans are welcome.

The Melbourne branch of the Star Trek Fan Club AUSTREK will meet at 2PM on the 16th of May, Womens Temperance Basement, Russell St., Melbourne. Those attending are requested to bring food. A quite successful meeting was held by AUSTREK on Anzac Day.

AUSTRALIA '83

SYDNEY
APRIL 1979



A DELIVERY VAN SPEEDS TOWARDS THE 'AUSTRALIA IN '83 HEADQUARTERS

DRAWN BY CHRIS JOHNSON
PLOTTED BY PAUL J. STEVENS



WHAT IS THIS MYSTERIOUSLY LARGE BOX?... A BOMB?... A BUNYIP?... 30,000 HELICOPTER BEANIES?

HAPPENINGS

CONVENTIONS & OTHER EVENTS

QUASARCON June 16th -18th 1979

Capri Cinema Goodwood
Adelaide, South Australia
Guest of Honour: DAVID LAKE
Fan Guest of Honour:
KAREN LEWIS

Presented by the South
Australian SF Society.
Memberships \$12.50 to May 30th
\$15.00 there after \$5.00 sup.

The Guest of Honour, David Lake is the successful author from Queensland, of WALKERS ON THE SKY, plus other novels and short works. The Fan Guest from N.S.W., Karen Lewis, is of the leading figures in Star Trek Fandom, and was an organiser of the ST Con in March. Special features of QUASARCON include the fact that it will be held in a theatre, a Multivision audiovisual story will be presented, the Ursula LeGuin satirical play INTRACOM will be enacted, plus computer games, a great film program, and the usual sf convention features.

Accommodation will be at the JASPER INN Flag Motel. Singles \$18.00 Double \$22.00 Share up to five \$10.00 each. Food will be available at reasonable prices at the convention.

We are also uncertain what their official address is, but we suggest you write to the last address given: Paul Anderson, 21 Mulga Road, Hawthorndene, S.A. 5051 but if no response contact: Margaret Arnott P.O. Box 51, Thebarton, S.A. 5031

SYNCON '79 The 18th NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

August 10th to 13th 1979
At The New Crest Hotel
Darlinghurst Road,
Kings Cross, Sydney, N.S.W
Guest of Honour:

GORDON R. DICKSON

Memberships: \$15.00 before the convention, \$20.00 at the door.

The main feature of this convention will be the attendance of the GOH GORDON DICKSON, who would be one of the most popular authors writing today. He is also an avid sf fan who loves cons.

Short story and art competitions are being held in conjunction with the convention. For details contact Shayne McCormack.

All correspondence to P.O. Box 146, Burwood, N.S.W 2134

Details on accommodation are not known, so we suggest you write to the con-com at the address given immediately.

PULPCON September 1st and 2nd 1979

Guest of Honour: DAVID LAKE

We have no program details but the venue is YWCA CONVENTION CENTRE, Elizabeth St., Melbourne

Organised by The MELBOURNE SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

Fan GoH: BILL WRIGHT

Membership: \$8.00
All correspondence to:
Tim Dawson, 11 Murphy St.,
Kew, Vic. 3101

WELLCON WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND

October 19th to 22nd 1979
The Grand Hotel
Attending Membership \$15.00
Supporting .. \$5.00
Address: Wellcon, P.O. Box 19 047,
Wellington, New Zealand

The New Zealanders have at last got together, mainly Merv Barret I presume, and given us an excuse to visit their beautiful islands. They deserve all the support they can get, so I hope all the Aussie fans who are not blowing their lifes savings on the trip to England for SEACON, will fly, sail, swim, over to New Zealand in October.

UNICON SIX Easter 1980

April 4th - 7th
Guest of Honour: JOE HALDEMAN
Venue is not set but most likely a convention centre close to the city, with close by accommodation, and numerous places for eating.
Memberships: \$11.00 to December 31st 1979. \$15.00 from then on. to the convention. Daily memberships \$5.00. Sup. \$4.00
All correspondence to:
Monash University SF Association
Monash University, Wellington Rd.,
Clayton, 3168, Victoria

SOME OVERSEAS CONVENTIONS OF INTEREST;

SEACON The 33rd World SF Convention
Brighton, England
August 23rd to 27th 1979
All correspondence to
14 Henrietta St., London WC2
Australian Agent: Robin Johnson
P.O. Box A 491
Sydney South, N.S.W 2000

CONVENTIONS CONTINUED

NORTHAMERICAN will be of particular interest to Australian fans going to Seacon, because it is the week after and if you go home via the U.S.A you can get to GALT HOUSE, Louisville, Kentucky. For further information write to Box 58009 Louisville, Kentucky 40258 U.S.A

NOREASCON The 38th World SF Convention Sheraton Boston Hotel BOSTON
Guests of Honour: DAMON KNIGHT and KATE WILHELM
Fan Guest: BRUCE PELZ
Toastmaster: Robert Silverberg
Correspondence to: P.O. Box 46, MIT Branch Post Office, Cambridge, MA 02139, U.S.A
Australian Agent: Robin Johnson

WORLD CONVENTION BIDS

Two cities are bidding for 1981
DENVER, Colorado P.O. Box 11545,
Denver, CO 80211 U.S.A
SEATTLE, Washington P.O. Box 24207
Seattle, WA 98124 U.S.A

You can support their bids by joining SEACON this year, and becoming eligible to vote for the one you support.

AUSTRALIA IS BIDDING FOR THE WORLD CONVENTION IN 1983

We are very keen to hold the 41st World Con in Australia. To do so we need all the support we can get now from Australian and overseas fans. The most immediate thing you can do is subscribe to the A'83 Bulletin. Send \$3.00 to Australia in '83, P.O. Box J 175, Brickfield Hill, N.S.W 2000, Australia.

LOCAL BIDS: W.A. Fans are holding a con in 1980. They would like it to be the Australian National convention. A pre-bid membership cost \$10.00 to: PERTH IN '80 Committee, G.P.O. Box N1060 Perth, W.A. 6001

Paul Stevens and Merv Binns intend holding a convention at EASTER 1981. They would like it to be the '81 NATIONAL CONVENTION. An overseas guest is likely, and an emphasis on the media in SF can be expected, with a strong film program.

A FANTASY and SF ART GALLERY has just been opened in New South Wales. TIMEWINDS, 11 Hollywood Avenue, Bondi Junction, N.S.W 2022
For further information contact :
Dennis Collins 387-4519

SPACE AGE BOOKS intend to keep their Art Gallery in operation despite the very poor reaction to it. Their date for the final decision on their POSTER COMPETITION has also been extended to July 7th. The possibility of a full scale F & SF Art Exhibition is currently being considered, to be held early in 1980.

A NEW AUSTRALIAN SF MAGAZINE is reported to be on the way. We have no further details except that the editor is MICHAEL HAILSTONE, 133 Dowling Street, Woolloomooloo, N.S.W 2011. Authors are asked to submit stories of about 5000 words or more. Rates are not known at this time.

STOP PRESS!

JOHN FOYSTER HAS WON THE GUFF FAN FUND AND WILL BE ATTENDING SEACON WORLD SF CONVENTION

FAN NEWS



THE TASMANIAN SF CLUB held its First Annual Costume Party in February at a member's home; events included a masquerade, skits parodying STAR TREK and DR WHO, a re-enactment of the duel from "Amok Time" with realistic Vulcan weapons, the movies KING KONG and CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES.

At the next TSFC meeting, elections voted in Brian Dimmick as President, Mike O'Brien as Vice President and Kay Bott as Secretary. About 20 members attended the meeting at the Environment Centre in Bathurst St., Hobart. Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month. The fourth issue of the club's magazine ULTIMUS was expected in April. The club's former president, Ms Giulia Cesare, has moved to Launceston but remains an honorary member of the Hobart club.

TASMANIA IN '80

Mike O'Brien

An unconfirmed report states that U.S. author ANNE McCaffrey has been invited to attend a convention or work shop, we are uncertain, in Perth, West Australia in August 1980. Melbourne author WYNNNE WHITEFORD has been invited to hold a writers workshop also in Perth next year, the results of which may be published by a new publisher NIGHTHAWK.

SF is apparently booming in Perth. All reports on the WAYCON convention were very good, and the W.A. fans are bidding for the National SF Convention in 1980.

For details on events in Perth, contact SIMULATIONS, Unit 28, Bon Marche Arcade, Perth, W. Australia, 6000

DARKOVER

DARKOVER FANDOM. Jill Curtain of 32 Jetty Street, Grange, 5022 S.A., is interested in contacting people who appreciate the Marion Zimmer Bradley DARKOVER Series. She has formed the AUSTRALIAN DARKOVER COUNCIL, and is in contact with the American organisation 'Friends of Darkover'. A newsletter is

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being produced and other projects are planned. If you are interested write to Jill at the above address.

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EDITORIAL NOTES

This issue was delayed so that I could include a report with photos on EASTERCON '79. However I find I have enough material on hand for two issues. So other things like Lee Edmond's FANZINE column and the complete publication list from U.K. and the U.S.A. for January and February, will appear in the next issue. Issue 10 will be out in two weeks after this one.

One of the subjects discussed at the EASTERCON was SF And Academia, which ties in with Noel Gough's article in this issue. More on this next issue.
M.B.

SCIENCE FICTION IN IVORY TOWERLAND

by Noel Gough (Continued from page 4)

I would be very interested to hear comments, suggestions, ideas, etc., relating to any or all of the above and, in particular, I am keen to hear from anyone who might be interested in participating in an extra-mural course, as this seems a realistic possibility in my own College.

Correspondence maybe directed to:-

Noel P. Gough,
Senior Lecturer
Curriculum & Teaching Dept
Rusden State College
519 Orrong Road
ARMADALE. VICTORIA. 3143





DR FRANKENFURTER MEETS KILLER KANE

BY MAX (DR FRANKENFURTER) PHIPPS

Henry Silva, ("always the bad guy, never the bride") stands 6'4", claims to be 51 (looks 38), is the father of two and lives in Tarzana*, California. He's VIRGO on the cusp of LIBRA (September 23 for the purists). His wife, Ruth, (a dancer), is Gemini (and one half of a set of twins). Henry is generous, outgoing, a disciplinarian (hates the waiting of time) and has almost, a kid's sense of humour. When you talk to him, he makes you feel you've known him a long time.

I met him on the set of "THIRST" (a vampire-thriller films on location in & around Melbourne). Tony Ginnane (the film's producer) imported Henry to play the sadistic DR GAUSS, who is one of the Hierarchy in the Brotherhood of HYMA, and International Organisation of Blood Drinkers.

Prior to arriving in Melbourne at the end of February, he had just finished recreating the role of THE ARCHVILLIAN KANE in "BUCK ROGERS OF THE 25TH CENTURY". In fact, he virtually left a post synching session on the movie to go straight to the Airport to leave for Australia.

"Universal is still finishing the movie at this very moment", he said, sitting next to his wife on the office couch. "Universal intends releasing it in over 700 cinemas throughout the States at Easter. They've spent \$9 million on it, and most of that went on special effects, particularly miniature work."

(Henry wasn't sure who was responsible for the SPFX, so we can only assume it is KEN SWENSON, who is doing "BATTLESTAR GALACTICA" for Universal.)

"Battlestar was being filmed at the same time, and we often had to change schedules to shoot around each other. Half the time I never knew which set I was supposed to be on. The whole thing was visually overwhelming."

"The movie is a big break for the other stars. They got a young guy from the "Soopies" called GIL GERARD to play BUCK ROGERS, much the same way Chris Reeve got 'Superman'. WILMA is played by a spunky model ERIN GRAY". Henry stopped and looked puzzled for a minute, then removed his enormous bone-coloured glasses and leaned over to his wife "What's the name of KANE'S off-sider for Chrissakes?". Ruth couldn't remember either. Neither could I. So we started rattling off names: "BUCK & WILMA, KANE & BLANK." He put his glasses back on. "What the hell! She was more interested in screwing Buck than helping me conquer the universe, anyway." (Isn't it always the way...?) "My guy,

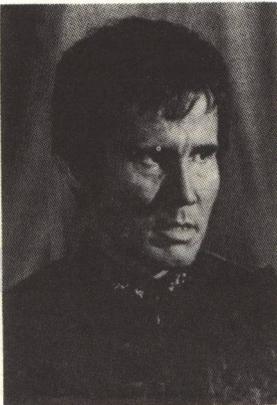
KANE, was pretty one-eyed about his aims. He had only one goal: "TO RULE THE UNIVERSE". My cohorte (played by Pam Hensley) had divided loyalties. She wanted to rule as well as making out with Buck, so when Buck came along, it suited Kane fine. While she was trying to make Buck, Kane could get on with his job and do the same thing to the Universe."

What excited Henry the most was the chance part of what he hopes will be a blockbuster movie. "I've never been in one before, and at \$9 million, this one has got to be IT. Kane could easily become another DARTH VADER. I mean, they're even making KANE DOLLS, so it's gotta mean something."

So maybe TONY GINNANE is a fore-sighted producer. If Henry gets his wish if "BUCK ROGERS OF THE 25TH CENTURY" is a smash hit; if KANE becomes another DARTH VADER; then the Box Office Takings for "THIRST" (Being released late in 1979) should also be phenomenal.

But as far as your interviewer is concerned, HENRY SILVA, I hope you get your wish for your sake! You've earned it and you deserve it.

*FOOTNOTE: "Tarzana" is a huge area of land that was owned by Edgar Rice Burroughs. I suppose now it would be an enormous suburb out of Los Angeles. Henry and Ruth own a couple of acres, and they love it.



HENRY SILVA

Our special thanks to Max Phipps who played the lead in THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW on the local stage, for this exclusive interview with Henry Silva. The film they both worked on also stars David Hemmings and Chantal Countouri. THIRST will be a major Australian

film release soon. The fantasy and occult type film such as THE LAST WAVE is eminantly suitable for local production in my opinion.

MORK AND MINDY

reviewed by Bruce Barnes.

Let's see...what can I say about a person who drinks through his finger and sits on his face? "Nanoo nanoo"?

It started in an episode of HAPPY DAYS when Mork came to Earth to collect a biological specimen, namely the Fonz. The episode had a fantastic twist ending -- the whole thing was a dream Richie was having (and who said tv scriptwriters lacked originality?) When the ratings came in and the producers realized that yes Virginia, there really was a Mork from Ork.

I for one am convinced that without Robin Williams in the role of Mork, the new series would never have survived beyond that one episode of HAPPY DAYS. He is the best choice of casting an actor for a role since Winkler became Fonzie. Williams supplies just the right tone of zaniness to convince anyone that where ever he comes from, it's not this planet.

It appears that even on Ork, Mork is regarded as weird. He seems to be the only one there who doesn't have a Darth Vader silhouette. He has been sent to Earth partly to study is, and partly to bet out of the hair of the Orkans.

Having hyperspaced to Earth by egg -- the only way to travel -- Mork meets and moves in with Mindy, because he needs somebody for a foil and to set him up.

The fact that the show is filmed in front of a live audience should restrict Mork's alien powers -- in MY FAVOURITE MARTIAN the powers took over the show, until at the end Uncle Martin was solving his problems by time travelling back and causing them not to happen. Mork relies more on wits than powers -- thankfully -- but even so, he has so far demonstrated the ability to paralyse, cause amnesia, raise the dead, put square pegs in round holes (it drives psychiatrists nuts), and have publicly viewable flashbacks of the time he met the Fonz in the 1950's (a power that can be very useful if the ratings start to flag.)

continued next page



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How far can a one-shot idea go? Will MORK AND MINDY go the way of MY MOTHER THE CAR or THE BEVERLY HILL-BILLIES? Will Mindy's role be increased to the point of characterization? Will we get to see the Fonz as he is in 1979? Only time will tell.

In wrap up; no matter how absurd the concept of the show sounds, don't knock it until you've seen Robin Williams doing his thing.

B.B.

DUFF ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Voting is now open for the 1979 North America to Australia DUFF race, and the candidates are; Ken Fletcher/Linda Lounsberry(standing as a team) Mike Glyer and last but not least, Cy Chauvin. All three are active American fans, and are well-known and respected. Any of the three would be a good choice, and the choice will be known by early June, as 4th of June is the date voting closes. The winner will be announced a few days later.

The 1980 Australia to North America DUFF race almost didn't make it. The deadline for nominations was extended to 1st May, and as nothing has been heard from two of the three would-be candidates, the whole thing was almost called off. A last minute phone call to Sydney bought the information that the needed nominations had only just arrive and the two candidates can now be announced. Jack Herman and Keith Curtis. Both are well-known Sydney fans, and are very active with Syncon '79 and Australia in '83. It should be a close race. Voting forms should be available from the candidates or from the US and Australian administrators.

Money is good for 1979, with over \$800 in the Australian coffers and about \$1300(US) in the USA. Plans are going ahead to produce badges and T-shirts that proclaim support for DUFF and these will feature a Wombat as a DUFF symbol. Suggestion has also been made that an American Bald Eagle with a helicopter beanie also be included in the design. Paul J. Steven's DUFF trip report should be available for sale by August 1979, but keep your fingers crossed.

Australian DUFF Administrator: Paul J. Stevens, C/- Space Age Books, 305 Swanston Street, Melbourne. Victoria 3000. Phone 03-663-177 or 03 661-1394.

The WORLD FANTASY AWARDS are given at the Annual World Fantasy Convention. The 5th is being held in Providence Rhode Island, Y.S.A over October 12-14. Further details can be obtained from Robert A. Booth, Chairman, 43 Kepler St., Pawtucket, RI 02860, USA. Only members of the W.F.Cs for 77, 78, and 79 are eligible to nominate for the awards, and a panel of judges make the final decisions. This years judges are Poul Anderson, Terry Carr, Dennis Hutchison, Elizabeth A. Lynn, and Roy Squires.

BOOK NEWS

THE FINAL DANGEROUS VISIONS ,the last collection in the series edited by Harlan Ellison, has finally been sold to Berkley/Putnam. This is the third time that rights have changed hands for this book, since the initial announcement in 1972. Berkley expect to publish it in three volumes, in the spring of 1980.

The first book DANGEROUS VISIONS, was one of the most successful collections ever published. The second volume, AGAIN DANGEROUS VISIONS was longer and although not as successful as Volume one is still a top selling book. THE LAST DANGEROUS VISIONS was originally only an offshoot from Volume two, as so many stories came in for volume two Ellison decided to publish a separate book rather than do Volume two in two parts. However due to disagreements with the original publishers the third volume never got published.

To cut the long story short. Victoria Schochet, who has been involved with the book both when at Harper and Row, and now recently at Berkley, is confident that Harlan will now finish the introductions in the next few months. Why he has delayed doing them is not quite clear, but it is reasonably clear to us now that this is the reason why the book has been announced by other publishers, such as Signet, who were to do the paperback at one stage, and they have never published it.

THE FINAL DANGEROUS VISIONS contains 113 stories, by 102 authors, with 700,000 words of fiction. Each story is illustrated by Tim Kirk. It will have a tryptic cover by Don Ivan Punctatz, and be published simultaneously. A box set will also be done in a limited edition. Eight years of waiting may have finally come to an end.

Abridged from a LOCUS report.

BELOVED SON by George Turner is being published by Sphere books in June and Pocket books also I believe in April or May. A publicity hand out from Pocket last year gave incorrect information and I wrote to them. The projected cover design was also not very good. George has since shown me a new cover design pull which is quite good, and I received a reply from the office of the new sf editor, David G. Hartwell signed by the administrative editor John Douglas. Mr Douglas pointed out that David Hartwell had tried to buy BELOVED SON when he was at BERKLEY books, and was quite aware of its potential. He is also very interested in any other good sf from Australia or anywhere else, and is in contact with the Virginia Kidd and Kathryn Walters literary agencies, who look after a number of Australian authors.

NEW ENGLISH LIBRARY are publishing the ALAN DEAN FOSTER series featuring the young hero Flinx and his mini-dragon. THE TAR-AIYM-KRANG will be published in April (U.K.) and the other two titles ORPHAN STAR and END OF THE MATTER will be published later in the year.

NEW DIMENSIONS, the original anthology edited by Robert Silverberg has received a new lease of life. It has a new co-editor in Marta Randall and will be published in future by POCKET BOOKS. Number 11 is now open for submissions which should be sent to Marta Randall, 1700 Mountain Blvd., Oakland CA 94611, U.S.A. The total book will be 60 to 70,000 words, so short stories are preferred.



ALI KAYNDEL
9/953 Punt Road,
South Yarra Vic. 3141

Dear Sir,

With reference to the item 'Dr Who Visits Australia' in Volume One :Number Seven of your publication, Tom Baker did indeed make contact with fans. In Brisbane my sister attended a meeting where fans plied baker with questions, jelly babies and pleas for autographs, all of which he reportedly took in good humour. Despite the heat he appeared "in costume", remaining patient and uncomplaining throughout - even to the point of signing someones's bus.

It is most regretable that we Melbourne fans were unable to take advantage of his visit, perhaps better organization on OUR part may prevent similar occurrences in the future.

Sincerely Ali Kayndel

Dear Ali,

I can assure you and other readers that every effort will be made by me through the auspices of Space Age Books, to make sure that any SF personalities visiting Australia, will be met by fans if at all possible. I expect that Gordon Dickson for instance will be visiting Melbourne around SYNCON '79, and we will be having a get together at Space Age or somewhere larger if necessary.

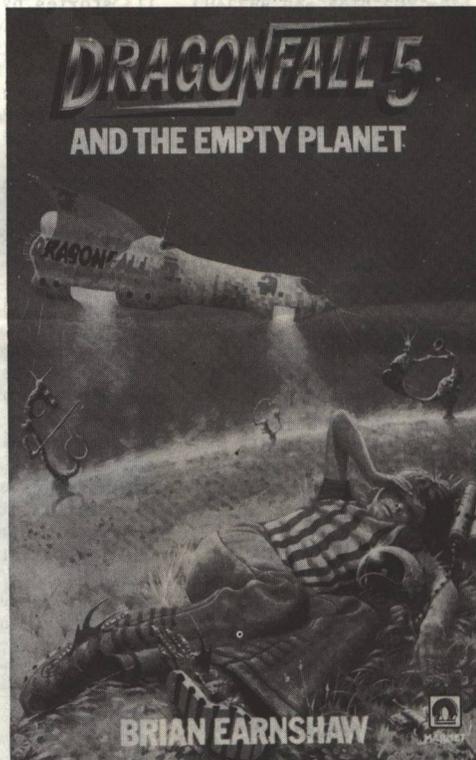
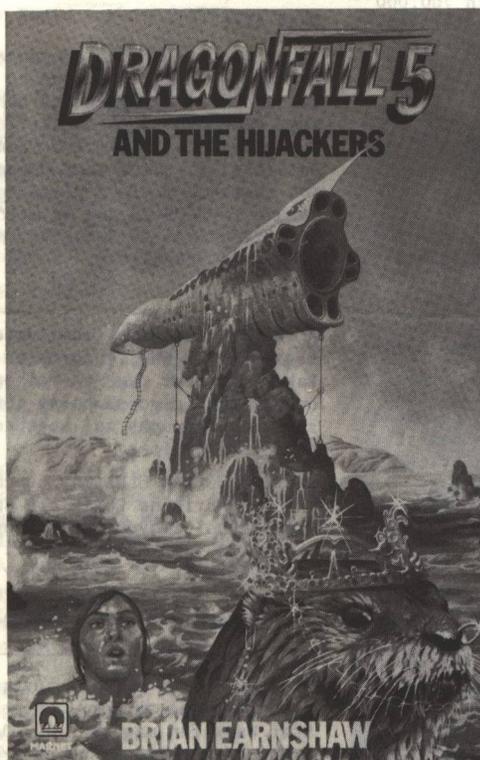
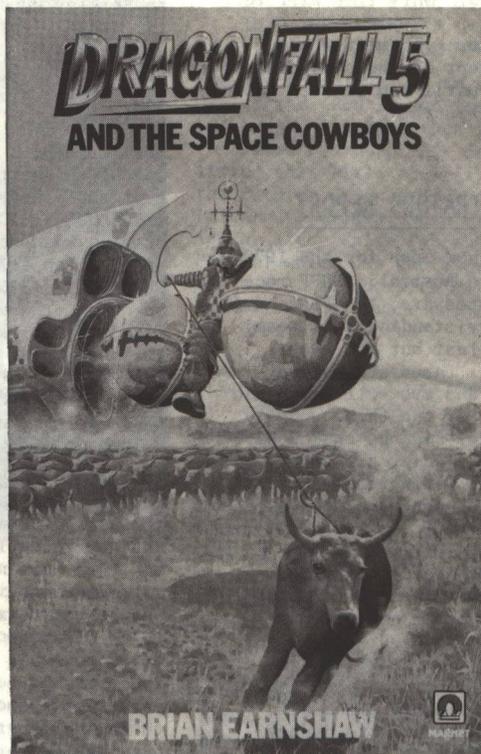
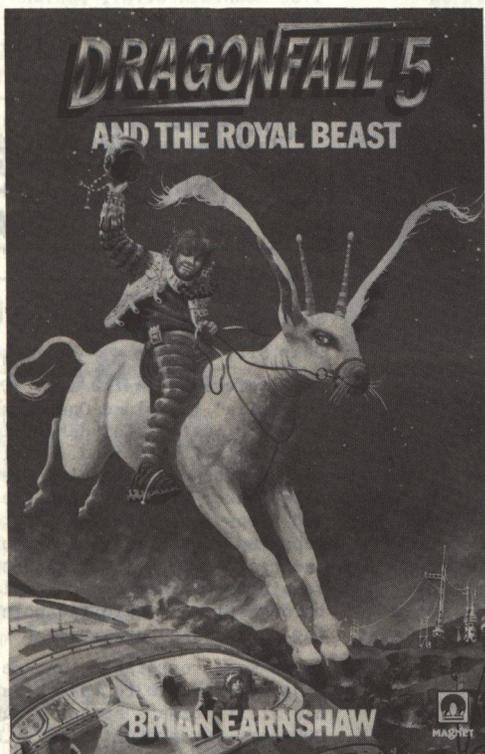
Ed

A report just hand from Adrienne Losin regarding DR WHO, informs us that Tom Baker did meet fans in Melbourne at one of the large shopping complexes. He signed autographs and accepted presentations from fans.

The DR WHO FAN CLUB may be contacted through Adrienne Losin c/o Croydon High School, Croydon Rd., Croydon. Phone 723-1422. Meetings will be held on May 5th at 11 AM, 7 Ashby Court, Bayswater and 11 AM on the 12th of May at 46 Crockford St., Port Melbourne.

STAR WARS FANS will be interested to know that the author /publisher of the Star Wars fan magazine J.J. Adamson, has produced a third issue of EMPIRE STAR. For details on this and other publications write to :

J.J. ADAMSON, 33 Whitely Drive,
Trott Park, Adelaide,
South Australia 5158



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