

December 19, 1978
volume 2, number 11

Registered for posting as a publication (Category B)

• • • • •

Somewhat nearer the truth has been a recent spate of letters referring to rumours of varying degrees of specificity concerning a comment Paul Stevens is alleged to have made about AUSTRALIA IN '83 and IGUANACON. Unlike my Sydney colleagues, who have no time to check up on what they wish to spread all over fandom, I had a chat with Paul. The allegation is that our beloved PJS is spreading stories that AUSTRALIA IN '83 had no ad. in the IGGY Program Book. The fact (so far as I can ascertain) is that one fan asked Paul whether AIN '83 had had an ad. in the Program Book. Paul replied that he couldn't remember one. He was also in the unfortunate position of having his ~~car~~ car somewhere in a railstack between the US and Australia at the time.

After Chunder! 11 had been printed, but before it was mailed, a kind reader informed me of further details concerning the Paul Stevens?IGGYCON booklet/AUSTRALIA IN '83 matter referred to on page 1. Although none of the three Sydney correspondents identified the source of their complaint, it was in fact page 7 of the October AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION NEWS, wherein Mervyn Binns (not Paul Stevens) makes the irritant remarks. Mervyn's remark is quite thoughtless (though possibly intended in a well-meaning way) but I am afraid that I simply hadn't noticed it - it is jumped from page 2 to a gutter corner under some STAR TREK news - and my comments in Chunder! 11 are consequently in ignorance of the source of annoyance. I was in two minds as to how to react to the three letters, but now my course is clear: in future non-specific rumours and whinges will be ignored. John Foyster