

DUFF NEWSLETTER #2 January 1980

published by Ken & Linda for the Down Under Fan Fund (DUFF). These 2 pages are mostly from Ken.

NORTH AMERICAN ADMINISTRATORS:

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AUSTRALIAN ADMINISTRATOR:

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DUFF is the fannish acronym for the Down Under Fan Fund, created in 1972 to exchange visits between science fiction fans in North America and Australia. Nominated candidates actively campaign for votes registered by means of a ballot that is reproduced and distributed at science fiction conventions and thru fanzines. DUFF is supported entirely by voluntary contributions from fans world-wide.

There have been 7 DUFF trips since DUFF began. 1972--Lesleigh Couch Luttrell visited Australian fandom, including their national convention, Syncon. 1974--Leigh Edmonds toured the depths of NorthAmerican fandom for 7 weeks, including a short stop at DISCON, the world s.f. convention. 1975--Speaking of Worldcons, Rusty Hevelin went to the first Worldcon in Australia, AUSSIECON. 1976--Christine McGowan Ashby saw a good chunk of the American fan-landscape and the MIDAMERICON worldcon, too. 1977--William Rotsler cartooned his way thru Australia, including the Aussie national sf con, UNICON, in Adelaide. 1978--Paul Stevens won the DUFF race, but it has been alleged that on the way to the U.S. a substitution was made, and that it was indeed the dread "Anti-Fan" that inspected the IGUANACON in Phoenix. 1979--Ken Fletcher & Linda Lounsbury saw their kangaroos on the way back from the SYNCON Aussie national sf con.

Besides exchanging impressions and gossip on both sides of the Pacific, DUFF winners have made their mark in fannish legend. Lesleigh Luttrell and Leigh Edmonds (with Valma Brown (Hi Valma!)) wrote superb trip reports (only thruppence the bottle). Rusty Hevelin produced an Aussie slide show that toured American cons. William Rotsler, for the greater glory of DUFF, donated the work and proceeds of hundreds of namebadges that have become part of the convention environment. Christine, Paul, and Ken & Linda will all have their con reports (or something like them) published Real Soon Now.... All have served as DUFF administrators.

Mostly tho, they've all visited different worlds with alien landscapes and alternate cultures--and discovered the ways fans are all the same. Not all the ways fans are the same, mind you--I still don't know if Paul Stevens only has time to read the magazines at Space Age Bookstore. This is only one example of why this noble experiment should continue.

BUT HOW CAN I HELP? one might ask if one were a rhetorical question....



Some of the ways that you can help DUFF:

### Donations

You can donate money to the DUFF fund (when you vote, or any other time). You could donate (or buy) DUFF Auction material. Many of the regional sf conventions will be having DUFF auctions scheduled with other fan-fund auctions. The auction representatives are always looking for donated material to auction, and help during the auction, too. Contact the local convention committee, or the DUFF administrators in your neighborhood. DUFF will also be starting an auction by mail--donations accepted. Fanzine editors have done special issues or one-shots with sale proceeds to the DUFF Fund.

### Publicity

Reprinting DUFF information or even just the DUFF ballots is good publicity and helps DUFF. Publicity can be of as much value as a direct donation. DUFF depends on the thoughtful assistance of fan editors reprinting and distributing the DUFF ballots thru their mailing lists, clubs, and conventions. We encourage fan publishers to reprint information from any of these DUFF newsletters. Published commentary on DUFF is welcome.

Fan-artists: If you need a topic for a batch of work, consider Australia & DUFF. Subliminal plugs wouldn't hurt, either.

DUFF-related one-shots qualify as publicity.

### Fan contacts

If you read a DUFF report, or read an Australian fanzine, or correspond with an Australian fan, and come to wish that you could speak with them face-to-face sometime--you can understand what DUFF is about. In the U.S., I've looked forward to the chance of maybe meeting a fan I've wanted to meet when I go to a regional convention. Australian fans are too far away for that--except when one comes thru on a DUFF trip. I discover they eat food and drink drink just like fans. They don't look like kangaroos at all (hardly); they look like fans.

Consider reading a book on Australia or an Aussie sf book, or becoming a supporting member of an Australian regional con, or trading fanzines with an Aussie fan editor, or trading want-lists with an Australian collector. I have the not-so-strange feeling this would help DUFF....

If you would like to be on the mailing list for our future news letters, send a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) (with your name & address clearly printed) to our address:

Ken Fletcher & Linda Lounsbury

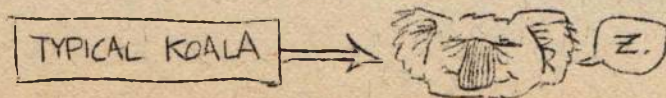
341 E. 19th St., Minneapolis, MN 55404 USA

Comments and suggestions are welcome; you can assist us by enclosing a SASE if you expect a direct reply.

### DUFF TRIP REPORTS (currently available):

LESLEIGH'S ADVENTURES DOWN UNDER (and What She Did There) by Lesleigh Couch Luttrell of the first DUFF trip in 1972. (\$1.00 donation--36 pages mimeo--quantities limited)

EMU TRACKS OVER AMERICA by Leigh Edmonds (with Valma Brown) of the 1974 DUFF trip. (\$3.00 donation--100 pages mimeo)







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#### DUFF CANDIDATES

As many people have commented, the Australian candidates for this year's DUFF trip (to the 1980 Worldcon in Boston) are not well-known in North America. In fact it would seem that the current administrators (see colophon) are the only persons on this continent who have actually met all three in the flesh. Thus, we offer the following testimonials about the candidates from those who claim to know them...

#### JACK HERMAN

by Roger Zelazny

I first learned something of Australian fandom and met some of the fine people involved during the spring of 1977, at the time of my trip Down Under for the Australian National Science Fiction Convention (UNICON IV) in Melbourne--and during subsequent travels in that country, winding up in Sydney.

Jack Herman is a fine person--a pleasant, knowledgeable, intelligent fan of the active variety--who has helped to organize three conventions (SYNCON 77, 78 & 79) and is also a member of the AUSTRALIA IN 83 Committee. In addition, he is active in fan publishing via his editorship of FORERUNNER (the Sydney Science Fiction Foundation fanzine), the publication of an apazine and his contributions to numerous other fan publications. Busy, busy. He was also active in the Tolkien Society.

Jack's full range of interests and activities is such that he would have something in common with any American fan he would encounter at the convention and in subsequent travels, making him a fine choice for the fannish-ambassadorial post a DUFF person is supposed to be. It is for this reason that he has received my nomination, my support, and these words recommending you vote for him.

#### BOB OGDEN

by Clifford R. Wind

I may be responsible for Bob Ogden. Partly.  
Responsible for Vege-fan? Let me explain.

The setting is Western Australia, that, uh, leftmost, third of a continent, neglected somewhat by even the rest of Australia. The city is Perth. The time is '75-'76.

In the beginning was the void, a formless chaos of wargamers, readers, a collector or two, a Pommy writer, and an Aussie



BOB CGDEN (continued)

librarian. No fans. But the last two named were on Eric Lindsay's mailing list. I--a Yank newly arrived, at four years and three cons a comparatively old fan, and tired--met them. They met each other. They went to Aussiecon. They saw the light and were made fans. Wishing to spread the good news, we decided to have our own con. So was born Swancon I.

Held at a private home and subtitled Duckcon for the ducklings in the back, Swancon I was a revelation to its thirty some attendees. They went from protofan to neo in one weekend, ravenously enjoying this new find, fandom. One of these was Bob Ogden. Talking. Enjoying. From pub to pancake dinner to fanzine workshop to spontaneous story recollection session to Chinese dinner (these people got started right) Bob was in his own element.

By the end of Swancon I, it was obvious to all that this could not end; it must be continued. Bob Ogden was the one to take up the responsibility, becoming President of the new Western Australian Science Fiction Association. And in the years since, he's continued in that post, finding time as well to be coordinator of Swancon II, III, and IV, travel over East for Eastern State cons (a much greater task than for Americans to travel back East to East Coast cons), and spread the word for Vegemite fandom.

What, you've never tasted Vegemite? Well then, mate, you've hardly lived, 'av you? What's it like? Something else, cobber, and that's fair dinkum. Don't ask Keith Curtis about Vegemite, for as something less than a fully dinkie die Aussie, he doesn't like the stuff. Ask Bob for a taste when you see him, and then have a nice long chat with a most enjoyable man.

KEITH CURTIS

by Eric B. Lindsay

I suppose I could be ~~un~~fair to the other DUFF candidates, and mention some of Keith's exploits as an auctioneer for DUFF, selling empty Beam's Choice bottles for this worthy cause, but I think I'll go back before the candidates met, to Aussiecon, back in 1975, before Jack and Bob were in fandom.

Keith got cold feet, and decided he wasn't going to go to Aussiecon; after all, he reasoned, why would anyone want to see him (this after getting along famously with Bob Tucker, whose writing he loved). Shayne McCormack and I had to literally kidnap him, cram him in the car, and drive off with him screaming about having forgotten things. We ignored him; after all, he had his teddy bear, which accompanies him to all conventions, and he didn't need more books with him, for we were sure he would simply buy them at the auction. And at the auction we kept him busy working.

However, asides apart, Keith managed very well at the convention, for a person who wasn't going to go, and at the height of the convention, managed to attract virtually all the BNFs and pros to a party in his room. Bob Tucker, Rusty Hevelin, Susan Wood, Mike Glicksohn, Ursula LeGuin, Jack Chalker, everyone was



KEITH CURTIS (continued)

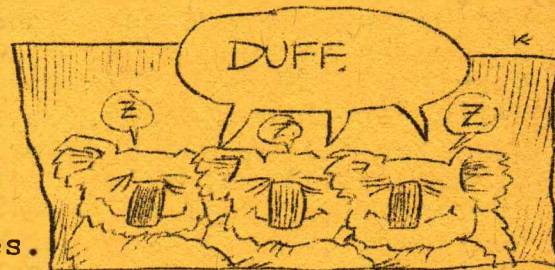
there, and after smoothing away for a while, and listening to Ben Bova tell an exceedingly funny tale, I noticed that Keith wasn't there. Now, we had everyone who was anyone at that party... but after a while we got suspicious. That sneaky Curtis character had found a better party. Gradually people drifted off to look for it.

It was about 4 a.m. when I returned, and retired to the bathroom, where I heard a faint noise. I looked in the bath, and there was Keith, curled up asleep, with a Beam's Choice bottle for a pillow. He had wandered into the bathroom, felt the need for a few minutes of rest, and the bath being the only flat surface left in the room, had sat there to "rest his eyes"...two hours before, in the middle of the finest party at Aussiecon.

Now, you probably won't believe me about that, so ask someone who saw Rusty Hevelin's slide show/Aussiecon report, or ask Rusty to show you the slide I took of Keith, asleep in the bath, with a genuine Tucker-consumed Beam's Choice bottle for a pillow.

## AND NOW A WORD FROM THE CANDIDATES

The following is the result of a questionnaire I sent to the candidates (Linda speaking) in November. If you have any questions, you can also write directly to the candidates.



Jack Herman  
7B Kingsbury St.  
Croydon Park, NSW 2133  
AUSTRALIA

Bob Ogden  
P.O. Box 225  
Wembley, WA 6014  
AUSTRALIA

Keith Curtis  
Box J175  
Brickfield Hill,  
NSW 2000  
AUSTRALIA

Herewith, the questions, with the answers in the order received.

1. What is your name?

HERMAN: Jack R. Herman (the R is for Richard)

OGDEN: Vegefan, also known as Bob Ogden or Bobo Gden.

CURTIS: My name is (deep breath) "Keith Donald Edwin Curtis" but I prefer something a little less formal.

2. What is your quest?

HERMAN: To determine if they really are Giants.

OGDEN: I seek the holy ~~ATX~~ ~~WYF~~ VEGEMITE.

CURTIS: That's a difficult one. I like "a quest" as the central theme of a novel--in fact, it can be argued that most science fiction and fantasy novels involve a quest of some kind or another, but that's the answer to another question and possibly a little too sercon for now.



3. What is your favorite color?

HERMAN: Lime Green.

OGDEN: Dark Brown.

CURTIS: Favourite colour is "gentle." as in the reds and golds of autumn, the light mists of early spring back home.

4. What is the capital of Assyria?

HERMAN: 60 million dinahs.

OGDEN: The capital of Assyria is A.

CURTIS: Hmmm. At first I thought ancient history buffs--then I saw question 5. Nineveh (for the Assyriologists).

5. What is the airspeed velocity of an unladen swallow?

a) African

b) European

HERMAN: a) fast

b) faster

OGDEN: The air speed velocity of an unladen swallow is  $WxB/M+D$  where  $W$ =wing surface area,  $B$ =beats per second,  $M$ =Mass, and  $D$ =Drag.  $WxB$  must be greater than  $M+D$  or the bird does not fly; once the bird is airbourne lift is supplied by the initial velocity and thus gliding is achieved.

CURTIS: The French have a word for it. However, if DUFF is to be won on the strength of one's ability to remember verse & chapter of Monty Python, then I'm afraid that Messrs. Herman and Ogden have not only a head start but a welcome advantage. My tastes in humour are either less or more esoteric than the inimitable MP team. My favourite humourists include Thorne Smith, Stephen Leacock, /.../ James Thurber, S.J. Perelman, H. Allen Smith, Red Skelton (under-rated), Kenneth Horne, Kenneth Williams, Jules Feiffer, Gahan Wilson and a very strange individual by name of Will Cuppy (How to Attract the Wombat, etc.)--I also admit to a soft spot for two by name of Gorey and Giamoretti /spelling?/.

6. If you come to North America as DUFF winner--

a) what fannish person or place would you most like to visit?

HERMAN: Rosebud.

OGDEN: Bob Tucker and his hotel.

CURTIS: Hard to pick an obvious one but among others I'd have to include, Hagerstown, MD--and its noted citizen Harry Warner, Jr.. Jacksonville, IL--to see good friend Tucker. Minneapolis--to see among others the following, yourselves, Denny Lien, Clifford Simak, Gordy Dickson (again), Carl Jacobi, etc. Authors I'd particularly care to meet include Bloch, DeCamp, Manly Wade Wellman (to express my appreciation for both his and his late brother's books--Paul I. Wellman was, and is, a favourite author for a long while, since I was about nine--which is now 21 years ago). I look forward to sitting down somewhere and talking with Karl Edward Wagner about collecting weird. One thing which is possibly unusual for an Aussiefan is that even if I have to do it at my own expense, I want to visit Sauk City--I love Derleth's books about "Sac Prairie" and want to see the country that he wrote about.

NEXT TIME--STAY TUNED FOR THE ANSWERS TO SUCH FANDOM-SHAKING QUESTIONS as "What would be the ideal souvenir?" "What is your favorite food?" and "Do you type in the nude?"