

Redback

Redback #7 is the seventh and last of a series of newsletters for the Down Under Fan Fund, published by the outgoing North American DUFF administrator, John D. Berry, 525 19th Avenue East, Seattle, Washington 98112, USA. The new administrator is Art Widner, 231 Courtney Lane, Orinda, California 94563. *Redback* is sent to everyone on the current DUFF mailing list (that is, recent voters and contributors, and known Interested Parties), and is available for contributions of money or auctionable material to DUFF. *Redback* is distributed in Australia and New Zealand by the Australian DUFF administrator, Greg Turkich, 8 Protea Street, Greenwood, Western Australia 6024, Australia. *January 28, 1991.*

Art Widner wins DUFF

Art Widner won a very close race to become the 1990–91 DUFF representative. He'll be traveling to Brisbane, Queensland, in March, to attend the Australian National Convention, Suncon '91 (March 29–April 1). I don't yet know the rest of Art's travel plans, except that he intends to visit New Zealand.

Art will also take over as North American DUFF administrator, so this is the last newsletter you'll be getting from me; the next one you see will be presumably published by Art, under a new title. Art's address is *231 Courtney Lane, Orinda, California 94563.*

Second thoughts

Although the response was good, at least in North America, it's easy to see in retrospect that the race was too short. I'm sure we would have had a lot more votes if the deadline had been a month later, or if the race had started a month earlier. As it was, quite a few ballots came in after the deadline – too late to count.

But we couldn't set the deadline much later without being unfair to the candidates. Most people need a little warning before they can plan a three- or four-week trip; they may have jobs and other obligations that require a lot of working around, and this can't be done at the last minute. So I wanted to be sure that the race was decided at least two months before the Australian NatCon. And we needed at least a couple of months for nominations. Starting from the NASFiC (the key event of Aussie DUFFster Greg Turkich's North American trip), that left only a month and a half for the actual voting. (I notice that TAFF, this year,

is explicitly allowing a month between the close of nominations and the opening of the voting. This is probably more time than one needs for preparing ballots and distributing them, but it's true that you can't always get them out instantly.) So we were caught in a bind.

A longer voting period is good for DUFF. (I can say that impartially, since it's not at all clear to me which of this year's candidates would have benefited more from extended voting.) More time means more ballots distributed, from more sources, and probably a second newsletter reminding people to vote; all of this means a chance for more fans to participate. More votes means more donations, which bolsters the fund. And a longer campaign *may* mean more active involvement by the candidates, which means a more entertaining experience for the rest of fandom (especially if the candidates publish fanzines for the occasion).

What we *should* have done was get this show on the road much earlier. I should have opened nominations at the beginning of the summer, and they should have *closed*, not opened, at the NASFiC. (There was a logistical problem with this, since I was out of the country at the time, but we could have found a way around that.) This is the way Lucy Huntzinger did it for the last North American DUFF race (although in the end she and Terry Dowling had to extend the deadline to get a second candidate into the race).

So this is my not-too-original suggestion for future DUFF administrators dealing with the North American race: start early, have the nominating period in the summer, and let the voting extend all fall.

The Australian race takes care of itself, as far as timing goes, because there's roughly a year and a

half from the time a new Australian administrator takes over and the target North American convention.

Fannish life would be much simpler if only the Australian National Convention and the worldcon or the NASFiC were held at the same time of year. I guess TAFF has the same problem, since the British Eastercon is held over...well, yes, Easter. I suppose only GUFF has it easy, exchanging fans between Britain and Australia, whose conventions are held more or less simultaneously.

Anyway, thanks to all those fans who *did* manage to get their votes in on time. And to those who voted late, too. Without participation, where would DUFF be?

Apologies

I've been swamped with work and haven't been keeping up with my duties as auctioneer. The people who bid successfully on items in the last auction should all have received their fanzines (or stamps, or whatever) long before now, but in fact I've only gotten them into the mail just the other day. So I apologize to each of those patient people. Can't blame it on the Christmas rush. Can't blame it on the post office. Can only blame it on the procrastinatory administrator.

Production notes

For those who care about such things, this fanzine has been produced in Aldus PageMaker (early issues in version 3.02 Color Extension; more recent issues in version 4.0), on an Apple Macintosh Plus, using Adobe's Stone Serif and Stone Sans typefaces. Usually I write the original articles in Microsoft Word 4.0 (also on the Mac) and import them into PageMaker; sometimes, these days, I write them in PageMaker's Story Editor. I print the finished pages on a laser printer (I've used several: a LaserWriter II NTX, a LaserWriter Plus, and a PS Jet+), then xerox them. Paul Novitski has been generously letting me xerox most of these issues for free on his copier.

Money

The fund is in pretty healthy shape, but of course the expenses of traveling keep going up. Most of the expenses of Art's trip (the air fare to Australia and back, and travel within Australia and New Zealand) will come out of the North American part of the fund, so obviously it will be depleted after the trip. Which just means that the fund is in constant need of more donations, and is very appreciative of all the generous donations it receives. ("Aren't you, Fund?" "Arf!")

This also means, I suppose, that I should get off my duff and write my own trip report, since certain fannish bodies have the lovely habit of giving large chunks of money to a fan fund whenever a trip report is completed and published. Gettin' onto that right away, yup.

The following fine people have donated more than their fair share to DUFF since the last issue. (I'm not counting donations of \$5 or less that came in with ballots, though I certainly appreciate each and every one of you who sent more than the two-dollar minimum. And I'm sure this list will turn out to be incomplete.)

Steven Berry & Shelley D. Berry, DAW Books, Donald Franson, Peter Larsen, Hope Leibowitz, Rich and Linda McAllister, Andrew Porter, Erwin Strauss, Bruce Townley, W. Paul Valcour, T.K.F. Weisskopf, Elsie Wollheim, and Ben Yalow. Thanks also to Paul Novitski and Tami Vining for logistical support.

Previous balance	\$1,558.54
Income	+973.50
Total balance in U.S. fund	\$2,532.04

Mail auction in progress

These are the bids received so far in the current mail auction. If you want to top any of these bids, this is your last chance. Send your bids (no cash) to Art Widner by May 15, 1991. The highest bid received for each item gets it; in case of a tie, the first bid *received* wins. (The first bid listed here is the current leading bid.)

Holier Than Thou 17. Elizabeth Osborne, \$5.

Instant Gratification 2. Elizabeth Osborne, \$5; T.K.F. Weisskopf, \$2.

Mainstream 4. Spike Parsons, \$7.

Mainstream 8. T.K.F. Weisskopf, \$4.

Metaphysical Review 3. Cathy Doyle, \$7; Janice Murray, \$5.

Neo-Fan's Guide. T.K.F. Weisskopf, \$3; Janice Murray, \$2.50.

Rataplan 28. Janice Murray, \$5; Richard Brandt, \$4.

Tiger Tea 2. Richard Brandt, \$5; T.K.F. Weisskopf, \$5.

To Whom It May Concern. Cathy Doyle, \$6.

Tynecon II - The Mexican. Janice Murray, \$5; Richard Brandt, \$5; T.K.F. Weisskopf, \$5.

Waldo 8. Richard Brandt, \$4; T.K.F. Weisskopf, \$4.

Whistlestar 2. Richard Brandt, \$3.

Below is the full list of the items in this auction.

More fanzines by the pound

The mighty air-conditioned steel-and-glass files of DUFF contain quite a lot of donated fanzines, so rather than letting them all wait for an appropriate auction, we're selling fanzines by the pound.

For a two-pound random assortment of fanzines, send \$5.00 to DUFF. (Send your money to Art, since he's the new administrator.) The fanzines may be recent or they may be old: we make no guarantees, except that at least *some* of the fanzines in each bunch will be interesting. (Interest, in this case, is in the eye of the administrator.) But this is a good way to get a cross-section of fanzines, and maybe to find a few that you didn't know about but would enjoy.

Make your checks payable to Art Widner, *not* to DUFF.

Title	Editor	Date	Description	Min. bid
Holier Than Thou 17	Marty & Robbie Cantor	September 1983	Skel, Boyd Raeburn, Marc Ortlieb, Jean Weber. Fanzine reviews by Mike Glycer, & mock-future fanzine reviews by him & Don D'Ammassa. Alternate history by Stu Shiffman. Long letter-column	\$3.00
Instant Gratification 2	Victor Gonzalez & Jerry Kaufman	January 1985	Short, snappy fanzine, with Victor on Ted White, fwa, & other topics, Jerry on films & fanzine reviews. Fannish & topical.	\$2.00
Mainstream 4	Jerry Kaufman & Suzanne Tompkins	October 1979	High-class genzine from when Seattle fandom was in flower. Sandra Miesel (reprinted) on St. Louiscon, Richard Labonté on cat-lovers, Marilyn J. Holt in a switcheroo called "Men and Fiction," me on walking across the Canadian border, plus Terry Garey, Jerry, Suzle, and letters & art.	\$4.00
Mainstream 6	Jerry Kaufman & Suzanne Tompkins	October 1980	R.A. MacAvoy on "Harps and Harping," plus a long interview with Terry Carr. Jon Singer on food, Ginjer Buchanan on the 17 dangers signs of fandom, & loads of letters & art. A particularly good issue.	\$4.00
Mainstream 8	Jerry Kaufman & Suzanne Tompkins	March 1983	Greg Benford musing on, among other things, why fans are so fond of putdowns. Short amusing bits by David Emerson, Loren MacGregor, Terry Garey, Jon Singer, and David Bratman, plus Jerry & Suzle. With, as always, letters & art.	\$4.00

Metaphysical Review 3	Bruce Gillespie	May 1985	Michael J. Tolley & Russell Blackford (separately) on George Turner's <i>In the Heart or in the Head</i> (his memoirs, in & out of SF). Lucy Sussex on Lem. The usual brilliant mix of Bruce's musings & autobiography with his readers' intelligent letters. Good stuff.	\$4.00
Neo-Fan's Guide to Science-Fiction Fandom	Marty Cantor & Mike Glycer	September 1984	Based on Bob Tucker's classic, but this sixth edition was done by and for LACon II. Full of definitions & explanations. Illustrated by Brad Foster.	\$2.50
Rataplan 28	Leigh Edmonds	April 1984	Lively fannish genzine, at a time when there hardly were any in Australia. Mixes fandom, SF, and ideas in talented ways. Leanne Frahm, Damien Broderick, Christine Ashby, Leigh himself. George Turner on the art of criticism. A fanzine I always awaited eagerly.	\$4.00
Tiger Tea 2	Linda Pickersgill	April 1985	Linda's tales of life in the Fan Family and other good writing. Geoff Ryman's account of what it was like to stage <i>The Transmigration of Timothy Archer</i> . Fannish gossip by Jenny Kiesel, and Lianne Norman on American cons.	\$5.00
To Whom It May Concern & 6.5 Thanksgiving Issue	Dave Bridges	November & December 1986	Dave brings his unjaundiced eye and his fluid style of writing to bear on America, particularly Texas, where he had just moved. Two personalzines.	\$3.00
Tynecon II - The Mexican!	Rob Hansen	May 1984	Program book of the now-legendary first Mexican. Geoff Ryman on staging Phil Dick's <i>Transmigration of Timothy Archer</i> . Chris Priest on the SF field's hardening arteries. Anne Warren's "Being Different." Chris Evans, Jim Linwood, shorter bits by many writers. 64 close-packed pages.	\$5.00
Vootie	Ken Fletcher, et al.	1978-1982	Eighteen mailings (two of them incomplete) of the funny-animal apa, an apa of cartoonists that flourished in the late '70s & early '80s. Mostly art, usually cartoons of some sort, much of it excellent and funny. Ken Fletcher, Brad Foster, Jeanne Gomoll, Teddy Harvia, Denis Kitchen, Artie Romero, Marc Schirmeister, Stu Shiffman, Reed Waller, Dennis Wolf, many others. Mailings no. 12, 14-19, 20 & 21 (incomplete), 23-26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36. Includes one of the original stories of "Omaha the Cat Dancer."	\$25.00
Waldo 8	Eric Bentcliffe	Winter 1984/85	Fifties-style fanzine from the eighties, with all-star line-up: Mal Ashworth, Eric Mayer, Vinæ Clarke, Hazel Ashworth, Arthur Thomson. Liberally illustrated, on stencil, by ATom.	\$4.00
Whistlestar 2	Lenny Bailes	January 1984	Tom Weber on New York, Lucy Huntzinger reviewing fanzines. Flights of fantasy & personal history by Lenny.	\$3.00