

FAN NEWS LETTER NINETY - FIVE

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WORKSHOP '79: A writers workshop will be held in Sydney in January 1979.
It will be a two week event run more or less along the lines of the two previous and highly successful workshops, both of which were held in Melbourne. The two "writers in residence" (or whatever you call them) will be George Turner and American writer Robert Sheckley. The organiser of the workshop is Petrina Smith, 34 Ivy Street, Chippendale, NSW 2008 and she will be able to answer all enquiries.

Attendance of the workshop is provisional upon acceptance, and this is judged by the standard of a short story (of up to 5000 words) which is sent with ones request to attend. Since workshops are costly affairs to run, acceptance to attend this one also depends upon how much you are willing to spend and that, to some extent, depends on whether the Workshop is able to get a Commonwealth Arts Grant. So if you are rich and the workshop only gets a little grant you stand a fairly good chance of attending - no matter what your writing is like. On the other hand, perhaps there will simply be less people attending in those circumstances.

The closing date for entries is 1st September and successful applicants should be informed by early December.

DUFF: In Australia this fund currently has \$438.09 in the bank. In the US there should be something like \$700 so that the fund is not suffering from a lack of finance. At StrineCon \$103 was raised, \$80 of which came from the auction (some unreal prices were paid for some quite recent fanzines) and there was a sort of art show and a couple of other fund raising ventures.

Keith Curtiss is currently running a postal auction for DUFF. Some of the items in the auction were listed in FNS 94 but the list is now greatly expanded and there are some fine prizes to be had. We were to be printing the two page list with this issue but we have run short on paper and stencils and have to put it off until we have better supplies of both. In the meantime, if you are keen, you can write to Keith at; PO Box J 175, Brickfield Hill, NSW 2000.

So far only seventeen Australians have voted for DUFF, a very poor showing. Ballots were sent out with FNS a couple of issues back, if you approve of fan funds the best way of supporting them is to vote in them, so please do so.

STRINECON: Between fifty and sixty people attended StrineCon over the Australia Day weekend at Minnix College out at Monash University. The programming was low key and often not even that. During the progress of the convention a couple of items just disappeared and others got radically altered. Carey Handfield was the surprise guest in "Joe Phan, this is Your Life" but unlike the previous effort it was not rehearsed and most people who were called up to say things about Carey on the spur of the moment were lost for words.

In many ways the highlight of the convention was the announcement that an "AUSTRALIA IN '83" WorldCon is being launched, based in Sydney and led by Ken Ozzanne. With the Adelaide in '83 bid failing to get up steam this new bid gives us all something to look forward to and that's a bit more than just a lot of hard work.

Due to the fact that the weather was cold and rainy and the airconditioning was in full

operating order the watering services of the Committee for the Feeding of the 5000 was not in great demand as it was last year. All the same the mood of the convention was very sociable and there were usually games of various sorts in progress, cards and Go were quite popular in the annex.

Some attempts were made to popularise filksinging but your reporter missed most of that. There was a showing of old photographs of fans which seemed to be very popular, an ad-hoc masquerade which went well but I forgot to record the winners. The "Magic Pudding Club Awards" were given out at a special ceremony, the awards were given to: John Alderson - For attempting to show women their place; Charles Taylor - For going where no fan has ever gone before - Mal's Country (explanation later); Chris Johnston - For plentiful swelling sexism in art; Andrew Brown - For walking tall among fen; and Roger Weddal - for showing fandom what real ambition is. Some of these awards were a little obscure, a couple of people getting them were not quite sure what they meant.

There may be a similar relaxacon at the same time next year. There was to be a mini-business meeting over this point on the last day of the convention but Valam and I were in desperate need of a rest by that time and didn't make it.

WE MAKE MISTAKES TOO: In FNS 94 we did a couple of wrong things. We suggested that you could pick up a copy of Lee Hardings **THE WEEPING SKY** for \$4.95. The correct price is in fact \$5.95.

Also, on the Terra Australis Awards nomination form we said that you could take up until 27th February to get them in. What we meant to say was 27th January but, as a compromise, the new closing date for nominations is now the 14th of February.

BITS AND PIECES: Fandom is spreading out to take over the country. We reported a couple of issues back that Paul Stokes, an Adelaide fan, has taken up a teaching position in the mid-north of Victoria of Victoria at Kyabrm. More recently Charles Taylor has received an appointment at a school in Hamilton in the Western District (very close to Big Mal), and now Andrew Whitmore has a post at a school in the North West at Swan Hill.

Mervyn Binns would like to borrow photographs of fans and conventions for a display at UNICON. Please contact him at Space Age Books if you can be of any assistance.

After various hassles with the management and a sharp decline in the level of service, Melbourne fandom has stopped going to the Oxford Hotel on wednesday evenings. A restaurant somewhere off Flinders Street has been tried and found wanting but the place will be used once more, an evening at which decisions on where else to try will be made.

Richard Faulder has left the Sydney SF Foundation (also having been transferred to the bush - although we have no exact location). Warren Nicholls is now the SSFF Official Whipping Post and Receiver of Threats and Letters, reachable at; 10 Clifton Avenue, Burwood, NSW 2134. Warren is now editing the SSFF newsletter, **FORERUNNER**, and comments that if you don't know much about how to use ditto machines there is only one way to learn. Apparently it's not too difficult after somebody tells you which end the paper goes in.

Colin Lester, The International SF Yearbook, Pierrot Publishing Ltd., 17 Oakley Road, London, N.1, UK, sent the following card. "Could you please publicise the following in Fanew Sletter: Jean-Pierre Mounon of Villa Magali, Chemin Calabro, F-83160 La Valette, France, is looking for a French speaking sf collector to exchange copies of English language books for his French language duplicates." I don't know if printing that will do any good, but we'll see.

James Styles in Ararat send a note that there is a change of address for the Gamemaster of Midgard (A heroic fantasy game for rulers, wizards, heroes, clerics and the like using the

geography of Europe) - Kevin Flynn, 2/40 Noela Street, Coorparoo, Qld 4151. James also sends a potted history of the game so far and the state of play. He also asks if I'm still allergic to the game. I am... it reminds me of a postal version of D & D. James also comments that he enjoys the Paul Stevens bits we've been printing.

THE STEVENS CONFIDENTIAL FILE

You remember a few weeks back I complained about parties? Well, Harding had a party.

Harding now lives with his head in the clouds, literally. His residence is right up on top of Mt Dandenong with Sherbrooke forest in his front yard. Very impressive in summer but a right bastard in winter. Harding won't agree with me but I know better, I lived in Lilydale (at the foot of the mountain) for many years prior to moving to Melbourne and I know what it's like in winter. Bloody freezing, mate. Look, it's so cold up there that the polar bears wear electric blankets to keep warm. They have these long extension cords... would you believe poles like trams have... would you believe they go south for winter?

Bit it is bloody cold up there. You have to break the ice off the taps to take a wash. Harding is welcome to it, trees, kookaburras and rabid wombats.

Anyway, Harding had this party up there on Monday 2nd January and at some ghod-awful time in the morning, eleven, Merv and Ernie arrived to pick me up and convey me to the Dandenongs. I might add that the previous night I had gone into the city to see FANTASM COMES AGAIN, a bit of soft core porn produced by local film makers and had then gone to see an Italina horror flick that started at an hour before midnight at the Hoyts Cinema Centre and got home at two in the morning and sat up and watched a bit of the late late movie.

We picked up Justin and made for the hills. Traffic was light and we found our way easily though we did get lost up the top of the mountain and had to back track. The harding residence is set back among the trees and there is a hell of a lot of ground around. A few people were there and more kept arriving. I had sworn off the booze for the year following an atrocious mixture of lethal liquid that I had drunk at Mervs on New Years Eve. I got an atrocious hangover even before I got home and decided to swear off booze for 1978. That lasted until the evening of 2nd January but what the hell... life is short enough as it is...

Anyway, I drank nothing but orange juice to everyones surprise. We had lunch soon after I arrived, this consisted of reducing to ashes an innocent piece of meat and then trying to eat the results. I was much smarter than that, I used the frypan that Harding had very thoughtfully supplied. We later had soem fruit salad that had been supplied by a friend of John Foysters, and that was very tasty.

After all the eating we sat around and talked and consumed coffee and some people went walking in Sherbrooke Forest, I think they wanted to mug a Lyrebird or somesuch. Some others amongst us got hold of some timber and a saw and manufactured a cricket bat and went off to play cricket. The timber must have been old or something because after a half hour the bat broke and Binns got out the saw and hacked up another piece of timber. I wonder what Harding is going to say when he finds the floor of his bathroom is missing?

In view of all this strenuous activity I sat down and tried to pretend I was not there, but up came Mark Lawrence and Stephen Solomon - "You," they told me, "are our umpire... or else!" I was their umpire. I'm as cowardly as the next person. There were lots of people playing cricket. Peter Kemp and his daughter of about eight (she was a mean batsperson), Merv Binns,

Leigh Edmonds, Valma and others. Mark Lawrence is a decided menace at bowling. He is rather similar to a demented Thompson in delivery and we all prayed to the lard with thanks that we weren't using a real cricket ball. Stumps was a large tree and Leigh crouched behind it trying to do Rodney Marsh imitations. The limbs and leaves on the tree came down very low so he had to crouch to see what was happening - and he was unable to stand properly for days after.

At one stage of the proceedings Bruce Gillespie wandered up and stood watching whereupon someone let him have it in the breadbasket. Bruce left hurriedly, but he came back several hours later and got several more balls about the anatomy. No one could convince him that we really hadn't done it on purpose. Bruce is happy with his persecution complex, it goes so well with his other hang-ups.

Ernie Binns made some good wickets with a slow bowling style and I even took up the bat and made a few boundaries before being bowled. I won't talk about my bowling, needless to say that a Kookaburra fell out of a tree laughing.

Don Ashby and Marian arrived from Blarigowrie in a mini with a shot gearbox and after Don borrowed a hammer and bashed the gearbox for half an hour he declared his intention to drive back there again. Everybody contributed to a collection for the wreath.

Later we drove home in the gathering dusk and I read Leigh Edmonds RATAPLAN from cover to cover, giggling nastily every so often. RATAPLAN is a good fanzine to read at days end. My compliments to the chef.

I must say I did enjoy the day out and the cricket and the people. A good way to start the new year.

CHANGES OF ADDRESSES: Roger Weddal and Mark Lawrence are now living at 222 Nicholson Street, Abbotsford, Roger will be using this new address for his mail, Mark would still prefer mail at his old address. Their telephone number is 419 5239. The house which Roger and Mark are sharing is right next door to Don Ashby and he lives right next to a pub. One can forecast that this area of Melbourne is going to become popular with fandom one way and another.

A new address for Catherine Circosta (fresh back from the US of A) is; 42 Pinniaer Street, Broadford, Victoria 3658

UNICON IV: If you are thinking of advertising in the UNICON Souvenir Booklet you will need to be quick and moderately rich. The UNICON committee have handed the whole lot over to Space Age who will be doing the production and, if they are up to their usual standard, a fine job. However the advertising deadline is 20th February and a full page ad will cost \$50 at the professional rate and \$30 at the fan rate. Even though the handbook looks like being a lavish production with articles, artwork, fiction and so on I somehow feel that you won't be seeing an ad from U-Boat in it, producing fanzines for a hobby is already quite expensive enough.

One point I noticed in the publicity sheet sent out by Space Age is the fact that they say 500 people are expected to attend the convention. Since AUSSIECON had only 600 attending members this figure seems highly unlikely. It seems even more unlikely that there will be 500 members when the membership was still just under 200 at StrineCon.

FANZINES: DATA 7.2, 8, 10.1 & 10.2, edited by Sue Clarke, 6 Bellevue Road, Faulconbridge, NSW 2776 for ASTREX/available to members of the club/12pp, 26pp, 4pp & 13pp. ASTREX is a Star Trek fan club largely Sydney based. Therefore nobody would be surprised to find that the majority of the contents of these newsletters is dedicated both to Star Trek and to the activities of the club. If you are interested in such things you will probably find DATA a useful thing to have.

BEYOND ANTARES 4 & 5/6, also available from ASTREX which can be reached through Sue Clarke/47pp & 54pp. This more like a

Star Trek oriented genzine. There are some articles of a general nature on Star Trek but the form of fan writing which appears to be far more popular is fiction. Most of this is not too well written and a lot of it is fairly uninteresting from any reading point of view but I guess that it does show what sorts of things most fans would have liked to have seen in the episodes that were made and perhaps also it is the only way that a lot of fans have of keeping the series alive.

Still, if you like Star Trek you could find all this quite interesting.

ZERINZA 4 & 5/6, edited by Tony Howe, 7 Rosedale Road, Gordon 2072, NSW/\$2 for 4 issues/14pp & 33pp. This is a DR WHO fan fanzine and, mainly because I enjoy Dr Who more than Star Trek I found these two issues to be much more interesting. There are lots of pictures and reviews, an interview and an episode by episode review of "The Mind Robbers" and "The Invasion". There is some news, a report of a Dr Who convention and a crossword puzzle as well, most interesting was the little note hidden away somewhere that the ABC are buying new episodes again. Something new to look forward to.

FORERUNNER, January 1978, edited by Warren Nicholls, 10 Clifton Avenue, Burwood, NSW 2134 for the Sydney SF Foundation/available to members/monthly/4pp. The newsletter of the SSFF and since Warren is new to the job this first issue of his is quite an eye strain to read. Nevertheless there is a page of general comments about the club and some events around Sydney (a visit from an American fan and the Galaxy Art Show) and then some reviews. Let's hope that Warren's duplicating technique improves so that this can return quickly to being a quite readable and interesting little fanzine.

OVERSEAS FANZINES: DOT 2, Kevin Smith, 26 Hawks Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, KT1 3EG, UK/available to people who remind the editor what their address is, memory can be aided by an application of "the usual"/12pp. I'm sure that this fanzine would make a lot more sense if I were a British fan, it took me the first couple of pages to even be sure that we were reading about British fandom and the people in it. Once I had more or less come to believe this I learned some interesting things and made some interesting deductions. People who are thinking about going to SEACON next year might think about giving Kevin a reason to remember their addresses.

MOTA 23, edited by Terry Hughes, 4739 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia 22205, USA/available for the usual/20pp. This is a fine fannish fanzine in the old (more or less old) tradition. It's even printed on twilltone which makes it genuine but the contents are articles by Jeff Schalles and Colleen Brown and letters. After a few issues of fanzines like this you just run out of nice things to say about them. Send Terry something of the usual and see what you get back.

MUNICH ROUND UP 144, edited by Waldemar Kummig, Herzogspitalstrasse 5, D-8000, Munchen 2, Germany/68pp. My German is not very good and so the only parts of this fanzine which I could read with any fluency were the pages of English Language summary. I can pick up the occasional word of German text and it's just enough to make me want to be able to read the rest.

ARENA 6, edited by Geoff Rippington, 15 Queens Avenue, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8AY, UK (Australian Agent: Marc Ortlieb, 70 Hamblynn Road, Elizabeth Downs, SA 5162)/available for \$1 for 1 issue or \$3 for 3 issues/36pp. This is a folded foolscap offset effort which deals mainly in serious sf. There is an interview with Robert Sheckley, a look at Sheckley's writing, an article on juvenile sf and letters. The editorial is about STAR WARS even though the film hadn't been seen in Britain at the time the issue was published. This is a pretty good issue if you like that sort of thing.

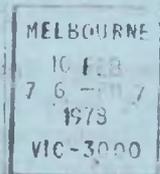
MOSS ON THE NORTH SIDE, Eli Cohen, 2236 Allison Road, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1T6, CANADA/4pp. Eli says that half

the reason for this personalzine is because he hasn't got out a copy of his genzine yet - a very good excuse. This is also a very enjoyable little fanzine to read since Eli is a pleasant and entertaining person. He tells how it was that he came to move from Saskatchewan, about trying to get a job, about the kittens, sexist bias in the English language and that's quite a lot to fit on a mere four pages.

PHIZ 3, Bruce Townley, 2323 Sibley Street, Alexandria, VA 22311, USA/the usual, perhaps?/8pp. This is an apazine which Bruce also sends to "people who think right". The reproduction is shocking ditto but that is something which has never worried its editor much and you can, afterall, still read the words. There are short sections on such delights as collecting things such as bottle tops, going to drive-in films, crabs and other amazing things. It has long been my opinion that Bruce Townley isn't your ordinary average type fan and this fanzine is the product of just such a mind.

CLOSING COMMENTS: Next issue looks like being even larger. One of these days I'm going to get caught up, one of these days...

PRINTED MATTER



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