

F A N E W S L E T T E R N I N E T Y - S I X

Edited and produced by Leigh Edmonds, PO Box 103, Brunswick, Victoria 3056.
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IF YOU THINK THIS IS LATE YOU SHOULD SEE...: The date written above is the date on which this issue should have been published. In reality today is 27/2/78 and this issue will not be in the mail until 28/2/78. That is a mere day before the publication date of issue 97 which will be, as a consequence, a day or two late. People who are interested in the editorial private life will be pleased to know that only about thirty things have conspired to bring this issue out late, none of these things was fatal and FNS will continue on.

But if you think this is late you should see UNICON IV. To say that the publicity put about by conventions over the past couple of years has been to a new low standard is praising them fairly highly. Naturally anything after AUSSIECON is going to be a let down but the people who put on the 1976 National Convention did atleast produce three presentable progress reports well laid out with pretty headings and the like. After that was the Adelaide convention which produced some fairly unreadable paper at odd moments and now UNICON IV have taken that standard even lower.

Well, what actually annoys me, and a lot of other fans, is the fact that this convention is importing two high-power names from overseas and running a big slap-up convention which is not only going to impress a lot of people if it comes off well, it is going to have a lot to do with the success of future conventions in Australia if it comes off badly. And to judge by the standard of their publicity to date the convention is not too well organised... And a badly organised convention committee at this stage does not promise much for the Easter Weekend.

The only real way to judge a convention before it has happened is by the paper it sends you. So far we have had from the convention thirteen pieces of paper of which the most substantial was their progress report posted out some time in early January, it is two pieces of A4 paper folded and stapled in the middle as well as a couple of other loose sheets.

It is one of those other pieces of paper which has brought on this bout of editorial. The nominating forms for the 1978 Ditmars were not distributed until the beginning of January, which is not too unusual since one has to nominate works which appeared up until the last day of December. I distributed this form with FNS 94 on 18/1/78 and the closing date for nominations which was printed very plainly on the form was February 1st. In addition it says on the form that UNICON PR 3 will be posted on February 8th and infers that the list of nominated works will be sent with that PR. So far we have not seen either the PR or had any word as to the fate of the Ditmar nominations. This state of affairs is, to put it plainly, bad. It is even less encouraging than some of the other things that UNICON has so far done.

(I have heard the rumor that the reason for the lateness of the PR and the voting form for the Ditmars is because in two different places contradictory deadline dates were printed and a compromise date was then chosen. But if people are going to do such things they might think about letting people outside their general circle in on the secret.)

Just before the previous National convention last August I found myself dedicating some space in FNS to the way that convention committee was organising its publicity and now I find myself doing it again. I hope that people don't think I want to make a habit out of this. It is just unfortunate that, with my name still mud in Adelaide, it will now also be mud at the Melbourne Uni.

GENERAL NOTES: This going to be a "quick 'n' dirty" issue (it's already turned out to be dirtier than I had anticipated). The reason for this because I have promised a couple of people that their pieces of paper will be in the mail yesterday and I did want to get that first page written before the UNICON people went and spoiled it by sending me their PR. I've enough news on-hand to fill half a dozen pages and it's going to take another couple of night to set the lot on stencil. So, it should be in the mail by next Friday. PS. I'm now an uncle... far out!

THE STEVENS CONFIDENTIAL FILE

Hands up all those of you who read the July 1977 issue of FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION. Did you read the introduction by Harlan Ellison called "You don't know me and I don't know you"? I recommend that everyone read it. Harlan lays it all on the line. Bares his soul. And proceeds to lambast everyone. Fans in particular. As I read the article I thought, "What a shitty little bastard Harlan Ellison must be." And then as I read further I remembered talking to Bill Rotsler and Bill's comments about Harlan, his obvious love and respect for the man. I finished the article and went to Robert Silverberg's profile on him and I think that I now have a different view on Harlan Ellison. I still don't like him. I now feel sorry for him and perhaps I understand his writing a little better than I did before. He is a self-destructive personality who has the misfortune to attract to himself the wrong sort of person with which to form a personal relationship. If this is bad then worse is to come for Harlan Ellison also seems to attract only tow sorts of comments about his writing; there is either a worshipful reaction with the reader taking his words as holy writ and reacting accordingly, or else the reader hates what he sees before him and reacts accordingly. Just like our recent Royal Commission into Human Relations; people didn't bother to read it, they simply saw a few of the recommendations and exploded in unreasoning rage.

Harlan Ellison is reacting to us, the fans, in the same way that people have reacted to him. He doesn't want to see anything except putdowns, the fugghead fans who insult him in elevators at 3.00 am, the fawners who fall at his feet and worship a person who is not real, the great sf writers who do live in poverty because their great writing talent is NOT recognised in the market place and rewarded. Harlan Ellison screams blue bloody murder at the SFWA because they are writing for unappreciative fans who give their money to the money grubbing publishers and not to the deserving writer. He complains because the writers aren't commercial enough to demand payment for speaking at conventions, conventions that make huge profits for a few fan clubs. He blames them for not demanding that the genre name of "SCIENCE FICTION" be taken off sf. He then resigns from the SFWA and leaves, never to darken their door again. Soon he won't have a friend left, except for a bunch of writers who love and respect him and his achievements. Harlan is his own worst enemy. Harlan is also one more thing in this SF world of ours. He is our conscience. We need him.

I wasn't going to write about Harlan Ellison. God, everybody writes about him. What started me off was a letter in the current F & SF about teh Ellison issue, and that connected with a book we just got in called VALENTINES AND VITRIOL by critic Rex Reed. I hate Rex Reed. He is the sort of film critic that gives film critics a bad name. But just read a chapter or two of his book and you begin to understand him. His life is unreal. He lists his diary of parties and events for a week, and what he does in a week, we could never do in a lifetime, and all this frantic living is carried on amongst what is called the New York Smart Set. No wonder life is unreal. No wonder his judgements are unreal. His life is unreal. He is unreal. I wish I was!

PARTING SHOTZ: (How could I have forgotten to mention that) Space Age Books was held up just before closing on Friday 17th. About \$500 was taken from the till, Paul and Justin had a gun waved at them.

DUFF AUCTION 1978 - Part One

The following are offered for auction. Funds raised go to the Down Under Fan Fund. This year one of the following will be Australia's DUFF representative at the WorldCon in Phoenix, IGUANACON: Shayne McCormack, Paul Stevens or Keith Taylor. Please VOTE!

AUCTION RULES

All bids in writing unless the bidder is known personally to the auctioneers. The closing date for Part One of the Auction is March 11th. Winners will be notified by mail and items will be delivered wherever by hand, if possible at UNICON in Melbourne. In the event of two or more high bids within small margins of each other, a second round will be held. Winners are advised that payment is required within two weeks of notification, otherwise the item goes at auctioneer's discretion to the next highest bidder.

A Progress Report will be issued in mid-February, showing high bids. More items for auction will appear in Part Two, to be issued (hopefully) shortly after Part One.

Please address all bids, howls of rage, etc, to: DUFF AUCTION, PO Box J175, BRICKFIELD HILL, NSW 2000.

Further donations of items for Part Two are actively sought, particularly collector's items or out-of-print books.

Thanks.

Keith Curtiss & Eric Lindsay.

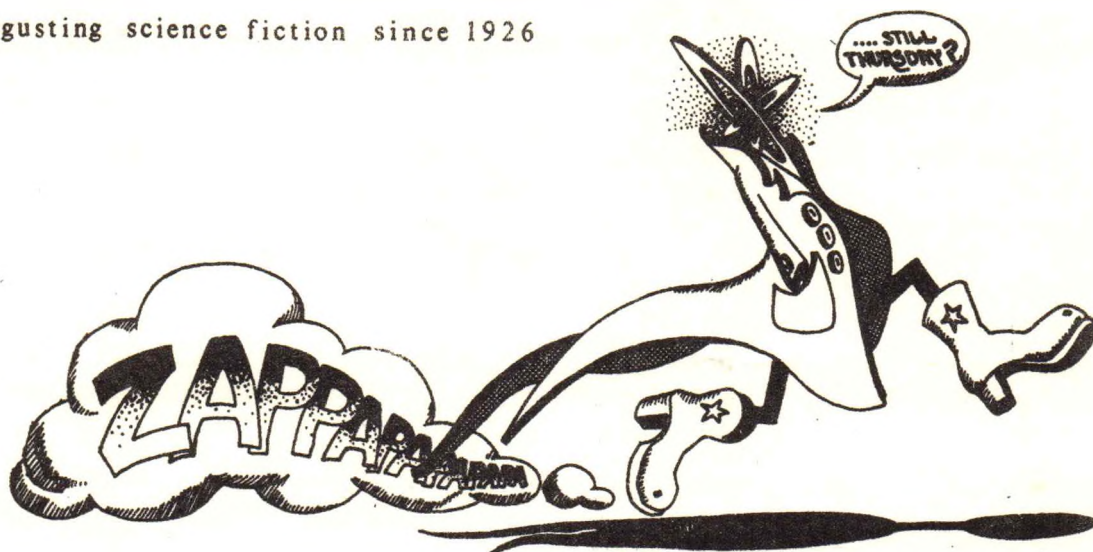
NO:	AUTHOR/TITLE etc.	RESERVE
1.	Poul ANDERSON: <i>HOMEBREW: NESFA 1976</i> . Signed and numbered copy 403 of 500. Miscellanea, illustrated by Rick Sternback	\$10.00
2.	Ben BOVA: <i>VIEWPOINT: NESFA 1977</i> . Signed, copy no. 186 of 800. ANALOG editorials, pluss the brilliant "Space 1999: marked down from 2001". Illustrated by John Schoenherr	\$10.00
3.	Anne McCAFFERY: <i>A TIME WHEN: NESFA 1975</i> . Signed, numbered 734 of 800. The first part of her long-awaited "White Dragon", now announced for mid-year. Includes Wendy Glasser's "Dragondex" - Who's who of weyrs. Exquisite illustrations by Bonnie Dalzell.	\$8.00
4.	Philip Jose FARMER: <i>THE CELESTIAL BLUEPRINT & other stories</i> coupled with <i>CACHE FROM OUTER SPACE: Ace Double F-165, 1962</i> . Good to v.g. copy of this scarce Farmer title.	\$2.00
5.	L. Sprague DECAMP: <i>DIVIDE AND RULE: Lancer 1964</i> . Very good copy of this classic "Unknown" fantasy. Also contains <i>THE STOLEN DOORMOUSE</i> .	\$2.00
6.	L. Sprague DECAMP: <i>SOLOMON'S STONE</i> : This novel is contained in a bound volume of miscellaneous magazines including three BRE "Unkonwn Worlds". <i>SOLOMON'S STONE</i> is scarce in any edition, and your auctioneer seeks the Avalon Hc edition. Good exchange or price offered.	\$2.50
7.	Robert A. HEINLEIN: <i>THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH: Shasta 1950</i> First Edition. Tape on boards o/w good copy in dj of this important volume.	\$10.00
8.	Robert E. HOWARD: <i>RED SHADOWS: Donald M. Grant 1971</i> . This is a reprint of the 1968 first edition. Slightly marked dj otherwise very dood copy. Illustrated by Jeff Jones.	\$25.00
9.	Cardboard replica of R2-D2. Own your own two-foot high Artoo-Detoo. This was unofficially donated to DUFF via garbage bin. Due to politics Galaxy was unable to give this to DUFF directly. However... (Donated by Galaxy Bookshop)	No Reserve
10.	STAR WARS Poster. Full-colour approx 27½" x 40", or 70cm x 100cm for metric freaks. Theatrical poster, NOT Hildebrandt's	

- version. (Donated by Paul Stevens) No Reserve
11. L. Sprague DECAMP & Fletcher PRATT: *WALL OF SERPENTS*: Xerox, of rare Avalon edition of this almost legendary book. Please Note: This is not a bound book, but loose sheets. The sale of this item is subject to De Camp's approval - to be confirmed in the Progress Report, mid-February. (Donated by Keith Curtiss, Xerox courtesy John Straede) No Reserve
 12. Patricia WRIGHTSON: *THE NARGUN AND THE STARS*: Hutchinson reprint, 1974. Inscribed by the author specially to DUFF. Fine copy except for dealer's stamp on front paste-down. (Donated Keith Curtiss & Galaxy Bookshop). \$5.00
 13. William ROTSLER: *SUPERSTUD*: The inimitable WR looks at male erotic film stars in this 1975 paperback. This copy, albeit used (who said heavily, out there!), is suitably inscribed to DUFF viz. "This is to certify that the owner of this book is a duly designated technical advisor on 'Deep Throat'" - with a Rotslertoon as well, who can resist? \$2.00 Hi Bid
 14. Peter LORY" The 'DRACULA' Series. The first nine volumes of this horror series in mixed US/UK editions. Most good-very good copies. (Donated by Diane Southgate) \$2.00
 15. Eric Frank RUSSELL: *SENTINELS FROM SPACE*: Museum Press 1954. Fine copy in slightly marked dj of this scarce EFR title (Donated by Ron Graham) \$3.00 Hi Bid
 16. L. Ron HUBBARD: *SLAVES OF SLEEP*: Shasta 1948 First Edition. Unfortunately this is a worn copy without Bok jacket. Hinges weak, titling worn, corners bumped, the whole shaken not stirred. Nevertheless, this is a copy of a scarce and important fantasy that Ted Carnell, whose bookplate is on the front paste-down, thought so highly of that he had two copies - one for the shelf and one for reading. As may be surmised, this is not the shelf copy. Interesting associational item. (Donated by Ron Graham) \$5.00 Hi Bid
 17. Bob TUCKER: Le ZOMBIE's. A collection of early issues of Tucker's legendary fanzine. These are mostly single issues, stapled together then the spine covered with binding tape. Issues no. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 13 and 14 (Donated by Robin Johnson) \$12.00
 18. Harry WARNER Jr.: *SPACEWAYS* Vol. 4 No. 1, December 1941. Contains articles by Art Widner, Larry Farsaci and Leslie Croutch, poetry by Walt Liebscher \$3.00
 19. Harry WARNER Jr.: *SPACEWAYS* Vol. 4 No. 2, January 1942. Widner, Croutch, Tucker etc... (18 & 19 donated by Robin Johnson) \$3.00
 20. James V. TAURASI: *FANTASY TIMES* November 1941 issue. Old news, but good. \$2.00

(to be continued)

THE NOVA MOB

disgusting science fiction since 1926



No. Tuesday

NOTICE OF MEETING : MARCH MEETING OF THE NOVA MOB

Subject RUSSELL HOBAN and his works

Speaker Bruce Gillespie

Host George Turner
87 Westbury St
East St. Kilda

Date 7.30 pm
Tuesday, March 7, 1978

(To receive further notices of meetings, please send stamped, self-addressed envelopes to

The Nova Mob
GPO Box 4039
Melbourne
Victoria 3001.)