

THYME ONE

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WELCOME to the first issue of what Andrew and I hope will be a regular newszine of Australian fandom. We say hope as we have some doubts as to whether Australian fandom can keep a newszine editor(s) interested enough to want to continue bringing out the fanzine. By trying out this fanzine Andrew and I will be able to try out first-hand just how concrete these doubts are. And we rather hope there's nothing in them. We think we have got what it takes to produce an informative, chatty, regular newszine, and we rather suspect we'll enjoy producing it. We hope Aussie fandom will give us the crutch we will need.

A few things you might like to know in regard to this fanzine: we expect to bring out an issue every 2-4 weeks. Whether an issue appears a fortnight or a month after the previous issue has to do with our separate schedules, especially in regard to the tech. and college Andrew and I attend. This issue is going out to about 150 people; 100 copies will remain in Australia, with the rest going to overseas people we think will be interested. To those people this issue will be going via airmail in order to tell you of our existence; as for further issues going airmail, all we can say at the moment is It Depends.

This issue, by way of explanation, is being produced entirely by me, Irwin, as Andrew mumbled some words. Most of those words have been lost, but a rescue party has been able to recover the phrases "4000 words" and "by this Wednesday". He's even too busy to verify any of the stories this issue, some of which arise out of conversations had with John Foyster, Joseph Nicholas, Greg Hills and Lee Harding, all of which were held at a time when this fanzine was but a very vague idea. I hope this explains any mistakes in this issue. - Irwin Hirsh

ADVENTION 81 this years National Convention went over rather well. Registration topped 300, which probably makes it the 3rd largest con yet held in Australia. My sources felt that the programming was very heavy going - Lee Harding gave me a rundown of the programming on the last day and it sounded like all they had to do was add in a few fannish items, GoH speeches, a masquarade and a number of films and they'd have more than enough for a 3 day con. According to my sources the only anybody whose anybody types who weren't there were Bangsund, Gillespie and Hirsh. I don't know what the other two did that weekend but I enjoyed myself while at the 30th Melbourne Film Festival. Unfortunately among the weekends duds was Robert Altman's Health, with his Quintet going close.

Both of them are unlikely to be released in Australia, so for that reason I'm glad to have seen them. But even if they were released out here I doubt I'd see them again. As a Robert Altman fan that really makes me weep. Still, we'll always have Nashville.

THE 1982 NATIONAL Convention is to be held at the Melbourne Town House over the Easter Weekend. I believe there is an official committee address but I don't know what it is; Justin Ackroyd is the chairman or somesuch of the committee and he can be contacted C/- Space Age Books, 305 Swanstown St, Melbourne, VIC 3000. The GoH is Jack Vance, with Eric Lindsay as FanGoH. I can't resist asking the question of what is it with this continual practise of the Australian National Convention to be honouring overseas big name pros while our own professional writers miss out. Certainly the cost factor involved in bringing such people out here is enormous and in very few cases would the name of someone drag in enough people off the street to return a profit for the convention, which makes me wonder why convention committees even put themselves up for such budgeting problems and stomach ulcers. (Then again, why not go all the way and bring out Xavier Hollander.)

THE SITE FOR the 1983 National Convention is tentatively listed as Sydney. Not much is known about the con, I presume because the group which won the bid is the group which was actually bidding for the 1982 NatCon. One aspect that is known is that should the Australia in 83 worldcon bid be successful, Sydney will give up the 1983 NatCon as the two groups have a large overlap in people of whom most energy would go into the worldcon to the detriment of the NatCon.

I REALLY SHOULD point out that some of my above terminology is incorrect, as at the business session of the Australian Science Fiction Society . Amendments were made such that it is now the Australasian SFS, which allows for bids to be made from New Zealand. An amendment was made to standardise the design of the Ditmar. A proposal was put forward to make the Queen's Birthday weekend the permanent date for the convention. I'm glad it was rejected as it is something that could restrict future con committees from putting on their best possible convention. Us students just ask to be considered when putting a date to future NatCons, especially as students make up a large percentage of convention attendees and prospective attendees.

DUFFEE JOYCE SCRIVNER and accompaniment Denny Lien were in Australia from (let's see if I got this right) the Tuesday before to the Friday or Saturday after Adventon. While in Melbourne (their first stop) they stayed at the home of Christine and Derrick Ashby and the only large scale event that I know they attended was a party held at Merv Binns' place on the Wednesday, where Denny showed the obvious signs of jet lag. From Melbourne they went on to Adventon, then on to Canberra where they stayed with Jean Weber. From there it was a sentimental trip to

Cooma, as Joyce had spent a number of her younger years there when her father worked on the Snowy River Project. Eric Lindsay then played host to them in his, no doubt, silverfish ridden home at Faulconbridge. Then it was no-stops- East back to Minneapolis. At least that is the way Joyce explained it to me at that Wednesday night party. At that stage they had no plans to stay in Sydney as they didn't know anyone there (which says a lot for the amount of fanzine activity generating out of Sydney), but I guess they lined up something while at Advention. Somehow that sounds like an awfully short time to spend covering those places so I guess I did get those dates wrong.

GUFFER JOSEPH NICHOLAS spent something like two-and-a-half weeks out here, staying at the homes of John Foyster and Jenny Bryce, Vera Lonergan, Eric Lindsay and someone in Adeliade (I assume Marc Ortlieb). While in Melbourne I don't think there were any parties held for him, but he did get to meet people at lunches and dinners and the like. As with Joyce and Denny, Joseph's stay in Melbourne didn't take in a weekend, which must've made it hard for a number of people to meet our guests.

TAFFman STU SHIFFMAN was at Yorcon, the British Eastercon, and doubtless had a good time. That's more or less all I can say, not having heard anything else (I knew I had forgotten to ask Joseph about something).

THE FUTURE OF the fan funds is more or less assured if the number of names being tossed around as probable candidates is any guide. So far the people I've heard as possibles for the 1982 GUFF trip to the British Eastercon or the 1982 DUFF trip to the worldcon, Chicon IV are John Bangsund, Greg Hills, Daryl Mannell, John McPharlin and Leigh Edmonds. For the next UK to USA TAFF trip I've heard mentions of Alan Dorey and D. West, and for the USA to UK trip the names being tossed around are Avedon Carol, Taral, Grant Canfield and Gary Farber.

While we wait for the official announcements, here are the addresses of the various administrators:

DUFF: Keith Curtis, PO Box J175, Brickfield Hill, NSW 2000
Joyce Scrivner, 2528 15th Ave Sth, Minneapolis, MN 55404, USA

GUFF: John Foyster, 21 Shakespeare Grove, St. Kilda, VIC 3182
Joseph Nicholas, Rm 9, 94 St. George's Square, Pimlico,
London SW1, U.K.

TAFF: Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Ave, Reading, Berks RG2 7PW, UK
Stu Shiffman, 19 Broadway Terrace, #1-D, New York, NY 10040, USA

IRWIN HIRSH has acquired a reputation of a ~~W~~aster Party Thrower, and on the basis of just one party. A random cross-section of reactions to his Looking-for-an-excuse-for-a-party Party (in shorthand: 21st Birthday Party): "Made the party of medical students we went to afterwards seem even worse than it probably was.", "Definitely one of the parties of the year!", "The smoked salmon was too much.", "Highly enjoyable.", "Gosh!". Irwin being

the typical first-time party thrower was too nervous to really enjoy himself for at least half the party, but is now - a month later - considering talking his parents into letting him have the house for another party later this year. Among the presents he received were (this section for Christine Ashby) a Flann O'Brien novel, an Enchanted Duplicator, numerous film books, ~~six chess sets~~ and three sets of ugly bookends (sorry about that - just a mix-up with Irwin's Bar-Mitzvah presents). In the aftermath Irwin was told off by his mother for not telling Andrew Brown to sit down (Andrew spent a large measure of his time surrounded by a room a mere 2 cm shorter than him). Irwin was about to defend himself by pointing out that Andrew is big enough to look after himself, until he realised what he was saying. In a post-aftermath observation, Irwin has been seen going out with one of the party's gate-crashers.

HORRIFIED at the thought of his Chicon IV GoH speech being heard by more people than lived in the town he grew up, Bert Chandler has been taking a course in public speaking. Norcon were the first to get the benefit, and according to John Foyster it has paid off.

(Norcon, by the way, was the 3rd New Zealand con and was held in Auckland over the last weekend in May. The next N.Z. con will be held in Dunedin sometime in 1982.)

PERHAPS the most interesting fanzine to arrive at Irwin Hirsh's place over the last few months were the two copies of Andy Porter's STARSHIP in trade for Irwin's SIKANDER. In the editorial of one of the issues Andy announces that should STARSHIP be nominated for the fanzine Hugo he will accept nomination. This, of course, brings up the dregs of the question "What is a fanzine?". I don't know, but I do know that the willingness of Andy Porter to trade his 60 page expensively produced mag. for a 22 page mimeod mag. is very much in the fannish mode of things. The problem still remains that to be recognised by the Hugos you effectively have to be willing to work at the level of the Porters, Browns and Geises, ie circulation in the thousands, with a large amount of time and money spent on each issue. That is as opposed to working at a level that maybe you prefer. Then again I don't know why I'm complaining, being anti award systems.

FORERUNNERS new editor is Shayne McCormack (PO Box A491, Sydney South, NSW 2000), and at a time that I thought no-one from Sydney, apart from Jack Herman, was interested in on-paper contact with the outside world, Shayne has decided to continue FR as an Australia wide newszine.

DEVO'S TOUR of Australia has been postponed, much to the annoyance of one of the editors. Fortunately, The Cure's tour is still on. Meanwhile the records at the head Irwin's most played list are U2's BOY and The Birthday Party's PRAYERS ON FIRE. The Birthday Party would have to be the best group in Australia. Except that at the moment they are in England.