

THYME THIRTEEN

THYME is edited and published by Irwin Hirsh, 279 Domain Rd, South Yarra, Vic. 3141 (phone: (03) 26-1966) and Andrew Brown, 660 Swanston St, Carlton, Vic. 3053, Australia (ph# (03) 347-9842). Available for Trade (i-for-1; 2-for-1 if we both get a copy of your fanzine), news or subscription: 9 for \$3.00 (within Australia or overseas seamail) or 6 for \$4.00 (overseas airmail). British agent: Joseph Nicholas, Room 9, 94 St. George's Square, Pimlico, London SW1Y 3QY, UK. Nth American agents: Teresa and Patrick Nielsen Hayden, 4714 36th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105, USA. An 'X' after your name indicates that this is your last issue unless you Do Something. Registered by Australia Post - publication no. VBH2625. 5 April 1982

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THYME OUT Oh well. We had hoped to get this issue out a week or two earlier, but, as they say, Things Happened. Hopefully, though, you will be getting this before we meet you at Tschaicon.

Next issue will be some sort of special issue, what with the Tschaicon round-up and the publication of Thyme Poll results. Watch for it.

- Irwin Hirsh

AUSTIN III 1985 Terry Floyd, a friend from Austin, Texas asks us to mention that "a local organization here in Austin is making serious (and by some observers, insane) overtures toward throwing together a NASFiC bid for 1985 should Melbourne take the Worldcon that year. Serious to the point of contracting a newly-opened Hyatt Regency Hotel for the purpose. Still struggling to take the bid seriously themselves, the Austin Science Fiction and Fantasy Society is seeking people to talk them into going through with it, but has so far gotten little encouragement except for an excited Chamber of Commerce. In any event, they hope to present a detailed and satisfactory presentation to promote the bid at the business meeting of Constellation in '83, the day after Melbourne will have won the '85 Site Selection." Terry doesn't give an address for the Society but I guess letters of encouragement can be sent c/- Terry at 3101 Cedar St, #106, Austin, TX 78705, USA.

NEBULA AWARDS The following are the nominations for the Nebula Awards for the work of 1981, to be presented at the Nebula Banquet in Berkeley, California on 24 April 1982:

Novel: Radix - A.A. Attanasio

The Vampire Tapestry - Suzy McKee Charnas

Little, Big - John Crowley

Riddley Walker - Russell Hoban

The Many-Colored Land - Julian May

The Claw of the Conciliator - Gene Wolfe

Novels: The Saturn Game - Poul Anderson (Analog, Feb)

Swarmer, Skimmer - Greg Benford (SFD, Oct/Nov)

Amnesia - Jack Dann (Berkley Showcase 3)

In the Western Tradition - Phyllis Eisenstein (F&SF, March)

Trus Names - Vernor Vinge (Binary Stars 5)

The Winter Beach - Kate Wilhelm (Listen, Listen)

Novelette: The Quickening - Michael Bishop (Universe 11)
Sea Changeling - Mildred Downey Broxon (IASFM, Aug)
The Thermals of August - Ed Bryant (F&SF, May)
The Fire When It Comes - Parke Godwin (F&SF, May)
Mummer Kiss - Michael Swanwick (Universe 11)
Lirios: A Tale of the Quintana Roo - James Tiptree Jr
(IASFM, Sept)

Short Story: Going Under - Jack Dann (Omni, Sept)
Disciples - Gardner Dozois (Penthouse, Nov)
The Quiet - George Fiorance-Guthridge (F&SF, July)
Johnny Mnemonic - William Gibson (Omni, May)
Venice Drowned - Kim Stanley Robinson (Universe 11)
Zeke - Timothy R. Sullivan (Twilight Zone, Oct)
The Bone Flute - Lisa Tuttle (F&SF, May)
The Pusher - John Varley (F&SF, Oct)
(source: ANSIBLE)

FANARCHY IS THE WAY From the Federal Executive Office of the Fanarchist
Party of Australia (PO Box 433, Civic Square, ACT 2603)
we have recieved the following press release:

"Ortlieb To Face Possible Fanarchist Censure."

"Today a highly placed member of the Fanarchist Party of Australia revealed that Adelaide fringe-fan, Mr Marc Ortlieb, could face censure over remarks which, it is alleged, he made in an overseas fanzine.

"An article in the latest issue of DMQ, an influential Canadian newszine, contained the following statement", the spokesman said;

"In the meantime, he ((Ortlieb)) too admits that most Aussie zines are boring. Especially the West Australian zines."

The Party spokesman said that it had been most unfortunate that Mr. Ortlieb had allowed himself to be led into making such a statement. "The first duty of all Australian fans, even those travelling under foreign passports, is to ensure that Australians overseas present a united and co-ordinated front." The spokesman continued, "it is only in this way thtt the integrity and good name of Australian fandom can be maintained overseas."

"We will be writing to Mr. Ortlieb, asking him to explain his alleged statement, If he cannot deny the charge the Party will give careful consideration to discussing his case before a special committee of the Party Congress.

"Censure by the Party is not a matter to be taken lightly", the Party spokesman warned. "It could mean the end of Mr. Ortlieb's career, and therefore it is a step which the Party would not take lightly. However, if it is proved that he has made derogatory comments about Australian fanzines the Party may be forced to act." The Party spokesman concluded by saying that "the fact that there may be some truth to his alleged comments has nothing to do with the case."

NOVA MOB The next meeting of Melbourne's sf discussion group will be on Wednesday the 7th of April. (hopefully you will be receiving this in time). Majorie Dedman will be speaking on The Role of Women in Science Fiction. The meeting starts at 8 pm at the Foyster/Bryce residence, 21 Shakespeare Grove, St.Kilda. You are invited to the other participants in a pre-meeting dinner at The Danube in Acland St, at 6.00. (Bruce Gillespie)

FANZINE REVIEWS In this section I (Irwin) get to talk about some of the fanzines that have arrived here in the last few months. While some of these fanzines have been here for quite a while, they are all the most recent issue of that particular fanzine and are probably still available. (Please note that when referring to a fanzine being available for The Usual, we mean they are available for trade, contribution and/or a letter-of-comment.)

GALAH PERFORMANCE is an account of the trip UK fan John Berry and his wife Diane made to Australia in March 1981, and a very enjoyable account it is, too. John and Diane's trip was not a fan orientated one - their son and family live out here - and so there aren't the copious mentions of fans, fan parties, bookshop expeditions, etc that are usually associated with fan trip reports, and so in this sense GP is different and therefore of interest. I mean, there is no reason why we should look down on write-ups of the Moomba parade or a trip through Kelly Country when they are enjoyable, is there? GP is different from THE GOON GOES WEST, John's most famous piece of writing which was an account of the fan sponsored trip he made to the US to attend the 1959 Worldcon. TGGW ran to over 150 pages and everything was written up; GP runs to only 22 pages and John has been selective in what he mentions. This doesn't mean that as a general rule John likes the latter approach over the former, but is more a reflection of the amount of energy John puts into fandom these days, compared to the late 50's, when he was the most prolific writer in fandom. GP was published in a limited, numbered edition (of 150) by Taral at 1812-415 Willowdale Ave, Willowdale, Ontario M2W 5B4, CANADA, and can be bought for \$2 plus postage (\$1 to Aust) with all proceeds to be given to TAPF. It is illustrated by ATom and TARAL. John's address is 119 Garsden Ave, Hatfield, Herts AL10 8LH, UK.

THE PETER PRINCIPLE #1, December 1981, from Peter Toluzzi, 12 Georgina St, Newtown, NSW 2042. Available for the usual. 26 pgs. A Toluzzi genzine has, for a long time, been just around the corner and, as Peter notes, running for DUFF is what got him off his arse and into publishing. Overall the quality of the fanzine is good and promises good things for the future. The layout is quite bothersome - there is no reason to have so many "continued on page ..."s - and there is something about the double column format that doesn't quite look right. The contents are wide ranging, with Jack Herman looking at some recent sf novels and Peter looking at how sf has viewed The Arts, while on the humour side Marc Ortlieb claims that the Beatles are Secret Masters of Fandom and Gregor Whiley predicts the trends in sf publishing in an article that isn't going to be too far off the mark and makes me wonder why we bother with sf. The one article I didn't like was a quite uncharacteristic piece of writing from Jean Weber titled "How To Handle a Woman (or, a Guide to Fannish

Etiquette when dealing with Feminist fans)". I have no objection to, and even encourage, making the points that Jean presents, but the way and tone in which Jean presents them is one which I find very condescending in its assumptions about what the reader previously knows or understands with regard to the subject. In his editorial comment after the article, Peter manages to cover much more ground and be much more constructive in an area a quarter the size of Jean's article. And the strange thing is that this approach of Peter's is the type I've come to expect from Jean.

DOT #11, November 1981, from Keven Smith, 10 Cleves Court, St Mark's Hill, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 4PS, ENGLAND. Available for the Usual (I guess). 1 pg. I like this fanzine. I like the way Kevin's mind works: In this fanzine Kevin explains how he can't write on any of the topics he wanted to: someone else is doing better fanzine reviews than him, he promised to do a conreport of a recent con for another fanzine (and besides, "There can't have been above three great conreps in history."), and being a TAFF candidate Kevin feels he isn't in a position to argue for or against running a race this year. He ends up saying "No, nothing to write about in fandom at all. End of fanzine!" - expressing a feeling I've noticed that writing about fandom is what more and more fanzines are doing nowadays. Then, displaying a marvellous sense of proportion, there is a 10 page fiction supplement riding with the fanzine, in which Kevin presents two pieces of faan fiction written in the style of Damon Rubyons work. My only regret is that I don't know more about British fandom, which meant that/must have missed out on some of the references in these stories. But as it is, Kevin writes/beautiful pastiche of the Runyon style, and this fiction supplement is a fine read.

PONG #25, 29, 30,31 and 32. From Dan Steffan, 1010 N.Tuckahow St., Falls Church, VA 22046, USA and Ted Whote, 1014 N.Tuckahoe St., Falls Church, VA 22046, USA. Available for LoCs, fanzines in trade (2 copies), a bunch of 20¢ stamps or \$5 a single issue. 34, 10, 10, 10, 10 pages. This very frequent (pubbed every three weeks) fanzine is both a welcome addition to my letterbox and a cause of great annoyance. Well written, well edited, beautifully layed-out and illustrated, always interesting and lively reading, but still I come away with a feeling of "is that all there is". This is one of those fanzines where writing about fandom is the featured topic, and while it is a topic that interests me I like to see other topics and attitudes featured to provide a balance. In #30 Dan and Ted note this but two issues later they haven't gotten out of the groove. Heres hoping they do get out of it before the effect is too numbing.

COA: James Styles, Room 9, 157 Hotham St, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
Terry Frost, 163 Hutton St, Thornbury Victoria 3071

RIP: Phil K. Dick died on the 2nd of March, aged 53, of complications following two strokes. Both your editors were/are great fans of his books and regret his passing, especially at a time when his work was starting to get more recognition from both the public and the media, as evidence by the current production of the film Bladerunner, based on Dick's book Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?. (Ansible, Pong, Time)