

THYME FOURTEEN

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RIP Henry Gonzales, from Adelaide, died on the evening of the 12th of April when his car overturned near Bordertown on the South Australian/Victorian border. He had been driving back from Tschaicon when the accident occurred. Also with Henry in the car was Paul Stokes, who spent some time in hospital after the crash, with suspected spinal injuries. He was diagnosed later as suffering only from shock, and has since been released.

DITMAR RESULTS The results for the 1982 Australian Science Fiction Achievement Awards, as announced at Tschaicon, are as follows:

BEST LONG AUSTRALASIAN SF OR FANTASY

THE MAN WHO LOVED MORLOCKS - David Lake

BEST SHORT AUSTRALASIAN SF OR FANTASY

WHERE SILENCE RULES - Keith Taylor

BEST INTERNATIONAL SF OR FANTASY

THE AFFIRMATION - Chris Priest

BEST AUSTRALASIAN FANZINE

Q36 - Marc Ortlieb

BEST AUSTRALASIAN FAN WRITER

Marc Ortlieb

BEST AUSTRALASIAN SF OR FANTASY ARTIST

Marilyn Pride

THE WILLIAM ATHELING AWARD

"Sing A Song Of Daniel" - Bruce Gillespie

Other awards given at the convention included a committee award to Marc Ortlieb for Best Toastmastering (which consisted of a Ditmar base lent to the awards sub-committee by Marc, topped by a minute piece of black stone bearing a representation of the Southern Cross in liquid paper, the stone fixed to the base with EluTack), Paul Stevens' Golden Caterpillar

Awards (one of which was awarded to Jean Weber for furthering relations between the sexes through her article, "How to Handle a Woman"), and the Teddy Bear Award, awarded to Justin Ackroyd by Mandy Herriot and Andrew Brown at the convention closing ceremony.

FROM ONE of the guests of honour at Tschaicon comes the following convention report:

"Easter wouldn't be Easter without a convention, and the most likely place for a convention at Easter is Melbourne. I was more than normally apprehensive about this convention, and not only because con chairman Justin Ackroyd had ordained that I bore numerous people with a speech. The Melbourne Townhouse was, after all, the site of Unicon IV, and that was well remembered for a certain drunken night manager who tried his best to close parties. Nor was I certain that Justin knew how much work he was letting himself in for.

After an hour or so delay, Ansett, the official airline for the convention, dropped me at the correct airport, where Bob Toth (a fan I had not met before, and whom I was not expecting) collected me and drove me to the hotel. I can name a number of larger cons that didn't have themselves that organised the night before opening. Unfortunately there was method in this and I found myself adding name cards to Ansett holders, and stuffing the Tschaicon program book, a special issue of Van Ekin's SCIENCE FICTION, into bags until about 2 a.m. Well, the refreshments and company were good, and all I had been planning otherwise was an evening boring John Newman with questions about microcomputer networks. For some strange reason some people, like David Evans, found the Inner Circle OP rum I was pushing a bit much for their taste.

I don't know about the rest of the con, but I was up before 8 (a.m., you clown), and had breakfast with a small group of fans including Terry Frost and Womble at what seemed the only open shop in Swanston St. Despite that it served enough bacon with eggs to cover a large plate. Despite plans otherwise, I never did get back.

The rest of Friday passed in cheerful conversation, and trying to hear Jack Vance's GOH speech, which was a mite less hearable than I could manage. I don't know if it was my ears or the public address system.

Dinner was memorable, being my first visit to the official banquet site, the Hon Moon restaurant, where Peter Toluzzi had arranged a table with John Newman, Carol Cranwell, Jean Weber, Sally Beasley, Womble, Marc Ortlieb, and two other fans whose names I have lost. Marc topped an enormous and enjoyable meal, lasting from 6.30 until 10, with a very funny speech. Despite the lack of amplifier, I had no trouble hearing Marc.

I had, by this time, a fine little collection of room numbers, and spent much of the evening partying. At one stage Joy Window and Tanya Forlarni were sitting alone in a room when a cloud of people swept in and provided an instant party. Most parties were open, and there were more than I could attend. Terry Dowling played guitar at one late party on Sunday, with Sally Beasley providing poetry readings

(and without a book from which to read - I was much impressed). Peter Toluzzi also organized a party, Peter McKay provided a cheese and port tasting at a most convenient time, and there were also food hunting expeditions in Lygon Street, which is a fine place to get food.

As usual, I didn't see all the program, but I was very pleased to see Leanne Frahm's guest of honour speech, and was impressed by the masquerade, where the costumes are so far ahead of anything that I could manage that I have never tried dressing up (since I can make a new suit look like it belongs to a derelict, perhaps that is just as well). I did think Paul Stevens was slowing down a little bit with his Golden Caterpillar awards, but pleased (if that is the word) to see Jean Weber get hers.

My speech was about as disastrous as I thought it would be - I'd like to thank Justin for running LOGAN'S RUN at the same time, as it cut down the numbers watching me get tongue tied. On the other hand, Marc Ortlieb seemed to handle his toastmastering at the Ditmars with exceeding ease ...even when he received two and a half Ditmars himself.

The Monday was fairly quiet, at least for me. Having left the last hall party at 5.30 may have had its effect. That party, lead by con survivors like Keith Curtis, was tolerated in amazing fashion by the night manager, who even stepped over the recumbent bodies while collecting breakfast remains.

I believe the Sunday evening/Monday morning was also the night of the Chromatic Dragon, mixed by Andrew Brown, which greatly satisfied all participants (ask Andrew for the recipe). It would go down equally well at the next convention Justin organises."

- Eric Lindsay

.. C' ..

GET TO KNOW YOUR DRAGON A Chromatic Dragon is a fiendish recipe for a mixed drink whose appearance can only be described as alarming. The taller of your two editors was responsible for introducing a version of this concoction to Wycon, last December, where it was a great success among its consumers and a great shock to the barmaid. Basically, it consists of any 8 of your favourite liqueurs and spirits; however, Dave Hodson has kindly sent me the recipe used at the Adelaide University bar, where it originated. You probably won't go far wrong with this:

- 1 oz. Cherry Brandy (or Advokaat)
- 1 oz. Creme de Menthe
- 1 oz. Baitz Island Creme (or Bailey's Irish Cream)
- 1 oz. Southern Comfort
- 1 oz. Vodka
- 1 oz. Blue Curacao
- 1 oz. Tia Maria
- 1 oz. Creme de Cacao

Stir in a tall glass with no ice and drink through a straw.

However, it doesn't hurt to alter the ingredients according to whim or expedience.

MORE FROM TSCHAICON As we did not attend the business session, and as the tape of the proceedings has not yet been transcribed, I know little of the content. The major resolution passed, I've been reliably informed, is the substitution of the word "Australian" for the word "Australasian" in all its occurrences in the constitution. Also mentioned was a proposal that the Ditmar awards be constructed in such a way as to be biodegradable. Whether this was serious or not remains to be seen.

More definitely, the results of the 1982 DUFF race were announced by Keith Curtis at the Ditmar ceremony. Pithily, he quoth: "Have you got your passport ready, Peter?", whereupon Mr. Toluzzi was observed to leap up and down with great abandon and merriment. Hear hear, sez we.

HIS RACE IS RUN But there are others to run. In what we keen eyed observers of the fan furd scene might call the pre-nomination phase, we find Jerry Kaufman of Seattle, publisher of MAINSTREAM (well, co-publisher, actually - I don't want Suzle to jump up and down on me next time we meet), a strong contender for the 1983 DUFF race. And in the other corner, we find Andrew Brown, co-publisher of THYME, standing for GUFF 1983 (Just as soon as he can find another British nominator, that is). We assure the reading public that no suspicions of editorial bias need be entertained in respect to either of these nominations. Well, not very much, anyway.

THE BEST FROM THE WEST Ace reporter and triffic person, Sally Beasley, reports from Perth:

"The second fannish wedding in Perth (as distinct from the second wedding of fans, which wasn't fannish and took place last December) was between Bevan Casey, artist with no visible means of support, and Anne McKinnon, redhead and ex-Melbournite. This took place on February 14th, in the garden of Bevan's parents' house. The ceremony was very brief and simple, and didn't involve making any promises they were unlikely to keep. It was a social fannish occasion, finished off by a game of Dune at the Spotted Gum Way household of Julia and Roy Ferguson, Bob Ogden and Joanna Masters.

There should be two following weddings in the next 12 months: Katrina Hennessy and Darryl Swansbro (I've found out his surname now!), and Barbara de la Henty and Geoff Jagoe. At present, I believe the first will happen in November, and the second in January 1983. Ian Nicholls, is, I believe, making book on which fans will be next to the altar.

Meanwhile Julia Ferguson has been elected president of WASEA, and has plans to make it all REALLY INTERESTING and talk about Science Fiction and triffic things like that. Since Wafen are an anarchic lot, she may have trouble.

COA department in WA: Sally Beasley, Zebbee Johnstone, and Dave Luckett have all moved to 21 Gold St., South Fremantle, 6162. Damian Brennan, Bevan Casey, Anne McKinnon and Mark Hennessy have moved to 27 Brookman St., Perth 6000. Julia and Roy Ferguson, Bob Ogden and Joanna Masters have moved to 4 Spotted Gum Way, Will ton, 6155. Tony Peacey has moved to 21 Coode St., Mt. Lawley, 6050.

All these moves took place in February - obviously, in the autumn a young fan's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of moving."

ERRATA The section in **THYME** 10/11 entitled "1981: The Year in Review", omitted two conventions, Swancon 6, which I think took place in January, and Nucon, which took place in May. Somehow I'm inclined to think that the "if I didn't see it happen, it couldn't have happened" excuse is going to carry much favour.

DEAD ATSEA (DEAD BEE-GEES) Jack Herman informs us that, following the second non-appearance of a Unicon bid for 1982, the Australian Tertiary Science Fiction Association must now be considered dead (pining for the fjords, like). The \$15 in the ATSEA account will be donated to Melbourne in '85.

SOMETHING FOR YOUR PORK CHOPS Jack also informs us that the Sydney based amateur press association, **APPLESAUCE**, has a few vacancies at the moment. Minimum activity requirement is 2 pages every 3 months (or 4 pages every 6 months for overseas members), the apa is collated monthly, and that membership costs \$6 per year for Australian members, and \$10 (surface mail) or \$40 (airmail) for overseas members. Jack is acting **FOE (Flaming Officious Editor)** until July, when Vera Lonergan takes over.

COA SECTION Jack Herman, Box 272, Wentworth Building, University of Sydney, N.S.W. 2006
Tim Dawson, 115 Raglan St., Preston, Vic. 3072
James Styles, Room 9, 157 Hotham St., East Melbourne, Vic. 3002
Phil Ware/Mandy Herriot, Flat 11, 175 Newry St., Carlton North, Vic. 3053 (well, some people might not know)

See also Sally Beasley's article for Western Australian COA's.

THE LITTLE RATEAN THAT COULD James Styles reports that on the 23rd of April, he passed his Victorian Railways Locomotive Driver's Examination, on the second attempt. Evaluation is approximately 80% of the Final Locomotive Driver's Exam.

James also notifies us that he hopes to complete **CRUX 5** during his holidays in June. I can hardly wait to see more from the Grandma Noses of Australian fan publishing.

CONVENTIONS **SYNCON 82**, August 13 - 15, at the New Crest Hotel, Sydney. Syncon have released their first progress report, which emphasises a rather different style of programming than most conventions. The emphasis is on a number of workshops featuring the convention's Special Guests: these include an SF & Special Effects Photography Workshop, an SF & F Modeling, Craftmanship, and Artisanship Workshop, a Home Computers Workshop, and of course our old friend, the Writer's Workshop. We are, however, assured that a selection of the normal sort of programming will take place for those not interested in participating in these workshops, including a new Rob McGough epic **WATCH THIS SPACE**, in the immortal tradition of the Dune Show. Memberships: \$10 till May 21,

\$15 thereafter - please make cheques payable to SYNCON. Address for correspondence is SYNCON 82, C/O Peter Toluzzi, 12 Georgina St., Newtown, NSW 2042 (phone: 02 519 7588).

RECENT FANZINES: POSITRON 8, January 1982. G. Rawlings, P.O. Box 145, Mt. Druitt, NSW 2770, Australia. For the usual or for 40¢ an issue if you really must. Irregular, photocopied.

It was the last issue of this fanzine that was the victim of some rather snide comments in THYME 4. Mr. Rawlings seems to have rather taken these to heart: in this issue, he declares "...a certain faned who shall remain nameless..." (said) that, in essence, I was not as good an Editor after 6 months at it, as compared to a certain other faned who has been at the typer for 10 years...". Well, I certainly did say something like that, but I wasn't implying that it was necessary to publish for 10 years before one became any good at it. Looking back at Eric Lindsay contributions in early issues of ANZAPA, they reveal just as much of Eric's personality as his current publications do. A little less accomplished technically, but then as now, his concern is to present aspects of himself in what he published. This remains noticeably absent from POSITRON. While some of the material that Gary publishes is marginally interesting, on the whole it is haphazardly thrown together, creating an impression of someone who does not care much for what the reader thinks. I'd like to find out more about the type of person Gary Rawlings is; but this is not the way I want to do it.

WAHR-FULL 8, March 1982. Jack R. Herman, PO Box 272, Wentworth Building, University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia. For the usual only - no subscriptions. Quarterly, duplicated.

Jack presents another solid issue of his fanzine. Perhaps the most interesting material in this issue is Jack's editorial section, in which he discusses the politics of Worldcon site selection and award nomination criteria. He points out the apparent misnomer inherent in a "World" science fiction convention that spends 75% of the time in the U.S.A., and discusses the implications of proposed changes to the constitution of the World Science Fiction Society that would create four zones for Worldcon bidding: East, Central, West, and Foreign, to rotate in turn, thus keeping those damn foreigners in place and relegating them to a tolerated minority in the eyes of American fandom. Strong stuff - and not the kind of thing that we can afford to be ignorant of in the face of the Melbourne in '85 bid.

Jack is perhaps on shakier ground when he reports on a Star Trek convention he attended recently. He feels that the talent and enthusiasm among the media oriented fan is being lost, and that the "mainstream" (my words, not his) is losing out. Well, this is fair enough - but I get slightly irked when he says "Cons have to make provision in their programme for the media interests...". If, as Jack points out, the focus of the media fans is on the content of what they watch, and our interest is more the critical discussion of the Sf and fantasy genres, then any attempt by an Sf oriented convention to incorporate media content is going to either flounder hopelessly on the shoals of cross-purposes or fall victim to cries of tokenism from both sides. A greater cross-fertilisation would be beneficial - but it's not going to be that easy.