

AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS

Issue # 13

50¢

The HUGO AWARD Winners

OUR MAN AT 'SEACON', BRIGHTON, ENGLAND REPORTS THE FOLLOWING WINNERS AND RUNNERS UP FOR THE ANNUAL WORLD SCIENCE FICTION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS - THE HUGOS



VONDA N. MC INTYRE

NOVEL

- 1) DREAMSNAKE - VONDA MCINTYRE
- 2) The White Dragon - Anne McCaffrey
- 3) The Faded Sun: Kesrith - C.J. Cherryh

NOVELLA

- 1) THE PERSISTENCE OF VISION - VARLEY
- 2) Fireship - Joan Vinge
- 3) The Watched - Christopher Priest

NOVELETTE

- 1) HUNTER'S MOON - POUL ANDERSON
- 2) Mikal's Songbird - Orson S. Card
- 3) The Man Who Had No Idea - Disch

PRO EDITOR

- 1) BEN BOVA
- 2) Ed Ferman
- 3) George Scithers

PRO ARTIST

- 1) VINCENT DIFATE
- 2) Mike Whelan
- 3) Boris Vallejo

FANZINE

- 1) SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW - DICK GEIS
- 2) Maya - Rob Jackson
- 3) No Award.

FAN WRITER

- 1) BOB SHAW
- 2) Richard E. Geis
- 3) No Award

FAN ARTIST

- 1) BILL ROTSLER
- 2) Jim Barker
- 3) Alexis Gilliland

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

- 1) SUPERMAN
- 2) A Hitchhiker's Guide to The Galaxy
- 3) Watership Down.

GANDALF

- 1) URSULA L. LEGUIN
- 2) Roger Zelazny
- 3) Ray Bradbury

GANDALF (NOVEL)

- 1) THE WHITE DRAGON - McCaffrey
- 2) Courts of Chaos - Zelazny
- 3) St. Camber - Katherine Kurtz

CAMPBELL AWARD

- 1) STEPHEN DONALDSON
- 2) James P. Hogan
- 3) Elizabeth Lynn

TWENTY FIVE PLUS AUSTRALIANS AT SEACON.

A group of over 25 Australians mostly from Melbourne, attended SEACON, many at their first overseas convention.

Your editor will be giving his report on the WORLD CONVENTION at Brighton and other travels including the NORTHAMERICAN in Louisville, Kentucky USA in the next issue,

THE DITMAR WINNERS FOR 1979

THE AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PRESENTED AT SYNCON THE NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN SF CONVENTION

Best Australian Fiction... BELOVED SON George Turner.
 Best International Fiction... THE WHITE DRAGON Anne McCaffrey
 Best Australian Fanwriter... Marc Ortlieb
 Best Australian Fanzine... CHUNDER! John Foyster
 William Atheling... "WOMEN AND SF" Susan Wood.

LIT COMP.

- 1st "TIME & FLOWERS" Anthony Peacey
- 2nd "THE WOOD FOR THE TREES" Leanne Frahm
- 3rd "THE RETURN OF IDOMENUS" Simon Brown.

Honourable mentions to Anthony Peacey and Simon Brown.

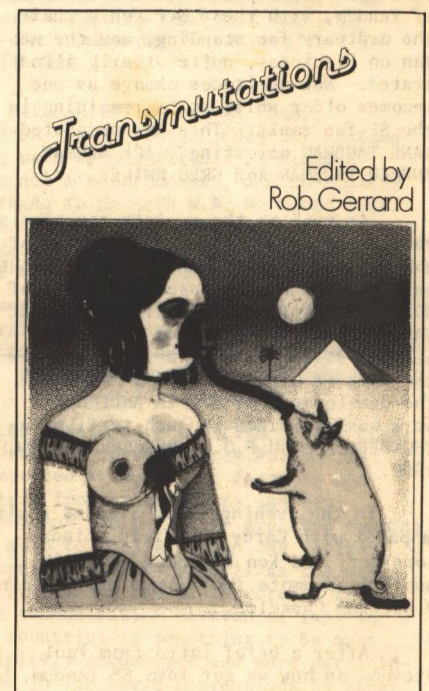
SYNCON '79 a report

During the closing of SYNCON '79, the 18th NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION, the guest of honour GORDON R. DICKSON said that every science fiction convention is different. And I agree. However the exact opposite is also true, because the format of most conventions both in Australia and overseas has stabilised into specific programme items which change of course from con to con, but panels, interviews, fannish events, plans and films are all part of the accepted procedure.

The differences are more subtle, and yet most noticeable because they are what make or break a convention. It is

Continued next page.

NEW COLLECTION PUBLISHED



TRANSMUTATIONS

A new collection of stories edited by ROB GERRAND is due for publication in September, co-published by NORSTRILIA PRESS and OUTBACK PRESS.

The cover features an illustration by RON BROOKS, illustrating the story 'Albert's Bellyfull' by Francis Payne.

quite often hard to pin down why a convention is a success or a failure, but this is not the case with SYNCON '79. Apart from a great professional Guest of Honour, who is a con committee's dream, obviously enjoying the proceedings equally as much as all the attendees, the fan quests KEN FLETCHER and LINDA LOUNSBURY are quite simply the most fannish fans you would wish to meet, while the fan guest from Japan, KOUICHI YAMAMOTO was a delight to everybody. He meant every halting word of it when he said that being at SYNCON was the highlight of his life. A typical Japanese gentleman who stole the heart of everybody at SYNCON.

These guests alone would have made SYNCON '79 a resounding success, even if the programme had been a dead loss, which it certainly was not. Even the PAUL STEVEN'S SHOW was the best he has done for years. But the programme items were not only good, but very well planned. I feel I must add here that I had some reservations that Sydney fandom might crack under the strain of a 'big' convention. An observation that only a cynical old Melbourne fan like me could make, but I must admit that SYNCON '79 was one of the best organised conventions so far held in Australia, and I would be hard pressed apart from perhaps AUSSIECON to find a better one. I mean this with all sincerity.

The programme started after the official opening and introducing and welcome to the guests with a NEO-FAN'S GUIDE TO SCIENCE FICTION FANDOM. An hilarious representation of three stages of fandom, with the B.N.F. on a chair, the ordinary fan standing, and the neo-fan on his knees, quite clearly illustrated. Now attitudes change as one becomes older while still remaining in the SF fan ranks. This was presented by JANE TAUBMAN narrating, JACK HERMAN, ANDREW TAUBMAN and GREG WHILEY.

As much as the purists may complain, fantasy has become an integral part of fandom, and BLAIR RAMAGE, PETER BISMARE, and GREG WHILEY discussed the works of ROBERT E. HOWARD, FRITZ LEIBER and JACK VANCE. This was followed by SPECIAL EFFECTS IN SF MOVIES and in particular the work of GERRY and SYLVIA ANDERSON. The development of SYLVIA ANDERSON'S work was explained in such tv films as THUNDERBIRDS, U.F.O. SUPERCAR and SPACE: 1999.

In the evening, Paul Stevens chaired a panel with Carey Handfield, Linda Lounsbury and Ken Fletcher from USA, Kouichi Yamamoto from Japan and Captain. A. Bertram Chandler.

After a brief intro from Paul Stevens on how we get into SF fandom, he introduced the Japanese fan Guest of Honour Kouichi Yamamoto. Kouichi, through the good auspices of Captain. A. Bertram Chandler (who is a very popular author in Japan and has been a guest of the Japanese fandom and winner of their awards) and the Japanese Australian Society, was invited to SYNCON '79 as a special fan guest.

Kouichi spoke about Japanese fandom and how popular Captain Chandler is in Japan.

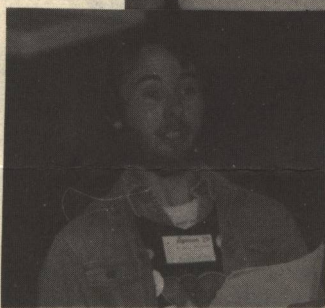
Ken Fletcher and Linda Lounsbury explained a little of the history of Minneapolis fandom, and the rather strange ritual which now occurs at all World conventions of the MINNEAPOLIS IN '73 bidding parties. These came about because Minneapolis fandom decided that the parties were much more fun than a convention, and even though they withdrew their bid for 1973, they still keep the parties going.

More fannish traditions were discussed by the panel including slanshacks and fan operas. That is, groups of fans living in the same house and fan parodies of musical plays.



Paul Stevens, A. Bertram Chandler and Kouichi Yamamoto

Jack Herman



Andrew Taubman

Japanese fandom Kouichi said, that Japanese fandom differed in that most of the fan clubs were directed to a single author. The slang terms of Japanese fandom are in many cases the same as American, which of course we and English fans have adapted. Kouichi received a great response when he said he would now be a BNF in Japan (Big Name Fan for the uninitiated) now after his trip to Australia.

Paul Stevens then donned the guise of Brother Paulus and read a treatise by Leigh Edmonds entitled THE GODS OF FANDOM, including GHU, FOO FOO, ROSCOE etcetera. A load of rubbish of course but this is part of SF fandom which those of the faith must not blaspheme.

Day two started with a preliminary business session in which items to be voted upon in the full business session were clarified. A very good idea which did make the later meeting work quite efficiently. Alternate programming was a feature of this convention and NASA films were screened for instance while the business session was in progress. This was followed by a panel discussion on the work of ANNE McCaffrey and how a series of stories were built into an epic.

In the afternoon, the Guest of Honour GORDON R. DICKSON gave his GOH speech. He spoke about science fiction and the close relationship of fans and authors. The way in which science fiction fits into the present day field of literature, in that it is similar to children's literature because back titles are kept in part or an effort is made to keep all the popular titles available at all times; where in other fields titles go out of print and are forgotten.

After some interesting anecdotes on some of the SF professionals, he went on to say that science fiction is the literature of the 20th century. It needs more from the reader than most other types of fiction. Now it has become very popular and is selling in vast quantities, which means that the authors will be able to devote more time to their writing and hopefully produce better material, because they are being paid better. It has been a hard road from small readership and small payments, with authors having to learn the limitation of SF writing the hard way. Once an author has become involved with SF he may step out of the field, but usually comes back to writing SF.

<p>AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS ISSN 0155-8870 is edited and published by Mervyn R. Binns under the sponsorship of The Australian Science Fiction Foundation.</p> <p>ASFN is registered for posting under Australian post regulations category 'B'. The address for all correspondence is 305/307 Swanston Street, Melbourne, 3000, Victoria, Australia.</p> <p>SUBSCRIPTION: \$6.00 Australian for ten issues. Please make payments to the editor Mervyn R. Binns. Air Mail and overseas rates on request.</p> <p>ADVERTISING: Professional-Full Page \$50.00 Copy ready size 27cm wide x 36cm high Half Page \$30.00 27cm .. x 17cm .. Smaller advertisements must be a minimum of two columns wide-18cm The height may vary-12cm \$10.00 17cm \$15.00 22cm \$20.00 27cm \$25.00 32cm \$30.00 37cm \$35.00 A discount of 10% will apply on advertisements placed on a regular basis. A 50% discount applies to advertisements for conventions or other fan activities. Classified advertisements incur a minimum charge of 50¢ for three lines single column, 15¢ each extra line.</p>	
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LETTER COLUMN

Ian Gordon,
8/103 Cathedral St,
WOOLLOOMOOLOO. 2011.
May 30, 1979.

Dear Merv,

When I was in Melbourne recently I picked up a copy of AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS. I really enjoyed it. I work in the State Library of NSW and checked up to see if we subscribed - we do and I was able to enjoy all the back issues. I would like to make a couple of comments and suggestions.

Why not double your subscription rates for libraries and other institutions, most would pay \$10 for Aust. SF News, (that reminds me you haven't billed the SF of NSW yet). The publication is very useful to libraries due to the information it carries on Aust. publishing, I am going to try to get a review published in the Aust. Library Journal. Whilst I'm on the subject, can I use your publication to make the following plea? Under the various state and national copyright acts the National Library and the local State Library are entitled to receive gratis one copy of everything published in Australia and in the particular state. If publishers send their publications to these libraries they will be included in bibliographies which are widely distributed locally and overseas. This could result in more orders/subscriptions for your publication. This brings me to another point, the State and National Libraries can be used by SF fans for a number of purposes. Wander into these libraries and check their catalogues for SF material. If what you want isn't there, ask if the library will purchase it for you. They won't buy fiction titles (use your local library for that) but they will buy non-fiction works and magazines. The State Library of NSW for instance has a sub to Analog, Mag of Fantasy and SF, The Comics Journal and has on order Locus, Starship, Collectors Dreams, Marvel Comic Indexes and some other things. If someone was to come in and suggest they get Galaxy or Amazing or both, then they might get them to. Also there are many magazines that have back issues available on microfilm (the National Library has 75 Marvel Comic titles on microfilm as well as others). A large library such as a State Library might be persuaded to buy a back run on microfilm. Just remember, libraries are there to serve you so go and hassle them for stuff that you can't afford, even if you can afford all that you want, libraries can act as a good back up.

As part of your campaign for the World Con in '83, why not try for some participation of the National Library and the State Library of NSW? Libraries should be interested in all sides of book production. Also you could probably interest the Library Assoc. of Australia. If these bodies were approached from an angle of the developing field of Aust. SF and authors

etc, they might be willing to give some support. I presume large Aust. publishers such as Angus & Robertson have been approached for support on the grounds of how much money they could make through sales (in A&R's case both as publisher and bookseller, although I think the company has been split up) generated by publicity surrounding the Con.

Can you put me in your list/directory of people interested in SF. Although I don't have much time, I'm willing to help in any way in relation to libraries. Also I'm interested in knowing what's happening. I'm sorry if this letter is a bit rambling but I'm dashing it off in between preparing two newsletters that I edit.

Regards,
Ian Gordon.

Paul Collins/Void Publications
P.O.Box 66, St Kilda, Vic. 3182

Dear Merv

Received a letter from Micheal Hailstone, the editor of the new sf magazine. His rates for subscription are \$1.50 per issues, or \$6.00 for four (years sub) He has typeset the first issue, and it will be published shortly. I've sold a novel to him which he'll serialise -- should take about eight issues to finish it. Be glad if you could publish this info in the next News.

Comments on ALIEN WORLDS have all been good so far-- a unanimous round of applause for Jack Wodham's ONE CLAY FOOT. It's amazing how every reader has chosen that particular story as his her favourite... I mean you would think tastes would vary, wouldn't you?

Paul

Dear Paul

I do not have, or cannot find Michael Hailstone's address so for the moment I will refer any enquiries to you till next issue. It is great that Jack Wodham is doing well again. He wrote some marvelous bits for ANALOG and other mags, but then disappeared for a while.

Merv

Ken Ozanne,

42 Meek's Crescent, Faulconbridge,
N.S.W 2776

Dear Merv,

You are splashing out with the colour work, aren't you?
I received my HUGO ballots just shortly after ASFN, so I didn't really need the info. But I imagine I am in the minority there and that this is a real service for most people. What grabbed me was the publication spread of votes necessary to get things nominated. This kind of information has not been published for years and years. Most interesting. Thank you. I was surprised to hear of your reaction to the Rocky Horror Show. I have not seen it myself (which is not likely to come as a surprise - I appear to be acquiring a reputation for never attending any movies), but I have read many accounts of it and every previous fan account has been good, many of them rave reviews. I'm enjoying the Stevens/Johnson AUSTRALIA in '83 strip no end - in fact I think it is the best thing in ASFC (almost the best

in ASFN as well). Certainly it is what I turn to first. (And that makes twice this week I have said nice things about Paul J. Stevens. I must be mellowing.)

Dear Ken

Thank the SEACON people for the full details on the HUGOS. I am puzzled by ASFC. Was that just a typo?

The red cover was courtesy the advertisers. It will not be a regular thing as I am already losing a mint every issue. Maybe I was not in the mood for ROCKY HORROR SHOW that night, but it quite honestly did not impress me. Paul said that he must be doing something wrong, and that he will watch it in future.

Merv

To ASFN

From Miss C. Trudgeon
Flat 3/#4 Denning St
Petersham, N.S.W 2049

Dear Editor,

I'm interested to hear of readers reactions to the recent A.B.C. science fiction series "Blakes 7". As good S.F. Series on TV are few and far between, I was surprised that nothing had been written on it in TV magazines etc. The story line may not be original, ie; Galactic Federation gone corrupt versus excited hero and crew, but as with most British attempts the script and characterisations are inventive and perceptive with excellent sets.

C. Trudgeon

Dear Ms Trudgeon

We did have a review of 'Blakes 7' in issue # 9 of the News, by Bruce Barnes. I agree it has a lot going for it but it also has a lot of faults. Eventually the great volume of visual sf to hit our screens over the next year, will produce some good material amongst the bad, and hopefully this will apply to both the cinema and TV. (see also Film and TV News.) Ed.

Ron Wilgosh, 104 St. Osyth Road,
Clacton - On-Sea, Essex, CO15 3DP England
is a very keen collector of Michael Moorcock's publications, and absolutely anything to do with M.M. He would like to hear from other M.M. fans and in particular fanzine editors or other fans with M.M. material to sell.

Change of Address:

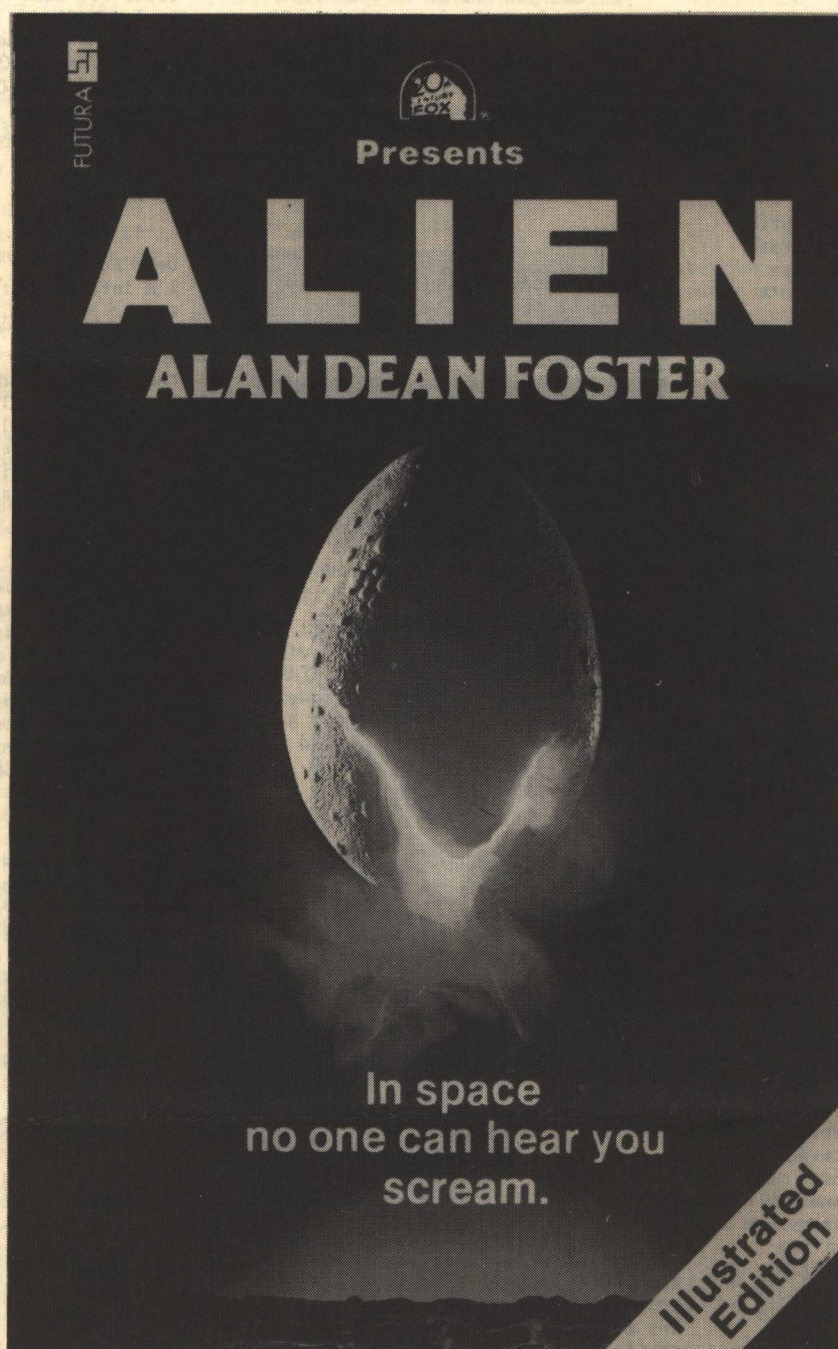
Neville ANGOVE, ex- Sydney Fan, printer
and fanzine publisher; new address is:
P.O. Box 770, Canberra, ACT 2601

WIKTOR BUKATO of the POLISH SF FAN CLUB, P.O.Box 983, 00-950 Warsaw, Poland, is interested in receiving fanzines and letters from other groups and fans throughout the world. We are also sending the NEWS to Russia, Japan, and various European countries as well as the U.S.A. and Britain as may be expected. I feel that communication between sf fans in all countries is something to be most definitely encouraged, and more participation in The World Conventions, by other than the English speaking countries must be developed if the World Con is to live up to its name.

Piergiorgio Nicolazzini,
Via San Rocco 6 bis, 28026 Omegna
(Novara) ITALY, is editing a new column for an Italian SF magazine on world sf. He is interested in obtaining information on publications devoted to sf for mentioning in his column.

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