

AUSTRALIAN



NEWS

Volume 5 Number 6

JULY 1984

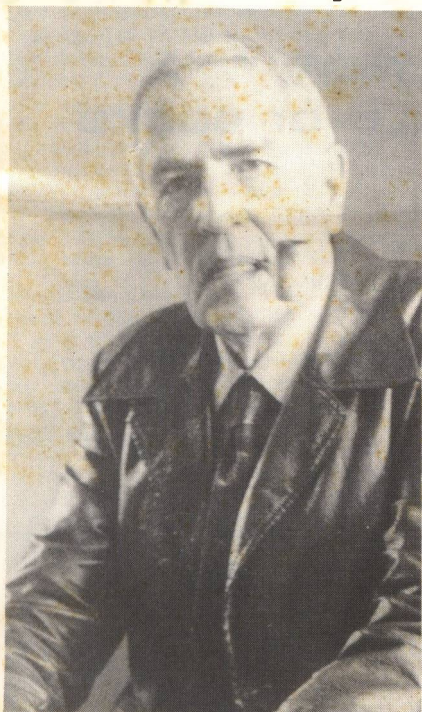
A. Bertram Chandler
Dies suddenly at 72

Photo by Susan Wood

JACK CHANDLER, or BERT as many of his Australian friends knew him, died on June 6th in a Sydney hospital. His wife Susan, found him in his flat in a coma on June 6th. He was taken to hospital, but he never recovered. In accordance with his wishes, a small private cremation ceremony was held on June 8th.

Bert Chandler migrated to Australia from England in the late '50s. He was well known in the sf world as the writer of a number of short sf stories published in Astounding and other magazines, and as the creator of John Grimes and the Rim Worlds. A ships officer himself, retiring in 1975 as Captain, his Rim World stories featured a space navy and his character, John Grimes, was no doubt, his alter ego, as an officer in that navy. A whole series of Rim World novels was published, first by Ace Books and more recently DAW. The last published Rim Worlds novel is the LAST AMAZON, from DAW, while last year, Penguin Books in Australia, published KELLY COUNTRY. An alternative history novel, set in Australia, which is probably his best work.

Captain A. Bertram Chandler will be sorely missed by his many friends and fans in Australia, England, Japan, the USA and all over the world.

George Turner Wins second
Ditmar Award

YESTERDAY'S MEN won George Turner his second AUSTRALIAN SF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD for the BEST NOVEL, at EUREKACON, held at Easter in Melbourne. Turner has won two WILLIAM ATHELING AWARDS for Criticism, and the BEST NOVEL AWARD previously for BELOVED SON. The WILLIAM ATHELING AWARD was not presented this year, because not enough nominations were received. The BEST INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY AWARD was abandoned, due, we believe, to the confusion over what was, or what was not, eligible. An amendment has been made to the Awards constitution, which will prevent this confusion in the future. The winners this year were:

BEST AUSTRALIAN LONG SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY: YESTERDAY'S MEN by George Turner

BEST AUSTRALIAN SHORT SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY: "Above Atlas His Shoulders"
by Andrew Whitmore

BEST AUSTRALIAN FANZINE: Rataplan /Ornithopter edited by Leigh Edmonds

BEST AUSTRALIAN FAN WRITER: Leigh Edmonds

BEST AUSTRALIAN SF OR

BEST AUSTRALIAN SF OR FANTASY ARTIST: Nick Stathopoulos

FANTASY EDITOR:

BEST AUSTRALIAN SF OR FANTASY CARTOONIST: John Packer

Van Ikin

(For a report on EUREKACON and KINKON, and the GOLDEN CATERPILLER AWARDS see inside.)

Norstrilia Press publish a non-fiction book
by George Turner

IN THE HEART OR IN THE HEAD, subtitled "An Essay In Time Travel", by George Turner, was published by Norstrilia Press in July.

The first part of this autobiographical work gives a picture of Turner's growing up and the influences that made him an award-winning mainstream novelist, followed by how he became interested in Science Fiction.

The second part is about his involvement in the science fiction field in Australia, and his view of it.

A third part deals with the future and science fiction's role in examining it.

IN THIS ISSUE:

THE NEBULA AWARD WINNERS;

THE HUGO AWARD NOMINATIONS;

DETAILS ON NEW BOOKS BY

GORDON R. DICKSON, URSULA K.

LE GUIN, HARLAN ELLISON,

JACK CHALKER AND OTHERS;

FILM REVIEWS AND INFORMATION

ON NEW FILMS INCLUDING DUNE AND SPACE ODYSSEY TWO;

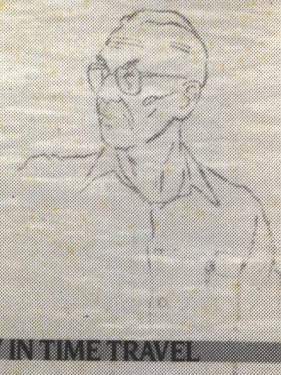
CONVENTION REPORTS AND FUTURE CONVENTION LISTING;

BOOK REVIEWS AND OUR OTHER USUAL FEATURES.

George Turner

IN THE HEART
OR IN THE HEAD

AN ESSAY IN TIME TRAVEL



SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE

SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE is a monthly, attractively typeset newsmagazine covering the entire spectrum of the SF and Fantasy fields. Because it's published in New York, it keeps on top of publishing better than any other news publication. Each issue features top stories of the month, market reports—major market sections appear every 4th issue—bookstore news, letters, complete listings with cover reproductions for SF and Fantasy releases two months before publication, convention listings in every issue, reviews, TV and film news every issue by Kay Anderson, Gordon Larkin's "London Report," classifieds, editorials, convention reports with pictures of professionals, publishing newsnotes, reports on recent sales, and much more. Best of all, SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE is mailed by first class mail (airmail overseas) at rates lower than any other magazine.

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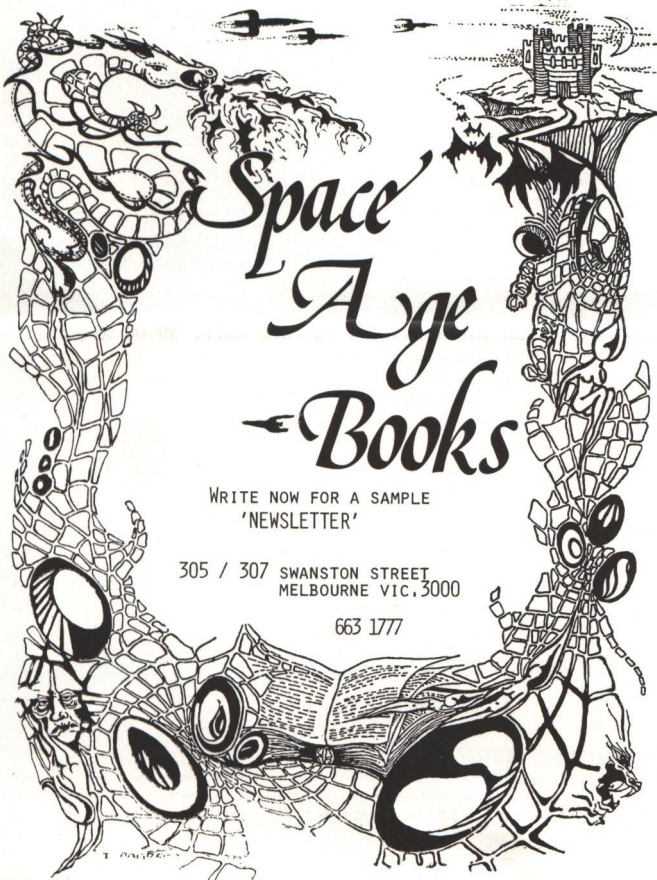
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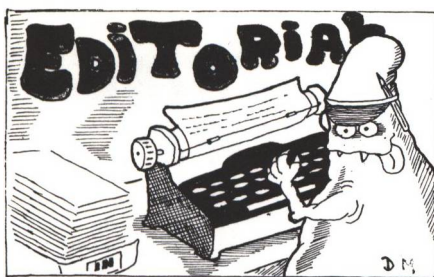
"On principle I decline to subscribe to fan magazines -but LOCUS is different: a unique source of news which can often be important, and itself a thoroughly professional production" - Poul Anderson.

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Overseas readers should write to LOCUS direct at Box 13305, Oakland, CA 94661, U.S.A.



Dear Readers,

No! We ain't dead yet! It has been a long time since the last issue, I fully realise, but I did warn you that I was having problems, and that future issues would be delayed. I would like to get issues out quicker, even if it means making them smaller. The overseas information can be reduced, as can some other features. The trouble is however, large or small, the time and cost in getting an issue printed and posted, will vary very little. I will not make any promises, but I will do my best to get issues out as often as possible. The next one will probably not appear until October, and will bring you the Hugo results.

Convention reports predominate in this issue, along with local publishing events. I consider the convention information a major part of the NEWS, and that, plus information on Australian publishing, reviews of local books and other local information will take precedence in future issues. The sad news of Bert Chandler's sudden demise is one piece of information I am not happy to have to report.

Readers who wish to have more information on overseas happenings, in both the professional and fan fields, should subscribe to the overseas publications such as LOCUS or SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE. Subscription rates are shown elsewhere in this issue.

As you may gather from comments in my con reports, I am satisfied with the way the awards and other National Convention business worked out. Thank you for nominating the NEWS for the Ditmar, but not enough of you voted for it in the final voting. Maybe next year!

Merv Binns/ Editor



KEITH TAYLOR reports that his agent in the U.S.A., Cherry Weiner, has sold three more titles in his "Bard" fantasy series, to ACE publishers, and he is working flat out on them at present.

The late A.BERTRAM CHANDLER, recently sold KELLY COUNTRY to DAW, who published THE LAST AMAZON, a new Grimes book, in June. Cory & Collins will publish THE WILD ONES, and DAW will most likely publish it as well. FRONTIERS OF THE DARK was published by ACE early this year. We assume these are

the last books we shall see from Captain Chandler, but he may have had other works in progress or perhaps completed.

FONTANA PUBLISH AN ORIGINAL FANTASY NOVEL IN AUSTRALIA

Fontana and William Collins published in April, an original fantasy titled AND BROTHERS ALL. A first novel by Australian author LINDA MACKEN. Linda originally came from the small Queensland town of Buderim, but she now lives in Cabramatta, a Sydney suburb. The book was beginning to take shape in her mind after a trip to Europe, so she took a job in Sydney and earned enough money to allow her a year off to go home and write the book.

Just by chance she got a job with William Collins, where publisher Richard Smart read Linda's manuscript and decided to publish it. The story fits basically into the same category as WATERSHIP DOWN, or perhaps closer to THE BOOK OF THE DUN COW by Walter Wangerin Jr. Linda says that she has read a little fantasy, such as Tolkien's THE LORD OF THE RINGS and the Stephen Donaldson books, and

she realises, now, that there is a vast range of fantasy available, but it has had little influence on her writing.

Linda Macken is currently working on her next novel.

TRANSMITTERS LAUNCHING

TRANSMITTERS, Damien Broderick's new novel about sf fans, was launched at Damien's home on Easter Saturday (21st April). The launching, hosted jointly by Ebony Books (Jenny and Russell Blackford) and Dianne Hawthorne, proved to be one of the most notable fannish events associated with Eurekacon (says we). An everchanging crowd of professional and fan luminaries (including Paul Collins, Yvonne Rousseau, Carey Handfield, Wynne Whiteford, and the itinerant Peter Toluzzi) ebbed and flowed between the party and Eurekacon in sufficient numbers to carve the spit-roasted sheep back to the bone. John Bangsund entertained the assembled multitude with a wittily meandering launching speech, and the night continued with unlikely merriment far beyond the witching hour. The launching party ultimately hived off into smaller gatherings of merry-makers, one of which continued



Linda Macken

John Bangsund

AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS

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PUBLISHING NEWS



Dianne Hawthorne tends the meat.
Top: Jenny Blackford, Damien Broderick
and Russell Blackford.

as a room party back at Eurekacon, before one of its splinters finished up carousing at Jenny and Russell's decadent St Kilda abode until 6.00 am on Easter Sunday.

A bunch of seedy thespians followed up at Eurekacon on the Sunday afternoon with a scripted version of scenes from TRANSMITTERS. This seemed to be well received by an audience in search of something amusing for its jaded appetite, and sales of TRANSMITTERS responded encouragingly.

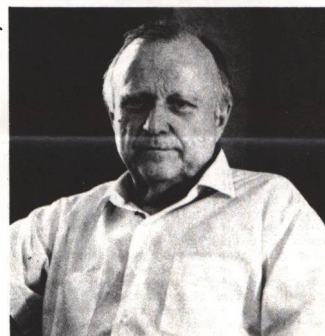
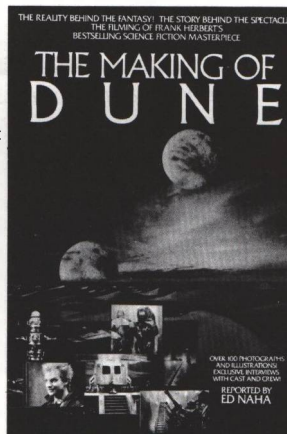
Jenny and Russell Blackford.

DUNE IS COMING

The film of Frank Herbert's DUNE, is due for release in December this year. Unlike many authors in the past, Herbert is quite happy with the film treatment of his novel. It leaves out a little of the story, but the cast is great and it is true to the idea of the book. A wide range of publications are due to be published by Putnam in the USA to coincide with the film. All Herbert's Dune and other novels are being reissued, plus THE MAKING OF DUNE, THE ART OF DUNE, a DUNE CALENDAR, a number of juvenile titles including a DUNE STORY BOOK and various activity books. The DUNE ENCYCLOPEDIA was published in hard cover and trade paperback by Putnam in June. Corgi will publish this title in the UK. It looks like everybody is expecting DUNE to take up where STAR WARS left off.

Universal films have joined with Learning Systems, to release a teaching kit for schools, called THE WORLD OF DUNE. Most of the film associated books are not due to be published until December '84. The Gollancz hard cover edition of HERETICS OF DUNE, distributed by Hutchinson, has sold out in Australia, and the N.E.L. paperback edition will not be distributed by Hodder and Stoughton in Australia until February '85.

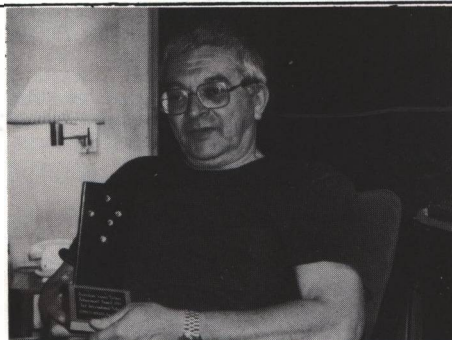
FRANK HERBERT attended the ABA conference held in Washington in May, to publicise HERETICS OF DUNE. He was not recognised by many attendees, because he has shaved off his beard. *Publisher's Weekly* featured a photograph of Herbert with Bob Woodward (All The President's Men), and Raquel Welch, with whom he shared the speaker's platform at the ABA. Herbert's next project is three novels, which he intends to write in collaboration with his son Brian.



C. H. Brown

RUSSELL HOBAN IS PRESENTED WITH HIS DITMAR AWARD

RUSSELL HOBAN was in Australia a few months back, as guest of the Adelaide Festival and to promote his books in Pan/Picador for William Collins. While in Sydney, he was presented with his trophy as winner of the Australian SF Achievement Award (Ditmar), for Best International SF or Fantasy, for his novel RIDDLEY WALKER. The award was presented to Mr Hoban by the Chairman of SYNCON '83, Jack R.Herman.



RUSSELL HOBAN Photo Catherine McDonnell

RAPHAEL, the third "Damiano" title by R.A.MacAvoy, will be published by Bantam in August. Bantam will also be doing editions of Harry Harrison's HOMEWORLD, WHEELWORLD and STARWORLD, during August to October. Robert Silverberg titles due from them include, WORLD OF A THOUSAND COLORS, LORD OF DARKNESS, THE NEBULA AWARDS # 18, VALENTINE PONTIFEX and TO OPEN THE SKY, all between June and December this year. The "Gandalara Cycle" title, THE SEARCH FOR KA, by Randall Garrett and Vicki Hayden, is due out in August in the U.S. Other new Bantam titles include: THE SEARCH FOR KA, the latest Gandalara Cycle novel by Randall Garrett & Vicki Ann Heydron, MIDWAY BETWEEN by Warren Norwood, UTOPIA HUNTERS by Somtow Sucharitkul, and JITTERBUG PERFUME by Tom Robbins.

REBEL'S QUEST, another new F.M.Busby title, has also been bought by Bantam, announced along with the last in the "Gandalara Cycle", THE RIVER WALL, by Randall Garrett and Vicki Ann Heydron. Another new purchase by Bantam is HEART OF THE COMET, by Gregory Benford and David Brin. Reported to be a hard core sf novel, by two scientists, about living on a comet.

CASTLES by Alan Lee and David Day will be a Bantam hardcover produced under the guidance of Ian and Betty Ballantine, and released in October in the U.S. Other news from Bantam is that they paid \$100,000 for a new horror novel by Ted Klein, THE CEREMONIES. Viking will publish the hard cover in 1984 and Bantam the paper back in 1985.

Bantam are reprinting a number of their Star Trek titles including PERRY'S PLANET by Jack C.Haldeman II in September, SPOCK MESSIAH by Theodore Cogswill and Charles R.Spano, STARLESS WORLD by Gordon Eklund, TREK TO MADWORLD by Stephen Goldin, WORLD WITHOUT END by Joe Haldeman, VULCAN and DEATH'S ANGEL by Kathleen Sky, SPOCK MUST DIE by James Blish, PRICE OF THE PHOENIX by Sondra MARSHAK and Myrna Culbreath and FATE OF THE PHOENIX. All of these Star Trek titles we expect to be available in Australia from Corgi-Bantam.

GORDON R.DICKSON's new "Childe Cycle" novel is at last in view. Completed by him some time back, publication has been delayed, but it is now coming from TOR books, in hard cover in October. THE FINAL ENCYCLOPEDIA features Hal Mayne and the great orbital library and research institute, that is the key to the survival of the human race.

Arbor House have announced the first three titles in their Robert Silverberg Science Fiction Selection. THE CYBERNETIC SAMURAI by Victor Milan, THE MEMORY WITNESS by Kim Stanley Robinson, and SCHISMATRIX by Bruce Sterling. All due for publication in March 1985.

British publisher Chatto and Windus are to publish some sf books, under the control of Roz Kaveny, formerly with Interzone magazine.

WARNER BOOKS publishers are launching a new science fiction imprint in January 1985. A group of four people will edit, to give a broader range of interests. Kathy Mally - fantasy, Nancy Nieman and Jim Frost - science fiction, and Brian Thompson - horror and books in a humorous vein.

Warner was originally Paperback Library, and they have now taken over Popular Library. They will be reprinting some of the Popular Library sf in the new series. New titles on the list include "The Fires of Windameir", a new series by Neil Hancock, new trilogies by Glen Cook and Jacqueline Lichtenberg, and first novels by Cathryne Lance and Michael Jan Friedman.

Gollancz have purchased IAN WATSON's THE BOOK OF BEING and JOHN SLADEK's ZAMITHU. The Watson title is the third in a trilogy, and Granada will do the paperbacks. Gollancz will also publish M. JOHN HARRISON's non-sf title, THE ROCK GARDEN./ J.G. BALLARD's new book, EMPIRE TO THE SUN, is a non-sf book based on his experiences as a child in Shanghai and in a Japanese prison of war camp.

Both THE ADVERSARY and THE NON-BORN KING by Julian May, reached number three on the bestseller list in Britain. They have also sold well in Australia in the Pan editions. Houghton Mifflin are to do a signed, boxed edition along with a fifth book, of the whole series.

DAW books are redesigning their logo and making some changes in their cover design. The yellow spines will be dropped and some wrap-around cover illustrations will be used.

The McMillan Publishing Company of New York has bought Charles Scribner's Sons, and Atheneum, which merged with Scribner's in 1982. Another subsidiary is Rawson Associates, who do not publish any f&sf. Atheneum publish the odd adult sf such as Brian Aldiss' HELLICONIA books, but their juvenile range includes about a dozen books a year, which usually end up being published as adult titles in paperback. Scribner's output of sf recently has been very limited, although they did publish most of Robert Heinlein's juvenile titles some years ago. There is not likely to be any major changes in things for the time being, but in the long run, that will remain to be seen.

TOR books have instituted a new way of paying royalties to their authors, beginning with Greg Benford for ARTIFACT. Under this plan, which is not entirely new, the author will receive royalties for his book on publication, within thirty days of it being printed. It seems that higher purchase amounts are likely to be paid on this scheme, that has been introduced by agent Richard Curtis, but royalty rates are cut in half. Curtis claims this system will simplify the rather confusing way royalties have been paid, and make it better for all concerned. Some publishers and agents are very wary, but TOR are convinced it will work well.

Following the popularity of the Robert Asprin "Mythadventure" series, a magazine called just that, is being published devoted to the series. It will be illustrated by Phil Foglio and will feature stories from the series.

McMillan publishers in Britain, are to publish a horror novel titled THE WASP FACTORY. The manuscript was discovered in the slush pile. It deals with a 16 year old insane boy, who breeds wasps. Futura will publish the paperback, of this particularly horrifying story.

Doubleday publishers have bought VIRGIL IN AVERNO, a sequel to THE PHOENIX IN THE MIRROR by Avram Davidson, NIGHT OF THE RIPPER by Robert Bloch, and HALLOWEEN HORRORS, an anthology edited by Anal Ryan.

AUTHORS & Other People In the NEWS



TERRY DOWLING and HARLAN ELLISON
This photo was taken last July 1983 when they visited the natural wonder, The Twelve Apostles.

HARLAN ELLISON has recently completed four books. AN EDGE TO MY VOICE, 90,000 words of columns, is to be published by Donning; a two-volume, 380,000 word collection, is to come from Berkley; and MEDEA, an anthology of stories based on a specific world, is to come from Bantam. Harlan's own contribution to the anthology will also appear in *Omni*. He has also taken over from Baird Searles as film reviewer for *F&SF* magazine. Australian writer, Terry Dowling, is co-editing an anthology by Australian writers, with Harlan. Terry gave full details on the anthology, DOWN DEEP, in a letter in our last issue.

Other new books to come from the Ellison word machine are SLEEPLESS NIGHTS IN THE PROCUSTEAN BED, a non-fiction collection of twenty articles, from Borgo Press, and from ACE, CHILDREN IN THE STREETS, which is a reissue of the '61 title THE JUVIES, but with four stories dropped and ten added. It is a non-sf/f collection.

IAN WATSON has now completed his "Book" series, with the third, BOOK OF BEING, recently being bought by Gollancz, who published the first, THE BOOK OF THE RIVER, recently, and will publish the second, THE BOOK OF STARS, soon.

British author/editor, MAXIM JAKUBOWSKI, who helped found the new publisher Zomba Books, has become editorial director of Rainbow books, who are a rather sophisticated producer of quality books.

SAMUEL DELANY has finished the third and final book in the "Neveryon Saga", titled FLIGHT FROM NEVERYON, which will be published by Bantam.

BRIAN ALDISS has finished the draft for the last part of his "Helliconia novel", HELLICONIA WINTER. He answers some of his critics in an article in the May issue of *Locus*, and explains some of his motives and ideas in the "Helliconia" story. He saw the three books rather than four for the four seasons, as a sort of Holy Trinity. A fourth book, additional to the narrative of the first three, books may be done, as there are lots of places on Helliconia he would like to write about. He also added that an encyclopedia, explaining the history and geography of the planet, among other things, would be nice.

Aldiss has compiled a collection of non-sf stories for Cape called SEASONS IN FLIGHT, to be published late '84. He did a story as part of a four page advertisement, illustrated by David Hockney, for Volvo cars. They were so happy with it, that they have asked him to do another one. The payment was very good at £10,000. he was quite upset it seems, when a project to make a film from one of his stories, was cancelled by Stanley Kubrick, and the writing of HELLICONIA WINTER was delayed. Some readers and critics have said that "Helliconia" has too much of a fantasy element and is too downbeat, but he said that he is trying to be different and introduce an amount of mysticism into his writing. He added that he enjoys writing very much.

Aldiss also reported in *Ansible* that his SF QUIZ BOOK, being published by Wiedenfeld and Nicolson is being done on cassette by Acornsoft, and released as a Grandmaster Quiz entitled briefly, BRIAN ALDISS SCIENCE FICTION QUIZ FOR THE BBC MICROCOMPUTER AND ACORN ELECTRON.

A novel extended from his "Mythago Wood" story, has been sold by ROBERT HOLDSTOCK to Gollancz, and to Berkley in the USA. The Gollancz edition is due to be published in July.

MAXIM JAKUBOWSKI has been working on an ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FANTASY, covering fantasy, horror and the supernatural, running to some 600,000 words. Allen and Unwin is a possible publisher, but unconfirmed at this time. Jakubowski is also doing an "authorised" biography of Philip K. Dick.

DOUGLAS ADAMS reports that his new book in the "Hitchhiker" series may not be called SO, LONG AND THANKS FOR ALL THE FISH. The plot concerns A. Dent's quest to find God's Final Message To His Creation, which will apparently be revealed on the final page. DA's agent wants him to call the book GODS FINAL MESSAGE..., but he is looking for an alternative, possibly a quote from the first book. As of February, he had not started on the new book, and was working on another project.

FREDERIK POHL has finished and delivered his sequel to THE SPACE MERCHANTS, to St Martin's Press. THE MERCHANT'S WAR will probably be published in 1985. It takes up the story thirty years after the first book. The new book is mainly about the evils of political advertising. Another new book, tentatively titled DEATH GLASS, has been sold to Del Rey. The story takes place 100 years after a nuclear war, when the People's Republic of China is the only world power. Pohl, jokingly said, that it is his answer to the IRS (Tax Dept.), for auditing his trip to China last year.

ROBERT ADAMS is doing a fantasy series for TOR, and the first title is STAIRWAY TO FOREVER. He has also contracted with NAL for two more "Horseclans" novels, and a third "Castaway" novel.

JACK CHALKER has sold a third title in his "Dancing Gods" series to Del Rey, and a horror novel, THE MESSIAH CHOICE, to Bluejay. A board game based on the "Well World" novels is being produced by TAG Industries.

Scottish author ALASDAIR GRAY, has sold a collection to Penguin, UNLIKELY STORIES MOSTLY. A new novel, JANINE, will be published by Jonathan Cape. The author describes this novel as a sado-masochistic fetishistic fantasy.

DOUGLAS ADAMS received the Golden Pan Award from Pan Books, for topping one million sales of THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY. The award takes the form of a gold statuette of the god Pan.

Artist ALICIA AUSTIN had the unenviable experience, of having to recreate forty illustrations for Larry Niven's new anthology, MORE MAGIC, for Berkley. There was a fire in the art department at Berkley, and all the illustrations were destroyed, or near enough to it. Luckily she had photocopied them all, but still had a lot of work to do again on the ones that had halftones.

Artist CHESLEY BONESTALL lives in Carmel, California, where a recent earthquake reached 6.2 on the scale. This was nothing new, as he lived through the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco, which also reached 6.2. A book about the work of Bonestall, who turned 96 on January 1st, this year, was recently published by Donning. WORLDS BEYOND: THE ART OF CHESLEY BONESTALL, edited by Ron Miller and Frederick C. Durant III, contains reproductions of the wide range of art by the artist, the majority of which is some of the finest astronomical work ever done.

A report in *SF Chronicle* quoting from an interview in *Mother Jones Magazine*, says that URSULA K. LE GUIN will not be writing more sf that takes place out of Earth's atmosphere. "Space was a metaphor for me," Le Guin reportedly said "until it ended quite abruptly after 'The Dispossessed'. I had a loss of faith. I simply - I can't explain it. I guess I don't want to explain it. I don't seem to be able to do outer space anymore."

Le Guin's current novel in progress takes place in Northern California, "sometime in the near future, after earthquakes and continental shift have destroyed San Francisco, sunk Bakersfield and given the Humboldt River in Nevada an outlet to the sea."

ALLAN ELMS, Department of Psychology, University of California, Davis, CA 95616 is researching a biography of Paul Linebarger, who wrote as Cordwainer Smith.

RACHEL HOLMAN, one of Charles Brown's major assistants at *Locus*, left the magazine in May. She planned a trip east, then a new career with a west coast publisher, it was reported.

ROBIN BAILEY, the author of FROST, has sold two new novels to TOR. SKULL GATE and DARK ANGEL. FROST was published by Timescape in the U.S. and Allen & Unwin/Unicorn in the U.K.

STEPHEN KING has bought a small radio station in his home town, Bangor, Maine. He is trying to keep rock and roll alive on AM radio, and his station, formerly WACZ, but now called WZON in honor of his novel THE DEAD ZONE, will play his favourite heavy-metal hard rock.

King has been working on two new novels after finishing his part of THE TALISMAN, and handing it over to PETER STRAUB to complete, IT and THE TOMMYKNOCKERS. They are "both very, very long", King said.

Donald M. Grant publishers did a second 10,000 copy edition of Stephen King's THE GUNSLINGER. It sold out before publication or soon after, and it has been announced that there will never be a paperback edition. We can only hope that somebody changes their mind about that, or may be a British publisher might do an edition.



A.E. and LYDIA VAN VOGT Photo C.N. Brown

New publisher Baen Books have announced that they will publish ten books by A.E. VAN VOGT. SWANCON, the 1986 National Australian SF Convention, have announced that Van Vogt is their GoH.

ISAAC ASIMOV and ARTHUR C. CLARKE joined scientists in debunking pseudo-sciences, at a special session of the American Association for the advancement of Science's annual meeting. Asimov described creationism as having ideas which "explain nothing and unexplain everything", while former UFO-believer Clarke, called supposed sightings the modern equivalent to reports of canals on Mars.

ARTHUR C. CLARKE is writing a sequel to 2010: ODYSSEY TWO, but it cannot be completed until the late 1980s. He needs accurate information on Jupiter's moons, which he can only obtain from a space probe, that will be launched in 1986. The probe will not reach the Jovian system until August 1988, with visual contact being made with the moons of Jupiter in the following months.

CURT SIODMAK has completed a sequel to his novel DONOVAN'S BRAIN, which was first published in 1942, and later made into a film.

JACK CHALKER has completed the third book in the "Flux and Anchor" series for TOR. The first in the series is selling very well, and the second is due out in August. A second "Dancing Gods" book is due from Del Rey. Tor will also do a time travel book, DOWNTIMING THE NIGHTSIDE, and a prequel to the "Flux and Anchor" series. Both board games and role playing games based on the "Well World" series are also due out.

JAMES WHITE has sold a new, sixth book in the "Sector General" series to Del Rey. White said that he had tried to finish off the series before, but this one is the last, and it is a good end to it.

GWYNETH JONES fantasy novel DIVINE ENDURANCE, was published in hard cover by Allen & Unwin, early this year. She has sold paperback rights to TOR in the USA. JANET MORRIS has sold a new book, THE 40 MINUTE WAR, to Baen Books. IAN WATSON has sold volume two of his "The Black Current Trilogy" to Gollancz.

CHRISTOPHER PRIEST has sold his new novel, THE GLAMOUR, to Jonathan Cape. Doubleday paid \$82,000 to publish it in the U.S.A. He has really broken the U.S. barrier this time. Chris has become a literary agent. After offering to try and sell a book for American author Howard McGhan, and being successful, he went to the U.S., where a lot of other authors said they needed British representation. Best of luck Chris, in this new venture.

Very promising new author R.A. MacAvoy, whose TEA WITH THE BLACK DRAGON has been nominated for various awards, has sold a new novel to Bantam titled THE BOOK OF KELLS. Bantam have published DAMIANO and DAMIANO'S LUTE in a medieval fantasy series by MacAvoy, with a third, RAPHAEL, due for publication in August.

ANNE McCAFFREY's novelette, "The Girl Who Heard Dragons", has been bought by limited edition publisher, Cheap Street, for publication in 1985.

British artist JIM BURNS, who won the top award for his cover paintings for Coronet's editions of Jack Vance's "Durdane" trilogy, in the art show at AUSSIECON I, in 1975, is having a very good run at present, with publishers on both sides of the Atlantic using his work. He has done a lot of work for Bantam, with covers for QUIET OF STONE by Stephen Leigh and STARTIDE RISING by David Brin, for example, plus some of the Robert Silverberg new editions. He said that he likes "to imagine I'm pleasing the man who wrote the books. I love straight illustration, absolute integrity and honesty to the story. I think you owe a story that." It is a pity that more artists do not feel the same as Jim Burns. We hope he gets a lot more work.

DAVID HARTWELL has been very busy, since leaving his old job as editor of TIME-SCAPE books. As a small publisher, Dragon Press, he has published a book of critical essays by Samuel Delany, STARBOARD WINE, and he is publishing IN MILTON LUMPKE TERRITORY by Philip K. Dick. He spent three months helping the bookshop chain, Waldenbooks, set up their small press operation, which has given a shot in the arm to all the small specialist f&sf publishers. He is editing hardcover reprints for the Gregg Press.

As an author, he has done AGE OF WONDERS, a book about sf, for Walker publishers, and he is preparing a book on sf awards for Facts on File. He has helped produce one issue of the prestigious literary journal *The Little Magazine*, and he is preparing another issue.

As consulting editor for TOR books, he

has just about re-established TIMESCAPE. He has bought two Gene Wolfe novels, including FREE LIVE FREE and another, which Wolfe will not talk about yet; Gregory Benford's ARTIFACT; James Tiptree's GREEN,GO; a new Michael Bishop title produced by Paul Preuss, FATAL ERROR; two new books by Justin Leiber, including THE SWORD AND THE EYE; and novels by Nancy Springer and Robin Bailey. He will be editing these and buying many more books for TOR in the future.

WALTER TEVIS, author of THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH, MOCKINGBIRD and other works, insisted in a radio interview in the U.S., that all his books marketed as SF, are really psychological fiction about alcoholism.

1984 is a good year for turning 50. Your editor MERV BINNS did it in July, HARLAN ELLISON will be celebrating it at LA-CON, but his actual birthday was back on the 27th of May, and JOHN BRUNNER is doing it in style at the Hotel Calgary, in Italy on the Adriatic coast. Brunner has invited one and all to book into the hotel and help him celebrate, on September 22nd. And last, but not least, that evergreen film personality DONALD DUCK, also was fifty this year.

In the last issue we reported that GEORGE TURNER's literary memoir was to be published soon by Norstrilia Press, and gave the title as "Fancy Bred". The correct title is IN THE HEART OR IN THE HEAD: An Essay in Time, as mentioned on our front page.

PUBLISHERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

JAMES HERBERT's new horror thriller, DOMAIN is being published by New English Library in hard cover in July, in the UK.

HARRY HARRISON's big novel, WEST OF EDEN, is a hard cover publication from Granada, in late July U.K./ ARTHUR C. CLARKE's latest non-fiction work, 1984 SPRING: A CHOICE OF FUTURES was published by Granada in hard cover in June./THE GREENING OF MARS by Michael Allaby and James Lovelock, was published by Andre Deutsch in June. It deals with the possible terra-forming and colonization of Mars./ RAYMOND BRIGGS' new graphic story book, THE TIN-POT FOREIGN GENERAL AND THE OLD IRON WOMAN, is a satire based on the Falklands conflict. Briggs' comic strip style bestsellers have included FUNGUS THE BOGEY MAN, and WHEN THE WIND BLOWS./ A science fiction book for people who do not read science fiction, is THE CHROMOSOME GAME by Christopher Hodder-Williams. A June publication from Mithras Publishing Limited in London./ Allan Lane published MACHINES THAT THINK, edited by Isaac Asimov, Patricia Warrick and Martin H.Greenberg./ Granada paper backs published Rudy Rucker's non-fiction book INFINITY AND THE MIND in April. / THE INTEGRAL TREES by Larry Niven is coming from MacDonald in England in August./

This year's Tolkien Calendar is an original British publication, with artwork by Inger Edelfeldt. Ballantine will publish the same calendar in the US./ The novel of the new Star Trek movie, Pocket in the USA, will be published by Granada in June in the UK./ Angela Carter's new novel, her first

in seven years, is about a circus. NIGHTS AT THE CIRCUS is being published by Chatto and Windus. It boasts a magnificent cast of larger than life characters, on tour in Imperial Russia./ Arthur Clarke's ASCENT TO ORBIT, A Scientific Autobiography, was published by John Wiley in June. They presumably have world rights./ Viking are now publishing in the UK. Amongst their first announcements is Richard Adams new novel, MAIA, set in the same land as SHARDIK, The Belkan Empire. This epic novel will be published in September. THE TALISMAN by Stephen King and Peter Straub, is also coming from Viking UK, in October.

New Allen & Unwin fantasy titles in their Unicorn series include THE FISHERS OF DARKNESS by Roger Eldridge, THE CASTLE OF DARK by Tanith Lee, BEYOND THE LANDS OF NEVER edited by Maxim Jakubowski, THE CHILDREN OF THE WIND, Seven Citadels:2 by Geraldine Harris and JURGEN by James Branch Cabell.

May releases from Granada included THE WINDS OF CHANGE, a collection by Isaac Asimov, and CONVERTS by Ian Watson. Star/Target are publishing the movie novel of THE LAST STARFIGHTER. In the same month, May, they published a large format story book of THE LAST STARFIGHTER, and DR WHO: THE DOMINATORS by Ian Marter. Star themselves published Brian Herbert's SIDNEY'S COMET the same month. They also published SPLASH, the novel of the movie about a mermaid. Another Target SF/TV tie-in is AUTOMAN, published in June.

Recent U.S. Releases

Major releases by American pb and other publishers recently included: ACE: YENDI by Steven Brust, NEUROMANCER by William Gibson, CENOTAPH ROAD #5: FIRE AND FOG by Robert Vardeman, FUZZIES AND OTHER PEOPLE by H.Beam Piper, ANOTHER FINE MYTH by Robert Asprin, WORLDS APART by Joe Haldeman, PALIMPSETS by Carter Scholz & Glenn Harcourt, THE DIGGING LEVIATHAN by James P.Blalock, FIRST AND FINAL RITES by Sharan Kewitt, TIME WARS Book #3: THE PIMPERNEL PLOT by Simon Hawke. AVON: THE CHOROSOMAL CODE by Lawrence Watt-Evans, THE PRISONER OF BLACKWOOD CASTLE by Ron Goulart, BIO OF A SPACE TYRANT Volume 2: MERCENARY by Piers Anthony. BANTAM: NOMADS by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, DAMIANO'S LUTE by R.A. MacAvoy, ALIEN DEBT by F.M.Busby, THE RIDERS OF THE SIDHE by Kenneth C.Flint, BELOVED EXILE by Parke Godwin, FAR STARS AND FUTURE TIMES Book Two: FLIGHT OF HONOR by Richard McEnroe, TSUNAMI by Crawford Kilian, JITTERBUG by Mike McQuay, THE GANDALARA CYCLE Book 5: THE SEARCH FOR KA by Randall Garret & Vicki Heydron. BERKLEY: STALKING THE NIGHTMARE by Harlan Ellison, THE OLD GODS WAKEN by Manly Wade Wellman, YOUNG RISSA and RISSA AND TREGORE by F.M.Busby, BLUESONG by Sydney J.Van Scyoc, THE LONG VIEW by F.M.Busby, ORACLE by Kevin O'Donnell, PICNIC ON NEARSIDE by John Varley. BLUEJAY: WONDERS CHILD by Jack Williamson TPB, THE WORLD OF STAR TREK by David Gerrold TPB, ALIEN CARGO by Theodore Sturgeon, HC, RIDING THE TORCH by Norman Spinrad TPB, ELLISON WONDERLAND by Harlan Ellison TPB, PLANET OF WHISPERS by James P.Kelly HC, THE PEACE WAR by Vernor Vinge HC, THE BEAST THAT SHOUTED LOVE AT THE HEART OF THE WORLD Harlan Ellison TPB. DAW: JALAV-AMAZON WARRIOR III: CHOSEN OF MIDA by Sharon Green, SWORD AND SORCERESS ed Marion Zimmer Bradley, STAR-ANCHORED, STAR-ANGERED by Suzette Haden Elgin, THE

1984 ANNUAL WORLD'S BEST SF ed, Donald A.Wollheim, THE LAST AMAZON by A.Bertram Chandler, THE RING OF TRUTH by David J. Lake, DOWN TO A SUNLESS SEA by Lin Carter, THE MAN OF GOLD by M.A.R.Barker, DEMON IN THE SKULL by Friderik Pohl, FORTY THOUSAND IN GEHENNA by C.J.Cherryh, ISAAC ASIMOV PRESENTS THE GREAT SF STORIES #12 ed. Issac Asimov & Martin H. Greenberg, THE COLOUR OUT OF TIME by Michael Shea, DUMAREST OF TERRA #30:SYMBOL OF TERRA by E.C.Tubb. DEL REY: INCARNATIONS OF IMMORTALITY Book Two: BEARING AN HOUR-GLASS by Piers Anthony HC, DEMONS OF THE DANCING GODS by Jack L.Chalker, THE HOUSE BETWEEN THE WORLDS by Marion Z.Bradley, CODE OF THE LIFEMAKER by James P.Hogan, WHO NEEDS ENEMIES? by Alan Dean Foster, INCARNATIONS OF IMMORTALITY Book One: ON A PALE HORSE by Piers Anthony, VOYAGE TO THE CITY OF THE DEAD by Alan Dean Foster, TOM PAINE MARU by L.Neil Smith, THE CRUCIBLE OF TIME by John Brunner, EXILES OF RYNTH by Carole Nelson Douglas, THE PELBAR CYCLE 6: THE SONG OF THE AXE by Paul O.Williams, THE BELGARIAD Book 4: CASTLE OF WIZARDRY by David Eddings, THE MEMOIRS OF ALCHERINGA by Wayland Drew, THE GIRL FROM THE EMERALINE ISLAND by Robert S.Blum. HARCOURT BRACE: CHAIN OF CHANCE by Stanislaw Lem. IMAGINARY MAGNITUDE by S.Lem HC. HOUGHTON-MIFFLIN: HOW TO BE YOUR OWN LITERARY AGENT: THE BUSINESS OF GETTING YOUR BOOK PUBLISHED by Richard Curtis (HC). HOLT RINEHART AND WINSTON: THE CONTINENT OF LIES by James Morrow (HC), IS THAT WHAT PEOPLE DO? The Selected Short Stories of Robert Sheckley (HC).

NAL/SIGNET: ISAAC ASIMOV'S WONDERFUL WORLDS OF SF # 2:THE SCIENCE FICTIONAL OLYMPICS ed, Isaac Asimov,M.H.Greenberg, and Charles G.Waugh, THE BEST OF TREK #7 ed. by Walter Irwin & G.B.Love, ISAAC ASIMOV'S WONDERFUL WORLD OF FANTASY 2: WITCHES ed. by Isaac Asimov, M.H.Greenberg, and C.G.Waugh, GUARDIANS OF THE FLAME TWO:THE SWORD AND THE CHAIN by Joel Rosenberg, BLANK SLATE by Mark J.McGarry, THE ALIEN TRACE by H.M.Major. POCKET: THE FINAL REFLECTION (ST) by John M. Ford, THOSE WHO FAVOUR FIRE by Marta Randall, NIGHT SONGS by Charles L.Grant, STAR TREK III: THE SEARCH FOR SPOCK by Vonda N.McIntyre, THE NIGHT CHURCH by Whitely Streiber, THE WAR AGAINST THE CHTORR Volume One: A MATTER FOR MEN by David Gerrold, MY ENEMY, MY ALLY by Diane Duane (ST). TEMPO/MAGICQUEST: THE SEVENTH SWAN by Nicholas Stuart Gray, POWER OF THREE by Diana Wynne Jones, THE MAGIC THREE OF SOLATIA by Jane Yolen. TOR: THE INHERITOR by Marion Zimmer Bradley, SOLITAIRE by Graham Masteron, CONAN THE MAGNIFICENT by Robert Jordan, THE MONITORS by Keith Laumer, THE BLACK COMPANY by Glen Cook, HOKA by Poul Anderson & Gordon R.Dickson, MALLWORLD by Somtow Sucharitkul, BLOOD ON THE MOON by Barney Cohen, CAST A COLD EYE by Alan Ryan, THE DARK ANGEL by Meredith Ann Pierce, CONAN KING OF THIEVES by Robert Jordan, THE HELIX AND THE SWORD by John C.McLoughlin, A VISION OF BEASTS #1: CREATION DESCENDING by Jack Lovejoy, SOUL RIDER II: EMPIRES OF FLUX AND ANCHOR by Jack L.Chalker, THE GATE OF WORLDS by Robert Silverberg, CASTLE CRESPIAN by Allen Andrews, THE THIRD BOOK OF SWORDS BY Fred Saberhagen. WARNER: THE CREATURE FEATURE MOVIE GUIDE by John Stanley, ANCIENT EVENINGS by Norman Mailer, THE PENDRAGON by Catherine Christian.



Giorgio Moroder (film music composer) has almost completed a project to put together a complete version of the silent German sf classic film, *METROPOLIS*. He has included some footage found in Australia, which we presume has come from the National Library Collection. The Library received a donation of films from the estate of the late Australian film collector, Harry Davidson, who was well known to members of Melbourne sf fandom for some years before his death. An almost brand new copy of *METROPOLIS* was included in the Davidson collection.

Moroder is adding a soundtrack to the film and has had it tinted. Songs by contemporary popular singers are included in the soundtrack, to supply plot bridges. One wonders what Fritz Lang would think about that, or for that matter what his old friend Forrest J. Ackerman thinks of the idea. Moroder is looking for a distributor. One almost hopes he does not find one, but we may be doing him an injustice.

The BBC has produced a six part radio serial called *SPACEFORCE*. It is written by a writer who fans of a decade or two back will remember, as the writer of another radio sf serial, *JOURNEY INTO SPACE*, Charles Chilton. The old serial ran to more than sixty episodes between 1953 and 1958. The new serial stars Barry Foster, Nigel Stock, and Nicky Hensen.

Universal are already interested in the Stephen King and Peter Straub collaboration *THE TALISMAN*, which will be published by Viking in November. It may be a Steven Spielberg project. The German group Tangerine Dream, who have already done soundtracks for *THIEF*, *SORCERER* and *THE KEEP*, are providing the music for the movie of Stephen King's *FIRESTARTER*.

John Carpenter's next film is *STARMAN*, starring Jeff Bridges. It is about an alien stranded on Earth. Michael Douglas was to star, but will now only be executive producer. Douglas is starring in the film, *ROMANCING THE STONE*. His brother Peter is writing the script for a remake of *THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL*. Their father, Kirk, has appeared in a number of fantasy and sf films including *THE FURY* and *SATURN 3*.

Kirk Douglas also intends to do a remake of *SEVEN DAYS IN MAY*, in which he starred in 1964. Rod Serling is reported to have written the story, but although he may have done the screenplay, Fletcher Kneble wrote the book.

Filming began in February at the Thorn-EMI Elstree Studios in London, on Walt Disney Pictures film, *RETURN TO OZ*. A ten year old American girl, Fairuz Balk, is playing Dorothy, with Nicol Williamson as the Gnome King, and Jean Marsh in the dual role of Princess Mombi and Nurse Wilson.

Australian actor, MAX PHIPPS, who first came to prominence as Dr Frankfurter in the Melbourne stage production of *THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW*, and has since appeared as Prime Minister Gough Whitlam in the TV special, *THE DISMISSAL*, in *MAD MAX*, and *THE RETURN OF CAPTAIN INVINCIBLE*, is currently working on John Lamond's film, *SKY PIRATES*. This comic-strip-adventure style movie, is aimed at the "Indiana Jones" market.

BRIAN MAY, composer of music for films such as *MAD MAX II*, has been captured by Hollywood. His work is highly regarded in the tinsel capital and we can expect to hear it on American film soundtracks in the near future.

Filming will commence on 2010: *ODYSSEY TWO*, in December '84. The author of the book, Arthur C. Clarke, has a very small cameo part as a bum on a park bench in front of the White House. Keir Dullea is to appear in 2010 and Douglas Rain will again do the voice of Hal.

The De Laurentiis film organisation wrecked about a dozen 1958 red, white-top, two door Plymouth Furys during the filming of Stephen King's *CHRISTINE*. Now they need another one for *CATS EYE*, which recently began production. They are also looking for someone to play RED SONJA, the red haired comic strip heroine, friend of CONAN, in a movie they are planning.

Amongst 20th Century Fox projects is *COCOON*, which will be directed by Ron Howard, after Robert Zemeckis had to withdraw, due to commitments on *ROMANCING THE STONE*. The studio has another sf adventure in progress, *ENEMY MINE*, based on Barry Longyear's novel, a horror thriller, and two fantasy adventures planned. The titles are *LEGEND*, *THE MARVEL OF HAUNTED CASTLE* and an untitled horror movie with a \$7 million budget.

A new British film company, the board of which includes among others John Hurt, Glenda Jackson, and Albert Finney, announced that playwright Harold Pinter will do the script for a film of Russell Hoban's *TURTLE DIARY*.

A film of the best selling novel *CLAN OF THE CAVE BEAR*, by French authoress Jean Auel, is to be made in Canada starring Daryl Hannah, who starred in *BLADERUNNER* and *SPLASH*. The latter, a new Disney Studios fantasy comedy, about a mermaid, has been doing much better than some other recent Disney live action films.

A new animated film in the works at Disney Studios is *THE BLACK CAULDRON*, based on the Lloyd Alexander book.

THE LAST STARFIGHTER is the first film to really make use of computer special effects. Unlike *TRON*, which actually had only a limited use of computer work, *STARFIGHTER* has a lot, created by a large Cray supercomputer. The Lorimar film distributed by Universal, has Ron Cobb as designer for both live action and special effects. Robert Preston, is well cast, as an intergalactic con-man and army recruiter.

LADYHAWKE is a film about a woman who is a hawk by day and a human at night, and a guy who is human by day and a wolf at night. The film stars Matthew Broderick (*WARGAMES*), Rutger Hauer (*BLADERUNNER*) and Michelle Pfeiffer. The director is Richard Donner.

SUPERGIRL is due for release very soon, if not out already, but no local date is yet known. The film stars a relatively new actress, Helen Slater. She is supported by Peter O'Toole, Mia Farrow, Simon Ward and Faye Dunaway. The screenplay is by David Odell (*THE DARK STAR*), and is directed by Jeannot Szwarc. The distributors, Warner Brothers, say that the film is more like the first *SUPERMAN* film than the last.

Variety reported early this year, that out of 35 films due for release in '84, 19 are fantasy. A trend that we believe was quite predictable. Five of the films mentioned, *DUNE*, *SUPERGIRL*, *GHOSTBUSTERS*, and *INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM*, are all costing between \$27 and \$40 million.

L. Ron Hubbard's *BATTLEFIELD EARTH* is slated to become two films. William Immerman, a former Fox executive, will produce both films, with Ken Annakin directing.

MAGNUM star, Tom Sellick, is to star in an sf movie as a robot repairman, who gives chase to evil mechanical men in *RUNAWAY*. Cynthia Rhodes (*FLASHDANCE*) and Kirstie Alley (*STAR TREK*) will also star.

STAR TREK III was due to open in the USA in June, and it was rumoured that the filming of *STAR TREK IV* was to start filming in May.

A third *MAD MAX* film is due to be made, but it will most likely not star Mel Gibson.

We have had supercars and super helicopters on TV, and the next up is a super-motorcycle. Among the pilot shows for the 1984-85 season is a show called *SHADOWHAWK*. We have not heard if ABC are going on with it. CBS has produced a pilot for next season called *ANOTHER WORLD*, which is a fantasy series produced by Phil De Guerre, who does *SIMON & SIMON* and *WHIZ KIDS*, about a group of young crimefighters and their computer. *COBRA*, is a futuristic detective series from ABC.

Empire pictures have announced five films including: *SWORDKILL*, a sword and sorcery tale; *RAGEWAR*, an episodic collection of adventures using different directors for seven adventures; *JOURNEY'S THROUGH THE DARK ZONE*; *TROLL*; *ELIMINATORS*; and finally, a film that was shelved for some time, the stop motion animation film made by David Allen, *THE PRIMEVALS*.

A number of small disasters delayed the filming of the supernatural film *ALWAYS*, at Twickenham Studios in London. Shelley Winters caught the 'flu, first time director Tony Richmond cut an artery in his arm, and the sight of all the blood caused his wife and star of the film Jacelyn Smith, to faint. The film also stars Claire Bloom and Nigel Terry.

BBC-TV have made a film based on Robert O'Brien's novel *2 FOR ZACHARIAH*. It stars Ann Burden as the main character, Pippa Hinchley, who learns to survive after a nuclear war, while Anthony Andrews (*BRIDESHEAD REVISITED*) plays another survivor, who Pippa meets. The film is directed by Anthony Garner.

Anthony Phillips, ex-member of the rock group Genesis, is producing a musical version of *ALICE IN WONDERLAND*. Adapted by Richard Scott, who also wrote the lyrics, the rock musical was set to open in March.

INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM, has been breaking box office records on its U.S. release. It took the most money ever for the first six days following its release and the highest ever for one single day. The young star of the film, Ke Hung Quan, was in Australia in July to promote the film and appeared on TV programmes and so forth. William Collins will distribute the novel published by Sphere Books, and the story books and activity book titles, published by Random House in the U.S. The "Collector's Album" will be published by Horwitz Books. Other "Temple of Doom" subsidiaries include toys, board games, video games, records and of course, comics.

GEORGE LUCAS and STEVEN SPIELBERG were immortalized in cement, when they left their handprints and sneaker prints, in the famous Chinese Theater's footpath, in Hollywood.

RETURN OF THE JEDI made almost as much money on its first run, as STAR WARS and EMPIRE STRIKES BACK have made (individually) with further releases. What will Lucas's next project be?

A film of Harry Harrison's THE STAINLESS STEEL RAT, for which he has written the script, will be directed by Piers Haggard.

A further note on the film of 2010, is that it has a budget of \$25 million and was due to start filming last February, after nine months pre-production. There have obviously been some delays.

Films already on release in the USA and due here include: GREMLINS, ROMANCING THE STONE, STAR TREK III, THE LAST STAR-FIGHTER, and INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM. The latter is a July release and we should see the others here before Christmas. Other films out or in production overseas besides DUNE, include SHEENA, QUEEN OF THE JUNGLE; ELECTRIC DREAMS; RED DAWN; CONAN THE DESTROYER; THE NEVER ENDING STORY; and THE PHILADELPHIA EXPERIMENT, to mention a few.

A British-Canadian company have bought "game park rights" to Malcolm Edwards and Robert Holdstock's illustrated book TOUR OF THE UNIVERSE. They intend to have a 40-seat space-flight simulator, and will present tours of 75 minutes duration. The first will be set up in Toronto, Canada, but the intention is to eventually franchise them in other major cities around the world. This is the first time the builders of the simulator, Rediffusion Simulation, have moved into the entertainment business.

Pop Star Michael Jackson's videocassette, THE MAKING OF "THRILLER" sold 50,000 copies on release last December, and was immediately certified platinum. THRILLER has been a top selling video in Australia. RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK was the top selling video in January, and that has been top also in Australia.

FILM REVIEWS AND COMMENTS

I have seen a number of fantasy and sf films since the last issue of the NEWS, not the least in importance being the new Stephen Spielberg effort, GREMLINS. This will not be released here until late in the year, so the distributors have asked us not to review it yet. The new "Indiana Jones" film, THE TEMPLE OF DOOM, is due for release soon so I can give you my opinions on that.

I did not enjoy "Temple of Doom" as much as I did "Raiders of the Lost Ark". The scene was not as colourful and for some reason I cannot explain, this rather drab and grotty Indian landscape put me off a little. There are some great things in the movie such as the banquet, where some rather exotic dishes such as chilled monkey's brains are consumed, the obligatory sacrifice scene, and the most original and spectacular chase scene I have ever seen, which takes place in careering rail trucks in the tunnels of a mine.

TV Channell 0/28 screened the Russian film that has been hailed as a milestone in Russian film making, THE STALKER. I personally found it very obscure and very hard to follow. Set in a desolate future world, with scenes that could be past, present, or future, it never the less manages to create a foreboding atmosphere of mystery and desolation. I freely admit I found the story line rather hard to follow, but I feel that the final scene, which reveals the developing ESP of a young girl, is the crux of the whole movie. Bearing in mind the Russian involvement with ESP at the present, this is probably correct. THE STALKER is based on a story by Boris and Arkady Strugatsky. Perhaps one should read this story before watching the film.

The Tarzan movies starring Olympian Johnny Weismuller, made in the 30s and early 40s, were enjoyable, but owed very little to Edgar Rice Burroughs' original novels. Never the less, they were great fun. Most of the other Tarzan films made since, especially the one starring Bo Derek as Jane, were just plain bad, without the style and fun of the Weismuller films. One film director however, was determined to do it properly, and his presentation, GREYSTOKE, almost but not quite does it right.

Hugh Lambert, director of the Academy Award winning CHARIOTS OF FIRE, has given us a spectacular and beautiful film, shot in a magnificent jungle setting, with very realistic apes. Obviously, this 'real' version of Tarzan of the Apes, has had to wait until the cinema technology, in the form of costume design and special effects, could create the realistic animals needed. And they are very realistic and completely believable. Along with the apes, the jungle setting and the Greystoke mansion in England, the scene is almost perfect, but overall, the movie just lacks that final touch needed to make it great.

Sir Ralph Richardson, as the ageing Lord Greystoke, Tarzan's grandfather, is the 'star' of the film, in his last role. He died before the film was released. Christopher Lambert as Tarzan was quite ok, but I guess it is hard to shake off the image created by Weismuller, Buster Crabbe and others both before and after them. Andie MacDowell who plays Jane, is quite adequate, but wasn't Jane a blonde?

A film that is certainly worth seeing, but slightly unsatisfying. A sequel, seems possible, and that could capture some of the romance that GREYSTOKE lacks.

I saw two films in May, based on Stephen King's novels. CHRISTINE is a tongue in cheek effort involving a haunted car, that truly does some amazing things, such as reconstituting itself, after being smashed up and after becoming a burnt out

wreck. A very slick and flashy film, from the type of story at which King excels. Unlike many horror films today, it does not seem to concentrate on gore for gore's sake.

The other film, DEAD ZONE, is the more serious type of horror-occult film, that if they are well made, as this is, I can enjoy. The main character, played by Christopher Welkin (BRAINSTORM), develops precognition following a car accident, and a year or so in a coma. His power enables him to not only foresee the future, but change it, or to be specific, manipulate the probabilities. Highly recommended.

A film I murdered six dollars on, was METAL STORM, but I will let Bruce Barnes tell you about that one.

METALSTORM -- THE DESTRUCTION OF JARED SIN

In the first place Jared Sin does not get destroyed. He heads off in search of a sequel instead. In the second place there is nothing one would call a metalstorm... unless it is the cosmic cyclone wire fencing flown through near the ending. (You'll know what I mean when you see it.)

Most people who see this movie think it is a MAD MAX ripoff. It is not. They are being fooled by the presence of Mike Preston, the use of technology, and the grotty vehicles and rough clothing. The flick is actually a CONAN THE BARBARIAN ripoff, with machines and lasers instead of horses and swords.

Jared Sin is a wizard out to dominate everything he can lay his hands on. This is a lot, especially when he uses a crystal in which he collects the souls of his victims.

Sin strikes problems when the Marshall-- the good guy -- puts in an appearance. (I forget his name, but he does have one.) The good guy and the heroine (I forget her name too) make a formidable team against Sin's power, so Sin kidnaps her right at the beginning of the movie. He teleports her out from under the Marshall's nose. Why Sin can't teleport the Marshall is never explained. Sin can merely do things like sucking an electrical demon on our hero. (Quite literally, honest.) The Marshall must track down Sin, rescue the girl, and save the universe, making various friends and enemies along the way.

This movie has the best 3D I've seen in any 3D movie. The tendency for things like stray bits of brightness in the background, floating into the foreground, almost never occurs. Most of the rough edges are in the special effects sequences -- such as the shot where one flying bike chasing another, looks like a huge bike following an incredibly tiny one.

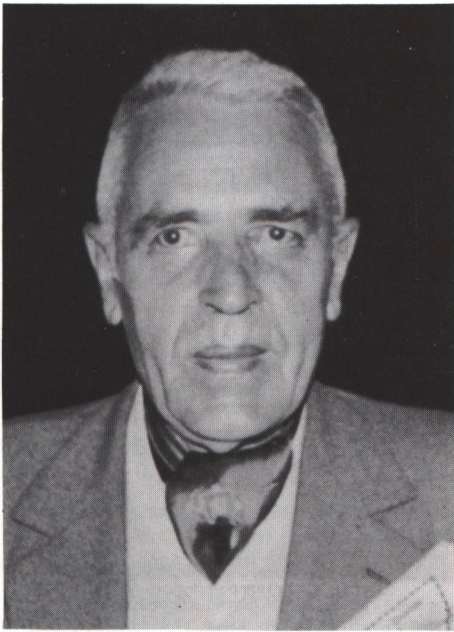
On the whole, I recommend this movie. Not exactly the most intellectually stimulating experience of one's life, but entertaining. I even found it fun. It could have been a lot worse, and there are plenty which are worse. YOR, for example.

Reviewed by Bruce Barnes.

I think Bruce must have seen a different movie to me, as I found it completely and absolutely, to have no redeeming features what so ever.

Merv Binns.

A. Bertram Chandler 1912-1984



Jack Chandler, or Bert as some of his Australian friends called him, died in hospital on June 6th. His wife Susan found him in a coma on June 2nd, from which he never recovered. In accordance with his wishes, a small private cremation ceremony was held on June the 8th.

I was first introduced to Bert, as I always called him and as I will always remember him, by the late Bob McCubbin, one of the founders, in the early nineteen fifties, of the Melbourne SF Group. Bert, at that time, was a ships officer with the Shaw Savill Line, and frequently came to Australia and occasionally Melbourne.

Bert was Born on March 28th, 1912, in Aldershot, in the county of Hampshire, in England. He grew up in the small town of Beccles, in Suffolk, and was educated at the Peddars Lane Council School and the Sir John Leman Secondary School. He left school at the age of 16, to go to sea as an apprentice with the Sun Shipping Company of London. After serving with other small shipping companies, the Merchant Navy during the war, and Shaw Savill, he took up residence in Australia, and joined the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. He retired as Ships Master from the latter, but was often called upon by them to "baby sit" ships forced to stay in port, which regulations said had to have an officer on board. He took the opportunity to catch up on his writing.

Most of Bert's writing had some influence of his naval experience in it. His most well known character was John Grimes, whose career in the "space navy", paralleled his own. Grimes was sometimes referred to as the "Hornblower of the Spaceways". Bert was encouraged to start writing by John W. Campbell, when he visited the editor of his favourite magazine, *Astounding*, in the early forties. The result was "This Means War", but his best known story, published by Campbell in 1945, and still his best known and most republished, is "Giant Killer". In fact most of his early

stories were published in *Astounding*, but others appeared in various magazines under other names, including George Whitely. After inventing the "Rim Worlds" and his character John Grimes, most of Bert's stories and in particular novels, were set in that universe.

The "Rim Worlds" books began to appear from ACE publishers in the early '60s. They were taken up by DAW in the '70s. Bert often declaimed the situation that his books had not been published in the country of his birth, Britain, or only in limited hard cover editions by Herbert Jenkins and later Robert Hale. Finally, Sphere books started publishing the "Rim Worlds" series in 1980 and have so far published four in the series, but I do not know if they have more planned. He wrote very little outside the "Rim Worlds" universe actually, and one novel was only published in Australia, *THE BITTER PILL*. His most recently published book is *THE LAST AMAZON*, from DAW, and earlier in the year ACE published a title set early in the Rim Worlds sequence, *FRONTIERS OF THE DARK*, which features his invention the Mannschenn Drive, that in fact was a major influence in a number of the stories. Last year Penguin Books in Australia, published *KELLY COUNTRY*, which features the Australian bushranger/outlaw and folk hero, Ned Kelly, in an alternative Australian past, where Kelly becomes the successful leader of a revolution. Bert even manages to bring "a John Grimes" into this story.

George Turner as a reviewer and many other readers also, all agree that *KELLY COUNTRY* was most likely Bert's best novel. I know that he put a tremendous lot of time and effort into it. His research included a trip to the U.S.A., to the Library of Congress in Washington, to check certain inventions and patents taken out last century. He flew from Sydney down to Melbourne, and then caught the train back to Sydney, just to travel the same route that the Kelly gang took to their final confrontation with the police. The weapons and warfare described, are all extrapolations of circumstances that had existed in Kelly's time. Bert loved telling us about it. He had a passion for lighter than-air aircraft, and he worked them into his stories whenever he could. *THE ANARCH LORDS* was another one besides *KELLY COUNTRY*.

Bert was a great story teller, despite that fact that he was hard to follow at times, with his slight speech impediment and the inevitable chuckles that interspersed the narrative. His story of eating raw fish, on a trip to Japan, is one I will not easily forget.

At a time when Science Fiction in Australia was being spelt with a very small capital sf, Bert Chandler's welcome entry on the scene gave it a much needed lift. His efforts brought him at least four Australian SF Achievement Awards (Ditmars). His style of science fiction was not one that you would expect to win awards, but it was enjoyed by many readers the world over. He was tremendously popular in Japan, with entire fan clubs devoted to his writing. When he visited the country

he received a marvellous reception. Just last year, the ten or more Grimes novels were sold to a German publisher. Some titles were even pirated by an Israeli publisher. The recognition of all his efforts was, without a doubt, the decision of the 1982 World SF Convention, Chicon, to invite A. Bertram Chandler to be their Guest of Honor. An honor that was richly deserved, as all his readers and many friends both here and overseas, I am sure will heartily agree.

Bert was about to make another trip overseas when he died. He wrote to me in April, as he periodically did, and gave me an update on his current book sales to publishers. This was the last letter I received from Bert:

Dear Merv,

KELLY COUNTRY has sold to DAW Books in the U.S.A. Don Wollheim has promised me a good cover. Also, he is reinserting a short chapter that Penguin wished excised, this being the Battle of Kiel sequence, a brief but colourful account of the fifty dirigible raid on the Kiel Canal during World War I, with Admiral Strasser's Zeppelins fighting tooth and nail with the Allied airship fleet. The purpose of this chapter was to show how the early introduction of the dirigible into warfare, would have influenced the course of military aviation.

THE WILD ONES - yet another Grimes misadventure - has sold to Cory & Collins. It has not yet sold to DAW books. One reason for this is that my Agent in New York lost the manuscript. After weeks of increasingly acrimonious correspondence he finally admitted that, after exhaustive enquiries, he ascertained that a new cleaning lady had made a fantastically clean sweep of his office.

Luckily I had a not-too-illegible cc to send to New York.

Oh, I have now seen Damien's (*Broderick*) review of *KELLY COUNTRY* in the AGE. It looks as though Damien must have read my review of *VALENCIES* first. What did amuse me, however, was his accusing me of not writing well when, in his review, were at least two examples of far from good writing.

With best wishes,

Bert

Bert hated the cover on the Penguin edition of *KELLY COUNTRY*, so please Don Wollheim, get Kelly Freas to do one of the best cover illustrations he has ever done.

I know little of Bert's family in England. I would imagine that his daughter, from his first marriage, Jenny, who is married to writer Ramsey Campbell, saw little of her father since he moved to Australia. On behalf of all of Bert's friends in Australia, I extend our sympathies to Jenny and his wife Susan, who had been his right arm since his move to Australia. We will all miss him very much.

MERV BINNS

NEWS CREDITS: Our thanks again to ANSBLE, LOCUS and SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE, for most of the overseas reports in this issue. Ed.

CONVENTIONS

By Merv Binns

There are so many conventions being held in Australia now, it is difficult to get to them all. Firstly, it can be a little expensive travelling all over the country, most fans being lucky if they can afford one interstate trip in a year, let alone two or three. Secondly, the diversification of the conventions now being held, makes it obvious that all fans would not be interested in attending all conventions. Three conventions were held in Melbourne recently, and I was able to attend two of them.

Easter conventions have become something of a tradition in Melbourne. I simply hate it when there isn't one. In fact in the past I have put on one or two just to fill the gaps. Adelaide have pinched the Easter date for their National Convention next year, but I will forgive them this once, because we have the World Convention in Melbourne later in the year. The Melbourne Easter convention this year was the 23rd National SF Convention, EUREKACON, held at the scene of a number of successful conventions, the Victoria Hotel. KINKON, was held also at the Victoria Hotel, over the Queen's Birthday weekend in June.

Although the major emphasis on both cons was slightly different, it is inevitable that people who attended both would come to compare them. Myself included. I enjoyed KINKON, but I was disappointed by EUREKACON, and I will try and analyse why. Basically I believe it was because many of the programme items at EUREKACON simply failed, and there was too much time wasted in between, while at KINKON, the programme moved along smoothly almost throughout the whole convention.

The best part of EUREKACON was George Turner as Guest of Honor. His GoH speech followed the theme of the convention, 'A Bad, Bad, World', which was appropriate for this Orwellian year of 1984. Despite his disastrous picture of our world today and the trends developing towards overpopulation, monetary collapse and the effects of pollution, he did offer some hope for the world. There are solutions to the problems if governments and people start doing something about them, and meanwhile avoid nuclear war.

I did not see all of the programme, so it is possible that some of the items I missed were very good. Most things did start on time, but there were long gaps in between and some items like Marc Ortlieb's 'Sixty Minute Hate', in honour of George Orwell's 1984, seemed to run for only half the time it was supposed to. I did not find what there was of the item, very good, or very funny.

A good panel was "Bring On the Clones", with Martin Bridgestock, George Turner, Mark Linneman and Sue Grigg, talking about bio-medical ethics. The audience appreciated this panel and many people joined in the discussion. A discussion on fanzine publishing with Marc Ortlieb. Leigh Edmonds and Jack Herman, "The Great Fanzine Wars", also went well.

The Vogan Poetry Contest and the Fancy Dress Parade (I refuse to call convention fancy dress items "masquerades"), were held Saturday night. The poetry competition was small, but the poetry was appropriately very bad and drew groans and howls from the audience. Sue Grigg won, but the presentation by some other participants were also very good. All I can say about the fancy dress parade is that it was very disappointing, because so few people bothered to enter. I have always tried to encourage people to join in the fancy dress shows at conventions, but I did not enter this one myself, so I cannot complain. It is a pity though, that more people do not join in. The judges for the Eurekacon fancy dress competition were Leanne Frahm, Teresa Morris and Allan Bray, who gave the awards to Jack Herman as O'Brien, Leslie Robertson as a Cyborg, Jo Toohey as a Klingon Princess, Stephen Bates as a Survivor, Robert Jan as one of Khan's men and Sue Hryckiewicz as Janna Lindir.

The film programme I found imminently missable, being films in the main that I had seen many times before, or I did not want to see again. There was a video room, but I was not excited by what that had to offer. Consequently, when I could not bring myself to endure the current programme item, I retired with a friend

CRITICAL COMMENTARY ON
EUREKACON AND KINKON ETCETERA...

to the bar. I might add here that I am very much in favour of alternate programming, but people who spend the whole convention watching video or playing war games, might as well be elsewhere. One film I did enjoy catching up with finally was **HARDWARE WARS**.

The business session on Sunday morning dealt mainly with alterations to the constitution regarding the Ditmar Awards. I am not going to list all the motions that were put to the meeting, for changes to the constitution, but the designated categories for the awards are as follows:

BEST INTERNATIONAL SF or F
BEST AUSTRALIAN SF or F
BEST AUSTRALIA FANZINE
BEST AUSTRALIAN FANWRITER
BEST AUSTRALIAN SF or F ARTIST, CARTOON-IST or ILLUSTRATOR
BEST AUSTRALIAN SF or F EDITOR
BEST AUSTRALIAN DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

These categories were accepted by the business meeting, with the proviso that at the discretion of the convention committee, the Australian SF or Fantasy Award may be split into the novel length and short fiction sections. The committee may also create another award in the Society's name. To be eligible for the Society's Awards, a piece of fiction must have been firstly available in Australia in the year covered by the Awards; a person must have produced work in that category in that year; and a fanzine must have had at least an issue in that year. In addition, the committee may at the same time, and by the same methods, determine a winner for a William Atheling Award for criticism in SF or F.

It was also decided that "if less than twenty-five percent of the Convention membership, at the close of voting for the Awards, registers a vote in any particular category, No Award will be made in that category". Consequently, if we cannot encourage more people to vote in the Awards, the whole thing could become some what of a farce, and the Awards may have to be abandoned. I will do all I can to encourage you, my readers, to both nominate and vote in all future



The TRANSMITTERS dramatic presentation, here featuring Eric Harding, Peter Toluzi, Lucy Sussex, an unknown player and George Turner.



MARTIN BRIDGESTOCK



The contestants in the Vogan Poetry competition.

Photos by M. Binns & others.

Ditmar Awards. It was a very regrettable situation this year, that neither the INTERNATIONAL AWARD nor the WILLIAM ATHELING AWARD, could be presented. It amazes me that only two books published outside Australia, which is the true intention of the award designation, were nominated for the INTERNATIONAL category. THE BIRTH OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANTARCTICA by John Calvin Batchelor, is without any argument an outstanding book, but somewhat obscure and no doubt unheard of by many people reading this report. It would have won, if somebody had used a little discretion, but I would still like to know why none of the many other eligible books never got a mention. As for the Atheling Award, we will just have to look for critical essays that can be nominated, with more diligence next year.

Some slight alterations were also made to the rules relating to site selection. I am afraid they lost me there, but the changes have enabled Adelaide to wrest control of the 1985 National Convention away from Seattle in the United States. Personally, I do not think that there should have been a national convention next year, with the World con being held in Melbourne. ADVENTION '85 will be held over the Easter weekend. Membership is currently \$15.00 attending. As much as I enjoy the craziness of fandom, I did think the idea of Seattle and Adelaide running a combined convention a little silly, but the situation presented did force us to correct another anomaly in the constitution.

The 1985 National Convention is SWANCON II. It will be held over the Easter Weekend in Perth. (Another Easter weekend pinched! Once upon a time I was in favour of all National conventions being held over Easter. It looks as though that wish may be coming true. Damn it!) The SWANCON II Guest of Honour is none other than one of sf's greats, A.E. VAN VOGT. The Fan Guest is JACK HERMAN. See the convention listing in this issue for further details. ADVENTION incidently, have not yet announced their Guest of Honour and are still waiting on confirmation as this report goes to press. We will advise readers as soon as we know.

The Auction at Eurekacon went well and both the convention and fan funds benefited from it. I found the Sunday afternoon programme interesting, with panels on the use of word processors in writing, how past sf saw the future, and a good discussion on SF and F series. On Saturday night Ebony Books, the new Melbourne publisher, launched their first publication, TRANSMITTERS by Damien Broderick, at the authors home. (See a report elsewhere in this issue.) On Sunday afternoon, a radio play based on TRANSMITTERS, was presented, from a script Broderick has done for the ABC. Considering that most of the cast was roped in on the spot, it went quite well.

Following "the banquet that wasn't on", held on Sunday evening at a Chinese restaurant, the Ditmar Awards were presented. The results are given on page one of this issue. The Golden Caterpillar Awards were presented by Paul Stevens and they caused the usual embarrassment to the recipients present. A "nice" award that Paul gave to TRANSFINITE for their contribution to Australian Conventions, with their slide-show presentations, received a resounding round of applause from the audience. The other awards went to Michael Hailstone for his letters to ASFNews; John Alderson for putting the ist' into sexist; Cath McDonnell for her contributions to equal opportunity; Daniel Heep for carrying on the tradition of the misuse of rubber chickens, started by Jeff Harris; A Common Marmoset for proving that Terry Frost is worth pissing on; and Diana Hawthorne for uncovering on the cover.

Room parties were pretty scarce during EUREKACON, and I only dropped into the KINKON party for a short time.

On Monday morning, Martin Bridgestock gave a talk on Creation Science. What this had to do with sf, I am at a loss to work out, but never the less, he presented a very interesting exposé of the people who believe in creationism, and the incredible lengths they go to in trying to convince people of their beliefs. A talk on new and upcoming sf and fantasy films by Paul Stevens and others,

started the afternoon programme, which I feel, could have been a lot more informative. "Big Brother Is Watching" was a panel that discussed the world of electronic bugging. Legal man Mark Linneman, assisted by Alf Katz and Jeff Harris, presented a very interesting picture of what is going on in this field. The closing ceremonies followed.

In retrospect, I still must say that I was not impressed with Eurekacon. I did enjoy parts of it, but overall it just seemed to lack enthusiasm. It is nice to meet friends and just sit around and talk, and the Victoria has a nice convenient bar to do that in, although the area close to the main room where people congregate and talk, does cause an annoyance to people in the main room trying to listen to speakers. The point I want to make however, is that people, particularly neo-fans, as well as many others, go to conventions to be entertained. All convention organisers should keep this in mind. Finally, less than 200 people attended Eurekacon, while at PHANTASTACON, (the war games con held the same weekend), attracted around 700 people. The ROWENY SCA Festival also held the Easter weekend, attracted some people (our photographer Steve Roynance for instance), who may have attended EUREKACON. The interstate attendance did seem to be down greatly, in comparison to SYNCON '83 and TSCHAICON. They both had something in common that EUREKACON did not have.

KINKON successfully combined a number of aspects of fantasy and sf. There was something for everybody, sf readers, media fans and game players, but the emphasis was on the visual side of sf. Kinkon was successful because it kept everybody entertained most of the time.

Road Show Film Distributor's, Alan Finney, entertained us during two sessions, with video clips from up-coming films his company will be distributing. Some of them were even fantasy or sf. Mr Finney also organised a preview of Steven Spielberg's new film, GOBLINS, on Sunday morning at the Capital Theatre. Most of the con attendees were there, and enjoyed a combination of E.T., POLTERGEIST and



12 PAUL and KIT STEVENS presenting the Golden Caterpillar Awards



THE EMPEROR from THE RETURN OF THE JEDI



JO TOOHEY as a Klingon Princess

JAWS. I kid you not!

An early panel on the programme discussed books that the panelists had read recently and in the main recommended. Jan MacDonnell gave a 'turkey' to Julian May's books. George Turner recommended Alistair Gray's LANARK, Chris Priest's THE AFFIRMATION and Gerald Murnane's THE PLAINS, among others. John Foyster spoke highly of Ted Mooney's non-sf novel, TRAVEL TO OTHER PLANETS, Michael Malone's DINGLEY FALLS and THE FORK RIVER SPACE PROJECT by Wright Morris, all books that are of interest to sf readers, but very few would have read. Bruce Gillespie told us that he had read 82 books in a year, and his best were Stanislaw Lem's HIS MASTER'S VOICE, GRIMUS by Salman Rushdie, and BIRTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANTARCTICA by Calvin John Batchelor, which should have won the International category Ditmar Award, if that category had not been scrapped this time around. Bruce added that he could not get into Gene Wolfe's "Book of the New Sun" series. He also said that he could not find any good sf to read and must go outside the field to find something worthwhile. It was good to hear a straightforward discussion of sf literature, instead of all the peripheral guff we tend to get at conventions a lot of the time.

University lecturer Richard Reed, followed the screening of a STAR TREK episode I had not seen, THE CLOUD MINDERS, with a very detailed critical assessment of the TV series. His talk/lecture started out to be quite entertaining, but he went on, and on and on and on, ad infinitum, delaying the auction, which when it did get on, was more interesting at any rate. That was probably the low point of the convention.

The Fancy Dress Competition was held on the first night of the convention. The prize of \$300 failed to encourage many more people to take part, than the number who participated at Eurekacon. However, the overall quality of costumes and the presentation was better. The six judges including George Turner, Ruth Murphy, Teresa Bialy, Claire Andrews, Hughie Ashman, and myself, judged thirteen contestants. Stephen Bates as Kinkon's Ape, turned up a little late, and would have made it fourteen. The photographs accompanying this report show the major prize winners, Lewis Morley and Gary Armstrong, in their disgusting, prize winning costumes.

The Sunday morning preview screening included a trailer for the film BUCKEROO BANZAI. It looks like an absolutely crazy and insane mixture of rock music and science fiction, with a rock group being pursued by a lot of ugly green aliens, masquerading as humans and only the rock group's leader can see them for what they really are. It looks insane, but could be great fun.

Next on the programme was our old friend, film buff and lecturer John Flaus, who proceeded to outline the development of sf films and how the emphasis in them had changed from the 1950s up to now. As usual he made some interesting and thought-provoking statements, such as that FANTASTIC VOYAGE marked the change from the low budget films of the '50s to the more sophisticated high budget sf films of today. Although sf can be traced right back to the early silent days, the films made, were individual and isolated. 2001 came two years after FANTASTIC VOYAGE, but it took some time before the impact of what Kubrick had done and how it would change the film making scene for all time, was realised.



P'NUSS, GUARDIAN OF GALACTIC MORAL DECENCY alias Lewis Morley. Photo by Helena Roberts

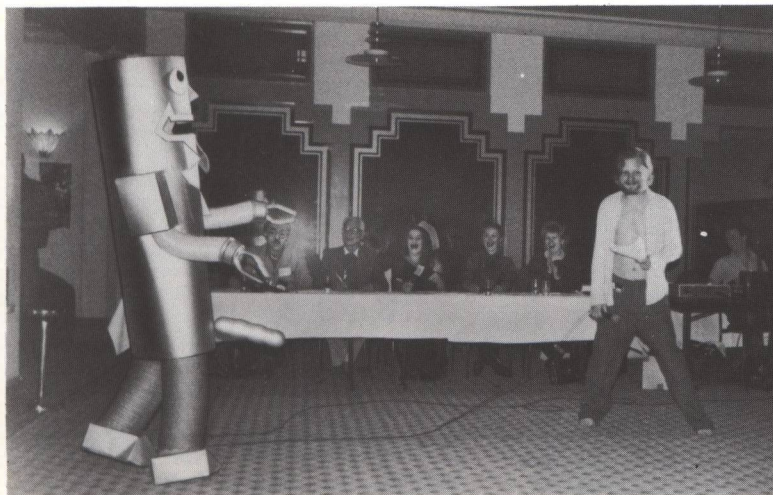
THE THING, the Howard Hawk's version, was more the classic type of horror film, that left a lot to the imagination, and that is something that today's films, be they sf or pornography, do not do. Charles Laughton's only attempt at directing, NIGHT OF THE HUNTER, does a marvellous job of creating horror without any special effects at all. Flaus went on to talk about the various aspects of film making, with reference to how this is changing and how films are being marketed now. If ever a speaker was completely wrapped in his subject, John Flaus certainly is, and he has a marvellous gift of conveying his enthusiasm to his audience.

A competition was held during KINKON, with a video of 2001:SPACE ODYSSEY as the prize. Attendees simply had to say in a few words, why they would like to own a video tape of 2001. Clayton Jacobson was the lucky winner of the prize, provided by Publishing and Broadcasting Video, who released the film on the Australian video market recently.

Lewis Morley and Marilyn Pride, gave a talk and slide show, about their work on the film RAZORBACK. The building of the various models of the giant wild pig and other special effects, were quite a task, and their description of the work that was done on the film's special effects, gave the audience a very interesting insight into the SFX field, and the problems involved in film making on location in general. They spent six weeks near Alice Springs, in the middle of nowhere. Having since seen the film I can appreciate what they put up with. You do not see very much of the pig in the film, as Lewis pointed out, but the excellent photography of the harsh outback scenes, and the terrifying atmosphere created, is worth the price of admission alone. Incidentally, isn't it about time that Lewis and Nick were put into a special category for fancy dress competitions? After all, they are professionals at the game now.

Lewis told me that after some initial design work for the proposed Australian sf film, ALIEN HUNTER, his associates and he have heard nothing more. This would indicate that the producers have run into some problems.

Other programme items included discussions on the best films, a "dirty"



THE RANDY ROBOT alias Gary Armstrong confronts MC Angus Caffrey and the Judges. Photo by Helena Roberts

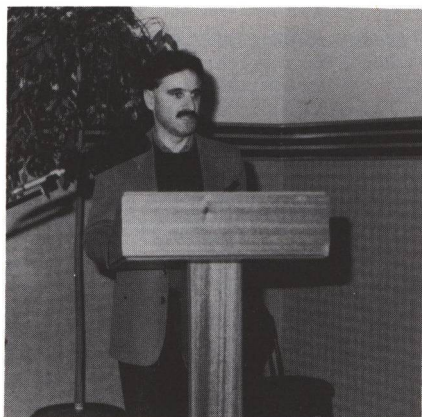


The READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY? panel with Jan MacDonnell, George Turner, Paul Stevens, John Foyster and Bruce Gillespie. Photo Merv Binns

slide show conducted by Paul Stevens, fear in horror films, the worst films of all time and finally the giving out of prizes. The alternative programme included war games conducted by The Dragonlords, and video.

In a final summing up of the two conventions I can only add that many people besides me, were disappointed in EUREKACON, but I am sure many would still not have enjoyed KINKON, because it had too much guff about films. However, those people who enjoy all aspects of the genre, like myself, could simply appreciate the latter as an enjoyable weekend and the former, not a complete loss, but just lacking "sparkle", as I heard one or two other attendees say.

MERV BINNS



Village Roadshow Executive and Media Personality ALAN FINNEY. Photo M.Binns

praises it highly. Does that make mine, a lone dissenting voice? No, but I'm the only one honest (or game) enough to say so, in print.

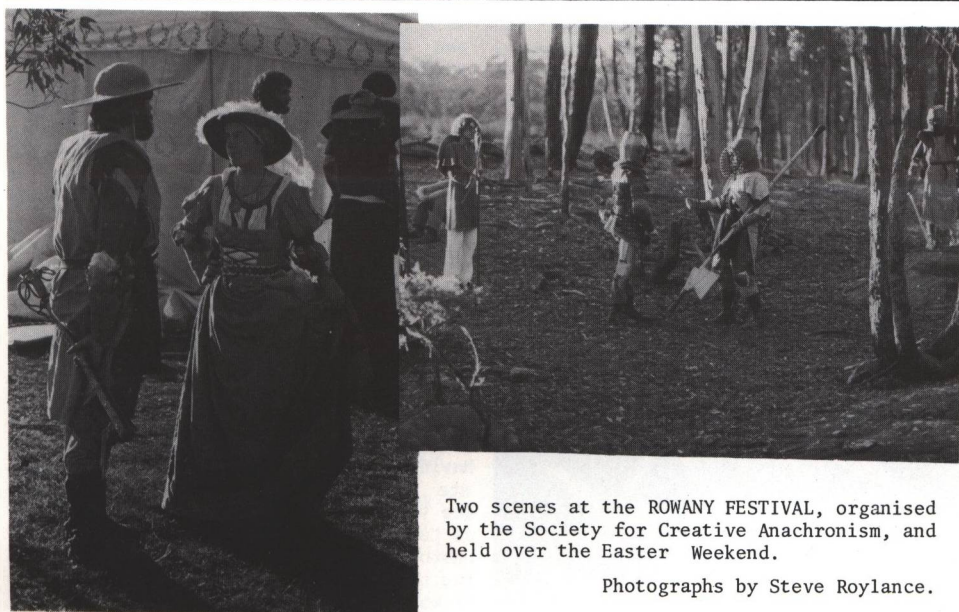
Cathy Kerrigan

World SF Meet

World SF, the International Association of Professionals, met from Tuesday April 17th to Friday 20th, just prior to the combined Eurocon/Eastercon/SEACON, which was held in Brighton, England. The conference, held at the Metropole Hotel, was attended by about 100 people from Britain, the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R., Japan, Germany and other countries.

The association's annual awards were presented by Brian Aldiss, after a luncheon, and speeches, by about twenty of the attendees. The Karel Awards (presented in honour of Karel Capek) for excellence in translation, went to Vasily Zakharchenko from the U.S.S.R., George Balanos of Greece, Maxim Jabubowski of England and France, and Marcial Souto of Uruguay. The Harrison Awards (in honour of the Founding President of WSF, Harry Harrison, for Promotion of SF Internationally, was presented to Ion Hobana of Roumania and John Bush (former managing director of Victor Gollancz Publishers) of England. Other awards went to Annemarie van Ewyck of the Netherlands for Dedicated Service. Donald A. Wollheim of the U.S.A. and Takumi Shibano of Japan, for Independence of Thought.

Discussions, papers and reports relevant to writing and publishing, took up the remainder of the programme. These details taken from Elizabeth Anne Hull's report in Locus, indicate that WSF is achieving its purpose in bringing together professional sf people from all over the world.



Two scenes at the ROWANY FESTIVAL, organised by the Society for Creative Anachronism, and held over the Easter Weekend.

Photographs by Steve Roylance.

Oh, What A Lovely War or MEDTREK '84

By CATHY KERRIGAN

The title of this con report should indicate to you how I felt about Medtrek 84, the 1984 National Media SF Convention. As an addicted convention-goer, I found Medtrek to be disturbing in more ways than one. But where do I start?

Atmosphere. The atmosphere at Medtrek (and I'm not referring to when the air-conditioning was knocked out by the blackout on the Sunday morning) was, as one fan put it to me, strained. There were a lot of political undercurrents at Medtrek which were annoying, frustrating and depressing. Another fan told me she wished she hadn't come. There were a lot of disturbing rumours floating around (such as the one about strange goings-on in the literary competition, and the other about Medtrek and other media groups being blackbanned by the BBC, etc, etc) the place which didn't help. Then there was the fan, who mentioned to a couple of other fans that she was no longer interested in Trek and certainly wasn't interested in helping George Takei get a star on Hollywood Boulevard, and the two fans she said this to, then turned round and started telling people she had insulted them (Love me, Love my Trek).

Another thing that didn't help was the

programme. I had been concerned when I had seen the proposed programme in PR 3 (or was it 4?). I had thought it over-programmed and the timing very strange. Well, there were a lot of problems with the timing and the programme. One example will suffice - the business session was scheduled to run from 7 to 8 on Sunday evening. It was brought forward, put back and then only allowed thirty minutes.

Which brings me to my next complaint. Thirty minutes for a business session that was to select a constitution for the Media Natcon, discuss and vote upon any amendments to that constitution, hear bids for the 1985 Natcon and select the site. It goes without saying that it did not get done. A constitution was chosen, discussion of amendments got bogged down and site selection was deferred till January next year.

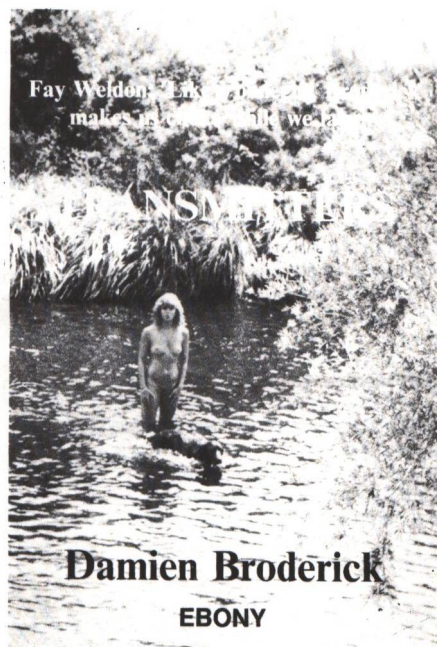
Was there nothing good about Medtrek? Yes, there was. Bjo Trimble was a delightful lady who made herself available to the fans. Mary Webber's talk and slide show on how to wound your hero convincingly, was informative and amusing. And, of course, the costume parade featured some delightful costumes, ranging from superheroes to Marvin, the Paranoid Android. A film montage, courtesy of John Lewis, went over quite well.

Facts and figures? Ask around for a copy of the Medtrek post-con report. If you read it, you'll notice that everyone

SEACON '84

EUROCON, held over Easter 20th to 23rd following the WSF meeting, was very well attended by professional people, including Roger Zelazny, Joe and Gay Haldeman, Waldemar Kuning, Joseph Nesvadba, John Brunner, Fred Pohl, Sam Lundwall, Pierre Barbet, Don, Elsie and Betsy Wollheim, Alim P. Keshokov, Maria Ossintseva and Eremy Parnov (USSR) and many more.

Charles Brown of Locus attended and found the convention very different from American conventions, and he consequently missed much of what was going on. Highlights included speeches by Christopher Priest, and Brian Aldiss, a performance by Hawkwind, a "scientific lecture" by Bob Shaw, the masquerade and a meeting of European fans and professionals. The low point was the disorganisation of the business sessions and the awards. The BSFA Awards were as follows: Best Novel: TIK-TOK by John Sladek, Best Short Fiction: "After Images" by Malcolm Edwards, Media Presentation: ANDROID. Although Mr Brown said the con gave him a "Tower-of-Babel feeling", we gather he enjoyed it, and he will be attending next year's Eastercon in Britain, being held in York, and the Eurocon, which will be held in Riga, in the U.S.S.R.



TRANSMITTERS

by Damien Broderick
Ebony Press, pb, 320 pp, \$7.95

If Aristotle's dictum that a story must have a beginning, a middle and an end is followed, then this is no story. This method of presenting masses of undigested fact before the reader was current a couple of decades ago and it wasn't good then and is now merely pretentious and out-of-date. If one is a genius, one may of course, fly in the face of every convention and write a classic, but not everybody shares Broderick's estimate of himself. Truly, this may indeed and probably will become a classic of Australian sciencefiction fandom and if only a considerable part of local fandom laud this book, it will indeed have been a notable achievement. But Broderick will probably be treated as Broderick has treated others; however, let me reverently intone, Let us now praise great men...

Whilst this may certainly be a book of local vintage, let us remember, that so was Barrie's *AULD LIGHT IDYLLS*. Broderick has recently maintained in an interview that "any writer worth his salt will work his way into the Amercian market" but his conscience seems loose enough to have accepted a Literature Board subsidy for the writing and publication of this work, a committee I regret to say that leans heavily to academics and already successful writers. However that advice was for others.

What then is this book, which discerning critics and I consider myself in that category, praise so highly? It is a fictional account of Australian sf fandom and other social movements mainly centred around the universities during the years 1969 to 1984. Don't now bother looking

for yourself in these pages, you have been unfortunately missed out...of course you'll find that a lot of other fans have been given the treatment. But Broderick won't be bothered with any libel cases: wise man. But is it an accurate picture? I think it is, from what I personally know of those years and the people who made them. Perhaps it is too accurate. There is always the difficulty, in depicting a bore, that one becomes boring. This is a book about hopeless shiftless people, whose only mental effort was a wholly mistaken idea, that, they were thinking, when they took some foreign cliches as their own. Their very lives were cliches, dull, uninteresting and second-hand. And herein is the danger; will anyone outside the people concerned, find anything interesting in the subjects of the book? Like its politics as pronounced by its characters, dull and out of date, and believe me there is nothing as dull as out of date politics.

Of course, there are interesting and funny passages. We, who know Broderick know his dry humour, though a lot of it will go over most readers' heads. Unfortunate for them actually.

One may well imagine bleary-eyed types in cob-webbed ivory towers, pouring over the book and muttering as they read ahead of their finger and chuckling at the memory rising from the portrayal of old friends or enemies. On the other hand, collectors of Australiana perhaps ought to snap up the book before it becomes rare, lost in those said ivory towers.

We know the quality of Broderick's writing. Much better than most of the junk we import, certainly as good as the tail-end Paul Collins' stable. So we can only wish him the best for this strange and brave book. As the Irish say, its like will not be seen again.

Reviewed by John Alderson

AND BROTHERS ALL

by Linda Macken
Fontana/Collins, 289pp, \$5.95

When I began this book I thought to myself: Now why has an Australian author chosen a lion, a bear, an eagle, a dragon and a rabbit to forth in the shape of men (later joined by a wolf in his own shape) to save the world? Particularly as only the rabbit is very common in Australian and whose sole merit is being good eating, though girls apparently, as does Bryeema in this book, find them cuddly. I blame all this on Paul Stevens who told me the book was fantasy. Allegory is nearer the mark as one may readily surmise from the names, Borshov the bear, Anglos the lion (and this may offend some of the unassimilated Scots in our midst), Arias the eagle, Khan the dragon, Mub the rabbit, and finally Ogren the wolf.

So far so good, but who the hell are they fighting? Indeed for aught that I can fathom, there may be enwrapped in this book the whole story of the Peace Movement, or even a subtle hint to Bob Hawke to do as he promised and leave the uranium in the ground. I refuse to follow this sort of thing and sat down and read the book as though it were an ordinary novel, even throttling back my most justified hatred of Earth Mothers. But what I cannot stomach, and here the publishers are at fault, is the use of pronouns' spelt

with a capital to designate the enemy, the dark lord. Such capitalised pronouns are only used out of reverence, when speaking of God and certainly not when speaking of the devil. This is a cardinal error which I hope will be corrected in future editions.

Now it's a brave girl, or a fool, who adds another book to the too long list of strange parties, going forth through dangerous adventures to save the world. But don't be deterred in this case. It is a good book which I enjoyed and I hope you will too. Because it is a first novel and worth the time and effort, I wish to go into it in some detail. To do otherwise would be doing the author an injustice.

The writing on the whole is excellent. The narrative is replete with colours, with sounds, and importantly too, the lack of them, because of the calamity that has come upon the earth the wee creatures of the bush are silent. And with smells, though they seem to be mainly bad. Now this is good. Frankly too much writing is dead and doesn't give this sort of thing. However, the speech of the characters is too formal and stilted, too much like the narrative... "Lady, be not taken in by this foul creature's words. See, he is black; and look at the snout, all long and hooked. Such ones are great enemies in my land and are slain without mercy." One suspects that the characters went to the same school as the author. The characters remain stilted abstractions, whereas, the use of dialect and differing speech rhythms, would have helped round them out.

Obviously, the concern of the story is with the animal kingdom saving a world which men ruined. And this gives a clue to the ruin that faces the world and that very nature may rebel against man in his folly. Yet, this is all ill-digested and somewhat hard to follow, indeed the rationale seems missing. Also little- or unexplained events pop up to help the cause, which is very good and perhaps how it should be, but it is the task of the author to prepare the reader for these things. Little upsets the reader more, than to come upon a character and have to say where did he come from? There is too much of the *deus ex machina* about this. That is, the story does not follow the logical development it should, the fundamentally important higher logic of the story is missing. The novelist has to make sure that that higher logic is there.

This is a tolerably-sized novel, some 150,000 words. A story of this length can get unwieldy. Now let's not get upset about this, this is a first novel and we expect more novels and we expect them better. Macken has the makings of a great writer, and the incredible thing is that in attempting such a difficult medium (allegory/fantasy etc) she has done so well at the first attempt. Even more so, if she has only been writing since 1981. She has a splendid foundation of good writing to work on, and a conventional novel with characters unhindered by being abstractions and a plot arising out of their character interaction, should really be good. Until then, this is a wonderful book to chew on.

My congratulations to Linda.

Reviewed by John Alderson

BALANCE OF POWER

by Brian M. Stableford
Arrow Books, 138pp, \$5.50

I am damned if I know why Merv wanted this book reviewed. It is not that it is a poor book let alone a bad one. It's just ordinary, far below the standard of the worst book published locally and I can't see why space should be wasted on it.

However it is the fifth book of the Daedulus mission which is seeking out old earth colonies and seeing if they have survived Earth's neglect, and giving them a leg-up if they haven't. So we get what amounts to a re-enactment (in dead Ernest) of Columbus's crossing of the Atlantic where they find something like a "Clumies-Ross on the Cocos Islands" situation has developed - but the Imperialists get conveniently killed off. Everything about this book is too convenient.

It won't hurt your nine-year old sister.

Reviewed by John J. Alderson

THE WINDHOVER TAPES:

Fize of the Gabriel Rachets

by Warren Norwood
Bantam Books, pb, 248pp, \$US2.95

This is the story of a man who was used by everybody except apparently his baby son. Gerard Manley, the diplomat and hero of the book spends a lot of time with his baby son, who regrettably hardly becomes visible, and this alone makes this book a rarity. It seems that children, and domestic bliss is anathema to science fiction writers. However it is a ploy to show just how badly the man was treated, being finally betrayed, as was planned from the beginning, by everybody including his loving wife. It is a very powerful book, complicated to the 'nth' degree with a mass of baffling intrigues. It is a novel in the classic mould.

We find it intriguing that American writers seems so interested in diplomacy, particularly when Americans are anything but great shakes as diplomats and their diplomat characters are usually anything but diplomatic...trickery and brute force are not quite the same things. But that's by the bye. This is quite a tolerable book.

Reviewed by John Alderson

BRONWYN'S BANE

by Elizabeth Scarborough
Bantam, PB, 286pp, \$4.95

This is the third volume of fantasy spoofs set in the land of Argonia following SONG OF SORCERY and THE UNICORN CREED.

Scarborough does a hilarious job of sending up every cliché of genre fantasy, while creating surprisingly believable characters (in both senses of the word) and indulging in some complex plot twists. However, though I enjoyed the earlier volumes, I found the joke was beginning to wear a bit thin this time. Still, delightful reading.

Reviewed by Jean Weber.



OF RECENT SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY BOOKS

By PAUL J. STEVENS

It seems to be that time of the month when I have to prowling the bookshelves in order to find something to review. It does seem that series books are still very big, with David Edding's fantasy series, THE BELGARIAD (the first three out or due from Corgi) leading the field as most requested. Anne McCaffrey still has a very loyal and very wide readership and MORETA: DRAGON LADY OF PERN (Corgi) is selling well, with the usual request for her next title. The second "Dinosaur Planet" book, incidentally, is finally in view from Futura.

My favourite read for the last month was Piers Anthony's first title in a new series, INCARNATIONS OF IMMORTALITY Book One: ON A PALE HORSE. It tells of what happens when someone accidentally shoots Death and has to take on the role as a replacement. There is a fine mixture of fantasy and imagination, and this book should sell well when it is in its paperback incarnation. (Del Rey). Piers Anthony, incidentally, is the fastest selling author at Space Age at present, and it is impossible to keep up with the demand for his titles.

In my review pile, I have a small heap of titles that should have already been reviewed. MAJIPOOR CHRONICLES by Robert Silverberg (Pan) is a collection of tales of the fabled planet first introduced to us in LORD VALENTINE'S CASTLE. Jack Chalker's THE RETURN OF NATHAN BRAZIL (Penguin) was very well received by me in its US edition, and I still hold my good opinion of Chalker as an author. He has a number of new titles out and coming also. BRAIN 2000 by Ernest K. Gann, I also reviewed earlier and liked (Coronet).

Of interest to the film fan is THE HAMLYN BOOK OF HORROR AND SF MOVIE LISTS, by Roy Pickard, with lots of lists of films, actors, directors and facts and other good stuff, but very little in the way of photos. CONAN THE REBEL by Poul Anderson (Sphere) continues the Conan Saga.

MIDAS WORLD by Frederik Pohl consists of six short stories and novelettes based around the 1954 Galaxy story. Not bad Pohl, but nothing great. (Gollancz HC)

EMPIRE OF THE EAST by Fred Saberhagen is a Futura pb containing three linked novels which were originally published as THE BROKEN LANDS, THE BLACK MOUNTAINS and THE CHANGLING EARTH, and are all good sf/fantasy and worth reading. Wizards, warriors and old

technology litter the landscape of all three novels and make this \$8.95 volume worth buying.

DREAM PARK and THE DESCENT OF ANANSI by Larry Niven and Steven Barnes are also published by Futura and have been mentioned by me in earlier columns. Both are worth catching up with.

A new series of stories from ACE has fun with the classics, in the first two Simon Hawke drags the reader through his own version of Ivanhoe in TIMEWARS #1, THE IVANHOE GAMBIT, and the Three Musketeers in TIMEWARS #2, THE TIMEKEEPER CONSPIRACY. Whilst not great science fiction, these are great fun and both original authors must be spinning in their graves. THE PRACTICE EFFECT by David Brin from Bantam is a science fiction story that looks like fantasy. It has an interesting idea that works well and reads well. QUIET OF STONE by Stephen Leigh, also Bantam, is the third in a continuing series about a cult of assassins and is slow but interesting. WOLF WORLDS by Alan Cole and Chris Bunch is a Del Rey pb and is a novel about a team of special soldiers, who get handed various impossible missions by the galactic Emperor. Fair 'actioner'. THE FORLORN HOPE by David Drake, is yet another military sf story and could be the start of a series. Tor pb. INFERNO by Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle, is an interesting fantasy about an sf author, who has to journey through Hell. A Star pb rp.

At various times, I have been wont to hold forth on the lack of good writing within the pages of the Star Trek novels, being published by Pocket Books. Lately, I have been able to pass this task over to my wife, Kit, who being a Star Trek fan of long standing, is happy to read most Star Trek fiction. She reports that STAR TREK 111; THE SEARCH FOR SPOCK, written by Vonda McIntyre, is very well written, but will contain a few shocks for the hardened fan. THE FINAL REFLECTION by John M. Ford is also very good, with an interesting view of the ST universe from the Klingon viewpoint. Well, that is it for now. Next issue I hope to have Kit join me with a review of VALENTINE PONTIFEX and some more words on Star Trek. P.J.S.

EDITORIAL NOTE: I would like to thank again all the publishers who send us books for review. Every effort is made to do all new titles, but reissues and reprints we do not do. Some received recently include: BLUEJAY - A MIRROR FOR OBSERVERS by Edgar Pangborn (an sf classic), DEATHBIRD STORIES by Harlan Ellison. PAN BOOKS - TALES OF TEN WORLDS, THE WIND FROM THE SUN, PROFILES OF THE FUTURE and REPORT ON PLANET THREE, all by Arthur C. Clarke. BANTAM - THE MASKS OF TIME and DYING INSIDE by Robert Silverberg (part of the Bantam programme to reprint all Silverberg's titles). GOLLANCZ (Hutchinson Australia) - BEST SCIENCE FICTION OF THE YEAR 12, edited by Terry Carr.

All of these titles and others, are again mentioned in more detail, in the F&SF CHECKLIST and I thank all the publishers who send us review copies, for sending them, because they enable me to give more and correct details, on the listings in the checklist.

Merv Binns/Editor.

AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS

PRESENTS A SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY CHECKLIST

VOLUME ONE NUMBER TWO

Now Available. \$2.00 post free.

SUPPLIED FREE BY SPACE AGE BOOKS WITH ORDERS.

We have finally published a second issue of our F&SF CHECKLIST, covering books published late '83 through April '84. Number three, plus a backlist, is in preparation. Subscription \$7.50 for 4 issues.

obituaries

CHARLES G. FINNEY

The author of the famous CIRCUS OF DR LAO, Charles G. Finney, died in Tucson, Arizona, on April 16th, 1984. He was 78. He suffered a stroke in 1978 from which he never fully recovered. Even before this he said he had run out of ideas and stopped writing. During his thirty year writing career, he managed to produce three novels and two short story collections.

Finney was born in Sedalia, Missouri on December 1st, 1905. He wrote PAST THE END OF THE PAVEMENT, based on his childhood in Sedalia, in 1939. After university he joined the army, and spent time in Tientsin, in China in the late 1920s. His collection, OLD CHINA HANDS appeared in 1961. He became a newspaper man after leaving the army, and he was a copy reader, page one editor and financial editor with the Arizona Daily Star, for 35 years until his retirement in 1970. But he never wrote a word except for a few headlines.

His most successful book, THE CIRCUS OF DR LAO, was filmed by George Pal in 1962, and starred Tony Randall, with a script by Charles Beaumont. The book was published in various English and foreign language editions. His only other novel, THE UNHOLY CITY, appeared in 1937. It was reprinted in 1968, along with "The Magician Out of Manchuria". A collection of stories that had appeared in various publications, THE GHOSTS OF MANACLE, was published in 1964.

Finney is survived by his wife, Marie, two daughters, and six grandchildren.

BYRON HASKIN

Film maker Byron Haskin, died of lung cancer in Montecito, California on April 16th, 1984. His long and distinguished career in the film business, included the directing of ROBINSON CRUSOE ON MARS (1964) THE WAR OF THE WORLDS (1953) THE NAKED JUNGLE (1954) THE CONQUEST OF SPACE (1955) and THE POWER (1968). He had a long and productive relationship with George Pal. He also directed the GLASS HAND episode of the Outer Limits TV series, which was written by Harlan Ellison. He retired in 1968.

OLON WIGGINS

Olon Wiggins, who was the chairman of the 1941 World SF Convention, "Denvention One", died February 4th. He was 74. The convention was attended by 70 people and Robert Heinlein was GoH, and was held only after a lot of controversy about it being held so far away from the fannish centres of the East coast. Wiggins is credited with originating the post mailings or APAs as we call them now. He was a member of the Fantasy Press Association that was founded by Donald Wollheim. His last fan appearance was on a panel at Denvention Two in 1981.

SAM JAFFE

Sam Jaffe, the man who did play Gunga Din in the film role of that name, plus many other roles in such films as LOST HORIZON ('37) THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL ('52) and Dr Zorba in the BEN CASEY TV series, died March 24th at his home in Beverly Hills. He was 93.



JOHNNY WEISMULLER and co-star MAUREEN O'SULLIVAN as Tarzan and Jane.

JOHNNY WEISMULLER

The Olympic swimming champion, turned film star, Johnny Weissmuller, died January 20th in his home in Acapulco, Mexico. He was 79. Weissmuller was the best known portrayer of Tarzan, starring in a series of movies about the Edgar Rice Burrough's character.

ROLLY BESTER

Rolly Bester, actress and advertising executive, and the wife of author Alfred Bester, died January 12th, of cancer. She was 66. She appeared on the stage and on TV in the Sid Caesar shows, various soap operas and many commercials.



NEBULA AWARD WINNERS 1983

The Nebula Awards were presented at a banquet held aboard the ocean liner, the Queen Mary, which is now permanently landlocked at Long Beach, California, on April 28th, 1984. The toastmaster was Terry Carr. He announced the office bearers of the S.F.W.A. for the next year, who were all elected unopposed. Charles Sheffield is President Roland Green, Vice President; C.J. Cherryh, Secretary; John Carr, Treasurer; and F. Paul Wilson, East Coast Director. The guest "speaker" was Art Seidenbaum of the Los Angeles Time Book Review, who told a few jokes and then sat down.

The awards were given out by last year's winners, and they were:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| <u>BEST NOVEL</u> | STARTIDE RISING
by David Brin (Bantam) |
| <u>BEST NOVELLA</u> | "Hardfought",
by Greg Bear (Asimov 2/73) |
| <u>BEST NOVELETTE</u> | "Blood Music"
by Greg Bear (Analog 6/83) |

JOHN NEWTON CHANCE

The British writer we knew as John Lymington, died about six months ago, but no further details are known. He wrote about 150 books, mostly mysteries, and 20 science fiction titles. He wrote Sexton Blake novels as J. Drummond, some juveniles as David C. Newton, and about a dozen sf novels as John Lymington. His 90 odd mystery novels were written under his own name. His first sf novel, THE NIGHT OF THE BIG HEAT (1959) was made into a movie. Other SF novels included: THE GREY ONES (1960), FROOMB! (1964), THE NOWHERE PLACE (1969), THE SLEEPEATERS (1973), THE NIGHT SPIDERS (1967) and others.

BEVERLY ANN HERBERT

The wife of author Frank Herbert, Beverly Ann Herbert, died February 7th, 1984, age 57, at Maui, Hawaii. She had been suffering from cancer for ten years. Bev accompanied her husband on all his overseas trips, including to Australia in 1981, when Frank was GoH of Advention. We found Bev a very happy and outgoing person, and we know she will be missed by all who knew her.

ELIZABETH GOUDGE

Elizabeth de Beauchamp Goudge died on April 1st at the age of 83. Amongst her twenty novels, and several short stories, were a number of fantasy titles for children. THE LITTLE WHITE HORSE, and LINNETS AND VALERIANS being two of them, but she brought elements of fantasy into most of her books. She spent all her life in Salisbury, Ely, Wells and Oxford, apart from Henley, just outside London, where she more recently settled.

SLIM PICKENS, the American actor who rode the atom bomb to Earth in the film DR STRANGELOVE, died late '83 or early '84.

BEST SHORT STORY "The Peacemaker",
by Gardner Dozois
(Asimov's 8/83)
GRAND MASTER ANDRE NORTON

THE PHILIP K. DICK MEMORIAL AWARD was won by TIM POWERS, for his novel, THE ANUBIS GATES. The runner up was R.A. MACAVOY for TEA WITH THE BLACK DRAGON. The award was presented at Norwescon in Seattle during the March 23rd weekend. A cash prize of \$1000.00 went to Powers and \$500.00 to MacAvoy. The convention and various publishers, contributed to the fund for the award. The judges for this years award were Anthony Wolk, John Clute and Algis Budrys. The 1985 judges are John Sladek, Roland Green and Ted Michelson.

THE HUGO NOMINATIONS 1984

The nominations for the 1984 Hugo Awards to be presented at LA-CON, this years World SF Convention, have been announced as follows:

BEST NOVEL

MILLENNIUM by John Varley (Berkley)
MORETA: DRAGON LADY OF PERN
Anne McCaffrey (Del Rey)
THE ROBOTS OF DAWN by Issac Asimov
(Doubleday)

STARTIDE RISING by David Brin (Bantam)
TEA WITH THE BLACK DRAGON by R.A. MacAvoy (Bantam)

BEST NOVELLA

- "Cascade Point", by Timothy Zahn
(Analog 12/83)
"Hardfought" by Greg Bear (Asimov's 2/83)
"Hurricane Claude" by Hilbert Schenck
(F&SF 4/83)
"In the Face of My Enemy" by Joseph M.
Delaney (Analog 4/83)
"Seeking" by David Palmer (Analog 2/83)

BEST NOVELETTE

- "Black Air" by Kim Stanley Robinson
(F&SF 3/83)
"Blood Music" by Greg Bear (Analog 6/83)
"The Monkey Treatment" by George R.R.
Martin (F&SF 7/83)
"The Sidon in the Mirror" by Connie
Willis (Asimov's 4/83)
"Slow Birds" by Ian Watson (F&SF 6/83)
"Wong's Lost and Found Emporium" by
William F.Wu (Amazing 5/83)

BEST NON-FICTION

- DREAM MAKERS, VOLUME II
by Charles Platt (Berkley)
THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION AND
FANTASY, VOLUME III
by Don H.Tuck (Advent)
THE FANTASTIC ART OF ROWENA,
by Rowena Morrill (Pocket)
THE HIGH KINGS by Joy Chant (Bantam)
STAYING ALIVE: A WRITER'S GUIDE
by Norman Spinrad (Donning)

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

- RETURN OF THE JEDI (Lucasfilm/20th
Century Fox)
THE RIGHT STUFF (The Ladd Company/
Warner)
SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES (Disney)
WARGAMES (M.G.M.)
BRAINSTORM (M.G.M.)

BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR

- TERRY CARR (UNIVERSE/BEST SF OF THE YEAR)
EDWARD L. FERMAN (F&SF)
DAVID G.HARTWELL (Timescape)
SHAWNA MCCARTHY (Asimov's)
STANLEY SCHMIDT (Analog)

BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

- VAL LAKEY LINDAHN, DON MAITZ, ROWENA
MORRILL, BARCLAY SHAW, MICHAEL WHELAN

BEST SEMI-PROFESSIONAL MAGAZINE

- Fantasy Newsletter/Fantasy Review,
Robert Collins, editor.
Locus, Charles N.Brown, ed.
Science Fiction Chronicle
Andrew Porter, ed.
Science Fiction Review, Richard E.Geis,
editor.
Whispers, Stuart David Schiff, ed.

BEST FANZINE

- Ansible, Dave Langford, ed.
File 770, Mike Glyer, ed.
Holier Than Thou, Marty & Robbie Canter
eds.
Izzard, Patrick & Teresa Neilson-Hayden
eds.
The Philk Fee-Nom-Ee-Non, Paul J. Willet
ed.

BEST FAN WRITER

- RICHARD E. GEIS, MIKE GLYER, ARTHUR
HLAVATY, DAVE LANGFORD, TERESA NEILSEN-
HAYDEN

BEST FAN ARTIST

- BRAD FOSTER, ALEXIS GILLILAND, JOAN
HANKE-WOODS, WILLIAM ROTSLER, STU
SHIFFMAN

THE JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD

- JOSEPH H.DELANEY, LISA GOLDSTEIN,
*R.A.McAVOY, WARREN NORWOOD, JOEL
ROSENBERG, SHERRI TEPPER
* First year of eligibility

The COMPTON CROOK/STEPHEN TALL AWARD,
for best first novel, which is presented
by the Baltimore SF Society, was won by
CHRISTOPHER ROWLEY. It includes a prize
of \$500 cash and travel expenses to
BALTIMORE, as well as a Plaque. The winning
novel was THE WAR FOR ETERNITY. Other
nominees included PARADISE by Don
Henderson, RUMOUR OF ANGELS by M.Bradley
Kellog, TEA WITH THE BLACK DRAGON by
R.A.MacAvoy, THE HELIX AND THE SWORD by
John C.McLoughlin, and THE BLACKCOLLAR
by Timothy Zahn.

BOB SHAW won the Deutscher Science Fiction
Award for his novel THE CERES SOLUTION.
The award was for the best foreign novel
published in Germany in 1983. It was
presented to Shaw when he was GoH at
Interessef convention, held in Amsterdam.

THE LOCUS POLL

LOCUS runs a poll amongst it's readers
every year, to find the best sf published
during the previous year. Something ASFN
should do sometime, perhaps. The Locus
Poll is usually a good guide to the
Hugos, and this year's winners are:

BEST SF NOVEL: STARTIDE RISING by David
Brin; BEST FANTASY NOVEL: THE MISTS OF
AVALON by Marion Zimmer Bradley; BEST
FIRST NOVEL: TEA WITH THE BLACK DRAGON
by R.A.MacAvoy; BEST NON-FICTION : DREAM
MAKERS, VOLUME II, Edited Charles Platt;
BEST NOVELLA: "Her Habiline Husband"
by Michael Bishop; BEST NOVELETTE: "The
Monkey Treatment" by George R.R.Martin;
BEST SHORT STORY: "Beyond the Dead" by
James Tiptree Jr. ; BEST COLLECTION:
UNICORN VARIATIONS: by Roger Zelazny;
BEST ANTHOLOGY: THE BEST SF OF THE YEAR
#12, edited by Terry Carr; BEST ARTIST:
Michael Whelan; BEST MAGAZINE: Locus ;
BEST PUBLISHER : Ballantine/Del Rey.
These results were assessed from 1000
ballots that were received.

THE SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE READER AWARDS FOR 1983

Science Fiction Chronicle conducts a
poll amongst its readers, to determine
what they think are the best books and
stories published during the past year.
The most popular were as follows:
BEST NOVEL: THE ANUBIS GATES by Time
Powers (ACE), 2. THE CITADEL OF THE
AUTARCH by Gene Wolfe (Timescape), 3.
HELLICONIA SUMMER by Brian Aldiss
(Atheneum) tied with STARTIDE RISING by
David Brin (Bantam). 56 titles nominated.
BEST NOVELLA: "Her Habiline Husband "
by Michael Bishop (Universe 13), 2.
"Hardfought" by Greg Bear (2/83 ASFM),
3. "Homefaring" by Robert Silverberg
(11/83 Amazing.) 21 titles nominated.

BEST NOVELLETTE: "Black Air" by Kim
Stanley Robinson (3/83 F&SF), 2. "Blind
Shemmy" by Jack Dann (4/83 Omni), 3.
"Blood Music" by Greg Bear (6/83 Analog)
45 titles nominated.

BEST SHORT STORY: "The Peacemaker" by
Gardner Dozois (8/83 IASFM), 2. "Her
Furry Face" by Leigh Kennedy (Mid-12/83
IASFM), 3. "Brothers" by Richard Cowper
(3/83 F&SF). 61 titles nominated.

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: RETURN OF
THE JEDI, 2. ZELIG, 3. BRAINSTORM
32 titles nominated.

BEST PRO EDITOR-MAGAZINES: EDWARD L.
FERMAN, 2. SHAWNA MCCARTHY, 3. GEORGE
SCITHERS
FERMAN (F&SF), 2. SHAWNA MCCARTHY
(IASFM), 3. GEORGE SCITHERS (Amazing)
11 nominations.

BEST PRO EDITOR-BOOKS: DAVID HARTWELL
(TimescapeBooks), 2. TERRY CARR (Universe/
Best SF Of The Year), 3. JAMES PATRICK
BAEN (TorBooks). 21 nominated.

BEST PRO ARTIST: MICHAEL WHELAN, 2.
BARCLAY SHAW, 3. DON MAITZ tied with
ROWENA MORRILL. 48 nominated.

BEST SEMI PROZINE: SCIENCE FICTION
CHRONICLE (Ed.Andrew Porter), 2. LOCUS
(Ed. Charles Brown & Rachel Holman),
3. SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW (Ed. Richard
Geis). 21 titles nominated.

BEST FANZINE: FILE 770 (Ed .Michael
Glyer), 2.IZZARD (Ed. Patrick and Theresa
Nielsen-Hayden), 3. BOONFARK (Ed. Dan
Steffan). 27 titles nominated.

BEST FAN WRITER: RICHARD GEIS, 2. THERSA
NEILSEN-HAYDEN, 3. ANDREW PORTER.

BEST FAN ARTIST: ALEXIS GILLILAND, 2.
STUE SHIFFMAN, 3. WILLIAM ROTSLER.

MOST ATTRACTIVE COVERS-MAGAZINE :
ANALOG SF (Ralph Rubino, Art Director),
2. FANTASY & SF (Edward L.Ferman Editor/Art
Director), 3 AMAZING (George Scithers
Editor/Art Director). 10 nominated.

MOST ATTRACTIVE COVERS-BOOKS:
ACE BOOKS (Gene Mydlowski, Art Director),
2 DEL REY BOOKS (Don Munson, Art Director),
3. TOR BOOKS (Tom Doherty, Publisher/Art
Director). 18 nominated.

EDITORIAL NOTES:

It is interesting to compare the polls,
the awards, and the nominations. Some
things crop up in more than one place,
so it is obvious that they have something
special going for them. If you have not
read all the stories mentioned, you at
least know that they all must be worth
chasing up. Also, it has occured to me
that it is about time ASFN ran a poll
of its own.

The major problem with the DITMAR AWARDS
is that not enough people out of those
eligible to vote, bother to do so. With
a wider range of people able to vote for
an award, we must get a higher number of
people voting. So, the first ASFN Popular
F&SF Poll will be conducted on this year's
publications, and achievements, with nom-
inations and final voting being organised
so that the winners can be announced as
early as possible in 1985. Everybody who
picks up a copy of ASFN will be eligible
to vote. Two special awards that I would
like to include will be one in honour of the
late RON GRAHAM, for Outstanding Achieve-
ment in the SF Field in Australia, and
another in memory of A.BERTRAM CHANDLER,

perhaps for the best SF Adventure Novel of the Year. Others may include: The Most Popular Author of the Year; Best New Australian Author of the Year; The SF Fan of the Year; and the Best Australian F or SF Novel and Short Fiction, must be included. The Most Popular F or SF Novel Published Outside Australia, must be considered, but with a longer period of eligibility than that allowed for the DITMARS, to allow people more time to have read books from overseas that could be eligible.

Whatever, the rules and regulations pertaining to nominations will be kept as simple and as clearly defined, as possible.

Meanwhile, I will be pleased to hear from any readers who have any suggestions, or comments on this idea of the NEWS poll and awards.

Merv B.

LETTER COLUMN



Ron Putnins,
4 Gort Avenue,
CLAPHAM SA 5062

27th December, 1983

Dear Merv,

I've just finished reading your last A.S.F.N. and am pleased to see you keeping your high standard of quality and presentation, although a bit concerned to hear of your problems at Space Age. I wish you and your staff all the best for the New Year, and hope you manage to pull through OK next year.

Onto the zine, well I do think that the news section is quite adequate, but is there a valid reason for duplicating part of your Space Age newsletter new releases? Three pages in fact, that seem to have strolled over from the newsletter sitting next to me, looking very quiet and guilty. Ahem. Anyhow, good to see those critical reviewers thrashing it out with the new releases, and a reminder to the other readers to keep sending your letters in. (Makes it look like you're interested in these white pages with black squiggles and marks on them.)

As a sort of reply to Shane McCormack's letter, I am sorry to hear about the state of Sydney's fandom. As treasurer of Adelaide's SASFS, however, I can only admit that things are just as bad in the sunny south. Marc Ortlieb is doing fine, John Packer is still rattling on, and the media clubs are flourishing, but S.F. seems to be very much in the doldrums at the moment. Comments and/or suggestions please?

One final note, or a free plug as the case may be, just around the corner in '84, I'll be producing a new zine, predominantly into horror (fantasy 'a la Weird Tales, ie. C.A. Smith, Lovecraft type of stuff), and I'd love to hear from any writers and/or artists interested. Yes, you can contact me at the above address.

Well I guess that's all for now folks,

so till next time round, may the force hold up your pants!

Yours in S.F.
Ron Putnins.

Dear Ron,

Thank you for your comments. Sorry it has taken so long for me to publish them. Your criticism of duplication of information in ASFN and Space Age Newsletter is to a certain degree correct, although I have tried to avoid too much duplication. The point is, a lot of people receive copies of Space Age's Newsletter, that do not subscribe to ASFN. The opposite is also the case, but a large number of people certainly do receive copies of both. Consequently the list I am doing in the F&SF CHECKLIST is the only list I will be doing in future, that will give full information on each title. An sf list will be done in the Newsletter, but only of the titles Space Age will have in stock and Space Age's prices. Duplication of listing and so duplication of work, has been something I have been trying to avoid as long as I have been publishing F&SF lists. Future issues of ASFN will only give basic details on titles, mainly well in advance of publication.

Thanks

Merv B.

Rick Kennett
46 Soudan St
Coburg 3058
22 February 1984

Dear Mr Binns,

Just read your editorial in the News asking readers to tell you of any stories by Australian writers they might find. Working on the if-you-don't-blow-your-own-horn-nobody-will-blow-it-for-you theory, and running the risk of looking a little egotistical (but what writer isn't?), I'd like to inform you that I had a story, "Drake's Drum", published in the 19th Fontana Great Ghost Stories anthology in the U.K. last Christmas. Another story, "The Roads of Donnington", will be published in the 20th Fontana ghost book next Christmas. Also, for what it's worth, a re-write of one of my early ENIGMA science fiction stories, "Ace!", will appear in, of all places, a fairly mainstream literary journal, LINQ (volume 11, No 2), which originates from the James Cook University in Queensland.

Yours modestly,

Rick Kennett

Dear Rick,

Thanks for your letter. I should have mentioned your sales of stories in the Australian Professional News column, but I will next time. I hope other writers will also keep me posted of their success in selling stories. I would also like to hear from any readers who notice stories by Australian authors, in any publications. Not only the f&sf magazines, but places like "Woman's Weekly" or other odd spots.

Merv B.

Michael Hailstone
P.O.Box 193,
Woden, A.C.T. 2606,
20th March 1984

Dear Merv,

Thanks for the latest NEWS and your

comments on my letter. I was a bit annoyed by your description of Melbourne's public transport as "anachronistic". I think just about everyone with any sense now realizes that scrapping Sydney's tramway system was a big mistake, and probably a big con by the motor and oil companies to boot. You should consider yourselves lucky in Melbourne to have a government so incredibly intelligent and sensible, indeed a rarity among governments, as to insist on keeping the trams. No, it's your attitude that is anachronistic, not the trams.

Sincerely

Michael Hailstone

Dear Michael,

Firstly, just to add to my comments in the last issue, I am not offering to pay for your printing of CRUX, but if you are interested I can get you a quote on the printing of it. I do hope you can keep it going and if my current financial situation was different I certainly would be prepared to help you.

As for the trams, you have got me wrong. I am not knocking our trams. I love them. Some of them however have been on the tracks for many years and are now being replaced by new streamlined models that I hate. The liberal government were always in favour of keeping the trams, but decided to change the colour from green to a very ugly brown. The new labor government last year decided to paint all the old and new trams in green and gold, and they are looking great. They are functional and most definitely do a good job, but I still say they (the old ones) look a bit old fashioned. This is most definitely their appeal however, especially to visitors.

Sincerely

Merv B.

Josephine Dorian
68 Station St
Aspendale 3195
March 84

Dear Mervyn,

Hope you are now recovering from what read like a nervous breakdown coming up in Feb's NEWS editorial. Don't forget the fans can help if you take the help which is often offered. When you refuse we can't do anything but suppose you are coping alright. Also, it would help if catalogues did arrive before the product was sold out. The Tolkien Calendar this year sold out the day my Dec. catalogue got to me. M.O. Tolkien fans are rich and knowledgeable, so why you offended this market in favour of the quick shop sale, I can't fathom. I don't run a shop, but I am, like most SF fans here obliged to work full time, so we do understand your problems. But SF is no chore. It is a delight, we try to punch it home in this difficult market. Delighted to hear Silverberg's "Man in the Maze" on the A.B.C. recently so we are getting through at last. Try to let us know about items to cast votes for before the day the entries close, or the day after, or the night before. Ever tried to read 200 items in one night then assess them rationally. I liked your reply about women writers. I have one of Harry Harrison's early efforts in which he states (1948, the date) "Science Fiction is for boys." This is casting the gauntlet down to women. You

omitted Leigh Brackett in your group of female writers - she wrote the screenplay for "The Empire Strikes Back" and "E.T." was written by a lady whose name escapes me. Mary Shelley wrote "Frankenstein" before one man wrote one word of sf. Vonda McIntyre and Anne McCaffrey write more in the Fantasy line, but we are getting into the scientific side of writing. Women seem more literate at times, but we are not all sex maniacs or whatever the bloke said as you pointed out. Despite celluloidic wonderment, the best sf writing is done by anyone who is competent in the use of the language, as much as scientific knowledge and imagination. Often the best writers are well known in other literature - H.G. Wells, George Orwell, Jules Verne, R.L. Stevenson. e.g. were adventure and social writers also. It takes time, effort and discipline, so the moral fibre of good s/f writing is excellent and enduring at its best. Agatha Christie's detective Hercule Poirot used to say "Ze exercise for ze little grey cells" is desperately needed. Keep fit, and I am sending an order soon to the Shop as I have cleaned out a great cupboard filled with paperbacks and I intend to refill it with new ones.

All the best,

Josephine Dorian

Dear Josephine,

Your letter is a mixture of ASFN and Space Age business, but I have published it in full here at any rate. I am sorry you missed out on the Tolkien Calendar last year, but it was on sale as early as September. I do endeavour to tell people as early as possible that things are on sale or due, but some items will be overlooked, and at Christmas, I am always hard put to get the shop Newsletter out on time. This year's Tolkien Calendar by the way, is due out in October. I will mention it further in Space Age's next list in August.

MAN IN THE MAZE is one of those nuisance items that the media create at times for us booksellers. The trouble is that they sometimes mention books that are not even published yet, or only available overseas, or they pick up something that has been out of print for the last "ten" years. MAN IN THE MAZE was unavailable and presumably out of print in both U.K. and U.S. editions, but we are expecting copies from Gordon & Gotch soon in the Star edition. Following the ABC reading of the novel, we had hundreds of people wanting to buy it. Why couldn't they choose a new title, that was readily available?

Your other comments are noted, but I cannot discuss them in detail at this time.

Thanks

Merv B.

PS. If any other readers are cleaning out their cupboards, Space Age is in the market for second hand books. Not magazines though, at present thanks.

Harry Harrison
Kestrel Ridge
Vale of Avoca
Co. Wicklow
Ireland
11 May 1984

Dear Merv,

The packages have been coming through -- many thanks. The hot jug works fine.

20

As soon as we got home I was off to London, then to New York and California -- maybe a film of the Rat books. That would be nice. WEST OF EDEN shaping up as a best-seller in the States, Bantam is spending \$50,000 on advertising and printing 50,000 copies hardcover! Granada is publishing their hardback on August 23rd -- Ghu knows when you'll get your copies.

Home at last and I found copies of the two volumes of the ASF Reader I promised you. Getting them off today. Also an Extra Book, very rare, to say thanks for everything you did for I and Joan during our visit there. Thanks as well to the whole Melbourne gang. We had a tremendous time.

All the best,

Harry.

Dear Harry,

Thank you for your letter and the details there in. I am glad you enjoyed your time here and that you got home safely. On behalf of us all here, I assure you the pleasure was all ours. I hope the deal to film the RAT books eventuates, and that you do not suffer the disappointment that Brian did.

Sincerely

Merv

Nevil Angove,
c/o Australian Micro Computerworld,
37-43 Alexander Street,
Crows Nest, NSW 2065

May '84

Dear Merv,

Just a line to let you know what is going on.

I have joined Computerworld as an editor (technical editor of 2 of their magazines, in fact), but haven't managed to move to Sydney yet. I am living out of a suitcase at my parents house, but plan to move my family here by the end of May.

Cygnus has been in suspension since June, but I hope to resume publishing the magazine by September. The new (and current) subscription rates are \$A7/4. Part of the problem has been money: I need to clear my debts, and pay the authors for the last two issues, and put enough aside for future issues (but with another mouth to feed due at the end of July, that might be difficult). Another problem has been living in Sydney with all my files in Canberra, and no time to answer mail. A third problem has been a massive load of manuscripts from overseas, thanks to Cygnus being listed in Writers Digest.

Finally, Michael Dutkiewicz is spending a lot of time with the SA Arts Society, and without him pushing me, Cygnus has been pushed to a backburner.

Life should be back to normal (if ever that word could apply to my life) after June.

I hope!

Regards

Nev Angove

Dear Nev,

Congratulations on your new job. I hope it goes well for you. When you get back to working on CYGNUS, you apparently have plenty of stories to choose from, but I hope the Australian writers are still sending you lots of stories.

Sincerely

Merv

R.Laurraine Tutthast
P.O.Box 432
Downey, Ca 90241, U.S.A.
25 June 1984

Dear Merv,

You have been sending me your zine since Eric Lindsay introduced us at Chicon, and I wouldn't blame you if you thought me rude for not responding until now. The most stormy period of my life began shortly after our meeting. Less than two months later, I was laid off from my job at the Xerox Corporation where I'd worked for over nine years. It was a shock; I had no idea anything like that was in the offing. The next February, I moved to Atherton, California, which is near San Francisco. During the eight months or so I lived there, I was busy job hunting. Please note my new address. Last November, I found a job near Los Angeles, where I've wanted to live since grade school. For several months, I was very busy settling into a new place. Things were just beginning to be routine when I discovered that I was very unhappy with my job. Now I am again busy job hunting. I hope I don't have to move again. If I do, it will be in the Los Angeles area; I don't ever want to leave now that I'm here.

When I met you, I had every hope and prospect of going to Australia next year for the Worldcon. With the expense of unemployment and moving, those plans went down the drain. I still hope to visit Australia some day.

The latest of issue of your zine I have received is for January. This is also, alas, the first time that I've had the time to read it thoroughly. I'm glad I did. There's one article in particular that I enjoyed very much. That is Bruce Barnes's trip report. It was very interesting and entertaining.

Thank you for sending me your zine, and I hope to be more responsive in future.

Sincerely,

Laurraine.

Dear Laurraine,

Thank you very much for taking the time to write. I send a number of copies of the NEWS to the U.S.A. and other parts of the world, but I regret that I do not get very much response from them, so it is great to hear that somebody appreciates my efforts. I am sorry you will not be able to come to AUSSIECON, but we are expecting a very big contingent from the U.S.A. Australia has been getting a lot of coverage over there recently, and I guess that did not harm our bid for the World Con and I am sure that it helped some fans make up their minds to attend.

Nice to hear from you,

Regards

Merv B.

Other people who have written include Diane Fox, and I thank you very much Diane, even if I could not use your reviews or your letter, for different reasons, and Justin Ackroyd who has sent a postcard. He was the recipient of much "hate" at Marc Ortleib's "hate" session at EUREKACON, for deserting the con and other things. Justin has been visiting conventions all over the place in Europe and in Britain, on his trip as 1984 GUFF Winner, and he has generally been having a great time.

All together now! HATE! HATE! HATE!

Merv Binns/Ed.

Damien Broderick Calls For Stories For A New Anthology

Damien Broderick,
10 Marks Street,
BRUNSWICK, Vic 3056
Ph: (03) 387 7694

16th July, 1984

NOOZ FLASH

I would like to see submissions for a new all-Australian original-fiction sf/fantasy anthology I'm doing.

The book will possibly be called STRANGE ATTRACTORS (don't ask... oh well, it comes from a branch of mathematics known as Chaos Theory, but that doesn't matter really, does it? Of course it doesn't). It will resemble my last anthology (THE ZEITGEIST MACHINE; Angus & Robertson) in its breadth of contents, though the emphasis is strongly on original rather than reprint fiction.

Rates of payment will be (I hope, if we get Literature Board support) about equal to the standard American magazines. The publisher is Hale & Iremonger. The deadline is around October-November. The book is to be out in time for AussieCon 11.

What I'm looking for, essentially, is good sf of the old school written with the panache and verve of the new. Yes, I suppose, what I'm after is that old hair-stirring sense of wonder. And no, I haven't become a Jerry Pournelle techie. My eye is pretty thoroughly jaded. But I loved Clarke's "The City and the Stars", and Bester's "The Stars My Destination", and Blish's "Cities in Flight" and "A Case of Conscience" and Heinlein's "Stranger in a Strange Land", and still do...

This book is not meant to be in direct competition with the anthology which Harlan Ellison and Terry Dowling are putting together. It's my feeling that sf has the capacity to be non-national (and, for that matter, deeply personal), so I'm not after any explicit Australian characteristics, let alone deliberately 'mythic' ones... unless that's what people feel impelled to write. I'm as interested in this year's Van Vogt or Algis Budrys or John Varley or Michael Swanwick as in this year's Ballard, Disch or Russ (a comparison meant to imply no cultural cringe, merely some useful sf benchmarks...) I do not want an Aussie Piers Anthony or Barry Longyear.

The usual rules apply, of course: submissions must be typewritten, one side of the page only, decent margins (the editor has to scribble comments to the printer in there, see), and if you want the manuscript back you'd be smart to include return postage; or send a xerox and tell me it's disposable.

Damien Broderick

MARKETS: Apart from this anthology of Damien's and the one being put together by Harlan Ellison and Terry Dowling, we know of no other markets for

Continued page 22, column 1.



FANZINE REVIEWS

BY CATHY KERRIGAN

This issue, there is quite a varied selection of zines. First up is DARK HORIZONS, the journal of the British Fantasy Society. This is an impressive looking zine with good artwork and a nice layout. This ish, #26, is an all fiction issue. My complaint with the fiction contained therein is that virtually all of it is slanted towards horror. The impression I had from the comments in the lettercol on prior issues is that members prefer to discuss horror fiction as opposed to fantasy. The zine is available to members of the society and you may join the society by sending five pounds to The British Fantasy Society, c-Peter Coleborn, 72 Imperial Rd, Huddersfield, HD1 4PG, UK.

THE MATALAN RAVE, December 1983, is put out by Michael Hailstone who is also responsible for CRUX. It comes across (to this reader, anyway) as confused. One article is ramblings by Michael about his life, another is an instalment of Michael's autobiographical "I want to lie on the grass", a third is an item by Albert Vann. Humour is a very individual thing and I, for one, do not find Albert Vann's articles funny at all. The rest of the zine is made up of the lettercol. The letters all deal with Michael's pet peeve, the English language - something which Michael also raves on about in his editorial for CRUX. Presentation? Also confused.

The presentation of LAN'S LANTERN is not confused. Issue #12, arriving two years after issue #11, was pleasant to read. For me, it was nice to read something where articles written in response to prior issues (which I haven't read) were still comprehensible. Available for the fannish usual or \$US1.50 from George "Lan" Laskowski, 652 Cranbrook Rd, #4, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013, USA.

Closer to home is OBSIDIAN 1, the zine of the Mitchell College Science Fiction Society of Bathurst. Impressive for a first zine with some very good, clean artwork and quite a reasonable layout. It contains a mixture of articles, reviews and fiction. The articles range from a survey of the work of Gene Wolfe (GoH for Aussiecon 2, as if you didn't know), the mythology of Hoban's RIDDLEY WALKER and the lyrics of David Bowie and were all enjoyable. Available for a dollar from SFS, Mitchell College, Bathurst, 2795. I'll be interested to see what their next zine is like.

As mentioned earlier, Michael Hailstone publishes CRUX. Issue no 5 is described on the cover as a 'somewhat nordic issue' I can't work out why unless Michael is referring to his diatribe on the English language. The fiction contained therein

is not very good. "A Piece of the Action" was predictable, Paul Collin's serial was confused, I did not attempt the article on relativity, so no comment; "A Perfect Day Is Easy To Take" telegraphed its conclusion in its introduction; "On Sherman's Planet" would have been better if the ending had not driven its point home with a sledgehammer; the comics were illegible; etc, etc. The artwork was mostly good, but the presentation was marred by poor reproduction. Whilst I applaud Michael for publishing Australian sf, the standard of stories published will have to improve before I shell out money for CRUX. But if you wish to support our writers, you can send Michael \$1.50 to P.O.Box 193, Woden ACT 2606.

The outstanding article in Jack Herman's WAHF-FULL, Sept 83, is "Dad" by Glen Crawford. It is the sort of writing one looks for in fiction because it comes from the heart. Whilst the other articles are good, they pale in comparison to "Dad". WAHF-FULL is available for the fannish usual from Jack at Box 272, Wentworth Building, University of Sydney, 2006. It's worth it for the cover and "Dad". One beef - I find Jack's method of paragraphing off-putting and it does nothing for the 'eye-appeal' of the zine.

Media zines usually have a limited appeal because of the specialist nature of their contents. However, a zine has arrived on the scene which may change that. Mary G. T. Webber, a Queensland fan, has put out her first zine T'SALTA. The first ish was good enough for it to gain a nomination for best fannish at the recent National Media SF Con, Medtrek. Mary's zine covers all aspects of media sf and more beside, and Mary intends that it will continue to do so. Whilst most of the fiction deals with media sf, there is also fiction about the Professionals, a very funny book review that satirises Stephen Donaldson's Thomas Covenant books, poetry that doesn't relate to anything media and an article by Mary called "The Facts About Fractures". This is the first of a two-parter explaining some basic medical facts to would-be writers. Mary is a doctor, so she knows what she's talking about when she says that if you want to wound your hero convincingly, this is the way to do it. Mary makes copious reference to media sf to illustrate her points most amusingly. (As I pointed out earlier, humour is an individual thing, but Mary and I have a similar bent when it comes to doing in the heroes of Star Trek, Blake's 7, etc). I do recommend this article to would-be writers. To get it, write to Mary at P.O.Box 137, Hamilton Central 4007. Now can I have my copy of T'Salta no 2 please, Mary?

Reviewed by Cathy Kerrigan

THE CYGNUS CHRONICLER

An Australian Review of Science Fiction and Fantasy

Featuring fiction from the best Australian authors, art from the best Australian artists, plus reviews, news and letters, and regular columns on SF-related themes.

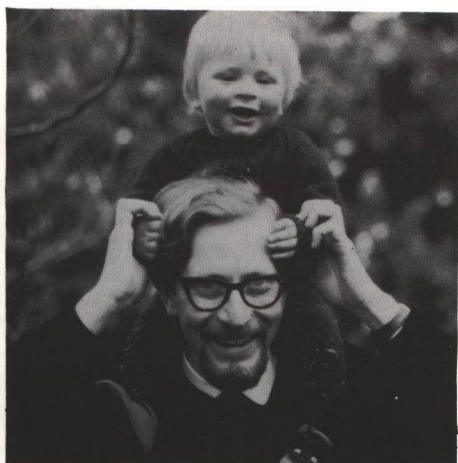
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The Eperex Press
PO Box 770
Canberra City ACT 2601
Australia

FAN FUNDS

stories in Australia at the present other than the small magazines. For overseas markets we suggest a subscription to SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE, which periodically gives a full list of all U.S. publications and their requirements.



A EUREKACON item that deserved mention, was Eric Harding's slide show presentation for the SWANCON XI bid. I do not think that fans needed much encouragement to vote for Perth for the national convention for 1986, but Eric's slide show gave a pretty good indication of the funtime the Perth fans have at their conventions, even if he did put some of the slides in back to front. Here's Eric with his dad Lee back in 1966. Photo taken by Dick Jenssen.



ROBIN JOHNSON and ALICIA PLOWMAN, were married on the 12th of July, in Hobart. The best man was Mike O'Brien. Melbourne fans Paul and Kit Stevens and Peter and Elizabeth Darling, were in attendance. All of Robin's friends in fandom, both here and overseas, I am sure will join us in wishing Robin and Alicia all the best. Robin was born in Hobart, Tasmania, when his father was the Governor of Tasmania's aide. The family returned home to England, but Robin returned about 15 years ago and has been living in various parts of the country ever since. Alicia, incidentally, is Robin's Godmother's daughter.

Another fan wedding that was in this case kept secret, was Dave Luckett and Sally Beasley, in Perth, on January 7th '84.

After a meeting of all interested people held last April 6th, it was announced that the long established SYDNEY SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION, will continue, "but in a new role". A new constitution is to be worked out and plans for new activities are being discussed. For information on the SSFF write to P.O. Box A491, Sydney South, 2000 NSW.

ALLISON COWLING and MICHAEL DOCHERTY, Melbourne fans, announced their engagement recently.

JUSTIN ACKROYD, as reported elsewhere in this issue, is having a great time on his GUFF trip, and JACK HERMAN has not taken off yet on his DUFF trip to LA-CON and beyond. Nominations are already coming in for the two trips to AUSSIECON II, and so far Jerry Kaufman, the 1983 DUFF winner, reports that MARTY and ROBBIE CANTOR are in the race, but he expects other nominations soon. While in Europe, the candidates for GUFF are ROELOF GOUDRIAAN of the Netherlands (editor of S.O.B.), MALCOLM EDWARDS, EVE HARVEY, JIM BARKER and CHRISTOPHER PRIEST. We will give voting details next issue.

Meanwhile, things are happening over in Kiwi-land and two fans have already nominated for FFANZ. DUNCAN LUCAS and NIGEL ROWE, both of Auckland, New Zealand. You can find out how you can vote for FFANZ by contacting John Newman, P.O. Box 4, Thornbury, Victoria, 3071, Australia or Tom Cardy, P.O. Box 1010, Auckland, New Zealand. When you do vote, don't just send the minimum voting fee/donation, send double that or more. \$2.00 seems to be the going rate now, but \$5.00 sounds a nice round figure to me.



ARCANAACON August 23rd to 26th '84
University High, (Royal Pde, Parkville)
Victoria. A Gaming Convention. For
details ring 458 4029 or write 105
Cardigan St., Carlton 3053 Victoria.

PARANOIACON September 28th to
October 1st '84
The El Toro, Oheprise Ave., Liverpool
NSW. For details write G.P.O. Box 429,
Sydney, 2001, NSW.

CONQUEST September 29th & 30th '84
Sheraton Hotel, Turbot St., Brisbane
GoH George Takei. A media/Star Trek
convention. For further details write
GPO Box 1376, Brisbane, 4001, Queensland.

CIRCULATION 30th November to
2nd of December '84
Southside Motor Park, Canberra Ave, ACT
A relaxed SF convention. For details
contact PO Box 42, Lyneham, ACT 2602

TIMELORD'S BALL November 24th '84
Carrington Hotel, Main Rd., Katoomba,
N.S.W. A celebration of DR WHO's 21st
Birthday. For details contact P.O. Box
C377, Clarence St., Sydney, 2001 NSW

ADVENTION April 5th to 8th 1985 (EASTER)
The 24th National Australian Convention
Townhouse, cr Hindley & Morphett Sts.,
Adelaide, South Australia. GoH not
announced yet. For further details
write to 95 Second Ave., Joslin 5070, S.A.

SWANCON SWANCON 10, the annual Perth
Convention for 1984. Date
and venue not available, but it is
usually held over the Australia Day
weekend. SWANCON XI to be held at
Easter 1985, is the 25th National
Australian Convention. GoH A.E. VAN VOGT.
For further details on these conventions
write P.O. Box 318, Nedlands, 6009 W.A.

CON AMORE A Science Fiction Media-
Literary Convention

June 8th to 10th 1985.

GoH DAVID GERROLD. The Park Royal Hotel
Alice St., Brisbane, Queensland
For further information write to:
P.O. Box 231, Cannon Hill, 4170, Queensland.

AUSSIECON TWO

43RD WORLD SF CONVENTION

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
August 22nd - 26th 1985

The Southern Cross Hotel

The Memberships rates for AUSSIECON 2,
effective from July 1st 1984 are:

Attending: \$50 Supporting: \$30

The full membership rate will remain at
\$50 at least until December 1984. We
strongly urge all readers to join now
if you intend attending AUSSIECON 2,
because the rate will most certainly
increase further before, and at the
convention. The costs involved in stag-
ing a convention of this size, either in
Australia or overseas, are astronomical.
We said ten years ago that AUSSIECON 1
was a once in a lifetime opportunity to
attend a World Convention. You now have
a second chance. Don't blow it! It is very
unlikely you will ever have a chance
again to attend a World Convention in
this country.

It is intended that the supporting rate
be held at this rate up to the conven-
tion. A current supporting member may
convert for \$20. For further details
on this, the second World SF Convention
to be held in Melbourne, Australia,
write to Box G.P.O. Box 2253U, Melbourne
3001, Victoria, Australia.

OVERSEAS CONVENTIONS

This year's World SF Convention LA-CON,
is being held August 30th to September
3rd, 1984, at the Anaheim Convention
Centre. This is quite close to Disney-
land we are told. The GoH is GORDON R.
DICKSON, Fan GoH Dicke Eney, Toast-
master Robert Bloch, and M.C. Jerry
Pournelle. The attending membership is now
\$75 and the non-attending is \$20, which
is not convertible to attending.
The membership tally as of June was 5200.
If you have not already joined and booked
your hotel room, you could be in trouble,
but do not let us put you off. For more
details on LA-CON II, write to
P.O. Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409, USA.

WORLD CONVENTION BIDS

The voting this year is for 1986, with
bids in from ATLANTA and NEW YORK, USA.
The winner will be announced at LA-CON.
PHOENIX and SAN DIEGO USA, and BRITAIN,
with its "Britain's Heaven in '87" catch
call, are all bidding for '87. Everybody
wants '88 it seems, with TULSA, ST LOUIS,
and CINCINNATI in the USA, bidding along
with YUGOSLAVIA. BOSTON has let it be
known that it will be bidding for 1989.

THE WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION

The 1984 World Fantasy convention will
be held in Ottawa, Canada. The 1985
one will be in Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

F&SF WRITING GROUP

An F&SF Writing group meets on the 2nd
Saturday of each month, at 2PM, at the
Council of Adult Education, 256 Flinders
St., Melbourne. Call 63 3827 for details.

MORE EDITORIAL COMMENTS

The Australian Fan-newszone THYME is still doing a good fannish job, although its editor Roger Weddall has come in for some flack recently. Rumour has it that his British agent would not distribute a recent issue, because of Roger's somewhat unsportsman-like comments on the GUFF fan fund, which he was nominated for, but which was won by Justin Ackroyd. Reports in THYME by different people, gave a broad assessment of EUREKACON and pointed out all its good and bad features, but a report on KINKON in THYME by Peter Burns, who was there for only a few hours, gave a seemingly biased and false picture of the convention as a whole. How he could attend a convention for the very short time that he did, and give an opinion on the whole convention in that time, is beyond my comprehension. I will not disagree that it was basically a media con, for want of a better term, but it did have a little bit of everything and it worked well! Peter Burns did attend, what I have already said in my report, was the low point of the con, but I consider it grossly unfair of him to have judged the whole convention on the few hours of programme he saw.

I commend Van Ikin's and Craig Hilton's comments on the DITMAR AWARDS in THYME #37, to all those fans who are really interested in seeing the awards put in proper order. I do not agree entirely with all Van has to say. The closing date for nominations for instance, I am sure was quite clearly marked on nomination forms, but we are failing somewhere if he and other fans in W.A. or wherever, are not fully informed on nominating or on final voting. ASFN has failed badly over the last two years, to remind people to vote and of what is eligible for nomination. I will endeavour to remedy that situation next year. Not that everybody reads ASFN, but it does have a big influence.

HUGO FANZINES. As I have only seen copies of ANSIBLE and FILE 770, I could only vote for them in the first "real" Fanzine Hugo Award. I know and appreciate the job both of these guys are doing, but I think that as Mike Glyer, editor of FILE 770 as been a runner up for the Hugo many times, it is only appropriate that he wins the fanzine Hugo this year. I will vote for you next year Dave. I promise!

M.B.

PUBLISH AND BE DAMNED!

SCANDALOUS REPORTS, EMBARRASSING MOMENTS, CRITICAL REMARKS and INNUENDOS in the SCIENCE FICTION WORLD

U.S. author Dr Stephen Astor of Los Altos, California, wrote a novel called BABIES. It deals with the artificial insemination of women, presumably against their will, while in a Marin County hospital. Dr Astor had 3000 copies of his book printed himself, but only managed to sell 150 of them. He offered some to a local radio station for a fund raising auction, but after officials read it, they knocked it back. Dr Astor called this censorship and he attempted to make a visible protest by burning some copies of the book in a parking lot, but the wind took hold of the burning pages and set fire

to nearby grass. "Its not easy being a writer", he said. Astor took up writing after "too much violin playing" landed him in bed with a pinched nerve.

(Locus)

British publisher New English library, reportedly dropped publication of L.Ron Hubbard's giant sf novel BATTLEFIELD EARTH, because they could not get on with the marketing organization Author Services. A new publisher, formed by a former executive of N.E.L., Quadrant Books, is now publishing the book. It is also reported that Author services asked a number of editors if they would edit Hubbard's new book, MISSION EARTH, then changed their mind and said they would do it themselves. No further comments from us, but we do hope Quadrant books in the UK decide to split "Battlefield" into two or more books. The US paperback edition is just too big and awkward.

MORE BOOKS RECEIVED

SPHERE BOOKS have sent us THE MISTS OF AVALON by Marion Zimmer Bradley, the bestselling story of King Arthur, told through the eyes of Camelot's women. A must for all fantasy fans. Two new editions of Poul Anderson's popular works, A KNIGHT OF GHOSTS AND SHADOWS and THE DANCER FROM ATLANTIS. A new horror title is TENGU, by Graham Masterton, which is accompanied by a number of his earlier titles with new covers.

ALLEN & UNWIN have sent us two more titles in their UNICORN Fantasy series, IN VIRICONIUM by M. John Harrison and THE SILVER STALLION by James Branch Cabell. Not only are we getting some classic reprints in this series, but some great new titles as well.

HODDER & STOUGHTON have sent us two more Orbit/Futura titles by Larry Niven

and Steven Barnes. THE DESCENT OF ANANSI and DREAM PARK. From a bookseller's point of view, anything of Larry Niven's is a sure seller and with good graphic covers like these, how can they fail. Also from Hodder distributors we got THE NARROW LAND by Jack Vance in Coronet, and Frank Herbert's thriller, THE WHITE PLAGUE. The first is a collection and the latter, is more likely to appeal to the general reader than Herbert's "Dune" fans. An NEL book.

PENGUIN BOOKS have sent us THE ROBERT SHECKLEY OMNIBUS, a collection of this writer's great short stories, and the first in a fantasy series, DARKCHILD by Sydney Van Scyoc.

BANTAM BOOKS sent us Samuel R. Delany's EMPIRE STAR in a new reprint edition, and ARROW Books sent a new printing of James Blish's historical/fantasy novel, and probably his most important book, DOCTOR MIRABILIS, which is based on the life of Roger Bacon.

FINAL WORD

After agonising for two days over what to cut out, I finally decided to put it all in and here I am with 24 pages. Also, on reassessing the costs of producing the NEWS and the fact that the circulation figures are pretty well established, I realise I have to increase the price. I really cannot see it coming out more often than every three months, so I will have to keep the page count up to 20 pages at least. Consequently the new selling price is up to \$1.50 and the subscription rate is now \$6.00 for 4 issues.

I have included almost everything I wanted to, in this issue, and things are reasonably up to date. The next issue will be out late in October, or a little sooner. Last, but not least, my thanks to Julianne Wylie, Cathy Kerrigan, Helena Roberts, and everyone else who contributed to, and helped get this issue out.

Merv B.

All Our Yesterdays



This photo was taken at a gathering at John Bangsund's home at that time, which at a guess was around 1969. From left to right we have John Bangsund, Leigh Edmonds, Lee Harding, John Foyster, Tony Thomas, Merv Binns & Paul Stevens.

COMING SOON!



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