

NORSTRILIAN NEWS

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August 1973 - a specially-delayed issue to bring you Torcon 2news.
Full Torcon details follow in Sept. issue. An Australia in '75
publications produced by Robin Johnson, GPO Box 4039, Melbourne.

AUSSIECON '75 - BY 330 TO 45!

That's the score in the balloting of Torcon members who had bought memberships in the 1975 Worldcon. John Millard, Chairman of Torcon 2, telephoned me early Monday, Australian time, to give me these figures and other news of the success of the largest Worldcon so far held. As at noon Sunday, 2400 people had passed the registration tables at Toronto's Royal York Hotel: everyone was having a ball, John said, and the hotel had been marvellous. He was calling from Ron Graham's room, and Mervyn Binns had gained honourable mention in the Costume Show, in John Breden's magnificent SET costume, from Roger Zelazny's Creatures of Light and Darkness. It must have been a rare calm minute for John, just before the Awards reception and Banquet. He gave me a list of Hugo winners, due to be publicly announced at the Banquet, and presented by Lester Del Rey.

Here followeth the Hugo winners for 1973:

NOVEL : Isaac Asimov, for THE GODS THEMSELVES
NOVELLA : Ursula K. LeGuin, for THE WORD FOR WORLD IS FOREST
NOVELETTE : Poul Anderson, for GOAT SONG
SHORT STORY: tie, R.A.Lafferty, for EUREMA'S DAM,
and Frederik Pohl and C.M.Kornbluth, for THE MEETING
PROFESSIONAL ARTIST : Frank Kelly Freas
PROFESSIONAL EDITOR : Ben Bova
AMATEUR MAGAZINE : ENERGUMEN
FAN WRITER : Terry Carr
FAN ARTIST : Tim Kirk
DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE.

Here followeth obligatory comment about Rotsler. Maybe he'll win a pro writer's Hugo before he gets his richly-desrved fan artist one. At the time of the phone call, the second and third placegetters were not available. This was probably due to the complicated, and in my opinion unnecessary method of recounting all votes for the winner according to their second choice to obtain second, and so on. How this farce gained the name of the Australian balloting procedure is beyond me. Why don't we merely award second and third places - if that in fact be thought necessary - to those candidates that have the next largest numbers of first place votes? Any objections?

By this morning's mail I received an airmail copy of the Torcon Program Book. A slick, 96-page quarto production, with colour Derek Carter wraparound cover, it has 10 pages of advertising of various types for Australia in '75, ads for both Columbus and New Orleans for Worldcon bids for '76, and many other pro and fan ads, as well as the expected write-ups on Guest-of-Honour Robert Bloch, Fan GoH Bill Rotsler, and Toastmaster Lester Del Rey. There's an ad from Chuck Cra- yne for his Los Angeles bid, that makes his reasons a little clearer, a listing of the program itself - a more up-to-date listing in the form of a pocket pro- gram was sponsored by the A75 bid - articles by Anne McCaffrey on SFWA, Harlan Ellison on Getting Stiffed - Ellisonese for cheated by publishers - by Frederik Pohl on Living in the World of Science Fiction, HALF A FAN IS HUMAN, by Harry Warner Jr. etc. etc. In fact a good issue of an excellent fanzine.

ADVENTION 2

This year's Australian National Convention was held in Adelaide University's Lincoln College. In some ways it managed to transfer indoors the remembered gemütlichkeit of its earlier namesake: meals being in common, or commune, certainly helped here, and that reason for holding a banquet was thus negated. This implies no criticism of the banquet, which was tasty and adequate, rareties in these times of etc. etc. The meeting room was upstairs, and was excellent, having carpeted floors for some improvement in accoustics, upholstered seats, even couches. All-night films largely knocked roomparties on the head, but the general sociable atmosphere, combined with light programming, made up for this. Because most people were living-in, and were seeing each other around the building, like in the communal showers, the occasional mundane prescence was no problem. Until, that is, the movies. Residents at the College had been invited to the film shows, but after the first night when some artwork vanished, relations were more strained.

Enough! The program - well, as usual I missed the opening due to ~~hard~~ to work in Melbourne in the morning, but thanks to Reg Ansett's personal helicopter and public 727 I managed to arrive in time to hear a talk by Dr. Peter Delian, a psychology lecturer at the University on 'SF and the Occult'. He appeared to me to be an ANALOG type, regressive to the extent of desiring ample footnotes to the stories he liked, so he could tell whether the science described was bagus or no. To be more fair, his main theme was that open-mindedness should be applied to the investigation of the occult, or parascience if we prefer. Next, the program book printed the words of some SF lyrics from pop music by such as the Moody Blues, Genesis, and Van de Graaf Generator, which helped a lot when listening to the music, with brief comments from Michael Clark. Andrew Bear, English lecturer at Flinders Uni. then gave a fascinating talk on censorship. He collects anti-censorship pamphlets the way some people collect porno. He warned than the antis are becoming very much more sophisticated, and they could no longer be dismissed lightly as wowsars. He doomsaid the impending visit of Mary Whitehouse, British battler for 'community standards', sponsored by the League of Light, or some such chunderous title.

A masquerade over which a decent darkness should be drawn followed: Allen Evans' kittonish kzinti and a delightful Dalek driven by most Adelaiders in turn did not provide enough to rescue the fixture. Why is it most Australians shy off at this type of thing? There's safety in numbers, I suppose. Pity John Broden's energies were spent in a last-minute effort to finish Merv Binns' costume prior to the Worldcon.

On the Saturday, a business seession authorised the A75 Committee to evolve into a convention Committee from a bidding one, if Torcon did the same. Various people signed rather frightening-looking forms to enable the Committee to form a company limited by guarantee should that prove necessary. Then a discussion started on the subject of the Ditmar Awards, our equivalent of the Hugo Awards. This was adjourned as a slot had opened up in the afternoon program due to the sickness of Rod Nicholls, and his inability to present his talk on Mike Moorcock. Jeff Harris, an often sane individual, led a discussion on the TV programme, DR. WHO, which I missed: maybe the Dalek got another airing then.

Chairmen Paul Stokes and Alan Sandercock ran the auction, which overran and was continued the following day amid greater drama. The few juicy items were near the end, possibly a tactical mistake.

I must have switched off ater the A75 section of the business session, for the Melbourne bid for the 13th National Con next year did not involve me, and there was no opposition. The Peoples' Committee for a Revolutionary Con, or whatever their title now is, made their bid in the persons of David Grigg and Ken Ford. Bruce Gillespie, on the point of leaving for six months, was not present, as he had three issues of SF Commentary to produce first. Maybe it was a good move, as the idea of Bruce as head of a such-named Committee is a trifle croggling.

ADVENTION Contd.

The audiovisual spectacular started with Paul Stokes' announcement of the untimely death of Jeff Harris, closely followed by his resurrection in the form of ~~Paul~~ a vampire with a split personality, given to scientific explanation of each move he made. We segued into a slide-show of headache-creating obscurity, interrupted by the shrieks of assorbed victims. A not-bad idea, defeated by poor optics. John Breden had fixed up the problem by the time he came to give his celebrated R-rated slideshow from the comix, as the spelling seems to be these days.

The Ditmar Awards banquet was held by candlelight downstairs, and an alternative banquet of baked-bean sandwiches was addressed by Irene Pagram on slugs, I'm told. The actual awards and the Guest-of-Honour speech by John Foyster were given back upstairs. John managed to castigate the committee soundly for failing to produce any failures with which to castigate them; described the trauma of finding subjects of common interest to an audience whose main interests range from Carl Barks to Karl Marx; and went to to talk on the importance of being unimportant.

THE DITMARS:

Nominations for Best Australian Fiction were:

THE HARD WAY UP, A Bertram Chandler

LET IT RING, John Ossian

GONE FISHING, David Rome

BUDNIP, Jack Wodhams.

For Best International Fiction:

THE GODS THEMSELVES, Isaac Asimov

THE GORGON FESTIVAL, John Boyd

THE IQ MERCHANT, John Boyd

DYING INSIDE, Robert Silverberg

Best Dramatic Presentation nominations were:

AUSSIEFAN, John Litchen and Paul Stevens' fan movie for the A75 Committee

A CLOCKWORK ORANGE,

SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

Best Australian Fanzine nominations were:

CHAO, John Alderson

GEGENSCHWEIN, Eric Lindsay

RATAPLAN, Leigh Edmonds

SF COMMENTARY, Bruce Gillespie.

Additionally, NO AWARD was nominated in each category.

Winners were: John Foyster (John Ossian), for LET IT RING

Isaac Asimov, for THE GODS THEMSELVES

John Litchen and Paul Stevens, for AUSSIEFAN

Bruce Gillespie for SF COMMENTARY.

Absolutely no comment on the dramatic presentation award, an exercise in maybe-justified chauvinism. LET IT RING was published by Robert Hoskins in INFINITY 3, a collection of original stories from Lancer. John recounted the circumstances of the writing of the story in his acceptance speech. Certain parallels with the situation of this committee may be apparent to the reader. May be, I said.

Finishing up this diverted Adventon report, apart from a couple of panels on the problems of Australian writers, and fan-publishing generally, Sunday's programme highlight was a fascinating talk by Felicity Ann Hughes, lecturer in childrens' literature at Flinders. Her theme was parallels between the ghetto of childrens' lit and SF, many as they are.

AFTERTHOUGHTS: The Adventon Committee also announced an award to the BBC in London for ten years of DOCTOR WHO.

IMPORTANT OMISSION: I omitted to say in my excitement over winning the 1975 bid that our Guest of Honour is Ursula K. Leguin, novella Hugo winner this year and winner of the Newbery Award for children's literature for an EARTHSEA sequel.

COMMISERATIONS to Brian Richards' family. I only recently heard that Brian was killed in a car accident several months ago. Many fans will miss him, too.

SON OF NEW ADDRESSES: Peter Darling returns from Europe Sept. 9th, to 64 Pembroke St, Eppino. NSW 2121.
Liz George, 10/55 McAlister St, Salo 3850

TOLKIEN DEAD: Professor John R.R. Tolkien died Sept. 2nd in Bournemouth, England. He was 81, and earlier this year was unable for reasons of health to visit Paris to receive an award for the best foreign novel, for his LORD OF THE RINGS trilogy, only recently translated into French. MSFC wake, Sept 24th. Contact Space Age.

SPECULATION: Peter Weston's excellent competitor to Bruce's SFC. \$A 2/4 issues.
VECTOR: Malcolm Edwards edits the BSFA's fine " " " ". \$A 5.50/10.

sum of \$18 8, or 10 for \$5.50. Notice how I don't complain about MY AGENTS are the abovementioned Browns: for \$US 2, 10 copies will wing their way, and in Britain, Peter Roberts collects 50p for 8. Note the reduction.

ALSO Don Miller's SOTWJ, but check re the WSFA JOURNAL itself, due editor change.
\$1.50 gets you 10 issues. -----

A 1964 8-cent United States postage stamp. The stamp features a color illustration of the White House in the foreground, with the American flag flying on a tall pole in the background. The words "UNITED STATES" are printed in a bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the stamp, and the denomination "8c" is in the upper right corner. The stamp is perforated on the right side and is placed on a light-colored, textured surface.