

### THYME THREE

THYME is edited and published by Andrew Brown, 5 York St., Prahran, Vic. 3181 (ph: (03) 51 7702), and Irwin Hirsh, 279 Domain Rd., South Yarra, Vic. 3181 (ph: (03) 26 1966), Australia. Available for trade (2 copies, please), news, or by subscription: 6 for \$2.00 (within Australia, or overseas surface) or 3 for \$2.00 (overseas air). British agent: Joseph Nicholas, Room 9, 94 St. George's Square, Pimlico, London SW1Y 3QY, U.K. North American agent: Patrick Nielsen Hayden, 4712 Fremont Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103, U.S.A. Registered by Australia Post - publication no. VBH2625 10 August 1981

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EDITORIAL BUMPF: Well, here I am folks, alone in the editorial seat of THYME. Irwin's excuse is similar to mine from the first issue: the requisites of higher education intruding on meaningful activities like putting newszines together. However, let me assure you that the power hasn't gone to my head, and that I shall keep my rave short and sweet. As follows.

Our more perceptive readers will have noticed that following their names, scrawled on the back cover of this publication, there is either an 'X' or a number. An 'X' means that unless you do something quick (i.e. send us a fanzine, a news item, or even - gasp - filthy lucre), your chances of receiving the next issue are exceedingly slim. In contrast, a number is just used to indicate the last issue you can expect to receive on your current subscription. If by some chance, nothing follows your name, it just means that we don't know what to do about you. Yet.

- Andrew Brown

A PREGNANT PAUSE: David and Sue Grigg are expecting their first child in December. Also due, any week now, is Mark and Jenny Lawrence's second child, which the wonders of modern science have determined will be female.

WHAT'S IN A NAME ? Sally Bangsund has changed her name, by deed poll, to Sally Yeoland. No further information is yet forthcoming.

FAN FUNDS: John Bangsund informs us that he is not standing for DUFF or GUFF. However, potential candidates are reminded that the nominations for DUFF 1982 close at Denvention. Meanwhile, on the other side of the Pacific: Joyce Scrivner reports that Bill Bowers and Jan Howard Finder are considering standing for DUFF 1983; and Patrick Nielsen Hayden reports that Gary Farber will not be standing for TAFF 1983. Skipping across the Atlantic: Dave Langford tells us that Roz Kaveney is 'fairly definitely' standing for TAFF, thereby relieving Kevin Smith from the unenviable position of competing with 'Hold Over Funds'. Dave also says that the next winner of GUFF, "... should he or she pass through Reading, will be welcome to the run of the Langfordian spare bed, home brew (before sampling which, Joyce Scrivner was an 80-pound weakling) et cetera...". And back to Australia: Joseph 'KTF' Nicholas' fine personalzine, NAPALM IN THE MORNING, is available to Australian readers from Irwin Hirsh, at 60 cents a copy - all proceeds to GUFF.



BACK IN OZ: Roger Weddall, overlord of Unicon 4, came back from an extended European sojourn on July 25th. A meaningful quote from Roger: 'I always get Barry Manilow and Barry Malzberg mixed up'. And so say all of us.

SOME COA'S: Kim Huett, GPO Box 429, Sydney, NSW 2001  
Marilyn Pride, 194 Corunna Rd., Petersham, NSW 2049  
Charles Taylor, c/o Zimbabwe Science Fiction Association,  
PO Box 4745, Salisbury, Zimbabwe (yes, really truly !)

A CONVENTION: COMICON III, the 1981 Australian Comic Convention, will be held at Sydney's New Crest Hotel on the 3rd to the 5th of October. Further information from Comicon III, 7 Perry St., Leichhardt, NSW 2040.

ACADEMIA CORRUPTED: 'Speculative Fiction: The Australian Context', a high powered literary conference held in Canberra on the weekend of the 17th-18th of July was enlivened by a mass turnout of fans. Our Canberra correspondent, Leigh Edmonds, reports:

' Who ever said that fans aren't interested in SF these days ? You wouldn't have believed them if you'd seen as many fans as I did sitting attentively through two days of high powered stuff over in the A. D. Hope building of the A. N. U. last weekend.

I reckon that most fans who turned up were surprised at the number of fans there. They came from Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and even Canberra. The first of the two days was the most interesting with four well considered papers being delivered - they were all interesting and Van Ikin and Bruce Gillespie even managed to raise a few laughs. On the second day the panel items were still interesting but less well prepared, and more than a few of the panelists looked as though they had perhaps enjoyed themselves a little too much the night before.

Between the items the organiser, Colin Steel, had allowed generous coffee breaks which were used to catch up on fannish gossip and even to discuss points raised in the previous item. Both lunch breaks were entertainingly taken with expeditions to Civic for nourishment.

If there was anybody at the seminar who did not enjoy themselves, I've yet to hear it. Most seemed to rate it very highly as both an intellectual and a social success, and I would too. There will probably be others held, and before they become too institutionalised, they would be worth getting too.

Jean Weber held a party at her house on the Saturday night, and since everybody seemed intent on being in the lounge room at the same time it was a bit crowded. Everyone seemed to be having a glorious time, the noise was unbelievable. Estimates put the number of people there at between forty and fifty - I reckon that many fans weighs three or four tons and I hope Jean is happy with her new sunken lounge room.'

Well, the strain doesn't seem to have mortally affected Jean, because we have a letter from Jean (apparently produced on a CSIRO computer



text editor). Says she:

' The planned 'conference dinner' had been cancelled due to lack of interest, and groups of attendees scattered all over Canberra seeking sustenance. About fifty of them later rolled up at my place for the party, most having started 'partying' early. By all accounts, it was quite a success. Instead of various groups of friends splitting up to to separate room parties, everyone was all together, and all talking to each other. We produced a short one-shot that I will be putting through Applesauce and ANZAPA.

The party was also a 'Life Begins at Thirty' celebration for Richard Faulder and David Grigg, both of whom had birthdays that week. '

SPEAKING OF BIRTHDAYS: Derrick Ashby celebrated his 29th birthday at a quiet but moving party at home recently, wearing a yellow MELBOURNE IN '85 windcheater for the occasion. When questioned about the arcane significance of this motto, Derrick claimed to be kidding for the 1985 national convention.

SOME RECENT FANZINES: ANSIBLE. Edited by Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Ave., Reading, Berkshire RG2 7PW, United Kingdom. Australian subscription rate: 4 for £1 (cash, no cheques). This is the British newszine, from which Dave Langford has kindly given us permission to steal news (did you know that Isaac Asimov has flogged a fourth (unwritten) Foundation book to Doubleday for \$50,000+ ?), that manages to pack an incredible amount of SF and fan news into its 4 page issues. (The latest issue, no. 19, runs to 8, but that is because of the extra long sentences Joseph Nicholas uses in his pre-GUFF report.) In a letter to us Joseph Nicholas mentions that Dave would like to increase ANSIBLE's circulation within Australia; in another letter, Dave mentions that every subscription he gets increases the hole in his bank account. Help drive Dave to the bankruptcy court, and get a highly enjoyable, information packed fanzine at the same time. Recommended.

- Irwin Hirsh.

SF COMMENTARY 62/63/64/65/66, June 1981. Edited by Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne, Vic. 3001. Subscription rates: Australia - \$10 for 10; USA/Canada - \$12 for 10, from Hank Luttrell, 2501 University Ave., Madison, WI 53703, USA.

There is surely no need to heap superlatives on SF COMMENTARY: it maintains its usual excellence. Featured in this issue are: George Turner's hatchet job on the Herbert/Random opus 'The Jesus Incident' (I suspect the Adventon committee is glad that SFC was published after the convention; otherwise we might have seen the William Atheling award given to George for an attack on the work of Adventon's guest of honour); two reviews of Damien Broderick's 'The Dreaming Dragons' by Anne Brewster and Rowena Cory; an abbreviated version of Claudia Krenz's graduate thesis on Philip K. Dick; an appreciation of Disch's 'On Wings of Song'; and, as the saying goes, much much more.

Yet despite the quality of all this material, the most interesting item in this issue is a letter from Philip Stephenson-Payne.



Philip bemoans, as many of us do, the disappearance of the old, duplicated SFC, the one in which the lives of its readers seemed as important as its critical content. Bruce, however, points out that his intention is to publish '...basically a journal which concerns itself with science fiction. It is also my personal journal, but this function has always been secondary...'. As true as this is from Bruce's point of view, it never seemed to me that the personal material in SFC was secondary: rather, both the criticism and the personal journalism gave SFC a character which we could recognise as being similar to Bruce's own, which the more frequent publication of previous years established as a continuum.

Both SFC and Bruce are at the moment victims of circumstance: it is too expensive for Bruce, who earns his living as a freelance typesetter, to spend hours in front of a duplicator, and thus he publishes in what is the most convenient form for him, offset. Yet the price of convenience is expense, and the cost of offset forces both infrequency, by which we lose the continuity of SFC, and the sharpening of Bruce's objectives, by which we lose much of the personal side of SFC to the (albeit excellent) critical content. It does not seem to me that there is any way out of that situation, more's the pity - so let us support SFC for what it has always done well, its perceptive criticism, even though the package is not all what it once was.

- Andrew Brown

WILLIAM BURROUGHS STRIKES AGAIN: The Nova Mob, Melbourne's SF discussion group, appears to have been well and truly revived. A tentative program for the next four meetings has been issued by Bruce Gillespie, which we summarise below:

September 2: The recent works of Brian W. Aldiss (FRANKENSTEIN UNBOUND and after).

October 7: Each person attending should bring 5 minutes of talk about a science fiction short story.

November 4: European SF, starting with the brothers Strugatsky and moving on to French, German, Italian, etc, SF.

December 2: The Nova Mob Christmas Breakup.

All Nova Mob meetings start at the Danube Restaurant, Acland Street, St. Kilda (especially the December meeting) at 6 p.m., before moving on to John Foyster and Jenny Bryce's residence, 21 Shakespeare Grove, St. Kilda, at around 8 p.m. 1st Wednesday in every month.

SYDNEY FUMES: If Shayne McCormack's reaction (in FORERUNNER, July 1981) is anything to go by, Sydney fandom is rather perturbed that Phantasticon is being held on the same weekend as Tolkon. Says Shayne: '...I consider it to be something of a stinkup to put a Fantasy Convention on at dates that have been advertised for many months as Tolkons...'.  
A DISCLAIMER: As far as I'm concerned, the Laughing Clowns would have to be the best band in Australia.



GUFF NEWS: August 1981 (flyer with THYME)

The deadline for nominations to reach the administrators (for an Australian to go to Britain for the Easter '82 convention) is September 12, 1981. (That's a Saturday, and gives time for the administrators to confer before issuing the ballot that weekend.

Candidates require nomination by three Australian fans and two British fans; a platform must also be prepared, and anyone unsure of details should contact the appropriate (i.e. closest) administrator as soon as possible.

#### Funds

At the moment, just on half of the minimum required amount is on hand; donations are always welcome (payable to one or other of the administrators.

Joseph Nicholas claims that his GUFF report will be out for sale this month. John Foyster can make no such claim about his report (see below).

Watch this fanzine for further details....

#### Personal notes

Those who have supported GUFF by bidding in the postal auction have been badly served by the administrator in Australia: a description - not an excuse - follows.

We returned from New Zealand at the end of May to a flooded house (well, half of it was flooded). This entailed some quick action, part of which had a disastrous effect on GUFF (and the rest of my fan activity) - all of the papers had to be stacked away fast. There has been little or no damage to the papers (though a couple of books (mine, not GUFF's) are still drying out. Until there was space to spread things out the papers had to wait, and although I am still making repairs, it became possible to get at the papers about three weeks ago. First priority had to be given to the work papers, since they related to two reports which were due in July. These were completed on August 3 (225 pages - now you know why I haven't made much progress with the GUFF report), and I now look forward to the more interesting stuff. I expect to have a detailed GUFF Auction report with the next THYME, together with a long list of new auction items. I may even get around to the GUFF report.

John Foyster, 21 Shakespeare Grove, St Kilda, Victoria 3182,  
Australia

(Despite the fact that this CoA was published 18 months ago, mail is still be sent to the old GPO Box. Ho hum.)

British Administrator: Joseph Nicholas, Room 9, 94 St George's  
Square, Pimlico, London, SW1Y 3QY, UK