

THYME FOUR

THYME is edited and published by Andrew Brown, 5 York St., Prahran, Vic., 3181 (phone: (03) 51 7702), and Irwin Hirsh, 279 Domain Rd., South Yarra, Vic., 3141 (phone: (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.
7 September 1981

EDITORIAL: As this issue goes to press, the fate of the Australian bid for the 41st World Science Fiction Convention in 1983 is as yet unresolved. The task of the Australia in '83 committee has not been an easy one, faced with formidable opposition from Baltimore and considerable opprobrium from Copenhagen. Most of us, I think, are hoping that the Australian bid can overcome these by no means insignificant odds and go on to win the bid. But nobody knows for sure - I will not know until a time when this issue of THYME will be dropping gently into your letter box, so I speak only in conjecture.

There is a very real chance that Australia will not win this time round. There are rumours already of a Melbourne in '85 bid, and also of an Australia in '85 bid by the '83 committee in the event of failure. It seems to me that there is some danger of creating a permanent rift in Australian fandom if such a dichotomy of effort was to prevail. But it is not for me to comment on the rightness or wrongness of such actions - I count people involved in both committees as friends, and I respect their efforts and motivations. What I will say is that THYME is willing to offer space to both parties to put forward their views or raise issues, should they so wish. I hope that this will not be necessary, but only the site selection ballot will tell.

- Andrew Brown.

And now, from our roving correspondent in the U. S. of A., we present this report:

SO WHAT'S SO FANNISH ABOUT MINNEAPOLIS ???

It's sad how one's illusions can be shattered by cold hard fact. First Santa Claus, then the Easter Bunny, and finally the fannishness of the ~~Six Little~~ Twin Cities of Minneapolis/St. Paul. While I hate to be the bearer of bad news, I figure that if my illusions have been shattered, then why should anyone else be permitted to keep theirs ?

- (1) There are no zeppelins in Minneapolis.
- (2) I saw no evidence that fans make up more than 90% of the population.
- (3) Woscar the Wombat is a fake. I didn't see him move one. Sure, he was "sleeping" in different positions each time I saw him, but that could have been easily contrived.

Ah well, I guess I'll have to put up with the true nature of Minneapolis fandom, a small, dedicated, fun loving group who seem to manage to have at least two parties per week; who gather for filk singings at apa collations; who run an sf radio show; who put on one of the most respected regional cons in the country; and who treat guests with incredible courtesy.

I mean, what does Minneapolis/St. Paul have of a fannish nature, other than four resident apas; Gordon Dickson; Dave Arneson; two DUFF winners; a thriving, happily feuding, Minnstf; one of my favourite fanzines (Quinapalus); and an awful lot of the nicest people I've met, drawn from a population of two million.

So let's hear no more of the ultra-fannish nature of Minneapolis/St. Paul, huh? I mean, either Melbourne or Sydney could support an equally fannish scene - right?

- Marc Ortlieb

FILTHY PRO NEWS

AUSTRALIAN SECTION (information provided by Stephen Campbell)

Keith Taylor will have his novel, BARD, published in October by Ace:: David Lake's novel, THE MAN WHO LOVED MORLOCKS, with illustrations by Stephen Campbell, is being published by Hyland House:: THE PUGGLE TALES, a children's book written by Tony Barber (late of Billy Thorpe and the Aztecs) and illustrated by Stephen Campbell and Chris Johnston (new member of beard-growing fandom), will be published by Decalon Books shortly before Christmas.

OVERSEAS MEGABUCKS SECTION (information from ANSIBLE)

Jerry Pournelle and Larry Niven have sold the synopsis for their next novel for approximately \$600,000. They would have liked to have claimed this advance for the novel, entitled THE FOOT, as the highest ever for an SF novel. However, they were pipped at the post by dashing Sri Lankan resident Arthur C. Clarke, who has sold his synopsis for 2010: ODYSSEY TWO to Judy-Lynn Del Rey for a whopping \$1,000,000, which should set him up for the rest of his natural life. I wonder where he's going to stick in the half hour light show this time?

TOLKON: No definitive reports are at hand on the success of this event, though the taller of your two editors happened to meet Zyg Poliniak (at an aptitude test for a trainee computer programmer position at an insurance company) recently, and elicited the information that the weekend was pretty successful.

SPEAKING OF CONVENTIONS: GALACTICON, an informal two-day relaxacon, October 10 - 11, 1981. Venue: YMCA, Adelaide.
GOH: Allan Bray. \$7.50 till the end of September, \$10 after that.
Contact the South Australian Science Fiction Society, 5 Elura Court, Sheidow Park, S.A. 5158. Oh yeah - "...as you probably guessed from the name of the convention, our theme is galactic empires...". Got that?

MEDTREK, a Star Trek convention at the Hydro Majestic, Medlo Bath (or so it says here in FORERUNNER - thanks, Shayne) on the second

weeken of February, 1982. GOH's: A. Bertram Chandler and Shayne McCormack. Further information from Medtrek 82, PO Box C377, Clarence St., Sydney, NSW 2000.

SMOFFCON: a relaxacon on Australia Day weekend, 1982. Venu: Trinity College, Melbourne University. Membership: \$10 from Christine and Derrick Ashby, 14 Harold St., South Melbourne, Vic. 3205. Derrick informs us that (a) SMOFF is an acronym for South Melbourne Organisation of Fantasy Fans; (b) the convention is hoping to have access to the Melbourne University swimming pool; (c) bed and breakfast will be available from Trinity College at \$18 per day; (d) that THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST has been the most popular book at the South Melbourne library over the last twelve months.

DUFF NEWS: Joyce Scrivner, the current American administrator, implores Australian candidates for the 1982 DUFF race to hurry up and nominate. She also mentions that Dave Wixon is considering running for DUFF 1983.

NOT DUFF NEWS: Joyce also mentions that Marc Ortlieb has resigned his long standing membership in TWAGA, although Marc has denied this.

COA SECTION: Linda Lounsbury, 3125 3rd Ave. S, Apt 3, Minneapolis, MN 55404, U.S.A.
Ken Fletcher, 2200 Harriet S, Apt. A, Minneapolis, MN 55405, U.S.A.
Al Fitzpatrick, Clear Lake Village (Apt 1601), 1243 Bay Area, Blvd., Houston, Texas 77058, U.S.A.

WORLDCON BID RUMOURS: Toronto in '85; Madison in '85; Atlanta, New York and Philadelphia in '86 (ANSIBLE again - such interesting stuff Dave Langford digs up !).

THE CANBERRA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY appears to be growing rapidly. At hand is their September/October newsletter, which reveals that their annual general meeting, held on the 18th August, elected as President, Casey Colbert; as Treasurer, Leigh Hyde; as Secretary, Dorothy Wilson; as Editor, Jean Weber. Please note that the Society has changed its address to PO Box 363, Woden ACT 2606. Those people who might be passing through Canberra on Tuesday the 13th of October, make note of the fact that the Society is holding its monthly meeting at 7.30 p.m. in Benjamin's Bistro, Belconnen (near 2001 Books).

A NOTE for Australian readers: the first progress report from Chicon IV, the 40th World Science Fiction Convention, lists one Dick Smith as being in charge of Computer Services. Funny about that.

POLISH FANDOM is interested in making contact with Australian fandom. Romnald P. Szoka, of W Lieblnechta 5 M 6, 91 - 819 Lodz, Poland, is interested in exchanging fanzines and writing ltters to Australian fans (he probably wouldn't mind writing letters, either). (Australian Science Fiction News)

BORN: Karen Elizabeth Angove, to Neville and Peta Angove, on August 2nd. Talk about Canberra fando.'s expansionist phase ! (ASFN)

RECENT FANZINES: WEBERWOMAN'S WREVENGE 3, August 1981. Jean Weber, 13 Myall Street, O'Connor, ACT 2601, Australia. Available for the usual or \$A 0.50/\$US 0.75/or local equivalent. Quarterly, duplicated.

Jean Weber continues to put out an entertaining fanzine with the third issue of WW, although she tends to take more of a back seat drive than she has in previous issues. Jean's bias, of course, is towards feminist oriented material, and this refreshing trend dominates this issue. I must confess, however, that I'm sure just what Judith Hanna is trying to say in an article entitled "In Defence of the Bourgeoisie", nor am I really happy with John Alderson's polemic about genital mutilation and the role of witchcraft (to which Jean herself makes an extended rebuttal). Still, much of the material in this issue is thought-provoking if not altogether swaying in the structure of its argument, so I can recommend this as an interesting and personable fanzine.

THE HARD ONES 2, August 1981. Gary Barber, 409 Wanneroo Rd., Palga, WA 6061, Australia. Available for the usual. Irregular, photocopied.

This 'zine suffers from that disease common to the beginning editor: its motive force is enthusiasm, and not much else. Gary Barber seems remarkably unconfident about his editorialising skills, choosing to squirrel his spiel away towards the end of the fanzine. On the other hand, possibly that's where it belongs - a little more rewriting and a bit less enthusiasm would do wonders, I'm sure. Most of the issue is filled with letters of comment, which again could have done with a little more editorial expertise in the nature of pruning them into shape, and undistinguished fan fiction. I did, however, enjoy Des Waterman's comic strip "Jones the Cat".

POSTTRON 7. G. Rawlings, P.O.Box 145, Mt. Druitt, NSW 2770, Australia.

Available for the usual (I presume). Irregular, duplicated.

This fanzine tends to suffer from the same malaise that affects THE HARD ONES - less exclamation marks and more personality, please. The hodge podge of contents includes a brief rundown of the place of Hawkwind in SF music (with discography), a list of Murphy type laws continued from the previous issue, fan fiction from Susan Clarke, and various news, reviews and con reports. Some of this material is momentarily entertaining, but it all suffers from the air of having been dumped into a large brown sack and shaken about till some of it stuck together.

GENGENSCHEIN 41, August 1981. Eric Lindsay, 6 Hillcrest Avenue, Faulconbridge, NSW 2776, Australia. Available for the usual.

Irregular, duplicated (also available in x24 microfiche).

It's a real pleasure to turn to Eric's latest after the last two. Granted, he has had ten years of publishing experience, but surely this is not necessary to learn that the essence of a fanzine is what it reveals of its editor. This issue presents an entertaining Advention report (although I'm not sure I care to go down in history as a champion pizza hog), as well as an informative article on ergonomics and the use of computer equipment, two of Eric's interests. This fanzine succeeds where others fail because of two points: (a) the material is good, and (b) it is integrated into a distinctive package through Eric's familiar in print persona. I hope others will take heed of this.

Dear Keen Eyed Gazer Into the Future,

The publication you hold in your loving hands is the 4th issue of THYME (pronounced the same as that other magazine), Australia's only fanmish news magazine. THYME is available on very easy terms to approved purchasers: send us some news, trade your fanzine, or send cash, cheques or negotiable bonds. \$2.00 gets you a whole 6 issues: what more could you ask for? (A free Tibaldi salami to anyone who does.....) So keep those letters coming in, folks, and have a great Circulation (we wouldn't mind having a great one, either).

Cheers,

Andrew Brown + Irwin Hirsh

Addresses:

Andrew Brown
5 York St
Prahran
Victoria 3181
(03) 51 7702

Irwin Hirsh
279 Domain Rd
South Yarra
Victoria 3141
(03) 26 1966