

Thyme-21

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WHAT'S ON... THIS WEEKEND - CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR PERIOD
MELBOURNE - THIS SATURDAY, 4th DECEMBER

As mentioned in the previous issue of *Thyme*, the Nova Mob celebrates its Xmas Breakup.

Where? At the residence of Irene Pagram & Lee Harding, 19 Kia Ora Parade, Ferntree Gully, up in the hills but still easily accessible by public transport. Festivities begin at 3:00 pm and there will be a barbecue (fire restrictions permitting). Basically, BYO everything, but it's free and should be fun. Note: this event is on Saturday the 4th and not on Sunday the 5th, as advertised in the recent Nova Mob Newsletter. All are welcome to attend.

Briefly, while on the subject of the Nova Mob monthly meetings, the topics for next year's meetings have yet to be formalised although a list of suggested subjects is circulating; if you have some topic or even a specific book you'd like to talk about or see discussed, turn up at the Christmas Breakup Party and drop a few hints in people's receptive ears. In any case, see you there.

SYDNEY - THIS SATURDAY, 4th DECEMBER

The Sydney Science Fiction Foundation, hereafter known as the SSFF, will be having its Christmas Bash at 180 Forest Road, Arncliffe (Southern Sydney) and all are welcome to drop by and share in the Christmas cheer, starting from 2:00pm and lasting until...? There are barbecue facilities available, and apart from being just a general party/get together, there will be an auction, and later in the evening a film-showing ('The Man in the White Suit' - Alec Guinness' decent sf movie.). Warning: it'll cost you \$2 to be there, but for what promises to be all the fun of a regular convention squeezed into a single afternoon and evening it sounds as though it will be easily worth the price.

MELBOURNE - SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER: OLYMPICON III

The place: 4 Harold Street, Middle Park (inner southern Melbourne). Entry cost: \$2.50. This is the third in a series of "Games Days" for the Melbourne in '85 bid to hold the World SF Convention in Melbourne, 3 years from now, and as such all monies raised go to a very worthy cause. So turn up and spend your life savings on afternoon tea and playing games of all sorts. The whole shebang gets underway at 1:00pm.

PERTH - FRIDAY 10th DECEMBER

WASFA, the West Australian SF Association, will be having its Christmas turn at the kids' centre, 76 7th Avenue, Maylands - this is currently also the home of Ian Henderson & Sue Margaret. Free, BYO, what more is there to say?

PERTH - CHRISTMAS DAY: 25th DECEMBER

Boy and Julia Ferguson, at 7/51 Park street, Como, are holding "open house" on Christmas Day/Evening and anyone in the area at the time is welcome to drop around to help celebrate Christmas. Nothing as such is planned for the day but I'm sure that those who assemble will find ways of amusing themselves.

WELLINGTON

Similarly, anyone in the area of Wellington, New Zealand over the holiday break is welcome to join in the Faangather festivities. As they say in the notice you may have seen doing the rounds, the idea of the new scheme is to coordinate people so they don't have to sit at home by themselves while everyone else goes home to their families or whatever. Alone in Auckland? Depressed in Dunedin? Head for Wellington's fan suburb, Newtown (Aussies welcome, too). Michelle, Sue & friends can't promise stylish accomodation but they will be able to put people up, and anyway who'll be going to sleep with all those parties and other activities happening? If you'd like to join the merry throng, give Michelle a call on Wellington 893-656 or write to Faangather, Box 1101, Wellington.

MELBOURNE - NEW YEAR'S EVE

Merv Binns of Space Age Books will be holding a fannish party at 1 Glen Eira Rd, Ripponlea, to which all and sundry are invited. Starts: normal party time....

MELBOURNE - SATURDAY 6th JANUARY

Did you guess that it was about time for another Melbourne in '85 fund-raising event?

To be held at the Foyster residence, 21 Shakespeare Grove, St.Kilda, it'll be starting around 3:00pm and apart from the fact that there'll be a small fee to get in, nothing special for the day has yet been planned - probly be much the same in format as Olympicon III. In case anyone is beginning to think the frequency of these fund-raisers a little suspicious, they should have a look at the financial report for the 1980 WorldCon, recently released - \$232,911.79 officially changed hands. Worldcons don't come cheap, these days....

Also on the Saturday, is Karen & Asms' Housewarming party, at 1/214 Napier St. Fitzroy. A normal party, starting whenever.

That's all, folks. Undoubtedly there are lots of parties going on around this time of year (even in Adelaide, I bet), but wherever they're on, it's up to you to find out. Any event that is advertised in the pages of Thyme is effectively and without reservation open to anyone who reads this rag. So don't be shy: drop by.

Take the MUSFA End-of-Year Bistro Evening that was on last Friday, for instance: people from all over the world dropped in (well, no-one from Ghana). In the tradition of these Annual events it was better than ever - lotsa fun. For those who might be interested the winner of the 1982 Shaky Leaf Award was The Bells of Andrellen by Elizabeth Travers.

And speaking of bad taste, the night after there was the George Street (Justin and Torbjörn) Christmas Party, at which no fewer than 24 Father Christmases were in attendance, as well as a member of Hell's Santas Motorcycle Club. Maureen with her bike chain opened up a few people who thought they were presents, and by evening's end there were also more than a few reindeer around the place, all called Rudolph and sporting red noses, ho ho. Plus the Santa dance troupe, and the company directors of Santa Inc., formerly masquerading as Judy & Alan Wilson, and Peter Burns - and you thought Father Christmas was a member of an anarcho-syndicalist commune, eh? Thyme - the newszine that shatters your childhood illusions.

Meanwhile that same Saturday but three hours later they were grooving away in Perth at the 'Second Annual Bad Taste Party' that follows Bob Ogden around, wherever he moves to. On behalf of Melbourne I throw down the gauntlet to Bob and the people of Perth to prove that your party was even half as tasteless as the Christmas Party (i.e. stay tuned for details, next issue?). Meanwhile, I'm sure they were having a sedate and orderly time over the whole weekend at Circulation II, in Canberra.

TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE - A 'CIRCULATION II' REPORT

It's said that each convention develops its own special atmosphere or feel. Syncons, for instance, have a reputation for being fast and furious; Swancons are painted as occasions of hedonistic revelry. Adelaide conventions are multi-faceted - the unkind would say fragmented. Melbourne conventions are, of course, designed so that the Melbourne *litterati* can show off their erudition the way that the Trekkers show off their costumes. It is perhaps a little presumptuous to assign a character to *Circulations*, on the basis of the two that Canberra has hosted; but I'm going to do it anyway.

Circulations are warm and fuzzy. The reason for this warm fuzziness comes from the emerging tradition that *Circulations* have a mascot rather than a Guest of Honour, said mascot being chosen for cuddliness and pleasant personality.

This year's mascot - Karen Warnock, or "Womble" - was excellent, definitely warm and often fuzzy, especially when trying to live down to her reputation with the bottle.

The other highlight of *Circulation II* was the DUFF trip slideshow given by last year's *Circulation* mascot, Peter Toluzzi. Although a little skimpy in places, it certainly revealed some of the reasons Peter sighs and starts breathing heavily every time he mentions the possibility that he'll go back to the United States to live. Parents of small children, and those apt to be shocked by naked bodies, are advised that the slideshow *does* feature prominently more than one example of what Terry Frost coyly refers to as a "vertical smile" - the whipped cream is a minor embellishment.

It's perhaps a touch ironic that despite the theme of the convention, 'Transportation', few fans from the distant reaches of Western Australia managed to make it to *Circulation II*, unless one counts expatriates Katrina Hennessy and Richard Hryckiewicz. The theme did though manage to manifest itself during the programme items, at which a large proportion of the membership transported itself to the bar with surprising ease. Peter Toluzzi and Marc Ortlieb made an effort to transport money from fannish wallets and sporrans into the DUFF coffers. Though this was relatively successful 20:20 hindsight assures me that we could have added substantially to the \$135 or so raised by the auction had we offered a couple of Peter's slides for sale.

Other successful programme items included the Jittlov films, *Transfinite Audio-visual's* running of their 'Dreams and Vision', and the attempt to get Eric Lindsay and Peter Toluzzi to tell incriminating stories about each other's exploits in the United States. The latter panel was of course conducted in the bar.

It was as a social event that *Circulation II* really shone. It gave people a chance to talk to each other under pleasantly relaxed conditions. It's even rumoured that some people allowed science fiction to creep into their discussions. This atmosphere came largely as a result of the work of Jean Heber and Sandra Hyde. Sandra was absolutely superb at solving a minor problem arising from the fact that the Ainslie Hotel had changed managers yet again since the original booking had been made. It changed managers at least twice before *Circulation I*. They may now have their well-deserved nervous breakdowns.

If I had to ~~XXXX~~ borrow a metaphor to summarise the convention I'd take it from Paul Skelton, because *Circulation II* was certainly a small, friendly dog.

It got a little bit boisterous and noisy at times, especially while some of the more mature fans were trying to sleep. It tended to jump up and down and shed hair all over the good furniture, but was cute, cuddly and very hard to leave. I rather hope it stays that way; I'd hate to see that particular puppy grow up.

Marc Ortlieb.

((As I predicted, *Circulation II* was the place to be in Australasia last weekend - soh!))

First stop, a couple of the larger travel agencies: prices and schedules....

Stage two: contact Robin Johnson, travel agent supremo, wheeler of deals ordinaire. (if you're going overseas, see him first!)

He also suggested that a) to get the discount air fares you'd be looking at a group of as few necessary as 15 people, while for b) hotel arrangements, something like 50 - 60 people would be what was wanted. This is all rough estimate, of course.

The fact remains that there is no way that a sizeable number of people will ever be able to afford this sort of jaunt because their money is not available for this sort of thing. But, as Robin points out, the Bali trip need not necessarily end there. The trip could also act as a gateway to Asia: Australia is a very expensive place to fly out of, as anyone who's done it knows, but once out the going can be much cheaper, elsewhere. All this is just throwing ideas around.

[illegible]

CHANGES OF ADDRESS (INCLUDING "ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST")

Dubbo: (Dubbo?) Terry Frost, ex-Sydneysider, potential MAFV-winner, is soon to move from Melbourne to the greener pastures of (Dubbo?) Dubbo - this is where Peter "Balrog" Bismire is currently sojourning; in fact, Terry will be moving into the same house as Balrog, that's: 4/15 Samuel Street, Dubbo 2830. Both Balrog and Terry were living at Livingstone Rd, Marrickville, at one stage; anyone know where Joy & Gordon might be moving to? (Dubbo?)

'Barbara and Geoff (Delahunty & Jagoe) were married on October the 2nd in the Sunken Garden at the University of W.A. - a beautiful setting. There was a reception
(continued back page)

AUTUMN IN BRITFANDOM

Judith Wanna reports

The Autumn convention season has just finished over here. It started with Silicon, a small relaxacon held in Newcastle-on-Tyne, and finished with Novacon, a giant relaxacon held in Birmingham. That is, if you don't count Cymrucon, to be held in Cardiff at the beginning of December, and since we aren't going to it, I don't. In between, we got to Beneluxcon in Flanders, Fenccon in Cambridge and a one-day seminar at Brighton. We missed Unicon (held at Keele University the same weekend as Beneluxcon) and Economycon (Shoestringcon) at Hatfield Polytechnic outside London. Now we face a desert until Pacon in February way up in Edinburgh and, after that, Albacon II at Easter in Glasgow, the big one complete with TAFF (Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund) winnerbut, alas, no Australian GUFF representative ((more about which later in this issue)).

BENELUXCON (SFANCON 13: Sept. 3 - 5, Gent, Belgium): It's very easy to get from London to Europe - as long as you've booked a seat on the boat-train. Since we live just a short walk down the road from Victoria Station where the boat-trains leave from, we had no trouble catching the train. We did have to wait quite a while in a long queue - that's obligatory at Victoria. And we had reserved our seats, so we were able to sit down and do the *Guardian* crossword for the two hours to Dover docks. There we had to stand in another queue before we could board the ferry, but once on board, ensconced in the second-deck bar lounge, facing out through wide windows over the sea ahead, we could relax, study our Dutch phrase-book and watch the sparkling blue sea misting into the blue sky, ferries crossing our path the while. Funny thing about the South-East of England: I don't think I've ever actually seen a horizon there - it's always been an imaginary line lost in the haze. The ferries bear no resemblance to a Sydney Harbour ferry; they are much, much bigger than Manly ferries, and they gobble up cars.

Joseph told me several times that everyone would speak English. So it proved. Which train should we take from Oostende to Gent? "Platform 6," said the guard. Arrived at Gent, we had some trouble working out how to get to the Fabiolahome, where Sfancon was to be held; "Number 9 tram," we were told. Yes, Gent has trams. Put off the tram at the proper stop, we had trouble working out what the street signs would have been if there had been street signs. So we asked two young men with a map, "Fabiolahome?" "Ah, Sfancon!" they responded; two German fans.

Fabiolahome is a student's hall of residence, a sixties aluminium-and-glass construction that shares the same sort of character as any Australian college of roughly the same age. It has five stories of rooms, all single, topped off with a solarium, two open and echoing halls on the ground floor (one used as the main programme hall; the other housing the bar, a canteen easy chairs and some video sets. We spent most of our time there, trying to ignore the video sets and follow the conversation.

Beneluxcon is an annual convention held alternately in Holland and Belgium, and when it's in Flanders it's usually a Sfancon held in Gent at the Fabiolahome. Holland and Flanders have one of those curious relationships, like for instance Australia and New Zealand - speaking the same language, culturally close, but by no means the same; and for all those difficulties with its relationship with Walloon (French-speaking) Belgium, we were assured that Flanders wouldn't want to unite with and be swamped by the larger Netherlands. At dinner one night, we were told Dutch/Flemish jokes by tall, slim Dutch fan Henk Lageveld, and were able to tell him in return the Pommie/Irish or Australian equivalents.... After the convention, over a soft red wine in Antwerp, Luk de Vos laid out for us the history of Spanish occupation and French occupation and Dutch independence - all too late at night for more than the general complicatedness of it all to sink in....

At a convention in a strange country, how strange are the fans? Apart from their awe-inspiring ability to speak their own languages so very fast and fluently and also speak fast, fluent, idiomatic English to us handicapped monoglots, not very strange at all. Beneluxcon was a relaxacon with some 250 attendees; for many of its members, Luk de Vos told us, a Sfancon is a chance to catch up with old friends they see only at a Sfancon, and in true fannish manner they devoted themselves to drinking, talking and partying, with minimal attention to the programme.

The round of enthusiastic hugs that greeted the arrival of Annemarie van Bwyck was just like a Sydney convention. German conventions, we were told, aren't like this at all, they're very serious.

We caught the first item on the programme, a quadri-lingual "welcome" address delivered by André de Rijke, con chairman and Belgian Melbourne in '85 agent. Then he called Joseph up to talk about Australia and the Melbourne bid; then Annemarie jumped up to translate what Joseph said into Dutch. We spent a lot of the convention answering questions about Australia and the bid, and soon had most of those around us wearing tram badges. We even sold Melbourne t-shirts to Annemarie and Roelof Goudriaan.

What with all the conversation and meeting foreign fans - and even talking to a few other English fans there: Martin Hoare deeply engrossed in the wonderfully cheap beer; Katy Hoare, Martin Tudor, Ken & Joy Slater selling books - we saw very little of the rest of the programme, which continued in four languages, although most of the French speakers were at the French National Con at Dijon that same weekend. We avoided English Con Colin Wilson's speech on "the 'x' factor - the dominant 5%" which managed to offend most of those who did hear it; but we did our duty by Luk's semiotic analysis of Zardoz, which was much more serious in its analysis than the talk he'd given in Dutch that morning on *Mad Max II* and *Bladerunner*, as collections of advertising symbols and clichés... he liked *Mad Max* much better than *Bladerunner*; and Joseph entered the SF QUIZ MONDIALE, conducted by dynamic Dutch author Eddie Bertin in a funny top hat, only to be knocked out in the semi-finals by the eventual winner, Irish (living in Brussels ((God knows why)) ((sorry Judith))) Graham Andrews.

It was a very relaxed con. The fine weather no doubt helped. It was certainly that which tempted us, along with Roelof, to lunch on saté and 'frites' from one of the 'frituurs', out in the sun on the lawn outside the Fabiola. Saturday, Tom Hendriks, who is 33.3% of Luxembourg fandom all on his own, came up to interview Roelof about the con. That was how we met Tom. Next day, Tom looked like a zombie, an Awful Warning of what you turn into if you party too long and don't get more than an hour's sleep - looked just like an Aussie fan, in fact. Sunday, we were joined by German Helmut Pesch who spoke learnedly about Celtic Art & Legend.

It seems to be one of life's little ironies that the more enjoyable the convention, the less it's made up of the moments of high drama that make a lively con report; the more it blends into a sort of smooth sauce of easy companionship, lazy conversation and just feeling at ease. That was what Beneluxcon was like.

FENCON Trains to Cambridge leave from King's Cross halfway across London, but coaches direct to Cambridge from Victoria Coach Station depart from just up the road at half the price; we took the coach. Inevitably the first part of the journey was something of a scenic tour of London - out along the Embankment, round past the tower of London with its fringing bits of old Roman wall. It took an hour to get clear of London, another hour to get to Cambridge. Alongside the motorway, the grass beside it was green, the trees beside it also brilliantly green, and the sky and distance all grey, which is the dominant Autumn colour over here. Over the weekend, each time we walked across Christ's Pieces from our Bed-&-Breakfast into town we'd notice, or rather, I'd point out to Joseph, that the yellow had set a little further into the trees.

The convention was itself held on Saturday in the Graduate Centre beside the river Cam, and attracted about 200 members. It was a tightly programmed convention, mostly designed to recruit the new intake of freshmen to the ranks of the Cambridge SF Society. Also present were American writer Fred Pohl, British writer Aldiss, Priest, Sladek and Langford, resident American Tuttle and ex-Cambridge *enfant terrible* Charles Platt returned home and telling the assembled crowd that he loved, just loved, the people in SF. The crowd was taken aback. Other highlights of the programme were Nick Lowe's exposition of "The Well-tempered Plot Device", and the 'So You Want To Be A Writer' game.

Nick started his talk with a round of "clench-search" - four people each hold a Covenant book: on the word "go" they open them at random and start skimming; the first to find the word 'clench' wins. The game seldom takes long.

A plot device is, of course, something like a Ring or a Staff of ~~Plot~~ Law: a device which gets and keeps the plot moving. There are also plot coupons: wishes; special gifts; red kryptonite - which may be brought into play to get the hero out of a tight corner. This critical theory, no doubt soon to be published in some fanzine, is likely to join the Thentis Factor, unveiled by Nick at Channelcon, in the British book reviewer arsenal.

The 'So You Want To Be A Writer' game was similarly both frivolous and creative, and great fun for all. Contestants Joseph Nicholas, Colin Greenland (writer-in-residence at the SF Foundation) ((London, not Sydney)), Phil Masters (writes for *White Dwarf*) and Geoff Ryman had to demonstrate their mastery of eight tricks of the writing trade - things like padding an action out to monstrous length, coming up with a snappy beginning and ending sentences with a given word, describing an aspect of alien culture, overdevelopment of a simile (Colin: 'this beer is tasteless; this beer is so tasteless if it had a choice it would watch *Crossroads* [maybe 'The Don Lane Show' catches the flavour of that; maybe not]), coming up with a snappy re-titling (Colin: *The Bible - "Universe of Shame"*; Joseph: *The Sex Goblins - "Micro-Servants of the Wankh"*) and, last of all, a complete sf story in eight words (Phil: *And God said, "I don't think I'll bother."*). Joseph was declared winner by .01 of a virtual smartie. In between programme highlights there was all the usual standing around and chatting, and about midnight we were all chucked out and straggled off to our respective, scattered beds.

SEMINAR AT BRIGHTON

Since I'm over here as a tourist, I find actually getting to conventions fairly fascinating. Joseph doesn't share this feeling, especially not when the train that was supposed to get us there at 9:38, giving us an easy half hour to straggle down from the station to the Royal Pavilion where it was being held, starts to sit and steam in the midst of the countryside, all surrounded by bright gold trees and sheets of silver water with swans gliding round on them, and then heads off on a long detour past Arundel castle and along the coast. The programme started at ten thirty, and it was ten past that time when we finally reached Brighton station, and hurtled into a taxi. We arrived ten minutes into a talk by Hilary Evans on "Flying Saucers: Saviours or From Space, or Cosmic Con-men," an interesting talk in which he looked at the resemblance between real and fictional accounts of encounters with extraterrestrials, and at the resemblances between accounts of encounters with extraterrestrials and other religious hallucinations, and talked about the people who believe they've encountered beings from space: he laid down no firm conclusions, though his tone was generally one of tolerant scepticism; I found it interesting that the one account which is generally held to be genuine is that told by a hillbilly family: the evidence, apart from the number of them supporting each others' accounts, is that they reacted "normally" - they tried to shoot the other-worldly beings. The seminar was chaired by David Pringle, editor of *Foundation*, Britain's academic sf journal; other speakers were Colin Greenland and John Brunner, both on aspects of literary sf, and Paul Clark on the artwork of the Dan Dare comic strip of the fifties, a comic strip now enjoying a nostalgic cult revival over here. At last I know what Kev Smith's been talking about!

The talks were followed by a break for cups of tea, which was a good chance to wander around and examine the fantastical trailing pseudo-oriental birds painted all over the walls - this was, after all, held in part of that effusion of bad taste, Prinny's little seaside pavilion, that spawner of cupolas. We had had a break for lunch - that was spent in the pavilion stables, now a Museum, Theatre and Municipal Library, touring the *Science Fiction Unlimited* exhibition set up there - its opening was the reason for the seminar we were attending - it featured Dan Dare artwork, models of robots, film posters, sf art - some of it very good, book and magazine covers, and crowds of kids.

Then we had a weekend off before...

NOVACON

First impression of the outside of the Royal Angus Hotel, Birmingham, was how wound round it was with motorways, as swathed in them as Tom Baker in *Dr Who* Scarf. First impression of its inside: what seemed like miles but was probably only 100 metres of perfect lounging corridor running up

Produced by Peter Toluzzi for wide distribution in Australia, Nov. 1982

There will be a ballot enclosed with this newsletter, allowing you to vote for the candidate of your choice. The winner will attend SYNCON '83, in June 1983. The candidates are Jan Howard Finder (Latham, NY), veteran of Aussiecon and hardworking organiser of the annual Aussiecon Reunion Parties and many "Melbourne IN '85" fliers; Jerry Kauffman (Seattle, WA), fanedextraordinaire, music freak, and one of the stars of "The Enchanted Duplicater"; Alexis Gilliland, well-known cartoonist, accomplished SF writer, and a leading organiser in DC fandom (Washington, DC, that is); and Charlotte Proctor (Birmingham, AL), the godmother of Birmingham Fandom, host to both Marc and myself, and active on the "Atlanta in '86" bid. Something for all tastes...

As you will have gathered, I'm back from the States. In nine weeks I visited twenty cities, attended six conventions, met literally hundreds of truly wonderful people, brought back much interesting material to auction for DUFF, and generally had absolutely the best time of my life. The Trip Report (phase one) will be in audiovisual format, and will probably be shown at every major convention over the next year; Phase Two -- printed -- is expected by the middle of next year.

A list of people to thank after my marathon expedition would be several pages long, if complete; I shall have to make do with the specials: those who put me up (or should that be "put up with me?"), chauffeured me around, threw parties in my honour, donated things for DUFF, etc.: Bruce and Elayne Pelz, Lex Nakashima, Parris, Walter Williams, George RR Martin, Eric Lindsay (who introduced me to many of the Right People), John and Jenny Mitchell, Rick Gellman, Barry and Marcie Lyn-Waitsman, Jon and Joni Stopa, Deb Stopa, Joyce Scrivner, Linda Lounsbury, Susan Grandys, David Schaeffer, Lee Smoire, "Smoff Central" (Bob Lovell, Mike Walsh, Scott Dennis), Denny Lien, Charlotte Proctor, Meade and Penny Frierson, Dick and Nicki Lynch, Joe and Gay Haldeman, Rusty Hevelin, Patty Bushman, Linda Neal, Terry Floyd, Becky Cartwright, Gordon Garb, Sandy and Greg Jordan, Paul and Carolyn Cooper, John Douglas, Ginjer Buchanen, Moshe Feder, Frank Belazs, Lou Stathis, Amy Thompson, Dana Siegel, Clifford Wind, Jerry Kaufman, Steve Bieler, Tom Whitmore and Debby Notkin, John Varley and Anet McConel, and Ctein. And believe it or not, that is an edited list! I had a good time...Oh, how could I forget Ro and Lin Lutz-Nagy...

FINANCES: For those of you who are wondering what that little lot cost: I spent about \$4000 -- \$2500 of DUFF money, \$1500 of my own. A more detailed break-down will appear in my Trip Report.

At present, DUFF Australia is doing quite well (not that we don't always need more money!). Funds raised to date: about \$67 from Marc Ortlieb's huckster table at Syncon '82; \$166.20 from the DUFF auction run by Marc and Justin Ackroyd at SYNCON '82; about \$145 expected from the SYNCON '82 profits; \$10 raised by Marc at a recent Adelaide media weekend; US\$224.50 raised by COSMOS AND CHAOS (more details shortly); \$7 raised by myself in the States; \$35 from the first two books I sold on my return. The account will hold about \$625 by the time all cheques have been cleared... But with the current example of the airlines playing escalatio, best estimates are a target of at least \$2500 to be raised in two years... so keep those donations coming!

COSMOS AND CHAOS: are Stephen Leigh and Ro Lutz-Nagy, with the assistance of Ben Zuhl and Frank Johnson. Juggling has infiltrated US Fandom, and these four put on a superb display at the Worldcon. So impressive were they that they raised over \$1000 dollars in donations! This money was split mainly between TAFF and DUFF, and further split such that the overseas funds received cheques, as well the home funds. These thanks are barely adequate... I hope to get a videotape of their performance to show at various conventions here.

Voting is now open for DUFF 1983. All votes must reach an administrator by March 31'st, 1983. I hope to announce the results at FUNCON, in Melbourne, next Easter. DON'T FORGET TO SIGN YOUR VOTES! DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE A DONATION (Minimum \$2; larger donations gratefully accepted). Contact me if you have stuff to sell / auction.

Still on THANKS: lots of fans in Australia have also helped DUFF recently, most prominently Justin Ackroyd and Keith Curtis. One name, however, stands out: MARC ORTLIEB. Marc will be continuing to run DUFF huckster tables at forthcoming conventions, regularly restocked by Joyce Scrivner or myself. Please continue to support this Worthy Person.

...And that leads neatly on to the POTENTIAL BOMBSHELL Department: For various personal reasons, there exists a strong possibility that I may be moving to the US sometime after Syncon '83 next year. Mind you, this is by no means definite yet... Now, to the best of my knowledge, there is no precedent for replacing a DUFF administrator half way through the term... After much thought, I have asked Marc Ortlieb if he would be willing to take over as administrator in this eventuality, and he agreed. Now, if anyone has any objections to Marc taking over, PLEASE let me know now, and we can discuss things further. I don't want to upset anyone's fannish sensibilities... and let me add that this action would in no way stop me from continuing to promote DUFF and raise funds in the States... if, indeed, my intended move does happen. Let me know your thoughts...

OTHER FAN FUND NEWS: John Newman has supplied the following info:

The "Fan Fund of Australia and New Zealand", or FFANZ, is beginning to get under way. Most of the technical details have been gotten out of the way, and forms for nomination are available from me. In New Zealand, the National Association for Science Fiction has expressed its enthusiasm and I've had word from all sorts of places both over there and in Australia that funds are beginning to accumulate.

The fund does intend to try and bring the New Zealand fan who wins the voting over to Australia for SYNCON 83, which falls the week after the NZ 83 Natcon, Windycon, in Wellington. If we can get the money, we'd love to send the lucky person all over Australia, so when someone asks you to support FFANZ please chip in. It won't really take much, and next year will be all the richer for international co-operation and fannish friendships. Remember, FFANZ needs fundz! FFANZ across the water!

John Newman, P.O. Box 4, Thornbury, 3071, Australia.

MAFF: Vote 1 Ortlieb! Marc Ortlieb is running MAFF, the Mid Atlantic Fan Fund.

Some "worthy"(?) recipient will be presented with a concrete slipper and an elaborately forged ticket to an unspecified destination in the afore-mentioned Mid-Atlantic. Anyone is eligible to vote (but only once); all proceeds are going to the various Fan Funds. Enclose a cheque made out to any of THE MELBOURNE IN 85 BIDDING COMMITTEE, DUFF, TAFF, GUFF, or FFANZ. Voting costs \$1; exclusion from the list of names of those who voted costs \$2. Voting deadline is 27/5/82. Send ballots to Marc Ortlieb, P.O.Box 46, Marden, SA 5070... There are five candidates this year: Justin Ackroyd, Terry Frost, Jack Herman, Paul Stevens, and Peter Toluzzi. Marc has also left room for a write-in vote... I suggest you use it!

TAFF and GUFF: No further news to date -- most recent news in THMME 20.

OVERSEAS NEWS: Joyce has produced another DUFF NEWSLETTER (Vol. 3 no. 1), in which she thanks many Aussie fen following her trip, lists all contributors or item purchasers in the last race, gives a brief breakdown of her expenses, lists details of the final ballot in the last race, and talks about upcoming fundraising events and items for sale with DUFF profits. In the interests of keeping this to two pages, I shan't go into details this time -- perhaps next time if there's much interest. (I have a few copies of her report; let me know if you'd like a copy.)

Random Notes: In my travels, I collected many fanzines from people eager to trade or have Australian correspondents; contact me for details if you are interested. I also have names of several US fans interested in Aussie zines; again, contact me for addresses if you are interested. I also have names and addresses of hosts in most fan centres, if anyone is planning to travel soon... And finally, I shall be attending CIRCULATION 2, SWANCON 8, FAULCON 40, FUNCON, ADVENTION 4, and SYNCON 83 -- complete with books (hardcovers, paperbacks, some autographed), fanzines, frisbees, jellybeans (25 flavours!), tacky souvenirs, etc... BUY! BUY! Goodbye till next time... and remember the DUFF address: P.O. Box H143, Australia Square, NSW 2000 (cheques payable to DUFF or PETER TOLUZZI). And again, THANKS!

DUFF 1983 NORTH AMERICA ---- AUSTRALIA: THE CANDIDATES' PLATFORMS ..

JAN HOWARD FINDER: What can be said about a marsupial groupie? Who became a British fan with a funny accent, while living in Europe, because of John Brunner. It was in '75, that Jan went to Australia and met his first wombat and other mighty and magnificent Marsupials. While there he climbed Ayers Rock, sampled seafood in Brisbane, froze on the train to Ballarat and met what seemed to be old family, the Aussie fen. To celebrate the best Worldcon to date, Jan organises the AUSSIECON Reunion Party each year at the Worldcon. He works hard at raising money for DUFF and published FINDER'S GUIDE TO AUSTRALTERRESTRIALS, selling it and sterling silver marsupials to the unwary. Going to more cons than his budget allows, Jan promotes the MELBOURNE IN '85 bid and has learned to fasten the chain on his hotel room door. (Tucker made me put that in!) He is also an easy mark for a backrub, just ask him for one. His hands are supposed to be two of the best in fandom.

NOMINATED BY: Mike Glicksohn, Mike Glyer, Carey Handfield,
Paul Stevens, Wilson "Bob" Tucker.

ALEXIS GILLILAND: Alexis, founder of the International Cookie Conspiracy, is witty, charming, and sinister (or at least left-handed). He has furnished countless cartoons plus a few locs to innumerable fanzines. A glutton for punishment, he has chaired half a dozen DISCLAVES and hosted the hordes of WSFS in his home for the last fifteen years, not to mention wandering Brits and Aussies. He now proposes to take his act on the road... along with his wife, Dolly... and draw cartoons all over Australia.

His good attitude towards the important things in life is shown by the fact that he brews his own beer and ale in the basement and has his friends and itinerant fans over to help him drink it.

NOMINATED BY: Merv Barrett, Avedon Carol, A Bertram Chandler,
Bill Rotsler, Mike Walsh.

JERRY KAUFMAN: He has been active in US fandom since 1966: publishing fanzines, founding apas, attending club meetings in Ohio, New York, and Seattle. He has also appeared in several fan dramatic performances and on unnumbered panels (on fanzines or Delany) at conventions. He is known for his dramatic readings from Walt Kelly and R.L. Fanthorpe, and becomes slightly more amusing after two beers. He is best known in Australian fandom for stomping George Turner (in print) with his hob-nailed sneakers, and for acting as hostelier (with his housemates) to Australian Traveling Giants.

NOMINATED BY: Richard Bergeron, Andrew Brown, Irwin Hirsh,
Linda Lounsbury, Sandra Meisel, Marc Ortlieb, Stu Shiffman.

CHARLOTTE PROCTOR: WHY I SHOULD WIN DUFF (in 100 words, more or less, by Charlotte Proctor):

- 1) Having been graced by the presence of both Marc Ortlieb and Peter Toluzzi, Birmingham fandom would like to ~~inflict~~ send a representative to Australia in turn.
- 2) Hands across the water; or Cultural Exchange; Birmingham feelie fandom has, by all accounts, a lot to learn from Australian backrub fandom.
- 3). With the distinct possibility of a Worldcon being held in Atlanta (which is right next door to Birmingham) in '86, it is only fitting and proper that Southern (US) fandom and the southernmost fandom of all get to know one another better.

NOMINATED BY: JOHN FOYSTER, MEADE AND PENNY FRIERSON, JIM
GILPATRICK, DICK AND NICKI LYNCH, JOHN PACKER.

ONCE MORE: Votes MUST reach an administrator by MARCH 31, 1983.

DUFF: The Down Under Fan Fund was created in 1972 to encourage closer ties between fans in Australia and North America. With host country alternating each year, there have been ten exchanges of fan representatives since then, supported entirely by voluntary contributions from fans all over the world. DUFF representatives visit a major SF convention in the host country and visit with fans they might otherwise never meet in person. DUFFers are treated as special guests and are always well looked after.

DONATIONS: DUFF exists solely on the contributions of fans and always welcomes material that is auctionable and donations of money. There will be auctions of DUFF material at future conventions. Contributions may be brought to a convention or sent to the local administrator. Anyone may contribute, even if ineligible to vote, and donations in excess of the voting donation are gratefully accepted. Checks should be made out to Down Under Fan Fund or Joyce Scrivner (in North America) or Peter Toluzzi (in Australia).

VOTING: Any fan active in fandom since January 1982 may vote. Ballots must be signed and be accompanied by a donation of at least \$2. Each person is allowed only ONE VOTE. If you think your name may not be known to the administrator, please include the name of a fan or fan group who can vouch for you. We will not count unverifiable votes. ALL VOTES MUST REACH AN ADMINISTRATOR BY NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 1983.

DUFF uses the Australian Preferential system of balloting to guarantee an automatic run-off and a majority win. You rank the candidates in order of preference (1,2,3,4,...). If there is no absolute majority for one candidate after the first count of votes, first place votes for the lowest-ranking candidate are dropped and the second place votes on those ballots are assigned to the candidates named. This goes on until one candidate has a majority. It is therefore important to vote for second, third, and fourth places, especially if you choose to write in a candidate. (You are not required to fill in more than your name and your first choice.)

CANDIDATES: Each candidate has posted a \$5 bond, provided signed nominations, and had promised (barring acts of god) to travel to the 1983 Australian National Convention, SYNCON 83, in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, to be held June 10 - 13, 1983. Platforms are reproduced on the reverse side of this form, and the ballot is below.

ADMINISTRATORS: PETER TOLUZZI, PO Box H143 Australia Square, NSW 2000, AUSTRALIA.
JOYCE SCRIVNER, 2732 14th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407, USA.

* * * * *

I vote for (list 1,2,3,4,...): SIGNATURE: _____

JAN HOWARD FINDER _____
ALEXIS GILLILAND _____
JERRY KAUFMAN _____
CHARLOTTE PROCTOR _____
HOLD OVER FUNDS _____
NO PREFERENCE _____
WRITE IN: _____

Name and Address (print): _____

If you think you may not be known by the administrator, please give the name of a fan or fan group to whom you are known: _____

Reproduction of this form is encouraged, provided that the text on both sides is copied VERBATIM. Please indicate who is producing the ballot.

This original Australian ballot produced by: PETER TOLUZZI, 8/11/82.

ii) FFANZ - FROM THE SUBLIME TO THE RIDICULOUS

In *Thyme* #20 it was reported that two candidates for FFANZ had declared themselves. I was told this in good faith and printed it in similar spirit, but it turns out that this was premature. I was wrong. The current situation re FFANZ has been described by the Ex-Administrator in New Zealand, Sue Dickie, as "pathetic".

Seems that that while Nigel Powe might want to stand, as may others, everyone seems to think that Tom Cardy will win, and are accordingly unwilling to spend the \$10 to nominate themselves as candidates. Meanwhile, Tom Cardy has not, in fact, nominated either, leaving no candidates. In the face of such unanimous apathy, Sue Dickie has resigned as NZ FFANZ administrator, and that role is being assumed by Frank Macskasy. Australian Administrator remains John Newman.

Will Tom Cardy "bother" to nominate? Will anyone else do likewise? Well, who knows? Tell you one thing, though: The first of January is the deadline for nominations, so one way or another the situation will soon be resolved. Note: under the rules, it does not cost you money to nominate someone else to stand - you only have to pay the money if you're a candidate. So come on, all you Aussies, nominate the people you want to see over here! Write them and tell them to get off their ~~asses~~ backsides.

Frank Macskasy: PO Box 27274, Wellington, NZ

John Newman: PO Box 4, Thornbury 3071, AUSTRALIA

iii) DUFF: SEE THE ATTACHED SHEETS FOR ALL DETAILS.

SHORT ITEMS: *The Plains*, the recent Norstilia Press Novel by Gerald Murnane, recently came third in the prestigious Age Book of the Year Competition. The winner was *Fly Away Peter* by David Mallouf. The Award was announced 26/11.

Syncon '83 is alive and progressing well. There will be an art and also a literary competition held in conjunction with the convention. For detailed information on categories and eligibility etc. write to PO Box A491, Sydney South, NSW 2000.

The new address for WINDYCON, the 5th Natinal NZ convention, is PO Box 11400 Manners Street, Wellington 1, New Zealand. In connection with this, last issue I claimed that NASE, the National coordinating SF body in NZ, was responsible for the running of the national convention. My mistake! NASE publicizes the con and might be able to help in other such ways but it does not officially run the thing, and never has, although Con Committee members may well be members of NASE. Hope that's clear now.

Swedish fan Tony Eriksson may have broken some world records: this spring/summer he published what is thought to be the only daily fanzine to reach more than 100 issues: *Tjottabängarn*. The zine reached 124 daily issues before lapsing into irregularity; each issue had 1-2 pages, written in Swedish, and issues were bundled together and mailed 3 or 4 at a time. Tony Eriksson, 1 D, S-632 39 Eskilstuna, Sweden

(Shards of Babel)

James Styles, late of Ararat, propounder of Ratcon 2002 and printer of Crux, is currently in traction in hospital following unspecified/unspecifiable muscle injury. At the time of this being typed he has been in the Royal Melbourne for almost a week, and no-one - not even the doctors - are apparently sure what's wrong, although *something* certainly is. Meanwhile James still has an interest in starting up an sf pub discussion group in Melbourne, where he is now living. 'This group would differ from presently established dining & discussion groups as the main aim of the meeting... would be to down as much of the amber fluid by closing time as befits young & old draconic Vikings.' A suggestion has been made to hold fortnightly meetings 8:00 - 10:00 pm in a pub in the City - Melbourne University area (slightly north of the city). All suggestions to James Styles (when he gets out of hospital) at 5/723 Park Street, Brunswick 3055.

Australian *ST News*, or *ASFN* for short, is finally about to come out again. People were wondering if it ever would, but as reported in the last *Thyme* the trouble has been getting someone to type it up. Merv has been pretty busy recently with *Space Age Books* - it's the busiest time of the year, what with Christmas coming - but the good news is that Merv should be putting it into the printer early next week, so look forward to a new issue of *ASFN* in time for Christmas shopping suggestions etc....

Meanwhile, Seth Lockwood is also keeping an eye on the subversive activities of WA SCA... '....such things as SCA get-togethers are common enough over there on the eastern seaboard but it's all rather fleetingly stumbling here. A motley crew, surprisingly large, recently assembled in the back garden of the Coode St. slanshack... lots of suspiciously plastic-pretending-not-to-be-looking armour...watching Ian Nichols do an impression of a pregnant stormtrooper in his rotundity of white foam-armour, crawling around on hands and knees, waving things at his opponent, Greg Turkich...Damian gesticulating furiously at a fearsome Dave Luckett...listening to Greg performing obscenities on bagpipes...and myself losing abysmally in Roy Ferguson's backgammon tourney to Jane Taubman. Later on that evening, *Star Wars* on tv and a real mean game of *Pail Baron*. And that's about all fannish for the last couple of weeks, apart from the odd house-warming party. The last one, at Colleen & Adam's place featured pink stuff to eat with a cake that had "Kalgoorlie in '82" iced on it. Just quite why nobody is sure. (Seth Lockwood)

Typed 30/11/'82. Next issue due: some time shortly after the commencement of 1983. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, everybody! Special thanks for help with this issue: Marc, Judith, Joe, Peter, Sally, Asms, Sue, Robin, Mandy, Phil, Seth and Justin, but of course, especially, Victor, without whom, practically. See you,

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