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AN ORGY OF BACKSLAPPING

Traditionally, the 'silly season' is the Christmas-New Year period, the time when the news media have little of their usual fare to run and therefore fill up space with all sorts of odd reports: 'Man Bites Dog'; 'UFOs abduct yachtsman'; that sort of thing.

In science fictional terms, however, the 'silly season' has just begun.

Over Easter the Brits gave out their bevy of prizes for the best sf of last year and the final ballot for the Australian equivalent was announced, as were the final ballots for the (supposedly) international awards, the Nebula and the Hugo. We are about to indulge in an orgy of backslapping, folks, rivalled perhaps only by the self-indulgence of the Academy Awards, also just now announced.

The HUGO AWARDS FINAL BALLOT

Anyone who's a member of the 1983 World SF Convention, CONSTELLATION, can vote to help decide these awards, to be given at the con in September.* The finalists in each category are as follows:

Best Novel:

Courtship Rite.....Donald Kingsbury (Timescape)
Foundation's Edge....Isaac Asimov (Doubleday/Granada)
Friday.....Robert A. Heinlein (HRAH/NEL)
Pride of Chanur.....C.J. Cherryh (DAN)
Sword of the Lictor..Gene Wolfe (Timescape)
2010: Odyssey Two....Arthur C. Clarke (Sidgwick & Jackson)

Best Novella

Another Orphan.....John Kessel (F&SF 9/82)
Brain Child.....Joseph H. Delaney (Analog 6/82)
The Postman.....David Brin (IASFM 11/82)
Souls.....Joanna Russ (F&SF 1/82)
To Leave A Mark.....Kim Stanley Robinson (F&SF 11/82)
Unsound Variations..George R.R. Martin (Amazing 1/82)

* If you (are Australian and) have not heard anything yet from the committee of CONSTELLATION, even though you've already paid to become a member (I myself am in this boat), Aus agent Carey Handfield wishes to make it known that he has written off to the bid ((about bloody time, too)) to ensure they will be sending you voting forms, etc.

Best Novellette

Aquila.....Samtow Sucharitkul (IASFM 1/82)
 Firewatch.....Thornie Willis (IASFM 2/82)
 Nightlife.....Phillis Eisenstein (IASFM 2/82)
 Pawn's Gambit...Timothy Zahn (Amazing 3/82)
 Swamp.....Bruce Sterling (F&SF 4/82)

Best Short Story

The Boy Who Waterskied to Forever...James Tiptree Jr. (F&SF 10/82)
 Ike at the Mike.....Howard Waldrop (Omni)
 Melancholy Elephants.....Spider Robinson (Analog 6/82)
 Spider Rose.....Bruce Sterling (F&SF 8/82)
 Gux.....Ursula K. Le Guin (The New Yorker: 1/2/82, revised
 in 'The Compass Rose': HR&H)

Best Non-Fiction Book

Fear Itself - The Horror Fiction of Steven King...Tim Underwood & Chuck Miller
 The Engines of the Night...Barry Malzberg (Doubleday) (Underwood & Miller)
 Isaac Asimov: The Foundations of Science Fiction...James Gunn (Oxford)
 A Reader's Guide to Fantasy...Daird Searles, Beth Meacham & M. Franklin (Avon)
 The World of Dark Crystal...Brian Froud (text: C.J. Llewellyn) (Knopf)

Best Dramatic Presentation

Bladerunner
 Dark Crystal
 E.T.
 Road Warrior (the American name for 'Mad Max 2')
 Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan

Best Professional Artist

Frank Kelly Freas
 Don Maizt
 Rowena Morrill
 Barclay Shawl
 Daryl Sweet
 Michael Thelan

Best Fan Artist

Alexis Gilliland
 Joan Hanke-Woods
 Bill Rotsler
 Stu Shiffman
 Dan Steffan

Best Fanzine

Fantasy Newsletter...Paul Allen & Robert
 File 770...ed. Mike Glyer Collings
 Locus.....ed. C. Brown
 SF Chronicle...ed. Andy Porter
 SF Review...ed. Richard Geis

Best Fan Writer

Richard Geis
 Mike Glyer
 Arthur Hlavaty
 Dave Langford

Best Professional Editor

Terry Carr.....(Universe: Best SF of the Year)
 Ed Ferman.....(F&SF)
 David G. Hartwell... (Pocket Books)
 Stanley Schmidt... (Analog)
 George Scithers... (Amazing)

The John W. Campbell Award (Best New Writer) ((of the last two years))

Joseph H. Delaney... (e.g. Brain Child - short story, Analog 6/82)
 Lisa Goldstein.... (e.g. The Red Magician - novel, Timescape)
 Sandra Miesel..... (e.g. Dreamrider - novel, Ace)
 Warren G. Norwood... (e.g. The Mindhover Tapes: An Image of Voices - novel, Bantam)
 Dave Palmer
 Paul O. Williams... (e.g. The Fall of the Shell - novel, Del Rey)
 The J.W.C. award is not, strictly speaking, a Hugo, but is presented with them. Both
 Dave Palmer and Paul O. Williams are now in their second (and last) year of eligibility.

The NEBULA AWARDS FINAL BALLOT (underlined entries indicate those also on the final Hugo Ballot)

Best Novel

Helliconia Spring..Brian W.Aldiss
Foundation's Edge..Isaac Asimov
No Enemy But Time..Michael Bishop
The Transmigration of Timothy Archer..Philip K.Dick
Friday.....Robert A.Heinlein
The Sword of the Lictor..Gene Wolfe

Best Novella

Another Orphan.....John Kessel
Horrible Imaginings..Fritz Leiber
Moon of Ice.....Brad Linaweaver
Unsound Variations...George R.R.Martin
Souls.....Joanna Russ

Best Novelette

Myths of the Near Future.....J.G.Ballard
Understanding Human Behaviour..Thomas Disch
Turning Chrome.....William Gibson
The Mystery of the Young Gentleman..Joanna Russ
Swarm.....Bruce Sterling
Firewatch.....Connie Willis

Best Short Story

Petra.....Greg Bear
High Steel..Jack C.Haldeman & J.Dann
Corridors...Barry Malzberg
The Pope of the Chimps..R. Silverberg
God's Hooks..Howard Waldrop
A Letter From the Clearys..

Connie Willis

only authors professionally published in the U.S.A. can vote for the Nebula awards, and the result will be announced at the SFWA (Science Fiction Writers of America) banquet in New York, on the 23rd of April. Of the 570 authors eligible to nominate stories for these awards, 163 (29%) actually did. Cosh.

The DITMAR (ASFAA) AWARDS FINAL BALLOT

Best International Science Fiction or Fantasy

No Enemy But Time..Michael Bishop
The One Tree.....Stephen Donaldson
Riddley Walker.....Russell Hoban
Roderick.....John Sladek

Best Australian Science Fiction or Fantasy

The Ones Who Walk Away Behind the Eyes..Terry Dowling (Omega May)
The Lances of Mengesdul.....Keith Taylor
Vaneglorry.....George Turner

Best Australian Fanzine

Ornithopter.....ed.L Leigh Edmonds
Q36.....ed.Marc Ortlieb
Science Fiction..ed.Terry Dowling
Thyme.....eds.Andrew Brown & Irwin Hirsh; ed.Roger Weddall
Weber Woman's Wrevenge..ed.Jean Weber

Best Australian Fan Writer

Terry Dowling
 Leigh Edmonds
 Marc Ortlieb

Best SF or Fantasy Editor

Neville Angove
 Mervin Binns
 Ron L.Clarke
 Paul Collins
 Van Ikin
 Norstrilia Press

Best SF or Fantasy Cartoonist

Terry Frost
 Michael McGann
 John Packer
 Jane Taukman
 Julie Vaux

Best SF or Fantasy Artist

Kerrie Hanlon
 Chris Johnston
 Marilyn Pride
 Nick Stathopoulos

The William Atheling Award ((for critical writings))

Terry Dowling - Kirth Gersen: the other Demon Prince....(Science Fiction 11)

Terry Dowling - The Lever of Life: Winning & Losing in the fiction of Cordwainer Smith... (*Science Fiction 10*)

Bruce Gillespie - SF Commentary: THE FIRST YEAR....(Bruce Gillespie)

The Ditmar awards can be voted on by anyone who is a member of that year's Australian National SF Convention (see the notice on Syncon, later these pages). The awards will be presented at the NatCon in June.

[illegible]

While on the subject of awards and competitions, howzabout the...

DUFF RESULT ANNOUNCED

Jerry Kaufman narrowly won this year's DUFF race from Jan Howard Finder, and as winner will be attending Syncon '83. The votes below tell the story...

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Australia</u>	<u>U.S.A.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Final Total</u> (on a two-person-preferred scale)
Jan Howard Finder	10	64	82	121
Jerry Kaufman	13	74	87	<u>131</u>
Charlotte Proctor	10	31	41	
Alexis Gilliland	8	41	49	

EFANZ RESULT ANNOUNCED

Tom Cardy, a Dunedin fan, easily won this year's inaugural FFANZ race. As for the DUFF winner, Tom will be flown to Australia for the National Convention, in June. An agreement was made before the commencement of voting that the actual number of votes would not be released, but the figures below tell the story plainly enough:

<u>Candidate(s)</u>	<u>Australia</u>	<u>New Zealand</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tom Cardy	14	27	41
the others	12	7	19

More specifically (as specific as the administrators are going to be), Tom came first, Graham Ferner second, Michelle Muysert third and Nigel Rowe fourth.

I don't know who the wit was who first suggested that the DUET and FFANZ winners team up while in Australia to make the 'Tom & Jerry Show'....

The EFANE administrators report that the fund is doing well; with NZ\$262 and A\$398.31 currently to hand.

[illegible]

FUNCON: HAPPY DAYS a convention report by Roger Weddall

The 1983 Melbourne Eastercon could probably best be described as a large "relaxacon". There wasn't much in the way of programme items, and those panels that there were were often more casual, rambling get-togethers than organised discussions. There were also a few (good) films, but mainly the convention was a chance for people to sit around socializing.

Julia Ferguson and Jo Masters made it across from Perth, and there were large contingents of fans from both Adelaide and NSW, as well as the local attendees - it felt more like a large, family reunion than a con as such.

Friday in particular was quiet, especially in the evening. Both the 'Mad Hatter Tea Party' and the few room parties were low-key affairs, the highlight for me being the sampling of John Packer's amazing(ly smooth and tasty) home-made liquers.

Before the parties, in the evening, the Peter Coluzzi Audio-Visual DUFF report of his trip was shown. Peter has promised to do a written report of his wanderings in America as well, but it would have to be extraordinarily good to match the quality of this presentation.

Saturday night things started to hot up. The evening's masquerade was helped along by the provision of lots of fabric oddments by the committee for anyone to use as they wished. People started early afternoon to put together their costumes. Louisa Gordon and I tried to persuade John Packer, dressed as a giant, furry, caped rat, to come with us to dinner; but maybe, even where we were, it would have been too much for the locals.

But perhaps the real star of the show was the cake put together by Terry Stroud especially for the con. Grotesque does not describe it (the things you can do with coloured icing and table tennis balls); Terry's creation brings new meanings to the words 'kitsch' and 'bad taste', although actually to eat it (fruitcake, under all that decoration) was pleasant enough. The main section of the... *thing* was kept for next day's auction, where it was bought by Chistine Ashby, as a birthday cake for husband Derrick (many happy ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ returns).

The auction was surprisingly entertaining: frisbees, water-pistol fights and the spirited bidding for anything that Allan Bray wanted to buy all helped to enliven the proceedings. Frontmen Marc Ortlieb and Jack Herman kept the ball rolling and the money coming in .

Later, that evening, was the Paul Stevens 'Pick-A-Box' trivia quiz. Potentially a good idea, it was slapdash in presentation and should have been more slickly paced, but by this time no-one seemed to care too much about that sort of thing (too tired from yesterday) and it filled up a half-hour adequately, sandwiched between two showings of the new Transfinite Audio-Visual. This time, set to a slightly re-written version of 'Those Were the Days', it was a trip down memory lane - shots of fans at conventions, with interposed with plenty of (humourous?) visual commentary on those slides. It was a great idea, and Mark and Kim, the Sydney half of Transfinite, are interested in expanding this piece, to include more slides of older material, as well as any good shots of people, incidents, places. If you have never seen one of their shows - a combination of sound, slides and laser effects - their next production will be at Syncon '83, in June. 'Transfinite' have done a lot of work and spent a lot of money on their shows for conventions, and certainly deserve any support they can be given. It's a fair bet to say you'll be seeing their work here in Melbourne in 1985.

Monday, then, and suddenly it's the end of the con. The Melbourne in '85 panel was typically uninformative (this time it bogged down over the question of membership rates, and estimated attendance figures) and that led straight into the Closing Ceremony, where John Newman was heard to say: "If no-one else volunteers, I guess the dead dog party will be at my place;" it was, and it was one of the most enjoyable parties of the weekend. I had a good talk with Cathy McDonnell about travelling overseas, and lent Carole Cranwell my shirt (but nothing else) for some completely immoral purposes. That she, Karin Janezic, Kim Huett and Gerald Smith got up to to the sound of all those cameras clicking is something you probably won't find out about for quite a while, if ever.

Whenever people ask me about these 'sf conventions', I try to explain that, the serious parts of the programme aside (films; Guest of Honour speeches - that sort of stuff), conventions are really just these big, weekend-long parties. Funcon was more like that than most; not a bad way to spend an Easter.

Funcon extra info: approx. 150 members, in contrast to/addition to/competition with the (rough estimate) 600-700 members of 'Phantasticon III', also held in Melbourne over the Easter weekend. Also, a late thanks from the committee to Bob Toth, who did all the sound arrangements for the convention.

A horizontal row consisting of approximately 30 small, identical square icons or symbols.

In the beginning there was controversy, and then there wasn't. As reported earlier in *Thyme*, Harry Harrison will be the Guest of Honour at Swancon 9 - see the flyer opposite. Anyway, it appears that Harry intended to visit Australia at some stage, and all was well until everyone independently decided that they wanted him to be GoH at their own conventions. Merv Binns had a hand in all this, but just where the 'blame' for any of the heated words/confusion that followed should be placed is unclear. Talking to Allan Gray at Funcon, he seemed eager to be able to explain his side of the story in public, in *Thyme*, but to date he has not written anything, so it can't be all that important. It's 'Storm in a Teacup' time, folks. What is clear is that Harry will be spending a few weeks here, wants to see a fair bit of the country, especially the Barrier Reef/ Northern Queensland, and will be GoH at Swancon 9 in Perth next year, over the Anzac Day weekend. He will also probably be visiting Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney at some stage; if you think there's a reason for him to turn up to any sort of gathering you might have planned then you could best start by making polite enquiries of Merv Binns, of Space Age Books, Melbourne. We look forward to seeing you, Harry! (NR/AD/BU).

[illegible]

At Albacorn II, the Easter British NatCon in Glasgow, the combined 'Seacon 84' and Eurocon bid won the 1994 Easter NatCon by a huge majority over the rival Blackpool bid, so next year's Eurocon and the Brit Natcon will be held, combined, at Brighton, U.K.

SWANKOM 9.
YOU MAD FOOL

. . . which bright-eyed and bushy-tailed convention committee use only the cheapest and off-whitest paper to tell YOU what it's all about? The fen from the West, no? The tinduck concom, no? Even the people from Swancon, nein?

concom, no? Even the people from Swancon, nein?

SWANCON

THE STAINLESS STEEL RAT MEETS THE TIN DUCK

GUEST OF HONOUR: HARRY HARRISON.

Fan Guest of Honour: To be announced.

Australia Day Weekend, 27th-30th January, 1984.

Venue: to be announced.

Can you afford not to be a member of Swancon Nine right from the word go? Dare you miss out on the convention that will bring you a Great Debate for Real Fen? Could you bear not to receive the very first, bulging-in-all-the-right-places Swancon Nine Progress Report which will explain almost but not quite exactly what we were hinting at in the previous sentence? Go on, be a devil, live life to the full, be the first fan on your block to join Swancon Nine. Write right now!

Rates: \$15 until 30th November, 1983.
\$5 supporting.

* * * * *

Contact: Swancon Nine Committee
P.O. Box 318,
Nedlands, 6009,
Western Australia.

or your State Agent:

N.S.W.: Jean Weber; c/o C.S.I.R.O., Box 333, Wentworth
Building, Uni of Sydney, N.S.W., 2006.

Victoria: John Newman; P.O. Box 4, Thornbury, Vic., 3071.

South Oz: Zebee Johnstone; 1 Egerton Ave., Rostrevor, S.A.,
5073.

A.C.T.: Kat Swansbra; 6 Napper Pl., Charnwood, A.C.T., 2615.

. . . other agents, esp. overseas, in first Progress Report.

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... which bright-eyed and busy-eyed convention committee
use only the cheapest and old-fashioned paper to tell YOU what
it's all about. The less the better. The tinier the
concern, not even the people from Sweden, really?



THE STAINLESS STEEL RAT MEETS THE TIN DUCK

GUEST OF HONOUR: HARRY HARRISON

For Guest of Honour: To be announced.

... ..

Australia Day Weekend, 27th-29th January, 1984

Venue: to be announced.

... ..

Can you afford not to be a member of Sweden Nine right from
the very start? Have you miss out on the convention that will
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Address: 215 until 30th November, 1983.

... ..

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N.S.W.: Jean Weber, c/o C.S.I.R.O., Box 333, Wentworth
Building, 1st of Sydney, N.S.W., 2006.

Victoria: John Newman, P.O. Box 4, Thornbury, Vic., 3071.

South Oz: Eddie Johnston, 1 Rector Ave., Rosstrevor, S.A.,
5073.

A.C.T.: Kay Swanson, 6 Napier Pl., Glasswood, A.C.T., 2615.

... other agents, esp. overseas, in first Progress Report.

CONVENTIONS UPDATE**ADVENTION 4 - LAST NOTICE** *(for those people with time machines, sigh)*

Dates: 23-25 April

Venue: The Pier Hotel, Glenelg, Adelaide

CoH: Wynne Whiteford/Mary Shelley

Rates: Attending: \$20, Supporting: \$...no such thing.

Mail: Advention 4, P.O.Box 46, Marden 5070

Advertised as '...the 1983 Adelaide Science Fiction Convention.' Should be a pleasant, smallish affair, with few interstate attendees due to its proximity to Funcon. Times are hard, and people seem to be limiting their interstate travel more than ever. Nevertheless, it should be worth the trouble to get to.

WINDYCON - The NEW ZEALAND 1983 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Dates: 3rd-6th June

Venue: the Waterloo Hotel, Wellington

CoH: think you can guess this one? There's been no official announcement from the committee on this yet, but it's hardly a secret. Clue: what sort of overseas guest speaker would the convention most likely be able to afford?

Rates: Attending: \$20, Supporting: \$10

Mail: Windycon, Box 11400 Wellington, New Zealand
Australian Agent: John Newman, Box 4, Thornbury 3071.

SYNCON '83 - The AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL 1983 CONVENTION

Dates: 10 - 13 June

Venue: Shore Motel, Pacific Highway, Artarmon, Sydney

CoH: Harlan Ellison, Van Tkin

Rates: Attending: \$25, Supporting: \$10

Mail: P.O.Box A491, Sydney 2000

The con has just published their Progress Report #5, with more information in it than most cons manage to present you with at the actual event. Get it.

CONQUEST 83 - The 1983 NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN MEDIA CONVENTION

Dates: 24th, 25th of September

Venue: the Brisbane Park Royal, cnr Albert & Alice Streets, Brisbane, QLD

Rates: until 15/5/83: Attending \$20/Student or Pensioner \$12.50

until 1/9/83: Attending \$25/ " " " \$15.00

at the door: PER DAY: \$15 full/\$10 half

Accommodation: Double or Twin: \$52/night, and \$10 per extra person.

Mail: Conquest 83, GPO Box 1376, Brisbane 4001.

Brought to you by the same people who ran Conquest 82 so successfully, this 'un promises to be even better, if that's possible. As a point of interest, all profits from the convention will be donated to the Red Cross Society.

SWANCON 9

Dates: 27 - 30 January, 1984

Venue: Westos Motor Inn (the same as usual)

CoH: Harry Harrison (surprise!)

Rates: Supporting: \$5, Attending: \$15 until 30th November, 1983

Mail: Swancon Nine Committee, P.O.Box 313, Nedlands 6009, W.A.

'Can you afford not to be a member of Swancon Nine right from the word go?' the flyer exhorts, and they might be right. Swancons are special, don't wait for the first PR. Billed as: 'The Stainless Steel Rat Meets the Tin Duck', God help us....

EUREKACON - THE 1984 NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN SF CONVENTION

Dates: 20-23 April (Easter) 1984

Venue: The Melbourne Town House, Swanston St. Carlton, Melbourne

CoH: George Turner

Rates: Attending: \$20, Supporting: \$10

Mail: Eurekacon, P.O.Box 175, South Melbourne, 3205

Self confessedly: 'We've been lying low for the last twelve months, hoping that hardly anyone would join at the cheap rates. Now we are after your money. The Melbourne Mafia Convention Machine is getting into gear. ((You'd better believe it!)) Eurekacon will have everything you have come to expect from Melbourne Cons - all the good things, anyway, so come and give us your life savings.'

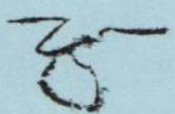
RECENT BITS & PIECES

Melbourne: Jan McDonnell has moved house, to 11/272 Barkly Street, North Fitzroy, 3065.

Mandy Merriot & Phil Ware, of Abbotsford, are currently negotiating loans on the purchase of a house in Flemington, and expect to be moving from their current abode, owned by Terry Stroud, some time a couple of months from now. Rumours are floating around that certain persons - not Terry - may move in when they move out; more later on this. And then there's Marc Orlieb, who'll be over here next year, possibly to share a house with Justin Ackroyd. Asms and Karen Wilkinson are finally to wed (yes, he finally proposed): the date has been set at the 8th of October, venue undecided, but probably some parkish area. Meanwhile they, too, are on the lookout for new permanent accommodation. Baby AMDS/Adrie is doing well. ***This issue of Thyme looks like being under ten pages - unbelievable, I know.*** Recently seen in Melbourne: Bruce Burn, of Gisborne, New Zealand, fame. Bruce was over here showing some people around Melbourne, Adelaide, but unfortunately could not make it to any gatherings (ie. Funcon) See you at Windycon?

THE CAR RALLY MENTIONED IN THE LAST ISSUE OF THYME is officially a non-event; seems that interest was lacking - must be this cold weather. the event has been postponed, until... well, it's been postponed. Good idea, but ((he says)).

NEW ZEALAND: Graham Ferner has moved, from Auckland to 27 Albert Street, Wellington. This hasn't stopped him from putting out a new fanzine, Sneetch. Anyone who has ever moved house, or put out a fanzine should be suitably impressed. And in Wellington, Michelle Muysert has resigned her position as NASE Branch President (ugh, politics again?) and until the AGM National NASE President, Robert Fowles, has taken over her position. However, the AGM is scheduled for the 17th of April, and you probably won't be reading this until then; likely president to succeed Robert Fowles (the National brach are having their AGM same date as the Wellington branch) is Linette Horne, the only nominee for the job. (Speaking of AGMs and elections, back in Melbourne, the new MUSTA President is Sarah Crawshaw; naturally, Adrie is a committee member.) And that about wraps it up for another issue; it was put together on the 12th of April, and the next issue should be out about four weeks from now. Thanks for help in getting this one into shape must go to Mike, Lync, Frank, Mal, John, Mandy, Justin and, natch, Victor. Seeyuz,



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