

THYME

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produced by Rover Weddall, of 79 Bell Street, Fitzroy 3065, AUSTRALIA - telephone (03) 417 1841. THYME appears every four weeks, or when necessity dictates. This issue is FREE to all subscribers and members of WINDYCON or SYNCON 83, but usually I'll accept money for copies at the following rates of exchange: Kiwis: 6 issues for NZ\$6; Aussies: 10 issues for A\$4; Europeans: 9 issues for £5; North Americans: US\$1 per issue. If all that makes your little head swim, try figuring out the exchange rates instead. Actually, the varying cost is because of the huge cost of overseas (AIRMAIL) postage. If yz lives in En Zed, send yer money to: Nigel Rowe, 24 Beulah Avenue, Rothesay Bay, Auckland 10, but if you're an Australian, post those cheques to me. Sometimes I also send out free copies in exchange for other stuff, or just because I feel like it (like now). A red X next to your name means that this could be your last issue unless you... DO SOMETHING. Registered by A Post, publication #VBH2625
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UPCOMING/CURRENT FILMS

IT'S \$T : WAR\$ #3

Return of the Jedi, one of America's biggest new movies, has been pirated by black-market videotapers even before it has reached the theatres.

The \$30 million *Star Wars* sequel is believed to have been pirated, despite elaborate security, the trade paper *Variety* has reported.

And the plot of *Return of the Jedi* has been leaked out two weeks in advance of the world premiere, one week ago now.

Variety said that pirated videocassettes of the film were reportedly being sold for from \$150 to \$200.

Producer George Lucas had tried to preserve secrecy by not giving cast members complete scripts and by filming three versions of the ending.

The release of the picture, and the efforts at tight security, had been planned to duplicate the marketing success of *Star Wars* and *The Empire Strikes Back*, which have accounted for \$837 million world-wide at the box office and an additional \$1.5 milliard in merchandise sales.

When rumours of the plot leaked, the producers claimed several points were still wrong - still trying to concentrate publicity on the 25th of May opening in the USA, which coincides with the release of dolls, toys and clothes linked to the movie.

However, a comic book sent to distributors and retailers almost a month ago, and available

here now in Australia, got into circulation before the deadline, revealing the whole story...

Do not read the following paragraphs if you wish to remain ignorant of any plot details!

Yoda, teacher of the Jedi knights, confirms that Darth Vader is Luke Skywalker's father. He tells Luke that he can't become a true knight until he confronts Darth.

Luke goes to the new Death Star, which is under construction at the Evil Emperor's orders, convinced that his father can be won back to the good side of the force, but the Emperor has instructed Darth to bring Luke over to the Dark Side. Meanwhile Luke discovers that Princess Leia is his sister; she becomes attracted to Han Solo, rescued from the carbon substance he was frozen into at the end of the previous sequel, *TESB*.

R2D2 survives yet another series of computer malfunctions. C3PO is worshipped by a flock of creatures called Ewoks, who look like koalas, Yoda dies peacefully at age 900, and Darth Vader goes out a good guy, saving Luke from the Evil Emperor.

We will be waiting until sometime much later this year, during Summer or Spring, to see the movie.

(The Herald)

UPCOMING/RECENT FILMS cont.

Re *Alien Hunter* (see *Thyme* #25), your clumsy/forgetful editor apologises for not having earlier mentioned that Marilyn Pride and Lewis Morley are also working on the film, as well as Nick Strathopoulos. Marilyn is also currently working on an ambitious illustrated book project at the moment - more details (perhaps) as it nears completion.

Speaking of local films, locally showing at the moment (Australia, at least) are some (two) vintage Disney efforts, *Song of the South* and *Dumbo*. *Peter Pan* is also still around the place as well. *Song of the South*, while repellently racist/sexist/facist, is still worthwhile if only as a historical document - it features the first use of combined live action with animation. *Peter Pan* is acceptable, if nothing remarkable. It is *Dumbo*, however, that catches the eye. It's a stunning little film, featuring one of the best animated sequences ever: *Pink Elephants on Parade*. Animated Disney at its classic best is unsurpassed. A pity, then, that *The Secret of NIMH*, a contemporary effort by ex-Disney people, does comparatively little with the material available. It is similarly an animated film, and while reasonably attractive, there are dull patches in both the animation and the storyline that one feels could easily have been resolved. Definitely aimed at the kids, it is nevertheless a strangely political film with lots of moralising: in short, perhaps not something you'd want young kids to see.

In America, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, the computer-animated Disney effort, has been released, to mixed reviews. Based on the Ray Bradbury story of the same name, it apparently captures the whimsical nature of much of Bradbury's stuff. A little further away from our shores, *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Death* began production some time in April. To be shot in the ever-popular Sri Lanka and Hong Kong, it is of course a sequel to *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

Talking about sequels, it's time for more...

AWARDS, AWARDS, AWARDS

Lisa Goldstein has won the 1983 American Book Award (TABA) in the best original paperback category, for her fantasy novel: *The Red Magician*. The novel was selected for the award (both fiction and non fiction books were among the nominees) by a panel of judges, and the award carried a prize of US\$1,000. Lisa Goldstein has also been nominated for the John W. Campbell Award (for Best New Writer) on the basis of this book: it is her first novel, and combines East European Jewish folklore with a tale of survival of the Nazi holocaust (*Locus*)

It's never too late to announce the actual winners of the English equivalent of the Ditmar Awards, the BSFA Awards. Announced at Albacon II (see conreport *Thyme* #25), they are as follows:

Best Novel.....*Helliconia Spring* - Brian W. Aldiss
 Best Short Fiction...*Kitemaster* - Keith Roberts
 Best Media Presentation...*Bladerunner*
 Best Artist.....*Tim White*.

And, speaking of science fiction (however did we get onto that subject), Isaac Asimov has turned in the manuscript for the third robot novel: *The Robots of Dawn*, and has signed a contract for yet another novel.

"*The Robots of Dawn* is 140,000 words as long as the *Caves of Steel* and *The Naked Sun* put together.

"Just so rumours don't start up, I can tell you that the advance for the new novel was \$150,000 - more than the advances for the robot novel and *Foundation's Edge* put together."

Asimov could not say what the new novel would be about because it could be any one of three novels he has planned: a book about the transition from the robot society to the Foundation setting; a novel about Hari Seldon, originator of the Foundation (Holy Second Helpings!); and a sequel to *Foundation's Edge*.

Asimov seems to have returned to full-time writing with a vengeance; perhaps he's been inspired by L. Ron Hubbard, author of the recent *Battlefield Earth*, whom an American judge has ruled (the author, not the book) is still alive. Recently, Hubbard's son filed suit for Hubbard's millions, currently being used by the Church of Scientology, of which Hubbard is the founder. The son claimed Hubbard, whom no-one has seen literally for years, was dead, and that Scientologists were hiding this. However, a handwritten, signed and thumb-printed letter from L. Ron to the judge, has convinced him otherwise. It would seem likely that further court action will follow; Hubbard remains 'hidden'.



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0 Especially relevant if you will be attending - or are reading this at - Syncon '83, there will be a major bid party at the con, hosted by Chairman John Foyster. The idea is to thank everyone who has given so much support to us over the last 18 months, and to thank in advance the even more people who will be giving their support in the next 28. So come along and enjoy yourself/ves at our expense. for a change - should be a beaut.

Q What you can do, if you wish to support the bid, is to help in the 1985 Worldcon Site Selection Process. If you are already a member of Constellation, you can vote to help the Melbourne Bid win and at the same time get yourself one of the cheapest Supporting memberships that will be available at any stage. To make the voting process cheaper (it costs money to vote), there will be a bulk-mailing of votes from Australia, under the aegis of Carey Handfield. If you are a member and wish to vote, send \$23 Australian to Carey Handfield, c/o P.O.Box 91, Carlton, 3053.

O Do you have any ideas you would like to see put into practice, concerning the bid? Would you like to volunteer your services/abilities/general offer of help, in any particular shape or form? Well, tell the committee: **THIS MEANS: PUT IT TO THEM IN WRITING!** Even at this early stage the general approach to the task of presenting a Worldcon is being considered, and it would make the committee's job a lot easier if you contact them, *in writing*, to make sure that they actually know of the sort of things you have in mind/ would like to see at a Worldcon. The sooner the better. All ideas are welcome. So write!

O Or maybe you'd just prefer to come along and see the fun, in which case why not turn up at Christine & Derrick Ashby's place on Sunday the 24th of July, to help celebrate Derrick's 31st birthday. You'll be able to look your last upon the bizarre cake made by Terry Stroud for Funcon. This is a fund-raising occasion, so that if you want to eat some of the cake (although you don't have to) you'll have to pay for the privilege - at \$1 a slice (they paid \$16 for the thing). I can personally vouch for the fact that it's a great (as in, tasty) fruitcake).

o Before other, non-bid events are mentioned, one last Bid News item: if you are planning to travel to Baltimore for this year's World SF Convention, could you please write John Foyster (21 Shakespeare Grove, St.Kilda 3192) to let him know, so that some sort of estimate of numbers of Australians present can be prepared.

[illegible]

Melbourne: The annual attempt of Torbjörn von Stroklirch to scrounge as many birthday presents as possible this year took the form of a Birthday Party. This was certainly no Melbourne in '85 fund-raising occasion: all monies and goodies were TVS-bound. However, the assembled ~~loyal~~ faithful did their best to thwart the spirit of the occasion while filling it to the letter. The obvious present for Torbjörn, a vegetarian?

A barbecue. We all chipped in. A jolly time was had by all, except for fervent supporters of Brighton or Manchester Utd. who stayed up to watch a 2-2 draw in the F.A.Cup. (It was 'till a good match to watch.)
There is to be a MUSEFA Bistro Evening - all welcome - on the 21st of June, a Tuesday, around 7:30ish, at the Asian Food Plaza, cnr. Russell & Little Bourke Streets, City.
Perhaps your taste is for something more literary? Well, you just missed out on the recent Nova Mob, on Wednesday the 1st of June, when Mark Linneman spoke on 'The Law and Science Fiction'. Never mind, there's always next month, Wednesday (as always) the 6th of July. Nova Mob meetings are held at John & Jenny's place, that's 21 Shakespeare Grove, St.Kilda 3182, starting around 8 o'clock.
Farther away by many moons is the wedding of Karen Wilkinson & Asas, 8th of October. It will be held out at Asas' mum's place, Healesville - reasonably near to the Wildlife sanctuary.
Speaking of the patter of tiny feet, a late note to mention that there has been a new arrival at 79 Bell Street. Marion is now the proud "dad" of Mitzi. Mitzi is actually three months or more by now, but is still awfully cute - and surprisingly active for one so young. On the sadder side, there has been a recent death at 59 Keele Street, and one at 231 Thompsons Road. Ishtar, and Mog (I would have liked to have sued).

Perth: The Wasffanis alive and well, currently under the editorship of one Kevin McCaw. The old Wasffan PO Box has been abandoned; the new address is 20 Dodd Street, Hamilton Hill, 6163 W.A. You can trade, or sample copy for 20c. WASFA itself seems to be alive (and well?); the last meeting of the club was at the KIDS centre, 76 Seventh Avenue, Maylands, at 8pm on Friday the 13th of May. Viva WASFA.

It's an ill convention that brings no-one good from overseas, but Syncon will see no less than four people here for the convention, while Windycon the week before has at least had one international visitor.

The four at Syncon will be...

Cliff Wind. Over on holiday from Seattle, Cliff will be here, in Sydney during Syncon, and later on in Melbourne for a short while and also in Perth (surprise, surprise - Cliff lived, at one stage, in Perth). Welcome back, Cliff.

Tom Cardy. FFANZ winner, fresh over from Windycon, in Wellington, Tom will be present at the convention, and hopefully will be able to afford to make it, later on, to Melbourne and possibly even Adelaide and/or Perth. Tom is the first person to win FFANZ, and is by all reports a great bloke, so ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Tom.

Jerry Kaufman. DUFF winner, over here because you voted for him, Jerry will also be around these parts (Australia) for a while after the convention. Jerry is from Seattle, is an all-round "good person", and I know for a fact that he has great taste in music. Oh yeah, he's done a few fanzines in his day, too. G'day, Jerry.

Harlan Ellison. sf author, writer-at-large. What sort of performance will he put on at Syncon? There have been rumours of last minute hassles with the con committee, and others have claimed he eats con committees for breakfast - fact or fiction? A recent report in Locus of a convention at which he was guest of honour seemed to suggest he was a successful guest of honour - both on the personal and the 'duties' side; after last year's debacle with Vance, that much is good to know. So please, put your hands together to welcome Harlan Ellison. With all this and more, Syncon promises to be quite some show.

That about wraps it up for now, then. Thyme is put together, etc., by Roger Weddall, but his job is made a lot easier this time by: John, Derrick, John, Justin and Victor. Last (and first) stencil typed 30/5/'83, seeyuz'round,



your name is for something new
on Wednesday the 1st of June
there's a new name
starting around 8 o'clock
reasonably near to the
place to mention that there's been a

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