

THE SYNCON '83 FILE:

Part One - Christine Ashby

SYNCON '83 was overcrowded, it was intermittently disorganised, the motel was stuck out in the middle of nowhere and the programming could best be described as uninspired; nevertheless I loved it, I loved it!

The attending membership exceeded 500, and at times it seemed that every one of them was crowded into the stifling JC (Julius Caesar to you, mate) Room. I don't think there can be any doubt that many of them, fans and complete neos alike, came to see Harlan Ellison, Guest of Honour. Since Ellison made a number of references to his expensive New York lawyer I will confine myself to saying that he is a complex and brilliant individual with an overpowering need to be the centre of attention. He could read from his works for two hours and hold 400 people spellbound (with the exception of Madame Defarge, a dumpy little middle-aged woman who sat up the back intent upon her knitting, never once looking up or showing a flicker of reaction -- perhaps she was deaf). Ellison can, as they say in showbiz, "work a crowd". He undoubtedly had some influence on the convention atmosphere; you will be able to tell Syncon '83 attendees by their tendency to wave their hands about whilst intoning "doo-doo doo-doo, doo-doo doo-doo" in an approximation of the theme from 'The Twilight Zone'. Certainly Ellison was wonderful value as GOM, even treating us to his well-known writing in public routine, sitting in the foyer tapping out a story which he said he was making up on the spot (and for which he had fortuitously done the necessary research).

The disorganisation, as I have said, was intermittent and didn't seem to upset anybody too greatly. The worst example would have been the smorgasbord lunch. It was not the Committee's fault that the hotel management (with the usual perfidiousness of hotel managements everywhere) had exiled half the diners into another room, from whence they had to return to hear the speeches given by Tom Cardy and Jerry Kaufman. Somebody on the Committee, though, had the bright idea of making the occupants of the high table sit down first so that they could watch everybody else stripping the buffet of the barely-adequate supplies of food....

The other major disorganisation appeared to occur during the masquerade, which had not been terribly well-planned in the logistical sense - cries of "Clear a path there!" and the inestimable John Newman to the rescue. The masquerade was preceded by casino-type gaming (not a success) and disco dancing. Shock, horror, dancing at an SF convention! Some of the costumes were truly remarkable. The most remarkable of all was the Silent Female Android, and thereby hangs a tale. This person, who appeared to be with the contingent of Brisbane media fans, was covered in gold paint and very little else, the costume being finished off with a gold mask complete with flashing red eyes and an elaborate wig. In no time at all the rumour was circulating that the SFA was in fact a man. Well folks, I've been through all this before at Aussiecon, when someone called Fiona Wood appeared at the masquerade in green paint and very little else. I referred to the rumour that she was male in my convention report, and she sent me a letter from Brisbane with a photograph of herself - in fact we corresponded for a while and I still have the engagement present she sent me. I found myself repeating all this wearily to the Syncon rumour-mongers. Imagine then my surprise the next night when the prize for best-in-show was awarded to Fiona Wood, who could not be present. If you're reading this, Fiona, I have just one question for you: why were you calling yourself "Bianca" at the masquerade?

Jhyme: 26

is produced by Roger Weddall, of 79 Bell Street, Fitzroy 3065, AUSTRALIA, telephone (03) 417 1841. It is available for news or other information or in exchange for filthy lucre at the following rates: Australia: 10 issues for \$4; New Zealand, North America: \$1 local currency per issue; Europe: 10 issues for £5, SEK60 or whatever. All overseas copies mailed AIRMAIL.
NZ agent: Nigel Rowe, 24 Beulah Avenue, Rothesay Bay, Auckland 10.
US agent: Jerry Kaufman, 4326 Winslow Place North, Seattle, WA 98105.

Europe: Joseph Nicholas, 22 Denbigh St., Pimlico, London, SW1 2ER, U.K.
A big, pink X next to your name means that this could be your last issue unless you... DO SOMETHING. Registered by Australia Post, pub. #VBH2625

SEATTLE IN '85 - AMERICAN CITY TO HOST AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SF CONVENTION

At the Business session of the 1983 National Australian SF Convention, Syncon '83, voting saw the 1985 NatCon awarded to a Seattle bid cohhled together the previous evening at the 'Melbourne in '85' Room Party. Jerry Kaufman - DUFF winner - and Clifford Wind, both Seattle residents, presented the bid in opposition to an Adelaide bid, and no-one seemed more surprised than they when the Seattle bid won, voting 22-19 in favour of it.

Due to a loophole in the Constitution of the Australian SF Society - a nominal body in charge of running all National SF Conventions - it was possible for the joke American bid to stand in opposition to an Australian bid.

When the result was announced, hurried consultation with the losing Adelaide bid saw it being given custody of both the 1985 Business Session, and the handling of the Ditmar awards.

As a National Convention cannot legally close until after the business session, 1985 will possibly see the longest ever convention - the Seattle convention, to be known as Spawncon, will be held in conjunction with the large, regional convention held yearly in that area, known as M. wescon. This convention will be held in March, while the Adelaide convention will be held some time either in June or April (Easter). So the 1985 National Australian SF Convention will officially open in March, and possibly close some three months later, in June.

Additionally, the Spawncon committee have promised to charge only a nominal fee for membership: all people who pay this nominal fee will be eligible to vote for the 1985 Ditmar awards (Australian SF awards), and attend the business session, in Adelaide, for free.

The entire matter (and its legality) is without precedent. The constitution is in fact a very loosely worded document, and although there is no provision for the business session being "given" into the care of another convention, there is similarly nothing forbidding it.

The incident is a reasonably harmless prank, in effect - 1985 is the year in which the WORLD SF Convention will (almost certainly) be held in Melbourne, and this is perhaps why the Seattle bid won the support it did. In 1985, most Australians will be looking to the Worldcon as the convention of the year, and Seattle winning the '85 NatCon effectively reduces it, for all intents and purposes, to a simple business session/ Ditmar awards ceremony that need not be worried about. This is, of course, good from a Melbourne point of view - with the NatCon out of the way, the Worldcon is the con of the year, even more than otherwise - and it is noteworthy that except for Jerry and Cliff, the rest of the Spawnconcommittee are Melbourne residents, and two of them are on the 'Melbourne in '85'/Aussiecon II committee.

Spawncon correspondence: Cliff Wind, #206, 308 Summit E, Seattle, WA 98102, U.S.A.

THE SYNCON '83 FILE:

Part One - Christine Ashby

SYNCON '83 was overcrowded, it was intermittently disorganised, the motel was stuck out in the middle of nowhere and the programming could best be described as uninspired; nevertheless I loved it, I loved it!

The attending membership exceeded 500, and at times it seemed that every one of them was crowded into the stifling JC (Julius Caesar to you, mate) Room. I don't think there can be any doubt that many of them, fans and complete neos alike, came to see Harlan Ellison, Guest of Honour. Since Ellison made a number of references to his expensive New York lawyer I will confine myself to saying that he is a complex and brilliant individual with an overpowering need to be the centre of attention. He could read from his works for two hours and hold 400 people spellbound (with the exception of Madame Defarge, a dumpy little middle-aged woman who sat up the back intent upon her knitting, never once looking up or showing a flicker of reaction -- perhaps she was deaf). Ellison can, as they say in showbiz, "work a crowd". He undoubtedly had some influence on the convention atmosphere; you will be able to tell Syncon '83 attendees by their tendency to wave their hands about whilst intoning "doo-doo doo-doo, doo-doo doo-doo" in an approximation of the theme from 'The Twilight Zone'. Certainly Ellison was wonderful value as GoH, even treating us to his well-known writing in public routine, sitting in the foyer tapping out a story which he said he was making up on the spot (and for which he had fortuitously done the necessary research).

The disorganisation, as I have said, was intermittent and didn't seem to upset anybody too greatly. The worst example would have been the smorgasbord lunch. It was not the Committee's fault that the hotel management (with the usual perfidiousness of hotel managements everywhere) had exiled half the diners into another room, from whence they had to return to hear the speeches given by Tom Cardy and Jerry Kaufman. Somebody on the Committee, though, had the bright idea of making the occupants of the high table sit down first so that they could watch everybody else stripping the buffet of the barely-adequate supplies of food....

The other major disorganisation appeared to occur during the masquerade, which had not been terribly well-planned in the logistical sense - cries of "Clear a path there!" and the inestimable John Newman to the rescue. The masquerade was preceded by casino-type gaming (not a success) and disco dancing. Shock, horror, dancing at an SF convention! Some of the costumes were truly remarkable. The most remarkable of all was the Silent Female Android, and thereby hangs a tale. This person, who appeared to be with the contingent of Brisbane media fans, was covered in gold paint and very little else, the costume being finished off with a gold mask complete with flashing red eyes and an elaborate wig. In no time at all the rumour was circulating that the SFA was in fact a man. Well folks, I've been through all this before at Aussiecon, when someone called Fiona Wood appeared at the masquerade in green paint and very little else. I referred to the rumour that she was male in my convention report, and she sent me a letter from Brisbane with a photograph of herself - in fact we corresponded for a while and I still have the engagement present she sent me. I found myself repeating all this wearily to the Syncon rumour-mongers. Imagine then my surprise the next night when the prize for best-in-show was awarded to Fiona Wood, who could not be present. If you're reading this, Fiona, I have just one question for you: why were you calling yourself "Bianca" at the masquerade?

Since *Thyme* is first and foremost a newszine I think I should clear up the other Syncon mystery, or perhaps I should say another Syncon mystery since I don't know who it was that knocked on Harlan Ellison's door at 3am to offer him her body. Anyway, there are sure to be some people who have got the idea that Melbourne has lost the Worldcon to Seattle ((Not after reading page 1, I hope!)). Not true, not true! The truth is in fact much more bizarre than that, and it is that Seattle has successfully bid for the 1985 Australian National Convention. The plot was hatched at the M in '85 room party (catering by Andrew Brown whose taste runs to Coco Pops and Fruit Loops, yuk!). I for one was stone cold sober, and Jerry Kaufman and Cliff Wind were at least perfectly capable of giving informed consent. As a result of a half-baked attempt to set up the Australasian National (incorporating New Zealand) a couple of years ago the ASFS constitution allows national conventions to be held outside Australia and fandom is of course crawling with bush lawyers who would rather bend rules than ignore them. Thus was born Spawncon (Cliff Wind having explained that the emblem of the State of Washington is the salmon). All complaints to Greg Hills, who mucked up the rules in the first place.

There is no doubt that tremendous credit is due to Jack Herman and his committee for the runaway success of Syncon 83, but ultimately the atmosphere was generated by the attendees themselves, as it always is at a really successful convention. Ashby's Umpteenth Law of Conventioneering states that committees can ruin cons, but only attendees can make them. Looking back on the dramatic presentations and the masquerade and the panels and all the rest of it I find myself thinking "Who says people don't know how to make their own fun these days?"

Part Two - Ian Porter

After the slow, relaxed (almost zero) pace of Funcon in Melbourne, it was quite a shock to be thrust into the (by comparison) wild pace of Syncon. Arriving in Sydney Friday morning, I spent the time 'touring'; and then the afternoon was spent letting Claudia and your editor get *Mme* drunk. ((Huh. I don't think that's how either Claudia or I would remember it!))

Friday night at the con saw the opening speeches, and the destruction of Jack Herman's watch by Harlan Ellison. Other Melbournites staggered in about this time, tired from the drive up, mumbling terrifying stories about roadside cafs in Goulburn and the like. Parties apparently then ran most of the night for the bravest.

Saturday morning brought another little excursion into the city centre, which unfortunately meant I missed some excellent videos which were on at the time, but we were back by the afternoon, when Harlan Ellison read a short story and expounded more of his personal theories on the meanings of life and television in his own personable, witty way. Ellison really impressed with his speeches, coming over as a thinking person with a slightly caustic tongue and a ready wit. On the Saturday night came the usual slightly sick, voyeuristic masquerade. Is there something wrong with a large slice of fandom... some perverse ailment?

Sunday morning the auctions provided a good place to recover from Saturday night's alcoholic excesses, and pick up some fun things cheap. All through the convention, too, the hucksters did a good trade in a goodly-sized room of their own. The latter parts of Sunday provided a panel and finally the convention addresses, and finally the Ditmars. All these were of a similar, high standard to the earlier programme events. In between these events were a play and an audio-visual so Sunday tends to blur a bit in the memory.

Monday was the anti-climax of the train back to Melbourne and the sadness at missing Ellison's last reading.

All in all, Syncon '83 was, for me at least, three days of pure 'fun' - making real life even harder to bear.

((Well, so far we've heard from Christine, one of the oldest hands at conventioneering in the business, and from Ian, attending his second-ever convention. Let's cross now to a report on those Ditmars that Ian mentioned....))

DITMAR (AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION ACHIEVEMENT) AWARDS, 1983

Best International SF or Fantasy

- L. DDLEY WALKER by Russell Hoban - 15/43 votes received
 Second place: Roderick by John Sladek
 Third place: "no award"

Best Australian SF or Fantasy

- The Man Who Walks Away Behind The Eyes (short story) by Terry Dowling
 - 15/45 votes received
 Second place: Vaneglory by George Turner
 Third place: Lances of Nengsesdul - K. Taylor

Best Australian Fanzine

- Q36, editor Marc Ortlieb - 19/49 votes received
 Second place: Science Fiction, editor Van Ikin
 Third place: Ornithopter, editor Leigh Edmonds

Best Australian Fanwriter

- Marc Ortlieb - at least I'm honest enough to admit right here in print that I have misplaced the actual figures. Marc won, as always, by lots.

Best Australian SF or Fantasy Artist

- Marilyn Pride - 21/51 votes received
 second place: Nick Stathopoulos
 equal second place: Kerrie Hanlon

Best Australian SF or Fantasy Cartoonist

- John Packer - 17/47 votes received
 second place: Mike McGann
 third place: "no award"

Best Australian SF or Fantasy Editor

- Van Ikin - 17/47 votes received
 second place: Norstrilia Press
 third place: Ron Clarke

The William Atheking Award (Criticism)

- Terry Dowling, for 'Kirth Gersen: The Other Demon Prince'
 - 12/43 votes received
 second place: Bruce Gillespie, for SFC Reprint
 third place: "no award"

Comment: After winning the awards for three years in a row, Marc Ortlieb has officially withdrawn both himself and his fanzine - Q36 - from contention for future awards. He says: "It's about time someone else had a go," and this is a noble sentiment. The question remains whether it's up to Marc to decide whether he can be eligible or not, but it is likely (as it is traditional) that future convention committees will respect his wishes. In previous years when Marc has stood in a category, he has tended to win outright, with many times the vote of any other person/fanzine. There seems no reason to suppose that he would not continue to do so indefinitely. Congratulations, Marc.

Comment: At the Syncon 83 Business Session, motions to discontinue the 'Editor' and the 'Cartoonist' awards were defeated, 13 votes to 8. However, it was carried that award committees now have to provide, in advance, their interpretations of what each category of award stand for. Hopefully this will avoid the confusion of this year, concerning whether certain nominees (including one eventual winner) were actually eligible for the categories in which they competed.

Comment: I see that in the Fanzine category, four people actually voted for Thyme. Well, I wasn't one of them, so I guess I ought to say Thank you, thank you, thank you and thank you.



MELBOURNE The atmosphere was tense at the dead-dog party after FUNCON, as the last few votes were added to the FFANZ tally. Last minute phone calls across the Tasman provided vitally needed information, and once Roger Weddall had spoke to Frank Macskasy in Wellington the picture became clearer. After the last count, it was an excited yet strangely subdued John Newman who announced to the fen waiting in the next room that Tom Cardy had won the 1983 FFANZ race.

The response was immediate. A swift murmur of approval swept the room, with smiles breaking out spontaneously here and there. Some certainly had hoped for others to win, but none were really dissatisfied. FFANZ had it's first winner. And what a winner, too. Well known for his artwork as well as his writting, Tom recently has become more and more involved in the organizational side of fandom. A popular fan, and a popular outcome.

DUNEDIN Wild scenes followed the news that local fan Tom Cardy had won the 1983 FFANZ race. Revellers danced in the streets and Otago University rang with music. The mayor of Dunedin was not available for comment, although he is expected to send his congratulations.

SYDNEY Amid growing confusion as to just whom Tom will be staying with in Sydney before SYNCON 83, he and a large group of New Zealand fen will be arriving at Mascot Airport. Among them will be Merv Barrett, and past FFANZ candidate Michelle Muysert. She and well known NZ fan editor and printer Greg Hills, who is also on the same plane, will be staying on in Aust. after the convention.

It is hoped that rumours that the flight may be diverted to the Mid-Atlantic are merely mischievous. Black-caped figures earlier reported lurking about the airport have been explained as 'the new technical staff'.

ROSENEATH Frank Macskasy, FFANZ admin. for it's first year in New Zealand can now relax a bit. His contribution to the fund was significant, and WE ARE GRATEFUL

THORNBURY John Newman, the current OZ administrator of the Fan Fund of Australia and New Zealand, would like to ask that fen in Australia turn their thoughts, (or those thoughts they have) to the new task facing the fund in the next few months.

As the 1984 race will be to select an Australian fan to send to the NZ Natcon in Auckland next year, we should all be thinking about just who we'd like to send.

It could be someone we'd like to get out of the country for a while. But for that there's Marc Ortlieb's MAFF. It could be someone who's been over before, but wouldn't that be a waste. We could send just about anyone, but would that be a fair exchange for Tom? No.

The person we send to New Zealand next year should be someone we like enough to want back, and are proud to have represent all of Australian fandom in New Zealand. They should be known in NZ thru their writting or other fannish activity, and a worthy recipient of fannish charity (i.e. our money!). So can you think of anyone who fills the bill?

When you do, get in touch with your friendly neighbourhood FFANZ administrator (addresses over) and ask for nomination details. We will send you a form, and let you know how much it costs to nominate. The sooner we can get nominations in, the sooner those people can start getting votes because the 'voting public' will be more familiar with them.

Candidates! Be bold, be brash and be, most of all, noticable. It's no accident that the winner of this year's fund was the guy who advertised himself the best.

New Zealanders, if there's someone you want to see, you know what to do!!

WELLINGTON Person A, credited with the recent destruction of Wellington NASF has said to our reporter, "They'd better watch out, that's all!"

Person B, guiding force of the newly re-formed Wellington NASF, when asked to comment on Person A's statement, was quoted yesterday as saying,

"Who?"

FFANZ

1. FFANZ is the Fan Fund of Australia and New Zealand.
2. The purpose of the fund is to assist a fan from New Zealand, or, on alternate years, Australia, to the other country for their National Convention. (In 1984 a fan will be assisted from Australia to New Zealand.) The fan will be selected by a ballot, as detailed below. Such moneys as are raised in the two countries will be available to the winner to finance travel to and about the other country, insofar as they cover.
3. To be eligible for FFANZ, a candidate must be an active fan, resident in the "sending" country and known in the other. Candidates must undertake in good faith to, in the event of their winning, do all in their power to take the trip, act as a responsible representative of their fandom, publish within the year a report of their trip, and administer the fund in their home country for the following two years.
4. In each country, the administrators, being previous winners of the fund, shall attend to the following:
 - i/ Maintaining a bank account, called "FFANZ", to hold the moneys raised.
 - ii/ Co-ordinating and organizing fund-raising activities.
 - iii/ Keeping records of all FFANZ income, expenditure and liabilities.
 - iv/ Arranging the nomination procedure, and all publications and notifications associated with it.
 - v/ Arranging the voting procedure, and publicizing the result.
 - vi/ Liasing with the overseas administrator, to give details of nominations and votes, arrange dates and procedures and transfer funds as needed.
 - vii/ Assist the winner in making travel and related arrangements.
5. Nominations.
 - i/ Open when the previous winner has returned home.
 - ii/ Close at a date set by the administrators, at least 3 months prior to the end of voting.
 - iii/ Must be accompanied by the correct nomination fee, as set by the administrators, and the candidate's FFANZ platform describing the candidate and their bona fides, to be published by the administrators.
 - iv/ Must be signed by the nominator and a seconder (one from each country) who must be known to the administrators as fan, as well as the candidate.
6. Voting.
 - i/ Closes at a date set by the administrators, at least two months prior to the overseas National Convention.
 - ii/ Opens with the closing of nominations.
 - iii/ Is by official voting form, which is printed by the administrator in each country, and distributed as widely as possible.
 - iv/ Is one vote per person, and must be accompanied by the correct fee, as set by the administrators.
 - v/ Each vote must be signed by the voter, and, if the voter is not known to the administrator, the vote must be endorsed by a fan known to the administrator. No votes will be accepted from people not known as fan.
 - vi/ Votes will be counted "optional preferential", where you may number the candidates in order of preference, starting with "1" for the most preferred, but do not have to vote for all, or any save your first choice.
7. Specifications.
 - i/ Administrative functions, such as date and fee setting, publications and all distributions and notifications to be performed in time to allow people to respond as required.
 - ii/ Candidates platforms to be no longer than 150 words.
 - iii/ It is the responsibility of each fan to get nominations, votes or any other material to the administrator on time.

This information may be copied, provided it is reproduced in full.

For the 1984 FFANZ race, the administrators are:

AUSTRALIA : John Newman, PO Box 4, Thornbury, Victoria 3071

NEW ZEALAND : Tom Cardy, PO Box 5516, Dunedin [NOTE: This is a new address for Tom!]

The auctions at Syncon 83 fetched very good prices for most of what was being offered. From 323 items, \$2603.60 was raised. The following commissions were taken:

Which takes us onto the subject of *FAN FUNDS*...

1984 (Australia to North America) It's been no secret for quite awhile now that Jack Herman, 'Convenor' of Syncon 83, is intending to stand for Duff in '84. Latest reported (unconfirmed) person to be also standing is John Packer, of RatFandom & Ditmar award fame.

1985 (North America to Australia) There should be a fair amount of competition over this race, seeing as how the fund will this year bring an American over to the Worldcon in Melbourne. So far, Marty Cantor and Andy Porter have advertised themselves as possible candidates.

1984 (Australia to Europe) The good news is that there will be an Australian travelling to Britain in 1984. So far three people have announced (well, they've made it known to me, in no uncertain terms) that they will be standing for GUFF of that year. The closing deadline for nominations is not until October this year, so in fairness to those who may yet decide to stand, I'm not promoting the names of the three already committed - it's early days yet.

1984 (Australia to New Zealand) No-one has definitely decided to stand yet, but many are considering... watch this space for further details as they come to hand.

A Word About The Fan Funds in General: if you are interested in standing for any of the above funds (and why not? after all, your trip is paid for!) then you might like to contact the administrators of the various funds. Anyone can stand, so why not avago?

New Zealand - Tom Cardy, P.O.Box 5516. Dunedin, New Zealand.

Also proposed by James Styles, as a one-off fan fund, to bring someone out to the Australian Worldcon (yes yes, if we win, I know) in 1985, is SFAFF, the Scandinavia-Finland-to-Australia Fan Fund. James, of 342 Barkly Street, Ararat 3377, would be interested in hearing from people with suggestions and advice (brain surgery is definitely out of the question. I'm told).

And, Talking about new funds and awards, Julie Vaux is interested in looking at the possibility of setting up a new sort of award that, in Julie's words, would 'be given to people who are outstanding or let us say ((with)) various characteristics both negative and((/or)) positive.' Sounds like a combination of Paul Stevens' Golden Caterpillar Awards and the Ditmars, except that Julie adds that these new awards would be given to those not already 'recognised' by existing awards. Julie's address, if you'd like to discuss the matter with her, is 14 Zara Road, Willoughby 2063.

[illegible]

So, Syncon '83 is over - the event that people had been waiting and saving up for to attend for what seems like years. Our own regular Claytons WorldCon (Australian in-joke). Where does this leave Sydny fandom, and what sort of acts will be following in its footsteps? More of Sydney fandom in 'What's on Where'. Let's move on now to the list of forth coming conventions: (next page)

[illegible]

ARCANACON

Dates: 1st-4th September
 Venue: Melbourne University Union Building, Melbourne University, VIC.
 Rates: \$7 Student/unemployed; \$11 all others
 Mail: ARCANACON, Box 843, Parkville 3052.
 Theme: Role-playing Games Convention. There will be Major Tournaments in the following games: D&D, Traveller, Diplomacy, and other minor tournaments, demonstrations of games, videos, a 'Video Games' arcade, etc. etc., and a Fantasy Banquet & Fancy Dress parade. As is becoming more usual for this sort of thing (a la Phantastacons) there will be \$2,000 of prizemoney to be split up. The idea of actually winning money from Diplomacy sounds wonderful! (to me) Phil, you go Austria, I'll have Italy.

CONQUEST '83

Dates: 24th, 25th September
 Venue: Brisbane Park Royal, Brisbane.
 Rates: until 1/9/83 Attending \$25, Students/Pensioners \$15
 at the door: per day: \$15 full/\$10 half.
 Mail: Conquest 83, GPO Box 1376, Brisbane 4001
 Accommodation: \$52/night Double/Twin; \$10 extra per person ((\$152/12 people?))

Conquest '83 is the first National sf Media Convention in what is likely to be a long series, now that Australian media groups are becoming more interested in things such as cons. Cathy Kerrigan writes in with some background info to the whole scam: 'The seven-person committee of Medtrek '84 ((the second, and the 1984, mediacon)) has drawn up a constitution for a national media sf society to administer the national mediacon. Said constitution will only be able to be ratified or amended at Medtrek84. Said committee cannot be described as having consulted with other media groups regarding the above ((apparently they'r mostly/all "Trekkies"))'.
 Now I am very much in favour of a national media con and society but I don't want to see it reduced to the status of a glorified Trek con or Trek club. At least Glynnis ((Conquest 83 organiser)) has been trying to get a truly representative society, in touch with everyone concerned.... I've been given a couple of particularly good ideas to sabotage what Medtrek is doing ((Trekkifying things, one supposes)) (thanks, Paul). Obviously we'll be trying to get as much support as possible for our (broadly-based alliance).

The irony for me is that I've been gaffiating from trek fandom for quite some time now, with no intention of going back to it. One of my main reasons for gaffiation was all the Trek politicking, and here I find myself involved with it again. But I don't like what Medtrek is doing, and I don't intend to let them get away with it.'

(Our humble reporter is not sure he understands a lot of this, but then sounds like fighting words, to me. Of course, from an 'sf fandom' point of view (as opposed to 'media fandom') (as if two such discrete groups exist), it's all rather humorous, seeing terms like gaffiation used by what many 'fannish' people see as being non-fan groups. In America I believe it has come to the point where much and maybe even most of media fandom is ignorant of its 'sf fannish' origins. At any rate, it's nice to know that 'sf fandom' is not the only group of people to be suffering from constitutional constipation.

SWANCON 9

Dates: 27th-30th January, '84
 Venue: Nestos Motor inn (where else?)
 Rates: Supporting \$5, Attending \$15
 G.O.M.: Harry Harrison
 Mail: Swancon Nine Committee, c/o P.O.Box 318, Nedlands 6009

The first progress report, edited by Seth Lockwood, is out, and it's more an actual fanzine than anything else. It's entertaining reading, as well as being informative, and you can obtain a copy by writing to Seth, c/o the committee address. Whup, almost forgot - Fan Guest of Honour: Roy Ferguson

CAMERA, ATOMIC TORTOISE - "FRIEND TO ALL CHILDREN" - VERSUS THE STARMEN

'Dear Roger/Thyme,

'I might be the only dolt on my block who does this, but I keep being shocked by discoveries that everyone else has made so long ago that the horror of it all has become reduced to cliché. For example: that most mundanes have a concept of science fiction which they've derived solely from television and movies, one which differs from the concept we true believers possess and cherish.

'There's even a hoary old tage -- "that crazy Buck Rogers stuff." I should have known all along.

'What it is, I suddenly realised when I glanced through my Age Gree Guide the other day, is that there's a bunch of evil bastards out there besmirching our names and tastes and I never really deep down connected this with the curled lips and spurning hoots which greeted my enthusiasm for sf.

'Let's have a look. Friday 10 June. Nothing much here: Dr Who is identified as science fiction, and that's perfectly fair. And when crap like Star Trek and Battlestar Galactica are similarly tagged, it makes me cringe but really there's no legitimate basis for a class action.

'However, on Saturday night there are a few interesting entries. Channel Ten has *Ghidrah, the Three-Headed Monster*, listed as "science fiction... a three-headed monster from outer space threatens the world." *Tucker's Witch*, evidently an sf-style fantasy, is called a "US detective series". And Channel 7's *The Magnificent Magical Magnet of Santa Mesa*, a movie whose title would certainly glue a five year-old cretin to the screen, has the following plot: "A young scientist invents an energy disc capable of solving the world's problems." By the standards of the Golden Age, this is a paradigmatic sf plot. How is it labelled by the studio? "Comedy-drama."

'Let us grant up front that just about any production which gets to the screen (silver or box) is going to be so dilute, simple-minded and stripped of authentic wonder that only children and Bruce Barnes will be capable of watching it. Still, for all that, there are degrees of silly wretchedness. *Ghidrah* is not sf, it's "cmf" (Children's Monster Fiction). *The M M M of S M*, however, sounds just like Sturgeon's basic definition of sf.

'Without having seen it, Sunday's 9 offering sounds a bit suspect. *Phase IV*, "1974 science fiction... Scientists attempt to stop the ant population which is organising itself to take over the world." Do we have any right to rule out these creaking, dumb concepts, just because they stopped interesting sf fans the day after H.G. Wells first thought of them? I'm not sure. I imagine, though, that I'd be more inclined to give the nod to the Disney studio's *The Million Dollar Duck*, in which a "poor research assistant's life alters drastically when his duck begins laying golden eggs." Asinov, you might recall, did a spoof journal article along these lines, and that was undeniably sf. Disney, alas, do not give this waggish, updated fable an sf credit.

'By Thursday we have a couple of troublesome cases. *The Invisible Man*, which nobody would wish to claim but which in all honesty we might be lumbered with -- because dear old H.G. did invent him, didn't he? -- is termed "US drama series". Meanwhile, a rather boring surreal serial (a surrealist?) about the end of the world, *Whoops Apocalypse*, is described badly as a British satire. Fair enough... maybe. But I can recall a time when stories about the end of the world were the very core and canon of sf.

'Back we go again, then, to Amis' old complaint. When it's good (or at least not entirely mind-cripplingly brain smotheringly foul) it's "comedy-drama" or "satire". When it stinks, and is slightly off the beaten track from the "realistic" soaps, why then it must be that despised and retarded genre, science fiction.

'And since most people don't ever read what they know to be beneath their dignity, it's little wonder that otherwise intelligent adults wonder seriously about you and me, cobbors, as we rush to the shop to get our latest Ursula K. LeGuin goody about the three-headed monster from outer space.

Damien Broderick

Our 1 Chicago Peter Toluzzi reports.

'First of all, let me announce my change of address: 2849 W. Jarvis, Chicago, IL 60645, phone (312) 7612684. Well, as of about a month ago, Deb and I broke up; I'm not going to go into a great amount of detail - suffice it to say that we never worked out as a couple. Also somewhere along the line, for a whole pile of reasons, I've decided to either postpone my plan to break into science journalism, or at least to do so part time, and I'm now job-hunting in the badly-depressed Midwest. ((As I type this - your editor speaking - I can hear all manner of exclamations from people about how Peter is going - both complimentary and otherwise. One thing Peter - the 1982 DUFF winner, who's just moved over to the US to live - one thing Peter is good at is attending conventions, and of this he writes further...))

'I've been to three conventions: Capricon 4 in Chicago, Minicon in Minneapolis and Marcon 18 in Columbus Ohio. I had a good time at all of them but none of them seemed appropriate subject matter for a con report. Largely, this stems from the nature of American cons... the combined facts of their generally larger size and far greater frequency seem to make each con less of a special, unique event... and one of the results is also that the programme is generally hardly ever worth attending... which, of course, is why it has become a strong, fannish tradition to avoid programming entirely.

'I was going to write a report about the superb Laurie Anderson concert ((drool)) but by the time I got around to it, the magic had passed. Oh well.

'My trip report ((of his DUFF travels)) is still progressing rather more slowly than I would like it to -- I'm about three quarters of the way through the first draft. I believe I will have it finished in time for Constellation, the WorldCon, (in time to send copies back with people) but we shall have to wait and see how I go. But believe me, it is happening. That's just about it; I've enjoyed hearing about Funcon, and I hope to get back in touch with people - let me repeat my promise of writing straight back to anyone who writes to me! And I'm really looking forward to seeing some of you at Constellation!'

More American news comes from Terry Floyd of San Francisco, who wants to let it be known that the committee of the fanzine convention, CORFLU, want Everyone to attend it. Anyone not going to Swancon 9 might like to front up at the Claremont Hotel in Berkely, California, from the 27th to the 29th of January, but I somehow the Australasian/European contingent there will be rather small, if not non-existent. Write to Corflu, 1827 Haight Street, Suite #8, S F, CA 94117, U.S.A. for more details....

okay, girls and boys you've had your fun but now it's time for...

WHAT'S ON WHERE (including the dreaded 'CHANGES OF ADDRESS')

Melbourne: Supposedly, Melbourne is a hotbed of fannish and science fictional activity, what with this WorldCon bid and all. The Aussiecon II people are in a huddle at the moment, awaiting news of great import from Baltimore, where the bid will be decided in September, but if you want to pester them in the meantime, you could write to GPO Box 2253U, Melbourne, 3000, VIC. Two New Zealand fans came to Syncon and are still with us, on a permanent basis: Michelle Muysert is staying at John Newman's place, 163 Hutton Street, BThornbury 3071. Greg Hills is staying for the nonce at Jenny Bryce's/John Foyster's place, 21 Shakespeare Grove, St.Kilda, 3132. Another recent arrival is Roy Ferguson, over from Perth, as of the 12th of July. Roy will be staying at Terry Stroud's, 1 Hilda Crescent, Hawthorn 3122. Julia will be staying in Perth until the end of her study year, when she will rejoin Roy, who will be working at RMIT. Welcome, the three of you! The 'Did He Ever Really Leave' Department: Terry Frost, late of (Dubbo)Dubbo fame, but before that of Melbourne and before that Sydney notoriety, has moved to Sydney whups! here he is back in Melbourne again. How long before he's back in (you-know) remains to be seen (it's my thinking that he's actually circling Canberra - waiting until he's got his ACT together) but for the meanwhile he is Official Cat Cuddler and Dog-Minder at 57 Park Street, Abbotsford 3067. Friday evening continues to be the popular meeting time of people in Melbourne including those dropping by in town on visits. Carls, 243 Swanston Street, just over down the next block from Space Age.

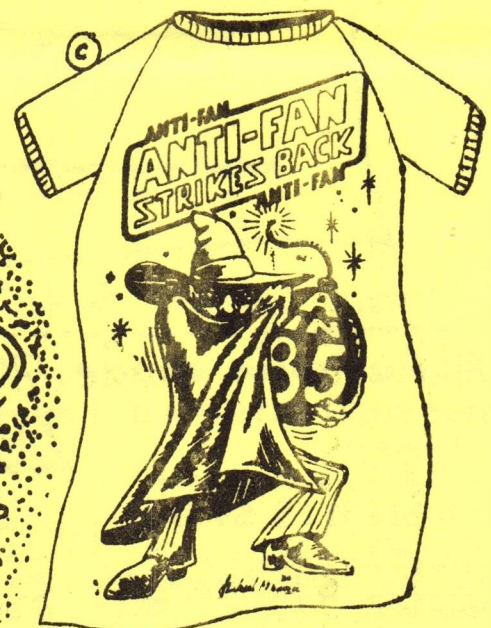
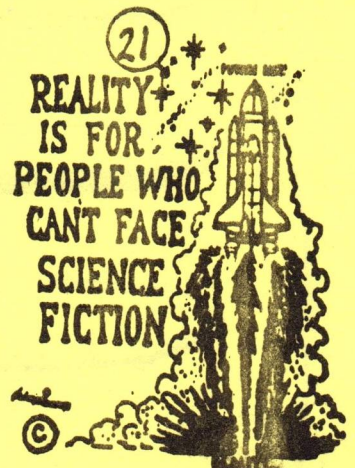
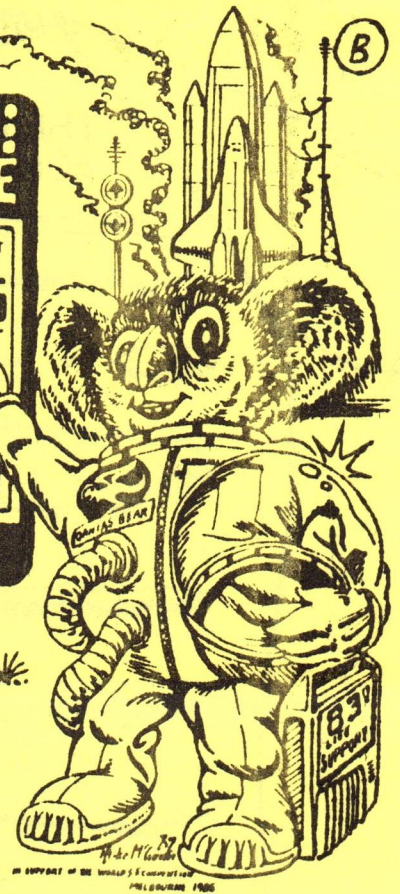
People meet there from 5:45ish on till past eight. The staff have a crazy sense of humour, and it looks like we'll be there for quite a while. When I say we, paleface, I don't mean that everyone isn't welcome to come along and join in the fun. But at the same time a group of people, centred loosely around the Melbourne S F Club - generally the younger (schoolgirl!) types plus James Styles and fellow crypto-fascists. The clubrooms are at the very back, upstairs, of Space Age Books, and they meet regularly on Fridays until about 9pm, when some move to the nearby Manor House Hotel for drinks. Some people go to both assemblies. Because I'm biased, I reckon that the Carl's gathering is more fun, and it's generally the place to go to find out what's up and planned for that weekend, and further ahead. It's a place where Things Are Planned. By comparison, the MSFC meetings seem at the moment to be more political infighting, but that may just be because club elections are coming up. On an infinitely more boring - gasp, did I say boring? What I really meant was intellectual and pretentious - gasp, did I say pretensions when I meant FUN and EXCITING? The Nova Mob meetings are held every first Wednesday of a Month, starting 8pmish at 21 Shakespeare Grove, St.Kilda. In fact, the quality of these meetings really varies quite a lot - sometimes the evening is a fascinating intellectual free-for-all. Sometimes it's an absolute waste of time, discussionwise. However, it is a regular event, and the meeting place of many less-active fans, but also many if not all of the Aussiecon II committee members frequent these meetings. Apart from the scheduled discussion that takes place, afterwards there is quite interesting, quiet, social chatter, and these affairs are therefore also Recommended. Come one come all to Derrick Ashby's 31st Birthday Party. the date is the 24th of July, the place is 4 Harold Street, Middle Park. It's a fund-raising occasion - for the Worldcon - but you can just turn up for the party without having to spend money. Not-moved are Mandy Herrior & Phil Ware, who are having extremely unusual hassles with their Building Society about the place they thought they were buying. They might still be buying it - it's in Flemington, not too far from the city (NorthNorthWestish) - but things have been held up for no apparent reason for - what is it now? Over a Month? This is not a good topic to cheerfully approach either Phil or Mandy about; understandably fed up with the situation. Meanwhile Torbjörn has bought a house which he and Robyn (nee Sydney, after they're married) will be moving into.

Sydney/NSW: Tim Dawson moves to 3/23 Central Avenue, Westmead 2145; Richard Faulder moves to P.O.Box 136, Yanco 2703, as far as all mail is concerned. Jean Weber moves back to Canberra. Says Jean, the people in Sydney are nice, but the city is not. Faulconbridge, practically out in the Blue mountains, was fine, but Jean faced a long train trip each day to work in the city. She and Eric Lindray still get on finely, this just means Jean will be facing a long drive every weekend or so, instead of a long train trip every day. Want to know what's doing in Sydney these days? The answer, in general fannish terms, is: NOTHING. With the exception of the Syncon effort - and quite some effort it was indeed - this has been the case for some time now. Yes, people still meet at Galaxy bookshop of a Thursday evening, but that's about it, until you get down to the personal social level. The Foundation - The Sydney Science Fiction Foundation - is for all intents and purposes dead. At Syncon there was a general announcement to the effect that would anyone interested in helping revive it get in touch with etc.etc., but nothing great and wonderful has yet come of that. The SCA, the Society of Creative Auldlangsynishness, is much more active at the moment - many people have "gone over" to this pastime. There remain many people interested in Blake's Seven and other sectional media interests - Shayne McCormack of Galaxy Bookshop is the obvious contact point - but general fannish, science fictional activity? There's very little of it at the moment. Perhaps now that Syncon 83 is over....

Perth: WASFA meets at KIDS, 76 Seventh Avenue, Maylands, on Friday the second-one-of-every-month; ie. next meeting Friday the 12th of August. Contact WASFA via Greg Turkich (09) 447 5184 or via Kevin McCaw (09) 337 6431, who is the Secretary and also editor of 'The Wasfan'. Write to 20 Dodd Street, Hamilton Hill 6163. If you live in U.A., 'The Wasfan' is well worth subscribing to, and maybe worth it even if you don't! One thing 'The Wasfan' carries details of is... the 'Faster Than Light Radio Show' which runs weekly, on 6UVS-FM. It's now entering its fourth year (originally the show

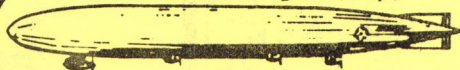


AUSTRALIA S.F. FAN ART
BY *Michael McEwan*.
FOR Ain85



THE OBSERVER'S GUIDE TO ZEPPELINS FOR ALTERNATIVE FUTURE ENERGY!

Contours of Some Rigid Airships



A. ZR-1 SHENANDOAH
(U.S.A. - 1923)



B. ZMC-2 METALCLAD
(U.S.A. - 1929)



C. ZRS-4 AKRON
(U.S.A. - 1931)



D. LZ 1
(GERMANY - 1900)



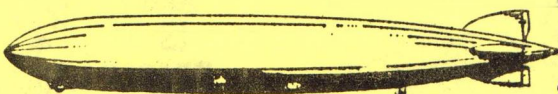
E. LZ 10 SCHWABEN
(GERMANY - 1911)



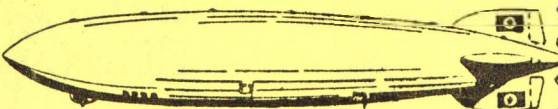
F. LZ 120 BODENSEE
(GERMANY - 1910)



G. LZ 126 ZR-III LOS ANGELES
(GERMANY - 1924)



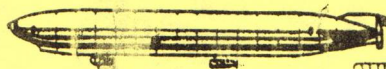
H. LZ 127 GRAF ZEPPELIN
(GERMANY - 1928)



I. LZ 129 HINDENBURG
(GERMANY - 1936)



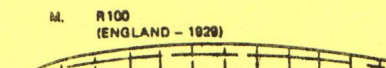
J. SL 3
(GERMANY - 1916)



K. R9 CLASS
(ENGLAND - 1916)



L. R90 CLASS
(ENGLAND - 1920)



M. R100
(ENGLAND - 1929)

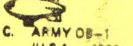
Contours of Some Non-Rigid Airships



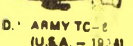
A. NAVY D
(U.S.A. - 1919)



B. ARMY A-4
(U.S.A. - 1910)



C. ARMY OB-1
(U.S.A. - 1922)



D. ARMY TC-2
(U.S.A. - 1924)



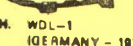
E. K-1
(U.S.A. - 1931)



F. ZPG-2W
(U.S.A. - 1958)



G. SS TWIN
(ENGLAND - 1918)



H. WOL-1
(GERMANY - 1972)



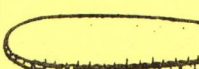
A. RS-1
(U.S.A. - 1926)



B. CB-11
(FRANCE - 1910)



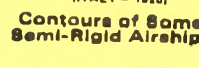
C. M-IV
(GERMANY - 1914)



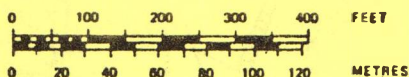
D. T-34 ROMA
(ITALY - 1920)
BUILT FOR U.S. ARMY



E. N-1 NORGE
(ITALY - 1926)



Contours of Some Semi-Rigid Airships



Printed by Michael McGann 83

UNIQUE DESIGNES to Australian Science Fiction Fandom in support of A in 85!....

ALL Australia made. FAN ART-T-Shirts in SUPPORT OF THE WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
THIS SHIRT SAYS IT ALL.

Printed black

S. M. L. XL. (adult sizes)

T-SHIRTS \$9.00

State size and color preference.

POSTAGE PACKING HANDLING IN PRICE

Dealer Inquiries Welcome.

Cheque to Michael McGann.

483 BEAUCHAMP RD,
MAROUBRA, N.S.W. 2035

ZEPPELIN T-SHIRTS. IN 1985 by Michael McGann.

SLOPPY JOES

\$18.00

BLUE

WHITE



Size



Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ State _____

COLORS OF T-SHIRTS
DESIGNE NUMBER

BLUE

GREEN

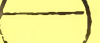
YELLOW

WHITE

RED

BONE

Size



was on 6NR, an AM station). It is the oldest current sf radio show, and certainly the most consistent and the longest-running. FTLRS reviews current sf and fantasy in all media but with an understandable bias towards printed material. Sample of forthcoming programmes: 14th July - 'Roderick at Pandom'

21st July - 'Sand Kings', by George R.R. Martin

These are just items from those shows, but a fair deal of work goes into the show, and it's well worth a listen, every Thursday at both 11:30 am and 6:30 pm repeat. □□□
 and for those who do not speak 'Symbol II',
 New postal address for Larry Dunning: P.O.Box 111, Midland 6056. □□□ UNISFA, the University SF Club in Perth, meets every second Friday of the Uni-of-WA-term at 1:00 pm in the Guild Meeting Room 2nd floor, Guild Building. Next meeting: 22nd of July; all welcome. Contact address: Room 2.12, Guild Building, Uni. of WA, Hackett Drive, Crawley 6009. □□□

Cary & Marjorie Lenchan have a special section all to themselves for being clever enough to have three new addresses:

- 1) The Company Address: P.O.Box 33, Cooma 2630
- 2) The Weekend Address: via Delegate River East (Victoria)
- 3) The Correct Address: via Numeralla 2630 (N.S.W.)

Cary's working with the CES in Cooma, transferred down from Sydney, and the eventual idea is to support themselves on their own farm. Gosh... great idea, eh? Anyway, they have this large property that is just begging for people to come and have a gander at, and if you're passing through the area, give Cary a ring on (0648) 21687 or write them first so they know you're coming. The larger property will be popular with the SCA, for sure, and it's a beautiful area....

On that pastoral note, thus ends the 26th issue of *Thyme*.

(Thyme is a non-profit newszine.

The overseas copies make a huge loss, which is slightly offset by the Aussie subscription rate.

Editorial Comment on the price of this thing, and the point of *Thyme* in the first place
 When I first assumed the mantle of editor, I said I wanted to hear from you about how you felt *Thyme* should be - every aspect of it, not just the window dressing. Well, that exhortation wasn't just for the audience. Thanks to the many people who have contributed to both the contents and the nature of this thing. Thanks for bothering to comment: I mean, the whole point of *Thyme* is to provide you with a useful service. If it looks okay and/or is entertaining, that's a plus too. Keep those suggestions/criticisms coming. Typed 7th/8th of July, printed same. I do all the editing, typing, etc., but thanks must go to the following people for help with this issue: Christine, Ian, Damien, Cathy, Fiona D, Grant, Peter, Justin and, without the shadow of a doubt:

VICTOR!

Seeyuz 'round,

registered by australia post
publication number: vbh2625

PRINTED MATTER

if not delivered in 14 days,
return to:

Roger Weddall
P.O. Box 273
Fitzroy 3065
Vic. AUSTRALIA

POSTAGE
PAID
STH YARRA
VIC. 3141
AUSTRALIA

IRWIN HIRSH

31

279 DOMAIN ROAD
SOUTH YARRA

3141