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GLITTERING PRIZES

Bruce Gillespie has recently been awarded the 'Harrison Award' for Increasing the Status of SF Internationally!. The somewhat mysterious 'World SF' society recently gave out three of these awards, the other two going to Takumi Shibano, of Japan, and Matjaz Sinkovec, of Yugoslavia. The award is, according to Brian Aldiss, a "translucent plastic block", and Bruce will be presented with his award when next author Harry Harrison comes to Australia, early next year, for Swancon 9. Bruce seems to have been given the award for his recent production, the SF Commentary Reprint, although this is not actually specified in the award.

☆☆ ☆☆ ☆☆ ☆☆

Locus magazine holds a yearly poll to determine its readers favourite fiction of the year. The only way in which this poll differs substantially from the Hugo award is that more people vote in the Locuspoll. It is often a good guide to the probable Hugo winners. This year's results, recently announced, indicate there could be close competition for the Hugo SF Novel Award between Foundation's Edge, 2010 and Sword of the Lictor. Locus uses a points system of voting (somewhat similar to the Brownlow Award) rather than relying on a preferential system. None of this year's Nebula Award winners even came close to winning in the Locuspoll. The fiction winners are as follows:

Best SF Novel - Foundation's Edge: Asimov Best Novella - Souls: Russ
 Best Fantasy Novel - Sword of the Lictor: Wolfe Best Novelette - Djinn, No Chaser: Ellison
 Best Short Story - Sir: LeGuin

☆☆ ☆☆ ☆☆ ☆☆

(Locus)

I failed to mention in the last issue, when talking of Syncon'83, the 'Golden Caterpillar Awards', or rather, what they were. This was in fact no accident but rather an editorial decision that the 'awards' constituted more an in-joke than a proper set of awards. However, if Paul Stevens (instigator and one-man award panel) is to suffer the indignity of a cream pie in the face, at some time in the near future, for his part in the goings-on, we might as well all know why. Here below are a list of a) people given the awards, and b) the reasons they were given them.

To: Jane Taubman....For: Tactful Remark of the Year
 Merv Binns.....For: Soliciting Business for the Australian and the International Telecommunications Networks.
 Julie Vaux.....For: Services to word-of-mouth Advertising
 Peter Toluzzi...For: doing what he did to Australian Fandom and then getting out in time
 John Packer.....For: Services to "triffids", and for redefining the word "vermin".
 Leigh Edmonds...For: Successful Integration into the middleclasses

There was also a Special Award to the Advertising Department of Granada Publishing for their advertising of "Bladerunner".

In a recently received letter to Thyme, Paul declares nominations for next year's awards open, while stating that he and he alone should be seen as responsible for the awards ((Cream-pie marksmen, on your marks!))

A WorldSFCon bid involves lots of money - as we have constantly been reminded by the Aussiecon II committee - and it was perhaps inevitable that, somewhere along the line, an opportunist with more greed than brains try to, er, apportion a little of the moolah, themselves. Take, for example, the case of last year's CoastCon, in America (Jerry Patton reports): 'First things first. As the majority of you are aware ((he writes to members of CoastCon'84)), COASTCON Inc. lost over \$1,700 of its funds to embezzlement. The Governing Committee of COASTCON'83 swore out a complaint against the Treasurer, Mr Steve Carnahan, at the Biloxi Police Office. In April of this year Mr Carnahan was arrested by the Texas Police. Since that time I have spoken with Mr Carnahan, his attorney and the District Attorney. Mr Carnahan denies any knowledge of the missing funds, but he has offered to make restitution of these funds. After much discussion, several meetings and much soul searching, the Governing Committee of COASTCON'84 has elected to press for prosecution... we are now awaiting the legal process involved in returning Mr Carnahan to Mississippi and for a trial date to be set.'

Fortunately, we are yet to see anything of this nature/on this scale in Australasia (libel laws being what they are in Australia, I shall not pursue that point). However, a similar trouble seemsto have arisen in connection with the Atlanta WorldCon bid. Some money is apparently unaccounted for. It is reported that: 'On August 14, 1982, twelve one-hundred dollar bills (\$1,200) were handed to Rich Howell at a meeting, in front of 10 or 12 people. No receipt was asked or given. Rich said "We now have a balance of about \$2,600.00." That was the last Treasurer's report we got from him. He resigned in November, but did not turn in ledgers, bank statements, etc. When we finally got the bank to send us copies of all the bank statements, we had a balance in February of \$10.77. There were no records of a large cash deposit. There was a cheque made out for \$197 (or was it \$198) to Rich himself. Several members have received their cheques for assessments back endorsed to accounts other than WORLDCON ATLANTA, Inc. Rich wrote two cheques to Meade Frierson reimbursing him for expenses (t-shirts, flyers) and they were returned for insufficient funds when Meade tried to cash them.

'Rich steadfastly refused to give us our records, papers, receipts, ledgers, bank statements, or to explain where our money went. We, out of the goodness of our hearts, decided to just pick up and go on from there, and try to be more careful in the future.'

Since that time, there has been - from the sounds of it - just a leetl beet of mudslinging, including by the Howells, but the happy news is that: 'The bid itself is healthy, putting on parties; the next *South on Peachtree* (the Atlanta bid newsletter) will be distributed at the (next WorldCon) ; ads are appearing in all the right places and all that.

'In the meantime, we can only hope that people won't believe the Howells, or will discount the whole thing as the usual bidcom scandals. This is not the first time that fandom has suffered at its own ha nd....'

On the subject of large, American conventions, one of the groups bidding for the NASFiC, the North American SFiction Convention (the sort of WorldCon you have when you're not having a WorldCon), for 1985, is a group based in Austin, Texas. They are currently putting out a bid fanzine called the Texas SF Inquirer. ("the best little newszine in Texas"). It's worth a look at, and you can write to them to obtain copies %FACT, P.O.Box 9612, Austin, Texas TX 78766.

[illegible]

MEDIACONS: CONQUEST, MEDTREK and the WHOLE DAMNED THING

'I think the above facts speak for themselves. I hardly think that "Trek Politics" whatever they are come into it, oh, and by the way, could you note that the theme of the convention has been changed to "First Contact" - mainly because we are running a couple of programme items that were suggested.... Seemed more... well, less partisan since it comes to that.'

MEDTREK '84 - the 1984 National Australian SF Media Convention

Dates: 10th & 11th of March
 Venue: The Shore Inn, Artarmon (Sydney), NSW
 Rates: \$25 till 30th September, Supporting: \$10
 GoHs: Bjo Trimble, possible also Michael Keating, others.
 Fan GoH: Nikki White, editor of *Centero*
 Accommodation: \$68/night, up to 3 people per room
 Mail: 'Medtrek', P.O.Box C377 Clarence Street, Sydney 2000
 (enclose SSAE for reply)
 General comment: sounds like it'll be a good, fun con.

KINKON

Dates: 9th-11th June
 Venue: The Victoria Hotel, Little Collins Street, Melbourne
 Rates: Attending - \$20/Supporting - \$10
 Mail: KINKON Committee, c/o 29 Alexander Avenue, Dandenong 3175, VIC

In the previous issue of *Thyme*, it was stated that: 'KINKON sounds quite similar to FUNCON', which statement has unequivocally been rejected by the committee. While the manner in which KINKON is advertising itself is quite similar to the way FUNCON was publicised ('it's going to be fun, a good laugh, ho ho, etc. '), a closer look at the intended programme shows that there is in fact a lot of stuff one might wish to attend this convention to see, apart from one's friends. The committee wishes in no uncertain terms to dissociate itself from FUNCON, and the way it was run. So be it. In fact, talking to members of the committee should be enough to convince anyone that they are currently working hard to ensure an entertaining convention with some unusual attractions of general interest. More details to hand when the committee sees fit to reveal said (possible) attractions. Evrybuddy happy?

SWANCON 9

Dates: 27th-30th January, 1984
 An additional point of interest, for those in Perth for the convention, is that from the 25th of January to the 25th of February, 'BFC Films' (at the Western Australian Institute of Technology) will be holding their annual sf film festival.

The festival is the largest sf film festival in the Southern Hemisphere, typically screening over 90 films in over 100 sessions for the one day and one month it runs. Some days - usually weekends - up to 8 films a day are shown, and people may well want to check this event out, especially if staying over in Perth for a few days after the con. Best present contact for further information: Kevin McCaw, 20 Dodd St., 6153 WA.

Swancon 9: Rates: Attending \$15, Supporting \$5
 Mail: Swancon 9, P.O.Box 318, Nedlands 6009
 GoH: Harry Harrison. Fan GoH: Roy Ferguson

FAN FUNDS - Down Under Fan Fund / Get Up-from-under Fan Fund

GUFF - details are to hand of what form the race to send an Australian fan to England/Europe for 1984 will take. Nominations opened on the 23rd of July, and anyone wishing to stand has until the 17th of September to rush details to the GUFF administrators, when (surprise surprise) Nominations close. Shortly thereafter one would expect voting to be declared open, and voting will close on the 17th of December. This date has been chosen because it is a) a weekend, and b) it makes winning GUFF (paid return airfare to Europe) a nice Christmas present for the lucky GUFF winner. Write to the administrators at the following addresses: Australia: John Foyster, 21 Shakespeare Grove, St.Kilda 3182.
 Europe: Joseph Nicholas, 22 Denbigh St., Pimlico London SW1V 2ER.

DUFF - there are two candidates - John Packer and Jack Herman - and Aussie administrator Marc Ortlieb (P.O.Box 46, Marden 5070) assures that voting forms should be out and about in no time at all, if not sooner, and a voting deadline will be announced at that time, as well. Both Marc and USA DUFF administrator Jerry Kaufman (4326 Winslow Place North, Seattle, WA 98105) will soon be running off DUFF newsletters - watch this space for further details.

SEFF - Scandinavia-(the rest of)Europe Fan Fund

(DSTA)

A new Australian comic book appears around Australia; called 'REVERIE', it will contain 32 pages of comics as well as a three page reprint of the English strip "Adam Eterno". All new Australian comic stories include "Bloodsword" and "Sandy Star". These as well as various non-continuing stories form the core of the magazine. The intention of the publisher is for it to appear quarterly, and the first issue has a colour cover, and costs only 95c.

MELBOURNE: Friday nights have become exceedingly busy of late in sf circles, with no less than five different, organised activities on, some of them at the same time as each other. ① The Melbourne S F Club meets in the back rooms of Space Age Books until 9pm. ② After that, the 'Ratconteurs' meet at the Manor House pub, on the corner of Swanston & Lonsdale, up in the Tryst Bar. ③ MUSFA, ex-MUSFA and general sf fans, as well as the occasional sprinkling of interstate visitors, meet at Carl's, a cheap Italian restaurant in Swanston Street (243, actually) from 6ish till 8 or so. ④ A break-away group from ③, started by Ian Porter and Dennis Callegari ("they only wanted to find a good place to eat") and continued by occasional others, often first assemble at Space Age or at Carl's, and head off into the night in search of gastronomic delights, later to return to meet the others. ⑤ MUSFA itself last Friday held a Video, Wine and Cheese evening, starting at 7pm or so. 'The Man Who Fell To Earth' and 'The Beastmaster' were shown, and a merry time was had by all. This doesn't cost anything to attend, and people are generally welcome. It is planned to be a regular activity, although not actually a weekly thing. NOTE: ALL the above events are open to anyone who wishes to show - you are more than welcome to turn up to any or all events. 000 As well as regular social/club meetings 1-3pm on Wednesday, MUSFA will be holding Thursday meetings, 1-2pm, to actually discuss science fiction. This is an, ah, brave move, the consequences of which are totally unpredictable, seeing as they have no actual precedent. For more information contact MUSFA, Box 100, Melbourne University, or just turn up at the Union Building at the University on Wednesdays. 000 Talking about discussion meetings? That's just what Yvonne Rousseau wanted to do.... 'Dear Roger,...

'On the contrary, surely pretentiousness is one of the Mob's chief assets? - espec-

ially when the members pretend to be philosophers, and therefore employ the two most characteristic strategies of genuine philosophical debate: the Invigourating Insult and the Unscrupulous Upstaging.

'It is possible to overdo these; I well remember Professor David Armstrong at a colleague's lunchtime lecture, standing with his back to the lecturer and polishing a mesmeric red apple on his black academic gown, with frequent stunned pauses to stare about the audience with an expression of 'Merciful Hume! Can almost ALL of you keep a straight face when you hear that idiot say THAT?' Armstrong's performance, I clearly remember; but the name and the topic of the lecturer are lost.

'In the most successful Nova Mob meetings, there is just enough insult (between approximately equals) to enliven the wits of the insulted speakers (who are likely to abstractedly produce amazing insights while inwardly meditating their revenge). However, the skirmishing must not completely drown out the merely serious and deeply pondered contributions of the other members, and the insults need to be met either by equivalent insult or by extremely deliberate courtesy.

'The Nova Mob seems to become boring when a lot of people attend, and comments from the audience begin to mill along sidetracks, and it seems impossible to call the side-trackers to order without having someone to act as chair-entity, or else supplying each member, at the door, with a little flag labelled 'Boring' which can be raised (in a neutral manner) when required. The difficulty seems to be that people have to know each other very well for an insult to be properly invigourating, and the Nova Mob has no other method of indicating whether a particular side-track is generally thought to be worthwhile....'

A regular reader of *Thyme* has seen Yvonne's letter, and responds: 'Yvonne makes a lot of sense in her letter, although she fails to observe that there is a de facto equivalent of a 'chair-entity' (ugh) in the person of John Foyster, who proves most tenacious in bringing side-trackers back to the original points in question in his own, gentle, inimitable way.

'The suggestion that Boring flags be used is a good one, but it would seem fair that those raising the flags then be required to offer some alternative direction to the discussion, if not explain why they found the discussion boring (as it sometimes certainly is).'

Does anyone need reminding that the Nova Mob meets at John & Jennie's place on the first Wednesday of every month, at eight o' clock? The address is 21 Shakespeare Grove, St.Kilda 3182.000 Phil Ware and Mandy Herriot moved house last weekend. The move took nearly all weekend and involved many people, all of whom were given chocolate animals to eat, at the near-end of the ordeal, as a gesture of appreciation. The new address is 77 Railway Place West, Flemington 3031 - telephone (03) 376 8391. Terry frost has also accompanied them on their move from Park Street to Railway Place West, and this is his new (temporary) address, also. Meanwhile, owner of 57ParkSt. Terry Stroud has great plans for the place which may take a few months to realise, after which Lync and Clive Newall may move in - but let's not get too far ahead of ourselves, eh? 000 Greg Hills is in transit to a place "somewhere in the inner suburbs" and temporarily staying at a Private Hotel in Fitzroy, but mail sent to John Foyster's will still reach him, eventually. 000 Dennis Callegari is off this Saturday on an overseas holiday. His destination is Europe and points west, and he'll be away for a couple of months, lucky dog. 000 Paul Stevens and Kit Driver are engaged to be married. There will be a large engagement party to celebrate the happy occasion on the 10th of September at Merv Binns' place - invitations are soon to go out or be spread by word of mouth. The wedding itself will be a quiet, intimate ceremony, also at Merv's place, on the 5th of November. Congratulations, Paul and Kit.

NSW/ACT: Jean Weber's new address remains 13 Myall Street, O'Connor ACT 2601, but for larger-than-letter-size mail, it is P.O.Box 42, Lyneham ACT 2602. 000 Tim Dawson is now offering to extract extortionate amounts of money from your wallet in return for making custom sets of armour and all sorts of mediaevil clothing. 3/23 Central Ave., Westmead, (02) 633 5212 or 969 1398.

TASMANIA: Giulia DeCesare can best be reached this year through 33 Gerrard Street, Hobart 7009, her parents' place, although if you're desperate you could probably address a letter to her % any school on the midlands and it would get to her eventually.

PERTH: Julia Ferguson is moving to Currie Hall, Uni. of W.A., Nedlands 6009, but is still reachable at P.O.Box 338, Nedlands 6009, until she joins husband Roy in Melbourne, after Swancon early next year.

The 'How Could I Forget To Mention' Department: within a week of your reading this, Alan Samagalski will be back from work in China (he is a travel writer) and so he will be moving back into 79 Bell Street, Fitzroy 3065. This *probably* means that Shane will be moving out of Alan's room, and back to the wilds of Geelong, until he finds a place to bed down more securely, in Melbourne. Byebye Shane, don't forget (how to) write!

Last stencil typed on the eighth of August and thanks must go, as usual, to all those fine and decent folk who helped make this issue what it is - yes you can lay the blame on Sue, Paul, an American fan who may wish to remain anonymous, Bruce, Marc, Teresa, Pascal and Yvonne. If Justin had been around he, too, would undoubtedly have helped. And then, there's Victor.

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