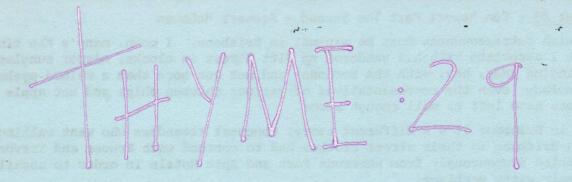
Ho, and who said you're easy to fool? I bet that, just by picking it up and feeling the colour of the pages, you could tell that this was another issue of...



CONVENTIONS - REVIEWS and UPDATE

CONQUEST 83 - Con Report Part The First - John Kermond

Compared to Syncon '83; Conquest seemed distinctly underprogrammed. It demonstrated that Queensland media fans know how to have fun with each other, whatever's going on. It's good that they know how to have fun because everyone's capacities for enjoyment were severely strained at the opening ceremony which was mis-managed and mammothly self-indulgent. It reminded me of those 'rain commentaries' we sometimes get when the cricket is rained out - doomed improvisation. "Hopelessly stuffed up" tried to masquerade as "cute" with little success; K9 stole the show by trying to see up people's dresses.

But not to get picky, because there was a great deal to enjoy. The videos were a lot of fun, especially 'Bad Taste The Motion Picture', a local, fannish effort which had the video room crowded to capacity, and I personally really got off on 'The Chase', a six-episode Dr Who adventure from 1965. Martin Bridgestock's lecture: 'Aliens in the Mind', about sinister facets of the human mind, wasn't much deeper than most tv shows on th- same subject but very entertaining for all that (his much vaunted laser however turned out to be a red dot with which things were pointed out on the screen); he was an entertaining bloke who seemed to know what he was talking about.

The Park Royal Hotel was pleasantly situated being just opposite the botanic gardens where Matilda the giant ((concrete!)) kangaroo resides - I understand the occasional virgin sacrifice is made to it. The location however meant that we were woken up at seven one morning by lunatics starting on the Chico Fun Run. Strapping stuff (groan, moan...).

As the con wound up with brave and mad sould staying up to see the new Man From Uncle movie (fair cult classic!) the cry of "I'll see you at Medtrek" was to be heard.... In summary it was an enjoyable con even for someone who doesn't know a Spock from an Avon, like myself.

Conquest 83 - Con Report Part The Second - Stewart McGowan

Fannish outrageousness must be minimal in Brisbane. I mean, many's the time the SF push I associate with has wandered up Pitt Street in cloaks, mirror sunglasses etc, singing "Hey, hey, with the Mormons" and not got more than a raised eyebrow from anybody; even the representatives of various chicken chips and hot apple pie religions have left us well enough alone.

But in Brisbane it's a different story. Conquest attendees who went walking through Brisbane in their street clothes had to contend with Bruces and Trevorse who wobbled stupourously from numerous Fart and Spit Hotels in order to assail Fans with their witty verbiage.

Not that this ruined the con, albeit perhaps Brisbane fans need a few Wizard of Space and Time outfits to train the local managerie. They were an annoyance, but a minor one: fans wandered the streets regardless, giving the locals the acid disdain most of them deserved; a few "arr what aah ya's" could hardly spoil a quite enjoyable con.

To the details, though. The programme for Conquest was a little thin - more on this later - but still had a number of very good ideas/items. The Transfinite Audiovisuals were, of course, excellent. One of the big disappointments I had over that weekend was that I had to fly back to Sydney before I could see the third one ((presumably John - first report - missed it also)).

And the second play on the programme, a musical B7 sendup, was quite well done. Some of the singing might have been better, and scheduling this play just before Transfinite's elegaic B7 AV was a mistake - uproarious laughter and funereal sadness in the same hour?? - but the song lyrics and some very funny dialogue made the play memorable.

Dramatic talent was in fact present in abundance on the weekend. Danny Murphy, who played Blake Tarrant in the abovementioned play, gets my vote for best actor but he was not alone in the talent stakes. It was not surprising that Conquest's costume parade far outshone Syncon's when the characterisation as well as the costumery were of such a high standard. One girl was particularly good as Khan's woman - she stayed in character just about the whole time she wore the costume (no mean feat).

What else? Oh yes, there was Martin Bridgstock's talk on 'Aleins in the Mind'. Martin presented us with a variety of optical illusions and problems of perception. I'd seen most of these in my Ed.Psych. days at Uni but Martin's talent as a speaker gave his material a new freshness. Just for example, Martin maintains we have aliens in our visual cortexes and that these aliens are, in fact, Vogons - no other creature could systematically be so illogical.

It's a shame that there weren't more programme items like this one. Sure, it was okay to watch the videotapes of Harlan Ellison at Syncon but tapes can't replace panels, discussions and lectures. Conquest, I think, suffered from a lack of a GoH or a suitable programming substitute. Hasn't anyone out there ever heard of the scratch panel? I would've loved to get the lowdown on, for example, how Gary's model of K9 worked, how an AV is put together or even on successful costume design.

I'm nitpicking a bit here, I know. After all, the con was generally well run with quite a variety of programmed events. The committee, as usual, deserves congratulation, even if the white man's magic of the Brisbane Park Royal's sound console did baffle them at the open ing proceedings (and this lot think they can run a Starship!). And it must be admitted hthat the idea of the slave auction, included in the programme at the last minute, was good.

Please note, however: idea. The slave auction had potential. Unfortunately, what was well conceived was poorly executedAs an auctioneer Haydn was a lovely chap and probably would have been excellent selling books. But Long John Silver he ain't. I know he stepped in at the last minute - and good on him for that - but the whole thing could have been so much better done.

.

Still, the sparse programming had its advantages. For one thing it left time for that most desirable of pursuits, the consumption of - what fan's liver would be complete without it - alcohol. And there was plenty of time to laugh at the local yokels and assorted Motel guests - modesty prevents me from naming the person who put the "Do Not Feed The Humans" sign on the mini-yennis-court-cum-disco-by-the pool; at least some of the dancers (I use the term loosely) were amused.

And I got to meet the great Mike McGann. Mike told me all about how my fandom associates are jerks - "...they think I'm paranoid..." - and about how advertising was what fandom really needed.

If nothing else, there was always the pool to lie beside, models and art to view and the huckster's room. Not to mention the various interesting people I met, and who I look forward to meeting again. I'll certainly be back there next year if my budget runs to it - helping take Brisbane City by storm could get to be a habit.

Conquest 83 was the second in what one hopes may turn out to be a regular series of Brisbane cons. Stewart is not alone in looking for a reason to venture up that way again. As can be gathered from reading both reports, the emphasis tended to be on what people refer to as "media sf", this term including almost anything science fictional with a visual content, e.g/z.B. sf films, tv sf... It can also be taken to include things such as radio broadcasts (Hitchhiker's Guide). In short, just about anything except ordinary everyday sf books.

From "media sf" you get the term "media fandom", as opposed to, say, "mainstream" fandom. While it sounds as though in America the different types of fandom have little in common, here in Australia things are only heading that way - it seems. Next year, Medtrek 34 - to be held in Sydney - will assume the grand title of 'The 1984 National Media Convention', so the split is official - "media" fandom & "general" fandom have their own National Conventions. As far as I can see, the only real significance attachable to this fact is that there will now be two sets of sf awards given out yearly, which means twice as much money to be raised for the cost of these things. Whether the now established fact of 'Media Cons' came about because some people felt their interests were not being represented adequately at the ordinary cons, or whether it's just that some people who like only or mainly media sf finally got around to holding cons of their own is, I suspect, largely irrelevant. Fans of all interests will probably go to any convention they can, regardless of its official title. I know I'm looking forward equally to Eurekacon—more of which later - and Medtrek 84. Speaking of which...

MEDTREK 84 - The 1984 National Media Convention

Dates: 10th, 11th of March, 1984

Venue: The Shore Inn, 450 Pacific Highway, Artarmon (Sydney) NSW

Rates: \$30 until 1st January; \$35 at the door

\$10 Supporting (non-attending)

GoHs: Bjo Trimble, and Michael Keating.

Fan GoH: Nikki White

Accommodation: \$68/room/night (up tp 3 people per room)

Mail: 'Medtrek 84', P.O.Box C377, Clarence Street, Sydney 2000. Write away for the info sheets the con has prepared. Sounds like a good 'un.

Boring Syncon 83 Information (Well, what else is a newszine for but the publication of deliciously exciting titbits of information such as how many cups of tea were drunk by Day Members on the Sunday.) (Take it away, Jack....)

Syncon 83 - the 1983 Nat. SF Con -

Memberships: Pre-Registered: 340 (of whom 305 attended)....Friday: 309

At the Door: 181 Saturday: 424 Sunday: 420

Grand Total: 536 (of whom 305 attended) Monday: 392

Full Members: 380 / Supporting Members: 10 / Day Members (1-3days): 131
Syncon 83 with 536 members thus easily becomes the largest Australian Convention held,
passing the 450-odd members drawn to Unicon IV in Melbourne in 1978. The previous,
largest Sydney convention was the '79 NatCon, with approx. 250 members.

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It being the National Australian SF Convention, a few obligatory changes were made

Speaking of NatCons, a couple of issues ago I wondered aloud about how Eurekacon, the upcoming National, had managed to obtain as their venue the Town House Hotel, the customary venue over Easter for Phantastacon, a gaming convention. Maively I assumed that the Eurekacon committee had simply got in first - not so, however. Joseph Italiano, Co-Organiser of the Phantastacons, writes:

'Yes you are correct in assuming we had the Town House booked indefinitely. You are correct... the sf con did approach the Town House after us, so what happened? The Town House decided that they would get more people staying at their place if they had the sf con instead of a games con. (This is in fact not true, it's just that gamers don't bother telling the Town House that they are with the con because there is no point in doing so). So the hotel told us after we had arranged the place as a venue that they decided they would make more money from ansf con, and that we no longer had the Town House for Easter, but could have it for the Queen's Birthday weekend.

How kind of them. The question would now seem to be, did the committee of Eurekacon have any knowledge of or play any part in these proceedings, or was it entirely yet another piece of ruthless opportunism on the part of the hotel management. You will certainly be reading more about this matter in a future issue.

Meanwhile, Phantastacon and Eurekacon both have confirmed Easter dates & venues:

PHANTASTACON - a games con

Dates: 20th-23rd April, 84

Venue: Diplomat Motor Inn, Acland St StKilda (Melb) 3182

Rates: Adult-\$15/Student, Pens.-\$12

Mail: Phantastacon, P.O.Box45, Mitcham 3132 (ph.874 7475)

Features: Banquet followed by a masquerade; a large number of large Games Tournaments with LARGE cash prizes (last year - er, this year about 400 people played for \$2,500 prize money. This year's con also had a good film programme, and they're also promising an Easter Egg Hunt. Whatever, the fact remains that people do tend to make their own fun at cons, prove no exception. So be there.

EUREKACON - the 1984 National SF Con

Dates: 20th-23rd April, 84

Venue: Town House Hotel, Swanston Street, Carlton (Melb) 3053

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

Mail: Eurekacon, P.O.Box 175, South Melb.

GOH: George Turner

Features: Banquet, Masquerade, Films. The basic attraction of Eurekacon will, however, undoubtedly be the fact that most fans will be here rather than at Phantastacon, especially the interstate ones. Although with so many people planning to go to Swancon, in Perth, in January, one wonders just how many interstaters will be here for this. Whatever, the fact remains that people do tend to make whatever the surrounds, and this should their own fun at cons, whatever the surrounds, and this should be no exception. So be there.

SWANCON 9

Don't eat. Don't go out to the movies or the pub. Forget about clothing & transport. Save enough money to get to Swancon 9.

Dates: Australia Day Weekend, 27th-30th of January, 1984.

Venue: Westos Motor Inn, Canning Highway, South Perth 6151, Western Australia

Guest of Honour: Harry Harrison

Fan Guest of Honour: Roy Ferguson

Nates: Attending: \$15 until 30th of November; \$5 Supporting.

Beady-eyed questions and enquiries to: Swancon Nine Committee,

P.O.Box 318, Nedlands 6009, w.a.

Seriously, folks, the more I hear about this convention, the better it sounds - and certainly the more unusual. Would you believe, you're invited to a Wedding, at the convention? Well, you'd better start getting used to it, because you are. Michelle Muysert and Mark Loney are the happy, er, couple to be? Seth Lockwood's the Best Man, John Newman's giving the Bride away (in lieu of family); the only thing I'm unsure about is whether the wedding will officially be part of the programme.

And talking of Harry Harrison, as we were in a roundabout way - i'm sure he'll be in the thick of the fun at the con - Bantam Books have bought what would appear to be a new book in a popular series of his; the book is titled *The Stainless Steel Rat Is Born*. Spose it happens to the best of us.

L A CON 11 - the 1984 World SF Convention

Venue: the Anaheim Convention Centre (next to Los Angeles), California, USA

Dates: 30th Aug - 3rd Sep, 84

GoH: Gordon R. Dickson

Fan GoH: Dick Eney Toastmasters: Robert Bloch, Jerry Pournelle

Rates: Attending: US\$40 till '84.

Accommodation: comprehensive info available in November PR, cost of rooms at the two Hiltons in the area are approx. US\$50/single, US\$60/double.

There is going to be a special tour of Disneyland the day before the con proper; they'll be giving a special seminar beforehands on how to remove propellors from beanies and affix mouse ears.

The 'Why-Wait-Three-Years-For-It-To-Happen-At-A-Normal-Cinema'Dept.: There will, at the con, be tree daytime and one midnight-to-dawn showings of the three Star Wars movies, back-to-back. Now that could be (substitute 'good', 'gruelling' or a word of your own choice)

Mail: LA Con II, P.O.Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409, U.S.A. Late note: as of 12th October there were just over 2,800 members of LA Con II.

AUSSIECON TWO - the 1985 World SF Convention

If you don't know about this one already, you sure haven't been reading Thyme. Mail: Aussiecon Two, G.F.O.Box 2235U, Melbourne 3001, AUSTRALIA or... you can write to one of the Overseas Agents:

Belgium: André de Baycke Eendenplasstrat 70, Evergen, B-9050

the Netherlands: Innemarie van Ewyck, Witte van der Laan 21, Wateringen 2201KA

New Zealand: Tom Cardy, 783B George Street, Dunedin

ideas & fund-raising schemes. Thores one fust

Scandinavia: Anders Bellis, Vanadisvägen 13, S-113 46 Stockholm, Sverige

United Kingdom; Joseph Nicholas, 22 Denbigh Street, Pimlico, London, SWIV 2ER, U.K.

United States of America: Joyce Scrivner, 2732 14th Avenue South Lower, Minneapolis, MN 55404, or...

jan howard finder, P.O.Box 428 Latham, NY 12110.

Federal Republic of Germany/BRD: Waldemar Kumming, Herzogspitalstr.5, München 2, D-8000

DUFF - accusations of rigging

It seems like rather a long time ago, now, but a potentially very messy situation has been uncovered. People around at the time and with good memories will recall that the voting for DUFF to decide who would come out to Australia this year was extended both for members of Funcon in Melbourne, and Minicon in the Midwest in America, apparently at the request of Jack Herman - temporary Duff Administrator - in Aus., and agreed to by Peter Toluzzi, in America. (Would it be totally inappropriate to suggest here that Peter had no authority as regards DUFF at that time, and that it was Joyce Scrivner whose agreement should have been sought? I believe this is the case.) Now further to this, let's hear from Mike Glyer, in File:770:

'Although each DUFF ballot stated in capitals "ALL VOTES MUST REACH AN ADMINISTRATOR BY MARCH 31, 1983" (underlined in the original), the deadline was waived for Australian attendees of Funcon and American attendees of Minicon. Obviously, this extension could not be enjoyed by anyone else, although Joyce points to some voters ((in America)) who ignored the rules. Was data about the candidates' standings leaked while the polls were open? Reading ((what Joyce & Peter had to say in letters they wrote Mike)), the answer clearly is yes. Scrivner and Toluzzi attempt to qualify that yes by showing that the results were incomplete when Toluzzi did his canvassing for more votes. I will leave the reader to decide if their statements should be taken at face value, either as a factual description or as an evaluation of the impact of their actions. Toluzzi must have had ground for telling people the race was close: wouldn't an objective listener draw the conclusion that a ballot-counter's remark about the closeness of the race was based on privileged information?

'In law, there is a principle stating not only must justice be done, it must appear to be done. The origin of this DUFF voting controversy was a New York fan who returned from Minicon claiming the results had been swayed by last-minute balloting at the convention. (The rumour has been improved to where the fan now claims they led organised canvassing for Kaufman at Minicon - either the fan has become more daring, or the rumour has passed through too many hands.)'
How's about that, eh? Anyway I wonder what would happen if it was proven that the whole thing was rigged? Take Peter and Joyce before a firing squad, or something? Honestly, though, can you imagine two people being stupid enough to actually right the voting but not cover their tracks sufficiently well to avoid detection? Somehow I don't think so.

GUFF - change of voting deadline

Please note that the amended deadline for GUFF votes to reach an administrator is now by the first of January. European administrator Nicholas originally set the leadline as the 17th of Lecember, so the winner could receive news of their luck as a Christmas present. Now I suppose it's something to celebrate the New Year with. Remember: don't for get to vote. for method the voting form on the front page (well, it is the front page) and send it off. If you really can't decide who to vote for, just pick one of us at random and vote anyway; we'd all be good representatives.

FFANZ - clear sailing

'Ahoy! Avast! Shiver me timbers! The Fan Fund of Australia and New Zealand rides the waves again to rape and plunder the fannish purse. (Holy shit, what's going on here?) (Let's not scare the folk, hey?)

'Err, yes, FFANZ is off again. Three eager Australian fen are getting their nominations in order, with rumours of others yet to surface. Just to recap for people who don't know or understand, FFANZ will be sending an Australian fan to New Zealand next year for their national con. This fan will be selected by the fen of these two countries, in one of those voting procedures that make living in a democracy such a joy.

'To be eligible, those intending to stand must nominate by the end of this year, and forms are available from the administrators (see below) to make this easier. Then we all start to get to start voting, and by Easter will have a winner. It's all very simple.

'The hard part is the money. We need it. Lots of it. The best way to get it is for people to raise it in their local area, or give other folk ideas, or just respond generously to other people's ideas & fund-raising schemes. Theres one just across at the top of the next page.

Get yourself labelled here!

We fen seem to do a lot of letter writing. Posting things all over the world in all sorts of odd little envelopes. Some of us have our own little return address stickers, to ease the load when preparing mail, and it occurred to me that even people who don't normally see themselves as in need of such things might buy them to support a fan fund. With this in mind, FFANZ is now offering customized stickers for sale. They may be used for return address, or perhaps as a very cheap 'Ex Libris' in your paperbacks. A universal sticker, which you can design yourself.

The Details. The labels are 2 by 1 inch, and can take either two or three lines of print. This printing can be in three different widths, with only one size on each line. You can have 28, 17 or 8 characters on each line.

Another option is Very Large print, where you get only one line, with 5 characters.

So, to order, decide how many lines you want, what goes on each line and what size it should be. Staying a bit below the maximum makes prettier labels, in terms of characters per iline. Send me the details, along with instructions on whether the lines should be centred, on the left or right and so on, and please send payment with the order.

If you'd like to check out the ideas you have, write over and I'll print a sample on plain paper so you can check it out (SAE's please). See the return address on this copy of Thyme for a sample of what they look like.

To be practical, I must take a minimum value of \$5. Labels are 2c each, or 1c for orders of 1,000 or more. Labels are, with three lines to them, 20% dearer again. Note that these are printed by computer, on a dot-matrix printer.

Post to: John Newman, P.O.Box 4, Thornbury 3071, AUSTRALIA

WHAT WHY WHERE WHO HOW & WHEN (including the dreaded CHANGES of ADDRESS)

Books: Lee Harding has a new novel, Waiting For The End of the World, out from Hyland House. ASFN reports that the NSW Film Commission has already backed 'first draft funding' of a script for a movie of Lee's novel Displaced Person. DDD Damien Broderick & Rory Barnes have a new novel out through Queensland University Press, entitled Valencies, cost \$7.95.000 Meanwhile a reprint of Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow By M. Barnard Eldershaw has been done by British publishers Virago. COD Speaking of printed material, would you believe that there is now an Australian Role Playing Game? With the rather straight-forward name of Super Squadron, yes you guessed it now you too can be a super hero(ine)or evil super-criminal(ess?). Recommended retail price of \$11.99, ask at your local games store or write to 'Adventure Simulations, P.O.Box 182, Mitcham 3132, AUSTRALIA for further information. When Thyme has finished playtesting it there will be a more comprehensive review of the game. At first glance it seems a good-to-reasonable buy - if you're into that sort of thing. DDD Speaking of comics, a new issue of Inkspots, Australia's premier comic publication, is due out any day now. It will officially be the November issue and it's hoped to have the thing out on a regular bi-monthly schedule from now on. There has been a reorganisation of the editorial team; Person In Charge is now no other than Steph Campbell, some of whose work you may have seen in recent Aussiecon Two literature. Both Steph and Chris Johnston, co-designers of the Puggle, should be seen in the forthcoming issue. Not quite on a level with Cerebus, but Inkspots is definitely worth the cover price. Ask at all good comic stores.

Melbourne: Okay, so we're getting on to the end of the year, and you know what that means, don't you. MUSFA is having its End of Year Bistro Evening on the 25th of November, at The Khan Mongolian restaurants295-301 Exhibition Street, City. Turn up if you know what's good for you - it's always a great occasion. Starting 7:30ish, the End of Year Bistro is also the occasion of the vote for the Shaky Leaf Award, by far and away Australia's most beautiful sf award. In Melbourne, as a social

event in Melbourne, the End-of-Year Bistro Evening is rivalled only by the occasional WorldCon, or the parties we throw at 79 Bell Street, speaking of which, -

1964 IS COMING.
BUT THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY.
EVERYTHING IS BEING TAKEN CARE OF.
NEW YEAR'S EVE, 79 BELL STREET.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.

Talking about social occasions, the Victorian Chapter of the Dr Who club promises a jolly Christmas celebration - they'll be showing 'The Mind Robber', a Troughton Dr Who story, circa 1968, and in attendance will be one Robert Jewell, whose claim to fame is that he used to play one of the daleks, in the early days. (Does that mean he's covered in green slime?) The actual location and date of the do seems to be a bit of a mystery, but write to Lucy Zinkiewicz, Flat 1, 84 Alma Rd St.Kilda 3182 for details, and she might even write back and tell you more about it. DDD Births, Departures and marriages Inc.: The marriage last Friday of Judy Clarke and Henry Gasko was followed on the Sunday by a quiet but pleasant reception at their place. The wedding sounded like a great little affair - no rings exchanged, none of this "death do you part" business - now that's my kind of wedding. Meanwhile, so as not to get left out in the rush, Victor Fejes (yes, the Victor, in case you were wondering) and Chris Hand have become engaged and are to wed some time around April next year, hopefully when Victor's sister Agi will be back in Australia for a holiday. This is the same Victor & Chris who a little while ago decided just to go out looking at houses, one day, and ended up buying the first one they looked at. That's 169 Gooch Street, Thornbury 3071, just around the corner from where Robyn & Torbjörn are living. Cay are moving this weekend, and the latest and, hopefully, final word on where Justin Ackroyd will be moving to soon is that he will be shifting into the place that C&V are moving out of, 36 Cunningham Street, Northcote 3070. Perhaps I should stop telegraphing where people are going to move to - it only seems to give them time to change their minds. Well, one thing seems pretty certain - Terry Frost is no longer residing at 77 Railway Place West, Flemington 3031, home of Mandy and Phil. Hey, and you think typing up a newszine is easy? Well, after typing up that last line, I've been sitting at the typewriter for almost half an hour, trying to think of what to say next. Terry Frost, Terry Frost ... Terry is no longer living in Melbourne. I believe he is currently staying at the home of Ken and Marea Ozanne, up in the Blue Mountains, outside Sydney ... - I think it would be a good idea for me not to mention Terry Frost in any future issues of Thyme.

Hong Kong: Mal and Ruth Pritchard have moved from Melbourne to Hong Kong. Mal is attached to the Air Force and is studying there - the address is...

D4 Paul's Mansion, 99 Waterloo Road, Kowloon, Rong Kong.

Sydney/ACT/surrounds: Chris Smith is back from her jaunt over to America and can be reached at 10 Woodstock Street, Botany, Sydney, phone (02) 666 8783. Glen Crawford writes to advise of a change of postal address: P.O.Box 592, Gosford 2250. 'We haven't moved out of our flat yet, but we may have a sale on our home in Wagga Wagga, and if this eventuates then we'll be on the lookout for a new place of our own around Gosford.' Glen also writes to say that they are expecting a second child in mid-November. Is it almost a month ago that Carele Cranwell and Jim Nomarkas were married? They're living at 27 Dalgleish Close, Spence, A.C.T. Mark Denbow and Kim Lambert have moved to Canberra, also. All mail to P.O.Box 312, Fyshwick 2609, A.C.T. Despite this, there will be one, last Transfinite New Year's Eve Party at Smithfield, Sydney.

Late note on DUFF: 1985, with the WorldCon being held in Australia, looks like being a bumper year for DUFF candidates: So far Bill Bowers, Marty&Robbie Cantor, Joni Stopa&Mike Glicksohn, and Andy Porter have publicly made their intentions clear, with probably more to come. This year's DUFF winner, Jerry Kaufman, reports that if all the rumours about who is intending to stand are true, the DUFF ballot might run to a couple of pages. Should be a very interesting race....

Blenney Close, Cannington 6107. Michelle Muysert, recently of Melbourne previously of Zealand, is living with Mark Loney, and Julian Warner, at 39 Norfolk Street, South Perth 6151, 'phone: (09) 367 6745. Michelle is currently working with ASIO, lucky girl. The soirce at Norfolk Street held a little while ago went well and more may be planned. By comparison I am told that Ratcon 30 - held as usual on Rottnest Island - was a quieter affair than usual, with about 18 geocle strending. A cross between a relaxacon and a Birthday Party for Sally Beasley, people reportedly spent most of their time lazing about, sometimes playing D&D or Richthoffen's War; there was a birthday cake and even, I'm told, a banquet of sorts. In general, those in attendance enjoyed themselves, if a little less boisterously than Perth fans have a reputation for doing. DDG Coming up this weekend (5/11) is a party for John McDouall whose birthday it also is.

U.S.A. Jeanne Gomoll has moved, to 409 S.Brooks Street, Madison WI 53715 U.S.A.

Late Bits & Pieces: Marea Ozanne is expecting a child earlyish next year; congratulations Ken & Marea.Malcolm Gordon and Firma (whose surname I don't think I've ever known, have I?) have become engaged and will wed senetime around April next year.

Nalcolm & Fiona currently reside at 2/963 Riversdale Road, Surrey Rills 3127.

(Has someone been dropping something into the water supplies in Melbourne? Don't get me wrong, I don't think there's anything wrong with getting married...) Speaking of marriage, the wedding of Asms & Karen in Melbourne on the 8th of October went off well. At times it threatened to outdo the Robert Altman film The Wedding (long lost relatives meet again; people find out they're related to one another - hi Unca Kevin, Auntie Denise!) but as a whole the entire thing went very well - beautiful bush setting; nice weather; no-one rushing up at the last minute to carry off the bride. Adric slept through the whole ceremony, probably just as well, Asms was thrown into the pool - after the ceremony - after Karen gave her permission for this to happen (perhaps unwittingly) and the whole thing was put down onto video for the benefit of posterity. (Er, is it really traditional for the Best Man and the Bridesmaid to go to the honeymoon suite and put sugar or honey between the bedsheets???)

Fanzine Fandom Frolics

In the most recent issue of Sikander, a very occasional fanzine put out by Irwin Hirsh (279 Domain Road, South Yarra 3141), Ted White, who is to be Fan Guest of Honour at the 1985 World SF Con here in Melbourne, wrote a multi-thousand-word critique of Australian fanzines. His critique was not exhaustive but he coveredmuch of the more important (regular; weil-known; etc.) work in the field, and in general his doments seemed reasonable, if slightly unsympathetic. Whatever the merits of Ted's article, it has certainly been the topic for discussion when discussing fanzines, these days. Some have taken great exception to what he has written, claiming that he's anything from the devil's space to merely foolist, and some people have even gone so far as to suggest he should not have been asked to be Fan GoH at Aussiscon Two. Thankfully enough, these people are but a tiny minocity; most who have read what he has to say concede that most of what he has to say is valid. Ted has very chrisusly governo great pains to explain the underlying reasons for his comments on the zines he has reviewed; it is certainly the most thoughtful review of fanzines - Australian fanzines as a whole - to appear in many a long day. Personally, I feel that some of his comments are off-hear, based as they are on

his own views as to what constitutes a good fanzine. Take, for instance, the matter of John Packer's cartoons - Ted is certainly at odds with the majority of Australian fans over this issue, me included. Mevertheless, it is a vary interesting article to read, and I would think that if you were interested in the goings-on of Australian fandom, either as someone overseas (intending to come out for the World-Con in '85?) or as an Australian new to fandom, you could do worse than to write nicely to Irwin and request he send you a copy of Sikander so you could read up on what is probably the talk of the day in Australian fanzine fandom.

Windup time again. What, so soon? Well before I go Michael Ashley insists that I tell you all that the Hugos are a fraud - you mean there's some of you who hadn't figured that out, yet? I don't believe it!

Okay - thanks for help with the collation of the last issue is something I cannot fail to mention-what a massive effort; thanks Koren, and John.

This time around, what you've been reading has depended to some extent on Stewart, John, Michelle, Joseph, Kim and Victor. As always (except for last issue), Victor. tschuss,

Roger.

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1984 GUFF BALLOT FORM

GUFF was created as the Get Up-and-over Fan Fund to transport a popular Australian fan to Seacon, the 1979 Worldcon in Brighton, England. It was successful enough in bringing John Foyster to England and promoting Anglo-Australian contact among SF fans that it was decided GUFF should continue as a regular event along the lines of TAFF and DUFF, alternately transporting British fans southwards and Australian fans northwards at suitable intervals for the host country's national conventions, and should be known in the southbound years as the Get Under Fan Fund. In 1981 GUFF brought Joseph Micholas to Advention '81 in Adelaide in June 1981.

GUFF will continue to be a success only through the efforts and support of fandom worldwide, particularly all who vote and who donate money and auction material.

Who may vote: Anyone who has been active in fandom as of January 1932 (fanzines, conventions, clubs etc.) and who contributes \$2.00 or £1.00 to the fund may vote. Contributions greater than the minimum are gratefully receivede. One vote per person: no proxies: ballot must be signed. Write-in candidates are repermitted. Money orders and cheques should be made payable to the appropriate administrator, or to GUFF.

Deadline: Votes must reach the administrators by 1 January 1984.

How votes are counted: Votes are counted using the optional-preferential system, which results in a majority win aftre the lowest-ranking candidate's voters' second choices are transferred to higher-ranking candidates (and so on). Your first preference is to be indicated by writing 'l' next to your choice, your second preference by writing '2' next to that choice, and so on. You may stop at any time.

Donations: GUFF will continue to need contributions of money or salable items to continue to be a success. If you are ineligible to vote or do not feel able to make an informed choice between the candidates, donations will nevertheless be gratefully accepted.

The Candidates: On the other side of this sheet are given the names of the candidates, their nominators, and their platforms. Each candidate has posted a bond and promised that, barring acts of God, they will travel to the 1984 British National Convention/Eurocon in Brighton, England, if the winner.

SEND COMPLETED BALLOTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO

Name....

British Administrator	Australian Administrator
Joseph Nicholas	John Foyster
22 Denbigh Street	21 Shakespeare Grove
Pimlico Mad	St Kilda
London SWIV 2ER	Victoria 3182
United Kingdom	AUSTRALIA
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
/ I VOTE FOR	ranguage, auctions, conventions, ho
Roger Weddall Sign	nature
Jean Weber Name	e (capitals)
	close my donation to GUFF of
	or fl minimum)
If you think your name may not be	known to the administrators in

order to make sure of qualifying for voting please give the name

and address of a fan or fan group to whom you are known.

Roger Weddall Hey, am i seriously supposed to write something here that will convince all you lot to vote for me for GUFF?
Okay; how's this:

"I don't think you should vote for me just because I've had a hand in running all sorts of fun conventions, nor because I'm editor of Thyme or Lhyfe.

"I reckon you should vote for me because I'd have a bloody good time over there making lotsa new friends, sampling lotsa Brit brews, and just generally partying on as much as possible. So do the right thing and vote for a nice fellow like me."

Nominators: Sally Beasley, Malcolm Edwards, Dave Langford, John Newman and John Packer.

Jean Weber Having discovered fandom at Aussiecon, Jean published a two-volume Fifth Anniversary fanzine in 1980, followed by a genzine, Weberwoman's Wrevenge, now htree years old and appearing on a *ghasp* regular, bi-monthly schedule. She has helped organise several conventions, despite a tendency to fall asleep at unfannishly early hours. She's never been to the UK or Northern Europe and promises a Trip Report within a year of return.

Is Weberwoman the wild sex maniac rumour suggests? a flaming feminist? a rum-guzzling recluse? #XX none of the above? Import Jean for a 4-week visit and find out - if you dare.

Nominators: Christine&Derrick Ashby, John Bangsund, Eve Harvey, Joy Hibbert and Eric Lindsay.

Shayne McCormack My fannish life condensed into 100 words. Well,
I found fandom in 1969 through Star Trek, and went
on to produce quite a few fanzines, including
Forerunner, the clubzine of the Sydney Science Fiction Foundation, an
organisation of which I was President for a number of years. As well
as socially being involved with sf, I also do it for a living - I
manage (haphazardly) Galaxy Bookshop, Sydney's SF specialist. I still
enjoy media fandom through my artwork and writing, and have been on
the committee of a few sf cons, including the 1983 National Con.
FIAWOL holds true for me.

Nominators: Ron Clarke, Sus Clarke, Robin Johnson, Cas Skelton and Paul Skelton.

Justin Ackroyd Poor but honest bookseller seeks further fannish education. Some fans claim that I am one of Australia's cuddliest fans and my resemblance to a six foot teddybear is quite striking. Since entering fandom in 1976 I have chaired a national convention and been involved in others, usually as an auction convenor. I have had a brief stay in ANZAPA and am an assistant for Australian SF News. Present addictions include: books, fanzines, auctions, conventions, hockey & sport spectating, Wales, whales, bears, castles & mountains, food, Irish Mist and J.M.W.Turner. Anyone who has survived six years working at Space Age Books can cartainly use a break.

Nominators: Jack Herman, Marc Ortlieb, Perry Middlemiss&Helen Swift, Pete Presford and Bob Shaw.

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