

The Wedding.

by Eve Harvey

Saturday, 19th November 1983 will go down in history as a red letter day in London (and not just for the red bath towels - what an inspired present) since it heralded the surrender to the forces of Bourgeois Middle Class Respectability of the 22 Denbigh Street People's Revolutionary Collective.

Yes, the marriage of Judith Elizabeth Hanna and Joseph Morrison Nicholas.

When pressed for details of the reasoning behind so momentous a decision, Mr Nicholas claimed it was for the increased tax allowances. Believe none of this, though, the real reason behind so momentous an event had been revealed in a previously flippant response by Ms Hanna - she could not take part in CND demonstrations without the fear of deportation should she be arrested. So, instead of providing support for the Thatcherite junta, the whole escapade was merely a ruse and we can all rest secure in the knowledge that the collective's support for the masses, the Party and the Nicaraguan Solidarity Campaign (to whom all cheques should be made payable, according to the wedding invitation) can now be continued with new vigour.

But to the actual occasion. Well, marriages are marriages; this one being more traumatic for me since I had to be there on time (something never before accomplished, even at my own). Why the rush? Well, as one of the witnesses I had a certain amount of responsibility, especially since Joe had impressed on me the need to ensure that his parents, poised vulture-like in the wings, were given no chance to take the place of any tardy witness (according to Joe, a fate worse than death - for me!). So, the day dawned to see me up at the ungodly hour of 8:15 am and on the train by 9:30. The strain told, though, in that I left my umbrella on the train, but that is nothing to the seasoned commuter.

The venue for this auspicious occasion, Westminster Council House, is a sight to behold; one of our old Victorian extravaganzas complete with wide, sweeping, marbled staircases, wood panelling and the palpable hushed atmosphere experienced in all seats of power. Not your usual Registry Office with the In and Out doors seeing a continuous stream of happy couples, and a little too bourgeois for the collective - there was even a fully stocked bar in the 'waiting room', but advance warnings must have been given since it was locked, poot! Jeff Suter, soon to be evicted from his overpriced hovel, was so awestruck he immediately laid plans to put his name down on the Westminster Housing list in the hope he'd be rehoused there.

Following a short, sweet ceremony, the attendant hordes swarmed over the steps outside for the mandatory pictures, resisting the urge to take the starring roles in the previous wedding who were still photographing on the same steps. I've always fancied the idea of getting into other people's group pictures, just to imagine the puzzlement when the proofs come back and the happy couple are trying to identify everyone. This time would have been unsuccessful, though, since since our summer had not been hot enough for us to mingle unnoticed with the West Indian party sharing the steps with us. Then the hordes set off for the marriage procession by tube back to the People's Revolutionary Collective (Denbigh Street Branch) where bacchanalian revels in keeping with support for the oppressed peoples of Afghanistan were due to continue. Mickey Poland (en route to Germany to play his part in NATO), John and I attempted a vehicular assault on the pre-Christmas West End traffic, narrowly thwarting the attempts of Saturday shoppers to walk through or under the car or inflict bodily harm to its paintwork with bags, eventually to arrive with everything intact in Pimlico before the Official Party. Cut off from the free booze by a securely locked door, what should we do? Give you two - no, one - guess. When the others arrived a book had apparently been opened and bets taken on the likely reason for our non-arrival, but was closed immediately for lack of support for the 'caught in the traffic' side; our eventual entrance was heralded with cries of "well, which pub was it you were waiting in?"

Usual reception-type activities followed, although the shock of seeing Mr Nicholas so free with the wine was too much for some, necessitating the consumption of more drinks to overcome the shock each time he insisted on refilling even half-empty glasses. The other 'usual' things were the opening of the presents (this is where the red bath towels appear, acclaimed for the aptness of their colour), speeches and good food, drunken debauchery... just 'wedding-type' activities really. Eventually, 'tired and emotional', we decided it was time to depart whilst still capable of reading the destinations board at the station, and thus the curtain was brought down on one of London's most auspicious occasions.

Rumour has it the happy couple were planning to honeymoon at Greenham Common to celebrate Ms Hanna's newly acquired status.

Eve Harvey

coa

Marty & Robbie Cantor, 5263 Riverton Avenue #1, North Hollywood, CA 91601, U.S.A.

news

Megan Dansie and Tony Stankiewicz engaged.

commentary S.Hryckiewicz

dear roger uopn receiving thyme30 I feel compelled to comment on the first article dealing in general terms on Australian Fandom regarding your view of the S C A in Australia I do not know whether you have misinterpreted or been grossly misdirected as to the aims and the methods of the S C A or fandom or both or you are 'stirring' people or you are deliberately goading your readership into written discussion debate or all of the above regardless of your intentions in the matter the article succeeded and here is my reply first and foremost your suggestion as to the use of 'long pointed sticks' is totally abhorrent to the S C A we try to have fun not injure each other the very reason for using rattan cane is that there are NO sharp or pointed bits this is the centre of continual debate between S C A personnel and members of "live steel" groups the advantages and disadvantages of each one are not relevant at this point the rattan cane which tends to fray rather than splinter like wood is carefully padded and taped so that there are no sharp edges or pointed tipssecondly the S C A cannot be conveniently blamed for any fannish inactivity some may point out that it is fannish activity in itself you claimed that Sydney fandom was a lively centre of activity up to about a year ago the S C A has been active and a coherent and functioning entity since Tolkon Unicon VII Syncon 81 and the SCMA the larger crowd from which the Australian S C A grew for a year before that that is I find it difficult to see your apparent correlation between the beginning of the S C A & the ending of fandom activity in Sydney rather the lack of engaging stimulating fannish activity makes the S C A attractive to those that want to do something people can find their own level of involvement and activity within

announcement

Many people in fandom, at different stages, ages, go off, often forever, leaving the bulk of fandom behind to pursue their specialist interests. Others still keep in touch with and are a part of fandom. I think special interest groups are great, I do not mind them in the least or see them as in any way undesirable. I have removed all punctuation from sue's letter that I do not think absolutely necessary. This is not a comment on what she has to say. If you don't believe me, write and ask her what I have communicated to her privately on this matter. On the topic of the S.C.A., I am more than happy to print relevant news/ other information. An example of this is the announcement of the Sydney S.C.A.'s "Twlfth Night" celebrations which, however, this comes out too late to publicise(IfyouwentIhopeyouhadagreattime). Alas, this is what happens over the Christmas mail rush - I wait until it's over before doing the next issue.

the S C A doing as much or as little as suits the individual while fandom makes an ideal recruiting ground as many in fandom have accepted concepts like fantasy role playing and or feel discontent with todays society a born out of time living in the wrong century syndrom many of the newer members of the S C A come from outside the usual fannish circles and it is from the S C A that they are then exposed to organised as against the closet variety fandom there is no crossing from one group to the other but a friendly coexistence you cite the S C A in America where there is

an even closer relationship between the two it may be an unfortunate choice of words but the impression you give is that America recruited Australia in truth there was a group in Australia the S C M A who heard of the American group and decided that their aims and ideals were similar and if America would accept us their greater experience now 18 yrs would be to our greater advantage the aims of the society are in extremely general terms to study the mediaeval and renaissance periods and recreate the aspects of honour chivalry and courtesy for which the periods were known among gentle society all readers of fantasy are aware that an armed society is a polite society what better way to relive the colour and vitality the versatility of arts and variety of culture and education of the period than as a person of the courts well-born rather than wealthy this way everyone begins as an equal and earns awards and honours by their work within the society nobody is treated as lowly or undeserving unless they themselves wish it the overall aim is to enjoy oneself and increase the pleasure of others and these are merely the means to that end as for the comment that on fandom Sydney is in a decline whilst it is true that the Sydney Science Fiction Foundation would appear to have ceased SF² SF cubed has begun Debra Ellis and Robbie O'Brien are holding meetings monthly for the new group which is endeavouring to cover a far more broad spectrum of fandom science fiction fantasy & Films there will also be a party

which Sue kindly invited all of you to, except for the fact that, like the Twelfth Night celebration, happened some time before this came out. As I said, that's what happens round Christmas time.

coas

Laurraine Tutihasi, P.O.Box 432, Downey, CA 90241, U.S.A.
 Sarah Crawshaw (next 14 months), 1/58 Grey Street, Kieraville, Wollongong, NSW
 Justin Ackroyd 104 Mt.Alexander Road, Flemington 3031, VIC (376 0503)
 Gordon Lingard 61 Salisbury Road, Stanmore 2048, NSW (569 9912)
 Hazu Hiroaki, Minami Osawa 3-14-9-204, Hachiooji-shi, Tokyo
 Joy Window, 61 Salisbury Road, Stanmore 2048, NSW (569 9912)
 Gerald Smith, 163 Hutton Street, Thornbury 3071, VIC (446479)
 Greg Hills, 22A Polson Street, Wanganui, New Zealand (44859)
 Marc Ortlieb 104 Mount Alexander Road, Flemington 3031, VIC (376 0503)
 James Styles 145 Faraday Street, Carlton 3053, VIC (347 6102)
 Frank Macskasy, Sweden (he says)
 Leslie David, ACofS, Services, HQ 19th Support Command, APO San Francisco, CA 96212

news

Gary Mason resigned from position of OBE of ANZAPA. Jean Weber new, temporary OBE and probably official when elections held for position.

George & Mary Floratos expecting kid; George resigns position as NASF National Treasurer.

Sue Dickie and Vince Martin Smith engaged.

					Hold-
GUFF, 1984	Jean Weber Justin Ackroyd Roger Weddall Shayne McCormack				Over Funds
Australia	11	58	16	15	3
U.K.	17	6	7	3	0
Total	28	64	23	18	3
	37	71	24		

Justin Ackroyd will attend the 1984 British Eastercon, Seacon'84

Request: Christine Smith, of 10 Woodstock Street, Botany Bay 2019, wishes to know if anyone is aware of the current whereabouts of Helena Roberts, formerly of 213 Danks Street, Albert Park 3206. Christine has some royalties money to hand on to Helena, if she can be found. Write to Christine or to the thyme address.

FFANZ: The deadline for nominations for FFANZ this year was this New Year's Eve. The deadline has now been postponed until the first of February, pending anyone from New Zealand ever writing back to nominate anyone.

coas

Andrew Brown, 6/44 Eildon Road, St Kilda 3182 (534 7511)
Gerald Smith, c/o 20 Roseberry Street, Balmain 2041. Disregard coa previous page.
Rosemary Barbour, #7, Calle Alameda, Prados del Este, 1040, Caracas, Venezuela
(979 0550)

convention advertising

Aussiecon Two address GPO Box 2253U, Melbourne 3001, VIC
occasion 43rd World Science Fiction Convention
time 22nd-26th August 1985

Please do not join until after July the first this year, when prices go up.
If you have to join before then it will cost \$45 in either Australian or American
money to be an attending member, and a Supporting (nonAttending) membership will
cost \$28. Americans who insist on joining before the first of March will still
only have to pay the rates advertised in the P.R.#0 of Attending \$US40, or
Supporting \$US25. Prices after the last day of June will be Attending \$50, and
Supporting \$30. The committee's official statement on the conversion from a
Supporting Membership to an Attending membership is as follows: (read carefully)

'The conversion rate for Supporting members, regardless of when they
bought their membership, will always be set at the current differential
between attending and supporting memberships.'

advertising etc.: Progress Report #1 is expected to be a little
late, but here is the deadline and other information (planned) re future PRs:

Copy Deadline Mailing

PR#2 1st Aug 84 1st Oct 84

PR#3 1st Feb 85 1st Apr 85

PR#4 15th May 85 1st Jul 85

P.Book 15th Jun 85 at the convention

Miscellaneous convention information: Australian Agents, apart from the official
POBox in Melbourne, are Sally Beasley, 21 Gold Street, South Perth, W.A.

and Jack Herman, in Sydney, and whose address I couldn't be
bothered to get up from the desk to look for.

There are also apparently still lots of copies of the board game 'FANAC!' that
people were trying to sell to raise money for the bid, left. With all respects
to the makers, it is a witless game (in my humble opinion) that is a waste of
time and money. HOWEVER, don't let that deter you from making a donation of
three dollars (if you're Australian) or five dollars (if thou're American) to the
convention, and at the same time requesting they send you a copy of the game.

Complexity of game: 1

Playability: 10 (in your sleep)

Interest: 0

Overall rating: uh, sorry, what were you saying?

Swancon 9 address P.O.Box 318, Nedlands 6009, W.A. venue Westos Motor Inn,
Canning Highway, South Perth 6151. occasion the one convention being held this
year that sounds vaguely interesting - apart from vague murmurs (all unsubstantiated)
about KinKon. time Australia day weekend 27th-30th January 1984. Costs in PR#2,
which the committee put out late November, they didn't give the membership rates
after the thirtieth of November. Attending probably will cost about \$20, but
don't hold me or them to that. Harry Harrison will be the Guest of Honour
(Professional) and Fan GoH will be Roy Ferguson, ex WA person now living in VIC.
There are rumours of conventions in both Melbourne and Adelaide to use Harry
Harrison while he's here - regular little pack of vampires, eh? (I'm sorry that
was totally uncalled for)

Syncon 84-the Sydney Science Fiction Convention, 24th-26th February, at the New
Crest Hotel, 111 Darlinghurst Road, King's Cross, Sydney, costs (attending) \$20
until the convention where it will cost \$25. For further information either phone
(02) 635 5734, or write to Sycon '84, c/o 3/34 Albion Street, Harris Park 2151.
Oh yes, ah, yes they do have a guest of honour. He's a really famous British author.

Kinkon. Too much time has been spent being snide about this convention. It could be very good. The committee is sensitive. The committee is so sensitive that they have decided not to tell anyone when the convention is on. I... I don't really believe this, but having read and reread and reread their latest progress report I cannot find any indication of when the bloody thing is on. Obviously it's a secret.

Eurekacon. The Town House Hotel has done it again. Lovely venue, shame about the fuckwits who manage it. Yet again the management (which has just changed again) have decided to play silly buggers with an sf convention committee, but what do they care. I'm sure that even at such a late stage they'll be able to find someone to use their convention facilities over this easter. Meanwhile the cmnittee of Eurekacon have moved the convention to the ever-cooperative Victoria Hotel, in the city - the same place that Kinkon are using, whenever it is their convention is on. If you have booked rooms with the Town House then get out of there as quickly as possible. If all your business has been done through the con committee then that's allright, it's being taken care of. If you did book separately and experience any difficulties with the Town House, then please inform the committee, who may be able to help. Eurekacon is being held over this easter and is the 1984 National Australian SF Convention. If you haven't recently received their Progress Report then I suppose you'd better write to them and tell them you want one. address P.O.Box 175, South Melbourne 3205.

Phantastacon III or IV or something like that: Easter, Melbourne, 1984,
P.O.Box 45, Mitcham, 3132.

Medtrek 84 - the March convention in Sydney. Exciting.

coa

Gary Hughes, ZK01 - 2/CO7, 110 Spit Brook Road, Nashua, New Hampshire 03062
(603) 881 1412.

(603) 881 1412.

Thankyou to the people who contributed information to this issue of thyme. Also, geez for some months now, I've been meaning to thank whoever it was in America (or Canada) who sent me, unsolicited, air mail, a copy of *Love and Rockets* #1, and the first of the *The Survivors!* comic/story books. I mean, I don't know anybody over there who'd do such a thing, I thought, (postmarked Stanford, Connecticut), and I really appreciated both journals. Also, a few months later, someone with the return address of 'Data Day Box 251 PA 19105' (a company address) sent me another little packet of, er well I'm not really sure, but it was also a lot of fun to read; it certainly wasn't a fanzine. Anyway, the point of my saying all this is that I figure the person or persons who sent me these parcels must be a reader of thyme - it's the only explanation I can think of - and so I'd like to thank you (both of you? all of you?) very much for such a nice gesture; it's things like this that make life so much fun, these little surprises.

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"Let's take it now from the point of view of the monster who was approaching our hero. Usually reliable sources tell us that the monster did not feel at all monstrous. The monster felt anxious. That is the way everyone feels except when they are drunk or high. It would be good to remember that when making any strange contacts: The Monster feels anxious. Now, if only you can convince him that you too, despite being a monster, also feel anxious. The sharing of anxieties is the first step in communication."

Robert Sheckley, *Options*.

coa

Kevin & Denise Noonan, 47 Saltly Street, Kingsville South 3015 (mail only)

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