Thought for the next 70 weeks: 'Convention committee member: a condition of severe mental disorder characterised by disorganisation of the thought processes, disturbances in emotionality, disorientation as to time, space, and person, and, in some cases, hallucinations and delusions. For discussions of specific types, see CONVENTION CHAIR; PARANOIA; PROGRESS REPORTS; FEEDBACK PSYCHOSIS; SECRETARY; TREASURER; and WORLDCONS.' J.P.Chaplin, The Convention Mandbook

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AWARDS & PRIZES & etc. etc. Part I - JAPAN

The 'Seiun' ("Nebula") Awards were recently presented in Japan. The winners include: Goodbye Jupiter, by Komatsu Sakyo, for best novel, A Word Master, by Kanbayashi Choohei, for best short fiction, Dragon's Egg, by R.L.Forward, for best foreign novel, and BLADERUNNER as best film. "Best Fanzine" went to Divergence, produced by the SF Society of Touhoku University. (Shards of Babel)

Part II - BRITAIN

The British SF Assocn. awards, entries for which may be nominated only by members of that association, but final votes for which may be decided by members of the year's national convention (this year it's Seacon '84), have just had this year's final ballot announced. Nominees for the Best Novel are as follows:

Helliconia Summer - Brian Aldiss (Jonathan Cape)

Cat Karina - Miachael Coney (Victor Gollancz)

Golden Witchbreed - Mary Gentle (Victor Gollancz)

Tik-Tok - John Sladek (Victor Gollancz)

The Citadel of the Autarch - Gene Wolfe (Sidgwick & Jackson; Arrow)

All the entries for the Short Fiction section wEre published in Interzone last year.

Part III - AUSTRALIA

The content - and, indeed, the form - of the year's Ditmar Awards ballot has not escaped the notice of people; one of the authors whose work is represented on this year's ballot, Russell Blackford, writes:

'...I'm almost embarrassed to be nominated in all three major categories this year -- and it's going to be worse when I come in as an also ran in all three. In particular, The Tempting of the Witch King should not be on the list for 'Best Inter-

national Science Fiction or Fantasy': it's a patchy book, and has horrible problems in plotting. I think I managed to cement over most of the latter reasonably plausibly, but there's no way that Witch King should be on a list which purports to represent the very best of F & SF of 1983. On the other hand, I still think that the book is way ahead of most adventure novels in the twin genres (in both being visionary and cold-eyed), and I'm not so unhappy about it being on the Australian list, which provides good fair publicity: maybe, I sometimes think, everybody will buy the thing and make me and Paul Collins ((publisher)) rich.'

Well Russell, I don't think you're the only one who is not completely satisfied with the way things have been nmanaged, this year. There is afoot a move to eliminate the 'Best International SF'category, and I believe the idea was to try to make the awards in general appear an obvious farce, and so make people in general more willing to go along with the idea of changing the awards. Personally, although there certainly are problems concerning the notion of eligibility in the 'International' category, I would have thought that this was perhaps one of the most worthwhile categories, seeing as how it is the only one where voters do not have a vested, personal interest in the results. How else to explain such winners as Riddley Walker, Cosmicomics, etc. Russell continues:

'The lack of a William Atheling Award this year has me a bit riled. I know that you were not necessarily endorsing the view you mentioned - that nothing worthy of an award was printed last year - but the fact that such a view exists at all is most troubling, and (let's be blunt) should be exposed as the bullshit that it is.

'I'm particularly sensitive on this one, because in 1983 I published a major review of The Judas Mandala in Van Ikin's Science Fiction, analysing the structures and symbols of the novel in a sustained reading which impressed the author himself. At the same time, Lucy Sussex produced an important article on Van Vogt and the fixup technique which found its way into the prestigious English journal Foundation. Marie Maclean's thoughtful 'Recent Approaches to Speculative Fiction' enlivened Australia's most serious literary journal, AUMLA (where I had the honour of publishing an article on a non-sfnal subject a couple of years back myself). Yvonne Rousseau produced a steady stream of high-powered reviews of sf in Australian Book Review throughout 1983, including the definitive account of George Turner's Yesterday's Men. If she had received an Atheling for the Turner review by itself or for her total effort, nobody could cavill. (This last sentence is perhaps untrue; Yvonne Rousseau's reviewing style is controversial: Paul Collins, for example, has told me that he doesn't like it. But if we can't get controversial stuff on the nominations list, to generate a bit of reaction, what's wrong with us?)

'All the items I've mentioned are of a professional quality which should keep Australian fandom proud of this country's f & sf criticism. I suppose some of the items were published in obscure places from the point of view of many fans, but doesn't word of mouth spread this kind of information through fandom? Good God (or Dread Dormammu), I haven't even mentioned Van Ikin's mighty introduction to his collection of Oz sf, published early in 1983, wherein he analysed the whole history of sf in this brown and sweeping land. Who knows what else I've missed in this letter?

'Wake up Australian fandom. No William Atheling Award! Don't let this outrage be perpetrated again next year....'

Members of the awards sub-committee have explained to some people, privately, that in the constitution there is apparently no reason even for them to pay any attention to people's nominations, when comp-ling a final ballot (there is only a statement to the effect that they must call for nominations). And there's nothing about having to award an Atheling each year. More constitutionalising. To be fair to the committee, however, it must be noted that this year very few nominations for anything were received. It would seem fitting that, in future years, the committee more actively search for eligible entries in the Atheling category, as - as Russell has suggested - pretty obviously news about these items does not circulate around fandom. And so the committee could simply present the voters with a final ballot, taking notice of nominations received - if any are. And I wonder if it is in fact too late for the committee to do this for this year's award, with voting at the convention...

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WHAT'S ON WHO'S WHERE HOW'S THINGS including the feared CHANGES of ADDRESS

Melbourne: well while still on the subject of literary criticism it seems appropriate to mention the Nova Mob. As most of you know, the group meets on the 1st Wednesday of every month, at the Foyster Restaurant - er, sorry, that's the Danube Restaurant and the Foyster residence. The Danube is in Acland Street, St. Kilda, and people congregate there around 6pm for fine food and drink before tottering off around the corner to 21 Shakespeare Grove (opposite Luna Prk) for an evening's discussion (starting around 8pm). The programme for the next for months' meetings is given below, but the conversation can stray, as any good one can. 2nd of May - Natural and Un-natural Language; Marie Maclean 6th of June - Heinlein's Critics; Mark Linneman 4th of July - Dystopias in sf (with reference to 1984); Cathy Kerrigan 1st of August - SF as a language; Damien Broderick. GOO A reminder that although Marc Ortlieb has moved, his postal address remains as G.P.O.Box 2708X, Melbourne 3001. Alan Sargent, aka. Smiley, is now at 140 Curtain Street, Carlton North 3054. Carey Handfield (and Don Ashby) are now at 76 Kay street, Carlton 3053. Dennis Callegari is now ensconced in his new house at 159 Kilby Road, North Kew 3102 - until his parents decide they like it, that is (snigger snigger); and Peter Burns is also in a place of his own, 206 Houghton Road, \$4141/M\$14\$ItaSouth Oakleigh 3167. It is - aber natürlich -"right next to the railway". Sharing the place, for the moment, is Mark Rocky Lawson, fearless journalist. Sarah Crawshaw and Robbie (Robyn) Lyall are at 25 Seacombe Street, North Fitzroy 3065. Mal & Fiona Gordon (who I erroneously reported last issue as having wed on the 1st of April - sorry; it was of course the 31st of March) have moved from Canterbury - they're overseas for a while, on a honeymoon. Not a change of address but a change of telephone number for Francis Payne - Mont Park (where he works & lives - I 4560211; Frank's still on ext.470. know what you were going to say) number is now Antoine Pace & whole family have moved to 47 Lady Melson Crescent, Altona Bay 3025. Cathy Kerrigan's new postal address is P.O.box 437, Camberwell 3124. Lindsay Jamieson is at 11 Margaret Street, Prahran 3181 - he's been there awhile, I'm just slow. there's a PARTY! on this weekend (Saturday the 14th) to celebrate lots of birthdays and just generally celebrate - why not? - and it's at Susannah & Yvonne's place, Flat 6, 7 Queens Ruad, South Melbourne. Come one come all. Eight o'clock. Hmmn, amazing, more than half a page of Melbourne info and not a single marriage or birth announcement yet. The truth of the matter is that I am busy composing a 'Wedding Report' on Chris & Victor's recent nuptials - it will appear next issue, as long as I think my health can stand it (Chris is a doctor). One more change of address; Kevin & Denise Noonan are living at 4/41 Dover Street, Flemington 3031 - but please no mail to this address. Even as you read this, they are looking for a house to buy.

Sydney: Peter Toluzzi is back in town already. Peter is spreading himself around the town and will be at Eurekacon in Melbourne over Easter, and afterwards in the Sydney region for maybe even a couple of weeks after that. DDD Kim Huett has moved into a house with Deb O'Brien & Rob Matthews, at 76 Gipps Street, Concorde 2137. His postal address remains 429 - Box 429, that is - Sydney South 2000 - same as for Gerald Smith, Paranoiacon and innumerable other low-lifes. God SF (SF, Fantasy & Film), a new Sydney group, meets socially every 2nd Friday of the month at the above address. Reports are in now that indeed, as presaged in the last issue of Thyme, the Sydney SF Foundation has been reformed. Now what is it going to do with all that money and all those books.... But back to SF3 and a convention they're holding in October: Paranoiacon. To be held at the 'El Toro' Hotal, in Liverpool; membership is \$20 until the end of Eurekacon (Easter), then \$25 until a week before the con when it rises to \$35 - the idea to keep away casual attendees, the committee says. The convention is going ahead, they've just been given \$200(to help with cash flow problems) by a Syncon '84/SSFF combination. The con is on 29th September - 2nd October, this year, and all correspondence please to Box 429, Sydney South 2000, NSW. DDD Terry Frost is living at 3/35 John Street, Petersham 2049. Sharon Carver is now to be found at 11/12 Mosman Street, Mosman 2088, but her postal address is P.C.Box 143, Crows Nest 2065.

Queensland: Gordon Jackson has become a banana bender. He now lives at 2/845 Old Cleveland Road, Carina 4152 (suburb of Brisbane).

Adelaide: Kerry Hennigan (editor of The Dragon's Ibard) and friends - but that means anyone - are arranging a group to travel to LA Con II (held late August/early September). The group is leaving on the 29th of August and returning on the 4th of September, but the return date is, one gathers, somewhat flexible. Cost perperson (including, apparently, accommodation while at the con) is approx. \$1855, leaving from Sydney. If you're interested in travelling to the Worldcon with a group, why not contact either Kerry, at 132 Jetty Road, Largs Bay 5016, or Travel Plus, 167 Hutt Street, Adelaide 5000 (telephone: (08) 224 0677.)

Perth: Swancon X, to be held on the Australia Day weekend next year, has an official postal address: Box 318, Nedlands 6009, W.A. DDD Seth Lockwood, Ditmar nominee and all-round fannish type, announces his semi-gafiation due to lack of money and time etc.etc. and wishes it known that he doesn't want to be flooded with requests for articles and such like. He'll also be moving in a few weeks but mail to his present address will still reach him.

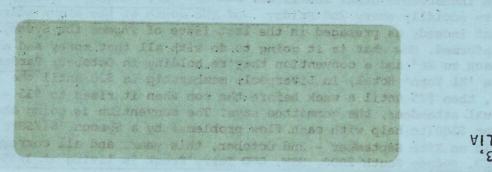
Nord Amerika: the Nielsen Hayden couple ask that their mail be addressed to: % Shiffman, 19 Broadway Terrace #1D, New York, NY 10040. Brad Foster has suffered a change of postal code - 4109 Pleasant Run, Irving, TX 75038. Cathy Doyle now lives at 2501 Westridge Road #89, Houston, TX 77054. Pascal Thomas has a new postal address: P.O.Box 351293, Los Angeles, CA 90035. In Canada, Peter Roberts & Heather Ashbycan be found at #401, Guelph, Ontarion, NIE 5J8. DDD The first Spawncon report, Spawn of Prophecy #1, has been produced. This is the official newsletter of the 1985 Australian National SF Convention, due to be held in Seattle, Washington (yes, U.S.A.), sometime in March, 1985, and is produced by Jerry Kaufman: 4326 Winslow Place N., Seattle WA 98103; and Cliff Wind: #206, 308 Summit E., Seattle WA 98102 - the two who headed the bid for the Natcon here, last year, in Sydney - and won. As with the original bid, the newsletter treads a very fine line between "how the hell did we end up with this" and "oh it's going to be good fun". Plans are for the convention to be held in conjunction with 'Norwescon', a large, annual regional con held in the west coast area. Spawncon membership will cost \$3 American, or \$4 Australian. Further details will be given in the next issue of Thyme (ah, a reason to resubscribe!), but if you're impatient to join then write now to Spawncon, % Jerry Kaufman, address as above.

London: Judith Hanna has just obtained a job as Personal Assistant to Bruce Kent & Joan Ruddock - respectively, the General Secretary & Chair of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Congratulations, Judith (certainly was a wise move to marry, non?).

Speaking of which, Melbourne residents please don't forget the March, on Sunday the 15th of April, the Palm Sunday Peace Rally. For details, march time etc: P.N.D. on 663 2846.

Okay. Well, hey! Four pages is a lot easier than 26 - what a surprise. The next issue will be out either just before Eurekacon/Phantastacon (Faster), or I'll give it to you at Eurekacon, if you're down on their list as an attending member. Thanks for this one to Roelof, Cathy, VICTOR. Collation of #32: Mandy, Mandy, Dennis, Asms, Shane & Steve.

Ta.



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