

It's Thymes like these.... Let me rephrase that -



comes complete with header by Mel White and is published by Roger Weddall Ink., a multi-national korp. with offices in places like 79 Bell Street, Fitzroy 3065, Australia (telephone [+61 3] 417 1841). It is available for things like news, other interesting information, postcards, artwork and - let's not forget - MONEY (at the following rates): AUSTRALIA: Eight issues for five Dollars; NORD AMERIKA/NEW ZEALAND: ten issues for ten dollars; EUROPE: ten issues for £5/DM20/a letter indicating interest.

ALL OVERSEAS COPIES ARE SENT via AIRMAIL.

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Don't forget, a big, silver cross next to your name on the front probably means that you won't be seeing any more of these for a while, unless you... DO SOMETHING!

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### NORCON Fans Demolish Hotel

AUCKLAND, 6th June 1984 (Markpress) - NORCON 1984, Aotearoa's 6th National Science-Fiction Convention is over. And what a rage it was to be sure! In a precedent-setting move sure to find favour with fen everywhere, the ConCom decided to make it a full four days of programmed events, rather than cancelling things after the peak of Sunday night's Masquerade - which this year was graced as usual by a variety of aliens and even a vampire!

The Con ran smoothly throughout the weekend. Amongst the highlights were a talk with slides by Mike Hinge (who has done illos for *Heavy Metal* as well as covers for *Time* zine in New York.) And Sandi Hall, feminist SF author, spoke on her work and experiences as did Darth Harvey, a well-known Hobbit of Mastermind fame. One of the addresses which had many fen entranced was a panel of three from TVNZ who have been working on a Kiwi SF kid's programme, due for release in September 1984 entitled "Children of the Dog Star", which tells of the discovery and influence of a probe from the Sirius system in an Aotearoan swamp. The director and designer were able to relate the problems they had making this six-episode series, and showed us models and photos, as well as distributing copies of their booklet on the deciphering of the Sirius script: a truly impressive work! The stagelighting, kindly supplied for the Convention by Berkman Holographics Ltd, succeeded in making a magic atmosphere when required, and the formal opening ceremony (presided over by Tom Cardy and Duncan Lucas, two artists who put in a lot of work throughout the Con and who even made a giant-size styrofoam lizard, the Con's logo - which was frequently thought to be a Duck) was far superior to that seen at any previous Kiwi con.

At the business session on the Monday morning, Auckland won the right to stage the 1985 con unopposed, since the Worldcon is being held in Melbourne that year and no other city felt keen to do anything, though Taihape was rumoured to be mounting a bid as was

Greenhithe. For the 1936 Con, Wellington and Dunedin both put up bids, with Dunedin scraping in mainly because they sang so well for their advertising jingle. All in all, a really enjoyable time was had by all; especially by the KAOS players (most of whom died when the Hotel was blown up) and by the Flying Party attendees (who staged an ongoing rage in one of the lifts to the merriment of all guests who happened to board it !!).

- from Bruce Grenville

Meanwhile, in Melbourne the Queen's Birthday weekend saw a return to the Victoria for people attending a smallish cosy local experimental event called Kinkon.

My Day Afternoon at Kinkon

-Peter Burns

The Con which tried to be all things to all people, or nothing to no-one.

For me, it was not a good start to walk into the 'Games Room' by mistake. Suddenly surrounded by 12 year olds and metal model trolls and fighters and things. There they were, sitting around a large table - in period costume (not the table) - DM literally hiding behind tables and charts pretending to be God. You guessed, it's ~~DRUNK/AND~~ ~~DIABOLICALLY~~ Dungeons and Dragons, imaginations running wild:

Fighter: "I pick up the sword and hit the bugblatter beast"

DM: "No, sorry, you can't do that"

Fighter: "Why not?"

DM : "Because you have to be the same alignment as your deity and that's Groonfundle Ra (it's right here on P1064 vol.XXVI, one of the most basic rules, I'm surprised you didn't know) and so you can't attack him"

3rd P : "But what about the modification in Supplement 42 - Incorporating psychological disorders into your scenarios for added realism - and besides, aren't we playing the Extended rules for hand-to-fang combat against blood wombats. Any half-wit could see..."

A sign of things to come, perhaps - I left in search of the registration table. Here I discovered the program (which was films) and the alternate programme (which was videos). Thinking to myself "I've never been to a Mediacon before" I settled down to watch a bit of *Dr Who*.

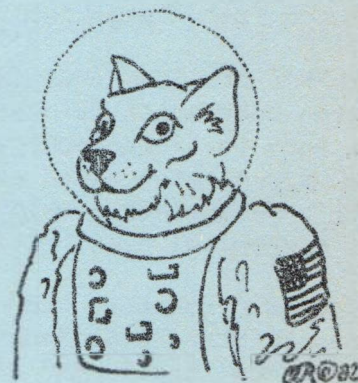
I mention this because I enjoyed Patrick Troughton being Dr Who (little weakness of mine) in *The Mind Robber* and I'd just happened to turn up in time for it to start. I thought it was a bit of a pity that the alternate programme wasn't just a touch more programmed, at least to the extent of being able to publish the day before what was on when.

Emerged hours later to the main programme and some lecturer in the midst of an hour and a half dissertation on the single episode of Star Trek they had just watched (What was Spock really thinking when he.... Did Captain Kirk really mean to....). Already, wierd and colourful (not to mention period) costumes were beginning to appear amongst the audience in quantity. Could this be the masquerade being prepared for, I wondered (with \$300 first prize) or do all these people always dress like this?

But there was this other party I was late for, s I didn't ever find out.

For all the claims that Kinkon was a bringing together of Media and General Fandom in Melbourne - a most noble objective perhaps - "General" Fandom appears to have stayed away in droves. This was a pity and the Convention couldn't help but be affected. Maybe next time.

- Peter Burns



It seems that Kinkon will be repeated, though not next year. Ruth Murphy, who was on the Committee writes:

"Well, Kinkon is over. From our point of view, it was successful - we all enjoyed ourselves and the con ran smoothly with very few hassles. Roadshow treated us to a very special preview of *Gremlins*, Steven Spielberg's new film which is due for release Nov 29th. Don't miss it.

"Anyhow, the purpose of this letter is to announce the coming of KINKON II - (just when you thought it was safe to go back into the Victoria!!) scheduled for Australia Day long weekend in January 1986. We've had a lot of support from the people who came to Kinkon which has been fantastic - what was especially good about it was that all the Media groups, the d&d fans and 'normal' sf & fantasy fans got together and had a ball. So we hope that with Kinkon II, it can only get better!! Sure, we made a number of mistakes with Kinkon, but we have taken note of them and Kinkon II will be a must for all. We have few other details for you at this stage, but our first flyer is due out soon."

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### Convention Updates

#### NECRONOMICON 1

Dates: 14-16 September 1984  
 Venue: Victoria Hotel, Little Collins St, Melbourne  
 Rates: \$12 to watch, \$4 per competition  
 Rooms: Real gamers don't sleep  
 Mail: P.O. Box 706, Dandenong 3175 or phone Russell (no relation) or Lynda 553 3361 (after 6pm)

The flyer starts off with the lie "Australia's first Convention by Gamers for Gamers" and goes on to offer over \$4000 in prize money and no sponsors. What I can't figure is who's going to bail this lot out when they make a whopping great loss. On the scant information provided, break-even point must be up around 4-500 members.

Interesting is that the fancy dress prizes will be awarded for costumes worn for the entire length of the convention only - 3 days, the convention goes for.

#### PARANOIACON

Dates: 28 September to 1 October  
 The ConCom wants it known that if you don't get your room bookings in by the end of July, complete with \$48 deposit, you may be left sleeping out in the cold. Mail to GPO Box 429, Sydney 2001.

#### TIMELORD'S BALL

Date: 24 November 1984, 7.30 pm.  
 Venue: Carrington Hotel, Main Rd, Katoomba  
 Rates: \$4 (\$2 children under 16 accompanied by an adult). Food?  
 Mail: P.O. Box C377, Clarence St, Sydney 2000.  
 The occasion is Dr Who's 21st birthday, the dress is formal, and prizes will be given for the best costume. They want money in advance payable to 'Timelords' proceeds to Heart Foundation and Medtrek Holding Fund (what's the connection, I wonder).

#### ADVENTION '85

Dates: 5th to 8th April 1985 (Easter)  
 Venue: Townhouse, corner Hindley & Morphett St, Adelaide.  
 GoH: not Harry Harrison. Pr#0 is very cryptic on the subject, but states you will understand the secrecy when you see the results. The mind boggles.  
 Rates: \$15 Attending, \$5 supporting; but these rates will 'soon' rise.  
 Rooms: \$40 per night, single or twin, but bookings not yet open.  
 Mail: 95 Second Ave, Joslin 5070.  
 This is the 24th National Australian Science Fiction Convention, wrested back off Seattle by various Constitutionally devious means. The theme is

SWANCON X E XI

EUROCON '85, '86

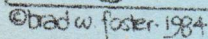
"Eurocon 86 will be held in Yugoslavia."

SOR.

Boston in 1989.

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DUFF Jerry Kaufman reports: "I've gotten the first official nominees: Marty and Robbie Cantor. I assume others are out there somewhere, gathering signatures."



This info comes courtesy of a new monthly zine called Tigger, produced by Marc Ortlieb for the Aussiecon II Committee to help communication between the ConCom

## More Awards

by David Brin  
by Greg Bear  
by Greg Bear  
by Gardner Dozois  
Andre Norton

Best Novel: LE CHAMP DU REVEUR (Dreamer's Field) by Jean-Pierre Hubert  
Best Short Story: LES NAGEURS DE SABLE (The Sand Swimmers) by Jean-Claude Dunyach  
Best Juvenile: LE NAVILUK (The Naviluk) by Therese Roche  
Special Award: LE RAYON SF (The SF Shelf) by H. Delmas & A. Julian

- From S.O.B.

"It's a pity the ASFA awards are in such a state of confusion, and it is really a poor reflection on fandom that some of the problems have not been overcome years ago. For example, this year's problems with the "Best International" category could be resolved by redesignating (or else just re-constructing) the award as Best Overseas F or SF. And surely it would be easy to construe all awards as being for "current" or "recent" or "contemporary" work (thereby eliminating reprints like *Out of the Silence*). (As a digression here, there's a tiny possibility of another "reprint" raising its head at award time next year, for Penguin have just released Catherine Spence's 1879 utopian-feminist novel, *Handfasted*, at \$7.95 - and the curly bit here is that, as far as I know, this 1984 reprint is the work's first book publication (since it would have first appeared in serial form, if it was published at all in its own time).)

"I'm only guessing, personally I think the failure to tidy up the ASFA rules lies in fandom's loathing for bureaucracy and pretention. This is a commendable attitude - but not when it stands in the way of sensible (and fairly minor) reform of the regulations. The question of the ASFA awards becoming pretentious is a bit trickier, for fanzine discussion seems to me to indicate that there is no "consensus" as to whether fans want the awards to be a reflection of merit or of popularity. (Personally, I like your idea that the awards represent "simple appreciation". This, to me, is the spirit in which they should be awarded, and is probably the best phrase to cover all the different motives people have in mind when nominating and voting.)"

One other matter of some concern was the ability of people to vote for the Ditmars whatever the basis for nominations. Van Ikin writes: "were supporting members of this year's NatCon entitled to vote for the Ditmars (or, for that matter, to receive any con progress reports)? I'm one supporting member who received nothing; in fact, the first I knew that nominations had closed was when Russell Blackford congratulated me on getting listed.... "

These comments are echoed by Craig Hilton, also a Western Australian (if that makes a difference): "Has it always been the case that voting closes one week before the National Convention? ((Yes)) What happens to the poor people from WA etc, who arrive at the polls fresh from a dirty, trans-Australian trek to find everything closed?"

Is it possible that just a small part of the apparent apathy over nominating and voting for this year's Ditmars was due to a lack of communication between the Committee and the voting fandom? Food for thought for next year's NatCon Committee.



#### NATIONAL SF MEDIA AWARDS 1984

The National SF Media Awards were presented at Medtrek earlier this year. Run in a similar way to the ASFA Awards, there is even talk of setting up a Constitution (they don't know what they're letting themselves in for) for "AMSFS" - Australian Media Science Fiction Society complete with Australian Media Science Fiction Achievement Awards, known as the (quote) "?".

Anyway, this year's ? went to:

Best Media Fan Writer :	SUE BURSZTYNSKI
Best Media Fanzine:	CHRONICALS
Best Media Artist:	SUE CAMPBELL
Lady Canaston Award for Costume Design: Sheila Tracey for her Crystal Singer.	



#### Justin in the Netherlands

"The Liva, onions, rice and apple were delicious and now so are the strawberries. The portuguese red wine is quite drinkable with a nice afterburn.

"The next course will be rhubarb. Hagacon was a gem of a one-day con. The bar facilities were excellent as was the Greek restaurant in the evening. The Chairman must be complimented on the way he kept "control" of the con."

#### Mark Linneman in the U.S.

"Some people will go to any lengths just to get film reviews:

Los Angeles, 14 June: I just saw a movie that can be recommended as pure lightweight fun, totally without redeeming merit.

In *Ghostbusters*, Bill Murray, Dan Ackroyd and Harold Ramis are three academic parapsychologists who are fired by their University for producing no other results other than absurd theories. They then set up a private business as "psychic exterminators". One of their first clients is Sigourney Weaver (*Alien*) who has a Hittite god in her refrigerator. After she is possessed by a demon and the environmental protection agency releases those ghosts trapped by the ghostbusters, things get a little complicated. The film climaxes with an epic battle against a most unusual monster. The special effects are excellent. Very silly, very funny.



movie. Kate Capshaw as the blonde cabaret singer who reacts inappropriately to any dangerous situation does get a bit annoying by the end of the film. The plot is an adequate framework on which to hang humour and action (the).

Temple is a fabulous formula ~~movie~~ movie full of thrills and brilliant gags. The gratuitous shock effects do mar the smoothest adventure film ever, but this is still an excellent film. Stephen Spielberg directs from a story by producer George Lucas.

- Mark Linneman

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### A Cautionary Tale

In a recent letter to Rataplan, Derrick Ashby puts the relative budgets of Eurekacon and Aussiecon II at \$3000 and \$120000 respectively, to give an idea of the relative sizes of the two events. ConStellation - the 1983 Worldcon in Baltimore - had a budget of \$400,000 and succeeded in making a loss of around \$70,000. Neither of those figures is peanuts.

ConStellation is now almost certain to go down in fan history as the first Worldcon ever to be forced to declare bankruptcy: in spite of a massive bailout campaign which raised \$27,000, they still owe around \$44,000. Worldcons don't lose money, especially Worldcons with record attendances and membership rates (as this was).

But then, lack of communication within the ConCom and being ripped off by the Convention hotels can do wonders to the finances of any Con. Much has been said about this particular failure.

Ted White (Egoscan 3) writes: "The Committee neglected to sign contracts with its hotels until less than six months before the Con, and thereby could do nothing to stop the hotels from raising their rates by 50%. That cost me \$100."

Jack Chalker (SF Chronical, May '84) comments: "A few ... departments came within their budgets, but others did not, and part of this was that items normally within their budgets were charged to other departments. For example, the reason Charlie Ellis believed he had enough money for the *Diamondvision* ((apparently a kind of light show costing around \$15,000)) was because his departmental budget had that much excess. Nobody had bothered to tell Charlie that in fact the budget for his department included all office supplies and equipment for all divisions, not just his. Most of the ConCom seems to have forgotten too; he requested and received authorisation for the *Diamondvision* screen from higher up."

According to Alexis Gilliland (Egoscan 3): "The decisive screw-up ... was the decentralisation of spending authority. Shirley Avery, the treasurer, was reduced to writing cheques for what department heads had authorised." And so it goes on

In the US, each Worldcon is separately incorporated to protect the ConCom and the Con Membership from any incompetence or just bad luck on the part of the treasury. This allows ConStellation to declare itself formally bankrupt without sucking U.S. fandom dry in an attempt to pay off creditors.

Why they are considering not declaring bankruptcy with debts of \$70,000 remains a bit of a mystery. One begins to wonder just how big a debt a Con would need to have before its Committee would finally admit defeat and take the plunge. What's it really worth to be able to say "no Worldcon has ever gone bankrupt".

In Australia, we don't have to worry about this option because we don't have it. If a Con loses money, we have to find it from somewhere, we don't incorporate, so there is no bankruptcy. And with Cons slowly growing in size and scope, it may be that one day the little tale above will be repeated here.

(It is an interesting footnote that in the midst of all this, one of the few departments at ConStellation to show a profit was the Art Show, which raked in \$70,000 in sales alone - the second largest income behind 'memberships')

- Peter Burns

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Change of Address et al: VICTORIA: John Newman's new phone no. is 184 6479. Carolyn Strong has moved to Melbourne for a bit, apparently to escape the harsh Perth winter; Address PO Box 4, Thornbury 3071. MUSFA Bistro Night will be Friday 27 July, 7pm (about) at the Lebanese Palace, 202 Faraday St, Carlton. Next Nova Mob will be Wednesday 1 August, 6pm Danube Restaurant, Ackland St, then 8pm 21 Shakespeare Ave; topic will be SF as a language: Damien Broderick. BRISBANE: Torbjorn and Robyn Von Strokirch have settled in to a picturesque little riverfront flat: 23/44 Brisbane St, Toowong 4066, Phone (07) 371 8181. WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Seth Lockwood has moved to Apartment 10 South, "Windsor Towers", 9 Palmer St, South Perth 6151; Damien Brennan is now at 1/83 Carr St, West Perth 6005; Erik & Sarah Moore have moved to 45 Gregory St, Wembley 6014; It seems that Nicko must be bored down in Esperence the way he keeps visiting Perth all the time, reports our correspondent; WASFA meets first Wednesday of each month in Food Affair Cafe on Adelaide St, Fremantle (under the Port Cinema) 8.30 onwards ((maybe they sometimes have tea first)). Here they play games and do fannish things; Wednesday meals /meetings at Fat Eddies have died due to lack of ~~fan~~ interest. Mr Michael G Poole of 146 Fanstone Ave, Munster 6166 is a new fan wanting to make contact with other fans; The Swancon 9 t-shirts have been printed and delivered, under the organisation of Julia Bateman, with the assistance of John McDouall and the expertise of the transfinite group. They look simply stunning with their sombre Craig Hilton rat logo on the front in black or reverse colour. Unfortunately, they are a limited edition, available only to those who placed orders at the con (barring the odd rare cancellation) - exactly 61 in all. The sale of the shirts raised a total of \$51 towards Swancon 11 (from Craig Hilton). NEW SOUTH WALES: Tony Power has moved to (this weekend) 127 Livingston Rd, Maricksville 2204; Terry Frost, Karen Vaun, Chris Vaun & Jenny Burslem are moving into a house located on a busy corner in Newtown (up above a Newsagent) Word is that they are planning to have a housewarming soon; Debbie O'Brien and Rob Matthews have just announced their engagement: congratulations; Eric Lindsay is leaving the Commonwealth Bank rather than be transferred out to the sticks; he'll be going full time writing and programming. OVERSEAS: Linda Lounsbury's new address is 3741 First Ave S, #8, Minneapolis, MN 55409, U.S.A.; MISC... There will be a new collection of Bob Shaw speeches, courtesy of Eve Harvey, the British Shaw fund co-ordinator. They will be available for \$2.50 per copy, or \$3.00 per copy signed. Further information when they arrive. "Medtrek '84 - reports by the Con Goers" is now available; Herbert Thiery, Brunnenstrasse 3, 6600 Saarbruecken 5, WEST GERMANY will be in Sydney August 10-12 and would like to meet fans, as would Selene Mize, 915 Lafayette Blvd, Rm 411, Bridgeport CT 06604 USA who'll be here October to December. Thanks for this issue to Bruce, Peter, John, Roelf, Van, Marc, Mark, and of course VICTOR!!! 7 July 1984

THEME

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