

thyme



AUSTRALIA IN SEVENTY-FIVE!!!

As I have probably mentioned innumerable times in this magazine, Australia is attempting to bid for the 33rd World Science Fiction Convention, for 1975. A committee was set up at the 9th annual SF Convention to set about making things more favourable for this idea. This Committee consists of the following people: Leigh Edmonds, John Foyster, Robin Johnson and Gary Mason. To get this Convention, Australia will have to make a bid at the 1973 Convention, probably in Dallas Texas. Advertising has already started, and a small ad has been placed in the third Heidelberg Worldcon Progress Report. Naturally, something on the scale of a World Convention needs a vast amount of time, interest and money. 1975 seems a long time away, but really, we are cutting things rather finely if we are to make a successful bid.

Since the New Year Sydney Convention, a magazine called 'Aust. in '75' has been published to air opinions on the subject, and now, to offer the general public some information as to how events are going. Certainly anyone interested in the idea of a World Convention should subscribe to this magazine, and hopefully, write something of interest to the magazine in the form of a letter of comment. Ain75 is a roneoed production, and in the latest issue runs to thirty pages, with a short article by John Foyster, a transcript of the Business Session at the Eastercon, and another article by Gary Mason. The cost of this mag is fifty cents an issue: this is to add to the sagging funds of the committee. It is available from P.O. Box A215, Sydney South, NSW. Make donations and subscriptions payable to: "Worldcon Bidding Committee"

- David Grigg, Yggdrasil 1, 1970 (as editor)

Also Just In (Clive Morley, Yggdrasil , 1971):

Here I begin, a young uncorrupted innocent. Having been introduced to Science Fiction stories by a friend's recommendation, I like the stuff and read anthology after anthology. ...

I come to Melbourne University. I am there at the founding of the Melbourne University Science Fiction Association. I come to MUSFA discussion groups at lunch times, and listen to club politics and watch card games. I go to Bistro Nights and drink, argue and have a good time. No one talks much about Science Fiction. We make unsuccessful efforts to have club meetings at which club politics and such are rigidly banned. I am dissatisfied that what little S.F. discussion there is at club meetings consists only of "Have you read such and such a b-ok/story. Well, it goes like this..." Resume of plot follows resume of plot into the sunset.

I go down to the Melbourne Science Fiction Club. In front of the greatest collection of S.F. books and magazines I've ever seen, people are making coffee and playing "Monopoly" and other board and card games. I borrow books and leave.

The Nova Mob is formed; a breakaway from the Melb. S.F. Club of people who want to discuss Science Fiction, which people don't do at the club. It does not occur to me to ask why the Nova Mob has to meet in licensed restaurants and hotels to talk about S.F. I go along, I drink, I do not discuss Science Fiction.

I notice I haven't read much S.F. lately. ...

I go to the first meeting of the Melbourne University Science Fiction Association this year. We have many new members; they insist on talking about Science Fiction and doggedly refuse to be side-tracked. I am amazed. I go to the Bistro night, the regulars are there, things are as usual, I have a good time. I hear rumours of a breakaway group from the Nova Mob forming to definitely discuss only Science Fiction. I am not interested.

Thyme #41, the pacifist newszine with the Australian accent, is directed by Roger Weddall (who is not a candidate for DUFF, GUFF, or FFANZ but who could enjoy long overseas holidays more), is produced courtesy of MYCROFT (who works like a machine), and lives at P.O. Box 273, Fitzroy 3065. It is available for news, letters, postcards, artwork, or anti-poverty stuff like MONEY at the following rates: AUSTRALIA: Eight issues for five dollars; NORTH AMERICA, NEW ZEALAND: Ten issues for ten dollars; EUROPE: ten issues for 5 pounds/DM20/ a letter of interest.

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

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What, with Blackwood cancelled at the last minute and the MUSFA End-Of-Year Bistro Nite but a hazy, foggy memory, what is there left but to announce the -

#### SHAKEY LEAF AWARD

- |                                           |                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Two                                    | by LynC (notorious victim(???)) of the great Medicare bungle) |
| 2. When Wars Were Fought Closer to Heaven | by Basil Radburn                                              |
| 3. An Enchanted Machismo                  | by Sean McMullen                                              |

####

But, to change the subject almost entirely, Mycroft swears the following is genuine:

Dear Roger,

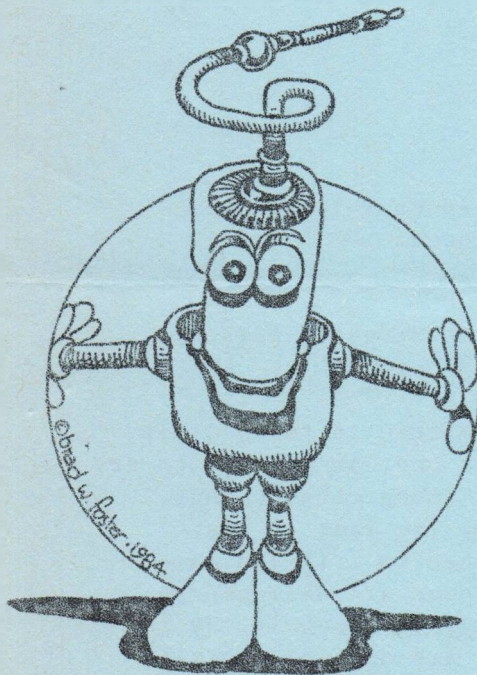
I'm writing to you in the hope that a fan editor of your stature and reputation may be able to correct a terrible injustice.

I am the president of The Society For The Reinroduction of Silly Haircuts, Poncy Clothes and Sharpish Metal Items. Every year we present an exhibition of costumery, drama, medieaval weaponry and emergency First Aid at the Worldcon.

For Aussiecon II we decided to break with tradition and involve ourselves with a presentation of more contemporary weaponry. We constructed (at considerable expense, I might add) a full scale plywood replica of a Lancaster Bomber (c. 1944). This was to be hung from 3/8" steel cables from the light fittings of the main function room of Aussiecon II, while our members took pot shots at it with an Army Surplus 88mm anti-aircraft cannon, in a witty and tasteful representation of the activities of "D" Battery, Wangerooge Island Flak Company. We planned to use armour piercing shells, as much excitement,

interest (and funds) would be generated on the side-bets on which floor they would detonate.

The problem is this. I wrote to the secretary of Aussiecon II ((who is a he)), telling her I'd be dropping in to the next Committee meeting to advise them of my requirements vis-a-vis the presentation.





Would you believe they actually told me that they didn't have the space for the demonstration?

I have INCONTRAVERTIBLE evidence that our display has been blackballed because:

1. Our secretary is a cocker spaniel, and the treasurer was born in Kafiristan.
2. The man who wallpapered our granny flat once played a WHOLE game of Dungeons and Dragons without once feeling silly.

Is it any COINCIDENCE, I ask you, that "Eurekacon" and "Aussiecon" start with a vowel, and end with a consonant? That they BOTH have the same number of letters?

Our society is OBVIOUSLY the victim of an irrational prejudice by a hard-CORE clique of fans. I INTEND to expose this clique for WHAT it is, and FORCE them to change every policy relating to Aussiecon II.

If I do not GET action soon, I will have no CHOICE but to forget the WHOLE thing.

YOURS sincerely,

BRIAN NOFATTEST ((who signs himself "Toni N. Fatbreast"))

((I agree with you entirely - treatment of the subject of "Emergency First Aid" has been woefully inadequate at past worldcons. People talk a lot about historical-accuracy-in-films, but when I see, in the original film version of MASH, doctors administering CPR by occasional backhanded slaps to the chest and watching the shade of blue in the patient's face, I really begin to wonder. Even in that recent television epic, KENNEDY, the final scene shows a doctor alone in the operating theatre of a major hospital administering heart massage to the president. I mean, leave aside the fact that everybody else is either just standing around or not there - he's still watching his face go blue.))

((But I digress. ....))

\*\*\*\*\*

#### WEAPONS AT AUSSIECON

Many letters have been received commenting on the Aussiecon Weapons Policy. The following offering from Leigh Edmonds typifies the views expressed:  
Dear Roger,

Like a lot of people, I'm starting to get annoyed by this Fabian Stretton person. However I will control myself a bit and make only three or four points.

1. I believe that no weapons (mock or otherwise) should be permitted in the vicinity of Aussiecon II. This is a moral belief rather than a realistic one, an attempt to try to create in miniature a slightly better world. Fabian claims, among other things, that weapons are fun because people enjoy wearing them. The fact is that weapons are no fun at all - they are anti-social and are designed to kill and maim, cause pain, physical disability and any number of horrors. Weapons are designed to be used on people and they are by nature aggressive and threatening. Some people may derive entertainment from wearing threatening implements which are designed to kill people, however there are a large number of people who gain no pleasure at all from having to see them and are in fact threatened by their mere presence. If Fabian cannot enjoy himself without weapons, I assure you and him that I find it very difficult to enjoy myself with them. If he is there fully got up, I will try to be somewhere else.

2. Generally speaking, weapons are historically inaccurate. Only a very small proportion of any society in the past (perhaps 5%) were permitted or could afford to carry a sword or dagger or similar weapon. If people want to wear realistic and representative costumes, only one in every twenty will wear a weapon. This is not the



kind of ratio which I've seen in the past at conventions and it leads me to wonder if people who claim historical authenticity as the basis of their desire to dress up and wear weapons are more bent upon creating unrealistic fantasy in which they assume positions they would not be able to hold in reality. If this is what it takes to make people feel secure, then perhaps they should signify it properly by chopping off a leg and coming along as a pirate with a wooden crutch to supplement their psychological one.

No doubt the likes of Fabian Stretton and I would have ended up drafted into some army or another and then we would have been given a weapon - probably a pike. If Fabian really wants to bear arms at the convention, I suggest the committee gives him permission to carry around a 20 foot pike. If he's willing to lug it around, and if he can do it without annoying too many people, he's welcome as far as I'm concerned. I'll leave mine at home.

I don't recall Fabian being at Aussiecon in 1975, so I doubt that he has much evidence for his assertion that that convention "was remembered primarily for the costumes..." (I can quote out of context too). But even adding "...the atmosphere and the fun", I doubt that the costumes were a direct cause of the other two. In fact I recall very few costumes outside the masquerade. No doubt the Vikings and their performance are still well remembered - but that was a programme item.

That should be enough for now, I'll go and do something to cool off after getting so annoyed. I hope that, in fandom at least, the pen is mightier than the sword.

#### CONVENTION UPDATES

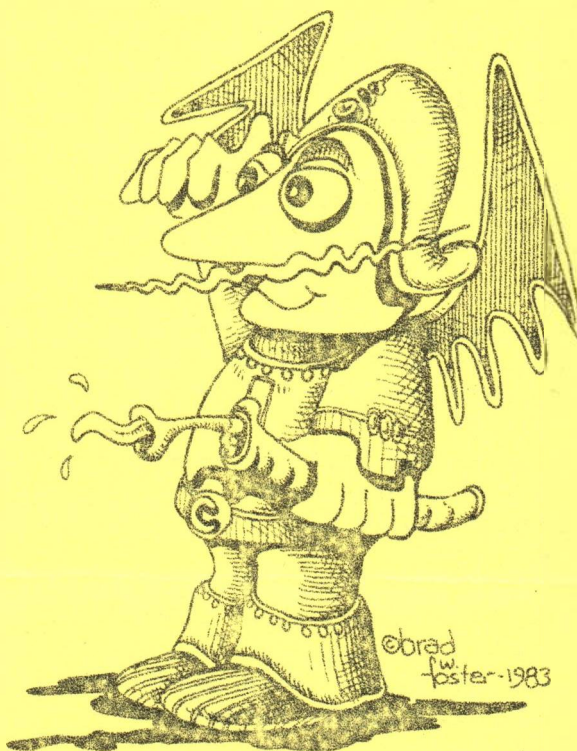
##### SWANCON X

Dates: 26-28 January 1985  
 Venue: Airways Hotel Apartments, Adelaide Tce, Perth.  
 Rates: \$20 attending, \$5 supporting, \$15 disadvantaged. These rates will hold until at least 1st January, but will definitely have risen in time for people trying to join at the door.  
 Rooms: \$40 single, \$45 double/twin and \$50 family. Bookings should go through the Swancon letterbox or John McDouall in any case. People who attended Swancon IX will well remember the quality of the booking arrangements there. This con, they promise to be even better.  
 Mail: PO Box 318, Nedlands 6009.

##### CONVENTION 85 (24th National Convention)

Dates: 5-8 April 1985 (Easter)  
 Venue: The Townhouse, Cnr Hindley and Adelaide St, Adelaide.  
 Rates: \$15 Attending till 1st January 1985, then \$25. Supporting is \$5.  
 Rooms: \$44 per night single currently. PR#1 says bookings should be made directly with the hotel, Ph 211 8215 (local) or (interstate local fee only) 008 88 8241.  
 Theme: A Celebration of Australian Science Fiction  
 Mail: 95 Second Ave, Joslin 5070

PR#1 is now out, but apparently not for members. If you really desperately want one, I suggest you ring (don't write, it doesn't seem to work) Jeff Harris or Alan Bray or someone. But there isn't a lot in it worth reading apart from what I've covered above. Bit of a do-it-yourself con, this one, I think. It seems an overseas GOF was on the point of being arranged, but then the Committee decided they didn't want to foot the bill. But it won't be a relaxacon, they claim - quoting real items for a real program and real people who are being approached to present them.



## AUSSIECON 11

Dates: 22 - 26 August 1985

Rates: \$50 attending, \$30 supporting until 1 February 1985 when the rates will become \$60 attending, \$30 supporting. Special children's rate - \$5. The committee adds that it hopes to hold the supporting rate constant right up to the date of the Convention. For those of you who haven't figured this out yet, it's all a very cunning ploy by the Committee to prevent you from saving any money when you convert your supporting membership to an attending one. Nasty committee...

And remember -

Aussiecon meeting at Phil and Mandy's 9th December 2pm. BYO Ideas. Address is 77 Railway Place West, Flemington; Ph 376 8391. The dog is friendly.

## MORE PARANOIA

Gerald Smith writes: "Paranoiacon, the enjoyable semi-relaxacon held in Liverpool over the the October long weekend has ended up returning a small but tidy profit. There are plans to wind up for a return bout in '86, after Aussiecon, possibly with one of the visitors from overseas as special guest."

## SWANCON XI

The venue for Swancon XI will be Miss Maud's Hotel (also in central Perth with very reasonable room rates). It will be held on the Easter weekend in 1986 (March 28 - 31, 1986), and the GCM is C.J. Cherryh. ((planning sounds like it's in its early stages yet, what with Swancon X not even out of the way yet))

((!!!!+????))

## THE KEEP - a film review

The Valhalla, a cinema that normally specialises in wierd, cheap and/or foreign movies is showing "The Keep". One advantage of living in a hole is that I had never heard of it until I saw the ad, so I went along with no more idea about what it was than their rave:

"This metaphysical mystery ... unfolds like a collaboration between Spielberg, Herzog and Castenega. It is a meytaphysical adventure story replete with cryptic messages, underground catacombs, dramatic executions and supernatural transformations."

The other thing that really wowed the Valhalla was its \$11 million budget. Well, that's not surprising as they have made a movie "Future Shock" that was made on next to nothing, so I think they are in a state of awe at that much money being thrown around.

But, all that money shows. Like "Blade Runner", it has a top notch soundtrack and is very seductive visually. Plot and logic are non-existent, but who cares. Tangerine Dream do the music which often completely drowns out what people are saying. Actually, there is very little natural noise at all and what there is blends in with the music.

There is a vague story line about a group of Nazi soldiers sent to guard a monstrous stone building that houses a denizen ((what's a "denizen")) that escaped out of the Ark of the Covenant and eluded Indiana Jones, to turn up here instead.

If you see The Keep expecting a brisk and exciting adventure, forget it. It's quite slow and dreamlike with no real explanations or solutions.

If you think of it as a video clip (a very expensive one for sure) for Tangerine Dream music, then it works. The music and film go together perfectly and all the smoke and lasers and bright lighting coming from a small area illuminating a large dim smokey area is pure rock video. It even has a monster - Michael Jackson, eat your heart out.

View it as visuals for Tangerine Dream's fantastic music and you'll love it.

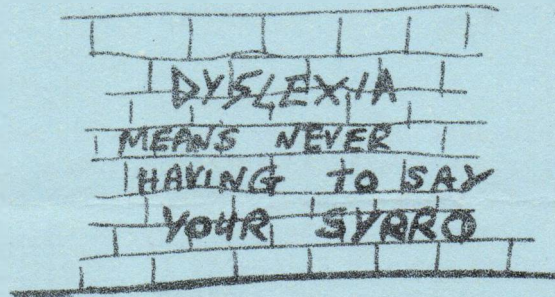
- Someone in Sydney.



DAZE OF OUR LYFE'S AND THE INEVITABLE CHANGE OF ADDRESS COLUMN

## Victoria:

Bruce Fraser goes to Canberra from early December to study at ANU, and will be reachable at some college somewhere. A Surprise farewell party held for him at the zoo found him presented with no less than 9 coffee mugs for "coming to visit you" presents. Terry Stroud has moved to 57 Park St, Abbotsford, 3067 which he's just had tastefully renovated, reblocked, rewalled... He says he now plans to sell 1 Hilda Cres before it too falls down. Neighbours on both sides of Dennis Callegari are moving out and selling their houses - Thyme asks "why". Justin has returned to Melbourne and almost immediately started work at Minotaur Books. He denies having left his heart in San Francisco (or even Los Angeles for that matter). When asked to comment about the remark in ASFN recently that he could be described as other than a 'life-size teddy bear', Justin replied "heh! heh!" and made a strange gesture with his thumb up against his nose towards his former employer. Plans for new places to live sound a little bit complicated for me to come to grips with just at the moment, but Justin's postal address is back to GPO Box 2708X Melbourne 3001 ((He claims that letters addressed simply 'Justin Ackroyd, Melbourne 3001' will also reach him, though I can tell you now that 'Justin Ackroyd, 3000' only confuses the post office)) as it was before. There will be a Nova Mob party on Saturday 9th December at 198 Noct St, Port Melbourne, the home of Russell and Jenny Blackford. James Styles announces a change of postal address to 342 Barkly St, Ararat, 2377, and a temporary change of residential address (till early next year) to somewhere in France.



KILROY  
ROOLS  
MATT!

Damien Broderick writes: "I hope you've noted the fact that Lee Harding, boy sci fi writer, has been awarded twenty-five thousand smackers by the literature board, in exchange for his promise to write one contemporary novel and one fantasy/sf "sequel" to his recent WAITING FOR THE END OF THE WORLD. Congratulations to Lee are in order. ((And it seems only yesterday that Lee was claiming that he doesn't write SF))

"My anthology of Aussie SF, STRANGE ATTRACTORS, is now closed. The final collection has been delivered to the publisher, Hale & Ironmonger. So I am not reading any more submissions at this time.

"I do hope, though, to get further sf anthologies on the road at some undetermined point in the future. Thanks to everyone who sent me submissions; obviously I had to decline more than I accepted, but the standard of fiction submitted was gratifyingly high, as was the preparedness of many writers to consider editorial complaints and advice, some of it fairly idiosyncratic. As a result, this collection seems to me almost certainly the strongest all-Aussie sf anthology to date. Look for it at Aussiecon." ((Speaking as the editor, I suppose...))

## N.S.W.

Alan and Judy Wilson threaten to move back to Melbourne early next year following Alan's acceptance of a job here. This means they won't be moving to Perth after all. Terry Frost (who is also not moving to Perth) and Karen Vaughan are now resident at 6/95 St. Johns Rd, Glebe 2037; Ph 692 9261 but should be written to c/- PO Box A491, Sydney South 2000. They also announce that their engagement is now official ((this all sounds very complicated)). Marilyn Pride reports from 54 Junior St, Leichhardt that she has not moved to Annandale (I checked with my original source for this and found



that yes, I did get the person wrong - and the place, it was wrong too - sorry.). The back of the same envelope reports: "it is also not true that Lewis Morley has had a fertilized embryo implanted in his abdominal cavity. At the moment both he and Ms Pride plan to remain unwed and childless although their address remains the same." - goes on to say "Lewis wrote this" and it was unauthorised.

Gerald Smith writes: "Womble (Karen Warnock) and myself are engaged. In point of fact we got engaged on August 23 (Womble's birthday). That just shows you how slow we have been letting you know. We plan to be married on Saturday May 4 next year (which is a dead giveaway that Womble is a schoolteacher with that being the first Saturday of the May holidays in NSW). We then hope to spend our honeymoon in Tasmania if we can afford it - and driving around NSW if we cannot." Robert Matthews and Dea O'Brien are engaged to be married on January 19 ((and speaking of birthdays - which we weren't...))

#### A.C.T.

Kim Huett, Applesauce OE, is now settled in Canberra at the residence of Mark Denbow and Kim Lambert (Transfinite Audiovisuals). ie: 14 Harran Place, Mawson ACT 2607, contactable on the Phone on (062) 86 1887. The postal address for Applesauce ((and Kim too, I suppose)) is now P.O. Box 312, Fyshwick ACT 2609. Meanwhile, Kim and Carole Nomarhas have moved about a kilometre to 47 Alfred Hill Drive, Melba ACT, 2615; Ph (062) 58 2821. Ann Poore, yet another recent immigrant to Canberra (or should that read "refugee from Adelaide"? ) can also be contacted via PO Box 312, Fyshwick 2609.

#### QLD

Russell Parker reports that he has opted out of the proletariat and sold his soul to the bank to purchase a new address - 2/37 Elizabeth St, Toowong 4066 - where he hopes he'll be able to settle for at least a couple of years.

#### W.A.

Our correspondent reports: "Adam and Colleen Jenkins have joined the reproductive stakes, with a baby due next year - March, I believe. Greg Turkich and Stephanie Crofts are getting married this coming weekend ((which is actually last weekend now)), but no fans will be present other than John McDuell, as groomsman, and Carolyn Strong as groomsman's companion. They are planning a fannish after-the-wedding party when they move into their new house in a couple of weeks. Also house-buying are Don Griffiths with Anne Sheldrake, and Erik Harding with Sarah Moore. The latter are buying a block of land and building a house on it. There will probably be a number of changes of address shortly...

"John McDouall has not changed his address but has changed his phone number (connection of ISD in the area, I believe). It is now 451 1616. Seth Lockwood claimed to be about to move some weeks ago but has not contactd anyone since. Letters to his parents' address ((see Thyme #40)) should still reach him. ((a postmark tells a thousand tales - Last issue of Thyme came back to me after being re-addressed by Seth's parents to 32/34 Smith St, Highgate, 6000, but endorsed by the post office: 'No Delivery Point'. Maybe his flat hides from posties)). John McDuell enjoyed LACon so much that he is planning to spend 5 months in America next year. He strenuously denies any hints made about possible wedding bells...

"A science fiction bookshop has opened in Perth. Called THE SPACE MERCHANTS, it is at 1 Forrest St, Subiaco. The shop is very nicely laid out, even though small, and a number of people have already mortgaged their life savings for hard-to-get American and English titles. Oh yes - they also sell old and rare editions at extremely reasonable prices.

"Ian Nichols has got a job in Perth for next year, and will no longer be in Esperance. Perhaps he'll also stop trying to cram six weeks' worth of socializing into his weekends...

"The annual Bad Taste Party will be at Colleen and Adam's home this year, on the 14th December (( 86 Sydney St, Nth Perth)). Julian (whose responsibility it is to host the thing) probably considered that his small unit wouldn't be big enough for the party and that the neighbours might complain. Probably right, too!"



### Tasmania

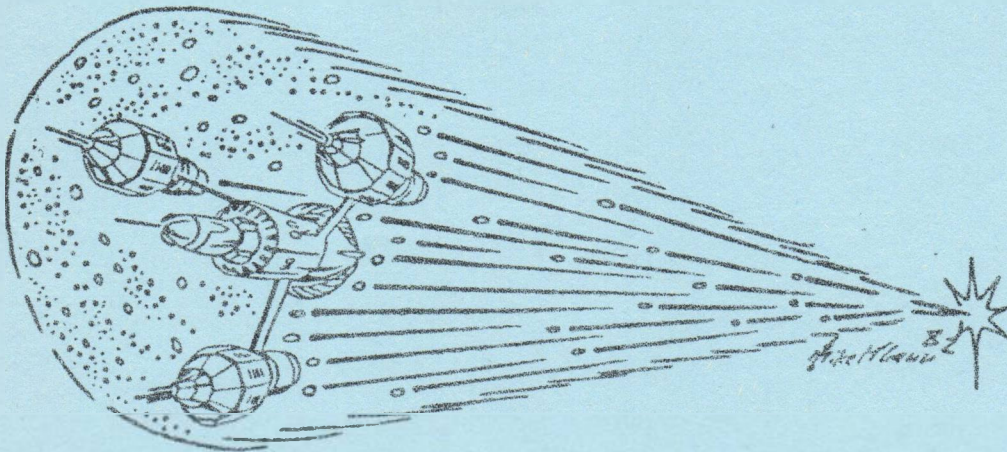
Robyn and Torbjorn have taken the plunge and bought yet another new house (got sick of the old one pretty fast) at 285 Rokeby Rd, Howrah 7018 and can be phoned on (002) 47 8855.

### Overseas Travellers

Peter Toluzzi can now be found at 5309 N.Clark, Chicago, IL 60640, U.S.A. Linda Blanchard and rich brown have moved to 13404 Forest Glen Rd, Woodbridge, VA 22191, U.S.A. Dan Steffan and Cliff Wind have apparently also recently suffered changes of address, but I don't have their new ones.

Geoff Ryman has apparently turned into a full-time freelance writer and moved to 18a Ridgemount Gdns, London, WC.1, U.K.

Thanks for this issue go to Leigh, Brian's friend, Someone in Sydney, and of course, MYCROFT!!!! And for art, thanks to Brad, Mel, Mike, Matt. For last issue, more thanks to Dennis, Lync and Nancy. Thyme is 1600 1.12.84





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