

# thyme 51

the AUSTRALASIAN SF NEWS MAGAZINE February 1986



*Posherville.*



## CONVENTION REPORT - UNICON

as told by Tony Kling.

Unicon [VIII?], held over the Australia Day long weekend on the Adelaide University campus, was quite a successful event, with about sixty to eighty people in attendance.

Victor Kellaher - winner of the Ditmar Award last year for his Beast of Heaven - was an excellent choice for the Guest of Honour spot. He opened the convention with a keynote speech that kept his audience glued to their seats, and which nobody wanted to end, and he was generally very good value during the whole of the convention.

There was a pleasantly relaxed atmosphere to the convention, with plenty of time for socialising in between the programme items, which were of above average quality. Two plays were performed at Unicon - 'The Maltese Balrog' (run previously at Advention but this time with all the special sound effects working) and a play based on the Phil Foglio 'Misadvention' comic strip series.

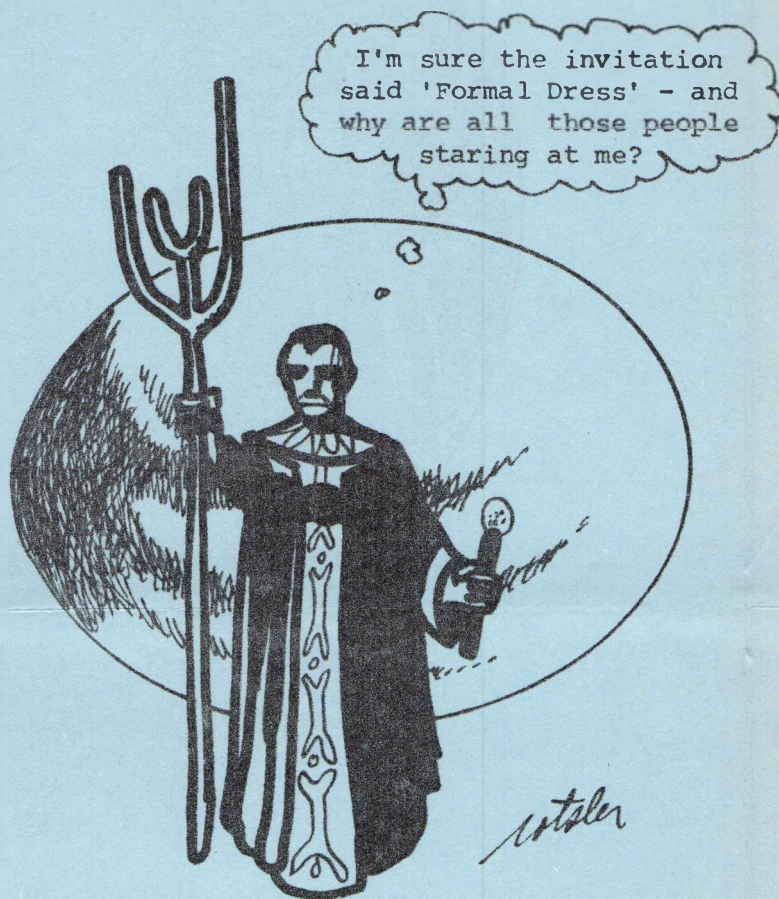
Panel items such as 'Zen and the Art of Pogo Stick Making' kept the audience entertained, as did the overdub sound remix of 2001: A Space Odyssey - if you can imagine an erotically scripted version of the scene where HAL is 'unplugged'?

Victor Kellaher was co-opted into the launching of the new sf magazine Aphelion on the Saturday night before the masquerade. With champagne and snacks, no-one seemed to mind or notice that it ran on for an hour over schedule, with the room packed with maybe up to 100 people. The people responsible for the magazine only had about half the copies put together, with the result that by the end there were a few loose sheets flying about the place. But the magazine looks pretty professional [see review to come] and there was the right amount of enthusiasm behind such an event.

Unicon was held at the University and so with no hotel it was basically a day-time event without lots of rooms parties and so on. There were different parties at people's private houses, but I didn't go to any of those - probably too busy, for one thing.

One room of the convention was set aside for media displays, with those interested in shows such as Blake's Seven and Dr Who well catered for, and there was a well-attended Society for Creative Anachronism demonstration with people giving exhibitions of their skills and talking about what the S.C.A. did; and there was a continuous programme of videos running as well, as an added attraction. All in all, it was a convention that ran without any real hitches or major troubles, and which the people who attended seemed to enjoy.

### THE MASQUERADE



'By the husk you may guess at the nut',  
Thomas Fuller, M.D., Gnomologia (1732).

Thyme #51, the genuine sf newszine, is brought to you almost too regularly for words by the dynamic editorial duo of Peter Burns and Roger Weddall, who can be reached by writing to P.O.Box 273, Fitzroy 3065, AUSTRALIA, or on the 'phone at (03) 347 5583.

Thyme is available in return for news, reviews, artwork, letters, friendly 'phone calls or... for money in the following amounts:  
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And remember, if by chance you should see a big, silver X next to your name on the mailing label, you'd probably be right if you thought it was getting on time for you to... DO SOMETHING.



'I, too, dislike it: there are things that are important beyond all this fiddle. Reading it, however, with a perfect contempt for it, one discovers in it after all, a place for the genuine.'

Marianne Moore, Poetry.

#### NEW AUSTRALIAN S F MAGAZINE ON THE STANDS

Part of the new chapter in the story of the renaissance of Australian sf, Aphelion magazine, a quarterly, has sprung onto the newstands after its successful launching in Adelaide two weeks ago.

The idea for Aphelion came from a discussion after last year's World Convention, Aussiecon Two, that editor Peter McNamara had with a couple of friends, about the paucity of venues for written sf in the country. Simply, they decided to try to do something about this, and the result is 100 pages of science fiction & articles all written and produced locally.

If you're interested in obtaining a copy of Aphelion it will cost you \$4.95, although a subscription is cheaper at a rate of four issues (one year's worth) for \$16.00. If you'd like to subscribe, or are interested in writing for the magazine, the address to contact is as follows: Aphelion, P.O.Box 421, Stirling 5132, S.A., Australia. Overseas subscriptions are possible, at the Sea Mail rate of A\$20/year, or write for details concerning Air Mail rates for different countries. And now here is George Turner with a review of the first issue of Aphelion....

#### NEW HAND AND OLD HAND

George Turner reviews Aphelion in its first issue, and the recent Special Fiction Issue of Omega Science Digest.

A new magazine with a brand new publisher, together with a brand new illustrator and a brand new novelist is bound to have teething troubles. Editor/publisher Peter McNamara told me some of them over coffee the other night. It's a wonder he got the issue out at all; my nerve might have broken on the way. The greater wonder is that Aphelion No. 1 is as successful as it is.



It begins with a wraparound cover, quite attractive and recalling the work of old master Chesley Bonestell, and proceeds to a brisk editorial, a sort of manifesto of good intentions. Peter doesn't like Editorials but Jeff Harris and I have been trying to convince him that the Editorial is the Editor's line of communication with the readers, the place to pay attention to what the write-in contingent is saying.

The opening story is mine, so you must do your own assessment of it. I wanted one of the illustrations altered (Great Danes do not have feline fangs, they have thick, flat bonecrunchers) but the artists fell sick at the crucial time. (That is only one of the things that drove the Editor up the wall.)

Next is one of Terry Dowling's *Tom Rynosseros* stories which is about par for the magazine course but not, to my mind, representative of his better work. I find his future Australia, ruled by the Ab'O, a bit hard to take. But the magazine is not made up to please critics and those with a liking for the fantasy/sf hybrid may find it right to their taste.

Then comes a little surprise, *For The Man Who Has Everything*, by Chris Simmons, one of those neat two-pagers that can't be described without spoiling it for the reader. He handles a difficult form with compactness and pace.

Jeff Harris weighs in next with the first half of a longish article on time travel. There's a tendency to leave no stone unturned here and Jeff goes into more variations on the theme than I had remembered existing in the genre, but he turns up some neatly unexpected twists in considering consequences that authors have not noticed and he writes with an admirable clarity that many popular science writers could copy with advantage. I look forward to the next installment, which promises time travel via tachyons, black holes and special views of the Universe.

Eric Harries-Harris has been writing sf for years with varying success, and *Seek And Ye Shall Find* illustrates both his strengths and weaknesses. It is a time travel story with a genuinely fresh twist - at least, I haven't struck it before - on the workings of history, one which makes the divergent timelines of the future multiverse look like a beginner's effort. Its weakness is in his choice of the Crucifixion as the event to be examined. It is one which any time traveller would choose to investigate but the implications of new discovery (be you believer, atheist or agnostic) are too huge to be handled in a short story. The little history joke, which is the story, becomes insignificant under the weight of its trappings. Eureka Stockade, now, or Captain Cook's landing.... Still, there are plenty worse being sold for bigger money.

Michael Tolley comes in as resident reviewer to make chopped hash of *Neuromancer* and some of those who have praised it. He made me feel there is some justice in the world, but those who loved the book will be sending him letter bombs.

I see I have missed a tiny item on page 21. The Editor had half a column to spare below the Galaxy Bookshop Ad, so Jeff Harris filled in with two storyettes in exactly fifty words each. Neatly done. Amusing fillers of this sort are hard to come by and these are much better than the dreadful *Feghoot* fragments that *F&SF* featured for many years.

Finally there is the contentious item by which the magazine may stand or fall. To run a serial in a quarterly magazine was daring on Peter's part; to run a serial by a complete unknown was baring his throat to the razor. But it just might pay off.

The first couple of chapters, mercifully short, gave me the pain in the neck that only top-of-the-voice, high-scream, flat-charactered over-writing can create. I realise that Patrick Urth, busy with his first novel, was trying to turn his readers on by plunging them balls and all into galloping melodrama - but he nearly turned me right off. I persevered and was glad. About Chapter Four the style calmed down to normal decibell level, characterisation appeared and the outline of an original novel began to take shape. *Oasis* is, in form, a cops-and-robbers type of melodrama with lots of com-

plication, set in a world struggling for survival in the Nuclear Winter. There is also a ship from the stars hovering close by for a chance to get into the action, though most of it so far consists of interesting intrigue in the city in the snow. Let's just hope there won't be any more bugging about with hyped-up prose.

My present feeling is that Oasis will turn out well (at any rate I am looking forward to Part 2) and that Urth may be the competent adventure-intrigue romancer Australian sf noticeably lacks.

The illustrations are so-so, but we are promised three more illustrators and better reproduction for No. 2. Typos aren't too bad but should be improved.

On the evidence of its first issue, Aphelion is worth supporting. \$16.00 for a four-issue subscription is reasonable for a large glossy, and 3c a word for authors is not a bad starting price in the present state of the cinderella genre.

It was probably coincidental that Omega chose to open 1986 with a special fiction issue - 5 stories instead of the usual one or two. I stopped reading the magazine years ago because the standards of both fiction and science writing were uninteresting, but this made an opportunity to see if things had changed in 5 years. I write here of fiction only; the science fact is rehash and popularisation -- Halley's Comet, creationism, how to be a computer expert, Star Wars defence or offence, conversations with Einstein -- yawn.

Watching Bobby Grow is a variant on the pact-with-the-devil plot, but the devil here is a man from the future. The devil wins this time by way of a gimmicked-up bit of future law that is too tailor made (and illogical) to be acceptable. It is followed by *Come To Sunny Aquarius*, a short-short whose shock twist is plain silly. Neither of these is as good as the worst of *Aphelion*.

What We Did To The Tyger is another of Terry Dowling's *Rynosseros* tales. It is more convincingly written than the Aphelion piece but lacks a fictional centre; the incident is interesting but lacks import. I find his future Australia unacceptable in any but fantasy terms (a mediaeval civilisation with a reserve of advanced technology makes no kind of sense) but those who like sheer storytelling with no limits of practicality should approve.

Russell Blackford's Glass Reptile Breakout did not appeal on its first appearance in Damien Broderick's Strange Attractors but comes up better on second reading. Its involvement with religion, morality, ethics, politics and hard rock leaves one looking in vain for a stable point of view (which, of course, may be Blackford's intention), but there are questions, suggestions and hints that repay thoughtful consideration. You needn't agree, but you should think. [Russell's story has been nominated for a Ditmar this year on the strength of its publication in Strange Attractors. See list of nominations later this issue - eds.]

Omega's remarkable feat of confusion with the pagination here is no help to Russell's story or to *The Palma Experiment*, by Freda McLennan, a name unfamiliar to me but one I hope to hear more of. Here is a genuine writer who creates images by holding up essentials to set the imagination working - no pushing adjectives and adverbs around the page in the hope of achieving fake poeticism, but only those needed to start up a thought or a vision. The story, unfortunately, does not match the craftsmanship, being mainly a very interesting description of a promising 'first contact' setup which peters out. It's a lovely first chapter, Ms McLennan: why not write the rest of it?

Three of these five stories might have found a place in Aphelion, but any of the Aphelion stories would have improved the Omega selection by replacing duds. On this showing Omega has not moved very far in five years, but Aphelion reads as though it deserves a future. It has obvious vitality.

George Turner



CHANGES OF ADDRESS - and other stories....

Melbourne: Alan Stewart has moved to 4/4 Normanby St., Prahran 3181, tel: 51 2762.  
Fiona McClure has done likewise - shifted - but to 41 Stewart St., Brunswick 3055, tel: 387 1980. Koren Mitchell (coa last issue) is on the telephone 347 1094.  
 A moving experience for some, when asked how it felt to be on the Ditmar ballot (see the discussion on page 17 for details), he replied that, on the Official Ballot, there was this character called Mark (with a "K") Ortlieb (spells some funny way?) on the ballot for Best Fanwriter, but he didn't know who that was, so he couldn't say how it felt....  
Dianne Hawthorne is thankfully recovering well from her close encounter of the steamy kind.  
 She and Damien Broderick (att: 387 1980) are

She and Damien Broderick, setting off to return from Sydney to Melbourne, had to stop the car shortly after exiting Sydney. Removing the radiator cap to inspect, Dianne was blasted by steam all down her chest. The good news is that she will not have to undergo any plastic surgery. The bad news is that, Damien being unable to drive, Dianne had to continue on to Melbourne, stopping every so often to attend to the scald. Get better, D!

Canberra: Kim Huett finally has a telephone number: (062) 81 0948. This ends the saga of weeks long that had Kim unable to receive calls, only ring out.... A reminder: the 22nd of February is the date of the party to celebrate various birthdays, including well known fans Jean Weber, Valma Brown and Gordon Lingard. Bruce Gillespie "they didn't even invite me" will as usual attend in spirit.... The party starts at four; if you're going to be there ring Jean in advance on (062) 475814 (work).

Sydney: Peter 'Balrog' Bismire and Victoria Fawke have announced their engagement; the marriage will take place sometime 1987. Stewart McGowan and Robyn Greenwell have married, a while ago now (sigh...) Congratulations to both couples. SF Truth has reached its second issue, a 'Christmas/New Year edition' (better late than never), and it's looking as though it will continue to be around for some time, with more information and gossip than last time; it's worth a look at if you live in the Sydney area. Write to Terry Frost or Rod Kearins - joint editors - at 'SF Truth, Sydney Fans, 3 Vincent St., Canterbury, N.S.W. Thanks, guys, for the above Sydney info. 127 Livingstone Rd., Marrickville, is about to break up. After all those years.... Meanwhile, Sydney fan artist Nick Stathopoulos has recently settled a copyright case out of court; it concerns the publishers of Omega magazine (see elsewhere this issue for unfavourable review) who rejected a painting of Nick's and then had someone copy it, or that's how the story goes. Sydney fandom has had an award for humour in SF that is infrequently given and not much discussed but now rears its head. The nominees for this award, voting for which has now opened, are: a) Bob Shaw, for life works; b) Robert Sheckley, for Dramocles; c) The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai (the film?); and d) Piers Anthony, for the book Crowl Lye: A Caustic Tale. More awards? If you're interested in voting, God save your soul. Contact Jack Hexman, P.O.Box 272, Wentworth Building, Sydney University 2006 if you're interested.

Adelaide: Last of all, a chatty letter is received from David Hodson, who explains that not only has he left the environs of the University after 13 years of study and then work, he has married. So has Helen Westphalen. To each other. And they've acquired a cat. And David is going to get back into fandom (this is where the 'and other stories' comes into it. Seeing is believing, for those of us who know David). As he says: 'Now Mandy's really going to be worried about the state of my mental health.' Welcome back, David. Helen - you too? No - don't do it! Don't become a housewife. Aargh...

"Now what on earth," you may wonder, "am I doing looking at the last page of fanzine that I haven't even read a half of the way through?" And I tell you, friend, these are wondrous times. And we'd like to thank our wondrous friends who helped with this issue. Our wondrous artists: take a bow, Bill Rotsler, for art on pages 2, 13, 15 & 18. For the next 11 days...

For the rest, thanks must go to Grant, George, Damien, Angus, Jeff, Justin and Tony. Special, special thanks must go to Nancy but even more so to Cath and Marc Ortlieb, without whom, well - it just wouldn't be the same. It wouldn't even exist! Seeyuz!

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## CONVENTION UPDATE

Following the pattern of events established by the original Aussiecon, in 1975, people have been speculating that Aussiecon II would, similarly, bring a large number of people into fandom, swelling the size of conventions and so on....

It is not the first time that there have been two sf conventions held in Australia at the same time, but it should be interesting to see how many attend the upcoming Queen's Birthday Weekend cons, Syncon '86 and Kinkon. Already fans in both Melbourne and Sydney are heard wondering aloud whether it would be better to travel to one, or "stay home" and go to the local other.

First up, with their new, single-sheet Progress Report #1, let's look at Syncon '86.

### SYNCON '86

Dates: Friday evening 6th June - Monday afternoon 9th June.  
 Venue: Metropole Convention Centre, 287 Military Road, Cremorne 2090.  
 Rates: Attending:- \$20 till 1st April; \$30 till 1st June; \$40 thereafter. Day: \$15.  
 GoH: 'To Be Announced'. At this stage it is thought that there will probably not be a super-duper whizzbang overseas Guest of Honour; the con committee are not aiming to set the world on fire, just run a pleasant con.  
 Accommodation: Single/Twin/Double: \$50/night. Triple: \$60/night. Nota Bene: a deposit of one night's worth is necessary to book a room.

The concom says of the hotel: 'The Metropole looks to be an excellent venue with two large convention rooms and a number of smaller ones. [Hm, sounds like the Melbourne Townhouse....] There are plenty of shops and restaurants within walking distance so, who knows, the Metropole may become Sydney Fandom's new convention centre for a couple of years. We have block-booked 35 rooms at the hotel so get your deposits in quickly.'

Mail: all correspondence/monies to Syncon 86, Box 272, Wentworth Building, Sydney University 2006.

The programme of Syncon '86 looks like being the standard sort of mix of items interesting and not; there'll be a masquerade, an auction (run by Jack Herman & Blair Ramage - contact Jack on (02) 57 7985 if you have material to auction, or write to the general address).... There will be a Diplomacy Tournament (no fee for entering).

One of the high points of the programming looks to be a play based on the work of J.R.R. Tolkien, called Farmer Giles of Ham [Tolkcon in 1979 was pretty successful, wasn't it?]. And, continuing Sydney fandom's love affair with Harlan Ellison there will be an item - or possibly series of items? - going under the catch-all name of...

'World Building - throughout the convention a number of people will be involved in designing an alternate world. Such things as the geology, biology, planetary system, etc., will be explored. A number of others will be invited to write stories using the world as a setting.' ~~Now/About/Calling/It/Probably?~~ Could be good.

Hucksters: a hucksters' room will be provided, with the following charges: \$50 for a table for the whole convention; \$20 for a table for one day.

Finally, the convention has two agents:

Victorian Agent: Marc Ortlieb, P.O.Box 215, Forest Hill 3131.

Canberra Agent: Larry Larkin, P.O.Box 312, Fyshwick 2609.

So much for Sydney Conventions. Meanwhile, in Melbourne, there's...

### KINKON 2

Dates: 7 - 9 June.  
 Venue: the Victoria Hotel, Little Collins St., Melbourne 3000  
 Rates: Attending: \$25 until the 6th of June, then \$30. Day: \$15.  
 Mail: all monies etc.etc. to 11 Hopkins Street, Dandenong 3175.

As implied in the last issue, and as anyone who went to the original Kinkon, the organisers have an interest in bad taste, and bad films. Afficionados of both will be delighted to hear that Kinkon 2 has assembled what they call the



definitive list of the world's worst five movies, and will be showing them (all?) at the con; there will be a prize for guessing the films, and the order in which they are ranked. There will also be another film pre-premiere screening, although the name of the film to be shown is not yet known (last time they had *Gremlins*).

More on films: Angus Caffrey, one of the organisers, revealed that the Short Film contest the con is running has so far attracted about half a dozen entries, "although we haven't heard from Irwin yet", and the results should be worth seeing.

Another newly revealed programme item is the fact that Marc Ortlieb is to speak at the con, on the subject of comics, and penguins (both at the same time? Aha... it will undoubtedly be a grand opus on something).

One final note for now, which could save you money; we understand that Kinkon 2 will have a table at the Galactic Tours convention in Melbourne in March, and if you join Kinkon 2 there, it will only cost you \$20, instead of the standard \$25....

#### GAMING CONVENTIONS, Part One: PHANTASTACON

Dates: 28 - 31 March (Easter)

Venue: the Hotel Australia, 266 Collins St., Melbourne 3000, VIC.

Rates: Attending: \$18/Students: \$15. Day: \$6.

Note that these prices do not include the cost of joining in the games tournaments, nor attendance at the dinner.

To attend the convention dinner, and be in the major games tournament and two mini-tournaments of your choice, the cost is \$45 or \$42, respectively.

The major tournaments include AD&D, Runequest, Car Wars, Call of Cthulu - Call of Cthulu is the 'Maxi-tournament' (aka "the big event"?).

Mail: Phantastacon, P.O.Box 182, Mitcham 3132, or contact Joe Italiano (03) 874 7475.

One incarnation or another of this gaming convention has been running for years (with breaks occasionally for meals, I believe), and attracts 700 - 1,000 people annually. There's no reason why this year should be any different, so if you're interested in gaming - with money prizes for the winners, even - then head on down to Melbourne this Easter.

#### GAMING CONVENTIONS, Part Two: 'The 9th National Wargames Convention (NEW ZEALAND)'

Dates: 28 - 31 March (Easter)

Venue: the Victoria University Student Building, Wellington, NZ.

Rates: Attending: NZ\$20; Day Rate: NZ\$8.

New Zealand Wargaming conventions, unlike the larger Australian ones, are less professional affairs in that there are no 'prizes' as such (long a feature of Australian cons), and therefore no charges for playing in specific tourneys. Another way in which NZ gaming cons are different is that they are concerned almost entirely with miniatures, ie. using miniature figures (tanks, soldiers...).

The event of the NZ gaming calendar, it is expected to attract 150 - 200 people, and the programme of events will run from nine in the am to ten at night, or so.

Mail: % P.O.Box 34, Wellington, or ring Richard Mason on (04) 85 9130.

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#### 'Science Fiction Chronicle' and 'The Notional'

have reached an agreement to become each others' agents. Following the demise of Space Age Books, *SF Chronicle*, the American professional newszine, was left without an agent. A subscription costs A\$47/year, or A\$85/2 years, and you can write to, and send all cheques to, P.O.Box 433, Civic Square, A.C.T. 2608. *SF Chronicle* is always of interest. Invaluable to booksellers and particularly avid buyers for its lengthy lists & reviews of American releases, the current issue's 'Market Reports' section has an exhaustive list of American publishers, magazines & other concerns interested in paying for sf, including their rates per wordage, and mailing addresses. This would be of interest to the local, budding sf writer. Recommended. Mind you, if you want to pick up your copies early and you live in Sydney or Melbourne, it's about a week quicker to buy them direct from the local outlets, owing to a permanent glitch in the mail sytem.



'The main problem is the lack of appropriate problem solving techniques being applied. No-one seems to have identified the nature of the problem and thence the obvious pathway to its solution(s). [If we may interrupt, Jeff, the 'nature of the problem', as you so coyly put it, is that no-one except the people who were there in Adelaide, who actually changed the convention, have seen a copy of the amended version of it. If you like, as Chair of that convention, as the person ultimately responsible for the running of that convention, you have been the problem! If you had passed a copy of the amended constitution on to the people running this year's NatCon, in Perth, there would be no problem, most likely - and you've had since last April to do this....]

'The new model Jack Herman constitution is frankly not satisfactory. It fails to build on what has been learned from previous conventions and it will only start a new cycle of constitutional wrangles until we all end up in the same position again. Nothing will be solved. The history of [people playing] constitutional funny buggers will repeat itself. Everything isn't covered by this constitution, only alluded to vaguely. Endless debate will be triggered by it and you will have stifled the only sensible alternative to the idiotic process of continuous mutation the constitution has gone through. By now you will have realised that your proposed constitution isn't seen as a winner. Certain belief doesn't equate to certain knowledge.

'If your moves to rescind the current constitution and install your proposed constitution succeed at Perth there will be a curious repercussion. I assume that your actual problem arises from the master plan of a series of Syncons, leading up to an Australian SF National Convention in 1988, being [threatened or] thwarted by the return to one-year-in-advance bidding. So that changes to the constitution [proposed now by you] are intended to put this back on course.

'Therefore, winning [the] 1988 [bid] at Perth is an obvious gambit. However, However, rescinding the constitution is only an amendment to the constitution and as such only comes into effect when Swancon XI is closed. Rescindment may be the most drastic amendment, but it is only an amendment and the constitution is clear on amendments [in that they only come into effect after the close of the convention at which they are voted into being]. Swancon XI could only site select for 1987, which has already been decided. Therefore, Capcon [the 1987 NatCon] could only accept a bid two years in advance, for 1989. [Sorry? I think I see what you're driving at, Jeff, but you'll have to explain it better than that....] No Australian SF Convention will be able to conduct the site selection for 1988. Nor could it be held without a site selection vote. Unless specific steps [are taken] to avoid this cock-up, there can be no 1988 ASFC. Jack, are [you] playing a deeper game than any of us realised? Is this really a plan to destroy the 1988 ASFC, or haven't you thought through all the implications of your proposed amendment?

'The real problem in the disparity between one-year-in-advance and two-year bidding arises out of the fact that [the] booking of venues in Sydney needs to be two years in advance. In the rest of Australia, 9 to 12 months in advance is more likely to be the case. Although in Adelaide, for example, odd-sized conventions would require much longer notice. However the problem of booking somewhere two years in advance doesn't require the winning of the 1988 bid in 1986. [Of course not.] The problem is essentially managerial and not constitutional. Actually your real problem is choosing 1988 for an Australian [National] convention; 1986 is South Australia's sesquicentenary and no-one here would contemplate holding a large sf convention in Adelaide while this anniversary is celebrated. Sydney in 1988 has to be far worse. [For overseas readers: 1988 is the Australian Bicentennary.] However, that is your business if you want 1988, it's just we poor provincials think it's a dumb idea. You need to put a tentative booking on your chosen venue (and you can do this now without waiting for Swancon XI) on the understanding that your booking will be confirmed immediately after Capcon. Even if bidding reverts to two years, provision will have to be allowed for Capcon to consider bids for both 1988 and 1989. This only requires the application of commonsense.

'Another possibility is to ask for a vote of support for 'Sydney Cove in 88' from [the membership of] Swancon XI. This wouldn't be a winning bid as it could only be ratified at Capcon by a win for the 1988 ASFC. [There is] nothing in principle to prevent this - although a good chairman should note that it constitutes an unwarranted partisanship and as such [is] perhaps better not done, as it is really the business of the Capcon Business Session, so Swancon XI could be ill-advised in appearing partial. Entirely up to you if you choose to follow this course of action or not.

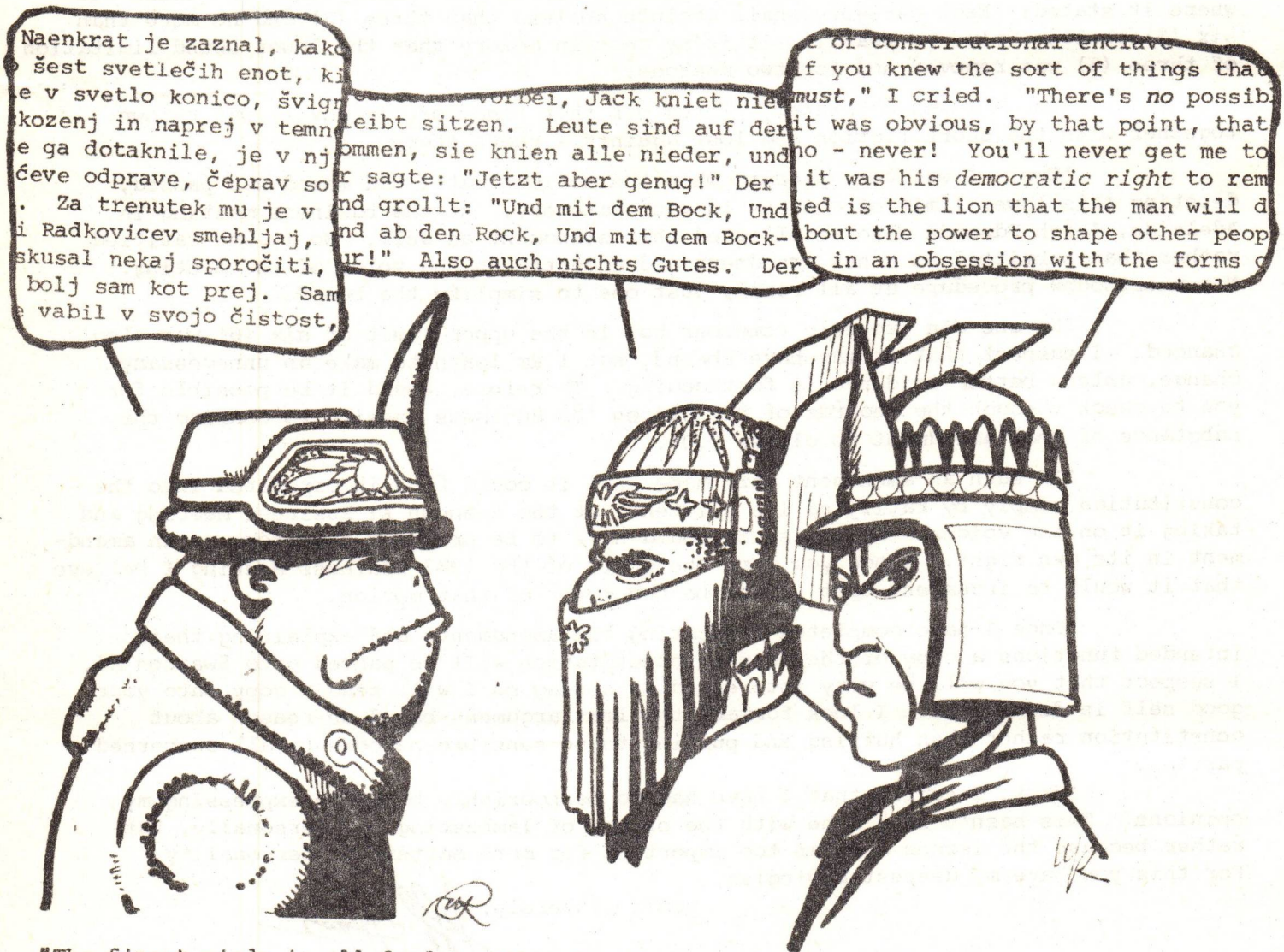
'Had there been any fans from Sydney at Advention 5, then Sydney's necessity for two-year bidding and venue bookings could have been expressed and the change to one year bidding could have been circumvented. Adelaide fans have always been at the Business Session to ensure ill-considered amendments don't sneak into the constitution when we are running an ASFC; hasn't always worked, but we do try.



And the "Adelaide elite" that you maligned consisted of a majority of Victorian and Canberra fans wearing dark glasses and false beards pretending to be Adelaide fans. The real Adelaide fans were outnumbered at the Business Session. A vote was taken on the 25% clause, it lost, so it had to stay in. Alas!

'The amendment passed at Adelaide that is presently in the current constitution guaranteed to knock out the hot air, endless unproductive debate, and the parade of idiotic changes to the constitution, is the requirement of a two-thirds majority for any constitutional amendments. Jack, I don't know if you have ever encountered this provision before. I have had experience of it having once belonged to a university student organisation that required a two-thirds majority to pass any constitutional change.

THE BUSINESS SESSION



"The finest minds in all fandom gather together yearly to consider the state of the realm."

'This means an entirely different dynamics to an AGM, or a business meeting. Most of the dumb proposals that have afflicted our constitution have usually passed on the strength of a few votes. So no matter how hot-headed the debate, it will require a sizeable and sensible majority to make any further changes or amendments. This will soon knock the nonsense out of business meetings. People will have to lobby for the amendments they want and only the more sensible will survive (hopefully). This will stop half-baked changes being dreamed up on the spot, and shoot from the hip votes.



'Of course, it isn't an antidote to incompetence or stupidity, no constitution can do that, but does provide an invaluable mechanism for cutting out a lot of the nonsense. Experiencing a business session under such a regime will prove sobering for most fans. See what you will be missing by throwing out the current constitution. This is the most important amendment to the constitution of late. It should encourage [a] more sensible approach to constitutional matters and consolidate on the gains enshrined in the current constitution. We both know that this is so and although the present constitution is by no means perfect; a decelerated rate of change to the constitution will tip the balance in favour of sensible, gradual changes.

'There is one area where your assistance would be invaluable. One amendment to the constitution has been made on the basis that it only ratified a change already made at Syncon '83 and which was in error included in the version of the constitution printed in the Eureka!con handbook [in 1984]. Namely that in clause 2.04 where it stated: 'Each category shall include no less than three (3) and no more than six (6) choices, plus No Award.' It is my certain memory that the lower bound limitation of three (3) was removed and for two reasons.

'One - I was absolutely pissed off that Vaneglory (a novel) was thrown together with the short fiction and lost against a short story.

'Two - I was very pleased when the motion that I had moved was passed, deleting this lower limit of choices in each category. At the business meeting in Adelaide, Leigh Edmonds also recollected this amendment as well. So it was ratified rather than submitted as a new amendment and accepted on the voice of the meeting. Not unorthodox procedure at all really just one to simplify the bumpf.

'No-one can properly remember now if the upper limit of six (6) was also changed. I suspect that it may have [been], but I am loath to make an unnecessary change, unless better evidence is forthcoming. Therefore, would it be possible for you to check through the records of the Syncon '83 Business Session to confirm the substance of that amendment to clause 2.04.

'If such an amendment were made then it could [be] incorporated into the constitution simply by ratifying its existence at the Swancon XI Business Meeting and taking it on the voices. Otherwise it would have to be proposed once more as an amendment in its own right. Since you were the chair of the 1983 Business Meeting I believe that it would be incumbent upon you to be the mover of that motion.

'Once I have completed annotating the amendments and explaining their intended functions a copy of the current constitution will be passed onto Swancon XI. I suspect that you will be very interested in seeing so I will send a copy onto your good self in due course. I look forward to clear argument based on reason about constitution rather than huffing and puffing to no sensible purpose by all concerned parties.

'Jack, I regret that I have had to be boorishly blunt in expressing my opinions. This hasn't been done with the object of lambasting you personally, but rather because the issues are far too important for mere matters of personality. For this you have my deepest apologies,

yours sincerely,

Jeff Harris

A very curious letter from Jeff Harris in many ways. Perhaps it's even one not worth the space of commenting on. I mean, how many sf fans in Australia really care about the ASFS Constitution anyway? Most fans I know are more interested in simply having fun, and it's difficult to demonstrate any real contribution the existence or otherwise of the ASFS Constitution makes to that.



But I'm a debater from way back too; and my sensibilities have been offended by the way Advention 85 has treated the poor Constitution, so I will resist the temptation not to comment.

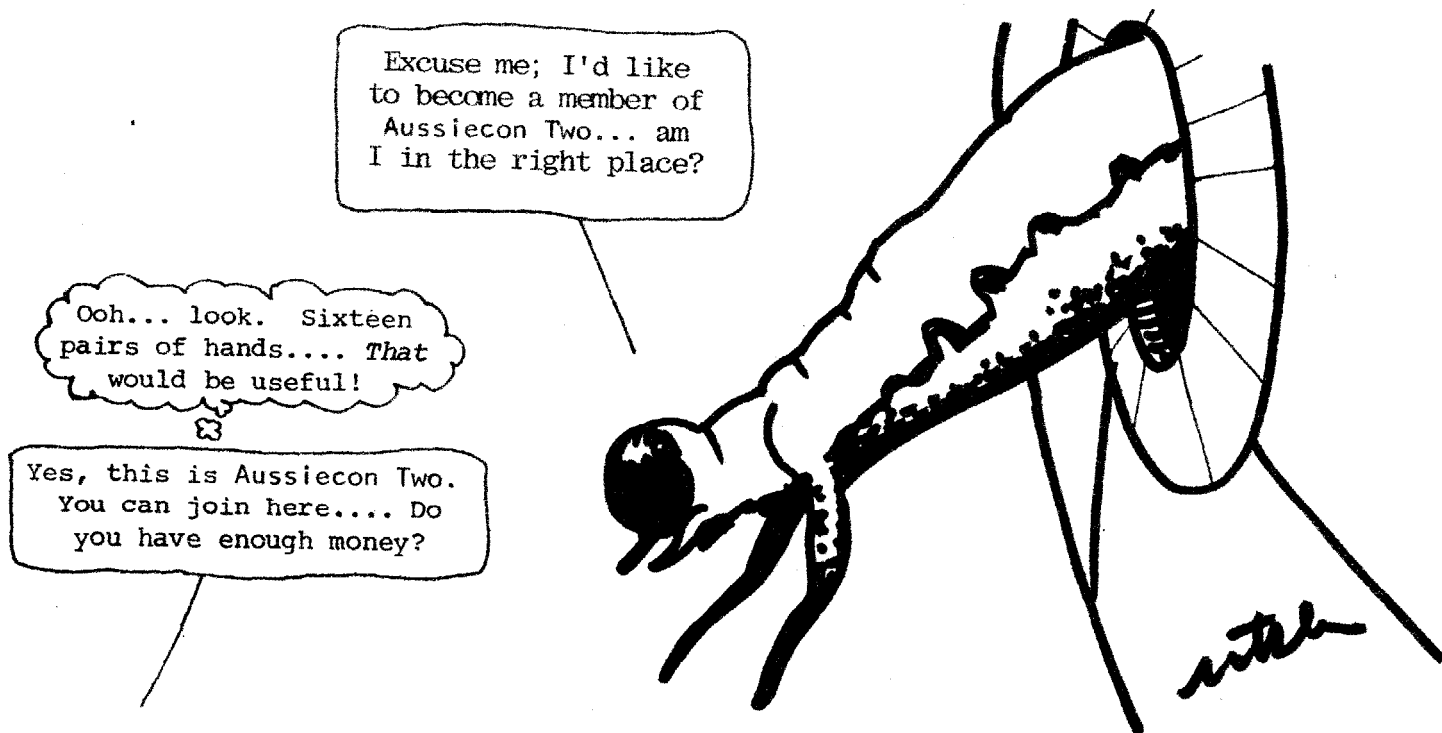
Jeff makes one fairly specific threat in his letter (he makes other, vague threats too, but I'll just start with the one) - that if the business meeting at Swancon XI throws out all the changes made by Adventism last year, there can be no 1988 National Convention! In particular it seems - Jeff claims with a kind of glee - there can be no National Convention in Sydney that year (and goes on to suggest they should try for 1989 instead).

This all seems a bit strange, because his supposedly watertight, if rather convoluted, argument relies entirely upon an interpretation of the letter of the law laid down in the Constitution (that document he personally seems to be the only one entitled to actually own a copy of just at the moment) at a time when large chunks of fandom no longer consider the Constitution worth the paper it's written on.

My memory takes me back to 1983 when a similar business meeting relied on the letter of the law to give the 1985 National Convention to Spawncon (in Seattle, Washington) rather than his own convention, Advention. Jeff complained then that the letter of the law was inadequate and the *spirit* had been violated. In 1984, at Eureka!con, he took the fray once more and oversaw the violation of both the letter and the spirit of the law by taking away the right to the National Convention from Spawncon again. Jeff Harris, expert on legal matters that he is, would have known that Eureka!con had no power under the Constitution to do this. Seattle had no representative at Eureka!con, no voice to protest the (il)legality of it all. They had made a bid in good faith, they'd succeeded through the proper decision-making process; they planned to carry it through. Afterwards, some of them expressed dismay at how we'd treated them, but it was all in the spirit of Australian fandom, said Jeff, and there was no need to consult with Spawncon over our decision.

I am a great believer in judging people by their actions rather than their words. Now, after all that has happened, Jeff has constructed four pages of argument about what people can and can't do about what happened at Advention, based on the letter of the law he once had no respect for and which now only he knows - I am suspicious.

THE REGISTRATION · DESK



It's difficult to comment on the letter of Jeff's law and if what he says is really a true and reasonable interpretation of the 'current Constitution', because only Jeff has a copy of it. But he does promise: 'Once I have completed annotating the amendments and their intended functions, a copy of the current Constitution will be passed onto Swancon XI.' Annotations (!!) though?? I am led to wonder whether one of the new clauses is one which says that only Jeff Harris is permitted to interpret the meaning of the words in the Constitution and we have to go along with him and with what he says. I'm sure Jeff sees his actions as significant and beneficial to all Australian fandom, and who am I to judge that? I just sense that people's rights are being trampled. I also sense that there is an alternative that Jeff's arguments have overlooked almost entirely.

'The Perth people have been coping with their problems well enough,' he says. 'People usually have enough sense to cope....' What he doesn't mention is that the way 'Perth people' have coped is precisely by ignoring the Constitution altogether. Constitutions, after all, rely on the delicate consensus that is democracy for any effectiveness they have. His view that 'rescinding the Constitution is only an amendment' appears extraordinarily naive to me. If the revolt does come and the Constitution is trampled, nobody is going to listen to any of Jeff Harris's legal arguments. Why should they? He only sowed the wind; he's not entitled to expect to control the whirlwind. It is instructive to note that in 1984 a motion to rescind the Constitution (and replace it with *nothing*) was lost by a single vote. I for one don't believe Jeff Harris's actions have enhanced its chances of survival this time round.

Peter Burns.

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

There are supposedly two reasons for the existence of the Constitution: one is to act as a guideline for the electing & running of each year's National Australian SF Convention; the other is for it to act as a guideline to the running of the annual Ditmar awards. Certainly, this year the Constitution has been of use in neither case. Here we are, though, at the stage of the year when the Ditmars are voted on....

### The 1986 Ditmar Awards Final Ballot

'As there would seem to be nothing to stop us constitutionally and being wholeheartedly in the spirit of the event, we are opening (the Ditmar) voting to all comers, SWANCON XI members or not.'

Grant Stone reports that there was a healthy turn out of people to nominate things for the various categories of award; indeed, with 49 sets of nominations in hand, more people have nominated than usually vote for the awards, in any given year. For those interested in who nominated, the following state by state breakdown of people nominating has been provided:

State	Nominations received
Victoria .....	31
Western Australia ..	8
N.S.W. ....	4
A.C.T. ....	3
South Australia ....	3

Normally, the number of people nominating is much smaller, although even so in some categories it took only two or three nominations to have something wind up on the final ballot. Usually, also, where the nominations came from would not be such an important statistic, because the actual voting for the awards is normally restricted to those people who are members of the National Convention, this year Swancon XI, in Perth.

This year, however, the Swancon XI Ditmar Awards committee has thrown the voting open to one and all. GrantStone, of the committee, comments on what he calls 'a remarkable statistic.'

'21 of the 49 nominations received were not from members of Swancon XI. This prompted us to rethink eligibility to vote. As there would seem to be nothing to

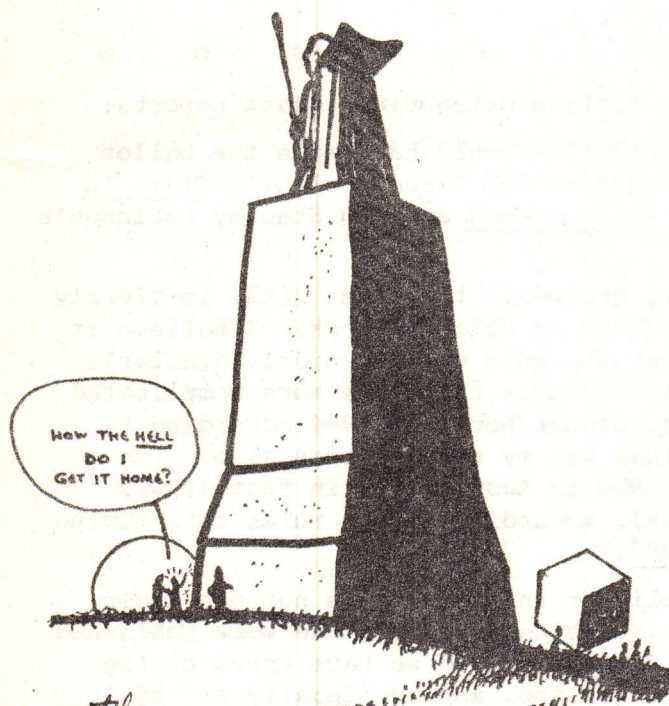


stop us constitutionally and being wholeheartedly in the spirit of the event, we are opening voting to all comers, Swancon XI members or not. We have however tempered this lavish democracy by striking a fee of \$5 to vote, \$1 for our administration (we have to count the things) and \$4 going to the Australian Science Fiction Foundation nominally, although the intention is to put the bulk of any money raised this way into a fund to benefit all our fannish endeavours. The voter will also be required to explain what their fannish connection is.

Yours in a republican spirit,

*Grant.*

## THE DITMAR AWARDS



### BEST AUSTRALIAN FANZINE

The Metaphysical Review -

ed. Bruce Gillespie

The Notional - ed. Leigh Edmonds

Sikander - ed. Irwin Hirsh

Thyme - eds. Peter Burns & Roger Weddall

Tigger - ed. Marc Ortlieb

Nominating ballots: 46

Titles nominated: 16

Range of nominations: 23...7

### BEST AUSTRALIAN FANWRITER

Damien Broderick

Leigh Edmonds

Bruce Gillespie

Marc Ortlieb

Yvonne Rousseau

Nominating ballots: 40

People nominated: 24

Range of nominations: 13...6

On the voting form found at the back of this issue of *Thyme*, you will see a space for you to indicate your connection or involvement in fandom (ie., the reason you should be allowed to vote), even if you are not a Swancon XI member.

Swancon XI members please note: you will not have to pay money to vote, only non-members.

Without further ado, briefly, the list of what's on the Final Voting Ballot:

### BEST INTERNATIONAL FICTION

The Compass Rose - Ursula Le Guin (Granada)

Tik Tok - John Sladek (Corgi)

The Devil In A Forest - Gene Wolfe (Granada)

Free Live Free - Gene Wolfe (Gollancz)

Peace - Gene Wolfe (Cato)

Elleander Morning - Jerry Yulsman (Orbit Futura)

# of Nominating Ballots: 29

# of titles nominated: 31 (some ineligible)

The range of the number of nominations that placed the above choices on the final ballot: 7...3.

### BEST AUSTRALIAN LONG FICTION

The Changelings of Chaan - David Lake (DAW)

Illywhacker - Peter Carey

Landscape With Landscape - Gerald Murnane (Norstr.)

The Transing Syndrome - Kurt von Trajan

Nominating ballots: 20

Titles nominated: 11 (some ineligible)

Range of nominations: 10...2

### BEST AUSTRALIAN SHORT FICTION

The Bullet That Grows In The Gun - Terry Dowling UF

The Fittest - George Turner UF

Glass Reptile Breakout - Russell Blackford SA, Omega

The Lipton Village Society - Lucy Sussex SA

Montage - Lucy Sussex UF

The Twist of Fate - David Grigg UF

Nominating Ballots: 29

Titles nominated: 22 (some ineligible)

Range of nominations: 11...4

### BEST AUSTRALIAN FAN ARTIST

Betty de Gabrielle

Craig Hilton

Lewis Morley

John Packer

Marilyn Pride

Nick Stathopoulos

Nominating ballots: 24

People nominated: 16

Range of nominations: 8...4





# AUSTRALIAN GUFF NEWSLETTER

Written by Justin Ackroyd, produced with the assistance of the PEPPERMINT FROG PRESS and Eccles the Microbee. February 1986.

Editorial Address G.P.O. Box 2708X, Melbourne, Vict 3001 AUSTRALIA

---oOo---

It's been a long time since anyone has seen anything in the form of a GUFF newsletter. You can blame the apathy towards writing from which I'm suffering at the moment. "How's the trip report going?" is a question I frequently hear, especially from Marc Ortlieb, alias "Dad".

[Impudent Nagging Typist's Aside: The question is usually side-stepped. Still, we have yet to see a GUFF trip report, and so I guess Justin can quote two precedents: Messrs Foyster and Nicholas.]

As you would have heard, seen, et al, Eve Harvey won the 1985 GUFF race and attended AUSSIECON TWO, wowing the fans with her charm and quaint accent. What haven't been revealed are the names of those Australians who voted and donated. They were:

Marc Ortlieb	Cath Ortlieb	Kevin Moylan	Sally Beasley
Roy Ferguson	Carey Handfield	David McDonnell	Steve Roylance
Mark Linneman	Christine Ashby	Derrick Ashby	Peter Burns
David Grigg	Jack Herman	Irwin Hirsh	Robin Johnson
Mark Lawson	Eric Lindsay	LynC	John Newman
Ann Poore	Joe Schluter	Alan Small	Gerald Smith
James Styles	Rick Taylor	Jean Weber	Roger Weddall
Lucy Zinkiewicz.			

Money raised over the period Feb 9th 1984 - Jan 31st 1986 totalled \$1211.53 which breaks down, to the nearest dollar, as follows:

EUREKACON - Auction and sales	\$ 230-00
SWANCON X	\$ 13-00
CORFLU (\$U.S.100-00)	\$ 153-00
Voting Donations	\$ 85-00
Kim Huett	\$ 5-00
ADVENTION '85	\$ 19-00
AUSSIECON TWO Auction and sales	\$ 435-00
AUSSIECON TWO Fanzine sales	\$ 60-00
Interest	\$ 211-00
	=====
	\$1211-00
	=====

Special thanks go to: Marc Ortlieb for his work at Eurekacon and for administering GUFF while I was on my trip; Carey Handfield for being at SWANCON X and ADVENTION '85 when I couldn't afford to get there; the committee of CORFLU for a most pleasant surprise; Kim Huett; Jean Weber; Lee Harding; Jack Herman and DUFF; the people who ran the fanzine table at AUSSIECON TWO; the voters; the helpers at the auctions and those who spent money at the auctions.



The Australian account now stands at \$1477-59, which is about 75% of a fare for the next GUFF winner, who will travel to Conspiracy '87, the 45th World Science Fiction Convention, to be held in Brighton, England from August 27 to September 2nd 1987.

[INTA Justin would also like it noted that he is the Australian agent for Conspiracy, and that he will be happy to send you information about the convention and to take membership money.]

#### 1987 GUFF RACE

GUFF is a fan fund that exchanges European and Australasian fans. So far there have been four winners - John Foyster, Joseph Nicholas, Justin Ackroyd and Eve Harvey. The next race will send an Australasian fan to the U.K. for CONSPIRACY the 1987 World Science Fiction Convention. Nominations are now open.

In order to become a candidate you must have three Australasian and two European nominators. These five must get a letter saying that they are nominating you to one of the GUFF administrators by the nominating deadline, which is two weeks before Easter, March 17th. In addition the candidate must get a one hundred word platform, a ten dollar bond and a letter stating that they will, come hell or high water, get to Conspiracy if they win, to the administrators by that time.

Voting will commence at SWANCON XI, the Australian National Convention over the Easter Weekend 1986, and will close on January 31st 1987.

At the moment GUFF is looking for donations of books, fanzines, or anything that can be sold to raise money. AUSSIECON TWO wiped out the stocks, so please send all your unwanted auctionable stuff to Justin Ackroyd - address below.

The U.K. side of GUFF has under a hundred pounds at present, so, if you get the urge to send material over there, I'm sure Eve will sell it to a worthy person.

Administrators' Addresses are:

Justin Ackroyd, GPO Box 2708X, Melbourne, Vict 3001, AUSTRALIA

Eve Harvey, 43 Harrow Rd, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 3QH, UNITED KINGDOM.

---oOo---

#### THE FLIGHT OF THE KANGAROO

Since there's a bit of space here, please note that Christine Ashby's DUFF report - THE FLIGHT OF THE KANGAROO - is now available, and a bloody good read it is too. Follow Christine as she discovers all those little things the tourist brochures don't tell you about the United States.

To get your copy, complete with Chris Johnston cover, send \$5-00 to either:

Jack Herman, Box 272, Wentworth Building, Sydney University, NSW 2006,  
or Marc Ortlieb, P.O. Box 215, Forest Hill, Vict 3131.

All proceeds go to the Down Under Fan Fund.



GEORGE      TURNER

Nominators: Bruce Gillespie, John Foyster, Tom Cardy.

ROGER WEDDALL

I don't believe a word of it, although I am rather curious and would love a chance to see the people and the place for myself. From a mundane point of view, my fannish credentials would be that I've been around for a while and I've done all the usually Australian things such as edit 'zines, work on conventions and run afoul of Christine Ashby, but does that make me a worthwhile candidate for FFANZ? Zowee! Am I having fun yet?

Nominators: Michelle Muysert & Mark Loney, Trish Crowther, Lyn McConchie.

I hereby vote for... [ ] GEORGE TURNER  
(rank:1-2-3) [ ] ROGER WEDDALL  
[ ] Hold Over Funds

Signature: .....

Name & Address (legibly, please):

Enclosed is ..... as a contribution to FFANZ Please make cheques. etc., payable to John Newman or Nigel Rowe (see below for addresses).

If you think your name might not be known to the administrators, then in order to qualify to vote please give the name an address of a currently active fan who would be known to them and to whom you're well known, in the space provided below:

Reference(s) :

SEND BALLOTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: a) Australia - John Newman,  
P.O.Box 4,  
Thornbury 3071.  
b) New Zealand - Nigel Rowe,  
P.O.Box 1814,  
Auckland.

1985-86 TAFF Ballot

**SIMON OUNSLEY** I've wanted to go to America since I was five years old. Back then, I wanted to meet Donald Duck and drink ice cream soda. Now I want to meet SF fans and talk and party and stuff like that. There's maturity for you. Though best known for confusion and mononucleosis, I've also edited the fanzines STILL LIFE, STILL IT MOVES, and CRAB DROPPINGS, co-edited OCELOT, served on two Yordon committees, and written regular columns for the BSFA. My latest plan is for a long weird article about a trip to America. This is where I can use your 'help....

Nominators: John D. Berry, Abi Frost, Joyce Scrivner, D. West, and Walt Willis.

**JUDITH HANNA** I am not a 100-word platform and refuse to be boiled down into one! See writings in NUTZ, PREVERT, WALLBANGER, BoSFA reviews, SHALLOW END (dec'd) etcetc for further details. Previously active in Australian fandom. Member INTERZONE editorial collective (you too Simon? What a coincidence!). Sercon tendencies balanced by deep underlying frivolity. Member "FUCK THE TORIES" Tricontinental Revolutionary Fanzine Commission, the politically correct fanzine with a bite like Norman Tebbit's that welcomes little fishes in with gently smiling jaws. Guaranteed ideologically and ecologically sound, nuclear-free and tobacco-free. This has been a paid political broadcast on behalf of (cont. p. 94)

Nominators: Terry Hughes, Roelof Goudriaan, Dave Langford, Lucy Huntzinger, and Bob Shaw.

**GREG PICKERSGILL** Sometimes I'm not Boring. Occasionally I'm Wonderful. Anyway, you either know who I am and what I've done, or you don't, and don't care. Whatever, since meeting fandom in 1967 I've done a bit of everything. I was even a fanwriter, but now I just, you know, perform. So what. I like Guinness, Dos Equis, Performance, Anne Warren, Pizza, and Neat Stuff, and I can't stand bullshit about pretension and fandom fans. I have met several Americans and become very attached to them. I will go looking for a good time and meaningful conversations. 1986, Big Fun and No Sellout.

Nominators: Mike Glicksohn, Arthur ("ATom") Thomson, Rich Coad, Avedon Carol, and Linda Pickersgill.

For a pamphlet detailing TAFF's rules, customs, and precedents, and the procedures for becoming a nominator or candidate, send a SASE to either administrator.

---

Before voting, please read both sides of this sheet

I VOTE FOR (rank 1-2-3-4)

- ( ) Simon Ounsley
- ( ) Judith Hanna
- ( ) Greg Pickersgill
- ( ) Hold Over Funds

Signature: .....

Name and address (legibly, please):

.....  
.....  
.....

Enclosed is \_\_\_\_\_ as a contribution to TAFF. Please make checks, etc., payable to Rob Hansen or to one of the Nielsen Haydens, please, not to "TAFF", and payable in the currency of that administrator's home country. If you think your name might not be known to the administrators, then in order to qualify to vote please give the name and address of an active fan who is known to them and to whom you are well known, in the space below:

Reference(s): .....



## 1985-86 TAFF Ballot

What is TAFF? The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund was created in 1953 for the purpose of providing funds to bring well-known and popular fans familiar to those on both sides of the ocean across the Atlantic. Since that time, TAFF has regularly brought North American fans to European conventions and European fans to North American conventions. TAFF exists solely through the support of fandom. The candidates are voted on by interested fans all over the world, and each vote is accompanied by a donation of not less than \$1 or £1. These votes, and the continued generosity of fandom, are what make TAFF possible.

Who may vote? Voting in the 1985-86 race is open to anyone who was active in fandom prior to September 1984, and who contributes at least \$1 or £1 to the Fund.

Contributions in excess of the minimum will be gratefully accepted. Voting is by secret ballot: only one vote per person, and you must sign your ballot (legibly please, as ballots with illegible signatures may be disallowed). "Write-ins" are permitted. You may change your vote at any time prior to the deadline.

Deadline Votes in this race must reach the administrators by 15 May 1986.

Voting details (1) TAFF uses a preferential ballot system which guarantees automatic runoffs until a majority is obtained. You rank the candidates in the exact order of your preference for them. If the leading first-place candidate does not get a majority, the first-place votes for the lowest-ranking candidate are dropped, and the second-place votes on those ballots are counted as first-place votes. This process repeats itself until one candidate has a majority. It is therefore important to vote for second, third, and fourth place on your ballot. Also, it is a waste of time to vote for any candidate in more than one place. (2) One other requirement obtains. To win, a candidate must receive at least 20% of the first-ballot first-place votes cast on both sides of the Atlantic, separately. Any candidate failing to receive this minimum percentage on either side will be dropped, and the second-place votes on their ballots counted as first-place votes in the next ballot count. It is therefore important for candidates and their supporters to canvass fans on both sides of the Atlantic. It should be noted that, while you may send your ballot to either administrator, it will be tabulated with the other votes from the side of the Atlantic on which you reside. Finally, votes from fans not resident in either Europe or North America will not be counted towards either 20% minimum (but are almost certain to affect any given race anyway, so don't let this stop you from voting).

Hold Over Funds This choice, similar to "No Award" in Hugo balloting, gives voters the chance to vote for no TAFF trip this year, if the candidates don't appeal to them, or if they feel TAFF should slow down its trip frequency. Hold Over Funds may be voted for in any position, and is exempt from the 20% requirement; thus, should it ultimately receive a majority of the votes on the final ballot, no TAFF trip will be held this year regardless of how many votes Hold Over Funds received on the first ballot.

Donations TAFF gratefully accepts freely-given donations of money and of material for auction; such generosity has sustained the Fund for over thirty years. If you are ineligible to vote, or do not feel qualified to make a choice, why not donate anyway? TAFF is fandom's oldest travel fund, and one of its worthiest causes.

Candidates Each candidate has posted a bond, promising -- barring Acts of God -- to travel to the 1986 World Science Fiction Convention in Atlanta if elected, and has provided valid signed nominations and a platform, reproduced overleaf along with the ballot.

SEND BALLOTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: in NORTH AMERICA, Patrick & Teresa Nielsen Hayden,  
75 Fairview #2D, New York NY 10040 USA, or  
in EUROPE, Rob Hansen, 9A Greenleaf Road, East Ham,  
London E6 1DX UNITED KINGDOM.

IMPORTANT: Make checks payable to one of the Nielsen Haydens or to Rob Hansen, please, not to "TAFF", and make them payable in that administrator's home currency. Reproductions of this form are encouraged provided that the text is reproduced verbatim (both sides). Persons reproducing it should substitute their own names below.

This version has been printed & distributed by the editors of Thyme.

# OITMAR BALLOT PAPER 1986

## 1. BEST INTERNATIONAL FICTION ( NOVEL )

- ..... Gene **WOLFE** Devil in a forest ( Granada )
- ..... John **SLADEK** Tik-Tok ( Corgi )
- ..... Gene **WOLFE** Free live free ( Gollancz )
- ..... Gene **WOLFE** Peace ( Chatto )
- ..... Ursula **LE GUIN** Compass rose ( Granada )
- ..... Jerry **YULSMAN** Elleander Morning ( Orbit/Futura )
- ..... NO AWARD

## 2. BEST AUSTRALIAN FICTION ( NOVEL )

- ..... Gerald **MURHANE** Landscape with landscape ( Nonstrilia )
- ..... Peter **CAREY** Illywhacker ( University of Queensland Press )
- ..... David **LAKE** Changelings of Cha'an ( Hyland House )
- ..... Kurt **VON TROJAN** Transing syndrome ( Rigby )
- ..... NO AWARD

## 3. BEST AUSTRALIAN SHORT FICTION

- ..... David **ORIGG** The twist of fate ( Urban Fantasies )
- ..... Russell **BLACKFORD** Glass reptile breakout ( Strange Attractors )
- ..... Lucy **SUSSEX** Montage ( Urban Fantasies )
- ..... George **TURNER** The Fittest ( Urban Fantasies )
- ..... Lucy **SUSSEX** Lipton village society ( Strange Attractors )
- ..... Terry **DOWLING** The Bullet that grows in the gun ( Urban Fantasies )
- ..... NO AWARD

## 4. BEST AUSTRALIAN FANZINE

- ..... **THE NOTIONAL** ( for #1 - #9 in 1985 )
- ..... **METAPHYSICAL REVIEW** ( for #3 - #5/6 in 1985 )
- ..... **THYME** ( for #42 - #48 in 1985 )
- ..... **TIGGER** ( for #8 - #16 in 1985 )
- ..... **SIXANDER** ( for #10, #11 in 1985 )
- ..... NO AWARD

## 5. BEST AUSTRALIAN FAN WRITER

- ..... Bruce **GILLESPIE**
- ..... Damien **BRODERICK**
- ..... Leigh **EDMONDS**
- ..... Yvonne **ROUSSEAU**
- ..... Mark **ORTLEIB**
- ..... NO AWARD

\*\*\* FOR CATEGORIES 6 & 7 AND REQUIRED INFORMATION SEE OVER \*\*\*



#### 6. BEST AUSTRALIAN FAN ARTIST

..... Lewis **MORLEY**  
..... John **PACKER**  
..... Betty **DE GABRIELLE**  
..... Nick **STATHOPOULOS**  
..... Marilyn **PRIDE**  
..... Craig **HILTON**  
..... NO AWARD

#### 7. WILLIAM ATHELING AWARD ( BEST AUSTRALIAN SF CRITICISM )

..... Norman **TALBOT** for : The Audience and the narrator in Gene Wolfes " The book of the new sun " ( Contrary Modes )  
..... Russell **BLACKFORD** for consistent quality of reviews ; Rereading " Stranger in a strange land " ( Contrary Modes )  
..... George **TURNER** for : reviews in particular those of " Neuromancer " by William Gibson ( Thyme #46, Metaphysical Review # 5/6 ) ; National accents in SF ( Contrary Modes )  
..... Yvonne **ROUSSEAU** for : reviews in particular that of "In the heart or in the head " by George Turner ( Thyme #44 ) ; The right hand of light ( Metaphysical Review # 5/6 )  
..... NO AWARD

#### HOW TO VOTE:

PLEASE NUMBER ALL CHOICES IN THE CATEGORIES FOR WHICH YOU WISH TO VOTE (UNTIL YOUR CHOICE IS 'NO AWARD'), MARKING YOU FIRST CHOICE 1, SUBSEQUENT CHOICE 2, ETC..  
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO VOTE FOR EVERY CATEGORY.

#### DETAILS OF VOTER

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
SWANCON 11 MEMBERSHIP No. \_\_\_\_\_

#### NOTE THE CHANGE BELOW :

You do **not** have to be a member of SWANCON 11 to vote for awards. If not a member however, **please explain your involvement** in Australian science fiction Fandom in 1985, and **forward \$5 with your voting form** to the address below. A receipt will not be issued .  
Your money will be divided \$1 for SWANCON 11 for administration, \$4 for the Australian Science Fiction Foundation to benefit all fans.

mail form to :  
ATTN G. L. STONE  
MURDOCH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
P.O. BOX 14  
WILLETTON 6155  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

To be received by Thursday March 27th.

or post ballot in box provided at the registration desk at SWANCON 11 by midday March 29th.

Back to some commentary on the Final Ballot.

International Fiction - it's interesting to see that four out of the six works on the ballot came out several years ago. We don't see anything necessarily wrong with this; we enjoyed all four books (Peace, Tik Tok, Compass Rose & Devil in a Forest). The problem is the change in the rules; until adequate research is put into finding out exactly what is and what is not eligible (no guesswork or pet crocodiles, guys), and the people are told of this, there will be confusion of sorts, and reaction against the set up. Coincidentally, Peace was recently reviewed, in Thyme #49 by Yvonne Rousseau.

Best Australian Fiction - interesting to see that all the short fiction comes from the two anthologies, Urban Fantasies (Ebony Books) and Strange Attractors (Hale & Ironmonger). Strange to see that the most talked about piece of Australian short fiction of late, the Nebula-recommended (but ineligible for that award) Mr Lockwood's Narrative, by Yvonne Rousseau, did not make the ballot. Landscape With Landscape and The Transing Syndrome were reviewed in Thyme Nos. 44 and 48, respectively.

Best Fanwriter, Best Fan Artist, Best Fanzine - it's interesting to see that Marc Ortlieb is on the Fanwriter ballot, and Marilyn Pride on the Fan Artist ballot, after both had "withdrawn" themselves from those races. One stream of thought holds, of course, that the person concerned should have no say whether they are on the ballot or not, seeing as how it is other people who decide who they like... seeing Tigger on the ballot for fanzine is similarly interesting, although it was Q36 that Marc withdrew....

Contrary Modes - the Aussiecon Two 'Academic Programme' companion, although the work itself did not get onto the ballot (although it may not have been considered eligible, as it's a grouping of work of a yet different group of people).

If you'd like to obtain a copy of Contrary Modes, a most interesting and readable document (see review, Thyme #48), the best way of obtaining a copy would be to contact the authors - sorry, the editors - directly. The large-format volume costs \$5.00, and the address to write to is Contrary Modes, % Ebony Books, GPO Box 1294L, Melbourne 3001. Tell you what, though - chuck in four dollars (or \$2.20 if you're a Melbourne resident) to cover the postage charge for the surface parcel rate. It's cheap at half the price. Two fanzines are referred to, also, Thyme and The Metaphysical Review, and if you haven't already seen copies, you could send \$5 in unmarked notes to Bruce Gillespie, GPO Box 5195AA, Melbourne 3001 for a copy of TMR #5/6, or send us \$1 per copy of Thyme, unless you're a subscriber, in which case we'll probably send them along to you for free (but you have to ask us, of course).

The most interesting development is the fact that non-members of the NatCon will now be able to vote for the Ditmar; it'll be interesting to see how many fans avail themselves of this opportunity.

NOVA MOB NOTES: HARDLY A PEEP

The February Nova Mob meeting was pleasant enough if slightly subdued in its discussion of the works of local author Lee Harding. Russell Blackford delivered a talk that centred on six of Harding's novels (which talk, edited down, will be going into a book that he and Van Ikin are doing on Australian sf) but the fireworks were few and far between in the conversation that followed as those assembled appeared somewhat reluctantly to concede that Harding can be a writer of passable sf, noteworthy mainly because of the fact that there are so few contemporary sf authors in Australia who make a living from it.

Damien Broderick provided the most fun of the evening when he dragged out an old story of Lee's with "all the unnecessary bits" chopped out with the help of a thick, black texta, leaving the luckless story looking a little like a heavily striped zebra.

'The fanzine is dead; long live the fanzine.' The revived Australian SF Review: Series Two was given a plug by the Blackfords, in an attempt to enlist volunteers to help with the collation of the first issue. This will take place at the start of the next Nova Mob meeting, around 7pm on the 5th of March, at Jenny & Russell's place. That's: 198 Nott St., Port Melbourne; the normal meeting should begin at 8pm as usual.



ms  
b10  
cmw

Irin,

Congrats on reaching the ballot, with 'Sikander' - one of the two times I feel should be there (the other being TMR). Good luck with the vote!

IRWIN HIRSH  
Congrats on 'Sikander' reaching the ballot...  
2/416 DANDENONG ROAD  
NORTH CAULFIELD 3161

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Registered by Australia Post  
Publication number VBH 2625.

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