

thyme 60

the AUSTRALASIAN SF NEWS MAGAZINE Christmas 1986



RATBO

CREDULOUS NEWSZINE EDITORS BROUGHT TO TASK

WE WERE WRONG

In the last issue of Thyme we announced that John Hall-Freeman, he of Perth specialty sf bookstores 'Space Merchants' and 'Supernova', had gone into receivership. We are happy to report that this was not the case, and that both stores are expected to continue trading into the indefinite future. Over the years, John has worked hard at, and sunk much money into, providing Perth with a first-class sf outlet, and it is to be hoped that the stores will continue to thrive. Our Perth sources, meanwhile, have been rapped over the knuckles and told not to tell [us] stories.

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DESPICABLE, UNPRINCIPLED NEWSZINE EDITORS BROUGHT TO TASK

WE WERE UNETHICAL

In the last issue of Thyme we printed a letter from Sue Isle; we shouldn't have. Sue writes:

'It is with some irritation that I read my letter to you in Thyme 59 - since I had informed you it was not for publication. One, it's unethical, and two, it indicates one can't trust you guys. Saying 'Sorry, I couldn't resist' on the outside mailing cover doesn't excuse you.

'Surely if someone has specified the letter is private, then an editor should respect that, whatever you may think of what has been written. 'By their actions ye shall know them' indeed. Please be a little more responsible.

Sue Isle

'P.S. You may publish this, if you wish.'

Dear Sue, we were sorry to see that you were annoyed by our printing of your letter (but it was a very nice letter...). As a general rule, we automatically respect the wishes of anyone who writes in and wants their letter withheld from print; in your case we were unable to see any reason you might not want what you said to be seen in print, while we thought that what you had to say was of considerable interest. It was irresponsible us but - hey - we're just two wild and crazy guys, y'know? Sorry, we just couldn't resist.

MERV BINNS BOOKS

NEW AND SECOND HAND SCIENCE FICTION AND OTHER RUBBISH
BY MAIL

From: P.O.Box 491, Elsternwick 3185, Victoria
or #1 Glen Eira Road, Ripponlea 3182, Victoria, Australia (531 5879)
(Mind the triffids in the front garden!)

I have a range of new paperbacks and hard covers, plus a few old gems and good condition recent titles amongst a second hand range. I am still putting out lists and my "in stock", SF TRADING POST #4 is now available, listing all I have in stock. The first issue of my "books published" list BOOKS, is also available on request. After a long delay I have published another issue of AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS, the only newszine with a built in time machine.

PLEASE WRITE AND ASK FOR MY CURRENT BOOKLISTS AND A SAMPLE COPY OF AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS.

Merv(Down but not out) Binns

Thyme #60 - the Australasian newszine that holds a mirror up to the sf community - but sometimes gets things the wrong way round!

Thyme #60 - edited & produced by Peter Burns and Roger Weddall, who can be contacted through P.O.Box 273, Fitzroy 3065, AUSTRALIA, or telephone: (03) 428 7957.

Thyme is available for local news (from anywhere), artwork of better than State School level (unless you're in State School!), interesting letters, 'phone calls, dollar notes or even (speaking of which) money. At the following rates:

AUSTRALASIA/NORTH AMERICA
ten issues for ten dollars

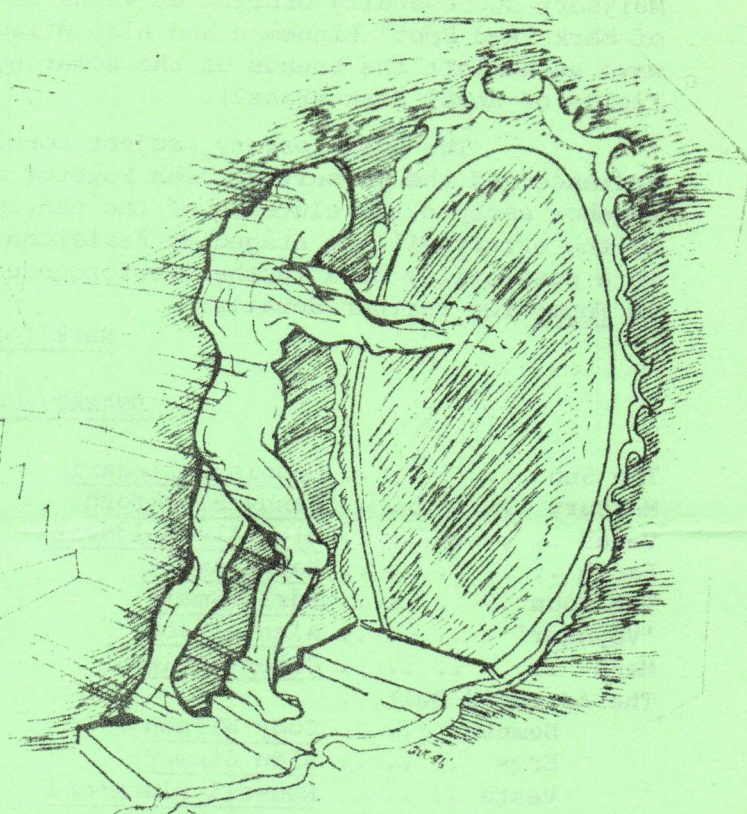
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And we have local agents:

EUROPE Joseph Nicholas, 22 Denbigh St.,
Pimlico, London, SW1V 2ER, U.K.

NORTH AMERICA Mike Glycer, 5828 Woodman
Avenue #2, Van Nuys, CA 91401, U.S.A.

NEW ZEALAND Nigel Rowe, P.O.Box 1814,
Auckland. N.Z.



Don't forget now: a large, silver X on your mailing label, next to your name, means that the time has come to... DO SOMETHING.

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HUMAN ORRERY PROJECT DISCOVERY: WINDS OF SPACE BLOW COLD

by Mark Loney

The day of the first performance of Melbourne's spectacular human orrery, Sunday the 14th of December, dawned cold and blustery. Despite a few planets ringing Orrery HQ in the morning to express reservations about the weather (hello Carey!), the orrery ensemble braved the threat of rain to put on a truly stunning performance of the birth, life and death of our solar system.

The orrery members began assembling on Royal Park South around 2pm. By 2:30pm the organisers had managed to arrive and scripts were distributed while the necessary orbits were marked out on the grass. To a background of Holst's *The Planets*, kindly supplied by Mark Linneman, narrator Roger Weddall spoke the words that set the orrery in motion.

The performance lasted approximately twenty minutes. After being introduced by the narrator, each planet or major body recited two appropriate passages quoted from ancient writers, the romantic poets or other mystics, separated by the narrator giving a brief precis of current astronomical data for the relevant body. Thanks to Orrery Literary Consultants Cath Ortlieb and Yvonne Rousseau, as well as Overall Co-ordinator Mark Loney, for their work on these passages.

As the orrery turned, the narrator spiralled out to the periphery, finally meeting with the (currently) outermost planet of Neptune (John Foyster). The performance concluded with Black Hole (Phil Ware) capturing all the major bodies of the solar system, compressing all into the one, dense mass.

Despite a few orbital manoeuvres that even Velikovsky would have found hard to explain [a special mention of the Asteroids here, including Asms as Hermes, which temporarily captured Earth's moon], the planets and other major bodies performed creditably well. Lucy Sussex was particularly impressive as Comet Halley while Michelle

Muijsert successfully orbited as Venus in Furs. Further special mention should be made of Mark "Red Spot" Linneman and Alan Wilson as 'Voyager' (who could forget his final wave as he left the bounds of the solar system to forever journey across the interstellar fields of Royal Park grass?).

The human orrery project concluded to the enthusiastic applause of its audience and the pursuit of John Foyster by other members of the orrery (Neptune having somehow escaped the clutches of the nearly all-devouring Black Hole). Repeat performances of the orrery will be staged at Eastercon in Melbourne and at Capcon in Canberra. There is a possibility of a further performance in Melbourne early in the New Year. Stay tuned to Thyme for further details.

Mark Loney

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

The Sun	<u>Dennis Callegari</u>	Jupiter	<u>Mark Linneman</u>
Mercury	<u>Jenny Blackford</u>	Saturn	<u>Carey Handfield</u> TRO
Venus	<u>Michelle Muijsert</u>	Uranus	<u>Steve Roylance</u>
Earth	<u>Karen Small</u>	Neptune	<u>John Foyster</u>
The Moon	<u>Adric Small</u>	Pluto	<u>LynC</u>
'Voyager'	<u>Alan Wilson</u>	Comet Halley	<u>Lucy Sussex</u>
Mars	<u>James Styles</u>	The Black Hole	<u>Phil Ware</u>
The Asteroid Belt...		Narrator	<u>Roger Weddall</u>
Demeter	<u>Judy Wilson</u>	*****	
Eros	<u>Alan Stewart</u>	Literary Consultants:	<u>Cath Ortlieb</u>
Vesta	<u>Russell Blackford</u>		<u>Yvonne Rousseau</u>
Pallas	<u>Glen Tilley</u>	Musical Consultant:	<u>Mark Linneman</u>
Juno	<u>Janeen Webb</u>	Project Co-ordinator:	<u>Mark Loney</u>
Ceres	<u>Bruce J. ("Gully") Baker</u>		
Hermes (Earth-Grazing Asteroid) ..	<u>Asms</u>		

☆☆☆☆ Souvenir Programmes of the event, autographed by the cast, are available for ☆☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆☆ the sum of \$2.00, to be donated to DUFF/GUFF/FFANZ. Write to... ☆☆☆☆
 ☆☆☆☆ The Human Orrery Project, P.O.Box 273, Fitzroy 3065, AUSTRALIA. ☆☆☆☆

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Those readers with good memories and who saw a copy of the Melbourne-based fanzine Larrikin

Those readers with good memories and who saw a copy of the second (July 86) issue of the Melbourne-based fanzine Larrikin may remember an article by John Foyster entitled 'Nova Mob Nights'. A shorter memory is needed to recall Yvonne Rousseau's tale of her first encounter of that venerable discussion group (Thyme #59, December 86). Chiefly in response to the former of those articles, with (as Lucy says) the names changed to protect the guilty, we proudly present:

NOT THE NOVA MOB

by Lucy Sussex

'Twas a dark and stormy night that the Nova Mob did meet for dins in Port Melbourne, or rather met and searched vainly for a hotel not closed for yuppi-fication. Long was this search, and noisy, as their tummies rumbled. In despair, all piled into a Fish Shop for a meal of batter-coated mercury and chips.

Replete with grease, they repaired to the home of the Nova hosts, the Blacksheep. On arrival they found a mobber being carpeted - Waldo Lydecker was being rolled up in the Blacksheep's Numdah rug to prevent his escape.

'What has he done?' cried the most out of touch of the fans (nameless to protect the guilty).

'Fi!' cried Evie Blacksheep and brandished a telegram reading:

'I'M NOT GOING TO THE NOVA MOB EVER AGAIN STOP

TIDDLES'

'Why?' asked the o-o-t fan.

'Because of Lydecker's report on the last Nova Mob. A pack of lies.'

'You must allow me my little fun,' said the man in the carpet.

'Fun? To suggest that Tiddles Lermontov is in love with my baby?' Evie.

Lydecker chuckled, and the baby growled. He was a pedigreed snow leopard called, with startling originality, Tiddles.

'It might be some other Tiddles,' said Brut Lindeman. Tiddles Smith turned pale.

'Then why does Lermontov carry dead mice in his pockets?' said Lydecker.

'Well, he does have seventeen snow leopards of his own, said Mrs Nicely.

'Why want another one?'

'Collectors are never satisfied,' said Lydecker, who had compactor shelving for his 10,000 Barbie dolls.

'Shut up!' said Evie. 'The Nova Mob has, thanks to you, been deprived of the scintillating presence of Tiddles L.'

'More bikkies to go around,' said Mork Adlib. He was ignored.

'Can anyone suggest a suitable punishment?'

'Tiddles has been wronged,' said Brut, exercising his fine legal mind.

'Wot, me?' said Tiddles Smith.

'The feline. Therefore let the snow leopard decide.'

With much effort the Mob divested Waldo Lydecker of the rug and stuffed him into 'Tiddles' cage, locking the door. Then the meeting proper, as opposed to the meeting improper, began. That night had been billed as an intelligent (ha ha!) discussion of that well-known author Mrs Penguin, and her 22v opus, Always Going Home To Mother With The Washing. This work was marketed with a packet of Omo and a small trolley for carrying the tomes around.

'Let the round robin begin,' said Redmond Blacksheep.

'I haven't had time to read it, but I used the Omo on my socks - look!'

Mork Adlib's socks looked much as usual - fluorescent tartan.

'Hmn. Brut, your turn.'

'I've been in love.'

'I've had fanzine deadlines.'

'I can't read words of more than two syllables.'

It was clear that none of the Mob had read Always, although two remained silent during the disclaimers. These were the Fan With No Name, who has attended Novas for five years but has been too shy to say a word in that time, and Simone Satre, who had developed psychosomatic lockjaw after being described as a chatterbox in Lydecker's report.

'Ah well,' said Redmond. 'Coffee time.'

Before the Mob could do their well-known imitation of a plague of locusts, there was a pounding at the front door. Was it Tiddles L. driven wild with love for Tiddles (whichever Tiddles it was), a rival fan group attempting a coup, or the Police? Nay, 'twas Algernon, the Mob's resident bore, back from his o/s trip and bursting to tell the Mob all about it.

'I did it! I made contact with Soviet fandom!'

George Parsnip and Blanco Whitesheep, who had in their day made contact with Albanian, Tocharian and Fokkien fandom, exchanged condescending looks. The rest of the Mob, who were not equipped with hearing aids that could be turned off while Algernon was talking, looked mutinous. Having been subjected to Algernon's reactions

to his macramé course, his mother's conversion to Lesbian Separatism, and his AIDS scare, the prospect of another thrilling installment was unbearable. Brut Lindeman emitted a bellow and the Mob stampeded for the front door. Left behind were the Blacksheep, who owned the house, Algernon, who was clinging to the chandelier, and Lydecker, still closeted with Tiddles.

'What about me?' cried Lydecker. 'Do I have to listen to it too?'

Evie Blacksheep, overcome with rare pity, unlocked the cage to find that Lydecker's hair had gone white during the ordeal. On closer inspection it proved that Tiddles had licked Lydecker well prior to munchies and had dissolved a well-known brand of hair dye.

'I'd complain to the manufacturer,' she said helpfully, but Lydecker merely limped to the door. Evie then gazed about and heard soft cries from the Shrine to the Unknown Computer. Algernon had bailed up Redmond Blacksheep against the console, and had begun his saga.

'I ate 3,000 blinis,' he boasted, and then Evie sooled Tiddles onto him. Algernon fled screaming into the night and Evie, to check that he did not sortie down the chimney, followed. Outside she found a number of dear little trampled heaps, they being the remains of boy scouts caught in the Mob's mad rush. A sinister figure lugging a suitcase appeared.

'Hi, you don't know me but I'm the fan who says that everytime he hears the Nova Mob mentioned he reaches for his machine gun.'

'Oh.'

'And I've finally laid hands on one!'

'Sorry, you're too late. Why don't you come back next month?'

~~~FIN~~~

Lucy Sussex

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What you will in fact have to do is to come back not next month, but in February; yes, we are now empowered to reveal:

### THE 1987 NOVA MOB PROGRAMME

The 1987 Nova Mob meetings will be held at a new venue: 17/140 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn, the home of Cathy Kerrigan. Meetings will begin, as usual, at 8pm, with those who wish meeting earlier for eats at the Riversdale Hotel Bistro, cnr. Auburn & Riversdale Rds, Hawthorn - starting around 6pm.

And now the information on dates, speakers and likely topics.

4 February: John Foyster - 'Magazine SF in 1953'

4 March: Sean McMullen - 'First Flights' [described in the official handout as follows] '(Okay, all you professional authors out there - Sean has located your first ever published story and he is going to talk about it.)'

1 April: Yvonne Rousseau - 'Ursula Le Guin's Always Coming Home' ~~To/Mother/With/The/Washi~~

6 May: Bruce Barnes - topic to be decided

3 June: Janeen Webb - 'Women's Press SF'

1 July: Russell Blackford - 'John Calvin Batchelor'

3 August: Jenny Blackford - topic to be decided

2 September: 'Clayton's Conspiracy' (As it is the intention of much of the Nova Mob to be in Brighton for the WorldCon on this date, it was decided that a party should be held on this date, instead - details later.









# CAPCON 87

THE 26th AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL  
SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

APRIL 24-27 1987

CANBERRA PARKROYAL HOTEL  
NORTHBOURNE AVENUE, CANBERRA

If you have an interest in the future, the way it is portrayed and the realities of the world today, then CAPCON 87 is a perfect opportunity to meet different groups and people who have similar interests.

- ★ Speculative Literature ★ Educational Papers
- ★ Writing for Television and Film ★ Writers Workshop
- ★ Wargaming and Fantasy Role Playing ★ Computer Technology
- ★ Amateur Publishing ★ Film Production
- ★ Collectibles Auction ★ Art Exhibition
- ★ Display and Sales of Books, Wargames, Models and Rare Collectibles

Three days of talks, discussions, papers, displays and social activities. Not only about tomorrow, but about today and how we shape tomorrow, both in our minds and in reality. Practical discussions on teaching speculative literature and film technology. Demonstrations of new technology, of interest to writers and readers alike. Enquiries for presentation of educational papers are welcome.

The social activities will include the presentation of the Australian Science Fiction Achievement Awards, voted by the readers of Australia to recognise the work produced by Australia's own authors and films in 1986.

Opening throughout the convention will be simulation and role playing championships as well as an extensive art competition and display with substantial prizes to the winners.

organisation: Co-ordinator/Hotel Liaison - Mark Denbow. Secretary/Treasurer - Sandra Hyde. GoH Liaison - Katrina Swansbra. Programming Co-ordinator - Jim Nomarhas. Ditmars/Business Session - Jack Herman. Masquerade/Gofers Roster - Kim Lambert. Fundraising/Gaming Co-ordinator - Ken Ward. S.C.A. Liaison - Carey Lenehan. Film and Video - Phil Jackson.

## Syncon '87

Dates: 5-8 June 1987 (Queen's Birthday Weekend)

Rates: Attending: \$20 till 20/3; \$30 till 1/6; \$40 at the door; Day Rate: \$15.

Venue: Metropole Hotel, Military Road, Cremorne, Sydney NSW.

GoH: Terry Dowling

Rooms: According to the PR, there is one room capable of holding 200 people, which can be divided into two smaller rooms. There are three other lockable rooms which people can be put into...

Room Rates are around (from) \$59 - \$74 (for a triple), apparently on a book-it-yourself basis.

Theme: The Lighter Side of Science Fiction

Mail: Box 272, Wentworth Building, University of Sydney 2006.

There will be a workshop on "How To Get Your Works Published" and another on Masquerades, including construction, design and presentation of costumes. On the fun side there are items such as "My Favourite Monster".

## ECCENTRICON

Dates: 3 - 6 July 1987

Rates: \$50 until 1/4/87, then more (Attending). \$10 non-attending membership

Venue: Hawkesbury Agricultural College, Blacktown Road, Richmond 2753, NSW.

GoHs: Bjo & John Trimble, and Brian Coucher ('Travis' from Blakes 7)

## CONVENTION UPDATES: Capcon cont.

GoHs: Robert Asprin & Lyn Abbey Asprin

Fan GoH: John Newman

Mail: Capcon, P.O.Box 312, Fyshwick 2609, ACT.

Rooms: In the recently mailed Progress Report 3, the convention committee has given a list of possible alternative accommodation to the official venue, in face of ~~the/xxax/xxxxx/xx/xxe/sxxxxxx~~ the high cost of rooms at the Parkroyal: \$85 per night.

Writer's Workshop: the writer's workshop will be conducted by Lyn Abbey over the two days prior to the convention proper. Topics to be covered will include Presentation, Marketing Your Work, Using Technology and more. The cost? In line with established Capcon policy of keeping their members well informed... 'We would expect the cost of the two days, excluding accommodation, to be approximately \$xxx.' [Sic] They do, however, want a definite (as opposed to approximate) \$50 deposit in advance for the whole thing. If you have \$xxx dollars, it could be well worth while....

Other attractions: there will be a proper Art Show, a full Wargaming programme, a full S.C.A. programme, a masquerade, film and video programme and more besides... it all sounds like it should be lots of fun, doesn't it.

As a matter of record, here are the people responsible for the different areas of convention



CONVENTION UPDATES: ECCENTRICON cont.

Theme: By Popular Demand: The Galactic Senate Take Over.

Mail: P.O.Box 27, Blaxland 2774.

Originally a relaxacon (as we were given to understand), it has now obviously become a little more ambitious but is still planned as a relaxing occasion to get away from it all in the hills. One thing: the organisers ask you to send a SSAE with all enquiries regarding the convention, accommodation details, etc..

TREKCON III

Dates: 14/15 March 1987

Rates: Attending - \$25 till 31/12/86. \$30 till the day. Supporting: \$15

Venue: The Sheraton Hotel, 13 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000, VIC.

Theme: Training At The Starfleet Academy

Rooms: Single - \$58, Double/Twin - \$66, Triple - \$76 per night.

Mail: GPO Box 5206AA, Melbourne 3001.

There is an official Trekcon charity, presumably in the event the convention makes a surplus, which is the StKilda Crisis Centre, run by the Salvation Army. Hm... the last convention we can remember in Melbourne that was going to donate money to charity ended up losing thousands of dollars.

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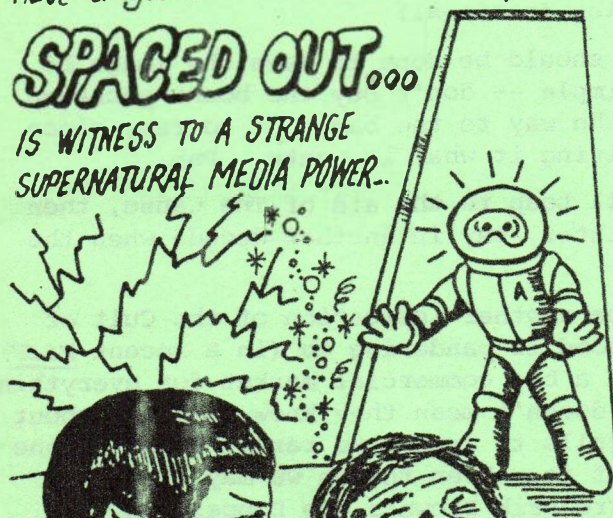
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*Merry Christmas*  
and Happy New Year.  
Have a great Xmas from Mike to you...  
**20 YEARS OF STAR TREK**

**SPACED OUT...**

IS WITNESS TO A STRANGE  
SUPERNATURAL MEDIA POWER..



*Good Luck in 87 Peter and Roger hope to see some of my work in Thyme next year Mike...!*

The crowd that brought you KINKON 1 and the aptly named sequel, KINKON 2, have thrown their hat(s) into the ring and announced that they are bidding for the 1989 NatCon, to be named none other than (go on, guess...) KINKON 3.

KINKON 3 will follow its predecessors in style and content (why argue with success?), balancing an informative and witty main programme with an 'alternative' film and video programme for which, by now, we are justly a bit famous.

We will also have, as per the norm, a premiere showing of a film, a la 'FX' and 'Gremlins', courtesy of Roadshow film distributors.

This time, though, KINKON 3 will have a well-known, international Guest of Honour (we'll let you know) - something we haven't had before.

All this will be set to explode over Easter 1989 in a great hotel nestling on the banks of Albert Park Lake.

Presupporting memberships are available for a lousy two dollars. Just post that greenie to KINKON 3, 11 Hopkins Street, Dandenong 3175, OR ring Angus (819 3844) or Andrew (793 1706) after hours.

VOTE FOR KINKON 3 : MELBOURNE IN 1989!



## LETTERS OF COMMENT

The introductory installment of Perry Middlemiss's 'The Art of Fanzine Publishing Considered As A Body Contact Sport' appeared in Thyme #58, and was unfortunately rather swamped by the response to both the Ditmar Debate and the letters from Judith Hanna and Joseph Nicholas, on the subject of the quality of Australian fanzines. You'll be hearing some more from Perry - and others - on the subject soon. For the moment we'll make do with Chris Nelson, who wasn't sure that such an article or series belonged in a newszine....

'Dear Messrs Burns & Weddall,

thank you for Thyme #58. I assume that Marcus Ortliebus slipped my name onto the mailing list, but whatever the reason I found a few things of interest in the ish.

'Perry Middlemiss's article, to start with, seemed to be an exercise in The Bleeding Obvious. This sort of advice might be useful to a neofan publisher if published in a separate booklet, but it made pretty dull reading in Thyme.

'I won't buy into the Ditmar debate since you're in the middle of it already, except to say that a redesigning of the award itself wouldn't hurt. Those I've seen -- several in the office of Van Ikin at UWA -- could be the award of just about anything (like Best Hotel Chain, maybe). I like the Southern Cross, but shouldn't there be something even vaguely skiffy for an sf award to bear? (With or without Crux.)

'Apart from that I should mention that I glanced through a number of 'zines at Murdoch Uni Library to see about putting together a list of NatCon Masquerade winners as Irwin Hirsh suggested. This proved surprisingly difficult; masquerades do not always feature highly in con reports. Despite his lack of enthusiasm for them, Merv Binns's ASFN was the most consistent source of masquerade notes, albeit not always with all winners mentioned. Chunder! provided some info also, and other bits and pieces might come from a more thorough search. But the evidence seems to be that fans aren't as keen to record transitory items like the masquerade winners as they are literary winners which can be found in published form and re-read. (If anyone is serious about making up a list, it will probably be quicker to ask the fan interested in masquerades who past winners were, rather than searching fanzines.)

'John Foyster is worried about what should be done to save the image of sf from crass commercial exploitation. Simple -- don't buy the books packaged that way. The publishers will laugh all the way to the bank, of course, since they've identified their market and are giving it what it wants. Pap.

'If Foyster is suggesting that we all Leap to the aid of The Cause, then go right ahead -- I'll catch up with you later, say in another decade when the whole show has blown over.

'At the base of the worry seems to be another indication of the Cult of the Young which Marlan Ellison says Hollywood is pandering to (in a recent F&SF). That wouldn't surprise me; adolescents are a big commercial market for everything these days, especially in the U.S.. That doesn't mean they know anything about sf, but even in the sf community that JF calls to arms I've rarely found anyone who shares exactly my conception of what sf is. Even though we may all be caught up in some Mad Universe worthy of Frederik Brown's Joe Doppelberg, I'm content to let Luc Sante say what he likes about sf, while I spend my time reading some more of it.'

Cheers,

*Chris Nelson*

John's worry, surely, was not how current readers of sf would react to the crass packaging, but the fear that worthwhile authors might be discouraged from writing in the genre because of the portrayal by publishers and critics alike of sf as stock, cliched stuff they wouldn't want to waste their time on.

On the other hand, does anybody pay attention to how those cover blurbs read? Do people judge books by their covers? Michelle Hallett doesn't seem to think so.



'Dear Peter and Roger,

thanks for the many copies of Thyme you've been sending me; I do enjoy them even though till now I've been too lazy to loc you in return.

'Actually the reason for my finally getting around to loccing you is John Foyster's article Triumph of the Swill. I found it fascinating. The truth is that, even when adolescent, I paid little attention to advertising copy, cover illustrations or even the "blurb on the back" in making my choice of what books to buy. The "blurb on the back" only served to tell me whether or not the book was about a topic or a set of ideas which I might find interesting. Otherwise I buy by the author's name or the recommendations of friends whose taste is similar to mine. Since becoming involved in fandom I have used fanzine book reviews to make my choice. Till John brought it to my attention, I hadn't realised that I have never really read advertising copy, only slummed it and extracted from it the information I needed to decide whether or not to buy the book. There must be many good writers whose work I have missed due to my hit and miss selection methods I've described above.

'I don't know what I'd assumed about other readers of sf; perhaps I'd just assumed that I was one of a discerning minority and that the majority of fans would be attracted by the sort of advertising copy John mentions. Meeting other fans and reading John's article has disabused me of that notion.

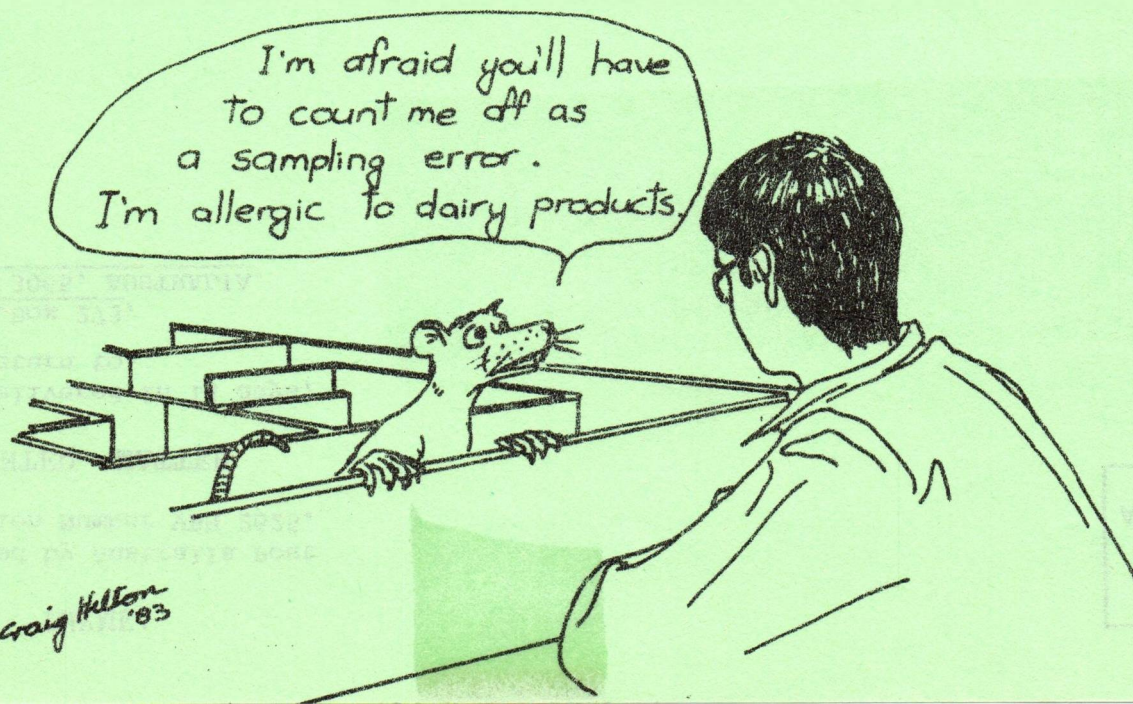
'Even more interesting are the Locus (July '86 issue) survey results. Charles Brown said the following while discussing the age category:

'Ages ranged from 14 to 80. The average, median and most common ["mode"] ages all went up another year. I'm beginning to worry. Are there any new, young readers out there, or are we playing to the same audience year after year? Nearly half our readers are in their thirties.'

'In the light of this, it seems likely that the appeal to adolescents that John complains about in skiffy advertising is actually designed to attract new readers for sf, rather than being aimed at us, the old-time readers who, in any case, are used to ignoring it. But if this is the case then the Locus survey results prove, if nothing else, that this sort of appeal is failing. (According to Charles Brown, the results of a similar survey, by Analog/Asimov's were very close to his, which suggests that the Locus survey reflects a fairly general state of affairs).

'All of the above seems to indicate to me that not only is John's point in Triumph of the Swill a very valid one but that it should be brought to the attention of the publishing powers that be as soon as possible. Either teen-

#### THE SF PUBLISHERS AND THEIR TARGET AUDIENCE?



Craig Hillman  
'83



agers are more discerning than we thought them to be or, a horrible thought, perhaps people under twenty just don't read books any more (or only a few, rare ones do).

'I prefer to believe the first possibility, in fact might I venture that movies and tv have a monopoly on escapism and that if people take the time and trouble to read books these days they are probably expecting something more. The sf/fantasy advertising copy reprinted in John's article does not offer that something more and this is a possible reason for its failure.'

Michelle Hallett

What an interesting idea - that people in general might approach a book with higher expectation than they would a television programme... but I wonder where Mills & Boon fit into this formula. I suppose they'd be the Soap Operas of fiction - but speaking of soap opera and melodrama, look what arrived in the mailbox just the other day....

'An E Motional Confession'

'I can't stand the suspense any longer! I confess! It was me! I did it, I wrote The Motional! Yes it was I - now revealed right here in Thyme, the magazine that does it! It was me, I did it, and I also was the one who swapped the plans for the Sydney Opera House with the designs I stole for one of the Queen's Ascot bonnets and got that ridiculous power pylon stuck on top of the concert hall and I wrote the Hitler diaries; and fluoridation, yes, that was my idea too; so was the one of building nuke reactors in earthquake zones, that was mine. But most of all it was The Motional I did.'

signed [Rob McGough] Antifan.

Well! And we were so sure it was 'xxx'.

It's time, in any case, to give credit where credit's due; let's start with our artists:-

Craig Hilton - cover, p.11 .. Betty DeGabrielle - p.3 .. Mike McGann - p.9

Also, in the last issue, we ran two pieces of uncredited work - the Star Trek logo accompanying Sue Isle's letter, by Robert Jan, and the mini-whales by Adrienne Losin. General thanks for this issue to: Cath, Michelle, Lana, Craig, Lucy, Rob, Marc, Koren, Adrienne, Sue, Mark, Cathy and Nancy. 191521121986 seeyuz! ☐☐☐ [Happy New Year, too.] ☐☐☐

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## ANTARCTICON 1988

Science-Fiction Convention, Scott Base, Antarctica.

Organising Committee: P.O. Box 876, Auckland, New Zealand.

Wellington Agent: Terry Collister

Scott Base Agent: Edward Penguin Esq.

## Frolic in the Snows!

Be stunned and amazed by the Giant **Hologram Movies**  
of this Planet's **Past!**

Enjoy '**Safe Sex**', Kool Drinx & **Bheer**,  
Far-Out **Drugs**, Scintillating Conversation,  
Albatross Hang-gliding, Spot "**The Thing**",  
Rivetting **Speeches**, Debauched **Debate**,  
"Pin the Tale on the Penguin" ...

## The unreal Con for Real Faans...

Pre-Supporting Membership: \$5. The Con's actual cost to be advised. In the event of this Bid's not being succesful, this advance fundraising shall be donated to the winning 1988 Convention.

TO: ANTARCTICON 1988 Bidcommittee, P.O. Box 876, Auckla~~nd~~, N.Z.  
Yes, fen! I'm into this Cool Trip! Please find enclosed my \$5  
Pre-Supporting Membership, & \$....-... donation. Send me more  
data, posters, & stickers. @%qwertyuiop?



Name .....

Address .....

Date .....





Frolic in the snows!



## 1986-87 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 1986-87 race is open to anyone who was active in fandom prior to September 1985, 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. "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 14 March 1987.

**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, fourth, fifth, and sixth 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 33 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 1987 World Science Fiction Convention in Brighton, England if elected, and has provided signed nominations and a platform, reproduced overleaf above 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, Greg Pickersgill, 7A Lawrence Road,  
South Ealing, London W5 4XJ UK.

**IMPORTANT:** Make checks payable to the Nielsen Haydens or to Greg Pickersgill, please, not to "TAFF", and make them payable in the appropriate 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 produced by Peter Burns and Roger Weddall on the Peppermint Frog Press.



1986-87 TAFF Ballot

**BILL BOWERS** Once, Long Ago & Far Away, I co-won a TAFF election, but--for Reasons then Valid (at least to me)--I was unable to go...although a TAFF winner did make the trip that year. If anyone has a problem with that...I don't have a problem with them. That said, why "stand" again? Well, ConSpiracy will mark the 25th Anniversary of my First Con...I'd like very much to attend...and, Real Soon After, issue the most esoteric, ellipse-~~filled~~-filled TAFF report ever! Here's your chance to be referenced in it...Vote Now!  
Nominators: Sheryl Birkhead, Ian Covell, Mike Glicksohn, Terry Jeeves, and Pat Mueller.

**BRIAN EARL BROWN** I have one word why you should vote me your TAFF delegate--Sticky Quarters. Wait. That's two words. I have two words why you should vote for me--Mad Scientist's Digest. No--three words why you should vote for me--The Whole Fanzine Catalog. No four words...oh, bloody hell. -- I've wanted to visit England ever since getting my first British fanzine over a decade ago. The Rats, The Gannets, KFT. They sounded like they're having a great time. If there's a secret to it I'd like to try to bring it back to America.

Nominators: Eric Bentcliffe, John Berry, Eric Mayer, Joyce Scrivner, and Taral.

**MIKE GLICKSOHN** I am running for TAFF because I believe a TAFF candidacy should be based on activities and for two decades no American fan has exceeded my interaction with British fandom. I have to run this year because I cannot get off work at Easter. I love talking about fandom and have been active in most areas of fanac, winning a Hugo and being a Worldcon FanGoH. I love to party, to drink and to converse and am perhaps too polite (which I attribute to being British by birth). If you see TAFF my way, I'd appreciate your support. Vote Canadian!

Nominators: Bill Bowers, Harlan Ellison, Terry Hughes, Dave Langford, and Bob Shaw.

**JEANNE GOMOLL** I publish Whimsey now. But I've also co-edited Janus (3 Hugo nominations), worked on Aurora, contributed to zillions of fanzines, plus AWA and CRAPA, and received two FAAns (art, editing), and two Hugo nominations (fan art). I've weathered 11 years of WisCon concon meetings, and been honored as a GoH at three conventions--all conspiratorially beginning with the letter "A". If elected, I promise: (1) to publish a Spike-proofread trip report, (2) to continue the tradition of TAFF auction-by-mail (L.L. Bean catalog format), (3) to resist the temptation of a Brit CoA, and (4) to at least try the beer.  
Nominators: Jerry Kaufman & Suzanne Tompkins, Linda Pickersgill, Stu Shiffman, Willie Siros, and Pam Wells.

**ROBERT LICHTMAN** In the real world I'm a single parent with four kids and live in Glen Ellen, California. Fandom is a place where I find pleasure and conversation with like-minded friends of all ages. I've been an active fanzine fan since 1958 and have published three general circulation fanzines: PSI-PHI, FRAP and nowadays TRAP DOOR. I've "known" and been known by many fans in the U.K. through letters and fanzines over the years (and have met a few) and would welcome the opportunity to hoist a pint with them all, starting on my 45th birthday: the opening day of ConSpiracy, the 45th Worldcon.

Nominators: Allyn Cadogan, Chuch Harris, Lucy Huntzinger, Ted White, and Owen Whiteoak.

-----  
Please read both sides of this sheet  
before voting. Send the entire ballot  
-- do not detach.

Signature: .....  
Name and address (legibly, please):

I VOTE FOR (rank 1-2-3-4-5-6):

- ( ) Bill Bowers  
( ) Brian Earl Brown  
( ) Mike Glicksohn  
( ) Jeanne Gomoll  
( ) Robert Lichtman  
( ) Hold Over Funds

.....  
.....  
Enclosed is \_\_\_\_\_ as a contribution to TAFF. Please make checks, etc., payable to the Nielsen Haydens or to Greg Pickersgill, not to "TAFF," and payable in the currency of the administrator's home country. If you think your name may not be known to the administrators, then in order to qualify please give, in the space to the left, the name and address of an active fan (not a "fan group") who is known to them and to whom you are known.

Reference: .....



FFANZ - the Fan Fund of Australia & New Zealand was started up in 1982 to encourage closer ties between the fans and fandoms of Australia and New Zealand.

With host countries theoretically alternating with each vote, there have to date been three exchanges of fan representatives, two from New Zealand and one, most recently, from Australia. FFANZ exists solely through the support of fandom, and the candidates are voted for by interested fans all over the world, each vote being accompanied by a fee of not less than two dollars (Australian or New Zealand). The money raised by these votes, as well as other donations, and monies from fan fund auctions at conventions, relying on the continued interest and generosity of fandom, are what make FFANZ possible.

DONATIONS: FFANZ always welcomes material for auction, and donations of money, and these may either be brought along to conventions, or sent to the local FFANZ administrator. Anyone may contribute, even if they're ineligible to vote, and donations in excess of the minimum voting fee are gratefully accepted. Just as important as donations is publicity -- in fanzines, letters, convention booklets and by word of mouth -- to increase voter participation and fandom's overall interest in and awareness of FFANZ.

WHO MAY VOTE? Voting is open to anyone who has been active in fandom (through involvement with fanzines, conventions, clubs etc.) since *before* 1986. Only one vote per person is allowed; proxy voting is not allowed and your ballot must be signed. Details of the voting are, of course, kept secret. If you think your name may not be known to either of the administrators, please include the name of a fan (but not one of the current candidates) or the name of a fan group who can vouch for you.

VOTING DETAILS: FFANZ uses the "Australian" optional preferential system of voting, which guarantees an automatic run-off and a majority win. What you do is to rank the candidates in the order in which you wish to place them, first to last. If the candidate with the most votes does not poll a majority of the total votes cast, first-place votes of the lowest-ranking candidate are dropped, and the second preferences on those ballots are distributed to the candidates marked second on those forms. The process continues until one candidate has a majority of votes.

*It is important*, therefore, to indicate your second and third etc. preferences, especially if you decide to "write-in" a candidate of your own choosing, in case that person does not win and the vote has to be distributed further. It is a waste of time to put a candidate in more than one place, also. But it is not necessary to put a preference number beside each candidate's name.

'HOLD OVER FUNDS' is an option on the ballot similar in effect to a 'No Award' vote in Hugo and Ditmar balloting, which gives the voter the chance to vote for no FFANZ trip, should the candidates not appeal to them....

THE CANDIDATES have each promised, barring acts of God, to travel to the 1987 Australian National SF Convention ('Capcon', in Canberra, 25-27 April '87) if elected, and has posted a \$10 bond and provided a 'voting platform', produced overleaf.

The DEADLINE: All votes must reach an administrator by 2nd of January, '87.

Send Ballots and donations to: AUSTRALIA: Roger Weddall, NEW ZEALAND: Nigel Rowe,  
P.O.Box 273, P.O.Box 1814  
Fitzroy 3065, Auckland,  
AUSTRALIA. NEW ZEALAND.

Reproduction of this voting form is encouraged (urged, even) provided that the text is reprinted verbatim. This version produced by Roger Weddall and the Peppermint Frog Press.



# FFANZ 1987 CANDIDATES' PLATFORMS

## ALEX & KAREN HEATLEY

So what do you say in one of these platforms? Hi, my name is Alex Heatley and the Woman on my right is Karen Heatley. We both want to win the '87 FFANZ fund, travel to far off, interesting places to meet far off, interesting people. Our fannish credentials are few, I edit a fanzine called Phlogiston. Karen has been involved in the organisation of the Dunedin NASF club for many years. We've also helped organise conventions and both belonged to the local APA. We are both well known in NZ fannish circles and almost completely unknown in Oz. So what do we intend to do if we win FFANZ? I intend to give Kevin Dillon that copy of Shatter that I promised him at Aussiecon II (note the big-name-con-dropping). Apart from that we hope to enjoy ourselves and return to NZ with lots of cute, warm fuzzies. Vote for the complete unknowns and be surprised! Oh and by the way, Tim Jones for GUFF!

Nominators: Mervyn Barrett, Mark Loney.

## FRANK MACSKASY Jnr.

I can honestly give one helluva good reason why you should vote for me... but it's not because I've edited Warp and Themezine; created the National Association for SF here in Godzone; acted as Fan GoH at a couple of cons; been contributing to AOTEARapa for the past four years; and have generally been active in this wonderful, mythical Land of Madness we call Fandom. It's because ~~the/dops/at/after/de~~ I'm such a nice bloke and I'd like the chance to make half a million bucks on your dole system as well....

Nominators: Pauline Meinung, John Newman, Rex Thompson.

## LYN McCONCHIE

Years ago I wanted to sail to Australia on a balsa raft but my guardians wouldn't let me. I've never hav another chance. I am a fan editor/publisher (Dum Vivimus, Vivamus. Fan'attic. Local SF newsletter etc.), printer, and contributor to 'zines in Australia, Belgium, Canada and England. I've been an officer, committee member or Librarian of NASF and a local SF club since 1983. I would love to find out what Aussie fandom is like, and promise to write a long trip report. I am amiable, house-trained, deserving and nuclear-free. What more could FFANZ want?

Nominators: Linette Horne, Michelle Muijsert, Keith Smith, Jean Weber.

~~~~~

*** FFANZ 1987 VOTING FORM ***

I vote for (list 1,2,3...):

- () Alex & Karen Heatley
- () Frank Macskasy Jnr.
- () Lyn McConchie
- () _____
("write-in")
- () Hold Over Funds

I enclose _____ as a donation to FFANZ. (Make cheques payable to Nigel Rowe, Roger Weddall or FFANZ.)

Signature: _____

NAME & ADDRESS: _____

If you think your name might not be known to the administrators and that your vote might be thus disqualified, please give the name and address of a fan or group to whom you are known: _____

*** FFANZ 1987 VOTING FORM ***