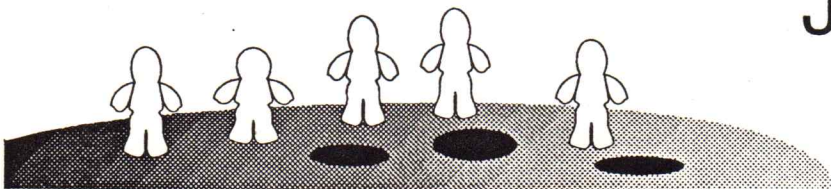


# The Australasian SF News Magazine

January 1993

#89





## Editorial

by Alan Stewart

Welcome to another issue of Thyme. A bit earlier than originally planned, it was going to be posted out just before Radicon, but there's enough news and information to justify this issue. The supplements have expanded and as well as Australian SF News I hope you enjoy Artychoke edited by Ian Gunn, and Dave Langford's Ansible which will probably accompany most future issues.

The sad news for this issue was the death of Roger Weddall and I know plans for memorial issues of fanzines and a sort of combination trip report are underway and details will be published as they become available. This issue contains a brief 'In Memoriam' section which offers a snapshot history of Roger's involvement with people and fandom and some comments from friends. I don't plan a whole 'Memorial Issue' of Thyme as such, but if you've got any favorite pieces of writing either by or about Roger you'd like to see reprinted, or just some amusing anecdote such as the details of one of the japes Roger executed which you were also privy to, let me know and I'll see what can be arranged. I've been chided by one fan for not being more active in exhorting people who 'crawled out from the woodwork' at the funeral to take out subscriptions to Thyme, Roger wouldn't have passed up such an opportunity when he was editor. I'd rather publish excerpts of the 'celebration of a good life, a retrospective that records the passing of a fan we loved', as one correspondent put it, within the framework of the ongoing news and activities that is Thyme and the fandom family.

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Currency conventions: \$A = Australian dollars, \$C = Canadian dollars, \$NZ = New Zealand dollars,  
 \$US = United States dollars, DM = Deutsch Marks, NLG = Dutch Guilders, £ = UK pound,

Available for 'The Usual' (zine trades, artwork, letter, article) or a subscription of \$A 10/year (5-6 issues).  
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## News

In an open letter to Australian fandom, dated 1 December 1992, the committee of **Radicon** announced that the convention has been **cancelled**. Rather than risking financial failure, all memberships, accommodation payments and donations will be refunded. Any surplus funds will be passed on to the Red Cross. Reasons cited for the decision include an overseas group holding a convention in Melbourne two weeks before the planned Radicon.

### People

Kevin and Marion **Beatty** became the proud parents of **Catherine Marie**, weighing 8 lb 13 oz (4051 g), at 9.50 pm on Tuesday 27 October 1992.

**Natalie Elspeth Ortlieb** was welcomed by proud parents Cath and Marc early in the morning of Wednesday 18 November 1992.

Perry and Robyn (Mills) **Middlemiss** welcomed a daughter **Catherine Gabrielle** on Wednesday 9 December 1992.

Well known fan and current DUFF administrator **Roger Weddall** died at 4.30 pm, Thursday 3rd December 1992 as a result of pneumonia. His funeral was held the following Tuesday at the Boyd Chapel, Springvale Crematorium.

**Phil Ware** will be acting as DUFF Administrator until the conclusion of the next Australasia to North America DUFF trip, probably in 1994. Votes, donations and correspondence for DUFF should still be sent to PO Box 273, Fitzroy, Victoria, 3065.

**Nigel Rowe**, originally from New Zealand, and just finished working in London, recently married **Karen**, and they will be making their home in Chicago initially.

**Mark Loney** and **Vanessa Luck** were married at the Windsor Hotel, Melbourne, on Saturday 12 October 1992. It was a black tie affair and never have some fans looked so spiffy.

**Michael Hailstone** has published the fact that his perzine The Matalan Rave, absent for quite a while, can now be regarded as defunct. However he has issued Busswarble #2 recently, #1 was an ANZAPA contribution.

**Paul Collins** has returned to Melbourne and runs a second hand book and revival gear shop called Mass Alternative. The address is G34, Pran Central.

Recent jetsetters include **Nick Stathopoulos** who's just returned from a round the world jaunt with two weeks in the US followed by two weeks in Japan, and **Terry Dowling** who flew to the US on 4 December.

Current TAFF European Administrator **Pam Wells** tells

that **Vince Clarke** was offered a TAFF trip to Magicon (he won the race in 1954 but never took the trip) but for various reasons, including medical, he declined the offer. (Details in TAFFervescent 5).

At the recent SF Christmas at the End of the Universe party in Melbourne, the popular vote hall costume awards were won by Reindeer - Jane Tisell (Best Female), 'Bloody Transporter' - Robert Jan (Best Male), and Andoran Christmas Tarts - Sharon Mosley, Kerri Valkova (Best Group). The judges' prizes in the masquerade were first to Robert Jan ('Bloody Transporter'), a tie for second between Suzanne Sladen (Christmas Tree) and Shane Mengaziol (Fat Riker), and third to Danny Heap, Beky Tully, George Ivanoff and Paul Ewins for their group act.

A combined fannish/ferret picnic occurred on November 8 in Centennial Park, Sydney. A giant blow-up Godzilla marked the spot, his first outing since Art Widner's DUFF visit last April, and a good time was had by all (half fans, half ferret-keepers, 8 ferrets).

### Awards

The **1992 Rhysling Awards**, voted on by members of the Science Fiction Poetry Association, have been won by W Gregory Stewart for *the button and what you know*. (Long Poem) and David Lunde for *Song of the Martian Cricket* (Short Poem).

### 1992 Auroras (Canadian Awards)

Best Long-Form Work, English:  
Golden Fleece Robert Sawyer

Meilleur livre en francais:  
Ailleurs et au japon Elisabeth Vonarburg

Best Short-Form Work, English:  
*Breaking Ball* Michael Skeet, *A Niche* Peter Watts

Meilleur nouvelle en francais:  
*L'Enfant des mondes assoupis* Yves Menard

Best Work in English, Other:  
*Prisoners of Gravity* TV Ontario

Meilleur ouvrage en francais (autre):  
Solaris Luc Pomerleau, Editor

Artistic Achievement/Accomplissement artistique:  
Martin Springett (for book covers, paintings)

Fan Achievement (Organisational)/Acclompissement fanique (organisation):  
John Mansfield (for Winnipeg in '94 Worldcon bid)

Fan Achievement (Fanzine)/Accomplissement fanique (fanzine): Sol Rising Larry Hancock, Editor

Fan Achievement (Other)/Accomplissement fanique (autre): David W. New (for editing Horizons SF)

[Thanks to Warp #21, Montreal, for this information]

### TV and Film

Arnold Schwarzenegger is to appear as a Cardassian in a sixth season episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

Warner Bros. are producing a space series *Babylon 5* reported to be a '5-year mini-series' set in 2257. Creator and co-executive producer J. Michael Straczynski (wrote for *The New Twilight Zone* and *Captain Power*) claims it has a beginning and an end like *The Prisoner*. Set on a three kilometre-long by one kilometre-wide space station with 20 alien species running around it looks like a big budget epic.

### Writing and Publishers

**Lyn McConchie** has had two stories accepted by Tamarix Women's Press for an anthology to celebrate the Suffrage Centenary this year. [Thanks *Cry Havoc*]. A longer short story has also been accepted for Cat Fantastic III to be published by Daw late 1993.

A new collection by **Rosaleen Love**, called Evolution Annie, should be out from Women's Press in April 1993. It contains a novella, *The Daughters of Darius*, which, at 123 pages, is her longest effort yet and more of a fantasy romance than SF.

Monthly meetings of Melbourne Horror Writers Group are continuing at the Victorian Writers' Centre in their new location of 156 George Street, Fitzroy. For times and details contact Chris Masters, C/- The Daarke Brotherhood, PO Box 7545, St Kilda Rd, Melbourne, Vic, 3004, phone direct on (03) 509 5366 (evenings).

The Sydney Horror Writers' and Artists' Association (The Gargoyle Club) also meets monthly though 8 January 1993, Leichhardt & Stanmore, is the only current information to hand. More details are available from Leigh Blackmore, ring (02) 560 9054 after hours.

**Swancon 18** are running a **short story competition** with the following divisions and first prizes: Primary School (years 1-7) \$A 25, Lower Secondary School (years 8-12) \$A 75, Upper Secondary School (years 11-12) \$A 100, Open \$A 100. There will also be book prizes in each category. The competition is sponsored by A Touch of Strange Bookshop. The manuscript should be no longer than 10,000 words, legibly written or typed double-spaced on A4 paper, and the original work of an Australian resident or Convention attendee. The author's name, the title and page number must appear on each page. Entries should be sent to Swancon 18 Short Story Contest, PO Box 318, Nedlands, WA, 6009 and must be postmarked by 1 March 1993.

Another **short story competition** is also under way for **Star Walking The Second Convention**. Theme is 'All things strange and alien' in 5,000 words or less. Prizes described as "nifty", closing date is 14 April 1993 and the winner will be published in the Conbook. Send to PO Box 118, Springvale, Vic, 3171, Australia.

A new anthology of Australian horror stories has appeared. Intimate Armageddons, edited by Bill Congreve, is available from Five Islands Press, PO Box 1946, Wollongong, NSW, 2515 for \$A 10.95 RRP paperback. The authors in this volume are A G Clarke, Peter Corris, Bill Congreve, Terry Dowling, Rosaleen Love, Robert Hood, Sue Isle, Geoffrey Maloney, Sean McMullen, Steven Proposch and Sean Williams.

A new publication called Sirius [The Australian Magazine for readers of science fiction, fantasy and the macabre], edited by Gary Wyatt, has started up with the editorial and submissions address PO Box 188, Curtin, ACT, 2605. Issue #0, September 1992, had a cover price of \$A 7.50 and 24 A4 pages plus a wraparound fairly plain cover. Articles are one on David Eddings, Colin Steel reviews recent Australian SF, Graham Stone looks back at his early encounters with SF, and a checklist of the Shadows original anthologies edited by Charles L Grant. The letters, advertisements and news sections were blank. This is a 'teaser' issue and the articles will be reprinted in issue #1, March 1993. Subscription rates are \$A 30/year (4 issues) in Australia, overseas economy Air \$A 50, Surface mail \$A 40. Subscriptions and advertising rates are available from Gaslight Books Publications, PO Box 1022, Fyshwick, ACT, 2609.

Another magazine to appear is Prohibited Matter, vol. 1 No. 1, cover price \$A 6, dealing with crime, horror and science fiction. Edited by Rod Marsden, PO Box 19, Spit Junction, NSW, 2088. This first issue has 84 pages, A4 in size with a wrap-around cover. There's three short fiction pieces in the Crime section, while the Horror portion features an article on Australian censorship plus five fiction efforts, and the issue concludes with four stories in the Science Fiction category. There's various illos and filler reviews inserted at the ends of the stories.

**Aphelion Publications** has announced two new books will be out early in 1993. The Sea's Furthest End by Damien Broderick is a novel in which 'Broderick tells a story of all of space and all of time; and the theatre of his imagination is huge.' to quote the publicity blurb. It apparently involves an alien heir to a galactic empire, an earthman and immortals. The adventures of Tom Tyson continue in Terry Dowling's Twilight Beach in further stories of happenings along the Inner Sea.

### Rumours (Believe at your own risk)

Tom Hanks is cast as Valentine Michael Smith in Paramount's adaption of Stranger In A Strange Land, currently in production. Script by Daniel Waters (*Batman Returns*)

A new *Star Wars* film is entering production in the UK, possible release date next Christmas.

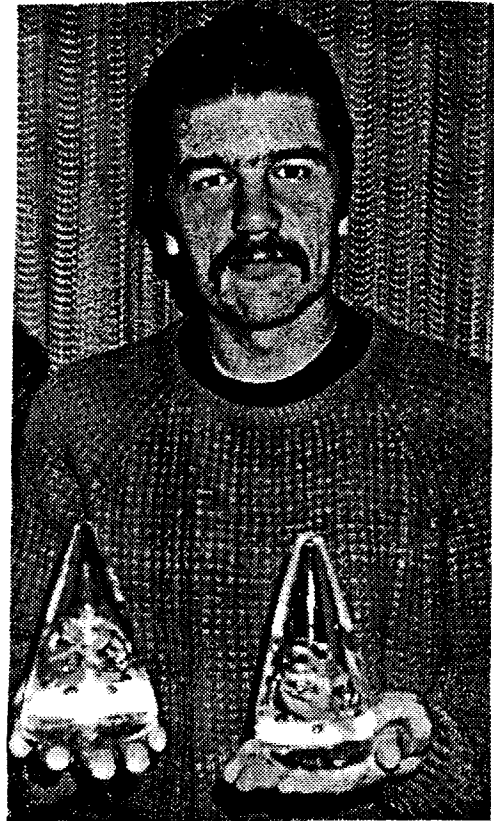
## In Memoriam: Roger Weddall

Roger's great talent was for celebration - for celebrating life itself, and for celebrating the very best in all the people with whom he came in contact. He did not use this talent for his own ends but out of an unwavering belief that everybody should live with the same grace, style and sense of amusement that he brought to every activity. Roger was one of the most active Australian members of the informal world-wide network called science fiction 'fandom'. Indeed, he was at the heart of Melbourne fandom because of his unique talent for staying in touch - and more importantly, staying *interested* in - every other person in the network. Wherever he lived was open house to other fans, and he was a welcome guest in innumerable households throughout Australia and the world.

For Roger's interests were not limited to Melbourne, or even Australia. Roger undertook three overseas trips at his own expense - to England, Europe, Asia and New Zealand - and won a trip to America only two months ago. This trip was sponsored by the Down Under Fan Fund. Several years ago he was FFANZ winner to New Zealand. Roger was heavily involved with the organisation of National Conventions held in Melbourne during the 1970s, and attended several overseas world conventions during his travels. There are many hundreds, or even thousands, of people across the world who are deeply shocked at his passing.

Roger began his involvement with science fiction fandom in 1974 when he joined the Melbourne University Science Fiction Association. Soon he was involved in all aspects of its activities, including, at different times, sometimes controversial editorship of MUSFA's magazine Yggdrasil and helping to organise the famous and wonderful MUSFA Bistro Nights. One well-known Australian science fiction author remembers that Roger published his first story in Yggdrasil, under a pseudonym. A list of Roger's successful enterprises in the science fiction world could take all afternoon. Perhaps best remembered is his editorship of the magazine Thyme, with Peter Burns, during a time when Australian fandom badly needed a lively and controversial news magazine. Before he and Peter handed on the editorship of Thyme they received the Ditmar, Australia's Science Fiction Achievement Award, in 1987.

Many of Roger's enterprises were undertaken in an effort to make life more amusing. For this reason he was one of the perpetrators of the successful attempt to put the category Best fannish Cat on the Ditmar ballot form in 1991. Some people were outraged; the others saw the joke and voted for the winner Typo, who is Roger's cat.



Last May Roger revealed, to some friends, that he had cancer and was receiving radiation treatment and chemotherapy at the time. These continuing treatments meant his DUFF trip had to be cut short and, together with complications like the pain-killing morphine drip he was on, reduced his resistance when he contracted pneumonia early in December.

Nobody can replace Roger because he is one of the few people who knew how to bring out the best in other people. He leaves such an enormous gap in our lives that we might try to emulate some of his best qualities in order to make up for losing him.

### Another Vain Attempt At Filling the Void

by Nick Stathopoulos

It's been raining steadily for the past week. The constant drizzle seems to provide the perfect, almost theatrical touch for my melancholia. Actually, the weather reminds me of Melbourne. Now don't get me wrong, I love Melbourne. It has a strange, quirky, almost dreamlike familiarity for me. I feel constantly drawn back. Always welcome.

No doubt this has something to do with the cosmopolitan nature of the city, the many Greeks living there. Talk about an extended family! And yet they are all strangers. But there's another reason why I always feel welcome in Melbourne. The other extended family. You know, the fannish one. There are so many friends. Roger Weddall was one of those friends.

It's funny how you associate people with places. I would ring Roger whenever I was in Melbourne. "Let's do lunch," I'd say. "Hey! Sure," he'd say. And somehow he'd always make time for me. I'd be waiting outside Gopals, a Hare Krishna vegetarian restaurant, occasionally glancing up from my latest *Titanic* acquisition from the Technical Bookshop. He'd come bounding through the Swanston Street crowds, all smiles and bearhugs. Over bismati rice and apple juice we'd sit and talk, catching up with each other's lives between conventions.

As the afternoon progressed we'd discuss deeper personal issues - hopes, dreams, aspirations, loves - between spoonfuls of sweet semolina pudding and jasmine tea. Issues all very vital at the time. Now tainted with mildly bitter ironies. I plan to eat again at Gopals (if it hasn't gone the way of many other restaurants in this recession). I know at which table I will be sitting, which direction I will be facing. And I know that I will be eating alone.

The death of a friend creates an emotional void. I expect many other fans will be trying to fill their voids by writing obituaries, or sharing funny anecdotes, or making phone calls much the same way I'm trying to fill the void left by Roger. And like me they're going to fail miserably. They too will discover the void is permanent. Just when you think that time's filled the void, another convention will roll up to remind you of its permanence. Another con, another trip to Melbourne, another issue of *Thyme*, another ad for Lifeline...another reminder that Roger's missing.

My friend is being cremated as I write this, and his family and friends are with his body now, saying their goodbyes. Sharing their grief. And even though I'm in Sydney, the melancholy drizzle that envelopes the house makes me feel displaced, like I'm somehow in Melbourne. And so it should be, because that is where my heart is.

1.30 pm, Tuesday 9 December 1992

Vale, RW

by Terry Frost

There's going to be a lot of stuff in this issue about the death of Roger Weddall and I've already written a few hasty but heartfelt words in my own zine on the subject. I attended his funeral and his list of achievements in and out of fandom shamed me.

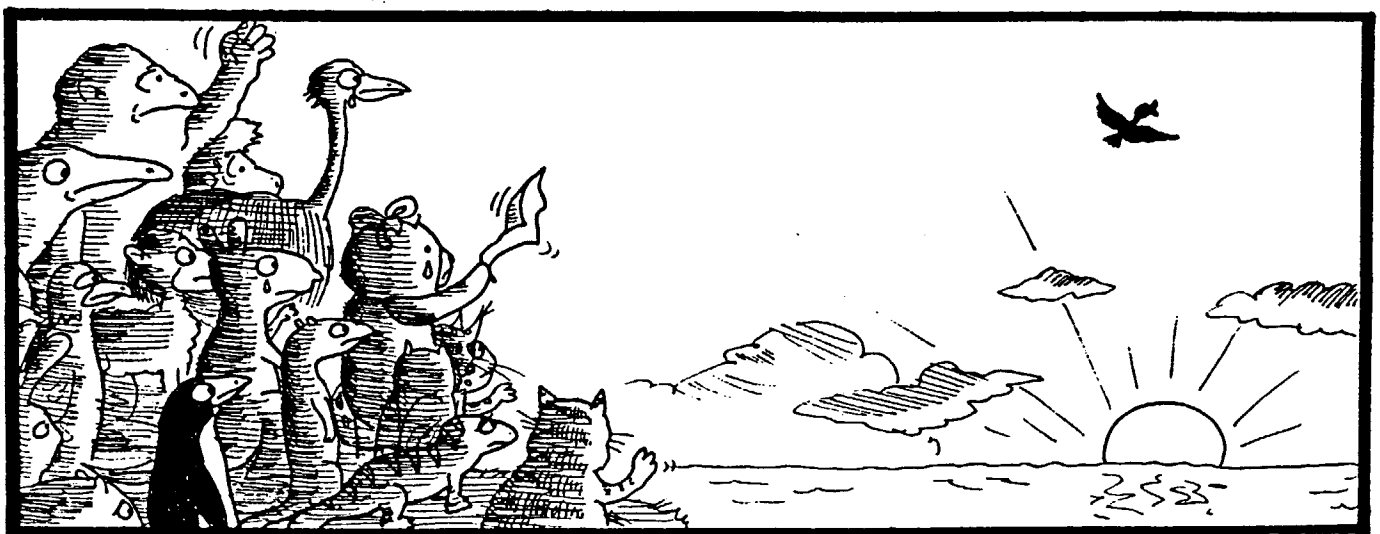
There's no point to competing with those enormously helpful and hopeful endeavours - Roger's strengths were vastly different from mine. The trick now is for all of us to find out how we can contribute to fandom - and the community out there if we so chose; in ways that use our own tropisms, tendencies and interests as best we can. Fandom isn't a place for empire building. The sands shift so contrarily beneath your feet. Beside which, the empire builders among us are so busy that they miss the room parties - which as any good fan knows is where the really paradigm-shifting things happen in our cosy little subculture.

Be excellent to one another, dudes.

## Fanimals

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

By Jan Gunn  
1292



## Article

by Boris Sidyuk

### Ukrainian SF: Where have you come from, where are you going.

It is hard to tell whether Ukrainian SF exists or not. For many centuries our country has not been independent and all its culture was in spread semi-assimilated conditions. Then it was Polish influence, then it was Lithuanian influence, then it was Russian influence. Very few of the Ukrainian intelligentsia consider themselves as a part of just Ukrainian culture. Therefore our cultural traditions were, in their larger display, in the peasant environment. True Ukrainian cultural creators came right out from there. Nikolai Gogol', Grigory Skovoroda, Taras Shevchenko and many more. All of them were singers of Ukrainian cultural traditions in the scene of the Russian cultural theatre. They led out our culture from khatas (Ukrainian peasant house) to the big world of civilisation. I think many of you could see a great movie called *Viy* based on Nikolai Gogol's story. This wonderful horror movie shows the main stream of Ukrainian fiction of 19th century. Demonology was then very popular.

The Ukrainian SF renaissance started in early 20th century. You will laugh a lot but the October Socialist Revolution initiated Ukrainian peoples' self-awareness and, as a result, the development of Ukrainian culture in general and fantasy fiction in part. One of the Ukrainian leaders of the first independence in 1918, Vlodimir Vinnichenko, had written an utopian novel called The Sun Machine. Evidently it was the first Ukrainian SF novel. Before Stalinism captured the USSR ultimately in 1931 there was quick development of cultures of the Soviet republics. NEP (the New Economic Policy), started in 1922, allowed the free-market to be. There were many publishers, many books and magazines, many writers and translators. All of those gave life to such great SF authors as Yuri Smolich with his novel Lovely Catastrophes, Yuri Dolgushin and Volodimir Vladko. That stage of Ukrainian SF did not have many directions. It developed in the common stream of European culture.

Stalinism killed the Soviet culture. The general Communist Party direction in the culture was so-called SOCIALIST REALISM. SF was penned to the narrow frames of the NEAR SIGHT. The main theme of the near sight was some invention made by some Soviet scientist and foreign spies who wanted to steal such an invention and turn it into a weapon against the USSR. Finally, the spies were unmasked, the invention saved - happy end. The most typical novel of his kind in Ukraine is The Deep Way by Mikola Trublaini (it was reprinted here a year or so ago). But some SF writers succeeded in creating really great works even in those narrow frames. Ukrainian Russian-language author Yuri Dolgushin had written

the best novel of the near sight called The Miracle Generator.

Kruschov, who had been a Ukrainian party leader before he became a Soviet leader, let the culture out of the total control. But Russian literary influences on Ukrainian SF were too powerful. Ukrainian SF writers followed Russian tendencies in the SF field. Volodimir Vladko followed Ivan Yefremov and led Ukrainian SF into space. But this author was looking for his own way in SF. Vladko was a father-founder of modern Ukrainian SF. The following developmental period was closely connected with Russian-language SF. There arose such a great author as Volodimir Savshenko whose novel The Discovery of Oneself became one of the best works of the current period in the USSR. Then, in the 1960s, we got a whole constellation of wonderful writers: Vasil' Berezhnii, Mikola Dashkiev, Leonid Sapozhnikov, Oles' Berdnyk, Mikola Rudenko and many more. The then Ukrainian SF looked like a salad of socialist realism and American SF traditions. That was the next renaissance of the Soviet culture, the golden age of the soviet SF.

Ukrainian SF began to divide into the traditional direction (pro-Russian) and the Cosmology direction (that's its own way in SF). The Cosmology built universe hypotheses of various kinds. The best works of this direction are The Star Corsar by Oles' Berdnyk and The Magic Boomerang by Mikola Rudenko. It seemed that Ukrainian SF had found its face, but there started a reaction in the 1970s. The newborn SF genre was buried alive. Many Ukrainian SF writers who disagreed with government policy were either imprisoned, as Oles' Berdnyk, or deported, as Mikola Rudenko who now works on Radio Liberty in Munich.

Since the late 1970s there was a new generation of authors coming in to SF. Ukrainian SF acquired new leaders but they went by the Russian SF route and, as a result, played secondary roles in Soviet SF. Many promising authors left Ukraine for Moscow and St. Petersburg, two centres of the Soviet culture. Those who stayed were only a background against Moscow/St. Petersburg writers. Alexander Teselenko, Lyudmila Kozinetz, Volodimir Zayatz and so on. The only really bright Ukrainian star in the Soviet SF sky - Boris Shtern. He has lived in Kiev but it's hard to call him a Ukrainian writer. There should be a whole talk just about Boris Shtern, the first winner of the Chumatsky Shlyah Award in 1988 for his book Whose Planet Is That ? and owner of a whole line of other prizes. He writes in Russian, as do most Ukrainian SF authors. Now, Ukraine has reached its independence but years will be necessary to recreate the importance of Ukrainian language. Almost 40% of Ukrainian population speak Russian and consider it their mother tongue. I think after two years or so have passed the Ukrainian language will become a real general means of self-expression of Ukraine's culture. Believe me, it's really a great language.

Now coming authors return to classic Ukrainian themes and try to develop them. Power bias into demonology, a traditional Ukrainian cultural way, is able to give the world a new cultural phenomenon. A first step on this way has been made by Valery Shevchuk with his nice novel Phoenix. Now fantasy and mysticism are very popular genres throughout the former USSR. Such a situation helps a lot to establish the newest Ukrainian SF. Unfortunately, Ukrainian language SF has not yet got any special writers' organisation like SFFWA for English-language SF or All-Union (formerly Creative Union of Young SF Writers) for Russian-language SF. Even the only Ukrainian-language SF magazine Nauka - Fantastyka (Science - Fiction) closed because of financial problems and paper shortage. A group of Ukrainian SF professionals and fans is going to found one.

#### Chumatsky Shiyah Award

Founded in 1988, this is a Ukrainian national award. It goes to the author of the best SF book of the year in Ukraine, no matter if that book is in Ukrainian or Russian. The winner is selected by the voting of Ukrainian fans.

1988 Whose Planet is That ? by Boris Shtern (Molod' Publishers)

1989 The Mind Kidnappers by Volodimir Savchenko (Radyansky Pismennyk)

1990 No Award

1991 The Broken Chain by Lyudmila Kozinetz (Molod' Publishers)

[Originally prepared for Eurocon '92 souvenir book]



by Terry Frost

Just to set this issue of Thyme into some context in case future historians wearing lurex tunics

perspex bangles, light emitting diodes under their eyelids and pointy hats decide to use it for a doctoral thesis on the zeitgeist of Melbourne in the 1990s: Up Yours, Kennett!

#### ABOUT THE PHOTO

For those of you who haven't seen me before, that photo reproduced up above right isn't really me. Um, this bloke is a gentleman of the streets who happened by while Susan was holding the camera. He smelled like he'd been sleeping in the place where nicotine went to die, abusively tried to bott five dollars off us and told me he was going to be someone important in Australian Science Fiction and that if we played our cards right he'd introduce us to those Americans who are trying to organise media conventions in Australia.



We beat the shit out of him for trying to whizz on our legs. "I just saw Gene Roddenberry at a 7-11 buying a slurpee. He isn't really dead! I can get Walter Koenig for Guest of Honour!" he screamed. "The Melbourne Science Fiction Club will never get a convention off the ground again! We'll grind them into their Lego bricks, deface their collections of Terry Pratchett novels, eviscerate their stuffed toy animals and spread salt on their chocolate crackles! We're going to get shotguns and blast the Garfields off their car windows!"

Upon hearing that stuff about the MSFC, we immediately picked him up, brushed him off, gave him a half-used phone card and took his picture for posterity. There's a little bit of good in everyone. He immediately went off, made a couple of phone calls, became Premier of Victoria and the rest is history.

1999 OR BUST.... SORRY, BOSOM (We are in Melbourne Fandom after all.)

I like the 1999 Australian Worldcon bid. It's rather fortunate that this stuff is being instigated by some folk of good, gonzo nature. That ensures that the whole deal is somewhat anchored in the warm, tropical sands of reality. However, I despair at what might happen if/when they actually win the Worldcon and pass the ball to whichever sorry mongrels are aberrant enough to want to spend half a decade organising something which will be over in five days.

What if media fandom decides to run the Worldcon, gang ? Want to know what would happen ? The 1999 Worldcon would have Martin Landau and Barbara Bain as Guests of Honour cuz they were in *Space 1999*. That's the way some of the punters we share fandom with actually think! The next Starwalking convention has a Lucasfilm producer as GoH - which is like getting a bloody accountant! What next ? A spreadsheet ? I have the crepitatious feeling that software as Guest of Honour will be the big trend before the end of the decade. But back to the Worldcon bid.

If they couldn't get Landau & Bain, they'd probably settle for Nick Tate. Why not ? A recent convention got Peter Sumner for a Guest of Honour because he had something like fifteen seconds of screen time in *Star Wars* and Ray Barrett because he did the voice



of a poncey marionette in *Thunderbirds*. So we have a problem, here. Who in Australian fandom fills the following essential criteria for running a Worldcon ?

1) Must be willing to spend half a decade organising a five day event about which half the dysfunctional Momma's boys in American fandom are going to complain until well into the next millennium regardless of how well it does.

2) Must be relatively sane. (Some of these criteria are contradictory, I know.) We've had committee people have breakdowns before cons and while it's good for the gossip mills, it does bugger all for the con itself.

3) Must be willing to go into Victorian economy-style megadebt if the whole thing goes nipples-up and gets seventeen or eighteen paying members.

4) Must have the Svengali/Lamont Cranston ability to cloud the minds of local science fiction fans and so get them to spend an entire Worldcon doing scut work for twenty odd hours per day.

5) Must have credibility with the fannish punters nation-wide if not globally. (This, of course, is the criterion that sinks to whole deal.)

Listen, guys, if you want someone to be on a panel item at the Worldcon in 1999 - something humorous about marsupial ranching or Hot Tubs I Have Known, give me a bell but as for organisational stuff - you can keep your spreadsheets out of my face, please.

(\* *Space 1999* is currently undergoing a local television renaissance at the apt time of four in the morning up against such tough competition as old Audie Murphy westerns and 1970s Australian soap operas.)



## Letters

Harry Andruschak

PO Box 5309, Torrance  
CA, 90510-5309, USA

Thanks for sending Thyme #88/Australian SF News #49. As a trade I will be sending my latest zine Intermediate Vector Bosons #6 by sea mail. I hope it arrives by the end of next year. I do hope you will make a habit of listing zines received, along with full addresses and availability. I am always looking for a good zine to trade with and right now I have very few Australians and New Zealanders on my mailing list.

Nice con report by Mark Linneman. Due to lack of money and my job at the Post Office I have not been able to attend any Worldcon since 1988 in New Orleans. My next Worldcon will hopefully be the 1995 in Glasgow. Count me as one of the pre-supporters of that bid. OK, I will admit I also said "WHO?" when the name Gerry Anderson came up, but I am still proud of having voted for the Glasgow bid.

Well, yes, I suppose Terry Frost is right in that the last work of fiction from Isaac Asimov that I enjoyed was The Gods Themselves, but right to the end I admired his work as a science fact writer, both his monthly column in The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction and his books on the subject. Given the huge amount of scientific illiteracy in the USA, even in fandom, we needed his work. (Think I'm joking ? Ask a lot of your SF friends if they know what an Intermediate Vector Boson is, how many different types there are, and why they are important).

I will have to pass on any comments to Mark Lawson since I am one of those hermits who have not seen either *Alien Nation* or *The Jetsons*. Indeed I have not had or watched a TV for 7½ years nor bothered with any movie not rated "G" for about 3½ years. As far as the media goes I have become a cultural illiterate. Which is still better than a scientific illiterate, in my own humble opinion.

As for myself, life goes on. The United States Postal Service is going through an upheaval but my job as an Electronics Technician seems to be secure for the next year or two. Right now of course the mail volume is increasing as we enter the Christmas season and by the end of the month the glut of Christmas cards will begin. Billions and billions of Christmas cards.

Since I pre-supported the 1995 Glasgow bid, I will be happy to presupport the 1999 Australian bid as soon as I find out who to send the money to.

from Sheryl Birkhead 23629 Woodfield Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882 USA

After watching *Robojox*, the film Joe Haldeman scripted, I think he would make a great guest at a convention called Robocon.

Mark's view of Magicon was (yet again) different from the others I have seen. As for me, the short time I was there (that way hysteria doesn't quite have time to set in), it seemed as if everything I wanted to see from the program schedule was either concurrent with something ELSE I wanted to see or had taken place days before I arrived. I wonder if they would consider sending out the program schedule before the con.

Terry **does** have opinions doesn't he ? It does make for interesting reading but tends to make me look over my shoulder in case anything I am saying or doing might be potential cannon fodder.

Eric Lindsay 43 Chapman Parade  
Faulconbridge, NSW, 2776

Mention in Mark Linneman's Magicon report that Glasgow won the Worldcon for 1995, and Mark's (totally correct) comment that "A good overseas bid can win with a massive investment of time and money" reminds me of how much I saw UK fans doing prior to the vote. At Boskone there must have been a dozen UK fans attending and they were running heavy party scheduling.

If Australia is to get another Worldcon we either have to advertise on the same massive scale or else we have to secure a walkover position by starting early. I'd guess advertising costs for a traditional Worldcon bid would now exceed \$A 100 000 for Australia due to the need to get several dozen fans a year over there to boost the bid. Based on the budgets for recent bids I can't see this happening.

This leaves starting early. Which is why I have suggested a 1999 bid. This has the advantage that the two strongest West Coast cities will almost certainly not be bidding (San Francisco probably won't try for a bid six years from its present win, and Los Angeles will probably get 1996). It also avoids the popular years 2000 and 2001.

However, advertising a bid does take lots of money and effort. Luckily there is a lot of overseas help available provided we can continue to send flyers, travel material and encourage bid parties. Anyone in Australia can help out in doing any of these three things.

*[Starting early certainly works, for example Constantinople '94 won both the National Convention and the Australasian Media Convention unopposed by mounting an early well advertised bid. One possible*

*contender withdrew before the vote. I'd hold out for an Australian Worldcon in 2002 on the 50th anniversary of the MSFC for sentimental reasons but current practicalities dictate taking the 1999 window while the opportunity is there.]*

from Harry Warner Jr 423 Summit Ave,  
Hagerstown, MD, 21740, USA

Alas I won't be able to respond in the most profitable way to the Fan Fund ballots. My retirement income has suffered pitifully from lower interest rates on my savings and expenses keep rising. The latest, a \$30 monthly increase in the already monstrous sum I must pay for a supplementary health insurance plan which covers all the many expenses that the government's medical care plan for elderly people ignores, and the premium on the latter is rising early next year, too. I've had to economise where possible and Fan Fund contributions are on that purge list.

At this point I should tell you how much I regret the passing of the Australian Administrator of DUFF. When someone telephoned me with the sad news about Roger I had hopes that it was just a wild rumor. But by now I've been forced to admit to myself that it really happened. Roger was planning to pay me a visit when he made his second trip to North America and it would have been my first encounter with an Australian fan in at least a decade.

I believe the conreport by Mark Linneman is the first Australian printed account of this year's worldcon I have seen. I enjoyed it very much, since it included a few factual ideas I hadn't seen in other reports on Magicon as well as the different viewpoint on events that occurred in Orlando. Mark keeps unbroken a record I've been tallying ever since reports on this convention began to see print: he writes about the mix-up in the fanzine Hugo presentation. This must be almost the most publicised individual event at and worldcon in many years and I've told Dick Lynch that it will make Mimosa go down in fan history, long after other fanzine Hugos are forgotten.

When I was a boy and reading the Sunday comics faithfully, there was a now-forgotten one entitled simply Elmer, the adventures of a small boy in a typical American small town. Every Sunday without fail, somewhere in one of the panels on that page, there would be a small figure in the background of an elderly man saying in the small balloon above his head: "Darned weather!" Terry Frost's column reminds me of that old fellow.

I fully agree with Mark Lawson about the absurdity of filling novels about the future with contemporary props and concerns. Not long ago I read about one author who had been forced to revise a novel published about ten years earlier when it was scheduled for a new edition: too much in the original version had been

hopelessly outdated by the course of events since publication. I think the professional artists suffer from the same habit when illustrating paperbacks. Computers shown in these drawings, for instance, almost always have their screens identical in shape and size with today's monitors, and the keyboards on these computers are just like the ones offered for sale today. Surely computers of the future will have displays and keyboards wildly different from what is in use today, just as today's electric typewriters look nothing like the typewriters that were in use a century ago.

The copy of Australian SF News was unsettling because it contains so many prices of Australian books that are terrifying in their height, even though I know your dollar doesn't correspond exactly to ours in buying power. Surely book publishers must switch to microfiche or some other form of peddling their wares before too long, before they price themselves completely out of the market. The reviews in this issue sound fair enough to a person who hasn't read the books they involve but who has some knowledge of the typical output of many of the authors represented here.

WAHF John T. Stewart, Anne Thompson, Leanne Frahm, Marilyn Pride, Lewis Morley, George Turner, Peter Burns, Helena Roberts, Teddy Harvia, John Newman, Chris Masters, Lorraine Cormack, Patricia Anderson, Rosaleen Love, Linnette Horne, Lyn McConchie and Irwin Hirsh.

## Trading Thyme

A list of magazines that have arrived in the Thyme PO Box in the last two months or were in a box which Mark Loney passed on in early October. Thanks to all who sent them and if I've cribbed some news without supplying due credit I apologise. Thyme is available for 'The Usual' which includes air mail trade, contribution (letter, article, artwork) and editorial whim.

### Busswarble #2 (Oct 92)

Perzine - Michael Hailstone, PO Box 15, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, Vic, 3005, Australia. Write for availability.

### The Captain's Log #180-185 (July-Dec '92)

Clubzine - Austrek  
GPO Box 5206AA, Melbourne, Vic, 3001, Australia  
Available to members and arranged Trade.

### Chernobylization #4/5 (Jun 92)

Genzine - Alexander V Vasilkovsky, Boris Sidyuk  
Poste restante, General PO 252001, Kiev-1, Ukraine.  
Available for 'The Usual' or subscriptions of SF&F books.  
1 issue: Ukraine 30 coupons, CIS 25 roubles.

### Critical Wave #24-27 (Nov 91-Sep 92)

Review zine - Steve Green, Martin Tudor  
845 Alum Rock Rd, Ward End, Birmingham, B8 2AG, UK.  
UK Subscriptions: £8.50 payable to 'Critical Wave Publications'. Lifetime subscription: £75.  
US \$US 29 (air), \$US 20 (surface) to Mary Burns,  
23 Kensington Crt, Hempstead, NY, 11550, USA.  
Australia \$A 43 (air), \$A 27 (surface) payable to  
Justin Ackroyd, GPO Box 2708X, Victoria, Melbourne, 3001,  
Australia. Other areas: contact UK address.

### Cry Havoc June-Nov 92

Newszine - PO Box 2836, Wellington, New Zealand  
Subscription: 1 year \$NZ14, 2 years \$NZ 25; or 'The Usual'

### Czerwony #3

Clubzine - SF Club of Gdansk  
PO Box 76, 80-325 Gdansk 37, Poland.  
Probably available for 'The Usual'.

### Daarke Worde #1 (Jun 92)

Clubzine - Melbourne Horror Society  
Tony J Brooke, PO Box 512, Bacchus Marsh, Vic, 3340,  
Australia. Available to members and for arranged Trade.

### Data Extract #94-95 (Jul/Aug-Sept 92), #97 (Dec 92)

Clubzine - Australian Dr Who Fan Club  
PO Box 148, Gladesville, NSW, 2111, Australia.  
Subscription: \$A 7/year (8 issues)

### Diverse Visions #29 (Sept 92)

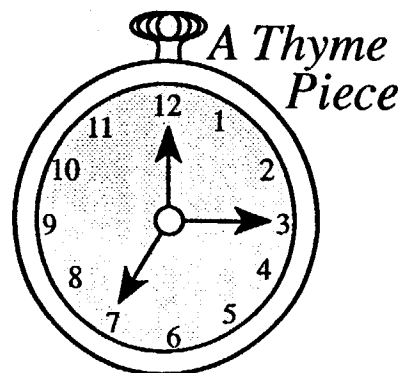
Clubzine - Dandenong Valley SF & Futurist Society  
336 Springvale Road, Springvale, Vic, 3171, Australia.  
Available to members and on request.

### EOD

Horror fiction zine - Chris A Masters  
PO Box 7545, St Kilda Rd, Melbourne, Vic, 3004, Australia.  
Subscription: \$A 18/4 issues, single issue \$A 5. Overseas:  
single issue \$A 7 (surface), \$A 9 (air), 4 issues \$A 24  
(surface), \$A 30 (air). Cheques/money orders payable to  
Chris Anagnostopoulos.

### Ethel the Aardvark #42-46 (Mar-Nov 92)

Clubzine - Melbourne SF Club Inc.  
PO Box 212, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, Vic, 3005,  
Australia. Available to members, for 'The Usual' and annual  
subscription (6 issues): \$A 10 Australia, \$A 20 overseas.





**Eyeballs in the Sky #6 (Oct 92)**

Perzine - Tony Berry, 55 Seymour Rd, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 4EP, UK. Available for 'The Usual'.

**File 770 #93-94 (July-Sept 92)**

Newszine - Mike Glycer, 5828 Woodman Ave. #2, Van Nuys, CA, 91401, USA. Available for contributions, arranged Trades or subscription: \$US 8 for 5 issues first class in North America or surface overseas. Air printed matter \$US 2.50 per issue.

**Fosfax #161-162 (July-Oct 92)**

Club/Genzine - Falls of Ohio SF & F Association  
PO Box 37281, Louisville, KY, 40233-7281, USA  
Subscription: \$US 12/year, foreign \$US 18/year.  
Membership: \$US 18. Available for 'The Usual'

**The Frozen Frog #3 (Jun 92)**

Perzine - Benoit Girard, 1016 Guillaume-Boisset, Cap-Rouge, Quebec, G1Y 1Y9, Canada. Available for 'The Usual', or \$C 1 per issue (\$C 1.50 outside North America).

**Get Stuffed #5 (Nov 92)**

Perzine - James Allen, PO Box 41, West Brunswick, Vic, 3055, Australia. Available for 'The Usual'.

**The Gila Queen's Guide to Markets #48 (July 92)**

Newszine - Kathryn Ptacek,  
PO Box 97, Newton, NJ, 07860, USA.  
Subscription: 1 year \$US 20, sample issue \$US 3.

**Intermediate Vector Bosons #5-6 (Mar-Sept 92)**

Perzine - Harry Andruschak, PO Box 5309, Torrance, CA 90510-5309, USA. Write for availability.

**Kalien #19? (Nov 92)**

Perzine - James Allen, PO Box 41, West Brunswick, Vic, 3055, Australia. Available for 'The Usual'.

**The Mentor #76-77 (Oct 92-Jan 93)**

Genzine - Ron Clarke,  
6 Bellevue Rd, Faulconbridge, NSW, 2776, Australia.  
Available for contribution or \$A 5 per single issue.

**Mimosa #12 (July 92)**

Genzine - Dick & Nicki Lynch,  
PO Box 1350, Germantown, MD, 20875, USA.  
Available for \$US 2 per issue or 'The Usual'.

**Phlogiston #29-31 (May 91-Jun 92)**

Genzine - Alex Heatley, PO Box 11-708, Manners St, Wellington, New Zealand. Subscriptions: \$NZ 5/4 issues, \$NZ 10/10 issues. Overseas by arrangement and double in local currency (10 issues US = 2x10 = \$US 20).

**Phoenixine #35 (Jun 92), #37 (Aug 92), #40 (Nov 92)**

Clubzine - The Phoenix SF Society Newsletter  
PO Box 11-559, Manners St, Wellington, New Zealand.  
Available to Members and arranged Trade.

**Pong #41 (Aug 92)**

Perzine - Dan Steffan and Ted White,  
3804 South 9th Street, Arlington, VA, 22204, USA.  
Write for availability, and back issues.

**Robots & Roadrunners v.6#4 (Dec 91), v.7#2 (Oct 92)**

Clubzine - Ursa Major, PO Box 691448, San Antonio, TX, 78269-1448, USA. \$US 1.50 single issue or 'The Usual'.

**Science Fiction Chronicle Aug-Nov 91, Jun-Jul 92**

Newszine - Andrew I Porter, PO Box 2730, Brooklyn, NY, 11202-0056, USA. Subscriptions: USA: 1 year \$US 30, \$US 36 First Class; 2 years \$US 57, \$US 69 (FC); Lifetime \$US 300, \$US 360 (FC). Australia: 1 year \$A 54, 2 years \$A 99, Hexagon Press, Box 337, Blacktown, NSW, 2148. Canada: 1 year \$C 42, 2 years \$C 79, Andrew Porter. Germany: 1 year DM 69, 2 years DM 133, Waldemar Kunning, Engadiner Str. 24, D-8000 Muenchen 71, postgiroamt Munich 1478 14-802. UK: 1 year £25, 2 years £47, Algol Press, C/- Ethel Lindsay, 69 Barry Rd, Carnoustie Angus, DD7 7QQ. Other: 1 year \$US 41, 2 years \$US 79, Lifetime \$US 410, airmail, Andrew Porter.

**Shards of Babel #34 (Dec 91), #36-38 (Jun-Oct 92)**

Newszine - Roelof Goudriaan, Caan van Necklaan 63, 2281 BB Rijswijk ZH, the Netherlands.  
Subscription: \$US 20, £10, DM 30, NLG 32 for 8 issues.

**Shoggoth #1 (June 92)**

Lovecraftian fiction zine - Chris A Masters  
PO Box 7545, St Kilda Rd, Melbourne, Vic, 3004, Australia.  
Single copy: \$A 5, overseas \$A 10 (air), \$A 8 (surface).  
Cheques/money orders payable to Chris Anagnostopoulos.

**Smithfield Zines #3 'datum' 1992**

Parody zine - 14 Chamberlain Drive, Smithfield, NSW, 2164, Australia. Write for availability.

**Stet #6 (Aug 92)**

Genzine - Leah & Dick Smith, 17 Kerry lane, Wheeling, IL, 60090-6415, US. Available: \$US 2 per issue or 'The Usual'.

**TAFFervescent #5 (Jun 92)**

Fan Fund information - Pam Wells  
24A Beech Rd, Bowes park, London, N11 2DA, UK  
Available to TAFF voters and on request.

**THREADS Newsletter #19-21 (July-Nov 92)**

Clubzine - The Handcraft and Design Society  
PO Box 257, West Brunswick, Vic, 3055, Australia  
Available to Members and arranged Trade.

**Vote Early and Vote Often one-shot (Nov 92)**

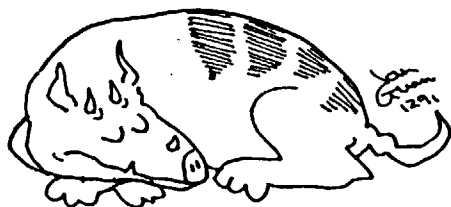
Dick & Leah Smith DUFF candidates (see Stet)

**Warp #86-87 (Aug/Sept-Oct/Nov 92)**

Clubzine - National Association for SF  
PO Box 5516, Dunedin, New Zealand  
Available to NASF Members and for arranged Trade.

**Worlds of Wonder June 92**

Clubzine - Canberra SF Society Inc.  
PO Box 47, Civic Square, ACT, 2608, Australia.  
Available to members and arranged Trade.



For those interested, Thyme #88 had the following distribution:

Australia	142	Sweden	1	UK	10	New Zealand	10
Honk Kong	1	Netherlands	1	Canada	2	Czechoslovakia	2
USA	31	France	1	Poland	1	Ukraine	1 (203)

## Social Calendar

- 8 January MSFC Fun and Games night  
 15 January MSFC Musical Jam Session night  
 16 January MSFC BBQ, BYO everything, 11 am, Batman Park (near World Trade Centre).  
 15-17 January Austrek Annual Bush Wars, contact Derek Screen C/- GPO Box 5206AA, Melbourne, 3001  
 17 January Picnic in Botanical Gardens, Melbourne, about 12 onwards (Roger Weddall's birthday get together)  
 17 January Australian SF Foundation Annual General Meeting, phone (03) 383 5398 for details.  
 22 January MSFC Celebrity Heads night
- 20 February 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual St Valentine's Dinner Dance, \$A 38 per person, buffet style, closing date 17 February  
 Cheques payable to Star Walking No. 2 Account, PO Box 118, Springvale, Vic, 3171.

**Critical Mass** usually meet to discuss SF and debate first Wednesday of each month, from 8 pm at SA Writers' Centre, 242 Pirie Street, Adelaide, with dinner beforehand at East End Coffee House.

3 February	Juliette Woods & Damien Warman	On Editing <u>Nemesis</u>
3 March	Tony Pezzano & Tony Smith	Sex and the Single Titanide
7 April	Michael Clark	Differences with the Difference Engine
5 May	Yvonne Rousseau	On <u>Hyperion</u> and <u>The Fall of Hyperion</u>
2 June	Roman Orszanski	Some Post-Modernist Writings

The **Phoenix SF Society** meets in Wellington, New Zealand, at 7.30 pm on the second wednesday of every month in the Hotel St George, cnr Willis and Boulcott Street. Their current program for 1993 is:

13 January	Wide Gaming (Les Barrett)	14 July	Phillip Mann speaks
10 February	Filking (Cath Clark)	11 August	SFX
10 March	Science in SF	8 September	Board games
14 April	Costuming	13 October	Tag Wrestling
12 May	AGM / Games	10 November	Literary Panel
9 June	Guest speaker	8 December	Quiz / Christmas party

### 1993 CONVENTIONS

**OZCON II** January 1993. Comics convention. Contact: (02) 267 8843.

**STAR FEST** 13-14 February 1994 (Brisbane, Mayfair Crest Hotel), 20-21 February 1994 (Melbourne, Southern Cross Hotel)  
 GoHs Walter Koenig, David McDonnell. **Memberships** \$A 50, \$A 28 day. Children under 12 half price. **Mail** Arcane Annie, PO Box 12458, A'Beckett Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000. **Phone** (03) 387 0687

**CANCON '93** Australia Day weekend. Canberra Games Society Annual Convention.

**SWANCON 18 (1993 Aust NatCon)** 8-12 April 1993

Ascot Inn, 1 Epsom Ave, Belmont, Perth. **Theme** Apocalypse Wow! GoHs Terry Pratchett, Craig Hilton. **Banquet** No details. **Membership** \$A 70 to 7-4-1993. \$A 75 at door. \$A 20 per day. Child (aged 5-15 on 8-4-93) \$A 25. \$A 20 Sup. **Room Rates** Ascot Inn (Con hotel), no rooms remaining. Bel Aire, (twin only) \$A 37 per person per night, inc. breakfast. **Hucksters** Professional \$A 65.00, Member \$A 35 or \$A 10 per day. **Publications schedule** PR #4 late Jan 1993, Program Book deadline 22-2-93 **Mail** PO Box 318, Nedlands 6009

**DOCTORCON '93** 9-11 April 1993

Auckland University, Auckland. No GoHs. Video making, writers' workshop, lots more. **Mail** PO Box 26-311, Epsom, Auckland, New Zealand.

**HOLODICTION '93** 14-16 May 1993

Gazebo Hotel, Sydney. **Theme** Star Trek GoHs No details available **Banquet** \$A 41 **Membership** \$A 95 to 30-11-92, \$A 110 to 31-1-93, \$A 130 to 31-3-93, \$A 145 to 1-5-93. Supporting \$A 35. Family memberships available. Only 50 Day memberships available. **Room Rates** No details available. **Dealers' Room** No rates available. Cocktail Party, Costume Show, GoH Talks, Panels, Auction, Autograph Session. **Mail** PO Box 157, Matraville, Sydney, NSW, 2036 **Phone** (61 2) 311 3841 **Fax** (61 2) 311 3607

**STAR WALKING II** 21-23 May 1993

Townhouse Hotel, 701 Swanston St, Melbourne. Theme All Things Strange & Alien. GoHs Howard Kazanjian, Lisa Cowan, Jose Perez, Marc Gracie. Membership \$A 100 (\$A 120 door), \$A 60 day. \$A 35 Sup. (Pay to SWII No. 2 a/c) Banquet \$A 40. Hucksters Tables \$A 130 pro (includes 1 membership), \$A 50 fan. Room rates \$A 93 twin share, payable to 'Townhouse'. Breakfast \$A 9 (continental), \$A 12 (cooked). Charity Cancer Institute at Peter McCallum Hospital. Masquerade, THREADS Awards, Art Show, Auctions. Phone (03)-755-2361. Mail PO Box 118, Springvale, Victoria 3171.

**DEFCON (1993 New Zealand National/Australasian Media NatCon)** 4-7 June 1993

Hotel St George, Willis St, Wellington. GoHs Larry Niven, Julian May, D C Fontana, David Gerrold, Dennis Skotak, Mark Harris, Gail Adams. Membership \$A 55 to 3-6-93. \$A 60 at door. \$A 25 Sup. \$A 5 voting. Theme It's nothing personal. Charity Wellington Astronomical Society. Roleplaying and Boardgaming available - special gaming membership \$A 25 until 3-6-93, \$A 30 at door. Banquet, auction. Short story, film/video, filk singing, cartoon, quiz, artwork competitions (con members only). Hucksters Tables \$A 20 amateur (club, con), \$A 80 professional. Room rates \$NZ 60 sing, \$NZ 75 twin/doub, \$NZ 85 triple. \$NZ 20 deposit required. Mail PO Box 30-905, Lower Hutt, New Zealand

**WHOVENTION II: CONTROL (1993 Australian Dr Who Convention)** 9-11 July 1993

The Waratah Inn, 22-28 Great Western Highway, Parramatta. GoHs To be announced Membership \$A 60 to 8-7-93, \$A 65 at door, \$A 35 day. Dinners Friday barbecue \$A 18, Saturday banquet \$A 40. Room Rates (per night) Single \$A 85, Twin \$A 45 per person, triple \$A 35 per person. Charity Save the children fund Mail PO Box 223, Wentworth Building, Sydney University, NSW, 2006, Australia.

**CONFRANCISCO (1993 WorldCon)** 3-6 September 1993

Moscone Convention Centre. GoHs Larry Niven, Tom Digby, Alicia Austin, Wombat (jan howard finder). Toastmaster Guy Gavriel Kay. Dead GoH Mark Twain. Rates \$US 85. \$US 25 Sup, Age 0-8 free with guardian, Unattended Child 7-12 at 1-9-93 \$US 30 Mail: 712 Bancroft Rd, Suite 1993, Walnut Creek, CA 94598, USA.

**CIRCULATION 6** December 1993. Canberra SF Society relaxacon.

1994 CONVENTIONS

**CONSTANTINOPLE (1994 Australian Natcon/Australasian Media Natcon)** 1-4 April 1994

Southern Cross Hotel, Melbourne. GoHs William Gibson, Colin Baker, Bruce Gillespie, Narrelle Harris Membership \$A 90, sup. \$A 20, voting \$A 5. At 1-4-94 Child aged 5-12 \$A 40, under 5 free. Charities Cat Protection Society of Victoria, Royal Melbourne Zoo. Mail PO Box 212, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, Victoria, 3005, Australia.

**INTERACT (SF Media Convention)** 23-25 April 1994

National Convention Centre. Contact: GPO Box 2080, Canberra, ACT, 2601, Australia.

**SILICON (1994 New Zealand National)** 3-6 June 1994

Bentley's Hotel (ex Alglen), Dunedin. GoHs Barbara Hambly, Tom Cardy. Membership \$NZ 40, \$NZ 10 sup. T-Shirt \$NZ 30 Mail PO Box 333, Dunedin, New Zealand



THE WOMBAT FUND



The Wombat has been associated with Aussie fandom since Aussiecon One (1975); and was used in the logo for Aussiecon Two. This is because a number of overseas (mainly U.S.) fans were taken to Zoos etc. while here in '75. They were impressed with the wombats as they know about koalas and kangaroos, but nothing about wombats. Our visitors were even more impressed when told of the wombat's reputation as a nocturnal creature which "eats, roots, shoots and leaves". Its lumbering earnestness also reminded them of certain Aussie fans. Surely such a creature deserves our support, via the sponsorship program at the Melbourne Zoo.

The cost of sponsorship is \$250.00 per year, for either the Common or Hairy-nose Wombat.

Any donations received will go towards the eventual sponsorship, but if insufficient funds are available, any money collected will be donated as a one-off gesture to the Zoo, towards wombat upkeep. Please give generously. (Donations of \$2.00 and above are tax deductible.)

Name/ Address	Phone Number	Donation	Receipt Required?	Preference
.....	.....	\$.....	Yes / No	Common / Hairy-Nose No Preference
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Please make cheques/money orders payable to the Melbourne Zoo.

Send your donation to:  
**Wombat Fund**  
 P.O. Box 215  
 FOREST HILL VIC. 3131



\* Especially after the Aussie slang meaning of "roots" was explained!!



# AUSTRALIAN



# NEWS

Number 50

January 1993

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Edited by

Merv Binns

Alan Stewart

PO Box 491, Elsternwick,  
Victoria 3185

PO Box 222, World Trade Centre  
Melbourne, Victoria 3005

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Dear Readers,

For the last year or more I have been trying to find the time to produce another issue of Australian SF News but working on my book selling activities and my gardening work, plus trying to do a bit around the house has not allowed me the time do anything on the News. So Alan Stewart has come to my rescue and put together a lot of the reviews he and others had done for me and he is organising more reviews to follow. Alan has also taken over the publication of the other Australian SF news magazine Thyme and he has combined this with ASFN reviews. I am not sure how this arrangement will work out in the future but at least we have something moving.

I want to supplement my work on the SF&F Checklist, which is providing book buyers with a guide to what is being published, as well as helping me sell a few books, and I hope to do a news column for Alan which will give a round up of the major publishing events, what the authors are up to and other bits of professional and fan news. I will also make a few comments on books I have read, movies and anything in general I feel like talking about. That's the general idea at any rate, we'll just have to wait and see if I have the time to do it and Alan wants to use it.

It has not been a very happy year for SF fans. We lost some of our major authors in **Isaac Asimov** and **Fritz Leiber**, who both passed away recently, and just yesterday I heard that Melbourne fan **Roger Weddall** had died. Roger has been part of the scene and very active in fandom since the seventies when, as a member of the Melbourne University SF Association, he helped organise Unicon 5. We did not see eye to eye over a few things relating to that convention and it was a running joke with us. Unlike many fans Roger always went out of his way to say hello to me when we met at conventions and such. I reckon everybody liked Roger and we shall all miss him. He was the current Australian Administrator for DUFF and arrangements have been made for **Phil Ware** to take over. Perhaps this is a good opportunity to show our regard for Roger by all voting or definitely making a

donation to DUFF.

The Melbourne SF Club has been operating for forty years and a party was held recently to celebrate. Forty years! It seems longer. Founding member Bob McCubbin died in the 1980s and other early members have been lost in the mists of time. But **Race Mathews** and I renewed an old acquaintance, along with **Jack Keating** and **Helena Roberts**, both members from the 1950s. **Noel Kerr**, who produced the famous clubzine Somerset Gazette also attended. It would have been nice to see a few more familiar faces from the past but at least our era was represented. A new publication in the US covers the history of fandom in the 1950s and Australian fans get a mention. The book, A Wealth of Fable, is by **Harry Warner Jr** whose earlier work All Our Yesterdays, published by Advent in 1969, covered up to the 1950s. The new book is published by SCIFI Press in Van Nuys, California. I can get copies if wanted but I only have a small quantity on the way. Some people have asked me to write my memoirs so to speak, of Melbourne fandom and the MSFC. Quite simply, I have not had the time, but I may be able to do a little bit at a time for Thyme, watch this space...

At one time I must have come close to the greatest number of conventions attended in Australia but many people would beat me now. Since the disaster of 1985 I have not been able to afford the interstate cons in Perth, Queensland and even Sydney, let alone overseas, but I have some great memories of the past and I hope I can share some of them with you. I was recently a Guest at Conjunction 3 which was held in the Sheraton Hotel in Melbourne, where my successful, though it lost a lot of money, Cinecon was held. Not many cons have been at the Sheraton but the *Star Trek* con held in conjunction with Unicon 6, when Joe Haldeman was GoH, was there and my first brush with *Star Trek* fandom which was quite memorable. I was very pleased to be asked to be a Guest of the Convention at Conjunction 3 by today's fandom, so to speak, and I appreciated very much all the committee and attendees did for me. I have not

yet got my old car fixed but a fund is slowly growing in a special bank account and I will get there. I hope to see more of the future cons in Melbourne at any rate, and I am looking forward to the double-header Constantinople in 1994. Details of all Australian conventions will of course be given in Thyme.

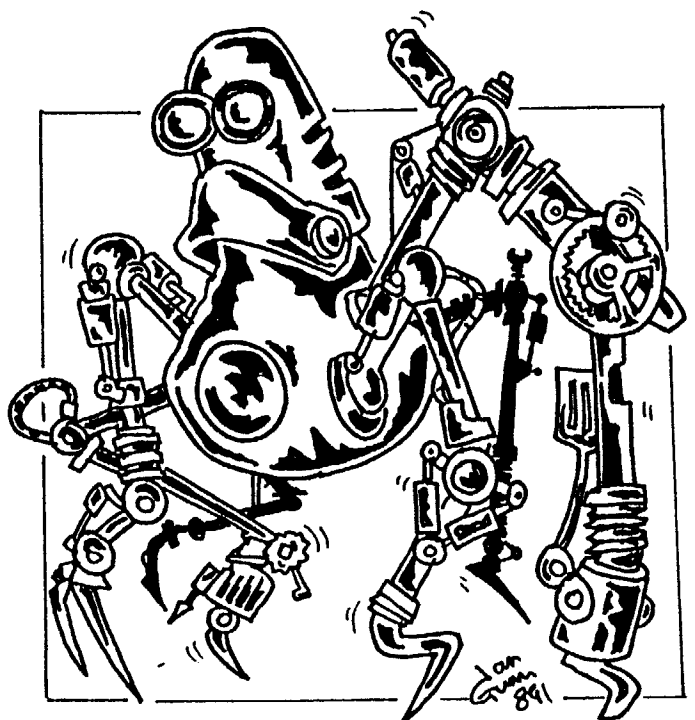
One of Science Fiction's greatest champions in Victoria has been librarian **Colin Watson**. He has been head of the Dandenong Valley Regional Library Service for a number of years. He started a club at the library in Springvale and has built up the major collection of SF books in a library in this state, possibly Australia, which is available to readers. Colin has been a regular attendee of conventions in Melbourne and he is retiring this month. I wish him the best of luck.

It sure is nostalgia time! I just realised that I saw episodes of *Star Trek* on black and white TV, before many current Trek fans were born. They were screened on Saturday nights and I usually went to the movies in the city on that night so I did not see many of them. There are still many I have probably not seen but I caught up with some at the early Trekcons. I saw the latest movie on video last week and one gets the impression that it is the last, but maybe not. I like watching Next Generation but there is something about the people in the original series and the chemistry between them which Next Generation will never have. It is a shame that the originator and producer of the series, **Gene Roddenberry**, died recently but he certainly left a legacy which will be long remembered. I must bitch about Channel 9 screening Next Generation at 11 pm. Okay, most of us have videos now, but it does seem a bit unfair for the younger generation and people who have to get up at normal working hours. I refuse to believe that it has rated that badly. I sometimes think this rating business is a pack of bullshit anyhow. Now the latest copy of my American book supplier's monthly catalog is featuring a novel based on the pilot episode of yet another Trek spin off, *Deep Space Nine - Emissary*. The book is due for release in February next year but God only knows when we will see the telemovie itself.

As for the Australian publishing and writing scene, Aurealis magazine is now up to its ninth issue and still going strong. Rumors of other mags have been heard in the past but nothing has eventuated. Melbourne horror and dark fantasy lover **Chris A Masters** continues to promote the genre with his magazine EOD with seven issues so far. Many of us in the amateur press are publishing reviews of SF&F books, but with Australian SF Review having ceased publication it is good to see a new, well presented publication Sirius having a go at seriously discussing and reviewing SF&F literature. The first issue I have seen, dated September 1992, features contributions by the national Library's **Colin Steele** and well known

Sydney identity **Graham Stone**, plus an article on the work of David Eddings and a Charles L Grant checklist. I hope editor **Gary Wyatt** can keep up the good work. Meanwhile **Peter McNamara** is going good and strong with Aphelion Publications. His schedule is full and although he is still looking at manuscripts it may be a long time before he can publish. Even the authors Aphelion is promoting are producing more than they can handle. Those authors are **George Turner**, **Terry Dowling**, **Sean McMullen**, **Ian McAuley Hails** and **Damien Broderick** who have all had books published by Aphelion, except for Broderick whose The Sea's Furthest End will be published next year. Another title for 1993 is Terry Dowling's Twilight Beach and a fourth book by him will be published much later. His Rynosseros is practically out of print. An anthology of Australian SF will hopefully be available for release at Constantinople in 1994. I know **George Turner** has a couple of books in the pipeline with his Destiny Maker listed for February release from William Morrow in the US. Sean McMullen and **Paul Collins** have been active in the short fiction field and **Greg Egan's** novel Quarantine was published by Legend this year. More on how Australian writers are going next issue.

I would like to look at the overall SF&F publishing situation for the year. Who has what coming out or published and the trends. When I look back over my forty years involvement in reading and selling SF I still cannot get over the way SF&F has grown. More books are published in one month now than were out in a year in the 1950s. It's good to see that many of the authors then are still with us and doing well and there are many new authors with new ideas and values. I hope you are enjoying it as much as I am.



# 1993 Author Tours

**Terry Pratchett**, noted for the hilarious 'Discworld' series, the 'Nome' series and helping out with divertissements such as Good Omens, will be Guest of Honor at Swancon 18 in Perth at Easter.

**Dan Simmons**, Hugo and World Fantasy Award winning author, will be touring Australia early in the year. A signing has been arranged at Minatour Books, Melbourne, for Thursday 4 March 1993.

**Robert Jordan**, author of the 'Wheel of Time' series, will be touring Australia at Easter attending Swancon 18. A signing session has been arranged at Minatour Books, Melbourne, for Tuesday 13 April 1993.

**Julian May** and **Larry Niven** will be Guests of Honor at Defcon '93 in Wellington, New Zealand, early June.

## Local Releases

hc = hard cover      tpb = trade paperback (C format)      pb = paperback (mass market, B format)

### December 1992

<i>Fractal Mode</i>	Piers Anthony	Harper Collins	tpb	\$19.95
<i>Phaze Doubt</i>	Piers Anthony	NEL	pb	\$11.95
<i>The Edge of Tomorrow</i>	Isaac Asimov	Tor (Pan)	pb	\$10.95
<i>Green Shadows, White Whale</i>	Ray Bradbury	Harper Collins	hc	\$35.00
<i>The Death Guard</i>	Phillip George Chadwick	Penguin	tpb	\$16.95
<i>George Lucas: The Creative Impulse</i>	Charles Champlin	Virgin	hc	\$39.95
<i>Battletech 4: Wolf Pack</i>	Robert N Charrette	Penguin	pb	\$13.95
<i>Triton</i>	Samuel R Delany	Grafton	pb	\$11.95
<i>Valis</i>	Philip K Dick	Grafton	pb	\$11.95
<i>The Penultimate Truth</i>	Philip K Dick	Grafton	pb	\$11.95
<i>Ubik</i>	Philip K Dick	Grafton	pb	\$11.95
<i>Pawn of Prophecy</i>	David Eddings	Bantam Press	hc	\$29.95
<i>Queen of Sorcery</i>	David Eddings	Bantam Press	hc	\$29.95
<i>Zimiamvia: A Trilogy</i>	E R Eddison	Dell	tpb	\$18.95
<i>Quarantine</i>	Greg Egan	Legend	tpb	\$17.95
<i>Shadowrun 4: Secrets of Power</i>	Nigel Findlay	Penguin	pb	\$12.95
<i>Sherwood</i>	Parke Godwin	Avon	pb	\$11.95
<i>The Anubis Murders</i>	Gary Gygax	Roc	pb	\$12.95
<i>The Fetch</i>	Robert Holdstock	Penguin	pb	\$12.95
<i>Doctor Who: The Sixties</i>	D Howe	Virgin	hc	\$34.95
<i>Hidden Echoes</i>	Mike Jeffries	Harper Collins	tpb	\$19.95
<i>The Shadow Rising</i>	Robert Jordan	Orbit	tpb	\$24.95
<i>Strange Days</i>	Patricia Kennealy	Harper Collins	hc	\$39.95
<i>Damia</i>	Anne McCaffrey	Bantam Press	tpb	\$18.95
<i>Jack the Bodiless</i>	Julian May	Pan	pb	\$12.95
<i>Only You Can Save Mankind</i>	Terry Pratchett	Doubleday	hc	\$17.95
<i>Nightmare Child</i>	Daniel Ransom	St Martins (Pan)	pb	\$ 8.95
<i>Red Mars</i>	Kim Stanley Robinson	Harper Collins	hc	\$32.95
<i>Kingdoms of the Wall</i>	Robert Silverberg	Harper Collins	hc	\$32.95
<i>Dark Voices 4</i>	D Sutton & S Jones (eds)	Pan	pb	\$12.95
<i>Illustrated Hobbit</i>	J R R Tolkien	Harper Collins	hc	\$35.00
<i>Blackbird in Amber</i>	Freda Warrington	NEL	pb	\$12.95
<i>Blackbird in Twilight</i>	Freda Warrington	NEL	pb	\$12.95
<i>A Taste of Blood</i>	Freda Warrington	Pan	tpb	\$19.95
<i>Indispensable Calvin &amp; Hobbes</i>	Bill Watterson	Penguin	tpb	\$17.95
<i>V: Path to Conquest</i>	Howard Weinstein	Tor (Pan)	pb	\$ 8.95



## January 1993

<i>Whispers in the Dark</i>	Jonathan Aycliffe	Harper Collins	hc	\$32.95
<i>Vermilion Sands</i>	J G Ballard	Phoenix	pb	\$14.95
<i>The Voices of Time</i>	J G Ballard	Phoenix	pb	\$14.95
<i>Indigo 8: Aisling</i>	Louise Cooper	Grafton	pb	\$10.95
<i>The Making of Dracula</i>	F F Coppola & J V Hart	Pan	tpb	\$19.95
<i>Name of the Beast</i>	Daniel Easterman	Harper Collins	hc	\$35.00
<i>Castle of Wizardry</i>	David Eddings	Bantam Press	hc	\$29.95
<i>Magician's Gambit</i>	David Eddings	Bantam Press	hc	\$29.95
<i>Born to Exile</i>	Phyllis Eisenstein	Grafton	pb	\$11.95
<i>In the Red Lords Reach</i>	Phyllis Eisenstein	Harper Collins	hc (tpb)	\$35.00 (\$19.95)
<i>Shadows in the Watchgate</i>	Mike Jeffries	Grafton	pb	\$11.95
<i>A Song for Arbonne</i>	Guy Gavriel Kay	Harper Collins	hc	\$35.00
<i>Hawk's Grey Feather</i>	Patricia Kennealy	Grafton	pb	\$12.95
<i>Time of Omens</i>	Katherine Kerr	Grafton	pb	\$11.95
<i>Seven Chronicles of Narnia</i>	C S Lewis	Lion	pb	\$ 7.95 each
<i>Spawn of the Winds</i>	Brian Lumley	Grafton	pb	\$10.95
<i>All the Weyrs of Pern</i>	Anne McCaffrey	Bantam Press	pb	\$11.95
<i>Generation Warriors</i>	A McCaffrey & E Moon	Orbit	pb	\$12.95
<i>Eternal Champion 1: Von Bek</i>	Michael Moorcock	Millenium	hc (tpb)	\$39.95 (\$24.95)
<i>2: The Eternal Champion</i>	Michael Moorcock	Millenium	hc (tpb)	\$39.95 (\$24.95)
<i>Eternal Champion 3: Hawkmoon</i>	Michael Moorcock	Millenium	hc (tpb)	\$39.95 (\$24.95)
<i>Eternal Champion 4: Corum</i>	Michael Moorcock	Millenium	hc (tpb)	\$39.95 (\$24.95)
<i>Flight in Yktor</i>	Andre Norton	Tor (Pan)	pb	\$ 8.95
<i>Truckers</i>	Terry Pratchett	Corgi	pb	\$ 6.95
<i>Kingmaker</i>	Tony Shillitoe	Pan	pb	\$12.95
<i>Road to Middle Earth</i>	Tom Shippey	Grafton	tpb	\$19.95
<i>The Bram Stoker Omnibus</i>	Bram Stoker	Orion	hc (tpb)	\$39.95 (\$24.95)
<i>The Winds of the Wastelands</i>	Antony Swithin	Fontana	pb	\$12.95
<i>Poems and Stories</i>	J R R Tolkien	Harper Collins	hc	\$44.95
<i>Facets</i>	Walter Jon Williams	Grafton	pb	\$11.95
<i>Shadow Maze</i>	Jonathan Wylie	Corgi	pb	\$11.95

## February 1993

<i>After the King</i>	M H Greenberg (editor)	Pan	pb	\$14.95
<i>Dracula: Prince of Darkness</i>	M H Greenberg (editor)	Daw (Penguin)	pb	\$ 8.95
<i>The Dragon Reborn</i>	Michael Jordan	Orbit	pb	\$12.95
<i>The Shores of Death</i>	Michael Moorcock	Penguin	pb	\$11.95
<i>A Year Near Proxima Centauri</i>	Michael Martin	Corgi	tpb	\$12.95
<i>The Dragon Token</i>	Melanie Rawn	Pan	pb	\$12.95
<i>Battletech: Natural Selection</i>	Michael Stackpole	Penguin	pb	\$12.95

## Reviews

Reviewers: PE = Paul Ewins      TF = Terry Frost      BH = Beverley Hope  
 L = LynC      NP = Nick Price      AS = Alan Stewart  
 JT = Jools Thatcher

AS

### Glass Reptile Breakout and Other Australian Speculative Stories

Edited by Van Ikin

CSAL (University of Western Australia) trade pb  
 1990 161 pages \$14.95

This recent anthology of Australian fiction, quirkily arranged in alphabetical order by author, collects eighteen tales. Established names such as George Turner and Jack Wodhams are reached rather late when reading straight through; with rising star Greg Egan about the middle; and Sue Isle and Stephen Dedman, emerging from the ranks of fandom, lost in the centre somewhere. It's probably just coincidence that those last three also live in Western Australia.

With most of the stories previously published after 1982, and offering three originals, this collection delivers a view of what's happening in Australian SF in the late '80s. Strong development in the field is indicated by the fact that eighteen authors are represented, and the diversity of tales shows that the title 'speculative' is appropriate.

What's happening is that virtually anything goes. From Russell Blackford's almost cyberpunkish *Glass Reptile Breakout*, through the whimsical fantasy realism of *The Lipton Village Society* from Lucy Sussex, via the weird land of the Ab'O and *Vanities* by Terry Dowling to Sean McMullen's *The Colours of the Masters* with its hi-tech detective work, all the varieties are here.

The collection has a real home-grown Australian feel, with the awkwardness, and intricate details juxtaposed with plain narrative, of real 'folk art'. It's probably more suited to sampling, rather than read straight through at a sitting, and is worth adding to your shelves. There's too few current Australian SF anthologies like this around at the moment.

BH

#### Dragon Star 2: The Dragon Token by Melanie Rawn

Daw hc February 1992 560 pages \$US 20.00  
ISBN 0-593-02554-7

Where I was not so impressed with Stronghold, book 1 in the 'Dragon Star' series, this second book really moves along and recaptures the reader's enthusiasm where it might have waned previously. It is somewhat misleading to see this book as only second in the series, however. To fully understand the twistings of the plot and the full complexity of family relationships (rather like in a Viking saga), one needs to have read the 'Dragon Prince' trilogy as well. This, though, is an action to be encouraged.

Melanie Rawn writes about characters that are easy to love, so when one of the most significant characters is killed, one really does feel the loss. In The Dragon Token there are a considerable number of characters who spend time struggling with the absence of this man and their reminiscences make the reader mourn for him as well. In fact the ways people deal with grief and what they are forced to resort to in times of war are the major themes of the novel. They are covered with a keen insight into the variances in human nature.

If you have read and loved the 'Dragon Prince' trilogy and Stronghold, then I suggest you will also love The Dragon Token. It does, however, end on a cliff hanger so be prepared to get hold of at least one more book after this.

TF

#### Quarantine by Greg Egan

Legend (Century Hutchinson) tpb December 1992  
219 pages \$17.95 ISBN 0-7126-9870-1

Greg Egan in his first science fiction novel (but not his first novel) hasn't gone for an easy option. Blending the science fiction and detective genres is no simple gig. They are two forms that at first glimpse would seem made for each other - being essentially and ostensibly based on logic of some kind. Also, the best of each is partly a commentary on contemporary society and its ills. But too frequently, attempts at a marriage are failures which were better off annulled by the publisher. To an admirable extent, Greg Egan has avoided the pitfalls and produced a solid blending which, while it doesn't embrace the paradigms of the two genres completely, consciously ignores or gainsays them.

Thirty three years before the action starts, the stars went out. The solar system is cut off from the rest of the universe. Of course, the loonies breed like bacteria in the petrie dish that the system has become. In this world where software has become mindware, a Private Eye is hired to find a missing woman, Laura Andrews. (The woman's name is evocative, too. One of the classic films of the noir genre is *Laura* and Dana Andrews played the detective in it. I don't know whether the connection is conscious or not, but it chimes the right note.) The PI takes the job and finds himself rapidly into a situation beyond his abilities and experience.

Quarantine's protagonist, Nick Stavrianos, breaks a number of the dicta laid down by Raymond Chandler for the hard boiled detective. He's an alienated, self-deluding character who, due to technological intervention, doesn't stay true to himself in the manner of Chandler's Marlowe. Nor is he the best man in his world. Stavrianos stands uneasily between the crime-fiction protagonist and the amoral leather-jackets of cyberpunk. But that unease is the character's, not the reader's. Stavrianos actually goes further than the crime fiction heroes. In traditional hard-boiled detective novels, society is opened up to show its seamy underbelly and true nature. In Quarantine, reality is.

Egan has done his homework, both in theoretical physics and nanotechnology. If he slips anywhere, it doesn't particularly clang tinnily for this reader. I look forward to whatever he does next.

PE

**The Thief of Always** by Clive Barker

Harper Collins hc November 1992 \$19.95 229 pages ISBN 0-00-224144-7

The Thief of Always is best summed up as a book about children, but not necessarily for children. Although it is readily accessible to young readers, with none of the sex and graphic violence of Barker's other works, I am left with the feeling that its intended audience is adults nostalgic for their childhood. The plot is straight forward and could have almost been penned by Enid Blyton, were it not for the powerful force of Barker's imagination stretching and distorting things subtly to give a book that looks like a children's story but is strangely appealing to the adult reader. In the best children's book tradition there are numerous illustrations, also by Clive Barker, ranging from the mundane to the bizarre. While a definite departure from the complex and detailed worlds of Barker's previous fantasies, the very simplicity of The Thief of Always is perhaps what makes it so enjoyable to read. The combination of a simple narrative and Barker's imagination made this a delight to read and I would recommend this book to anyone.

NP

**Born to Exile** by Phyllis Eisenstein

Grafton tpb June 1992 172 pages \$19.95 ISBN 0-246-13729-0

A thought provoking book. Was it the first or second of January when Jerry Pournelle gave the opinion that it was 'The best fantasy novel I have read this year' ?

The book is a pedestrian tale of a poor orphan, Alaric, discovering his true high born heritage after following him through several 'real life' experiences. His experiences as a young boy and a minstrel in the real world are used to contrast the values of the society that he is to become part of. His 'real life' experiences have a detached air about them. There is a feeling of going through the motions of a set of cliched experiences to build up the character.

A major feature of his character is the ability to teleport, this ability of his puts him outside of the normal man. This cross he has to bear allows him to make observations about the use of terms by the common people like witchcraft to explain a real characteristic.

The book comes across like an overdrawn character setting which has been spun out into a

book. The book begs a sequel not just from the ending but in that there is so little real content or value in it. The thinness of ideas and no indication of any deeper issues to be developed in subsequent books prompts for no breath holding on the sequels arrival.

In summary if you like cliched characters and situations, seeing a character obviously built up for a series of books with little promise of any thought provocation then this is for you.

AS

**The Gap Into Power: A Dark and Hungry God Arises** by Stephen Donaldson

Harper Collins hc November 1992 \$35.00 479 pages ISBN 0-00-223829

In the third, and longest, of his 'Gap:&' series, Stephen Donaldson confines the action to a few days in time and really one location in space. Coupled with no new major characters or technological developments the reader feels sort of at home, given that they've read the first two volumes. This novel works as part of a series, and a transition piece at that, but needs the information supplied in prior novels to work at all.

The background civilisation and culture, even the alien one, remain ill-defined and vague. All the reader really finds out about is the thoughts of the main characters, and sometimes you wish you hadn't. Most of the people Donaldson portrays are not nice, sometimes due to their physical or emotional powerless situations, and some of the actions they undertake or order done are downright ugly. The future doesn't need to be this unpleasant but there's no indication that anywhere in this created future, even far off screen, is there a peaceful pastoral haven.

This effort, marketed as 'science fiction', doesn't measure up to either the standards set by Donaldson with his earlier *Thomas Covenant* fantasy series or the current SF scene as typified by Greg Bear or David Brin. Donaldson knows where the series is heading, given his revelation in the Author's Note in volume one that *Der Ring des Nibelungen* served as inspiration, but his characters don't appear to and this reader certainly doesn't. This volume seems to be merely the characters changing physical location and groupings, marking time, and only in the final chapter does a major dislocation in events occur.

Not the best storyline, or prose, not even Donaldson's best writing, The Gap Into Power extends a series probably best left alone.

L

JT

**Raising the Stones** by Sheri S Tepper

Grafton pb October 1992 620 pages \$12.95  
ISBN 0-586-21212-4

"Once on a time was a man Samasnier who told himself there was a secret hidden under a stone .."

This is a story of a people adopted by a God of their own making, and one misfit who has been specially adopted by the God. It is a very human story of the culture clashes which humans create when extremes are allowed to persist. The Gods, although very much alive, are merely the instruments of change which the various groups need to work through their differences.

Raising the Stones is set in the same universe as Grass but is completely independent although Marjorie Westriding does make an appearance in legend as she searched for the Arbai. She became the founder of the Baidee (New Bai) sect and is remembered as Morgori Oestrydingh. It is a far more complex novel than Grass, but very rewarding for the extra effort. Easily the best book I read in 1992.

AS

**Red Mars** by Kim Stanley Robinson

Harper Collins hc December 1992 504 pages  
\$32.95 ISBN 0-24-613881-5

Red Mars tells of the colonisation of Mars and the initial terraforming carried out in the early 21st century. Robinson uses feasible technical developments such as gene spliced micro-organisms and large teleoperated and robotic machines and even the construction of a space elevator from orbit to the surface of Mars. This forms a necessary technical backdrop for the events and times he describes, but it is the people who drive the plot, they're what he necessarily focuses on and ultimately they decide the fate of Mars, even within the forty years covered in this book.

Robinson's technical extrapolation comes across as reasonable and practical. Red Mars contains a lot of the nuts and bolts of how such a colonisation would proceed. The assumptions of Earthly political events which occur in the same time span might not be so accurate, the people factor again. I'd question some of the details, like just how the initial reactionary band of settlers managed to survive, but the technical possibilities explored are entertaining and thought provoking. Recommended as a good hard SF novel of a possible near future.

**Damia** by Anne McCaffrey

Bantam Press 1992 tpb \$18.95  
ISBN 0-593-023-757

The idea of telepathic, teleportive people is not a new one, yet Anne McCaffrey still manages to come up with new and entertaining twists, and if you liked The Rowan you may find Damia has a similar charm. Damia is "feature" rather than "star" in this book and figures by virtue of her influence and effect on Afra, a talent working with The Rowan on Callisto Station.

Damia is daughter to The Rowan and Jeff Raven, both powerful talents. Their daughter's talent is potentially much stronger and manifests itself in astonishing ways. Damia is sent to Deneb and begins her Prime training in a special school started by her grandmother. Afra, who is just a little too good to be true and never one to take advantage of a situation, is emotionally involved with Damia.

I was left with the feeling that the story was contrived to take the focus from The Rowan and begin a new thread and Damia was created to serve as foil for the character of Afra, rather than the other way around. Taken on face value however, which is how I feel all fiction should be judged, Damia is a light likeable story...recommended reading for those with a few hours to spare. The cover by Romas is worth a second look too.

AS

**Lord Kelvin's Machine** by James P Blaylock

Ace pb August 1992 244 pages \$US 4.50  
ISBN 0-441-49972-4

In a tour-de-force through Victorian England and beyond, James P Blaylock spins an entertaining story and one of the better treatments of the consequences of timetravel. His descriptions of the machinations of some members of the Royal Society and mysterious constructions, in particular the effects of their activations, add delight and wonder to a basic pursuit of revenge tale. It's when this pursuit carries into a fantasy world that Blaylock's imagination can rule.

If you like Blaylock's earlier works, or the stories of Tim Powers, you'll certainly enjoy this one. Historical details and personages, exciting chases and conflicts, there's plenty to keep you reading. It even has an interesting cover, relevant to the story, and is recommended.

AS

**Only You Can Save Mankind** by Terry Pratchett

Doubleday (Transworld) hc December 1992  
174 pages \$17.95 ISBN 0-385-40308-9

Terry Pratchett's latest work, it's really a novella, focuses on video games and takes the chance to poke fun at a lot of the foibles and fads of contemporary western society. With a adolescent male protagonist the text necessarily expounds the

expected cliched assumptions of that type and surprises such as the 'ace' video game player turning out to be female are a bit of a disappointment.

"A bit of a disappointment" sums up the book if you're expecting more Discworld type adventures and humor. The large print 174 page canvas of this novel allows only a basic straight plotline with no room for the cute background description and endearing embellishments that surround Rincewind and company. A reasonable generic book, but not a reasonable 'Terry Pratchett book' for his fans.

**Books Received**

<i>Fractal Mode</i>	Piers Anthony	Harper Collins	tpb
<i>Mercycle</i>	Piers Anthony	Ace	pb
<i>Duel of Dragons</i>	Gael Baudino	Roc	pb
<i>Lord Kelvin's Machine</i>	James P Blaylock	Ace	pb
<i>Chanur's Legacy</i>	C J Cherryh	Daw	hc
<i>Zimiamvia: A Trilogy</i>	E R Eddison	Dell	tpb
<i>Guilt Edged Ivory</i>	Doris Egan	Daw	pb
<i>Quarantine</i>	Greg Egan	Legend	tpb
<i>Born to Exile</i>	Phyllis Eisenstein	Grafton	pb
<i>Christmas Bestiary</i>	R M & M H Greenberg (eds)	Daw	pb
<i>The Anubis Murders</i>	Gary Gygax	Roc	pb
<i>Deep Freeze</i>	Zach Hughes	Daw	pb
<i>Shadows in the Watchgate</i>	Mike Jeffries	Grafton	pb
<i>A Song for Arbonne</i>	Guy Gavriel Kay	Harper Collins	hc
<i>Hawk's Grey Feather</i>	Patricia Kennealy	Grafton	pb
<i>Winds of Change</i>	Mercedes Lackey	Daw	hc
<i>All the Weyrs of Pern</i>	Anne McCaffrey	Corgi	pb
<i>Crystal Line</i>	Anne McCaffrey	Bantam Press	hc
<i>Damia</i>	Anne McCaffrey	Bantam Press	tpb
<i>The Eye of the Hunter</i>	Dennis L McKierman	Roc	tpb
<i>A Year Near Proxima Centauri</i>	Michael Martin	Corgi	tpb
<i>Circle of Light</i>	Martin Middleton	Pan	pb
<i>Sphere of Influence</i>	Martin Middleton	Pan	pb
<i>Triad of Darkness</i>	Martin Middleton	Pan	pb
<i>Trust Territory</i>	Janet & Chris Morris	Roc	hc
<i>The Catswold Portal</i>	Shirley Rousseau Murphy	Roc	hc
<i>Red Dwarf</i>	Grant Naylor	Roc	pb
<i>Illicit Passage</i>	Alice Nunn	Women's Redress	tpb
<i>Only You Can Save Mankind</i>	Terry Pratchett	Doubleday	hc
<i>The Brentford Triangle</i>	Robert Rankin	Corgi	pb
<i>The Dragon Token</i>	Melanie Rawn	Daw	hc
<i>Red Mars</i>	Kim Stanley Robinson	Harper Collins	hc
<i>Starseed</i>	Spider & Jeanne Robinson	Ace	pb
<i>Bazil Broketail</i>	Christopher Rowley	Roc	pb
<i>Gatherer of Clouds</i>	Sean Russell	Daw	pb
<i>The Initiate Brother</i>	Sean Russell	Daw	pb
<i>Kingdoms of the Wall</i>	Robert Silverberg	Harper Collins	hc
<i>Pluto in the Morning Light</i>	Robert Silverberg	Grafton	tpb
<i>The Crafters 2</i>	C Stasheff & B Fawcett (eds)	Ace	pb
<i>The Winds of the Wasteland</i>	Antony Swinton	Fontana	pb
<i>Chains of Light</i>	Quentin Thomas	Roc	pb
<i>Universal Soldier</i>	Robert Tine	Signet	pb
<i>A Fire Upon the Deep</i>	Vernor Vinge	Millenium	tpb
<i>A Blackbird in Darkness</i>	Freda Warrington	NEL	pb
<i>Shadow Maze</i>	Jonathan Wylie	Corgi	pb



# artychoke

Number 1

January 1993

Edited by Ian Gunn PO Box 567, Blackburn, Victoria, 3130

Welcome to the firstish edition of ARTYCHOKE, an innovative new artzine of earth-shattering importance, or a pretentious rag of no consequence (you choose).

Originally, Alan's idea was to grab the publishing rights to "Space-Time Buccaneers" while the zine it was running in, Inconsequential Parallax, was in temporary hiatus (some feeble excuse about the editors taking up teaching posts in Egypt) and to print it along with a few other doodles of mine under some woeful eponymous title like Gunn's Graphix or Gunny's Gazette. I balked at this; I already edit one fanzine with my name in the title - and besides, it's not as if I'm the only artist around. How about giving some of the others a go? So that's when ARTYCHOKE was born; a zine that acts as a showcase for various artists in and around fandom.

Each edition of the zine will feature the work of some talented individual, who gets to draw the ARTYCHOKE banner, a self portrait and a page or so of samples. After that, the guidelines become pretty vague. The artist may be unknown or famous; Australian or otherwise; possibly professional or perhaps not; perhaps a cartoonist, or an illustrator or maybe something different. There's no reason why the Feature Artist can't be a costumier, model maker, special effects wiz, mail artist, painter, sculptor, animator, flower arranger, photographer or even a filksinger. There's a lot of talent out there, and it would be nice to see some new names on at least one Ditmar category for a change.

As well, there will be news, snippets and comment on anything loosely related to "Art" - info and suggestions are quite welcome. And, yes, "Space-Time Buccaneers" will be running, at least for the first six editions - that's how many episodes there are. After that, who knows?

So, I hope you enjoy this little zine. If you're not interested in creativity, please feel free to skip it and take your eyeballs elsewhere. Though what the hell you're doing in fandom is beyond me.

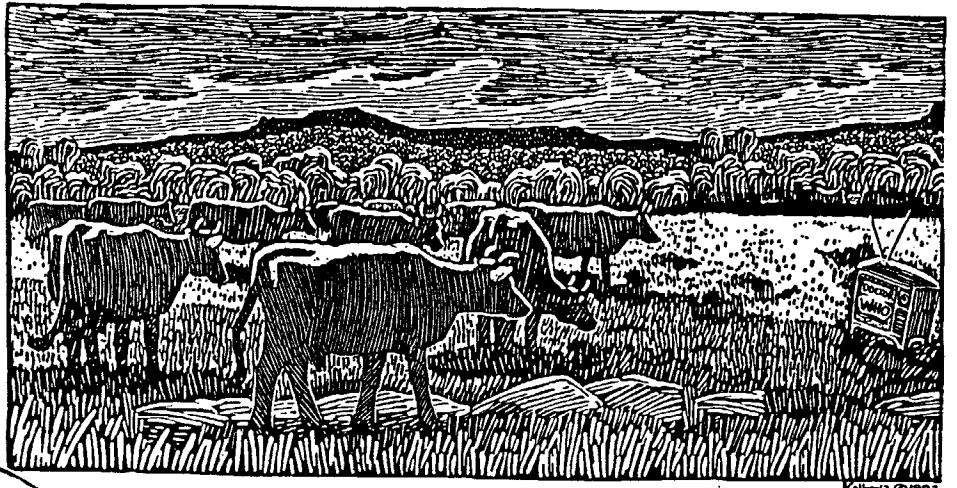
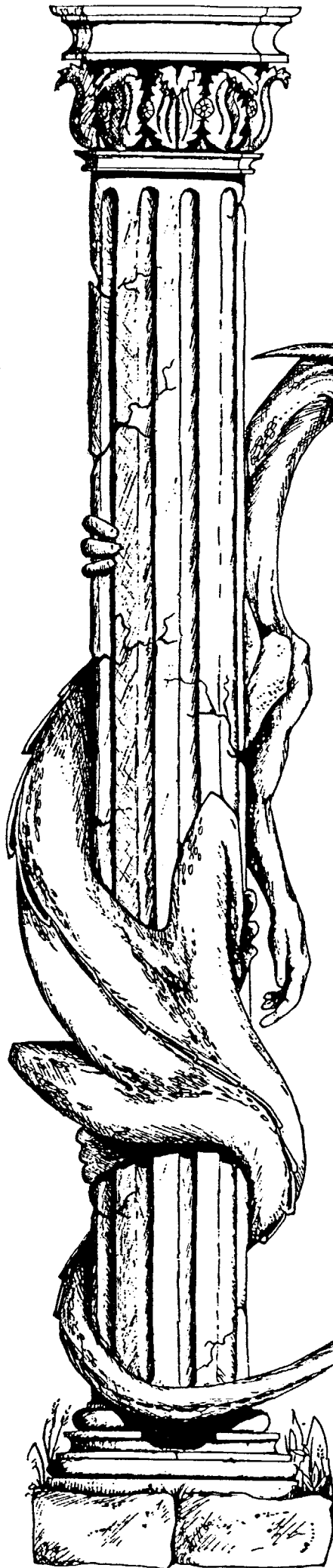
## FEATURE ARTIST: KERRI VALKOVA

Kerri Valkova is 21 years old, has improbably red hair, a lively, bouncy personality and the ability to induce feelings of outraged envy among other fanartists by drawing exquisite pictures which she then modestly dismisses as mere trifles. With a never-completed Graphic Design course behind her, Kerri now works at the RMIT internal publicity department, where she gets to do a bit of illustration and design. However, she says she does not want to be a career artist - she'd rather have the fun and freedom of a hobby than being told what to do and when to do it.

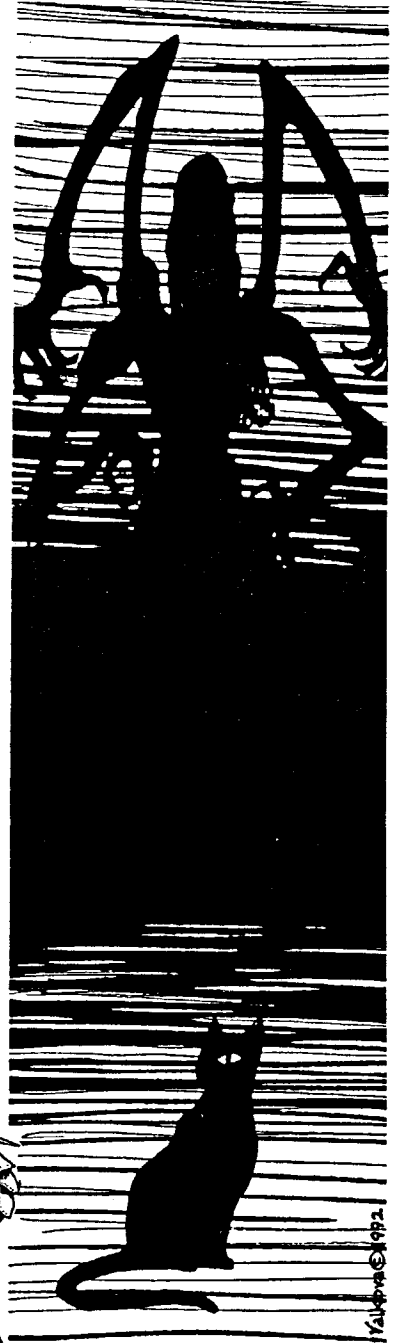
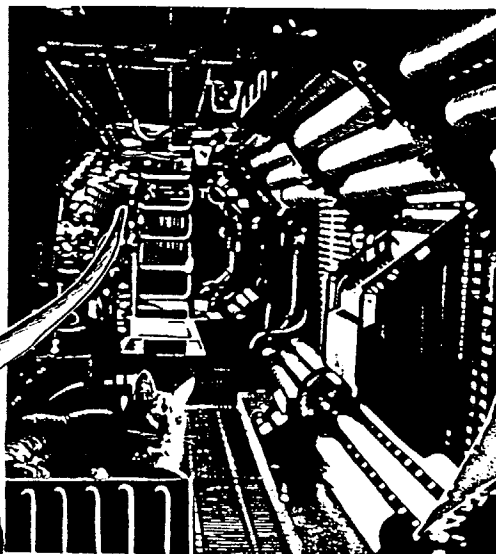
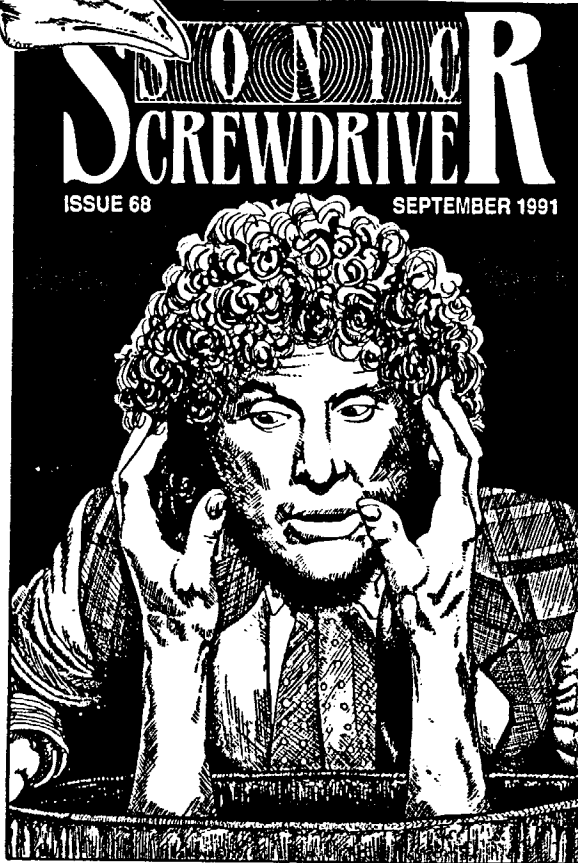
Kerri's artwork consists mainly of pen and ink drawings, though she has dabbled with pencil work and is now expanding into colour. She is now coming to terms with the fact that most faneds don't have access to photocopiers that will do justice to her darker pieces - she's become somewhat notorious for her large, black areas. So far, her fannish work has mainly been confined to Ethel The Aardvark, Der Reaper, various Melbourne Dr. Who zines and posters, certificates, conbooks and the like. Given her obvious artistic talents, however, a much wider audience would seem assured for the future.



Kerri Valkova by Kerri Valkova.



Valkora © 1992



Valkora © 1992

Kemi Valkora



LATE MORNING, OFF THE SOUTH-WEST COAST OF SPAIN... THE SEA LIES CALM....

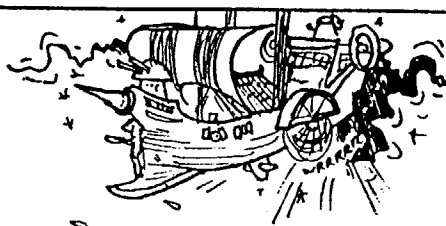


BUT NOT SO THE STRUCTURE OF THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM... A RIPPLE OPENS UP IN THE WALL OF REALITY, AND GROWS... AND GROWS...



THERE ARE MANY LEGENDS ABOUT THE TIMESHIP... NO-ONE KNOWS FOR SURE WHERE OR WHEN IT ORIGINATED

AH, WE APPEAR TO BE THROUGH, CAPTAIN.



THAT MUCH I KNOW- CAN YE GET US A TIME-FIX?

CREWED BY SAILORS FROM ALL OF HISTORY, IT SAILS THE TIMESTREAM, WANDERING HERE, PAUSING THERE... NO-ONE KNOWS WHY...

HARD TO SAY, YET, SIR... POSSIBLY EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY - BUT WE ARE NEAR THE STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR.

ARR. STEADY AS SHE GOES THEN, MISTER ENDERCOTT. DID WE SUFFER ANY SERIOUS DAMAGE FROM THOSE DAMN SCURVY AIRY-PLANES?

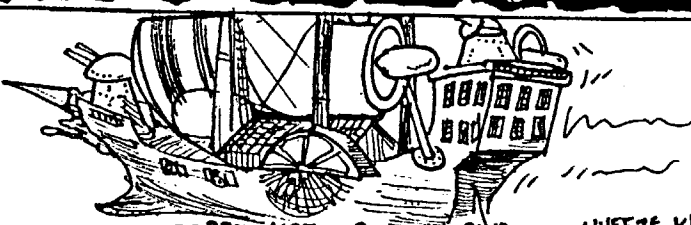


# SPACE TIME BUCCANNERS

By Ian Gunn  
Episode 1

I FEAR WE MAY HAVE HAD OUR ENGINES HOLED, SIR...

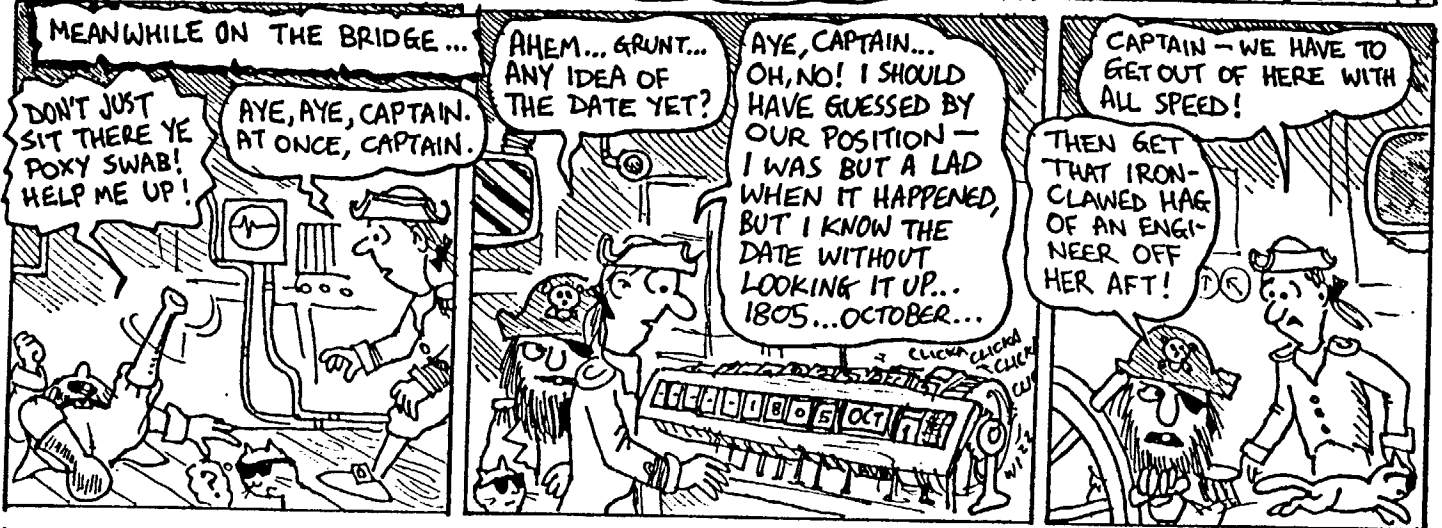
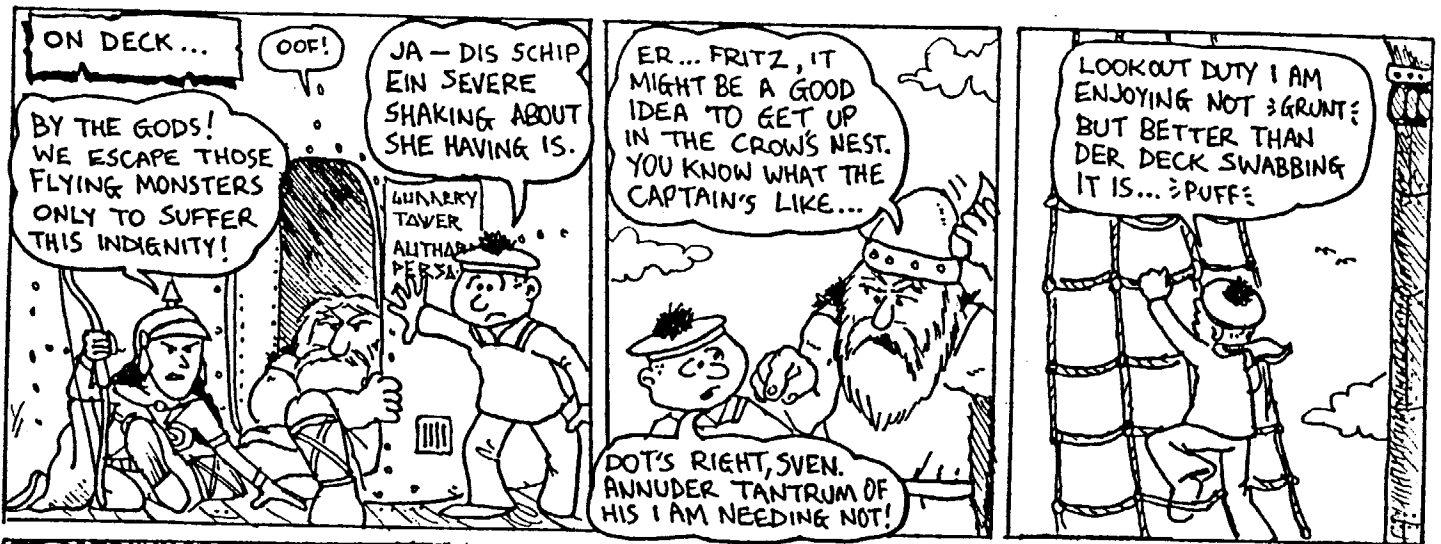
OH-OH...



DAMNATION!

WRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR KOF-KOF RRRRRR GRIND KLUNK WHEEZE KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK GASP CHOKE RATTLE





WHERE WERE WE LAST TIME? PEARL HARBOR, THAT'S WHERE! SEVENTH OF DECEMBER 1941. RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE JAPANESE ATTACK!

OH, YAH. I'D RATHER BE JOGGING THOUGH...

AH, WALKING MODE - THAT'LL KEEP YOU TRIM

AND THE TIME BEFORE THAT?

ER... 1066... BATTLE OF HASTINGS...

MIND YOU, SQUASH IS GOOD. CAN'T BEAT SQUASH.

'ZACTLY! DON'T THAT STRIKE YOU AS ODD, ENDERCOTT? DON'T YOU RUN IT AS STRANGE THAT WE ALWAYS END UP IN THICK OF SOME BATTLE OR SOME GREAT TURNING POINT IN HISTORY? I MEAN WE'D NEVER DOWNLOAD IN PEARL HARBOR IN 1066, WOULD WE? OR HASTINGS IN 1941! IS THAT TOO FUTZING MUCH TO ASK?

DIAGNOSTIC INVESTIGATION RUN

YES, YES, SQUASH IS SO... SO RIGOROUS, SO COMPETITIVE.

OH, YAH. IT'S MAND E MAND E MAND. IT'S LIKE THE ONLY WAY TO UNWIND, YOU KNOW?

SOMETIMES I WONDER IF WE'RE FOLLOWING THE SCRIPT OF ONE OF THOSE TWENTIETH CENTURY SCI-FI VID PROGRAMS...

I MEAN WE'RE TALKING LIKE MAJOR EXERCISE HERE...

OH, YAH, SURE I CAN SEE WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM

BUT CAN'T YOU CONTROL THE SHIP AT ALL?

KEEPS YOU FIT. PREPARES YOUR BODY AND SOUL FOR THE REAL WORLD...

OF COURSE NOT! I CAN RUN IT. I CAN FIX IT WHEN PARTS BREAK DOWN... BUT I'LL BE FORMATTED IF I UNDERSTAND HOW THE HELL IT WORKS! LOOK, I KNOW YOU CAN'T RELATE TO TECHNOSPEAK, BUT THIS THING IS COBBLED TOGETHER OUT OF BITS FROM ALL OF TIME... WE'VE GOT FUSION POWERED STEAM TURBINES, YET! 1930'S VALVES WITH 1980'S PRINTED CIRCUITS AND 2050'S NON-LINEAR LAPSEPODS! IT'S A MESS! IT'S BEEN REPAIRED AND REBUILT WITH WHATEVER WAS AVAILABLE.

YOU MEAN WORK? OH, YAH. CORPORATE TAKEOVERS. BOARD MEETINGS. MERGERS.

HOW CAN I PUT THIS IN TERMS YOU'LL INPUT? IT'S... IT'S LIKE A HORSE THAT'S BEEN BUILT OUT OF BITS OF COW AND GOAT AND WALRUS... IT WORKS, BUT ONLY JUST.

POWER BREAKFASTS.

BUSINESS LUNCHEONS.

THIS SHIP IS OLD! WHO KNOWS WHERE IT COMES FROM?— YOU AND ME HAVE BEEN ON BOARD LONGER THAN ANYBODY— EXCEPT THE SHIP'S CAT... WE WERE HERE EVEN BEFORE OLD SCRAGBEARD TOOK OVER COMMAND.

AYE— THE SHIP WAS RUN BY A GANG OF REBELS FROM THE GRAND KENYAN EMPIRE. THEIR SPEECH WAS HARDER TO FOLLOW THAN YOURS.

FOOSH!

STILL YOU'VE GOT TO LEAVE TIME TO UNWIND TOO.

MADE ON EARTH

YEAH, REAL WEIRD DUDES FROM THE THIRTY-SECOND CENTURY. THEY ALL CARKED FROM RAD-STRESS THEY GOT IN THE BOMBING OF NAGASAKI. THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THE SHIP CAME FROM EITHER. THEY STOLE IT OFF SOME GREEKS OR SOMETHING...

OH, SURE, YAH. AND IT'S GOT TO BE QUALITY TIME.



THIS IS THE COMPONENT THAT REALLY BUGS ME - AS FAR AS I CAN WORK OUT IT'S SOME SORT OF BIO-CYBERNETIC GUIDANCE SYSTEM - I THINK THIS IS THE THING THAT DECIDES WHERE WE GO...

IT... IT LOOKS LIKE A HUMAN BRAIN!

How PASSÉ! THE OLD BRAIN IN A PICKLE JAR ROUTINE.

YEAH... AND JUST BETWEEN YOU'N ME...

...I THINK IT'S GONE SENILE...

Bubble Pulse Pulse

MEANWHILE, BACK ON DECK I COULD USE A HAND HERE, BLACK GLADYS...

HA! I WILL TARRY NO MORE WITH DECK SWABBING - 'TIS NO FIT TASK FOR A WARRIOR OF THE DARK ISLES.

BY THE GREEN DEMONS OF THE DEEP, SVEN! A SAIL! A NUMBER OF SAILS! I THINK GOOD BATTLE IS AFOOT!

OH, BOTHER, NOT AGAIN!

MEIN GOTT! VOT A HUGE BUNCH OF BOATS! DOT SMOKE MUST CANNONFIRE BE. UND HEADING THIS WAY THEY IS!

CAPTAIN! UNDER ATTACK WE WILL BE SOON! MORE SHIPS TO PORT THAN I AM COUNTING! WARSCHIPS! MIT CANNON!

ARR - SOUND THE ALARM MR. ENDERCOTT... MR. END... BLAST! WHERE IS HE? HOW IN BLAZES DO YE SOUND THE ALARM?

WE WON'T BE MOVING UNTIL I'VE FIXED THE ENGINES - AND THEN ALL I'M DOING IS FUTZING PATCHING THEM. EVEN THAT'LL TAKE TIME...

WE MAY NOT HAVE TIME... OH DEAR, THE CAPTAIN'S FOUND THE ALARM SWITCH. I'LL WAGER THAT MEANS THE FLEETS HAVE BEEN SIGHTED.

WHAT IS THAT NOISE? IT SETS MY SENSORS ON EDGE, Y'KNOW.

YAH. WE NEED SOMETHING AMBIENT IN HERE. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

FLEETS? WHO IS IT THIS TIME? PHOENICIANS? AZTECS? TROJANS?

IT DOES TENSE ONE UP SO. PERHAPS SHE'D ENJOY A RELAXING FOOT MASSAGE?

NO - FRENCH, SPANISH AND ENGLISH...

WE'RE DRIFTING TOWARDS THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR!

OK, SURE. MASSAGE MODE ON. TRAFFIC.

1-4

WHAT DID I TELL YOU!? IT'S THAT BLOODY BRAIN! IT ALWAYS PUTS US IN DANGER!

I'D FIND IT A LOT EASIER TO COPE IF YOU FUTZING SHOES WOULD SHUT UP ONCE IN A WHILE!!

WELL, EXCUSE ME!

CHARMING

YOU KNOW I THINK SHE'D FIND IT EASIER TO COPE IF SHE LEARNED TO RELAX MORE...

WILL THE TIMESHIP BE CAUGHT IN THE CROSS-FIRE? CAN McBAIRD FIX THE ENGINES IN TIME? AND WHY DO HER SHOES TALK? WHY DOES THE SHIPS CAT WEAR RAYBANS? SEE EPISODE 2!