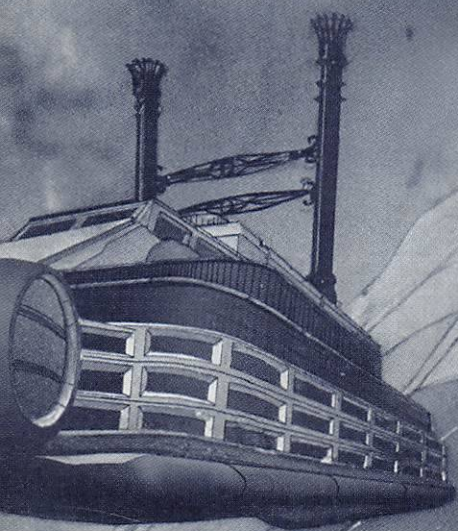


RIVERCON VII



RIVERCON

VII

JULY 23 - 25, 1982

LOUISVILLE, KY

Guest of Honor

Gordon R. Dickson

Fan Guest of Honor

Dave Kyle

Toastmaster

jan howard finder

Cliff Amos, Chairman

Bob Roehm, Vice-Chairman

Steve Francis, Treasurer

Sue Francis, Registration

Beth Pointer, Art Show

Keith Hufford, Operations

Mike Sinclair, Films

B.J. Willinger, Masquerade

Susan Young, Hospitality Suite

Keith Asay, Hospitality Suite

Diane Baker, Rosa Banks, Martha Berry, Chip Bestler, Leah Bestler, Marian Brown, Rex Bryant, d 1 burden, David Craycroft, Paula Dale, David Daring, Maurine Dorris, Alan Dorsey, Cheryl Francis, David Francis, Laura Francis, Stew Friedley, Bruce Gardner, Scott Hanson, John Harris, Lynn Harris, Teri Howard, Larry Jewell, Fritz Kurz, Mike Lawlor, Rebecca Lampert, Tim Lane, Bill Levy, Danny McDole, Morris Middleton, Marie Miesel, Carol Miracle, Pat Molloy, Jodie Offutt, Pete Robertson, Bruce Schweinhart, Rickey Sheppard, Mary Simon, Tom Stevens, Gary Suiter, Trubie Turner, Mike Veach, Gail Walker, Beth Willinger, Jim Yancey, Jack Young.

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Editor: Bob Roehm. Cover by Mark Maxwell.

RiverCon, P.O. Box 8251, Louisville, KY 40208.

WELCOME ABOARD...

Welcome to the seventh voyage of RiverCon. We're glad so many veterans of past RiverCons have returned, and we'd like to issue a special welcome to all you first-timers. We think everyone will have an enjoyable experience.

This year, we have concentrated all the convention functions on the Galt House's third floor. A hotel floor plan elsewhere in the program book shows you where everything is. The one exception to this, however, is the hospitality suite, which is located on an upper floor. Although a room number is listed in the program schedule, it is only tentative. In case of a change, a sign will be posted in the registration area. As always, the hospitality suite will remain open around the clock as a place to relax, meet with friends, smof, etc.

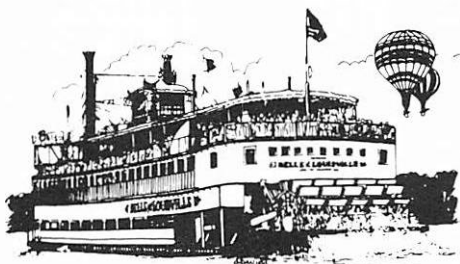
The program schedule beginning on the next page is correct and complete as of press time. However, please watch for changes, additions, or updates posted near registration. The movie schedule likewise will be there.

If you've been to a RiverCon or other SF convention, then you know how important your name badge can be. Please wear it at all times you are in the convention area, since you may be refused admittance to certain functions if you don't have your badge. In case you're wondering, the colored dots on some of the badges do have meanings: regular RiverCon members have plain badges; a blue dot denotes a VIP member, usually an author, artist, editor, etc.; hucksters' badges have green dots; yellow dots indicate a special membership (e.g., press, complimentary, etc.); committee members have red dots on their badges. In addition, certain department heads are also wearing red ribbons to make them more identifiable. These are the people you should see in case of a problem.

We are planning a Saturday morning update bulletin that will contain information not available as the program book goes to press. Please pick up a copy at the registration desk.

Once again, welcome to RiverCon. If there's any way in which we can make your convention a more memorable one, please let us know.

The RiverCon Committee & Staff



SCHEDULE

Friday, July 23

24 hours	Hospitality Suite. Rooms 600-603 (tentative).
2:00 p.m. — 12:00 mid.	Registration & Information. Third floor lobby.
4:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.	Huckster Room. Cochran Ballroom.
5:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.	Art Show. Water Poet Room.
7:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.	Opening ceremonies. Announcements, introduction of notables, etc. Archibald Ballroom.
7:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.	The Myths, Mores, and Mating Habits of Fandom: A Beginner's Guide. jan howard finder and others.
9:00 p.m. —	Movies. Check posted schedule for titles and starting times. Archibald.
10:00 p.m. —	Filk-singing. Kings Head Room.

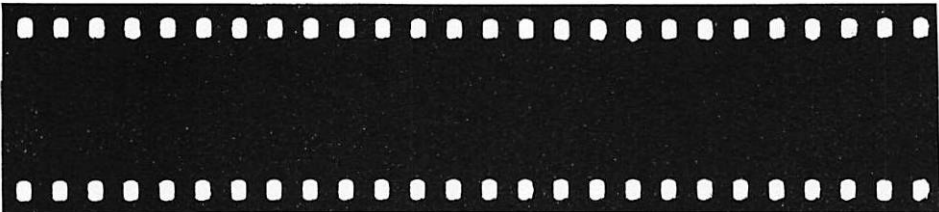
Saturday, July 24

10:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.	Registration & Information. Third floor lobby.
10:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.	Huckster Room. Cochran.
10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.	Art Show. Water Poet Room.
10:00 a.m. — 9:00 p.m.	Movies. Queen Room.
11:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon	Science Fiction in the Schools. Michael Banks talks about subverting our children. Kings Head Room.
11:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.	To Be Continued . . . Series Books. Jack Chalker, Juanita Coulson, Ansen Dibell, and Lawrence Watt-Evans. Archibald.
1:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.	RiverCon VII Banquet, followed by guest of honor address by Gordon R. Dickson. Toastmaster: jan howard finder. Archibald Ballroom.
3:00 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.	A Mini-Writers Workshow, conducted by Andrew J. Offutt. The hows, whys, and techniques of professional writing. Bring your notebooks. Kings Head Room.
3:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.	The Art of Successful Costuming. A panel discussion with Carol Resnick, Ann Chancellor, and Sandra Miesel. Archibald.

- 4:30 p.m. — 5:30 p.m. Gordon R. Dickson Interviewed. A conversation between our guest of honor and Sandra Miesel. **Archibald.**
- 5:30 p.m. — 6:30 p.m. Where Do SF Writers Get Those Crazy Ideas Anyway? Michael Resnick and Frank M. Robinson, who should know, tell us. **Kings Head Room.**
- 6:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m. Have Ball—Will Travel: the humorous, lighter, uplifting side of the space program. Dr. Bill Breuer, Adjunct Curator for Space Sciences, Louisville Museum of History and Science. **Archibald.**
- 7:00 p.m. — 10:00 p.m. Art Auction. Jack Chalker and Jan Howard Finder, auctioneers. **Archibald.**
- 10:00 p.m. — 11:00 p.m. Masquerade Pre-judging. Participants only. **Archibald.**
- 11:00 p.m. — 12:30 a.m. RiverCon VII Masquerade. **Archibald.**
- 1:00 a.m. — Movies. **Archibald.**
- 1:00 a.m. — Filk-singing. **Kings Head.**

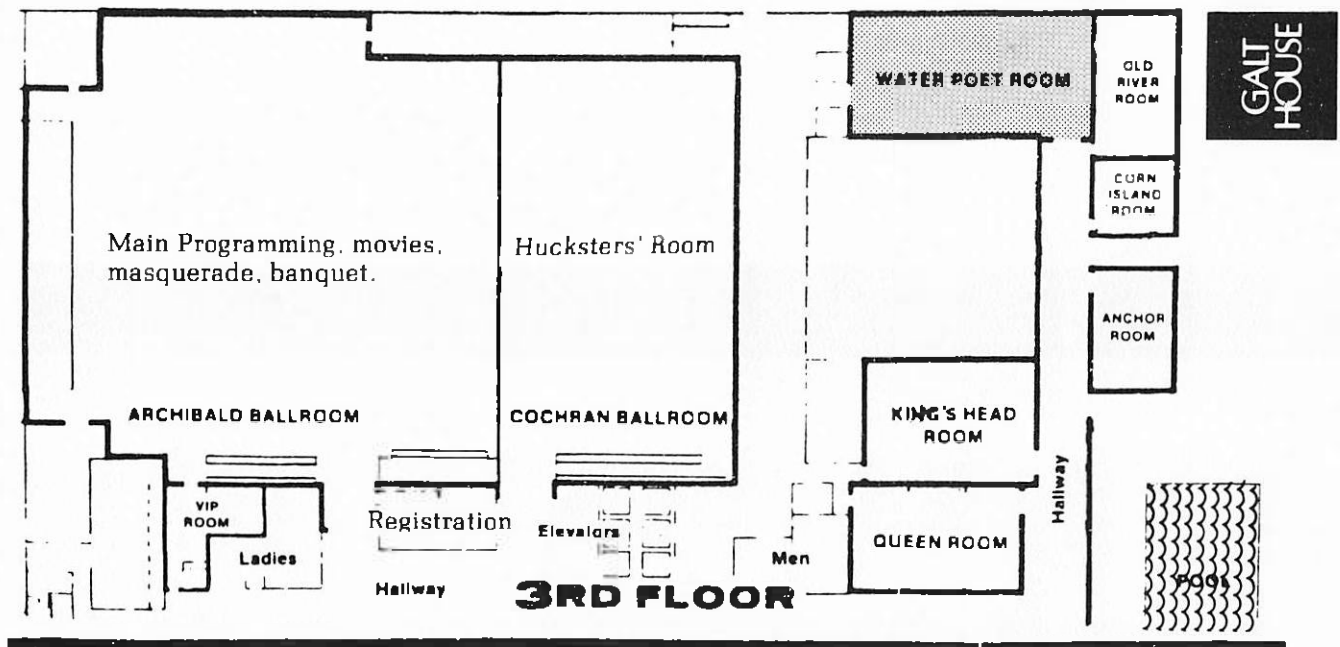
Sunday, July 25

- 10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. Art Show. **Water Poet Room.**
- 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m. Registration & Information. **Third floor lobby.**
- 10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. Huckster Room. **Cochran.**
- 10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. Movies. **Archibald.**
- 1:00 p.m. Belle of Louisville boarding.
- 2:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. Belle of Louisville departure and cruise. **Ohio River.**



Many thanks and kudos to the following: Rik Newman of Pre-Impressions; Rickey Sheppard, Pat Molloy, as well as Gary Suiter for film procurement; Ken Moore for the use of the Graflex projectors; and Howard Hunter of the Uptown Theatre for assistance in scheduling.

Special appreciation is also due to our tireless projectionists: Mike Lawlor, Jack Young, Scott Hanson, David Francis, Richard Nugent, and Tom Stevens.



Main Programming, movies, masquerade, banquet.

ARCHIBALD BALLROOM

COCHRAN BALLROOM

Hucksters' Room

Registration

Elevators

Men

WATER POET ROOM

KING'S HEAD ROOM

QUEEN ROOM

GLD RIVER ROOM

CORN ISLAND ROOM

ANCHOR ROOM

Hallway

Pools

GALT HOUSE

3RD FLOOR

VIP ROOM

Ladies

Hallway

Guest of Honor

Gordon R. Dickson



by Sandra Miesel

It has been said that artists give their lives as ransom for their work. This is the price Gordon R. Dickson has cheerfully paid because writing is not only his profession, it is his sworn vocation.

Others stumble into their careers but Dickson chose to be a writer from earliest childhood. (His first publication, a poem printed in a Vancouver newspaper, came at age six.) In 1939, at age fifteen, he entered the University of Minnesota to major in creative writing under such teachers as Sinclair Lewis and Robert Penn Warren. His commitment survived the distraction of service during World War II and the rigors of a postwar stale-bread-and-peanut-butter diet. During those difficult early days, he preferred to sell his blood rather than abandon full-time writing.

Dickson's dedication has reaped its rewards. Since his first solo SF in 1951, he has produced some 40 novels and 175 shorter items. He has won the Hugo for "Soldier, Ask Not" (1965), "Lost Dorsai" (1981), and "Cloak and Staff" (1981); the Nebula for "Call Him Lord" (1966); the Jupiter for "Time Storm" (1977); and the Derleth for **The Dragon and the George** (1977). From 1969 to 1971, he served as President of the Science Fiction Writers of America.

Dickson is passionately interested in the theory as well as the practice of artistic creativity. He works tirelessly to upgrade SF's literary standards through lectures, convention appearances, essays, and private counsel. Because he recognizes no limits to intelligent beings' potential, he loves to explore issues like creative overdrive, performance under stress, synergistic interactions between talents, and the social impact of gifted individuals.

The finest and clearest expression of Dickson's convictions is the Childe Cycle, his showcase for the "consciously thematic novel." When complete, the Cycle will dramatize humanity's coming of age from the fourteenth century to the twenty-fourth in an epic series of twelve novels—three historical, three contemporary, and six science fictional. **Dorsai!** (1959), **Necromancer** (1962); **Soldier, Ask Not** (1968), and **Tactics of Mistake** (1971) have appeared thus far and **The Final Encyclopedia** is due in 1983. The remaining books are currently in preparation. There are also companion works called "illuminations" which are not part of the Cycle proper: **The Spirit of Dorsai** (1979) and **Lost Dorsai** (1980).

And yet for all his steelsheen seriousness, Dickson is equally at ease writing broad, bouncy comedies that place soberly rational beings in preposterously irrational situations. Romps like the Hoka series (written in collaboration with his college classmate Poul Anderson) reveal the warmth, charm, and boundless good cheer that have made Dickson so well loved in the SF community.

Whether writing seriously or comically, Dickson makes thrifty use of his own experiences and interests as fictional background. Because he was born in Canada and has spent most of his adult life in Minnesota, he often uses Northern story settings. Since he himself has enjoyed writing poetry, singing, composing songs, painting, and studying the martial arts, so do many of his characters. The artistically gifted action hero is his specialty.

Thus, Dickson uniquely combines the idealism of a knight with the enthusiasm of an otter. His art is the purposeful creation of a relentless mind. The work can scarcely be separated from the man for it has shaped him as much as he has shaped it. Surely achievements bought with such unswerving heart's devotion must endure.

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BELLE OF LOUISVILLE



Sunday brings the continuation of RiverCon's most distinctive tradition—an afternoon excursion on our grand old steamer, the Belle of Louisville. To be sure you get aboard for this unique convention feature, please read the following information carefully.

Tickets: First of all, the outing will be in conjunction with a regular public cruise, rather than a private charter. This means we must, in effect, compete with the general public for passenger space. You should purchase your ticket in advance at RiverCon's registration desk for \$3.00, a discount from the regular fare. Anyone showing up at the wharf without one of our tickets will be charged the full rate. Tickets may be returned to us at any time for a full refund, so it's best to buy early even if your plans are uncertain.

Boarding: The wharf is only a short walk from the front door of the Galt House—just turn left as you go out the door and follow the stairways and walkways to the river. Boarding begins at 1:00 P.M., but it is advisable to arrive early to get near the head of the line (remember that space is on a first come-first served basis; your ticket is not a reservation and will do you no good if the boat fills up before you get there).

Schedule: Boarding begins at 1:00 P.M., departure is at 2:00, and return to the wharf is at approximately 4:30.

Other: There is a snack bar and souvenir stand on board. You may also bring your own picnic lunch and drinks (but coolers are strictly forbidden). Although no formal programming is planned, feel free to start your own filksing, poker game, or tanning contest. Further Belle information is available at the RiverCon registration desk.

The Stone Hill SF Association presents

NECRONOMY-CON

Oct. 29-31, 1982

Tampa, FL

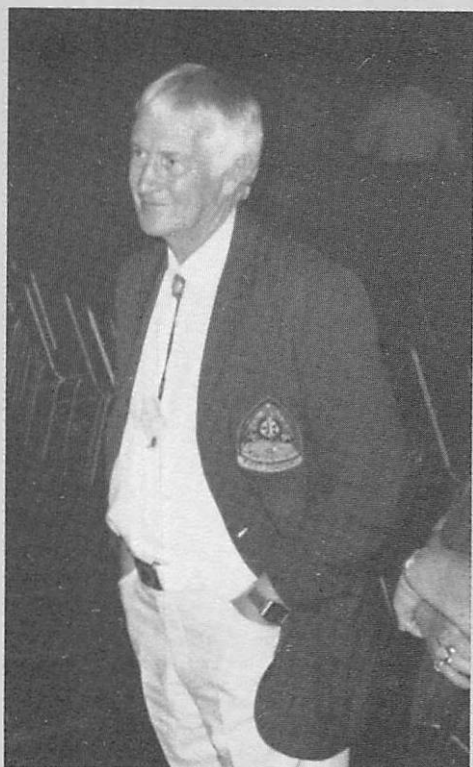
Guests of Honor

ANDREW J. OFFUTT MARV WOLFMAN

This is the place to be for Halloween. For all the gory details, write to: NECRONOMY-CON, P.O. Box 678, Thonotosassa, FL 33592. Look for us at RiverCon.

Fan Guest of Honor

Dave Kyle



by Mike Resnick

Writing nice things about Dave Kyle is rather like pulling teeth—mine, not his. (In point of fact, Dave's teeth are as old as the hills or the pyramids, whichever came first. My own bet is on the pyramids, but that's probably because I've been forced to sit through so many Boris Karloff movies, than which nothing is older, except maybe Dave.)

But I digress.

Actually, writing nice things about Dave **ought** to be a piece of cake. I am, after all, a fiction writer by trade, and complimenting Dave in print really requires no greater a suspension of your disbelief than, say, alien societies filled with Lords and Ladies or warrior women who outfit themselves from a Frederick's of Hollywood catalog.

However, I **do** have my reputation to think of, and before I would consent to pleasant lies about Dave I insisted that the RiverCon Committee pay my hotel bill and buy me three dinners on the roof. They countered with an offer of ten cents and a 3-month-old copy of LOCUS. For that kind of insulting price, all you're going to get is the truth.

KYLE THE WRITER. One of the great miscarriages of justice is that Dave Kyle should be invited here as a **Fan** guest of Honor. His first story, the not-quite-classic "Golden Nemesis", was published in the not-quite-classic February, 1941 issue of **Stirring Science Stories**, and everybody knows what happened to poor old **Stirring Science** shortly thereafter. 41 years later Dave was still trying to drive magazines out of business (most recently in the June, 1982 issue of **Analog**) but somewhere along the way he developed such skills that Kyle stories are not only well-received by readers but actually boost a magazine's circulation. He also improved the financial status of Bantam Books by allowing them to publish **THE DRAGON LENS MAN** (a compelling story about an ophthalmologist working for scale), and has two more Lensman books waiting in the wings, or at the printers, or wherever Kyle manuscripts wait before being turned loose on an irrationally admiring public.

KYLE THE PUBLISHER. Always the egotist, Dave named his specialty publishing company in honor of his towering moral stature—Gnome Press—and proceeded to publish the first editions of **FOUNDATION**, **FOUNDATION AND EMPIRE**, **SECOND FOUNDATION**, **SHAMBLEAU**, **CITY**, **SIXTH COLUMN**, **CONAN THE CONQUERER**, **METHUSALAH'S CHILDREN**, and a host of other equally obscure books. Nothing special here, obviously. We'll have to go on to the next topic.

KYLE THE WORLDCON CHAIRMAN. In the history of the human race, there have probably been between nine and ten billion of us born. Only 40 grew up to be WorldCon Chairmen. Dave was one of them. More to the point, only one grew up to chair NyCon II in 1956, and to tell Tucker where he couldn't sit. Guess Who?

KYLE THE EOFAN. Dave joined a little group of nobodies that banded together to split rents and criticize each other's writing back in the late 1930s. They called themselves the Futurians, and except for Dave, and Isaac Asimov, and Fred Pohl, and Cyril Kornbluth, and James Blish, and Don Wollheim, and Damon Knight, and maybe three or four others, nobody's heard from them since. Obviously the man had terrible taste in friends, right up until the time he met me.

KYLE THE LORD OF AN ENGLISH MANOR. He used to be.

KYLE THE FLORIDIAN WITH HIS OWN SWIMMING POOL

WHICH HE HASN'T LET ME USE YET. He currently is, and he currently hasn't.

KYLE THE PROFESSIONAL HISTORIAN. Dave wrote a pair of coffee-table books, *A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF SCIENCE FICTION* (1976) and *THE ILLUSTRATED BOOK OF SCIENCE FICTION IDEAS AND DREAMS* (1977). How good are they? Well, at the 1976 WorldCon in Kansas City, I stumbled into Ed Wood, who was then doing some reviewing for *ANALOG*. He was carrying a copy of Dave's *PICTORIAL HISTORY* under his arm and seemed about to break into tears. When I asked him why, he told me mournfully that he had found only two mistakes in the whole damned book, and that both of them were typos. (Shame on you, Dave, for spoiling that poor man's Convention!)

KYLE THE LOVING HUSBAND. It's true . . . but with a wife like Ruthie, it could hardly be helped or avoided.

KYLE THE LIVING LEGEND. As a past RiverCon GOH, I of course would like to think that RiverCon's choice of Dave (however misguided their reasoning) has solidified his claim to Living Legendship beyond any shadow of a doubt. But for those of you who prefer size to quality, it seems that the RiverCon selection system has become contagious and I must begrudgingly inform you that Dave has also been selected as the Fan Guest of Honor for the 1983 WorldCon in Baltimore.

KYLE THE DASHING ROMANTIC IDOL. I'm running out of space and besides, this topic has been fully covered in the works of Robert Bloch.

Well, gang, that's it — but if anyone wants to treat me to three dinners on the 25th floor of the Galt House, give me ample warning and I can probably think of something complimentary to say about Dave Kyle.

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Toastmistress — **Barb Wagner**
Fan Goh — **Guy H. Lillian III**
Artist Goh — **Doug Chaffee**

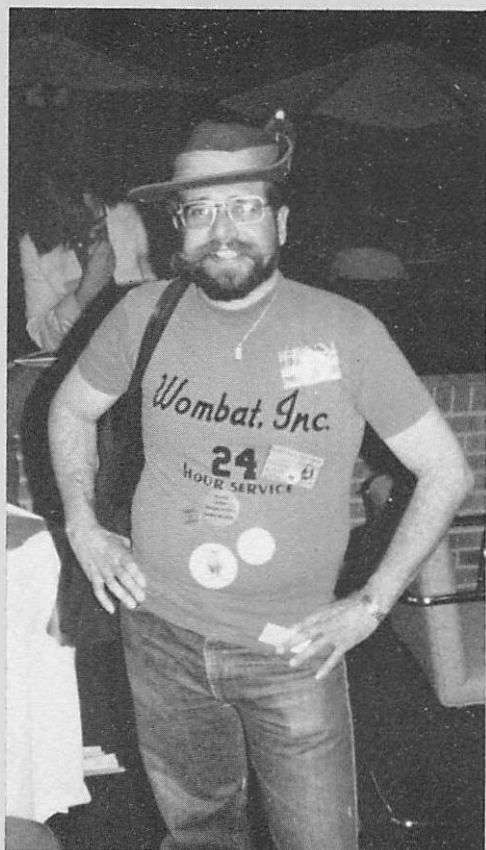
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Toastmaster

jan howard finder



by Jane Boster

It started so innocently. During a desultory Sunday afternoon phone conversation, jan mentioned that he needed to file for a state sales permit. He'd decided to call his business "Wombat Enterprises, Unlimited," he said; what did I think of the name? I said that it sounded ok.

If I'd left it at that, who knows? Fannish history might be different. But a few days later, I was standing by the T-shirt machine in the bookstore where I was then doing semi-voluntary servitude, with no customers in sight and nothing productive to do. Truly the Devil finds mischief for idle hands. I picked up a red shirt. A nebulous idea seeped into what passes as my mind: *Wombat Enterprises* would go on the front in big white letters, *The Wombat* on the back. Why not? I thought, it gets the point across, and it will certainly catch the eye. So I printed up the shirt and sent it off.

Little did I suspect that I'd been engaged in that very familiar science fictional activity, Creating a Monster.

jan finder was well on his way to making a name for himself in fandom before he became aka The Wombat, but from the time he got that shirt, he never looked back. Many are the fans I've talked with who are completely glassy-eyed when I call him by his given name; but when I explicate with the two simple syllables "wom-bat," they exclaim, "Oh, ah, yes!" — those who don't say "Oh" in a rather different voice and shudder strongly, that is.

In fact, even if this is one of your first conventions, you're likely to have noticed the feller in the Aussie hat, the (or *a*, there have been several variations on the original theme) T-shirt, beard and handlebar mustache. Most often he's standing around talking to people. Occasionally some of them even manage to get a reply in. You might, if this isn't your *very* first convention, also have seen him on a panel, in the Art Auction separating fans from their money, helping out with or participating in the Masquerade, or raising money for the Down Under Fan Fund. Or jan might have come to your attention as the editor of the new anthology *Alien Encounters*, his latest foray into Prodom, through his non-fiction *Guide to Australterrestrials*, or — working backwards in time — his fanzing *Spang Blah*.

The cry from the old radio show *Chicken Man* springs irresistably to my lips: "He's everywhere, he's everywhere!" At least, jan seems to have participated enthusiastically in practically all aspects of fandom. May I mention that he ran his first convention in 1969? It was a sercon Tolkien conference, but fun withal, and was successful enough that he repeated it the next year. He might have gone on doing that sort of thing indefinitely, but the following year he moved to Europe and discovered Fandom. John Brunner was responsible for the latter, according to jan himslef, so I guess there are two J. B.s to blame for the current situation. After returning to the States, jan chaired two fannish cons, Totocon in '77 and Novacon West in '79. He was also the principal American presence in the Australia in '83 worldcon bid, and gave a lot of time, money and sweat to the campaign, without ever losing his sense of humor or perspective — no small accomplishment in smoffish circles.

There are many other things I could tell you about the Wombat; he's one of my oldest friends, after all — in more than one sense of the word "old." Unfortunately, most of what I might relate isn't printable except in the sort of publication which is sold in a plain brown wrapper. Besides, he knows all the skeletons in *my* closet . . . and to risk being serious for a moment, that's

an aspect of jan's character few con-goers see: the staunch friend under the wombatskin. But his interest in the liking for people does show through, and if you don't know him yet, go up and say hi. I think you'll be glad you did.

In Louisville

Fandom is FOSFA



Falls of the Ohio
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& Fantasy Assn.



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