

# AUSTRALIAN SF NEWS

VOLUME ONE NUMBER FOUR

SEPTEMBER 1978

## IGUANACON ATTENDANCE OVER FOUR THOUSAND

The highlight of the 36th WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION in Phoenix Arizona, was the popularity of the Guest of Honor Harlan Ellison with the attendees. When the announcement came over that he had won the Hugo for the Best Short Story with *JEFTY IS FIVE*, the roof just about caved in. It has been a tremendous experience for me meeting everybody and being at this great convention, with well over 4000 people attending.

(By phone from Paul J. Stevens on the evening of Sunday 3rd of September Phoenix, Arizona time.)

## BEN BOVA RESIGNS AS EDITOR OF ANALOG

When John W. Campbell died in 1972, Ben Bova took over. It was an unenviable task to try and take on the mantle of the great J.W.C., but Bova carried out his task very well adding more Hugos to ANALOG's shelf. The new editor of ANALOG is Stanley Schmidt, 34. He has been contributing to ANALOG since 1968 and has had a number of books published including *SINS OF THE FATHERS*, *NEWTON AND THE QUASI APPLE*, and *LIFEBOAT EARTH*. He plans to give up writing for magazines but will continue with his novels. He has been teaching both physics and science fiction at the university of Tiffin, Ohio. Ben Bova was impressed by his sf course which he ran similarly to a writers workshop, and strongly recommended him for the job at ANALOG. See J.K. Klein's "Biolog" in the December '77 issue of ANALOG for further details about Stanley Schmidt.

Ben Bova has moved over to the new magazine formerly to be called 'Nova', but now being published by 'Penthouse' in October as OMNI. Diana King who was to be editor resigned for personal reasons. The name was changed because a TV program of the same name objected, and rather than fight it and delay the publication, the name was changed. OMNI will have a first print run of one million, and will include fiction by Asimov, Sturgeon, Goulart, and Hall, plus articles and interviews on science. A feature of the first issue will be an interview with Freeman Dyson. Regular features will include, astronomy, biological sciences, environment, UFOs, and the arts. Illustrations will be of the "fine" art variety. Details as to when and if it will be available in Australia are unknown at this time.

ASIMOV'S MAGAZINE was reported to have a higher circulation than ANALOG now, but the publishers of ANALOG claim their annual circulation is still much higher. It is interesting to note that editor George Scithers won the HUGO for best editor at IGUANACON.

Another magazine editorial change is John J. Pierce from GALAXY. He and other people connected with the magazine, are apparently not happy with the publisher.

Our thanks to "Locus" for the above information.

## HUGO AWARDS

### THE WINNERS

BEST NOVEL:	GATEWAY by Frederick Pohl (Gollancz/StMartins)	PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:	RICK STERNBACH
BEST NOVELLA:	STARDANCE by Jeanne and Spider Robinson (Analog March '77)	PROFESSIONAL EDITOR:	GEORGE SCITHERS
BEST NOVELETTE:	EYES OF AMBER by Joan Vinge (Analog June '77)	AMATEUR MAGAZINE:	LOCUS
BEST SHORT STORY:	JEFTY IS FIVE by Harlan Ellison (F&SF July '77)	FANWRITER:	RICHARD GEIS
DRAMATIC PRESENTATION:	STAR WARS (20th Century Fox)	FAN ARTIST:	PHIL FOGLIO
BOOK LENGTH FANTASY:	THE SILMARILLION by J.R.R. Tolkien (Allen & Unwin/H.Mifflin)	GRAND MASTER OF FANTASY:	POUL ANDERSON
		THE JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD (Best New Writer)	ORSON SCOTT CARD
		THE BIG HEART AWARD:	BILL ROTSLER
		FIRST FANDOM AWARD:	E. HOFFMANN PRICE

## SYNCON '78: A REPORT

The first science fiction convention held in Sydney for about a year and a half, started rolling on Friday evening the 26th of August. Attendees were from Sydney naturally, Adelaide, Melbourne, Hobart, and I believe Perth. A copy of Kenneth Cooke's *PLAY LITTLE VICTIMS* was auctioned for DUFF.

On Saturday morning the hospitality room was brightened by a bevy of attractive young STAR TREKKIES, who were dressed in regulation uniforms and selling ST badges, photos, and other paraphernalia.

The afternoon session got underway with a discussion of humour in science fiction. Humour has always been popular with Sydney fans, where the PAT TERRY AWARD originated, which is given for a humorous SF book in honour of the late very popular fan Pat Terry. A heated discussion developed at one stage in which water pistols were drawn, but decorum was restored and almost everybody agreed that Harry Harrison takes some beating as a humorous SF author. Although Frederic Brown, Robert Sheckley and others, especially Grendel Briarton for his FEGHOOT stories had a lot of supporters.

The business session included discussion on Fan Funds; including the possibility of bringing a Japanese fan to Australia and visa versa; the eligibility of nominees for fan funds; the widening of DUFF to include bringing English fans to Australia and an annual trip to and from every year, not just alternative years; the funding of such a scheme.

In contrast to the hysteria of UNICON IV, the AUSTRALIAN SF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS were discussed, quickly and rationally, and it was decided to form a steering sub-committee to the SYNCON '79 Awards committee to meet at EASTERCON '79 and make recommendations on the form of the Trophies and the categories (see editorial).

Jack Herman presented the film show, adding some quite interesting and pertinent facts and comments about



the films and actors. *BELL BOOK AND CANDLE* and *HELLS A POPPIN* were interspersed with a trivia quiz presented by Peter Toluzzi and Blair Ramage. It is rather incredible some of the trivial facts about stories and characters that people remember.

On Sunday morning the Kurt Vonnegut film *HAPPY BIRTHDAY WANDA JUNE* was screened. By no means sf of course but it does have some fantasy elements, and the excellent performances by Rod Steiger, Susannah York, and others made it well worth while. Pulp collector Ken Ozanne then gave a talk on John W. Campbell's magazine *UNKNOWN WORLDS*. A few people paid a short visit to GALAXY Bookshop, and inspected their wide range of fantasy and sf. A lunchtime barbecue was held in an ideal setting beside the swimming pool, which was followed by an auction conducted by convention chairman Keith Curtis, in his effective and entertaining fashion.

At the second business session the AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CONVENTION CONSTITUTION was discussed, and we were advised that a completely new one is being drafted, based on the WORLD CONVENTION CONSTITUTION, suitably cut and tailored to meet our requirements. This also will be discussed at a special meeting at EASTERCON '79 and at SYNCON '79, a new constitution will probably be put for ratification. Concern was voiced at the proposed changes to the WORLD SF CONVENTION

(continued over)



CONSTITUTION, and how it will effect us in future bids for the WORLD CONVENTION.

Finally, a vote of thanks to Keith Curtis and other workers on SYNCON '79 was given. Keith auctioned off everything he could get his hands on for DUFF, both at the convention and a party that was held later. An enjoyable week-end was over.

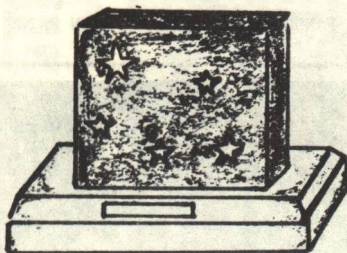
MERV.BINNS.

## EDITORIAL COMMENT



The awards committee for SYNCON '79 and in fact quite a few other fans, are concerned about the AUSTRALIAN SF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS(DITMARS).

The trophies themselves have been virtually changed yearly and should now be standardised. A basic design is very close to being decided upon, but the SYNCON committee would like as many people as possible to have their say on the subject. My personal idea is something like this:-



That part of the problem is reasonably straight forward. I am sure we can come up with a suitable design. The cost of making the trophies is a small problem which can be overcome.

What we should give the awards for is another thing again. We have traditionally given awards for:-

THE BEST AUSTRALIAN SF(any length-novels etc)

THE BEST INTERNATIONAL SF(novels usually)

BEST AUSTRALIAN FANZINE.

However, other variations have appeared such as the BEST CONTEMPORARY AUTHOR,

It seems to me that our first consideration should be recognition of our own writers, and therefore these categories might be included in all future presentations - BEST AUSTRALIAN LONG FICTION, BEST AUSTRALIAN SHORT FICTION, BEST FANZINE & BEST FAN WRITER.

Deciding what if any other categories should be included, is going to be up to you. Yes you! Everybody who reads this editorial, and is at all interested in voting for awards, can help those trying to decide what the awards should be for by writing to us now, and telling us what 'they' think. Meanwhile a few more personal opinions from me.

The number of the categories 'need' to be limited. So if we accept the idea of four strictly Australian categories, we cannot add very many more. In fact strong opinion is for only four categories, but whatever the cost, I think that four is just not enough, unless the Australian categories are cut to two, which I think is impractical.

So why not six categories? Can we justify six? If we can, we can justify the cost. If committees feel that

the cost puts too much strain on their budgets, the cost will be covered some other way. If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing properly. Consequently if we make it six categories the other two could come from: BEST INTERNATIONAL SF(which in almost every case would be the best novel) BEST AUTHOR (possibly for all the achievement rather than one year) BEST NON FICTION (encyclopedia listing, bibliographic or critical work) BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION (perhaps only when worthwhile), SPECIAL AWARD(to be given by the committee when they consider it merited, to somebody or something that has been overlooked or does not come into the usual categories). Which of these would you favour if any at all?

The William Atheling Award for critical writing on SF should be dropped from the official Australian National Convention responsibility. Not enough critical writing is done in Australia to make it practical, nor is enough read by local readers in my opinion, to really make such an award limited to Australian fans, have any meaning.

I know some people will violently disagree with me on this last point. Some very good work was and is being done by SF COMMENTARY, BOGGLE and ENIGMA for example, and a few other fanzines. NOUMENON from New Zealand must be included. But this work could be recognised within the BEST AUSTRALIAN FANZINE or FAN WRITER awards. It has been suggested to me that the Atheling Award be broadened to include bibliographic, historical, and encyclopaedic works, but this changes the meaning behind the award, which was to honor the critical writing of William Atheling(James Blish).

Incidentally, the British SF Foundation instituted a JAMES BLISH AWARD for the same reason, which has not been carried on I am told, apparently due to lack of interest. Perhaps the fanzine editors should get together and organise a poll amongst their readers for the William Atheling Award. I suggest that the ASFF may consider even administering such a scheme, and a way of funding it should not be difficult to work out. Whatever we do with it, I do not think it should be actually one of the DITMAR Awards.

Finally I must say something about the award for international SF. Many titles have been nominated and even won, when they have not even been distributed in this country, which is a rather ludicrous state of affairs. This category if retained must be limited to books distributed in this country, and perhaps over a longer period. Magazine serialisation would make a story eligible of course.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?!!!!

### FAN FUNDS

I have received some flack for my criticism of Eric Lindsay nominating for the GUFF funds, in light of which I have modified my opinion a little. There is probably a limit to the number of people in Australia who want to attend the World Convention, or who can afford to. After all, even though a fan fund winner's fare is paid, he still needs quite a bit of extra cash.

Accordingly, there perhaps should not be any reason why fans who have been over to World Conventions previously, or why overseas fans who perhaps attended AUSSIECON or visited Australia other times, should not be nominated. But certainly I would not vote for them, and in the unlikely event of the two or three nominees

all coming within the above category, I would be reluctant to support any.

I have been told that we need to send a suitable ambassador to the WORLD SF CONVENTIONS, particularly if we intend to try to continue holding them in Australia from time to time. So I agree, if a suitable ambassador has to be someone who has been before, and nobody else can be found who wants to go, then and only then might I give him my support. Any other attitude is I feel, not quite in the tradition of fan funds. If people do or do not agree with me, they will make up their own minds and the results will be evident in future fan fund voting.

M.B.

### FAN FUND DETAILS

The nominees for the GUFF Fund to send an Australian Fan to the World Convention in Brighton, England next year are: John Alderson, John Foyster and Eric Lindsay. We all cannot attend overseas conventions, but by just putting in a dollar or two and voting for your choice or not even voting at all if you prefer, you can have the satisfaction of knowing that Australian SF fandom is represented. For details and a voting for form, write to the administrator Leigh Edmonds, PO Box 103 Brunswick, Victoria 3056, AUSTRALIA.

John Millard is the Administrator of a Travel Fund for very well known and popular English fan WALTER GILLINGS, to go to North America in 1980. Write to John Millard for details at 18 - 86 Broadway Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 1T4, or send a donation to John now.



AUSTRALIAN author DAVID LAKE from Queensland, is at present in the U.S.A at the University of Illinois, studying the original manuscript of H.G.Well's TIME MACHINE. An article on his work will be published in the periodical SF STUDIES next year.

He reports that he had pleasure in meeting James Gunn, Ted Sturgeon and Fred Pohl, who is already working on a sequel to GATEWAY, tentatively titled THE BLUE EVENT HORIZON. He promises the Heechee will appear and probably Sigfrid von Shrink again.

### 1978 FAAN AWARDS RESULTS

A group of fanzine and APA contributors vote annually for their favourite fan writers and artists. This year's winners courtesy Bruce Pelz were: BEST EDITOR: Rob Jackson, BEST WRITER: Bob Shaw, BEST (Humorous) ARTIST: Alex Gilliland, BEST (Non-Humorous) ARTIST: Jim Shull, BEST LETTER-OF-COMMENT WRITER: Mike Glicksohn, BEST SINGLE ISSUE: Maya 14.

### ADVERTISING

The cost of producing the NEWS is at this time a lot more than the subscriptions and counter sales will cover. Therefore we need the support of advertising to keep our heads above water. We thank the publishers who have already placed or promised advertisements for future issues but we would like to see something from Convention organisers, fanzine publishers, and Clubs. Our support will be very much appreciated.



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By Richard Siegel and J-C Soares

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Introduction by B. Tompkins

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## NEW RELEASES FROM AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTORS

Gordon and Gotch September releases include: *THE DAY OF THEIR RETURN* by Poul Anderson in *Corgi*, *STAR TREK 12* edited by James Blish and J.A. Lawrence also *Corgi*, *ORSINIAN TALES* by Ursula LeGuin, *THE CHILD BUYER* by John Hersey, *BLOODSTAR CONSPIRACY* by Doc Smith and Stephen Golden, *DROUGHT* by J.G. Ballard, *THE ZAP GUN* by P.K. Dick all from Panther. G&G are also distributing for Hamlyn Australia: *MAN FROM ATLANTIS*, *DEATH SCOUTS*, *ARK OF DOOM*, and *KILLER SPORES*, all from the TV series.

The Rical distributing group are handling the *Hamlyn UK* series and the next release includes *THE FLORIANIS* by Brian Stableford. Followed by *BEYOND THE BARRER* by D. Knight.

In the Methuen *Magnum* series Rical will be releasing *CASTLE KEEPS* by Andrew Offut, and *FAR OUT* by Damon Knight. Rical report that the sales of the *DR WHO* Series are absolutely incredible. They are having a job keeping up with the demand. *THE TIME WARRIOR*, *ICE WARRIORS*, *GIANT ROBOT*, and *DEATH TO THE DALEKS* are some of the new editions out. Due August or September are *THE BROKEN LANDS* and *THE BLACK MOUNTAINS* both by Fred Saberhagen and two *DR WHO* REPRINTS; *DINOSAUR INVASION* and *DOOMSDAY WEAPON*. Also due soon from Wyndham *SHIELD* by Poul Anderson, *WARLOCK OF THE WITCHWORLD* by Andre Norton, *ONCE AROUND THE SUN* by D.G. Finlay, *SORCERESS OF THE WITCHWORLD* by Norton. *DOORWAYS IN THE SAND* by Roger Zelazny and another new batch of *DR WHOS* are due in October.

The next release from Tudor Distributors of Futura titles includes *WARLORDS OF ATLANTIS* by P. Victor, *MIDWORLD* by Allan Dean Foster, *BLACK HOLES* edited by Jerry Pournelle and *PERRY RHODAN* # 36.

Thomas Nelson are releasing in the *SPHERE* series a new edition of *DAMNATION ALLEY* by Zelazny, *DEATH OF GRASS* by John Christopher, *DEUS IRAE* by P.K. Dick and R. Zelazny, *GAME PLAYERS OF TITAN* by Dick, *THE VARIABLE MAN* by Dick, *ANCIENT MY ENEMY* by G.R. Dickson, and with new covers; *MAKER OF UNIVERSES*, *PRIVATE COSMOS*, *GATES OF CREATION*, and *BEHIND THE WALLS OF TERRA* all by Philip J. Farmer.

MacMillan (Australia) will be distributing the Octopus title *THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION* edited by Robert Holdstock. We have seen a copy of this and it is very good.

Wobblidagger through their various distributors will be releasing some new fantasy art titles: *MASTERS OF COMIC BOOK ART* by P.R. Garriock, *BOOK OF CONQUESTS* by Jim Fitzpatrick, *BEAUTY and the BEAST* by Chris Achilleos, *NECRONOMICON* by H.R. Giger, *JEWEL IN THE SKULL* James Cawthorn, *THE FEELIES* by Mick Farren & Chris Welch, *ANOTHER TIME ANOTHER PLACE* - Rodney Mathews, *Calendar*, *LONE SLOANE: DELIRIUS* by Phillippe Drillet and the really stunning *MECHANISMO* by Harry Harrison.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

**AUDITOR WANTED** The Australian SF Foundation needs the services of an official auditor. They hope that some kind fan may offer his service, and help the Foundation carry on their good work. Please contact Peter Darling at Box 4039, GPO Melbourne, 3000.

**PRINTING:** Would you like to have your fanzine printed? Or perhaps you have other small printing jobs. Contact Peter Knox, P.O. Box 225, Randwick, 2031 or Neville Angove, EPEREX PRESS, at 13/5 Maxim St, West Ryde, 2114, N.S.W.

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## PUBLISHERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BRITISH PUBLISHERS**  
The following titles are to be published in the U.K. during the July to December period 1978. Bound Editions:

**W.H. ALLEN.** DR WHO AND DEATH TO THE DALEKS by Terrance Dicks; DR WHO AND THE DALEK INVASION by Terrance Dicks; STAR QUEST ONE by T. Dicks; DR WHO AND THE SONTARAN EXPERIMENT by Ian Marter; LORD TEDRIC by E.E. 'Doc' Smith; The Classic Library of Horror by Carl Dreadstone.  
**ALLISON & BUSBY.** A critical introduction to MICHAEL MOORCOCK by John Clute.  
**EYRE METHUEN/ASSOCIATED BOOK PUBLISHERS.** THE MAN WHO JAPED by P.K. Dick; ODD JOHN by Olaf Stapledon and of interest to F&SF fans ANIMATION OF MORTALITY by Terry Gilliam - the designer animator of the Month Python TV series.  
**DOBSON.** BLINDFOLD FROM THE STARS by Philip E. High; THE FINAL CIRCLE OF PARADISE by Arkadi & Boris Strugatski; SAFFRON by Judith Buffery; CRACK IN THE SHIELD by Arthur Sellings; NEXT STOP THE STARS by Robert Silverberg; ANDROMEDA THREE by Peter Weston; NINE TOMORROWS by Isaac Asimov; THE MARTIAN WAY by Asimov; HUGO WINNERS by Asimov.  
**FABER.** BLACKPOOL VANISHES by Richard Francis; THE NIGHT OF KADAR by Garry Kilworth.  
**GOLLANCZ.** MIRACLE VISITORS by Ian Watson; DREAMSNAKE by Vonda McIntyre; UP THE WALLS OF THE WORLD by James Tiptree Jr; PRISONERS OF POWER A & B. Strugatski; BEST SF OF THE YEAR 7 Terry Carr; THE FOUNTAINS OF PARADISE Arthur C. Clarke; BLOOD AND BURNING Algis Budrys; THE GATE OF THE WORLDS Robert Silverberg.  
**ROBERT HALE.** THE HOUNDS OF HEAVEN Eric Burgess & Arthur Friggens; A LEGEND IN HIS OWN DEATHTIME Gareth Chalmers; THE EPPING PYRAMID Colin Cooper; MERRY CHRISTMAS, MS MINERVA! Edmund Cooper; HERE BE DAEMONS Basil Copper; ORSINI GODBASE James Corley; FUTURELOVE Gordon R. Dickson (Intro); OIL PLANET Michael Elder; GREEN HAILSTONES Norman Hall; FUGITIVE FROM TIME Philip High; NO NEWS FROM PROVIDENCE R. Alan James; SWORD OF THE EMPIRE Gene Lancour; MISSION TO PACTOLUS R. Douglas R. Mason; TIME OF PASSAGE J.D. Olander & M.H. Greenberg (eds); LEAP TO THE GALACTIC CORE John Paton; PROTEUS John Paton; THE CRAB EAGLE TREES J.T. Robertson; A GLIMPSE OF JUDGEMENT A.C. Smith; THE PSYCHOPATH PLAGUE Steven G. Spruill; POISONED PLANET William Thomas Webb; CHILD OF VODYANOI David Wiltshire; WE ALIEN SEED J.A. Wood.  
**HARRAP BOOKS.** POE'S TALES OF MYSTERY AND IMAGINATION: Illustrated by Arthur Rackham. (New edition of 1935 pub.)  
**HUTCHINSON.** 1985 by Anthony Burgess; GOBLINS by Spike Milligan (Poems with

Heath Robinson drawings); THE LAST DAYS OF THE EDGE OF THE WORLD Brian Stableford; THE DARK BRIGHT WATER Patricia Wrightson

**MICHAEL JOSEPH.** THE STAINLESS STEEL RAT WANTS YOU Harry Harrison  
**NEW ENGLISH LIBRARY.** MORE THAN SUPERHUMAN A.E. Van Vogt; THE H.G. WELLS SCRAPBOOK Peter Haining.  
**MACDONALD.** FUTURE TENSE The Cinema of SF John Brosnan.  
**FREDERICK MULLER.** SINCE FICTION IN THE MOVIES An A-Z Roy Pickard.  
**HODDER.** JUPITER LAUGHS Edmund Cooper; THE WAKING OF THE STONE John Lymington.  
**SIDGEMICK & JACKSON.** UNDER A CALCULATING STAR John Morresy; THE ANARCHISTIC COLOSSUS A.E. Van Vogt; SURVIVOR Octavia E. Butler; THE FAR CALL Gordon R. Dickson; SF SPECIALS 27, 28, 29 & 30; NEW WRITINGS IN SF SPECIAL # 3; FROST WORLD AND DREAM FIRE John Morresy.  
**THAMES & HUDSON.** THE FANTASY BOOK Franz Rottensteiner; ROBOTS Jasja Reichardt.  
**BERGSTROM & BOYLE.** FUTUROPOLIS Robert Sheckley.  
**WOLFHOUND PRESS.** IRISH MASTERS OF FANTASY Ed Peter Tremayne; THE ECSTASY OF ANGUS Liam O'Flaherty.

Future releases from American publishers will include: FELLOWSHIP OF THE TALISMAN by Clifford Simak; BATTLE STAR GALACTICA by Robert Thurston; THE BEST OF LESTER DEL REY; THE STARS IN SHROUD by Gregory Benford. Gerry De La Ree recently published the Second VIRGIL FINLAY BOOK, and has THE ART OF HANS BOK, and THE ART OF THE FANTASTIC on the way; Gregg Press will reprint all of Asimov's "Paul French" novels in their library and collectors bound series; Berkley publishers will do BLIND VOICES by the late Tom Reamy in September; THE AVATAR by Poul Anderson in October, and an illustrated version of EMPIRE by Samuel Delany, and THE NOTEBOOKS OF LAZARUS LONG (Material taken from TIME ENOUGH FOR LOVE) by Robert Heinlein; BARONET Publishers will publish the second of their Illustrated SF series, after the 'Roger Zelazny', THE ILLUSTRATED HARLAN ELLISON.

## PROFESSIONAL NEWS • AUSTRALIAN

CHERRY WILDER has just sold a sequel to her widely acclaimed novel, THE LUCK OF BRIN'S FIVE. The title of the new book is THE NEAREST FIRE, and will be published early in 1979 by Athenium in the U.S.A. In November of this year, Angus & Robertson will publish a Commonwealth edition of BRIN'S FIVE.

LEE HARDING has this to say about THE ROOMS OF PARADISE, his forthcoming hard-cover anthology due from Quartet Books in September: "I am pleased to announce that this will be the first time that a collection of original sf stories, spec-

ially commissioned by the editor, has been published in Australia for a worldwide market. For the first time contributors will receive payment commensurate with rates offered by overseas publishers: 2-3¢ per word as an advance against royalties on the original Quartet edition, 80% of such royalties to be divided pro-rata among the contributors, and further payments on a similar basis when U.S. rights and pb. sales are made.

The theme behind ROOMS OF PARADISE is the impact of the future upon the individual. This assured that I would get stories with strong characterisation, and with an emphasis on storytelling. This will be very much a book for the general reader as well as the fan. I also like to think that the distinctly 'international' flavour of the book will be an added bonus. The following authors are represented: BRIAN ALDISS & IAN WATSON (from the U.K.); GENE WOLFE, R.A. LAFFERTY & MICHAEL BISHOP (from the U.S.A.); SAKYO KOMATSU (from Japan - translated by Judith Merril), and the desired 50% Australian content is made up from first-class fiction from DAMIEN BRODERICK, CHERRY WILDER, GEORGE TURNER, DAVID LAKE, PHILIPPA MADDERN and KEVIN MCKAY. The latter was one of the prize-winning entries in the Unicorn IV story contest - a bizarre technical tour-de-force that succeeds in an area where so much determinedly 'Australian' sf fails. The long story by George Turner follows on from the action in his novel, BELOVED SON. Cherry Wilder's story is a companion piece to her novel THE LUCK OF BRIN'S FIVE. There will also be an Introduction by ROGER ZELAZNY. It is a world-class anthology and I hope Australian readers will give the book their support."

### OVERSEAS PROFESSIONAL NEWS

GREGORY BENFORD AND GORDON EKLUND have sold a novel to Dell, FIND THE CHANGLING. RANDALL GARRETT has sold a collection of parodies and pastiches called TAKE OFF to Star Blaze Books.

JOE HALDEMAN has sold FOREVER WAR to the movies (I said this would make a great movie when I read it. Let's hope it does not get lost in the shuffle.) Joe has also just finished a new Star Trek novel for Bantam. JACK HALDEMAN and DAVE KYLE are working on a new series of Lensman books based on the 'Doc' Smith titles.

ARTHUR CLARKE's THE DEEP RANGE has been sold to the movies. His new novel THE FOUNTAINS OF PARADISE is due to be published early 1979. His RENDEZVOUS WITH RAMA is the very first book, sf or otherwise sold to the Russians, and he reports he is already getting royalties from it. He also states in an interview with David Garnett in LOCUS, that FOUNTAINS OF PARADISE could well be the last novel he will write.

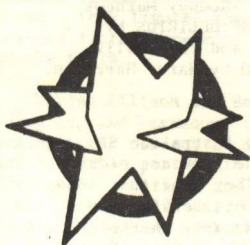
GORDON R. DICKSON (Syncon 1979 Guest of Honour) has signed up with ACE books, (who incidentally are really putting on a new face since Jim Baen took over as editor) for nine 'Dorsai' books. They will be reprinting the titles 'DAW' did, plus a new title and other specials.

FREDERIK POHL looks like sweeping all the awards this year with GATEWAY. It won the John W. Campbell Memorial Award at the 2nd World SF Writers conference.

BILL ROTSLER has changed his address to P.O. Box 3780, Los Angeles, California 90028, U.S.A.

WILSON TUCKER was pro Guest of Honor and his alter ego BOB TUCKER was Fan Guest at the Disclave Convention in May, Smooth!

Our thanks to LOCUS for most of the news about new American publications and authors.



# SPACE AGE

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Last month, I discussed the Australian science fiction scene in general and described what I thought was an encouraging upsurge in both the quality and quantity of science fiction being written in this country. I also found time to discuss four novels by David Lake.

With rather more room this time, I would like to discuss in detail one novel by Cherry Wilder.

I have only met Ms Wilder once, at an author's discussion group at the 1975 World SF Convention in Melbourne, and my dim memory is of a friendly and enthusiastic lady. Born in New Zealand, she lived in Australia for some time, and now alas lives in Germany with her husband and two children. Her short stories have been appearing for some time in various anthologies and magazines. A particularly memorable story was her *THE ARK OF JAMES CARLYLE*. Her first published sf novel, *THE LUCK OF BRIN'S FIVE* (Atheneum, 1977, 230pp) was written in Australia, and its background has much of the Australian about it. The novel was the winner of the Australian SF Achievement Award in 1978.

The story is written from the viewpoint of a child or young adult of a race of intelligent beings on an alien planet, and tells of the arrival of Scott Gale, an Earthman, who crashes and is adopted as part of the family of the narrator, as their mascot, or 'Luck'.

The plot is simple, dealing with the search for Gale by powerful individuals on the planet, his capture despite the best efforts of his new family, and his eventual release and a happy ending.

The virtues of *THE LUCK OF BRIN'S FIVE* are in the unfolding of the interesting culture of the alien society, which Ms Wilder has worked out in careful detail. There is a society which is still mediaeval in style, whose language, written records and cultural values are based on the craft of weaving. Family groups are based on five-member marriages, which at first is confusing to the reader, as it is hard to juggle around the five separate characters who are part of Brin's five, and sort them out from the children of which Dorn, the narrator, is the eldest. At the end of the book I was still trying to make sure I knew what was going on.

This mediaeval society is deeply traditional, with an in-built resistance to change - and change is the danger that Scott Gale represents. Yet Ms Wilder shows us in this society an aspect of technology that in less skilled hands would surely have seemed incongruous: the use in sport of gliders and muscle powered aircraft. She brings it off in a very convincing manner. It is inevitable that Scott Gale takes part in the great annual gliding competition and wins the prize.

The Earthman is finally imprisoned by a malevolent clan leader and only the most heroic efforts of Brin's five eventually allow him to be set free.

Very well. All of this is interesting and pleasant, and makes for a very readable novel. One could wander for hours among the delightful intricacies of Ms Wilder's society. But at the end of the book, we are left with a feeling that something is missing.

The intricate description of the alien society lures us away from the realisation that none of the main characters of the book, including Scott Gale, Dorn, or Brin

herself, are ever anything more than mere two-dimensional labels. Though we are told of the loyalty between Gale and the family, no strong emotion ever seems to be evoked. We never have any idea at all of the sexual relationships within the five-sided family group. Perhaps this is due to the child's viewpoint, and we might expect him to be an innocent: but the child is a tent-dweller from the countryside, and we should be given some suggestion of these things. Scott Gale remains a confused enigma, and Dorn is so weakly defined that I was never sure until almost the end of the book, of what gender he was.

The other aspect worth considering about the book is the Australian background. I think that it is there, in the clear separation between the kind of lives led by Brin's five, from the country and the scheming, tradition-breaking lives of those in the cities. There is also a feeling of timelessness about the world and its people which reminds me very much of Australia's horizons and people. And, of course there is the fact, which I have not mentioned until now, that the aliens are marsupial. This could have been a very interesting facet to the book, but I have to report that this idea is merely thrown away. Its omission would in no way alter the book.

Now, these criticisms are not intended to discourage any readers away from what is in many ways a very fine book which many people will enjoy. It is only that, given this beautiful backdrop, it's a great pity that Ms Wilder didn't have anything happening in it to any real people.

Nevertheless, for a first novel, this is a creditable book, and I am sure that her next book will be one to look forward to.

Next month, I'll probably have a look at Lee Harding or George Turner.

--- David Grigg

## CONVENTIONS

**ANZAPACON** October 14th and 15th  
For the un-initiated, ANZAPA is the Australian and New Zealand Amateur Press Association, which has now been in existence for ten years. This convention is to celebrate the tenth anniversary of ANZAPA. All current, past, and waiting list members are invited. They are all going to squeeze into John Foysters flat, but those who cannot get in can go and play games on St Kilda Beach. If you would like to attend write to John now and let him know you are coming, c/o GPO BOX 4039, Melbourne, 3001 Victoria.

**MONASH UNIVERSITY SF ASSOCIATION** are holding the **CLASCIPIFMACON** (Blech!) in the Seminar room at the Sports complex at Monash, on September the 23rd and 24th. For further details contact Daryl Mannell MUSFA President at Monash or call Ziggy on 232 2566 or Rodger on 723 1509

**UNICON 5** were expecting Robert Sheckley before his illness and inability to attend the Workshop, as guest of honour, but have now invited a local author, to be announced.

The organiser Tony Howe, is also planning the **THIRD SYDNEY SF and FANTASY FILM FESTIVAL** to be held the weekend of May 12th and 13th 1979. For details write to P.O. Box 191, Gordon, NSW 2072. More than 12 feature films are expected to be screened.

**AMERICAN AUTHOR-EDITOR TERRY CARR** will be officiating along with George Turner, at the **Writers Workshop** being organised by Petrina Smith in Sydney January 6th to the 21st 1979. For details contact Petrina at 139 Arundel Street, Glebe NSW 2037

### EASTERCON 7 Melbourne 1979

A. Bertram Chandler will be professional guest and Brian Thurogood fan guest at Eastercon 79, at the Sheraton Hotel in Melbourne next year.

For further details write to Derek and Christine Ashby at P.O. Box 175 South Melbourne, 3205, Victoria

### SYNCON '79

The NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN SF CONVENTION 1979 will be held at the HYATT KINGSGATE HOTEL, Darlinghurst, Sydney. The room rates have been announced: Single \$45.00, Double \$48, Triple \$52 per night. These rates may seem high, but it is very difficult to find a suitable hotel and the management have cut their rates for the use of the convention facilities. It is not every week that we have the opportunity of meeting such a distinguished guest as Gordon Dickson, nor enjoy the company of other fans in the surroundings of a top class hotel.

**SWANCON** held in Perth in July was quite a successful convention, with over 90 attendees. The organisers should not be disappointed at this turn up, which is much higher than many of the National Conventions held a few years ago. Another SWANCON is planned for March next year.

The **MELBOURNE SF CLUB** is planning a small gathering on Edgar Rice Burroughs Birthday, September 1st, 1979. More details later.

### AUSTRALIA IN '83

Both Adelaide and Sydney fans are at present organising bids to hold the World SF Convention in Australia in 1983. You can help now by plugging AUSTRALIA in '83 in all your overseas correspondence, and fanzines. We will advise how you can help further in due course.

**NOVA MOB.** The next meeting of the group will discuss *BELOVED SON*, led by the author himself, George Turner. Date: October 3rd, Tuesday as always, at John Foyster's, 3a /19 Marine Parade, St Kilda.

The following meeting will be on John Carnell led by Lee Harding on November 7th, at 294 Amess St., Carlton, and the December 5th meeting on Brian Aldiss, at 863 Hampton Rd., Brighton, led by Rob Gerrand and Bruce Gillespie.



THE AUSTRALIAN  
*Star Trek*  
CONVENTION

will be held at the Menzies Hotel Sydney on March 10th and 11th 1979. The Guest of Honour will be James (Scotty) Doohan. For details write to Karen Lewis at P.O. Box 110 Rockdale, N.S.W.

**STAR TREK FANDOM IN AUSTRALIA**  
Star Trek fans have been quick to point out to me that co-operation between the various clubs in Australia is very good, and that at no time has there been any serious differences. In fact the Circle of ST Fan clubs in Australia is not equalled except perhaps in the U.K. If you would like to contact the ST Club in your state, write to Karen Lewis (See above) or Nikki White at 31/116 Blamey Crescent, Campbell, ACT, for details.

A report of interest to Star Trek fans comes from Kevin Dillon, who tells us of an article in the 'Singapore Sunday Times' about an ex Sydney fan, John Wong. He has started a ST fan club and was pictured with models he has made. The article did treat the subject reasonably well. Three meetings had been held, and John is very interested in hearing from other ST clubs all over. His address: 1906 Pearl Bank Apts., Singapore 3, Republic of Singapore





The big news in Australia at the moment is still Star Wars and Close Encounters, and was responsible for a Hoyt's Theatre's profit lift of 173 per cent for the half year to May 1978. In the US, STAR WARS after 50 weeks on the Variety chart has grossed \$63,906,259.00 and \$221 million on world box-office. Close Encounters on the other hand after 25 weeks on the Variety chart has grossed \$35,555,758. in US rentals. Star Wars has been withdrawn from screening in the States for a short period whilst a new poster and promotional presentation is worked out. The film will be re-released over the US September holiday period.

In the meantime, work on STAR WARS 2 has now started with the first draft of the screenplay being completed by Leigh Brackett, shortly before her death. How much of her screenplay will actually see daylight is open to question, as Lucas went through four major rewrites before starting on the STAR WARS we know and love. The second film is seen to be more of a characterization and development vehicle than Space Opera. John Dykstra will not be helming the special effects this time, due to other commitments, and the work will be handled by Brian Johnson who is known for his work on SPACE 1999 and 2001. Ray Harryhausen will also supposedly help out on some stop motion effects.

STAR TREK: THE FILM was delayed again but was due to commence filming in August, and one wonders if it will ever start trekking. With the profits piling up from STAR WARS, one wonders why they haven't had the picture finished and released long ago. If it does reach the screen, look for a redesigned Enterprise, the original crew and a few changes in mission.

BATTLESTAR: GALACTICA, a hot new TV series is to start off with a three and two hour episodes. The makers are test marketing it in Toronto in a theatrical release and are planning for a European theatrical release. Chances are we might see it as a film before having it sandwiched between the commercials. The makers are also facing a fight of their own in court over copyright infringement. It seems Fox has bought a suit against them and Lucas, who has viewed some of GALACTICA'S raw footage, wants nothing to do with it. It parallels the suit brought against SPACE: 1999 by 'Metro', because they figured they owned all science fiction projects with numerals in the title.

Harlan Ellison and Ben Bova are suing ABC and Paramount for appropriating their concept of a veteran cop and his robot partner in Paramount's FUTURE COP. Ellison and Bova did a story back in 1970 called BRILLO and were asked by ABC back then to develop it for a series in 1973. I would think that Asimov would have a better case. And speaking of Asimov, his story of THE NAKED SUN begins filming in Brazil but the original story, THE CAVES OF STEEL, also picked up for filming, seems to have fallen by the wayside. SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME is being remade by Harry Alan Towers

Billed as one step beyond STAR WARS and CLOSE ENCOUNTERS, is Milton's PARADISE LOST. If it is made, it could be a real block-buster. Filming is slated for late 1978.

The film version of VAMPIRELLA, which was to have Forry Ackerman in a cameo role, has been abandoned, but lovely Barbara Leigh, the girl chosen to play Vampi, has a part in a new film called MISTRESS OF THE APES. The advertising blurb is a real grabber, and guarantees good box office. "She found fulfillment in the jungle.... with the ape that walked like a man". Music is by a group called the NEAR MEN.

A New SF epic called the HUMANOIND is under way, and it stars Richard Kiel who plays Jaws in SPY WHO LOVED ME. Also in the movie is the lovely Barbara Bach and Corinne Clery. Talk about beauty and the beast. Music is by Ennio Morricone, which is a plus in my book. Another Italian SF epic has been completed that stars Caroline Munro, who was also in SPY WHO.... This time, the film as written up in MEADIASCENE 29, sounds like Jack Williamson space opera at it's worst, though the reviewer compares it to BARBARELLA. I'll believe it when I see it.

Dino DeLaurentis production of FLASH GORDON has gone into pre-production, with a budget of \$20 million, and director announced as Nicholas Roeg. Just as long as David Bowie is not signed to play Flash.....

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME is a Canadian production, and is being done as a half hour TV series.

SUPERMAN, scheduled to be released around Xmas, threatens to be very expensive to get into see. It seems Warners are demanding a Star Wars profit and are tightening the screws on the theatres in the US. That could mean a rise in the Australian theatre seats, and as the film is in two parts, that means double profits.

It seems everyone is doing a Dracula movie these days, and the latest is a film about Dracula's dog, which stars Jose Ferrer. Now I KNOW that horror films are going to the dogs! And as if to underscore that low note, the latest horror from Hollywood is THE MELTING MAN, a story about a melting astronaut who is a cannibal. The horror film genre has sunk to an all time low.

SHOCK WAVES is a horror feature with Peter Cushing and John Carradine.

The big film of 1979 will have to be METEOR, with a cast of Hollywood stars, and a large rock about to land on the earth and destroy it.

The R rated fairy tale market is going to get another boost with the aptly named FAIRYTALES, and as if that was not enough, there is a feature called CINDERELLA 2000, and appears to be a space epic for consenting adults.

DOOMSDAY 2000 is another disaster epic, that appears to be about the end of the world.

STARSHIP INVASIONS is an alien invasion flick with Christopher Lee as the head alien baddie, intent on invading Earth, and Robert Vaughan as the UFO specialist who is trying to stop him.

The STAR WARS copies keep on keeping on, THE UNIVERSE OVERLORDS. And as well THE OMEN copies also keep on, THE REDEEMER, SON OF SATAN.

OUT OF THE DARKNESS stars Donald Pleasance and Nancy Kwan in a horror. Interesting new film is SLITHIS.

P.J.S.

The people who enjoyed the film DARK STAR will be happy to know that Dan O'Bannon is working on a new film called ALIEN. Ron Cobb the well known cartoonist, artist, who in fact worked on STAR WARS, designing some of the aliens for the bar scene we believe, is working on ALIENS. The publishers of Ron's books THE COBB BOOK and THE 2nd COBB BOOK, Wild and Wooley, are considering a third book with possibly some of his colour work.

The script for the film version of ASIMOV'S I ROBOT has been finished by Harlan Ellison for Warner Film. It will be produced by Edward and Mildred Lewis, with a probable budget of \$30 million. Stories woven into the scrip include 'Lenny', 'Runaround', 'Robbie', 'The Evitable Conflict', and 'Liar'.

M.R.B



#### P.J.S. ON DUFF TRIP

First report from Paul J. Stevens from San Francisco, California tells us that he stopped with Charlie Brown, editor of Locus. He met Alva Rogers, Fritz Leiber, Terry Carr, Robert Silverberg and others. Andrew (I don't play basketball) Brown was expected to show him around San Francisco. He had already travelled on the computerised rapid transit railway, and sampled the local porno film fare. On a trip to Berkley he met Marion Zimmer Bradley and Jacqueline Lichtenberg. More from our boy in the USA later.

Andrew Brown who is another wandering Aussie fan, spent some time in England with Chris Priest, and met other sf fans and pros at the SKYCON Convention and at the Oxford University SF Group. He is currently in the USA at Berkley, where he has made the acquaintance of many of the local sf fraternity.

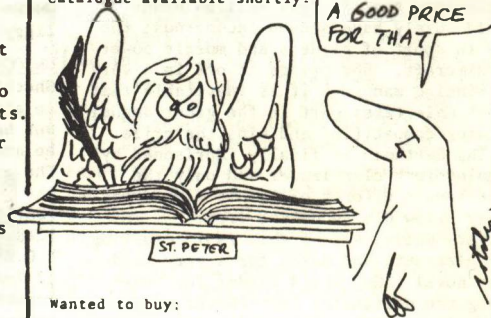
John Bangsund is now living in Melbourne. His new address is 7 Derby St., Kew 3101. We thank him for the mention he gave ASFN in the July '78 issue of The Society of Editors Newsletter, and for the very interesting personal note that one of the 1500 subscribers to Governor Phillips Voyage to Botany Bay was Mr Binns, a Bookseller of Leeds.

## MARGINALIA

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# FANZINES

BY LEIGH EDMONDS!!



Apart from the most recent ANZAPA mailing which contains almost 190 pages of bits and pieces by most of its thirty members this has been a very slow month for Australian fanzines. MINADOR 5 from Marc Ortlieb appeared in ANZAPA but no doubt others have received copies separately. Main contributor to this issue is John Alderson having a go at Politics in his usual fashion. Helen Swift says some very needed words on feminism and there is a UNICON IV report from Marc.

DATA from Sue Clarke will interest Star Trek fans with a letter from Rodenberry and other more general material. DATA now uses SRI, a very easy to follow spelling reform and if that kind of thing interests you then SPELLING ACTION is the newsletter of the Spelling Action Group.

CHUNDER contains an excellent SWANCON report, reviews of book reviews, fanzine reviews and a little news, this is a fine source of fannish news.

Best of the overseas crop is, by far, EGG. Peter Roberts begins his TAFF repo report in great style, the level of writing in the whole issue is very high and enough to bring a chuckle to any person. LOCUS, as always, has the hot news, this time all the editorial changes in the magazines. As well there are all the other regular features.

I've heard rumors that IT COMES IN THE MAIL is folding, the fact that this issue four covers suggests this may be true. All Neds mail is listed and as a source of quick reviews and news snippets as well as millions of addresses this is a goldmine. UNIFAN is, I think, the first Danish fanzine I've ever seen. This issue has a transcribed panel with Brian Aldiss and Philip Jose Farmer and a short history of fandom in Denmark, all very enjoyable. Also enjoyable was NABU, a fine British fanzine in the true style, the editor talks about Malta and there are a couple of interesting letters. Finally, WESTWIND is a very well produced club fanzine, nice two colour cover, lig light and interesting contents with some reviews and news.

CHUNDER Vol 2 No 5, John Foyster, GPO Box 4039, Melbourne, Victoria 3001/for \$1 for 8 issues or contribution/tri-we weekly/4pp.

DATA 16, for ASTREX by Sue Clarke, 6 Bellevue Road, Faulconbridge, NSW 2776/available to members/12pp.

MINADOR 5, Marc Ortlieb, 8 Melanto Ave., Camden Park, SA 5038/available for the usual/irregular/26pp.

EGG 11, Peter Roberts, 38 Dawlish Drive, EGG 11, Peter Roberts, 38 Oakland Drive, Dawlish, Devon, UK/available for selected trades, letters or \$1/26pp.

IT COMES IN THE MAIL 28, Ned Brooks, 713 Paul Street, Newport News, VA 23605, USA/available for trade, perhaps/50pp.

LOCUS 212, Charlie Brown, PO Box 3938, San Francisco, CA 94119, USA (Australian agent: Space Age Books, 305 Swanston St., Melbourne, Vict 3000)/\$18 per year/monthly/16pp.

NABU, Ian Maule, 18 Hillside, 163 Carhaston Rd, Sutton, Surrey, SW1 4N6 UK/the usual 7/11pp.

SPELLING ACTION, August 1978, Harry Lindgren, 40 McKinlay Street, Narrabundah, ACT 2604/\$2 per annum/monthly/6pp.

UNIFAN, Ellen Pedersen & Wiels Dalgaard, Horskildevej 13, IV der 3, DK-2500 Valby, DENMARK/available for trade or letter of comment/infrequent/14pp.  
WESTWIND, June 1978, newsletter of the Northwest SF Society edited by Gregory R Bennett, PO Box 24207, Seattle, WA 98124, USA/for trade/monthly/8pp.

Send Fanzines for review to  
Leigh Edmonds, P.O. Box 103,  
Brunswick, Victoria, 3056, Australia

## LETTER COLUMN



JOHN MILLARD, 18-86 Broadway Ave,  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 1T4

In response to D L Humphries in the letter column of ASFN #2. He asks for a dictionary of science fiction terms. There are a number of commercial dictionaries available for scientific terms. If he means a dictionary of science fiction, fantasy and fannish terms there are 2 that I know. First, there is Robert Jackson's "Little Dictionary of Terms Used by SF Fans" for 25¢, available in North America from Linda Bushyager, 1614 Evans Ave, Prospect Park, PA 19076. Second, The Fillostrated Fan Dictionary, with 2500 entries, 172 pages, \$2.50 (US) from Elst Weinstein, 7001 Park Manor Avenue, North Hollywood, CA 91605. The last I heard Elst was attending Medical School in Mexico City, Mexico, and doesn't get home to Hollywood too often, so it might take some time to get a copy through. Incidentally, I haven't seen copies of either one of these, so I don't know how good they are. I believe there was a review of The Fillostrated in DELAPS F & SF REVIEW back some time last year - no, must be in 1976, as it's not listed in the 1977 Index.

JF Thanks for the information, John. I have seen a copy of The Fillostrated, but the other one is new to me. Perhaps ASFN might organise a review...

DOUG NICHOLSON, 24 Warren Road,  
Double Bay, NSW 2028

Dear Merv,

Why of all people are you helping perpetuate the delusion that fandom and enthusiasm for science fiction are the same thing? Surely enough has been written and talked around on this point over the last twenty-odd years to make the point quite clear, and agreed on by fans and non-fans. Science fiction fans are people who made contact with each other through having a common interest in science fiction. From then on, however, most of the activities generated by and shared by fans have almost nothing to do with science fiction. This is why you have people coming to science fiction conventions feeling they have been lured along under false pretenses and never being seen again when they discover that conventions are very largely taken up with fan activities unrelated to science fiction, and I

don't mean the Frisbie-throwing up and down the hotel corridors, which is common to all conventions, whether of science fiction enthusiasts or Rotarians.

You, Merv, now write with some authority, and your editorial comments in this magazine will probably be the most widely-circulated and read matter on science fiction subjects apart from the journalistic trivia in the commercial press. It would be nice to see you take this point seriously, and doing this might help establish a continuing tradition in Convention organization that caters for outright interest in science fiction and not just fan junketing.

Thanks again for the effort that has gone into the magazine, and I should in winding up try to make it clear that I am not attacking that strange thing called science fiction fandom, in which I have many friends. My particular concern is that there are many people interested in science fiction who are put off from participation in discussion and sharing their experience of science fiction by the impression readily gained that to do this one has also to be interested in fandom.

JF I agree with you, Doug, that science fiction conventions should be organized for science fiction enthusiasts, and that therefore the programme at a convention should be strongly based upon science fiction. The recent UNICON was quite strongly oriented towards science fiction, don't you think? There were 'fannish' events - but not on the programme. One item was devoted to a discussion on how to run a world SF convention - which under the circumstances was of interest to a large number of people attending.

Can you suggest specific activities, of the programme item type, which have been part of recent conventions, which in your view are inappropriate? (I have some in mind, but I think you - and other readers - should bat first.)

D L HUMPHRIES, Box 1271L, GPO  
Melbourne, Vic 3001

I note from the August issue of ASFN that on July 15th STAR TREK fans celebrated ten years of the series. Please note that on November 23rd this year DR WHO will have recorded fifteen years as a TV serial - surely some sort of celebration is indicated!

Since the 23rd is a Thursday (unlike the original 23rd November 1963 in Britain, a Saturday, when DR WHO first went to air) then maybe the weekend of 25th - 26th would be more appropriate.

However, let us have three cheers for DR WHO this November! Surely the longest-running serial on television!

Talking of doctors, that other Doctor-DOCTOR DOLITTLE - is also a classic of SF vintage; a series of books enjoyable by children and adults alike. The young SF fans could do worse than start with Hugh Lofting's tales.

So don't forget Dr WHO's "birthday" later this year - 15 years as a TV serial - even if the worthy Doctor himself is some 700 years old.





**THE MOON BABY** John Bailey  
(Angus and Robertson \$3.95?PB)  
There was a rumor several years ago that Michael Moorcock had died. Mrs Moorcock, his wife of some years and who was in a position to know, told us that he was very much alive and still writing strongly. If MM ever does give up the ghost there is a writer here in Australia called John Bailey who just may take over his mantle. No, not in the fantasy writing which is Moorcock's forte, but in his Jerry Cornelius style sf. Not that the hero of Bailey's book has the guts that Jerry Cornelius displays; he is a spineless wretch who makes me shudder for the man of the future, he gets beaten up by a barlady and women's libbers, and ordered around by his sister who is a wet-dream and as machos as Burt Reynolds. There are lashings of strange sexual practices, and weird deviant characters, including a hermaphrodite called Unisex Bacon, who is lusting after the sister.

This is a future Australia that chills and frightens the reader and yet reminds one of the decadent futures of the Moorcock's stories. It is my feeling that if John Bailey keeps on writing sf, in ten years he could be Australia's most respected sf author, and a major force on the world scene. Now if he can only write sword and sorcery.....

Paul J. Stevens

**THE WEeping SKY** by Lee Harding  
(Cassell \$5.95)

There are few books that will grab you and hold you spellbound all the way through, but in a quiet sort of way, *The Weeping Sky* by Lee Harding is just such a book.

Right from the first couple of pages you are hooked by the eerie atmosphere of an alternate world that could very well be our own only a few hundred years removed.

Ostensibly it is a book for young readers - so was the *Earthsea Trilogy* by Ursula K. LeGuin - but do not let this deter you from reading it. Like the *Earthsea Trilogy* it will appeal to all readers of all ages. It is superbly written, easily by far the best thing Lee has done to date, and I would

venture to say that he will find difficulty in surpassing it. The atmosphere is maintained throughout. The delicate balance between the familiar and the aliens is so well done, that no-one could find fault with the way things happen in the story. Each scene leads irrevocably towards an absolutely stunning climax. The images that Lee conjured in my mind with this book, left me in no doubt that he harbours a great potential which is only now beginning to emerge.

**THE WEeping SKY** is a little masterpiece.

Read it, no matter what!

John Litchen.

**PLAY LITTLE VICTIMS** by Kenneth Cook.  
Illustrated by Megan Gressor.  
(Pergamon Press \$5.95)

On cursory examination, this has the earmarks of kiddy-lit - large print, gay pictures of prancing mice and so on. It is, on the contrary, a piece of black Swiftian satire aimed straight and true at the population problem and our apathy towards it.

When mankind has wiped itself out, mice take over the world and proceed to repopulate as only mouse fertility can do it. Their approach to their swiftly-appearing problems of starvation and over-population is, to put it mildly, practical in the extreme, and though older children would appreciate the lessons implicit in the text, younger ones might be severely shocked by the savagery of the ending.

Dont't be fooled by the pictures; this is a book for all adults who feel secure in an insecure world. It deserves a sort of dreadful popularity, if only for Cook's good-humoured style in narrating disaster.

George Turner.

#### SPACE AGE ART GALLERY OPENING

Space Age Bookshop's Art Gallery will be opening with a costume party on Friday the 13th of October, starting at 7pm. The Gallery will be open from 9.00 AM to 5 PM Monday to Friday only from Monday the 16th of October.

Artists wishing to hang work for sale should forward it to Space Age Books, 305 Swanston Street, Melbourne 3000, by the 7th of October. Commission on all sales will be 20%. For full details contact Merv Binns or John Breden on 663 1777.

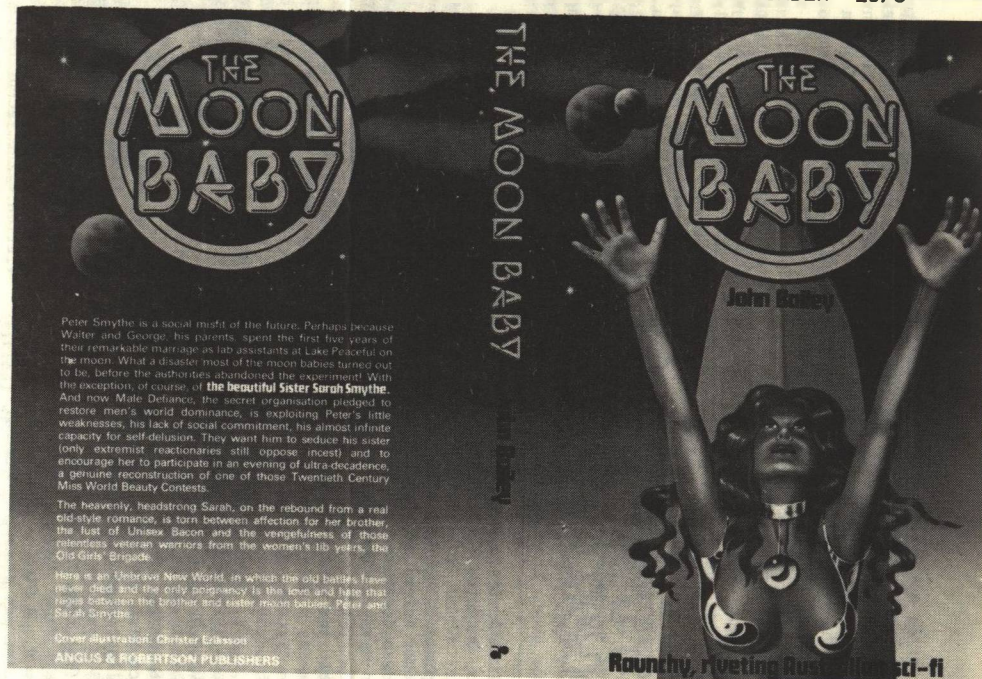
# AUSTRALIAN

# SF

# news

VOLUME ONE NUMBER FOUR

SEPTEMBER 1978



THE WRAP-AROUND COVER ILLUSTRATION FOR ANGUS AND ROBERTSON'S NEW SF TITLE

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