

DUFFund '76 NEWSLETTER ONE

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Lesleigh Luttrell
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George Wagner
George Wells
Laurine White
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You have already contributed or voted (or both) to help bring a trufan from Australia to Kansas City for the Worldcon this year if your name is listed off to the left there. This newsletter is to thank you, let you and others know just how the DOWN UNDER FAN FUND is going, and seek further support.

GOAL -- Ideally, we'd like to raise enough money to pay all of the trip expenses for the winner (John Alderson, Shayne McCormack, Paul Stevens or Christine McGowan) and have a bit more as an emergency cushion or carry-over for the '77 DUFFund. I have no cost figures from Leigh Edmonds, but a minimum of \$1,200 seems to be reasonable. In addition, I hope quite a few fans will want to invite the winner for visits in their homes; such visits add immeasurably to the pleasure and enjoyment--and happy memories--of any fannish trek.

CAMPAIGN '76 - Leigh Edmonds and I agreed that he would handle most of the administration and that we would shorten the time so we could give the winner a longer period to plan for his or her trip. Fanzine editors included ballots with their zines and publicized the fund as they have in the past; thanks to all of you. I prepared a slide-talk which I have been able to show at seven conventions to make non-fanzine fans aware of DUFF for the first time; thanks to all the committees who scheduled it on their programs and to Alan Frisbie, Susan Wood, Ben Yalow, Frank Olynyk and Ken Konkol for providing slides.

VOTING - Unless a lot of votes come in during the next two weeks, 'twould seem that your administrators haven't pushed this campaign as well as they should have. I may have made an error in thinking that convention fans would support DUFF as strongly as the fanzine fans have if they only knew more about it. At any rate, we may finish with less than half of the number of voters we had last year. In his FANEW SLETTER dated 2/3/76, Leigh reported only 14 Australian votes, so it has been slower down under, too.

FINANCES - DUFF has depended on four sources, all of them dependent on the generosity of fans. This year the donations of voters with their ballots have ranged from the minimum \$1.50 up

to \$25. A few people have contributed money although they know none of the candidates and therefor did not wish to vote, and we have contributions from Westecon, Fan Fair III and the FRED 1999 Bidding Committee. Sale of DUFF trip reports has brought in very little as "Lesleigh's Adventures Down Under (And What She Found There)" has pretty much sold to those who are interested by now (I have sold a few and this report of Lesleigh Luttrell's 1972 trip is available for \$1) and Leigh Edmond's 1974 report, "Eam Tracks Over America", has not arrived for sale at the conventions. When it does arrive, it should sell well at \$5 and bring in more money for the fund. There have been no auctions because requests for contributions of auction material brought no response. There will be a few pieces auctioned at Marcon, contributed by Bob Tucker and me. Auctions can be held at upcoming cons (Minicon, Byobcon, Disclave, Kubla Quandy, Midwestcon, Rivercon) if fans will contribute books, mags, fanzines, art or other material for sale. Leigh reported that he had collected \$164 by early February (equal to nearly \$200 in US) and I have on hand--counting carry-over from last year--\$623, so we have about two-thirds of our minimum.

OBSERVATION - Last year the US fan vote determined the winner and the Aussies got to meet their choice only because John Berry managed to go on his own. Up until ten days ago the vote in this campaign was so close that it looked as if voters from down under would make the decision this year. A spread of only two votes covered all four candidates and redistribution of the low votes resulted in a tie for two! A small flurry of voting since then has opened up the field somewhat, but I suggest that any of you might help your choice to win by encouraging just a handful or two of others to get their votes in before the deadline on March 31.

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DUFFund '76 NEWSLETTER ONE has come to you from Rusty Hevelin, 3023 Old Troy Pike, Dayton, OH 45404 solely in interest of encouraging closer ties between North American and Australian/New Zealand science fiction fans. 3-15-76

Dem J -
Rumor false.
Glad you'll be at Marcon.
Talk there, yes?
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