

DROPBEAR DIGEST #2      The newsletter of the Down Under Fan Fund,  
 Administrator.      edited by Lucy Huntzinger, North American  
 Inquiries and donations may be sent to me at  
 2215-R Market St., San Francisco, CA, 94114, U.S.A.      June 1, 1988.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO TERRY DOWLING, THE NEW AUSTRALIAN ADMINISTRATOR!

Terry will be attending Nolacon and making a grand tour of the U.S. afterwards. His plans so far are to arrive in time for Bubonicon in New Mexico, travel to New Orleans for the Worldcon, move on to Florida, New York, Minneapolis, Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, which he reckons will take him six to eight weeks. If anyone would like to offer Terry and his traveling companion Kerrie Hanlon crash space, party invitations, tours, etc. please write to him directly or contact me as soon as possible. His address is:

Terry Dowling, 11 Everard St., Hunters Hill, N.S.W., 2110, Australia.

And now, just what you've been waiting for, the 1988 election results:

	<u>NA Votes</u>			<u>AUS Votes</u>			<u>TOTAL</u>
Terry Dowling	41	42	45	41	42	43	88
Cathy Kerrigan	23	25	27	41	44	44	71
Hold-Over Funds	18	21	*	7	8	*	
Write-In	4	*		6	*		
No Preference	4			1			
TOTAL VOTES	<u>80</u>		(+)	<u>106</u>		(=)	<u>186</u>

The Australian reporting of voting results inadvertantly dropped the NA No Preference vote figures.

North American Write-In names: The Door (2), Roger Weddall (2).

In Australia, due to confusion and controversy over eligibility, First Preference votes for The Door were counted as "Voter's Second Preference". Please read the section called Serious And Constructive for definitions of candidacy eligibility and administrative obligations.

North American DUFF funds stand at \$2083.75 as of June 1, 1988. Contributions of \$363.75 were collected from voting fees. Auctions at CORFLU in Seattle and BayCon in San Jose netted \$220.00 for the fund. Many thanks to Tom Whitmore who not only did another splendid job of auctioneering but donated several slices of a yummy fruit pie to the proceedings at BayCon. Art Widner gets the DUFF Supporter Of The Year award for his many contributions and unflagging enthusiasm. Hurray!

Others have given generous donations of items, time, and money to DUFF. Thank you very much to Garth Danielson, Luke McGuff, Gene Wolfe, Marty Cantor and the ongoing auction at LASFS, Dave Clark, Arthur Hlavaty, Harry Andruschak, John Bartelt, Allyn Cadogan, Chris Couch, Gary Louie, Jim Hudson, Ellen Franklin, Roelof Goudriaan, and Laurine White.

North American Voters:

S. Carton, B. Barrett, A. Widner, T. Nielsen Hayden, P. Nielsen Hayden, D. Lynch, N. Lynch, P. Mueller, D. Clark, R. Salomon, E. Osborne, D. Franson, A. Burrows, E. Cohen, L. Bushyager, C. Bates, B. E. Brown, R. McAllister, M. Cantor, R. Cantor, J. Palmer, L. Tutihasi, A. Beatty, A. Gilliland, R. Brandt, G. Wells, B. Schilling, G. Wolfe, S. Goldberg, V. Rosenzweig, V. Bowen, D. Virzi, C. Doyle, J. Kaufman, S. Tompkins, S. Prince, S. Tait, D. Singer, D. Goldman, D. Lien, J. Causgrove, J. Haldeman, G. Haldeman, S. Ellison, H. Ellison, S. Blood, P. Grace, S. Strickland, D. M. Sherwood, N. Kaden, J. D. Berry, G. Plumlee, R. Gilliam, G. Thokar, M. Cowan, F. Patten, A. Thomson, G. Laskowski, J. Gomoll, D. Glover, D. Axler, T. King, D. Yoder, F. Denton, D. Bliss, M. Reitan, M. M. Wooster, J. Scrivner, M. Dobson, P. Birnbaum, B. Yalow, M. Richards.

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SERIOUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE

There was some confusion attending this year's Australasia to North America DUFF race. A group in Melbourne decided to spice up the proceedings by entering a laundry room door as a write-in candidate. Initially offered as a joke to focus attention on the election, it quickly became a rallying point to some, a serious offence to others, and raised some extremely pertinent questions about fan fund rules. Here is the official DUFF policy on candidacy and administration.

The Down Under Fan Fund was created in 1972 to encourage friendship and communication between fans in Australasia (Australia and New Zealand) and North America (the United States and Canada). The host countries alternate races each year, sending an elected delegate as a goodwill ambassador from the home country to the host country for a period of time (normally two or three weeks, sometimes eight or nine. More than two months abroad would be irresponsible as it would strain both finances and hosts' hospitality and possibly interfere with fund raising opportunities at home.).

Anyone who wishes to stand for the position of DUFF administrator may do so within the specified nomination period. Potential candidates must obtain and submit the following to their administrator(s):

- 1) Five written nominations from fans, three from their own fandom and two from the fandom overseas.
- 2) A platform of not more than 100 words, to be published on the voting ballot, on the topic of their qualifications and reasons for wanting to be DUFF administrator.
- 3) A bond (currently \$10) as a good faith gesture of intent.

- 4) A pledge to go if elected, attend a major science fiction convention (chosen by the host country's administrators), return to raise money for the fund during the rest of his or her administration, and oversee the DUFF races during that administration of two years in conjunction with the other current administrator(s).

A joint candidacy will be considered eligible only if the proposed candidates can demonstrate to the administrators that they have consistently participated in fan activities in that configuration. For example: co-editors, co-creators of costumes, or co-organisers. It is entirely up to the administrators to decide on eligibility for joint candidacy.

A write-in campaign may be conducted by or on behalf of someone who did not meet the official deadline. The write-in candidate must still provide five nominations, a bond, and a pledge, and in all ways honor the rules just as if he or she had entered the race on time. While anyone or anything is eligible for write-in candidacy, a winning candidate must be capable of administering the fund. A joke candidate will not be allowed to win the election if it can't run the fund, e.g., an inanimate object, dead presidents (who are pretty darn inanimate), and so on. For example, if the laundry room door, a joke candidate, had received enough votes to be declared a winner, the perpetrators of the joke would not have become administrators (since they were not entered in the race). There is no such thing as administration by proxy. Instead, the fan fund would have been suspended for lack of interest and the current administration would have continued until such time as fandom became interested in another election. This is done to protect the financial integrity of the fund.

Winning DUFF, or any other fan fund election, is an honor bestowed by one's peer group. With that honor come certain obligations and a large amount of trust. A few general rules exist to minimize confusion, provide continuity, and prevent unfair practices. Ballots are controlled in terms of text, format, and reproduction in order to avoid illegitimate voting. A vote must be verified by the administrators before it can be counted. Candidates must meet the minimum requirements. Money must be raised to reimburse the fund for the trips by the winners. It would be all too easy to mismanage the position. The elections are acts of faith; faith that the elected will take the duties and obligations seriously in order to maintain the fan fund.

So who votes in these elections, and why? Generally, people who vote are interested in foreign fandoms. Specifically, anyone who has been active in fandom at least one year prior to the opening of an election may vote in that election. Presumably, people vote for a candidate whom they think will be both a good representative overseas and will also administer the fund honestly and continue to function as a liaison between the fandoms even after completing the trip.

Two secondary factors generally influence a voting decision: the possibility that the winner will produce a trip report, and whether the candidates have previously visited the country of destination. A trip report, though customarily expected as a way to pay back fandom for the trip, is strictly voluntary. It would be wonderful if every administrator wrote up his, her, or their visit. It allows the rest of fandom a vicarious and perhaps enlightening look at a

foreign country. But it's an enormous project and not everyone is going to undertake it. Unfortunately, a trip report is the exception rather than the rule these days.

As for previous visits, although not all fans are wealthy enough to travel overseas, a growing percentage are able to do so. As airfares become more reasonable and incomes in fandom rise, more and more excellent, eligible candidates for fan funds will be found to have already visited the other country. If this factor keeps someone from running for election who is otherwise highly qualified to run, we are going to find our pool of candidates running low. It is already happening in Australia, where admittedly the fan group is smaller. It may spell the end of DUFF if no one can be found to run or win because fandom at large thinks the position should be reserved for a first-time visitor.

If anyone has questions on eligibility, administrative duties, etc. please write to me and we'll try to sort it out.

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THE 1988 DUFF RACE FROM NORTH AMERICA TO AUSTRALASIA IS DECLARED OPEN. NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BETWEEN JUNE 1, 1988 AND MIDNIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 4, 1988 BY MYSELF AND TERRY DOWLING. WE WILL BOTH BE AT NOLACON TO ACCEPT WRITTEN NOMINATIONS IN PERSON. NOMINATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 4, 1988 TO BE CONSIDERED VALID IF SENT BY MAIL. CANDIDATES MUST PROVIDE FIVE NOMINATIONS (THREE FROM NORTH AMERICA, TWO FROM AUSTRALASIA), A WRITTEN PLATFORM OF NO MORE THAN 100 WORDS, A \$10 BOND, AND A WRITTEN PLEDGE TO GO IF ELECTED AND FULFILL THE DUTIES OF A DUFF ADMINISTRATOR. THE WINNER WILL ATTEND SWANCON IN PERTH, AUSTRALIA OVER EASTER WEEKEND OF 1989.

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