

Tigger

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TIGGER is a small bouncy newszine, designed to keep Australian fans, particularly those who are members of Aussiecon Two, up to date with what is happening, and to answer all those nagging little questions that you might have about the convention. If you're shy, and would rather your name not appear on your question, please specify that. Don't worry if your question sounds silly. If it's something that worries you, chances are that someone else has the same worry and would like to see the answer.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

((This first is not really a question type letter, but several comments on Aussiecon Two. I will try to deal with the problems raised by the letter.))

FABIAN STRETTON ((Fabian's first comments deal with what he and others see as failings P.O. Box 445 in Eurekacon, the 1984 Australian National Convention, which he and Glenferrie they saw as elitist and not particularly successful. Though some of Vict 3122 the Aussiecon Two Committee were involved in the running of Eurekacon, what happened there has very little to do with Aussiecon itself.))

Unfortunately Aussiecon Two looks to be going the same way, that is it's going to be a convention for a small group of very hard core narrow-minded elitist SF fans, and the other 1,900 convention members will have wasted their money.

Particular examples of this elitism which I have mentioned above will be detailed below:

a) Many members of the ANSFA (The Australian National Science Fiction Association) hold opinions such as "If it's on TV or a movie at a cinema it's not REAL SF" (whatever real sf is supposed to be I don't know). Similarly I've never heard of most of the authors that they quote as being REAL SF while denouncing such writers as Isaac Asimov, Harry Harrison, and Ray Bradbury as Pseudo-SF printed merely to keep the plebeans happy and thus not fit for real SF fans. These, along with many other equally immortal and ridiculous opinions are the epitome of what went wrong with Eurekacon and what (I hope) will not be done at Aussiecon Two.

((Okay. Point one. I don't know what the ANSFA is. It is not an organisation that I've ever heard of, and neither had any of the Aussiecon Two committee until Fabian brought it to our notice. Point two, the individual tastes of the committee cannot be

generalized in the manner that Fabian suggests. There is a wide range of interests in science fiction to be found among committee members. I certainly can't think of any committee member who would express the opinion that Asimov, Harrison or Bradbury haven't written "real sf". Individual committee members may not like works by one or more of those authors, but that's neither here nor there.

Whether or not something shown on television, or at a movie theatre is sf is irrelevant. Certainly the emphasis at Aussiecon Two will be on written science fiction. The World Science Fiction Convention is, according to its constitution, a part of the World Science Fiction Society, which is a "literary society". (All members of the World Convention are members of the World Science Fiction Society). That does not mean that Aussiecon Two will be ignoring film, television, or any other medium in which science fiction plays a part. There will be programming in most areas connected to science fiction. However, as will be noted from our Guests of Honour, we do concentrate on written science fiction. (The opinions of the committee concerning "good science fiction" certainly won't mean that anyone who admits to liking Isaac Asimov will be thrown out into the snow. Arguing about the respective merits of science fiction writings is one of the things that makes fan gatherings fun.)) ((Back to Fabian's letter.))

((Fabian claims that a wargamer from Wollongong approached a member of the concom at the Aussiecon table at Phantastacon asking for fliers and was refused on the grounds that the convention didn't want gamers. The story seems dubious. For a start, there was no Aussiecon table at Phantastacon. However, if anyone knows of people who want fliers, please direct them to either Aussiecon Two, or to me. We're just about out of the last run of fliers, but we plan to have a new bunch out in late September, along with a poster in the near future. Aussiecon Two does not discourage gamers. A couple of Melbourne fans are even planning some FRPG sessions to be held at the convention. Remember though that there are a lot of different people interested in different aspects of science fiction. Over a five day period little time will be available for each if the convention is going to work. There will be times for most aspects of science fiction.))

When suggested that there be an SCA display and/or a weapons display I was told that there was insufficient space - nonsense.....The real reason that this idea has been shelved is that the SCA isn't hard core SF and that (SHOCK HORROR TREMBLES - it has martial arts and (GASP) weapons and (faint.....) combat.

((Interesting. We'd like to know who told you that there wouldn't be an SCA display. As a matter of fact there has been discussion between members of the Melbourne SCA and the committee aimed at arranging an SCA demonstration in connection with Aussiecon Two. Weapons are another matter altogether, and for an assortment of legal and safety reasons weapons will play as little part of Aussiecon Two as is possible. There will be a statement on the Aussiecon Two weapons' policy in P.R. #2, but the general principal is that, except in the masquerade, weapons will not be worn at Aussiecon Two. This is in line with the rules at the last two Worldcons at the very least. This year's Worldcon - LACON - has made it quite clear that anyone wearing weapons considered illegal in their state will either have to surrender the weapon to the committee for the remainder of the convention, or will have to leave. Our policy will be spelled out in the next P.R. It is something into which correspondence will not be entered.))

((Fabian also accuses an unnamed committee member of making racist comments to an Indonesian acquaintance of his - I've had no luck in tracking down this unnamed committee member. Fabian, if you would favour us with a name, we'd be grateful. Aussiecon Two is certainly not racist. We're looking forward to as cosmopolitan a World Science Fiction Convention as is possible. We already have a number of Japanese fans on our membership list.))

((Fabian makes further comments about the ANSFA, telling us that it has less than three hundred members and that the average age of its members is about thirty. We still aren't sure what the ANSFA is.))

More gripes - Compared to previous Worldcons Aussiecon Two is going to be tiny..... It should be in the region of 3,000 to 4,000 giving a budget more in the area of \$250,000 to \$300,000 rather than the \$120,000 quoted....our worldcon is turning down twenty members at a time (worth \$1,000 to \$2,000 to the con fund) just because "we don't want those sort of people".

((Sorry Fabian, but I've yet to hear of the convention refusing to let anyone join. I will grant you that our publicity hasn't been perfect. We will be increasing that as this year goes on, and will certainly be hitting more places early in the new year, but that is not the same thing as turning down members.))

((Fabian asks why the Southern Cross and the Victoria aren't being block booked. The answer is that they are, and I don't know what gives him the idea that they aren't. Booking forms will be posted out with P.R. #2. Other city hotels are being approached with regards to overflow. Which brings me back to Fabian's point about numbers. While we would certainly like to have lots of people at Aussiecon Two, we are not looking to 3,000 to 4,000 for two reasons. One is that our facilities wouldn't take a convention of that size. The second reason is that I very much doubt that we want a convention of 3,000 to 4,000. Big is not necessarily better. Our ideal size would be somewhere around 1,500. That wouldn't strain the facilities, and would allow a reasonable amount of participation in the convention by the attendees.))

((I hope that my answers haven't been too harsh, but, if one is going to make accusations, one should have one's facts straight. Perhaps some of Fabian's misconceptions come from a misunderstanding of the nature of World Conventions. I might address that later in this issue. Meanwhile on to further questions))

Q: What car parking will be available at the hotels? Will it cost extra?

A: Both the Victoria and the Southern Cross provide car parking space for people who have rooms at the respective hotels. The Southern Cross car park is evidently quite big. From personal experience that at the Victoria is quite small, and getting one's car in and out can be a time consuming process.

Q: When will the rules for the Masquerade be published?

A: There will be a brief piece on the Masquerade in P.R. #2, with further information in P.R. #3.

Q: Would TIGGER consider printing an announcement that the Bureau of Sabotage (BuSab) will be active during the Worldcon and will be doing such things as piekilling the Guest of Honour or putting salt in the lime jello or letting a mob of live sheep loose at the Banquet should the committee let any sign of boredom or seriousness creep into the programme?

A: No.

Q: Where can I get a mob of live sheep?

A: You might try John J Alderson, Havelock Vict

LOST AND FOUND

If anyone has addresses for either Arawa Collyne Kreisch or Sue Tuckett could they please send them either to Tigger or to Derrick Ashby, c/o AUSSIECON TWO, GPO Box 2253U Melbourne Vict 3001. Their copies of TIGGER were returned marked NOT KNOWN AT THIS ADDRESS.

A reminder. If you have moved recently, please send us your Change of Address. Otherwise you don't get the information to which you are entitled. (And our apologies to those for whom we have been slow in registering new addresses. Hi Richard.)

SO HOW ARE WORLDCONS

RUN?

Were I backed into a corner and asked how Worldcons were run, I'd probably quickly mutter something like "As autonomous constitutional oligarchies" and then, while my interrogator was puzzling that out, I'd make a run for it. Here, safe behind my typewriter, I can elucidate on that.

The first step is in looking at how a group manages to gain the right to hold the World Science Fiction Convention. This is quite clearly written down in the constitution of the World Science Fiction Society, which consists of all the members of the World Convention in any given year. To bid for the World Convention in, say 1973, one had to present one's bid to the members of the 1971 World Science Fiction Convention, and convince them that one's bid is better than any other bid for the 1973 Worldcon. Virtually anyone can bid for the right to hold a Worldcon. In the United States, a group of fans will usually bid for the right to hold the WorldCon in a particular city. Overseas bids often consist of a group of fans from a particular country bidding for the right to hold the Worldcon in their country. Thus the 1975 Worldcon bid was for Australia in '75, as was the 1983 Australian bid. The 1985 bid, in contrast, was specifically a bid for the convention to be held in the city of Melbourne.

The right to run the Worldcon is given to the winning bid committee, who can then run it in virtually any way that they want to, provided that they do so within the limits of the World Science Fiction Society constitution. It is the concom's job to organise for the Hugo Awards to be presented, and to conduct the business session, at which amendments to the WSFS constitution can be made. However, there is no official body governing how the convention should be run, other than the current Worldcon committee. (This has its advantages. The 1983 Worldcon - Constellation - lost quite a bit of money, but none of that loss is in any way transmittable to the next Worldcon. Each Worldcon is autonomous.)

That's not to say that any Worldcon can afford to ignore the wishes of its attendees. The idea of running a Worldcon is to make it an enjoyable experience for as many of the attendees as is possible, but, in getting up a bid, a bidding committee usually has a fair idea of the sort of Worldcon it wants to run. Thus the convention itself usually works out as a combination of what the Concom want to do, and what the attendees want to have happen at the convention.

There is, however, one thing that will shape a convention, and that is the tradition of Worldconventions. The Worldcon started as a gathering of fans of science fiction, and it is still very much centred on written science fiction. Guests of Honour are invariably authors, though some conventions do invite artists or editors to be their GoH. (There is also a tradition of having a fan Guest of Honour as well as

being the

Erratum:- The address for WHO-DO should read 5 Tingalen Ave South Penrith NSW 2750

TIGGER

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