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WARP

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EDITORIAL ADDRESS BOX 6655 TE ARO WELLINGTON
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# EDITORIAL

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How does one preface one's final Editorial for a magazine whose previous issue implied one had every intention of remaining Editor for some time? The only answer I could come up with is---very sorrowfully.

When I produced WARP 23 I had no thought of gaffiation ("Getting Away From It All"---dropping out of fandom in this case). My life was good---the best, I think, it has ever been. I was riding a real high, and the horizons were receding on all sides.

Unfortunately, the high ended---not with a fade, but a thump. Once my feelings stopped burning and I had time to look around me, I found many things about me changed. Some are private and personal. The only one which counts here is the abrupt death of my interest in fandom. Not just WARP, or NASF, but FANDOM.

After a lot of thought, I am renewing my own membership in NASF despite lacking any real inclination to do so. NASF needs members and money---and who knows, I may yet find myself interested in fandom again. In which case, it would be easier to ease back in if I still had some contact with it, however passive. Besides which, I have been urging people to renew. It would not do for me to then let my own membership lapse!

I like to think I have done good for NASF in my time as Editor. Certainly I think I can justifiably claim to have rescued the magazine from being looked down on by most NZ fan. Even arch-rival in the long-running-magazine stakes, NOUMENON, has been forced to recognise this (see 'Rags, Solecism & Riches' in NOUMENON 42/3 and compare with reviews in previous issues of that magazine). This in a period when finances forced the club to a serious limitation of the magazine's production quality. Given the money, the time, the energy---who knows where WARP/NASF TIMES could go? Returning to offset printing with this issue is a first step. We now have the money for offset again, and plans are in the works which might put off a financial crisis for some time.

Which doesn't really leave me with a great deal left to say. I do wish to thank all those people who have written in with letters, reviews, articles, artwork, etcetcetc, to keep the magazine's voracious maw fed. Please keep it up---just because there's a change of staff doesn't mean the demand is over! Quite the contrary, the better and more varied the material available to a new editor, generally, the better job he/she can make of their first issues. YOUR MATERIAL IS NEEDED, WANTED, DESIRED, STILL!

Without your help in the past, WARP could never have proceeded. Thank you all. Thank you also to those people who sent notes of praise or advice about the magazine---at times, they were the only things that kept me at it (even before my interest died). No editor can survive without feedback, and I am glad to be able to close out my own 'reign' with a LOOOONG lettercol of positive commentary. Keep it up! There is fodder in there for several equally solid letterc lumns to come: the DUES CONTROVERSY, the BERDNYK AFFAIR, the MAGAZINE STAUS, etc---oh, and SCIENCE FICTION can probably also be mentioned---just quietly---from time to time...

Enough. Goodbye. And thank you for an entertaining few years!

-----GREG HILLS.

# OCTAGON



## OCTAGON PROGRESS REPORT

While Dunedin won its bid to hold the 4th New Zealand sf Convention---originally "Dunedin in '82" and now OCTAGON (a pun on the Octagon, a central feature of Dunedin, which will be capitalised on in our publicity material)---the "Dunedin in '82" bidding committee, altered and enlarged, has become the OCTAGON Committee. We've been meeting before each Dunedin NASF meeting and usually once in the intervening month, and the present membership is: Chairer: Kevin Clews; Secretary: Tim Jones; Treasurer: Rex [unclear]; Publicity/advertising: Tom Cardy; Displays: Harvey Kong Tin; and (co-opted) [unclear]. The meetings are a potpourri of interjections, asides, irrelevancies, appeals [unclear] that we get back to the topic/on with the job, nervous [unclear], etc. but we do manage to get things done---eventually! Publicity whizz Tom Cardy will be fruiting the high spots of our planning to date abroad in our first OCTAGON NEWSLETTER, but so far we've got:

DATE: Queen's birthday Weekend (Friday eve--Monday) 1982 ((1st weekend in June)).

VENUE: Otago University Clubs & Societies Building (a high-quality integrated recreation centre, no less!) and Otago University Union for a few functions (it's near the main venue, which local trendies call the Hobbies Hut). Tom will further sing the praises and outline the facilities available (saunas, anyone?) at this venue.

COST: \$4.00 supporting; \$15 for those joining before December 31 and for people 15 years & under right through; \$19 otherwise. We will make supporting memberships worthwhile.

ACCOMMODATION: No sec Hotel, as experience shows that most people don't stick to it anyway. The range of possible places will be shown in the NEWSLETTER---plenty are close to the venue, some are very cheap; we'll assist with bookings and work on transport for those further away.

ADDRESS: OCTAGON, PO BOX 5516, DUNEDIN.

GUESTS OF HONOUR: At present, we've got two exciting guests lined up---negotiations are continuing.

PROGRAMME: We're working on it---some old favourites and some new approaches are in store.

OCTAGON IS GO---GET THOSE MEMBERSHIPS FLOODING IN!

-----Tim Jones.

# NITE HORS

written by Robert Fowles.

"Don't you mean 'night mare'?" said the small, metallic thing as it came through the door towing behind it a rubber dog on wheels, which ywlped at some hypersonic frequency so it seemed to be flapping its jaw dementedly.

"Possibly," I replied, turning to my stereo and donning a set of hewd-phones, then plugging myself into the music stack. With a flick of the wrist I boosted the volume and sent Beethoven's 9th Symphony rippling through my Cerebral Cortex.

"Arf, arf," said the metallic thing as it turned to leave, "See you later, old gumboot." Its traeds whirred and chewed up the carpet while the rubber dog pushed on in the rear. I gave it a brief wave as the violas squawked violently about my ears.

The day moved on, and after a short time I followed it and caught the end just before it passed out of sight. So there I was at the end of the day, thinking of something to do.

"Brilliant!" I had a thought; not a very good thought, but still...a thought is a thought. With a small click of the heels I started off out the door, then stopped hurriedly as my neck was jerked back by the headphones still attached to my head.

#

Up the road, I stepped onto the transit lane and passed on towards downtown Kiwiland. I have been described as unobservant. However, I did see the large hairy creature to my left before the wlakway dumped me into the outvoice creener.

"Name and destination," gurgled the computerised vocoder as a laser shield barred my way through the pseudohatch which lead to the centre of Sagg Village. "If you slip me a few five-prongs, I may let you in right away."

"I don't need bribery, thank," I replied in a terse voice while ejecting my ID from the traditional crotch pouch. "I'm a writer, and I have admission to everywhere!"

"A writer!" Lights flashed. "Keep away from my inputs---I don't want any filth like you around here!" With that, a grime-encrusted boot emerged from the pavement and kicked me through the de-lasered pseudo-hatch.

So I was at downtown Kiwiland. It wasn't pretty, but then again, it wasn't suppoed to be. The walls of a crumbling building sagged above me and squealing children ran about at my feet. This was the place to be at! Over to my right sat a crumpled man without legs, arms, or ears. It was hard for him to figure out what I was about to ask him. So I got a finger-full of slime from the gutter and wrote on the man's shirtfront "What is my name?"

"Sod!" retorted the man as he lashed out with his body, which was no mean feat.

"Same to you, shorty," I replied, then moved off down the street to where I could see some pink sheep hung out to dry. Suddenly a thunderbolt came roaring down from a survey gammet and scoured a trench before my feet. "Gasp," I gasped.

"You are a gumboot!" echoed a deep voice from a controller vocoder.

"Oh, is that all?" My heart slowed down to its normal pace and my eyes defocussed from my nose.

"TWIT!" Sklug--Squidge. A large lump of green yuk started to tumble from one of the myriad rooftops above me. My legs moved and I leapt from the footpath, but my feet slid on a nasty deposit and I crashed to the...

...floor

...floor. "Ouch!" I had been dreaming. Thank God for that!! What a horrible thought to live in the 21st Century; the 32nd is far better. Oh, well, enough of nightmares. Off to bed again.

I stood up and got into bed, sliding my tail deftly between my third and second legs, then curling up and pulling the straw up around my neck.

Goodnight.

-----Robert Fowles.

## WELLINGTON BRANCH REPORT:

16 August: Ex-officio Secretary Gary Perkins was beaten to the WEA Booking Office by the recently-revived Wellington Wargaming group, so we were forced to hold this meeting in the slightly more cramped front room of the WEA. About 21 people turned up overall, though no more than 19 were usually present at any one time (several people were present several different times...). Considering the special nature of the meeting, the 'low' turnout can be bale (er) blamed in lack of publicity due to WARP 23's lateness.

Programme was video show: first, we saw the STAR TREK episode "The Doomsday Machine"; then refreshments were served and chattered around; then we saw DARK STAR. The programme was very well received. Thanks go to Gary Perkins for the video recorder & matching TV.

The event had been staged to raise money for WINDYOON. However, after the lack of publicity, it seemed unfair to charge people for what they had thought was to be an ordinary free meeting; so the levy was made voluntary. \$32.00 was collected in this way from about 16 people present when the fee was asked-for.

Even more enjoyable than the programme had been the usual round of socialising and chatter---before, between, and after, the video stuff. But Sue Dickie and myself left the meeting early for dinner, so missing the later parts. A good meeting, if a trifle undersized...

3 September: Dinner-evening at the Dominion... These seem to have settled down to a regular 8--9 people. We'd like to see more people along. The meals are...edible...the booze is priced only mildly outrageously; and the surroundings are such as to encourage conversation and repartee and general merriment. Present this time were Gary Perkins, Rosemary Mansfield, Alan Robson, Dave Cropp, Dave White, Gregor (Hamish) Cameron, Sue Dickie, and (later---I was working late) myself.

## DUNEDIN BRANCH REPORT:

I didn't have a lot to report by the official deadline for WARP 23, so I decided to hold off my NASF and OCTACON reports until this issue. However, given the WARP 23 delays, it means rather a gap in coverage of our activities. Sorry 'bout that---I'll try to make these reports more regular in future (goodness, I'm catching the dreaded "apology bug"!)

Anyway, this report contains news of the last four Branch meetings---although the OCTACON Committee and the Branch Committee have lots of people in common, I've supplied a separate OCTACON report.

*The story so far:* As reported in WARP 21½, our first attempt to hold a 1981 AGM, perhaps unwisely held on April Fool's Day, attracted the rather inqorate number of four members. So we put it off to May 6. This meeting, which included showings of ~~8mm~~ (severely edited!) versions of BATTLESTAR GALACTICA and DAMNATION ALLEY, attracted 12--15 people and was thus able to solve the business part of the evening. The accounts, well-compiled by Vince Whelan, showed that we'd spent \$405.56 (mainly on films) and made \$526.24 (again, mainly from films); when the costs of our library-card system (being organised by Rob Crdy) were deducted this left us with \$186.60 in the bank as at the 5th of May---an improvement of over \$100 on 9 months ago, when the accounts were last compiled. We then moved on the election of the Committee, with the following results:

PRESIDENT: KEVIN CLEWS;

SECRETARY: TIM JONES;

TREASURER: REX THOMPSON;

OTHERS: ANNE MCLEAN, HARVEY KONG TIN, TOM CARDY..

There was general discussion about the future activities of the club, and Rex Thompson on the "Dunedin in '82" bid we were planning to make at NORCON. The Branch subs were held at the same level for the moment. ((See below))

By June 8, the Environment Access Centre had made the big move to 320 George Street, Dunedin, and we moved our meeting along with it. After the heady triumph of NORCON and our successful bid, we were brought down to earth by a cold night (what? Did I say cold? I deny that completely---it's NEVER cold in Dunedin), a booking clash with the Dunedin Cyclist's Coalition---and there's a lot of them---and a poor turnout. However, undeterred, we repaired to Kevin & Robyn Clews' residence in Russell Street. The warmth of the hospitality was matched by a convoluted and at times heated discussion about fee levels---both national and local. Unhappiness was expressed at the high level of fees, although the reasons for this were outlined, and we agreed to keep our Branch fees at \$5.00 for students and \$6.00 for non-students.

Our scheduling problem having been resolved, we met again at 7:20pm on July 13. The attendance was disappointing---only seven people, with two non-committee members: Susan Evans and John Schulties. We passed round various frank, candid, revealing, etc photos of NORCON snapped by Harvey, heard an OCTACON report, and discussed the state of play with regard to our wargame collection. The best part of the evening's activities came after the subsequent OCTACON Committee meeting (which involved the same people as above---we'll involve anyone we can get!) when we moseyed on down to a late-night coffee-shop for a session of witty repartee, brittle dialogue, and soul-baring (cf. Robert Silverberg, A TIME OF CHANGES) (caffeine was the only drug involved).

Last but by no means least comes the evening of August 19. The first part of the evening had Albert Hastings screening his 8mm edits of ALIEN, STAR WARS, and THE APHRODITE STRIKES BACK to an appreciative group of over 20. (After we'd finally managed to obtain a set of keys that would actually let people into the Centre!) Nine of them, including Wellington (ex-Dunedin) heavy (err...)(arr, ERR...) Hamish Cameron and founder-member George Marriott, stayed on for the rest of the evening, in which we learnt that we'd had 71 members in the last three years & Kevin showed us the outline of his promotional pamphlet.

Next month---THE GREAT DEBATE!

-----Tim Jones.





I am of the opinion that joining NASF was one of the best things I have ever done. (I say this in slim hopes of making it into WARP's anniversary ish).

Has anyone read A SPECTRE IS HAUNTING TEXAS? Read it when I was about 17, bought it last week, seem to have lost my copy. By Fritz Leiber. Plan to get another copy iffen it don't turn up. Highly recommended.

*((If you thought that Kong Tin cover was good---and that thish's non-Kong-Tin cover is bland---you'll love (probably) nextish's Kong Tin! Of the three Harvey sent in for the Story/Art contest, I liked it best, though Gary did not and instead chose the one used for WARP 21 as winner.))*

Terry Collister  
108 Morris Spence Ave  
NAPIER. I am sitting, all alone, in front of this typer in a small room above Frank's house, with only a naked light-bulb and a rusty typer. HELP! I'm being held prisoner here!

About the Lending Library, could someone attempt to print the list of instructions about how to take the books out, has the charge gone up, or is it the same (what was "the same"?)

About Rosemary's con-party-report, I wouldn't call the party in Room 38 alcohol-free, I have a photograph of the basin of our room filled to the top with squashed bheer cans that Mike and myself picked up off the floor of our room the next morning. Also, there was no mention of the Jophan's Quest game attempted by some semi-drunk fans at some unghodly hour on Sunday, or was it Monday, morning. Great game that, first time it has been played in NZ for 18 years or so Bruce Burn tells me, copies of the resulting oneshot can be obtained from Graham Ferner.

Greg, how can you say the security system at NORCON stank? Why, my camera was locked up in the Maid' for well on 8 hours...and I wanted it to take pictures with. Great security, if even 'you' can't get your own belongings. All in all it was the best Con yet, in my opinion..(The blue movies were---to say the least---cursed with the dreaded projector-stutter; when that girl went down on \*\*\*\*\*, well anyway, it was all a-shudder (the projector, not the attendees)).

The free booze at the Dead Dog Party must have gone some of the way for accounting for such a large loss for the con-organisers.

*((Actually, no. That was very minor. The big losses came in: the Masquerade (believe it or not); printing bills; travel bills---that sort of thing, a lot of it unnecessary and even nonproductive. // As for booze, Room 40 was relatively 'clean' that night, and Rosemary spent most of her time there. // The Library charges are the same, and I will try to have them in this issue.))*

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Michael Spicer  
14 Damien Place  
CHRISTCHURCH 6. I enjoyed WARP 23 very much indeed. Though late, it was very well done.

As I was reading WARP I was trying to think of a way I could contribute something to the fanzine. I finally came to the conclusion that I could have a shot at reviewing sf soundtrack records, a side of sf I am very interested in. I don't think anybody has reviewed soundtrack ALBUMS in WARP before, so maybe there is some interest in this. I have recently added a large number of soundtracks to my collection, some unavailable in NZ.

Also, is it possible to get back-issues of WARP? Kepp up the good work.

*((Any sf-related subject is suitable fodder for WARP---at least, the WARP I have been attempting to edit. The incoming editor(s) will have their own views, but I think they will be at least as 'liberal' as I am... // Backissues are available---I hope to get the pricelist (and NASF's Constitution) back in print with this issue. // Thanks for the kind words and offer of material---with a few more such from other people, the new editor(s) will have an easier time of it than I have!))*

Frank Macskasy jr  
PO Box 27274  
WELLINGTON.

Thanks very much for WARP 23, received and enjoyed.

The subject of raising Dues is a tricky one, I know. But, like the steady increase of state bureaucracy and taxation to pay for it, a limit must be found somewhere. Perhaps fundraising activities such as selling books and raffles? If someone on the Committee could work up the necessary initiative, perhaps a small sf-souvenir marketing project could be set up. Nothing fancy---just enough to bring in the extra \$\$\$ needed to keep WARP going.

I agree with George Floratos; THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK reflects a "maturation" process for young Luke Skywalker. In TSAR WARS, he found heroic adventure by joining the Rebellion. However, in TESB he learns just how messy and violent war can really be. Reality replaces adventurous notions with brute, sudden force.

Linette's letter concerning my efforts to help imprisoned Ukrainian sf author Oles Berdnyk shows a sad lack of understanding on her part. Berdnyk is a science fiction author. We are (supposedly) science fiction fans. It therefore works out that fans should be concerned about what happens to the authors---because without them, fandom is zilch. Zero.

I am not trying to bring "politics" into NASF/sf fandom. My activities in the Free Soviet Dissidents Campaign (not "Free Soviet Activist Campaign", as Linette wrote) is totally separate from NASF. It amazes me that Linette even mentions this. Is she trying to copy Muldoon in "exposing communist/subversive elements in society"? The case of Oles Berdnyk has been highlighted in STARLOG and FUTURE LIFE as well as by myself. And rightly so. After all, if sf fans don't look after their own, who will?

So the *Liberator* in BLAKES SEVEN is finally and truly gone this time. A bit of a disappointment, really. After all, the *Liberator* is as famous in fandom as is the *Enterprise* on STAR TREK or the *Millenium Falcon* in STAR WARS.

Greg, I loved the "NASF TIMES" news column. Please keep it up. As a matter of fact, WARP is under good control with you as Editor. I might not have said this in previous letters, but you are doing a damn fine job. Please keep it (WARP) up. WARP is one of the only 'regular' zines in NZ, and I feel it is a vital tool in communication 'tween fans. Anyway, you're doing OK. OK?

The idea to split WARP into two as Lana Fahey does with the ALTERNATIVE FACTOR is not a good idea. The obvious disadvantages are that costs for postage and envelopes are doubled, and addressing envelopes, collating, printing, etcetc is also doubled. Now it seems to me that you've been annoyed at finding the work of producing WARP left solely to you. (And rightly so; you should have more help). So why increase it? Getting into masochism?

And anyway, just because others do it is no excuse to follow suit. That is merely a "sheep-herd" instinct which is nothing to be proud of. Let's do it our way instead.

((YOU SOMEWHAT MISSED WHAT I WAS GETTING AT! (oops, changes typeball))...Who said anything about mailing out the magazines separately? Quite the contrary!

The system I had in mind involved deadlines in alternating months: WARP in jan, mar, may, jul, sep, nov; NASF TIMES in feb, apr, jun, aug, oct, dec. The actual date of posting would be the earliest moment possible after the NASF TIMES deadline. Okay, this involves putting the appearance-date of WARP back a month in effect---but look at WARP 23! A good magazine needs time to prepare or the Editor overloads.

The effect should be, especially if the Editorial offices of the two zines are split, an actual easing of the load on the Editor(s).

As for sheep...Frank, did you know that the South African sf club has a single WARP-like magazine...?)

Trevor Gudsell  
member  
PALMERSTON NORTH.

WARP 23 finally appeared in the box today, over a month late. I suppose your reasons felt pressing to you, but regularity is important in a magazine like WARP; there are so few regular sf news magazines available in NZ at the moment which deal with sf in NZ at the moment. Handled properly, WARP can very easily find a place as the essential NZ magazine, a fact which would be of undeniable good to NASF's lagging membership numbers!

I liked the news section as you have re-formed it. Perhaps a little more structure ---sub-headings to highlight major newsitems, for instance---would be nice, however. And do try to extend the substance to include the professional angle---distributors, visiting personalities, forthcoming events, etc; this would really boost the section (or maybe magazine by the time this sees print) into usefulness.

Excellent NORCON coverage; the three-way report was well conceived and executed, and while perhaps a little more emphasis could have been placed on the official side (I was intrigued by the titles of some program-items and greatly regret that I could not attend to see them) gave an excellent feel for what the event must have been like. Do you know anywhere where I could find more extensive coverage, by the way?

I shall be moving to Wellington shortly, for business reasons. I may or may not join in the activities of the Wellington NASF Branch. As you know, I am a bit of a recluse and tend to shy away from contact with people who share my interests. I will take a private box number immediately I arrive and will let NASF know.

Oh, and I enclose a couple of reviews which you may use in WARP 25 if you like. I'm sorry I couldn't manage any comprehensive set of short reviews, but I haven't read all that much recently anyway.

*((More professional news should be forthcoming, if the incoming editors want to use it---I hope to interest the major book & film distributors in putting NASF on their mailing-lists. Otherwise, I'll just have to ask people to PLEASE send in any and all news they come across. WARP may already have it---but redundancy is a good policy with news. It reduces the risk of printing unbiased rumour! I'm sure my replacement(s) will appreciate it. // More coverage of NORCON...well, AOTEARAPA (see contents page under "Other Useful Addresses...") carried a number of them. You might consider joining it...? // Another person moving to Wellington! Is it a movement (YES...but I meant, is it some sort of mass obsession in NZ fandom, or something?)...))*

Huon Chandler  
PO Box 719  
GTSBORNE.

Do you know the address of the Chicago Worldcon and the current membership cost (supporting) in US\$? I did the decent thing & sent off my vote for Ain83 and am therefore in for the 81 & 83 cons, but I would like to get in for 82. I might as well site-select for all the cons from now on. It seems to be the cheapest way of doing it. I am having miserable luck with cons at the moment. Was all set to go to NORCON but ended up actually being in Auckland over part of the weekend, and NOT going. Now my beloved wife is about (16 Aug) to take a stateside visit without me, returning Oct 5. Perfect timing for Denvention, so, of course, she doesn't read sf (or anything for that matter). Was going to put in my Hugo vote, but couldn't get hold of and read all nominees. Decided that an illinformed vote was a stupid one.

*((Hope I haven't upset you by reprinting this part of your letter, but your question was pertinent. The answer is...I DUNNO! Probably I have it, somewhere in my now-doubly disorganised files (I moved house at the beginning of September, you see, which is the running excuse why WARP 24 will be late!), but where...ah, where. I suggest you keep an eye on the SF CONVENTIONAL CALENDAR printed in each issue of ISAAC ASIMOV's. With DENVENTION II over, CHICON should now start showing up at the bottom...))*

Lindsay Thompson  
10 Farquhars Road  
CHRISTCHURCH 5.

Thanks for a rather late WARP. Better late than never, I suppose.

Firstly, yes, split the damned zine into any format you like. I agree. It does work well. Reason? Because it brings me on to my next bit of info.

Unfortunately, there aren't any BLAKES SEVEN clubs in NZ that I know of. There are a few across the water in Aussie.

The best I know of is called NEW HORIZONS. If any of our readers are secret Vilafans or in love with Avon or Servalon, then this could be the club for you. Their newsletter RUMOURS runs to about 20 pages and is produced bimonthly. That is just the newsletter. Their fanzine GAMBIT is produced roughly every 2--3 months and should be out around early September. I'm in regular contact with Robin Walker, our Madam President, who is keeping me up-to-date with B7 in Aussie and the UK. They are just a young club, having started in April, but what a start to the club! I'm very impressed with RUMOURS. Especially its layout and freshness of subjects. Startrekksers must admit that their Federation is getting a bit stale after all these years, yes? Anyway, if their newsletter is like a fanzine I can't wait to see their fanzine. I'm told it runs to about 60 pages and is offset printed. Sounds good...

Oh, by the way, if it seems I'm a little biased in favour of this club, I am. I'm actually their NZ contact. Their subs for their newsletter is A\$8.00 per year. The fanzine is available seperately.

I agree with Canon Frank Macskasy jr on the issue over political prisoners in any country that persecutes them. Especially any prisoners in a communist country. We all know the very evil regimes that communism inflicts on countries and their peoples, eg Kampuchea and Pol Pot. Even Nazism (or, to the excitable, fascism) can't match the gross inhumanity that is inflicted on communist states. Even though we have a wee ty-  
to the Beehive, we can still criticise him and his party. These people that Canon Frank wants us to help need all the support they can get.

I think that the Dues should reach a maximum of \$10.00 in the next few years. After a 11, \$10.00 isn't very much if you put twenty cents away for a year, is it? I'd much rather have a national zine such as we have here than the whole of NASF collapsing through lack of info or a poorly-produced zine. "If you want it, you got to pay for it," said the lady to the vicar.

And still more!!! To all you out there who don't like my series on modelling and think I talk through a hole in my head, read this: I'm now in the NZ Film Commission's Directory of Freelance TV and film crews as a model-maker. (That should take Collister down a few pegs, eh?) I had the unfortunate pleasure of meeting him at NORCON, by the way.

*((Methinks I detect a tiny bit of anticommunist bias rather than pro-human-rights sentiment in your Berdnyk commentary... // On Dues, just to pick up on one thing you said previously in your letter; that B7 fanclub has Dues of \$8.00 p.a. for a 20-page bimonthly newsletter (the fanzine, you imply, being charged for seperately). NASF has current National Dues of \$8.00 p.a. for a 20-page bimonthly newsletter... Without pushing a viewpoint, let's toss that fact into the fire(fight!!!))*

Josef Hurdibise  
3/2 Maungawhau Rd  
AUCKLAND.

Hello fandom; not that you'd be interested, but I'm Josef, Josef Hurdibise ((Capitals added---ed.)). As a sf reader and peripheral hanger-on to various adherents of fandom (termed in the vernacular 'fen', aren't they?) I have become aware of

a disconcertingly disrespectful, nay, disdainful, attitude towards one of my personal favourite writers, as well as a lack of appreciation for another. Therefore, I take typewriter in hand to do battle and publicly declare my undying loyalty to messrs. Moorcock and Delaney. Sneer if you will, but these two writers, though much-maligned by sundry of you...fen...are worthy of note as sf masters..

My defense of ~~poesy~~ Delaney follows first: Those of you who have had the good taste to read AUSFS's official organ AEONS (#2) will perhaps have perused a brief review of Delaney's DHALGREN. In it I indulged in my usual semi-rabid rave about the magnificence of this unfairly-criticised masterpiece. But despite the raving, points of validity were made. Delaney's writings are often derided by fen (I think I'm getting the hang of it) who refuse to acknowledge that sf may contain an element of intellectual process. Looking across the range of Delaney's work, from his earliest (JEWELS OF APTOR) through to his later pieces (DHALGREN, TRITON) one can observe the growth of a powerfully imaginative artist. And as an artist, Delaney's work deals universally with the artist and the position of art and the artist in society. Though this theme is a constant throughout his major works, it is not, however, central to all. In most, the concept of the artist is important but peripheral to other aspects of the themes (JOA, T, NOVA, FALL OF THE TOWERS, BABEL-17). However, his most significant novel takes this whole theme and scrutinises all aspects of it in depth. DHALGREN is a complex, multi-layered study of art, artifice, and artists, in the medium of a non-artistic society. The handling of such material is highlighted and illustrated by Delaney's own obvious artistry. Powerfully evocative images create lasting impressions of scene, mood, and character, and are a distinctive feature of Delaney's work. So There.

Now, Moorcock. My first great passion as a new reader of sf was Michael Moorcock. The passion has not dimmed. Yet it would seem to be a generally-held view that because he is prolific, he is a hack. This position cannot possibly be supported if you take the time to sample his work, containing perhaps some of the best fantasy writing of the twentieth century. He may be an artistic prostitute, but he's a damn good one. And works like DANCERS AT THE END OF TIME, THE BLACK CORRIDOR, THE HISTORY OF THE RUNESTAFF, THE CORNELIUS CHRONICLES, GLORIANA, and the Corum sequence, give evidence of the scope of his hugely creative and diverse imagination, coupled with a skilled writing ability at times ascending to the brilliant.

There, I've done it, and I'm prepared to defend my position against all of you Philistine unbelievers (come on, don't try hiding, I know you're out there; come out and fight like a fen!)

*((They'll have to wait till next time. I'm afraid, magazines being what they are... I didn't quite know what to make of this letter, which came out of the blue. It reads like something that started out meant for AEONS and which was hastily diverted to WARP for reasons unknown to me. Besides, it has been noted that there is a dearth of sf discussion in WARP's (or since the lettercol has jumped titles, NASF TIMES's) Letters pages recently. If mere mention of Delaney & DULLGRIN, er, DHALGREN has not put everyone to sleep, at least this should even the balance. And who knows, there may be someone out there willing to take up the crusade...))*

Tim Jones,  
3/317 High Street  
DUNEDIN.

Here goes with all the things I didn't fit into the Dunedin Branch and OCTACON Reports: first of all, I've heard very little reaction to Duncan Lucas & Josef Hurtubise's THE SAGA OF THE SORG C'BAWPL. I don't know why not, 'cos it's BLOODY

GOOD! Funny, well-written, dragging in all manner of well-loved characters and sending them sprawling. This opus deserves a wide readership. I'd like some news of the authors' plans for it. I bought my copy at NORCON and it was well worth it.

Secondly, I agree with NASF becoming involved in Oles Berdnyk campaign, considering his involvement in sf. Linette's idea of a poll is probably a good one, but once this sort of decision is taken out of Wellington's hands, the whole basis of the "National Branch" (i.e. the largest Branch functioning as the national committee) is called into question. I must admit that I don't like the "National Branch" concept much in theory, but in practise it seems fairly successful and I reserve most of my concern for due democratic process for things like the National Development Act! Therefore, I think a poll of all members would be inconsistent with our structure.

Not surprisingly, I liked Brian Strong's letter in WARP 23, but I must disappoint you, Brian, because I'm not a country-music fan! I'm more into classical, New Wave, and latterly, jazz. However, my family has lived in and around Gore and Mataura (yes, it does exist) ((I know---I sort mail for it...into the pigeonhole for INVERCARGILL on the mail-sorting case...er...maybe it doesn't exist after all...)) for ten years or more so I do know the importance of country-music there.

Did you know that "Brian" is actually Celtic for "strong"? Some pruning of your name is called for!

Next up, a confession: I put my name down for various NASF Orbiter magazines and then forgot to write down what I'd chosen before I sent the survey away! What's happening with the Orbiter?

The new format for WARP sounds promising---I hope all this material makes it in time for inclusion (you didn't specify the NASF TIMES copy-deadline).

Finally, a warning to all you "DUNE" wargame players: when Nigel Rowe visited this fair city a month or so ago, (late July/early August) he participated in seven games of "DUNE" (or at any rate, seven were played), all of which were won by local supremo Kevin Clewes. I played in the last of the games and afterwards instituted a thorough study of the rules which led me to the conclusion that we were breaking most of them. So watch out, local god-emperors of "DUNE", I may not be able to beat you at the game, but I reckon I can probably get you disqualified! La'La La...

((On the "National Branch"---actually, it's the Branch contributing the most Central Committee members (not "the largest Branch") which is designated "capital". If at any time another Branch wants to try a takeover, all it has to do is stack the AGM---held on the 3rd Sunday in April each year in Wellington---and get its people onto the Committee! (Subsequent AGMs, obviously, will be held wherever the new Committee decides, probably in the city with the most Committee members in...). At the moment, as to no-one else standing for election, the Central Committee is identical and almost (not exactly) synonymous with the Wellington one. As it has been put, "The Wellington Branch Committee acts as the Central Committee".

SEE PAGE 2 FOR NASF TIMES DEADLINE! AND WATCH IT, FOLKS, COS IT'S REAL!

APOLOGIES FOR ANY NEWS  
LETTERS ETC MISSED.

WE HAVE APPOINTED A NEW  
EDITOR WHO IS ALREADY WORKING  
ON WARP 25.  
WE HOPE TO HAVE WARP 25  
OUT AT THE END OF NOVEMBER.

G. J. PERKINS