

Sleepers In Somnia

Sleepers In Somnia
is the Sleepers
newsletter.
Edition 5
March 11 2004

Planet Sleepers

The first Sleepers Salon of the year, sponsored by Spinach7 magazine, was held on Thursday March 4th at a new venue, the Planet Café on Melbourne's coolest street, Brunswick Street, in Melbourne's funkiest suburb, Fitzroy.

Hungrier guests ordered a meal while the rest of us relaxed into the sounds of Jacq Gawler (vocals) and Fran Swinn (guitar) showing Bjork what she could have done if she only had a better guitarist.

Sleepers Almanac Start your engines!

Sleepers will be publishing a book of short fiction at the end of the year and we are happy to give all *In Somnia* readers the opportunity to submit their writing for consideration.

For submission details and further information visit our website www.sleeperspublishing.com Submissions close in July.

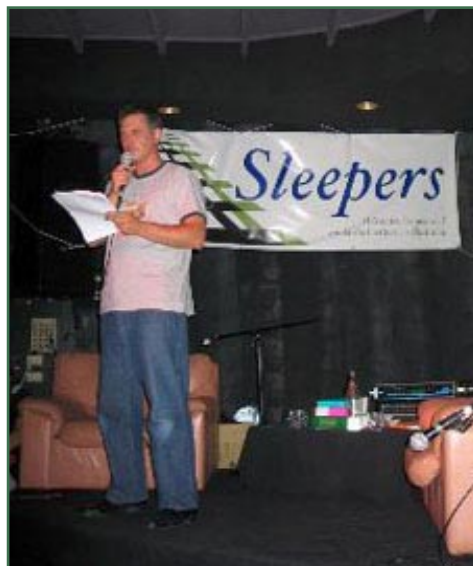
Sleepers website is up!
For those of you who haven't heard yet our website is live for perusal. Go to www.sleeperspublishing.com

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Kath Wilson settles in

Before the break, Paul Mitchell (author of *Minorphysics*, Interactive Press, 2003) read a short story followed by two poems, capturing the interest of even those with the shortest attention spans, and showing us why he is One To Watch.

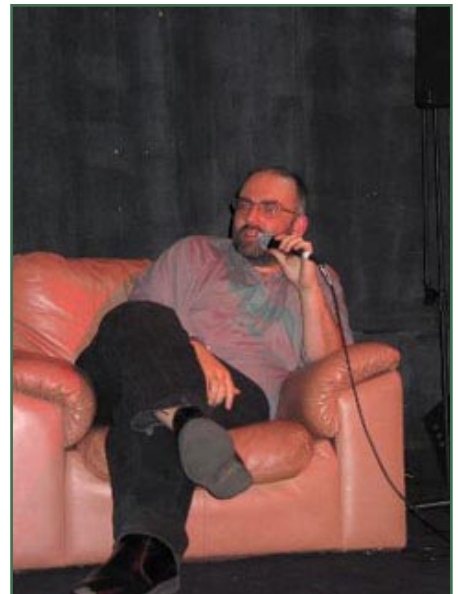


Paul Mitchell reading from the grave



The Sleepers Salon audience at their new home

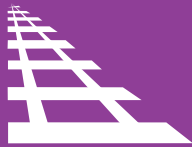
Then Guy Rundle, co-editor of *Arena* magazine, and Kath Wilson, co-editor of *Overland* magazine, came to the stage for a showdown about the state of publishing in Australia, with some feisty audience participation from a motley and passionate crew.



Guy Rundle on the spot



Fran and Jacq on Human Behaviour



After the break, for the first time in Australian literary history, Sleepers did a live satellite link-up with US author of *The Mushroom's Underside*, Saffron Greene. Interviewer David Prater, editor of *Cordite* online poetry journal, got comfortable in the easy chair while Sleepers beamed Saffron onto a projector screen. Despite a time lag, David and Saffron persevered, with David subjecting Saffron to some tough questions about her book, her life, mushrooms, her family, and being published.



The critically acclaimed first novel

The next Salon is to be held on Thursday 20 May at the Planet Cafe on Brunswick St. If you're grumpy because you missed the last one then don't become a mental health statistic. Put it in your diary and stick a memo to your best friend's forehead.

Sleepers would like to thank the following prize givers: Cinema Nova, Angleton's stationers, Spinach7, Black Inc. and Macmillan Publishers

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David Prater with Saffron Greene via satellite

In case anyone in the audience still thought that this was a real satellite link-up with a real author, Glen Moore (alias Saffron Greene) then came to the stage from the back cupboard, and the two men received the applause that was their due.

The prank was a huge success, and provided many welcome giggles. Sleepers proved that literary nights can be serious and at the same time afford some good old-fashioned, cheerful fun.

The Post-It Note Poetry Competition

During the break, those who were poetically inclined penned a Post-It Note Poem to the theme 'monkey', while those of us with no writing skills whatsoever took the opportunity to hit the bar.

"This is getting quite competitive, you know. I just saw someone redrafting their Post-It Note three times!"

Another day
Another monkey poem
It seems you can
Never escape your
inner primate
So once again
The monkeys
In my head
Will have their
Revenge
So much for dignity
Steve Smart

On the tram they laughed.
People pointing.
The inspectors got on –
said we had to leave.
Said 'no pets'.
But when I said 'pet',
i meant 'sugar', I meant
'honey'.
Isn't it obvious? That we're in love?
Sean M Whelan

Competition judged by Sleepers Keeper Scott McDermott



Lou with Saffron, alias Glen Moore, in the flesh

And the theme of 'monkey' made this little comp even more so. (There were 3 known regular monkey poets there, although we promise we did not know this at the time.) Because of the staggering quality of spontaneous poetry writing, on this occasion there were two winners. The following two poets are off to Cinema Nova together.

We raise a glass to...

Mel Cunningham (raffle sales), Florence Nulens (door hound), Glen Moore (alias Saffron Greene) and David Prater for hours of preparation, the Wilderness Society (for the projector), Kealin Hanigan (sound and posters), Mat Shears (video), Defah Dattner (haircuts) and Ant Swinn (photos).

