

17-20 APRIL 1981

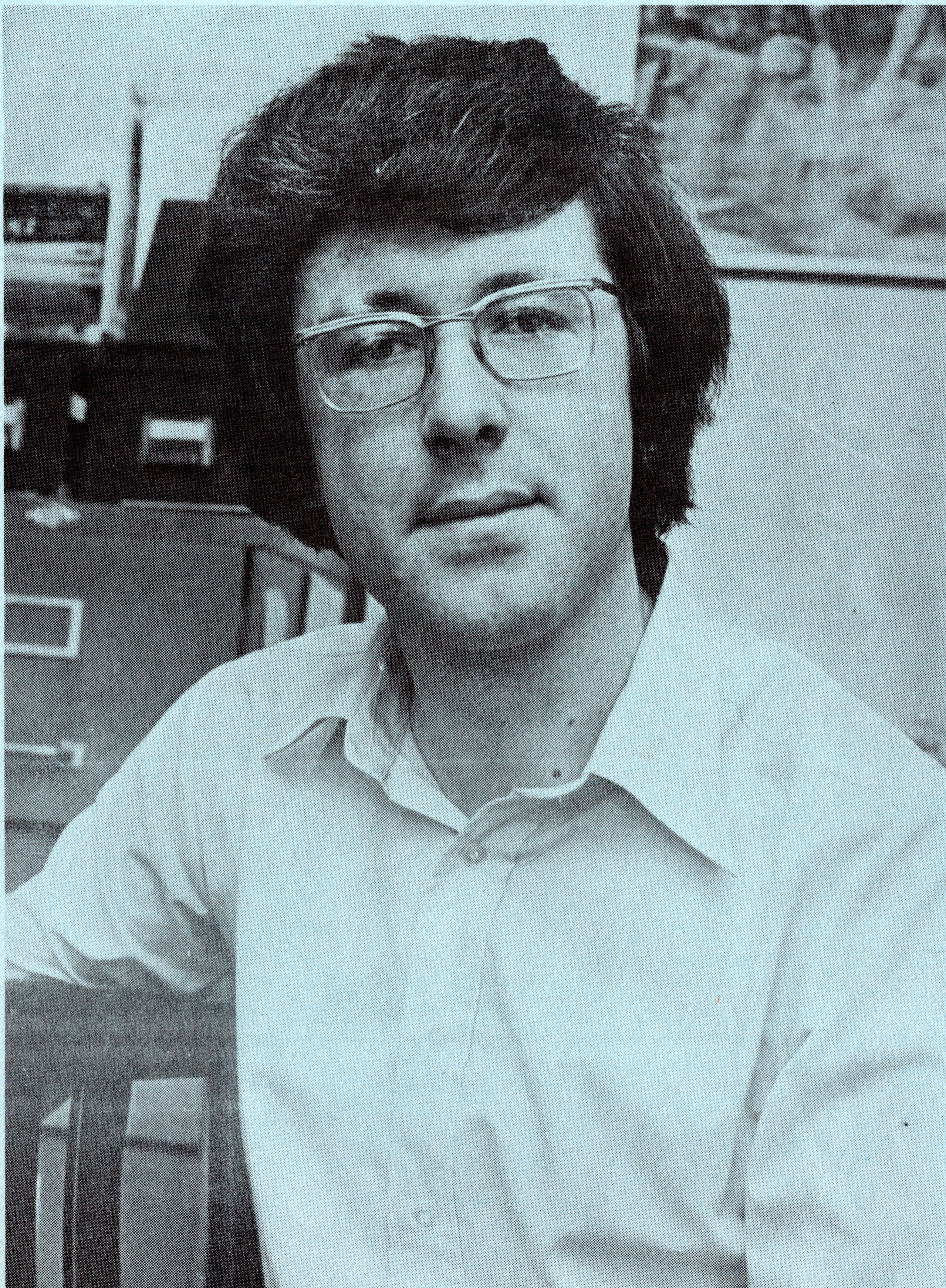
YORFCON 2

Dragonara Hotel Leeds

PROGRESS REPORT 3

Guests of honour: Ian Watson & Tom Disch
Fan Guest of honour: Dave Langford

Photograph of Dave Langford courtesy the "Reading Chronicle"



YORCON TWO

PROGRESS REPORT 3

THE PROGRESS REPORT

To borrow a totally appropriate title from last YORCON's third PR, here is our Progress Report. Numbers are considerably up on last time's event, although of course, there they were artificially low due to the impending World Con in Brighton in the summer of 1979. Still, we've more space this year, slightly different ideas, and a re-arranged layout of some of the rooms that should benefit everybody. One of the features that attracted the most complimentary remarks was the large open Bar area, with plenty of space to collapse. This has been retained (to your collected delights we hope), together with the numerous easy chairs and seats (not to mention the floor) where bodies can collect without fear of being trampled upon.

Everything seems to be coming together nicely. It's only at this stage that we actually begin to feel that we are running a convention. Until recently, the activity has been very much on an individual basis, with close liasons when necessary, backed up with our monthly meetings with the hotel staff. As Mike Dickinson said at this stage two years ago, this isn't to say we won't have problems. Everyone seems to have them, and I'm certain we'll be no exception. However, we can guarantee that any hassles will be kept to an absolute minimum. The committee and assistants will be running here and there, beads of perspiration the only sign that things are happening.

As editor of this series of Progress Reports, I've seen much of the industry that's being put in on behalf of many people, and although perhaps not really the time or place, I'd uat like to put on official record the very special efforts that Graham has put in. Thanks Boss, you're doing well!

Anyway, I'll let you get on with the rest of this PR. Hotel Booking forms go out this time, and although we've written the instructions out as clearly as possible, do PLEASE READ THEM and ACT ON THEM CAREFULLY. We don't want any of you ending up with second best, okay? If there are any problems, I'm certain that Graham or Simon will be more than pleased to help you.

Best wishes for the New Year (and for the pedants among us), the New Decade,

ALAN DOREY

LEEDS 1981

 * HOTEL BOOKING * * TRAVEL * * BANQUET TICKETS * * CATERING *

Please read the arrangements set out below before you complete the hotel booking form. Should you have any queries, or special requirements, please contact me at the address below.

Graham James 12 Feornville Terrace, Oakwood, LEEDS LS8 3DU

WHERE TO SEND THE HOTEL BOOKING FORM

If you wish to reserve a room, the Booking Form must be returned to me, with the appropriate remittance as a deposit. DO NOT send the form direct to the hotel.

WHICH HOTEL?

The main convention hotel is The Draganora - we will automatically allocate you to that Hotel unless you indicate otherwise. The Draganora holds well over 400 people, so most people will be able to stay there. After that, we will allocate you to The Queens Hotel, which is, literally, one minute's walk from the Main Convention Centre. There are, however, only a small number of single rooms at the Draganora, so if you wish to have a single room, you will be allocated to The Queens after those at The Draganora have been taken up. As compensation, you will find that the rates at the Queens are slightly cheaper, since they include breakfast, VAT and a newspaper. Should you want to take advantage of this type of deal for a TWIN room, we also have a small number of such rooms at the Queens; again, please specify your requirements clearly. In the event that we are not able to meet your request, we will let you know. In any event, there will be no restriction on numbers attending the Convention.

The Hotel rates are as follows:-

DRAGANORA

Double/Twin: £8.50 per night,
plus VAT

Single: £12.50 per night,
plus VAT

QUEENS

Single/Twin: £12.50 per night,
inclusive of VAT, breakfast &
free newspaper.

Breakfast at the Draganora is £2.10 (Continental) £3.50 (English). All rooms contain Colour TV, Telephone & Tea/Coffee making facilities.

DEPOSITS

A deposit of £10.00 per person (irrespective of the number of nights you are staying) must accompany your booking form. Cheques should be made payable to YORCON 11.

ELIGIBILITY

Hotel Rooms can only be booked if you are an ATTENDING member. If you have supporting membership (£3.00), you must convert to attending (£6.00) by paying the balance (£3.00). If you are unsure about your status, either check your receipt, The Progress Report, or failing that (!) ring Simon, on Leeds (0532) 743508.

CHILDREN'S RATES

For Children, sharing their parents' room, using their own camp beds & sleeping bags, there will be NO CHARGE, but obviously, meals will have to be paid for. If children under 12 years are in separate rooms, the rate will be HALF PRICE; similarly, there are available, a small number of 'make-up' beds for children, at half price.

SHARED ROOMS/SPARE KEYS

If you are sharing a twin room, please book together, and indicate both names on the booking form. Should you want to share, but have no-one to share with, please indicate and we will find you a 'suitable' partner if we can.

An additional key can be made available where two people are sharing (Draganora only) upon payment of a £5.00 deposit (returnable). Payment must be made in advance with your booking.

TRAVEL

If you are travelling to Leeds by train, Ladbroke's have an arrangement with British Rail for a 50% discount on the standard fare. A form for this purpose is enclosed, giving instructions. However, if you are travelling on the Friday, and returning by Monday, you may find that the Weekend Travel rates are about the same - please check.

BANQUET

At each Eastercon, it is traditional to hold a banquet, complete with GoH speeches, etc. This will take place on the Sunday evening and tickets should be booked in advance. Please indicate on the hotel booking form. The cost is £7.00 per head (plus VAT) payable on the day. The menu is as follows:-

French Onion Soup with Cheese Crouton

Supreme of Chicken Draganora

(breaded, cooked in Butter, garnished with Asparagus, small brown Potatoes, and Artichoke Bottoms filled with a Bernaise Sauce)

Coullflower in a Cheese Sauce

Whole Buttered Green Beans

Saute Potatoes Lyonnaise

Raspberry Vacherin with Fresh Cream

Coffee with fresh Cream and Mints

Should you require a Vegetarian meal, this will be available, but you must indicate, in advance, on the Booking Form

CATERING

We have negotiated a 2p a pint reduction on Beer prices. (The shock has caused me to forget to change the type-face!) There will be a Sandwich/Snack Bar open at Lunch, Tea and Supper. Again, adequate vegetarian snacks will be available. Full meals are also available at both the Draganora and the Queens, and there are a number of restaurants within easy reach of the hotels. (Details in the Programme Book)

CONFIRMATION OF REQUIREMENTS

Confirmation will be sent with Progress Report 4, due out in February. Should you require confirmation in advance of this, please enclose a S.A.E. with your booking form. Bookings taken after PR 4 will be confirmed separately.

CAR PARKING

There is free car parking at the Draganora, and if this becomes full, there is a National Car Park close by (opposite the hotel).

I think that's all! As I said, if you have any queries (other than registration status) please contact me. If you write, a S.A.E. helps to ensure a speedy reply! My phone number at home is Leeds (0532) 721478.

PROGRAMME

We hope that you will find the programme of talks, panels and other events at Yorcon 2 entertaining, informative and stimulating. English Guest of Honour Ian WATSON will deliver a speech on the Saturday afternoon. American Guest of Honour Thomas M. DISCH will follow suit on the Sunday afternoon.

Somewhere in there, we'll feature a Serious Scientific Talk by that master of strange facts, Bob SHAW. There will also be panel discussions, with such well-known participants as John BRUNNER and Christopher PRIEST. There should be special appearances by several other well-known writers who do not often attend sf conventions (John SLADEK and Brian STABLEFORD are just two who have recently told us they're coming).

There will be a lively programme of films, including a showing of the recent highly-acclaimed Polish sf film Golem. This will be presented by Wiktor Bukato, our special visitor from Poland.

Plus:- Art Show, Fancy Dress Parade (Saturday night), Discotheque and live band (also on Saturday night), a well-stocked book room and an equally well-stocked bar... And, oh yes, there will be computers, games machines -- in short, all manner of things to keep you off the streets and keep your brains ticking over for three or four days. Above all, there will be people, hundreds of them, from fandom, the publishing world, the media. Come prepared to mingle, and come prepared to breathe a ~~pretty weird~~ jolly invigorating atmosphere...

DOC WEIR AWARD, KEN MCINTYRE AWARD

Keith Freeman (as administrator) and I feel that these two awards have been sadly neglected in recent years. Full details of the rules and purpose of these awards will be given in Progress Report 4, due out in March 1981. However, the Ken McIntyre Award, presented to the best piece of fanzine art over the convention year, is something you can be thinking about now. To enter, all you need is the original piece of artwork, together with the reproduced copy. These should be either sent to Keith at 269 Wykeham Road, Reading, Berks, RG6 1PL, or brought to YORCON for display in the artshow. So, editors, look through your fanzines and have a go. Let's be inundated with masterpieces!

The Doc Weir Award is given to any fan who, in the opinion of the voters (you, the convention members) deserves to be recognized for his efforts and achievements in fandom. Generally, it's awarded to someone who hasn't been honoured before, but the final decision is with the voters. A list of past winners will be included in our Programme Book, but at least you can think of worthy candidates in the meanwhile.

GANG OF EAGLES

Following on from Paul Kincaid's article in PR 2 on his first Easter Convention, I've asked Joe Nicholas to do a similar sort of thing; of course, being Joseph, it's not quite the same, but should prove interesting to those coming to YORCON as their first Convention.

Your first convention is an Event - one that initially seems no more than an excuse to do Something Different over an Easter weekend but which in retrospect turns out to be a definite landmark in your life. You go in at one end as a bright-eyed, bushy-tailed, vibrant young neo, and come out the other as a shambling, hungover, bleary-brained wreck, wondering how you ever managed to survive it all, swearing that you'll never touch another drink for as long as you live, aching for a decent night's sleep - and practically slavering with anticipation over the next convention.

Naive though I'm sure this will seem, I'm firmly convinced that the only effective way in which to approach your first convention - which is, after all, a totally unknown quantity, alien to all your previous experience - is without expectations (because the reality will prove them wrong) and with a completely open mind (because only thus will you be able to take everything that confronts you). . . Certainly, I didn't know what to expect from my first convention (Seacon 75, not to be confused with Seacon 79, the later Worldcon): high-flown intellectual discussion of post-New Wave British SF? old movies full of cardboard spaceships and cardboard people? fans falling over drunk? As it turned out, I got the lot, and (smug though this will sound) my state of almost-unpreparedness allowed me to enjoy it all without giving a damn about the peculiar paradoxes involved.

I don't think that conventions have changed over the years so much as I've changed. From not knowing what to expect, I've now come to want what can perhaps be best described as a "good time": meaning, mainly, a chance to sit and talk and drink with friends, and never mind all that unlikely nonsense about spaceships and aliens and rayguns - an attitude shared by a great number of other people and one which strikes most neos as utterly ridiculous. After all, their reasoning runs, we're all SF fans, drawn together by a common interest in the literature - yet given a golden opportunity to engage in serious debate about its shape and texture and social message for mankind, we all go off and get drunk instead. Why?

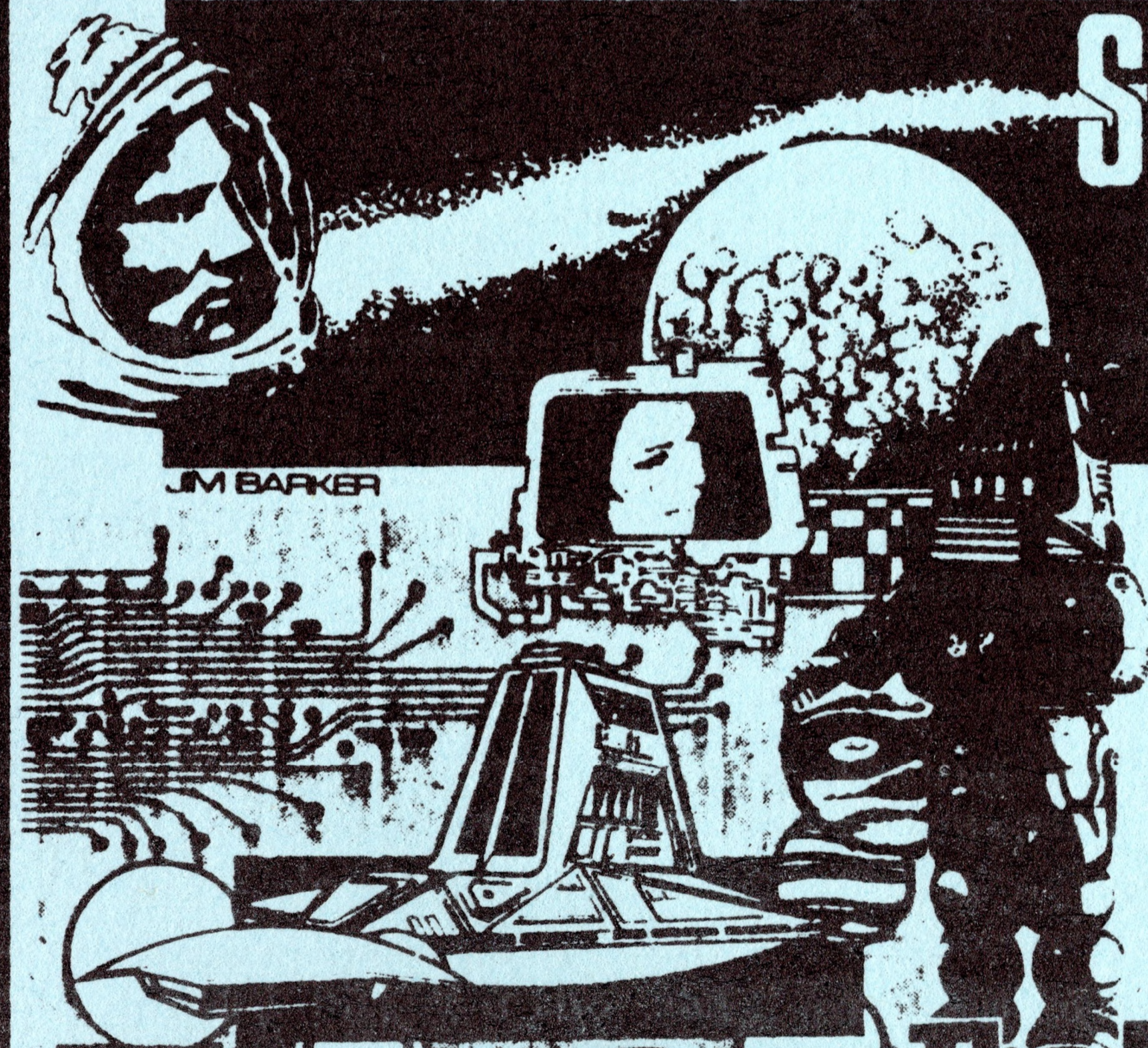
Well conventions are as much social occasions as anything else, and like all other social occasions don't restrict themselves to only one topic of conversation. (An analogy: think of a convention as a party and SF as the invitation that brought you - would you spend the entire evening talking about nothing but the invitation card?) SF may be of prime importance to you at first, but as time goes on it's likely to fade further and further into the background in favour of something else. It's never completely forgotten, of course, not even by the most ultra-fannish of fanzine fans; but most prefer to confine their discussion of it to the pages of such as Vector and Foundation, when they'll have the time to think longer and harder about the views being put forward and about their own responses - time which face-to-face conversations obviously don't give them. (Hence the truism: "Fans are

better writers than they are talkers"). And since face-to-face conversations are naturally more suited to the exchange of idle chit-chat.....

The trouble with this chit-chat, however - at least as far as newcomers are concerned - is that it's conducted by people who act as though they own the bloody place and, worse, seem blithely unconcerned to make them feel welcome. Hence the myth of fannish elitism: a myth whose falsity is so obvious that I'm frankly surprised it survives at all. Like any other social organism, fandom is an overarching gestalt that contains within itself a number of partially interlocking groups of friends who, like all such groups, will be initially wary of the strangers in their midst. To draw a parallel, entering fandom is like taking up a new job or moving onto a different Housing Estate: you have to start mixing with people who already know each other, putting yourself out to win some acceptance from them - a fairly harsh prospect, I'll admit, but then the so-called elite had to go through exactly the same to get where they are now, so what else is new?

What it all come down to in the end is "Having Fun" - an enjoyment that, depending on your temperament and inclinations, you may derive from listening to the Guests of Honour or from falling over drunk or from playing at Dungeons and Dragons or from arguing the worth of a particular author's prose style or.... whatever. An Easter convention is these days large enough to accommodate almost anyone, and somewhere around you'll find some kindred spirit as willing to talk about the things you're interested in as you are yourself. If the worst comes to the worst, you can always buy one of those vile elitest fannish fans a drink and get to know them better. It's only for the weekend, after all, so why bind yourselves in the shroud before your time?

Joseph Nicholas



SCIENCE FICTION FAN?

The British Science Fiction Association is an organisation for anyone interested in SF.

The Association regularly produces:

VECTOR - a journal about SF with reviews, articles, interviews and letters.

MATRIX - a forum for members with news, informal articles and letters.

FOCUS - a writers' workshop magazine with articles, queries and market news.

The Association provides many services, including - the world's largest SF lending library, with over 3000 books; a magazine chain from which all the leading American publications can be borrowed; an SF enquiry service to help in answering your queries on science fiction.

Membership costs only £6 a year, or you can try a sample mailing first, containing Vector, Matrix, etc., for £1 (deductable from cost of membership if you join).

If writers such as Aldiss, Brunner, Clarke, Coney, Cowper, Harrison, Holdstock, LeGuin, Priest, Shaw, Watson and White (to drop a few names) think it's worth being members, perhaps you will, too.

The British Science Fiction Association

Further details from:
The Membership Secretary, Sandy Brown
18 Gordon Terrace, Blantyre, G72
Lanarkshire, Scotland

President: Arthur C. Clarke

The Role Of Women In SF

David Langford, Yorcon Fan Guest of Honour

Dave has been rather busy of late, finishing novels and other high-powered things that Huge Name authors do, but he has found the time to allow me to use this speech below - in his own words, "A debate speech delivered at Albacon by Dave Langford, and offered to PR3 because Dave has no time to write anything else this year"

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I confess that I was lured into this debate by the local (Glasgow) Bob Shaw, a man for whom Englishmen have the same uneasy respect with which in the 1930s they regarded that other great organisation man, Adolf Hitler. "Which side of the debate would you like to speak on?" he asked me; and filled with a great respect for women I chose by tossing my double-headed coin. Unfortunately, thanks to faulty workmanship, both heads of this coin are on the same side. "Looks like I'm speaking against women," I told Bob, and at once fell to the ground with a severe pain between the twenty-third and twenty-fourth loops of my major intestine. I had forgotten that in the same room there sat a lady who was in the process of reviewing The Black Lion by Patricia and Lionel Fanthorpe; she'd been throwing this book in a critical sort of way against all the walls, the floor and ceiling; and now, thanks to my incautious offer to speak in this debate, she had thrown it with unerring accuracy at the region of my delicately brought-up intestines - or my spleen, or kidneys, or whatever it is that lives around here and has nothing better to do than get bloated on the beer I pay for.

My first argument against women, then, is that the merest word against them will spur them not to reasoned debate but to uncouth action: like striking below the belt with The Black Lion by Patricia and Lionel Fanthorpe. But since we're here to consider women in the context of science fiction, let's turn at once to their role in what certain people have told me is the all-time great seminal work of SF. I refer of course, to The Black Lion by - oops, wrong number. I refer, of course, to The Skylark of Space by Doc Smith. It's hard to realise how much influence this book has had on subsequent sf: have you noticed that ever since Smith's pioneering work, nearly all sf books have, like The Skylark of Space, been 100 to 200 pages long and cunningly divided into chapters! Without further ado, let's study the treatment of women in this acknowledged masterwork - an epic novel which has rendered many literary critics quite speechless, as has The Black Lion by Patricia and Lionel Fanthorpe.

One of the heroes is called Crane. "As for women, Crane frankly avoided them, partly because his greatest interests in life were things in which women had neither interest nor place" - perhaps he spent a lot of time lurking in gents' toilets - "but mostly because he had for years been the prime target of the man-hunting debutantes and the matchmaking mothers of three continents". At once you see the true peril - this monstrous regiment of women liable at any moment to spring upon our heroes and subject them to unspeakable privations, wisely not discussed in too much sickening detail in this passage. Anyway, there are a couple of women in Skylark of Space and it's not until chapter 11 that you realize their evil purpose: once everything's going well they get kidnapped by the villain. This complicates the plot no end, just when we were praying the book would soon be over. However, the kidnapping does cause one of

the females in question to reveal her true colours: "Her clawed nails glanced harmlessly off the galss and leather of his helmet; her teeth were equally ineffective against his leather coat..." Lucky for him she didn't have a copy of The Black Lion by R.L.Fanthorpe. A few chapters later she recovers consciousness and introduces a wholly new factor into the already complex situation. You must imagine the scene: the evil villain and his vile henchmen have the two women at their mercy in a lost experimental spaceship two hundred and thirty-seven lightyears from the nearest police station, almost as far from civilisation as Glasgow, and the heroine says:

"I'm a mess, and she must be too. Where's our room? That is we have a room?"

Faced with this arrogant demand, the unspeakable archvillain has little hesitation in saying "Yes. That one." I might add that a page or two later the poor villain has been reduced to a state where "his straining muscles are visible through the heavy leather of his jacket".

And it isn't long before th man-hunting debutante in question has manoeuvred her way into the heroe's affections, whereupon the book sinks into vile innuendo which borders on the obscene. "As usual, Crane out out a steadying arm. This time, however, in that highly-charged atmosphere, the gesture took on a new significance. Both blushed hotly; and, as their eyes met, each saw what they had both most wanted to see." Words fail me! "Slowly, almost as though without violation, Crane put his other arm around her. A wave of deeper crimson flooded her face" - nosebleed, possibly - "but her lips lifted up to his and her arms went up around his neck. 'Margaret - Peggy - I had intended to wait - but why should we wait....?'" And to cut a long story short, he doesn't wait. There isn't even time to say 'eugenics' before the temptress has pointed out that marriage performed on some convenient alien planet would be just as legal for their purposes as on Earth; before you know what, there are three-page descriptions of exotic wedding-gowns and ceremonies - at last the hideous truth emerges - Doc Smith had hired a woman (doubtless a man-eating matchmaker) to write all the romantic bits, and she'd gradually taken over the book. A book, which, without the constant annoyance of heroines who get into trouble and have to be rescued, or get into trouble and demand to be married, could have been an inestimably greater contribution to literature by being only a third as long.

Let's have one more example of a dangerous woman from the golden years of science fiction, the times when Caxton was whittling his first semi-colons and remaindered copies of the Gutenberg Bible were being pulped and recycled into Hugo Gernsback. From those classic times I give you Somewhere Out There by Bron Fane a writer better known under his pseudonym of the Black Lino - oops, another misprint - The Black Lion. Here the lady in question is one La Noire: "There were things about La Noire which even the darkness of a Victorian working girls's shawl could not disguise completely. She had a kind of in-built magnetic attraction that was almost irresistible. It raised the pulse beat and blood pressure of civilised men, of decent moral standards. The things it must have done to the minds of lesser mortals" - like you lot - "could pny be guessed at!" On the next page the author goes further, and describes a little more closely the things that this lady's inbuilt magnets do to a chap called Val Stearman. I warn you, this is strong stuff. "Val Stearman gnurled his brass screws, and though of those whose lives consisted in the gnurling of brass screws....or similar occupations. He wondered how they stood it."

My friends, we want none of this filth in our science fiction. We want no women who lure poor men to make gestures which take on a new significance, such as gnurling their brass screws. I trust that all the men present will vote for this motion, with the exception of the few incurable screw-gnurblers

CHANNELCON



RETURN TO BRIGHTON IN '82!

SUPPORT THE CHANNELCON BID
FOR THE 1982 EASTERCON AT
THE METROPOLE HOTEL

MORE DETAILS

FROM:-

4, FLETCHER ROAD, CHISWICK, LONDON W8

* * * * *

founf in every crowd; to the women here, who may find themselves strangely prejudiced, I say - vote for me, or I may see fit to read longer and still longer extracts from Skylark of Space or even The Black Lion by Patricia and Lionel Fanthorpe.

When looking for confirmatory evidence about women, I quite by chance happened to study an intersting volume called Sexual Science by Orson Squire Fowler (1870)....

"Ever well sexed woman inavraiably throws her shoulders back and breasts forward as if she would render them conspicuous , and further signify sensuality by a definite rolling motion of the posterior."

I don't know about you, but I find this an alarming prospect, enough to make one avoid looking at women too closely. Another line from the same source:

"All well sexed maidens enter womanhood with a plump luscious bust, which usually shrivels gradually till it almost disappears by the age of 20."

I can only say that women, whom I believe to be over 20, must be practising a cruel deception on me. Who needs women capable of such villainy? This motion must pass.

LETTERS

Arnold Akien - 6 Dunblane Road, Seaburn, SUNDERLAND, Tyne & Wear, SR6 8EU

There is little I could suggest for the Yorcon programme which has not probably already been thought of, and rejected. However, there is something which has occurred to me that people may find interesting. One of the most enjoyable types of event has been the debate, both the silly fannish variety (The Who Needs Women one at Albacon) and the more serious ones - which is where my suggestion comes in.

Did you see the letters from Brian Aldiss and John Brunner in the February and March issues of LOCUS? ((They concerned strong political views on boycotting Eurocons because of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan - Brian was not happy at serving a further term as Co-President of Eurocon because of "Soviet aggression in Afghanistan and their contravention of human rights in their own capital". John was invited to take the post, and accepted - Alan Dorey)) Well here we have two of the best, and most articulate, writers in SF with opposing views on an important issue. How much contact should there be between East and West in view of the political happenings around the world? In particular, how much official contact should there be between the sf literary societies of the Eastern and Western political blocks? Both authors have strong views - equally valid and strongly held. If they could be asked to present them in a debate at Yorcon, I'm sure the result couldn't fail to be fascinating to both the debators, and the audience.

Perhaps the subject could be along the lines of "This House believes that in view of the Soviet Union's acts of aggression, as typified by their invasion of Afghanistan and because of their brutal treatment of dissidents like Dr. Sakharov, the SF community of Great Britain should refuse to have any cultural contacts with the countries of the Soviet bloc." Such a debate would not only be interesting and enteratining, it would also bring into open discussion possible ideological objections to a British Eurocon in which an active participation by Soviet bloc nations would be essential. We have to show that we can talk with fans from these countries without condoning the policies of their system of government. Well, there it is, a serious suggestion - it may be wrong headed, but at least I've given it some thought and not sat around waiting for somebody to entertain me.

((It's certainly an interesting idea, but whether it is wholly practical is another matter. It is, of course, being discussed by the committee - but what Brian Aldiss and John Brunner said in print in early 1980 (and probably written in 1979) might not be so fresh in Easter 1981. Thanks very much for the comments though, Arnold. No doubt the matter will be talked about, if only in the bars.))

Steven J Green- 11, Fox Green Crescent, Acocks Green, BIRMINGHAM, B27 7SD

The suggestion you made about Welcome Committees on that fandom Panel at Unicon...I wasn't too sure about it at first, but after a little thought (and sobering up), I'd tend to agree with you, even to the point of volunteering should you decide to run something along those lines. The basic idea as I see it, would be to wear a badge of some kind simply advertising the fact that the wearer's

willing to be approached by anyone who's at their first con and feeling a little out of the flow of things for a chat and a few introductions. And a drink of course. . . Anyhow, it sounds like a good idea for the committee to follow up on, and something that might help to dispel the impression of cliqueishness some fans may get at a con the size of Eastercons.

((The comments I made at Unicon were based on a few discussions I'd had with new fans since I'd become Chairman of the BSFA. Yorcon is most certainly following up on the idea, and we've already approached a few other people to help out. Some of these kind folk will be those who assisted greatly at YORCON I in 1979, but of course, Steve, you'll be included. Many thanks for volunteering, and I hope that our Welcomitee will succeed in taking a little of the mystification out of affairs at conventions))

**If anybody has any comments to make on these letters - or has suggestions to offer us - or just wants to write and have a chat, do please send letters to me, Alan Dorey, at: 64 Hartford Avenue, Kenton, HARROW, Middlesex, HA3 8SY

Once again it's time to announce the bookroom, that haven of volumes you just have to buy, even if it does mean you travel home stony broke. As last time, we have the use of a secure, self-contained room one level up from the main convention floor. The lifts lead up to directly outside the entrance, so there's no chasing all over the hotel searching for that rare copy of Perry Rhodan 587.

Dealers' tables will be available in the bookroom, which also has a large store room leading off enabling stocks to be deposited if so desired. A service lift is available from the Hotel's internal carpark straight up to the bookroom floor, and the room will be open for setting up with effect from the Thursday afternoon.

** Tables are bookable for a charge of £9 each. Most tables measure 6 feet long and are substantially built.

** Bookings for tables are being taken NOW, so please complete the slip below and return it to Graham James as soon as possible. To ensure the smooth running of the Bookroom, Ron Bennett will be organising it.

I wish to book _____ Tables at £9 each

For the days of _____

Name & Address _____

Return to: Graham James, 12 Fearnville Terrace, Oakwood, LEEDS, LS8 3DU

YORCON II SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Our 1979 short story competition brought in a surprising variety of entries, and so ever mindful of the vast number of budding writers out there, we're repeating the competition for 1981. Instead of providing a series of pictures around which a story has to be built, we're adopting a thematic scheme. All stories should be based upon

"Employment in the Year 2000"

and be not shorter than 2000 words nor longer than 5000 words. Obviously we are keen to see a wide range of works, be they serious, witty, parodies or whatever. The more original, and perhaps the more chance you have of winning. Each entry should preferably be typed double-space, although neat handwritten entries are equally welcome. Please keep a copy of your entry, and if you want your submitted copy returned, please indicate this when submitting it. Entries should be sent to Graham James, together with a cover note giving your NAME, ADDRESS, CONVENTION NUMBER and your PHONE NUMBER if possible. Entries can only be accepted from Supporting or attending members, and there is every chance that the winner will have his or her piece considered for publication in some form or another. There will, of course, be SIZEABLE PRIZES, and these will be presented at the Banquet on the Sunday night. The closing date for submissions will be FRIDAY, APRIL 10th, so you'd better get working right away! Good Luck.

TAFF- The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund

Normally, further details of this noble cause would be contained in the Programme Book, but since the 1981 TAFF winner is attending Yorcon II in his capacity as winner, it is entirely appropriate that we announce who he is. This will enable him to claim his free drinks every time he is recognised. The gentleman is STU SHIFFMAN, who beat Gary Farber in the ballot, and on behalf of the Yorcon committee, I welcome him warmly to the con. Having just returned from the States myself, and received a very warm reception from all the folk I met there, I know you're all going to do the same. The Fund itself provides for the transportation of a British Fan across the Atlantic to a US convention one year, and for a US fan to be sent on a pilgrimage across the Big Pond to a British convention the next year. Neat, eh?

Nominations for 1982 open shortly, but I'll enclose further details on this, together with a brief history of TAFF (No doubt provided by courtesy of Peter Roberts) in the Programme Book. So until then - start practising your welcomes!

Alan Dorey

MEMBERS

NEW CONVENTION MEMBERS (list correct to 28th November 1980)

A indicates attending membership
S indicates supporting membership

280 Paul Williams (A)	320 Jimmy Robertson (A)	360 Mandy Dakin (S)
281 Louise Williams (A)	321 Paul Skelton (A)	361 C. Murphy (A)
282 Charlotte Bulmer (A)	322 Cas Skelton (A)	362 Lilian Edwards (S)
283 Allan Young (A)	323 Gerald Lawrence (A)	363 John A. Moran (S)
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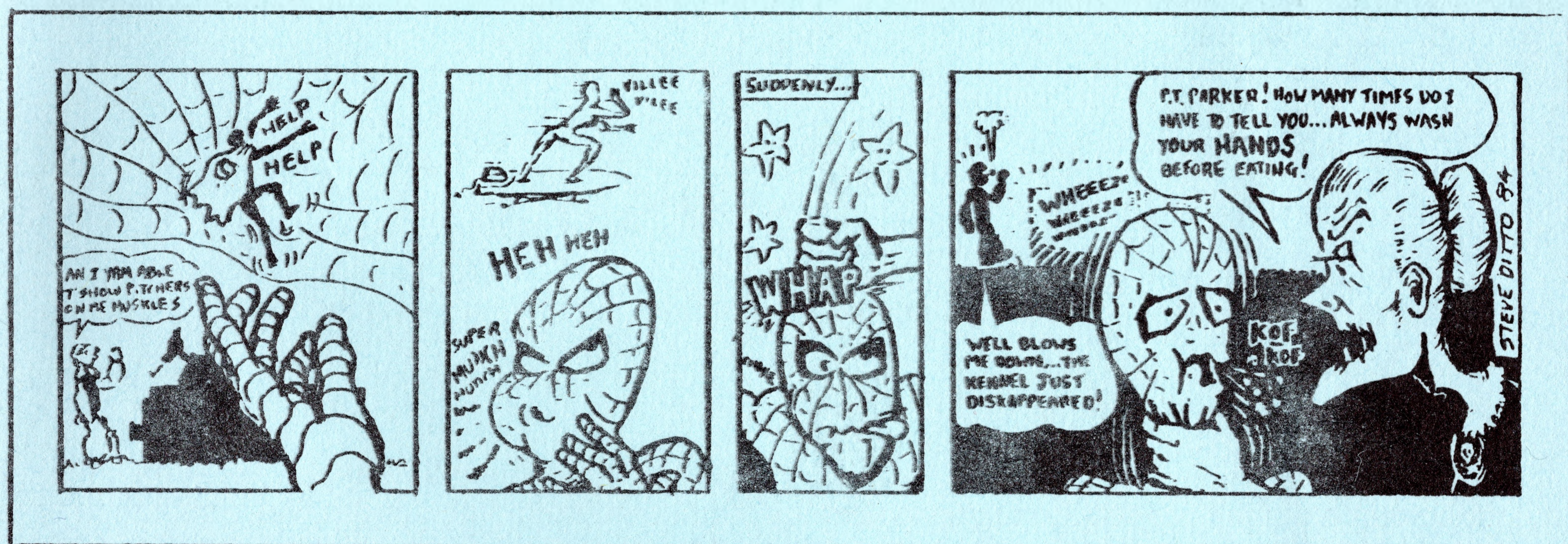
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News from JOHN COLLICK on the Fan Room;
PAUL & JAN MATTHEWS talk about the Art Show;
Entry forms for the Fancy Dress, courtesy of ANN PAGE;
Travel guides, maps, instructions and final Hotel Informations;
Programme Update;
And accompanying PR4 will be Hotel Booking Confirmation for those who have booked by then - once PR4 has been issued, confirmations will be sent out individually as soon after receipt of your Booking Form as possible.



This issue dedicated to Yorcon Member 405, Rochelle Reynolds. I'm sure the committee won't mind, just this once. It's not often you get married, you know.

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