

# NOVACON 9 WEST

TURF INN

2 - 4  
NOV  
1979



## THE WOMBAT SPEAKETH

I take great pleasure in welcoming you to NOVACON 9 WEST. It has been along and yet interesting 18 month haul. I do hope you'll have a good time, I certainly plan to. In this endeavor I've had the help of countless millions, well not quite, but certainly a large number persons without whom we'd all have nothing to do this weekend. There will be lots to do and see this weekend. The total programme is varied and it is to be hoped that you will find much of interest to you. As at every con there will be mundanes around. Thus, please wear your name badges at all time. With exception of the video room no one will be admitted to any function area sans name tag. So let's get on with another family reunion. Oldtimers (those of you for whom this is at least your second con) know what I mean. For you bushy-eyed and bright-tailed neons, relax, don't be shy about saying hi to what seem to be strangers, they won't be very shortly, and use your good sense in introductions. 'tis a bit beyond hope and the length of time we have for me to get to chat with each and everyone of you as I'd like. However, I shall be most often found sitting quietly in the con suite gibbering softly to mesel. Do come by and pat me on the head, while murmuring soft condolences for me breakdown. With some help from me friends I'll recover in time for next year. By the way if you don't realize it, you left Albany, when you stepped thru the doors of the Turf Inn. You are now in the fabled land of Fandom. A land where the key to enjoyment is held by the two phrases: Sense of Wonder and Willing Suspension of Disbelief.

## ART SHOW

The art show will be located in the Galley Room on the Ground Floor and upstairs on the 1st floor in the State and Board Rooms and will be open 1000 to 2000 on Saturday and from 1000 to 1200 on Sunday. All the art show awards are decided by vote of the convention attendees. Ballots and voting instructions are available at the Art Show Desk. They must be filled out and turned in by 2200 Saturday.

separate awards are given in the Professional and Amateur divisions. The categories in each division are:

Fantasy	Best Wombat
Astronomical	Science Fiction
Humor (any medium)	
Best Color	Best 3-Dimensional
Best Black and White	Best Artist

Photographing art work is NOT allowed, except for the press, who MUST check in at the Art Show Desk. Most of the artwork in the art show is for sale. The bid sheet attached to each piece will tell you, whether it is not for sale (NFS).

We will close out the written-bids artwork in two stages. First the art show will close for 30 minutes at 1200 Sunday. The room cleared and all the bid sheets with ONLY ONE bid on them will have the bidder circled and will thus be sold to that bidder. Pieces with NO bids on them will have a line drawn across their bid sheets and may be bought after 1230 for the minimum bid. Pieces with TWO OR MORE bids will go into a special mini-auction at 1300 on Sunday in the main con room, Stonehenge B & C. After 1230 anything that has not been declared "Sent to Auction" will be available for pick up by the purchaser. The art show will be open for art buyers to pick up and pay for their artwork from 1230 to 1600 on Sunday. If someone else is picking up artwork that you have bought, that person MUST have a written authorization from you. Exceptions to these hours will be made only in unusual circumstances; please see JIM ANDERSON, if you have a problem.

#### FOOD

The hotel will keep its restaurant open ALL NIGHT, since you have booked more than 100 rooms. The selection is limited, but there. Please make use of this convenience.

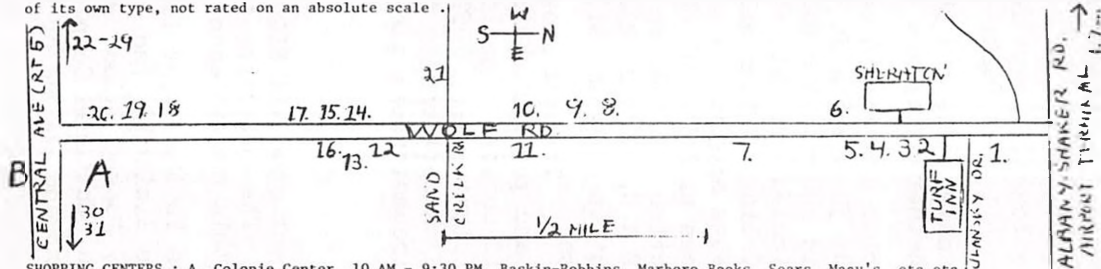
#### BANQUET

Tickets will be on sale upstairs in the upper lobby for \$0.50. The number available is limited. The banquet consists of Choice of Appetizer, Tossed Salad, BEEF A LA ROGANOFF with Buttered Noodles, Buttered Corn or Green Beans Almondine, Choice of Desert and Coffee or Tea. For your convenience we are including a listing of Shopping Centers, Groceries, Fast Food Joints, Chain Restaurants, Restaurants and Steak Houses and specialized places not so far from the Turf Inn. Comments on the ratings and additions are encouraged.



COLONIE COMESTIBLES  
and Restaurant Guide

This does not pretend to be a comprehensive listing. We have tried to include all places on Wolf Road where food is available, plus a few which might be worth a trip. Where the listing is followed by a letter and number, the code is as follows: L = low price; M = medium; H = high. Numbers are from 1 (abysmal) to 7 (superb). Each place is compared to others of its own type, not rated on an absolute scale.



**SHOPPING CENTERS** : A. Colonie Center, 10 AM - 9:30 PM. Baskin-Robbins, Marboro Books, Sears, Macy's, etc.etc.  
B. Northway Mall, Ward's, Korvettes, Paperback Booksmith, etc.etc.

**GROCERIES** :

1. The Nut Factory. Recommended. nuts, candies, dried fruit MH7 Mon-Thurs. 10AM-9PM Fri&Sat 10AM-10PM Sun. 11AM-7PM
4. Barbara's World of Wine & Liquor 9AM - 9 PM
13. Star Supermarket, Mon-Sat 8AM-9PM, Sun 9AM-6PM. A liquor store and a bakery are also located here.
18. Shop-Rite Supermarket, Mon-Sat 8AM-12PM, Sun 8AM-9PM
19. Kim's Oriental Grocery, 1.1 mile West on Central Avenue Mon-Sat 10AM-7PM

**FAST FOOD JOINTS AND CHAIN RESTAURANTS**

2. Pizza Hut, Mon-Sat 11:30 AM - 1AM, Sun. noon - midnight.
3. Long John Silver's Seafood, Sun-Thur 11AM-9PM, Fri&Sat 11AM-10PM.
6. Burger King, Mon-Thur 10:30AM-midnight; Fri&Sat 10:30AM-1AM, Sun 11AM-11PM
7. Beefsteak Charlies M5 (\$5.00 minimum) Mon-Thur 5-10PM Fri&Sat 5-11PM Sun 4-9PM!
8. Denny's, LMS, open 24 hours
12. Friendly Ice Cream, Weekdays 7AM-11PM, weekends 7AM-midnight
14. Ground Round, Mon-Fri 11:30AM-midnight Sat&Sun noon-2 AM!
16. Dunkin Donuts open 24 hours
19. IHOP, Son-Tues 7AM-midnight, Wed&Thur 7AM-2AM Fri&Sat open 24 hours
20. Lum's, open 24 hours
10. McDonald's

RESTAURANTS & STEAK HOUSES

- A. Barnsider (in Colonie Center) M6, good steak house with salad bar. Mon-Fri 5-10PM, Sat. 5-11PM  
Sheraton Inn Restaurant: not recommended  
Turf Inn Restaurant: Recommended. Excellent buffet, all you can eat, Best buy around .  
9. PK's Italian Restaurant, M3  
5. Perkin's: not open as of 9/30, so no rating, but it is close.  
15. Cranberry Bog, M14 Lunch 11:30-2:30 Dinner 5-10PM, Sun 10AM-9PM  
17. Platt's Place; delicatessen M5 7AM-11PM (Sun to 10:30)  
21. Victoria Station; M1 5-6, atmospheric Mon-Thur 5:30-10PM, Fri&Sat 5-11PM, Sun 4:30-9:30PM

PLACES OFF WOLF ROAD

West

- 0.5 miles, Red Lobster  
0.9 miles, King of King's (Chinese)  
1.2 miles, The Rib Room  
2.3 miles Jack's Restaurant (Chinese) was quite good several years ago, but haven't checked recently  
2.7 miles, Hiro's Japanese Restaurant M16, regular and Benihana-type cooking. Very small place,  
so reservations are suggested. Tues-Fri 5-10:30 PM Sat&Sun 3-10:30 PM  
4.9 miles Maharaja (Indian tandoori) M6, Sunday brunch buffet recommended for good value.  
Open 5-10, Sunday noon-3 and 5-9PM

East

- 0.2 miles, Golden Fox steak house and restaurant M5  
1 mile or so, Valle's Steak House

WAY OFF WOLF ROAD so ask for directions

- Peking, probably the best area chinese restaurant  
L'Ecole, good non-fancy French food  
La Serre, French food  
Jack's, in downtown Albany, good seafood

## CON SUITE

The con suite will be open most all the time especially during the night. Bheers, Bagels and Pepsi will be featured. It may also be the site of author readings. Check your pocket program and the announcement listing outside the con suite. Around 1100 it will close for housekeeping to do its thing.

## BLOOD DRIVE

N9W in cooperation with the Albany Chapter of the American Red Cross is sponsoring a blood drive on Saturday, 3 NOV 79 from 1000 to 1500 in the rear of the Atrium. A couple of friendly ~~volunteers~~ helpers will be needed. Please let us know, if you'll help, when you arrive. PS: I gave me unit of A-on 10.10.79. So if I can give, there is no excuse for you not giving.

## FANCY DRESS PARADE INFORMATION

### VITALLY IMPORTANT !

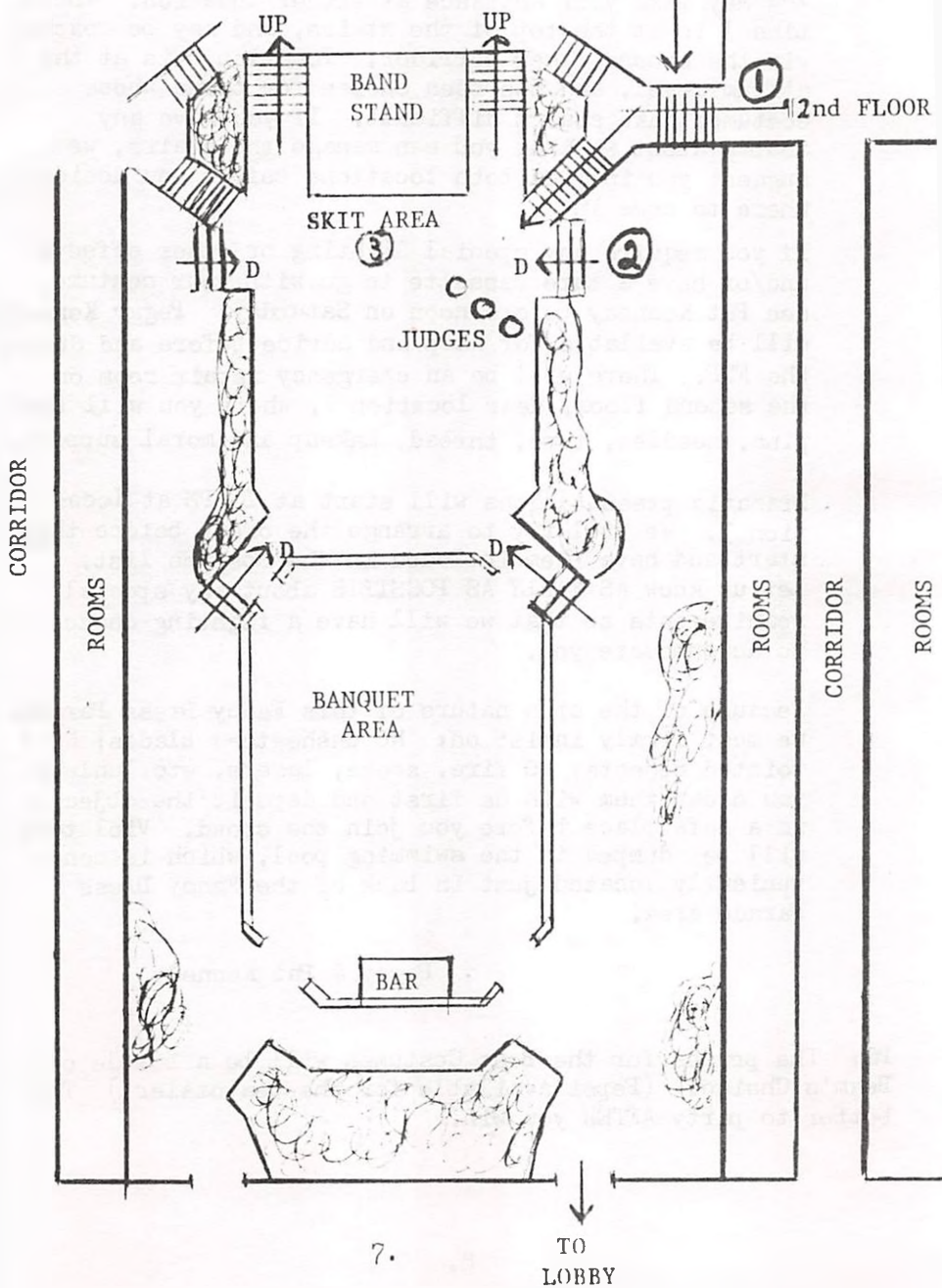
N.B. There are two forms for the FDP. Part 1 must be filled out and returned to the FDP desk before 3 P.M. on Saturday if you want your costume to be in competition. Part 11 is to be filled out if you want to present your costume. Hand in Part 1. Keep Part 11. We will type and repro a list to be handed out at the FDP for the Judges and for Popular Award reference. If you are not on this list, you cannot be in the running.

The Fancy Dress Parade will be held in the atrium on Saturday night, after the Banquet. Please come in costume if at all possible. Anybody may be announced and present their costume, whether or not they are in competition. If you wish to compete, you need not be announced, but it would be a good idea to make sure you have presented your costume. If you want, come to the atrium any time after the start of the Fancy Dress Parade, and get announced when it suits you.

If you wish your costume to be announced, come to Location 1 or 2 (see plan) any time after the start

POOL AREA

STAIRWAY FOR  
GRAND ENTRANCES



of the FDP and before 11 PM. Give Part 11 of the registration form to the FDP helper. She (he) will give to Marion Zimmer Bradley, who will signal the trumpeter for a fanfare, and will then announce your costume. You may make your entrance at either location. Location 1 is at the top of the stairs, and may be reached via the second floor corridor. Location 2 is at the atrium level, and has been chosen for those whose costumes make stairs difficult. If you have any doubts about whether you can manage the stairs, we suggest you inspect both locations before you decide where to come in.

If you require any special lighting or other effects, and/or have a tape cassette to go with your costume, see Pat Kennedy before noon on Saturday. Peggy Kennedy will be available for help and advice before and during the FDP. There will be an emergency repair room on the second floor, near location 1, where you will find pins, needles, tape, thread, makeup and moral support.

Dramatic presentations will start at 11 PM at Location 3. We will try to arrange the order before they start and have them included in the costume list. Let us know AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE about any special requirements so that we will have a fighting chance to accommodate you.

Because of the open nature of this Fancy Dress Parade, we must firmly insist on: NO unsheathed blades; NO pointed objects; NO fire, smoke, lasers, etc. unless you clear them with us first and deposit the objects in a safe place before you join the crowd. Violators will be dumped in the swimming pool, which is conveniently located just in back of the Fancy Dress Parade area.

Peggy & Pat Kennedy

PS: The prizes for the Best Costumes will be a bottle of Beam's Choice. (Pepsi available for the teatotaler.) The better to party AFTER you win.



## ROTSLER'S RULES FOR MASQUERADES

by

William Rotsler

1. There should be a weight limit for the purchase of leotards.
2. Every contestant must first see himself or herself from the rear.
3. Whether prince or pauper, act like it.
4. Speak distinctly, but not at length.
5. Learn to use a mike, or don't.
6. When in doubt, keep your mouth shut.
7. Learn to manage your props and accessories.
8. No name tags on costumes.
9. If you are going to attempt a costume cliché you had best do it better, or have a good variation.
10. Consider carefully before going nude.
11. Have something ready for a second appearance.
12. If you have something for the narrator to read, keep it brief and leave out unpronounceable and incomprehensible words.
13. Watch for unintended double entendres.
14. Remember: some people can grow good beards and some can't.
15. Stay in character.
16. Thou shalt wear shoes to match thy costume.
17. If you are thinking of doing something funny, get a second opinion.
18. Rehearse. Rehearse. REHEARSE!

### GAMES

Board and Computer Games will be held in the ground floor suites at the back of the Atrium.

### FILKSING

The Upper Lobby will be the site of the filksing. Generally this madness will begin around 2200.

### PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

The programme is not quite set yet as we got to press. Please see your pocket program for details and times.

21st Century-slide show by Bob Lovell

Energy Panel-Ro Lutiz-Nagey moderator with V. Lawrence Parsegian, Robert Block and Courtney Stadd.

Meet the Pros-at the Atrium Bar, where else

Writing and All That-Barry Longyear, Alan Ryan et al.  
Corflu and Other Drinks-MZB, BoSh & Tucker on Their  
fanzines

THE CAPTURE-after Bob Asprin & Phil Foglio

The GoH & FGoH Speeches

The Flyin Karamazov Brothers-Juggling and Cheap  
Theatrics!

Poetsard Auction

Fancy Dress Parade-Costumize or Else!

Female Fandoms-MZB, Jacqueline Lichtenberg, et al

Art Auction

The Joe W. Haldeman Memorial Seminar on the Redistribution  
of Economic Resources via the Application of  
Statistics and Psychology-Professor Michael Glicksohn  
presiding.

Skinny Dipping Classes-Professor Bob Tucker, presiding

In addition there will be sign-up sheets posted in the  
Upper Lobby Registration Area for Alternate Programme  
items. Find a room, pick a topic, and indicate the  
number of persons you'll allow in.

#### FILM PROGRAMME

Bedazzled

Son of Kong

Superman Parts I-V

King Kong VW Commerical

City on the Edge of Forever

Trouble with Tribbles

Animal Farm

A Hard Day's Night

Yellow Submarine

Donald in Mathemagic Land

I've Got This Problem

Rocketship (Flash Gordon)

Phantom Tollbooth

Hardware Wars

Bambi Meets Godzilla

Dracula (1922)

As with most everything there could well be an addition  
or subtraction here. The film schedule and times of showing  
will be on the Pocket Programme. Projectionists NEEDED.

#### FAN FUNDS

In the Upper Lobby there will be a sign proclaiming FAN  
FUNDS with a list of said funds. For many of you the  
acronyms mean litter or nothing and the fully worded titles  
barely more informative. If you are curious and I hope you  
are, there will be a sheet next to the sign explaining the  
purpose and what they do. In brief the purpose is to pro-  
vide money so that a fan can travel to an overseas con. The  
fund provides the wherewithal for the trip. Currently  
there are two ongoing funds: TAFF, the Trans-Atlantic Fan

Fund, which provides for the exchange of fen between Europe and North America; DUFF, the Down-Under Fan Fund, which provides for the exchange of fen from Australia and North America. On several occasions special one-shot fan funds have been run. Such trips are expensive. The money for them comes almost exclusively from fen-Y O U! That is the reason I'm asking you for your spare change. Drop it in the receptacle by the sign. Regardless of the amount it is most welcome. Do pick up the flyer there which discusses the whole concept in greater detail. (Chairfan's note: I've been told I give good backrubs. Thus, so I did recently at WINDYCON in Chicago, we'll be auctioning off five minute backrubs. The money being split between TAFF and DUFF. Lend me your backs and give some money to two well-deserving fan funds.)

#### A SPECIAL PROGRAMME ITEM

At the last minute NOVACON was offered the chance to present THE FLYING KARAMAZOV BROTHERS. Their card says they do "Juggling and Cheap Theatrics". Yeah, and the Queen Mary is an object that floats in the water. The group is mind croggling. I urge you to come and see them. They hail from the West Coast and this will be their second East Coast con. To defray expenses they will be passing the hat after their performance. I know you'll enjoy them. A chain-saw?

#### WOMBAT SQUAD

Believe it or not putting on a con requires a lot of work. If you have ~~1.5/2.0~~ 2-3 hours that you can spare the con to help, a lot of persons will be appreciative. For you to have a good time, someone else is giving of their time and energy. If you can offer a hand drop by the Operations Room, or as it is also known, the Wombat Warren, and sign up for a short course in running SF conventions.

#### THE HOTEL

Chcekout time is 1300; a later checkout time can be arranged on an individual basis. Oh yes, EVERYONE staying in the room MUST be registered at the hotel. You aplaya games, you apaya the consequences. The swimming pool is open 0900 to 2100; however, NOVACON is trying to arrange for longer hours. Any certified lifeguards out there? Security! Don't leave valuables in your room. There are

free safe deposit boxes in the hotel for guests. Look into it. Having something stolen, can really louse up a con for you.

For added security NOVACON has secured the services of a uniformed policeman. He/she is there for our benefit and I hope you give him/her the help and respect due. There is only one restaurant in the Turf Inn and it is a good one. For the duration of the con a limited menu will be available between Midnight and 0530, hours during which the restaurant is normally closed. **Bars !** What is a British con without bars. There are two bars on the premises: The Mutiny Lounge and the one in the Atrium (this latter bar is where we'll "Meet the Pros". The hotel is also considering having a cash bar or two around during the con. No one need go thirsty.

#### POUNDS STERLING

Some of you, when you register, buy a banquet or have change made at the hotel, will receive a One Pound Sterling Note. The hotel will accept this, as if it were a \$2.50 bill. It is in keeping with the idea of having some British money to go along with a British con. A minor point is that they will also remind the hotel of the business we are giving them. Do use them when buying drinks, food, etc. at the hotel. On Sunday, 4 NOV, NOVACON will redeem any of the notes at \$2.50 per one pound note. On the other hand they do make nice con souvenirs.

#### HUCKSTERS ROOM

The Hucksters' Room will be in Stonehenge A just off the Upper Lobby, where the preregistered will pick up their con packets. It will be open on Friday until 1800. The hours on Saturday will be from 1000 to 2100 and 1000 to 1500 on Sunday.

#### NON-SMOKING/SMOKING AREAS

The art show rooms as well as the Hucksters' Room will be off-limits to smoking, drinking & eating. There will be no smoking in the Film Room. Last there will be no smoking in the con suite, as it is rather small. Chairs and tables for persons smoking will be arranged just outside the suite. The main function room will be divided into smoking & non smoking sections; facing the dias the smoking section will be to the left of the aisle.



### SOME LOCAL TALENT

One of the frustrations of running a con in an area for the first time is that specialists in certain areas don't appear until the day of the con. In particular NOVACON is looking for persons who are currently working professionally in the areas of telephony, media & public information, systems analysis, reproduction equipment, graphics, sound systems and illustration. NOVACON has contacts with persons in all these areas, but unfortunately none are close enough so that we can get together for an afternoon tea. Renumeration is little or nothing. You will get the satisfaction of helping make a con run smoother & better. If you are interested in helping NOVACON out next year, please let us know. Thank!

### LOST & FOUND

The Lost & Found will be located in OFS., room 200.

### MESSAGES

The Upper Lobby and its very nice windows will be used as a message board. We shall be labelling each window.

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Go to a Wombat Squad member. Your particular problem, question or whatever may have to be bucked up the line, so be patient. We are here to serve you and shall try to do it as quickly as possible. All Wombat Squad members will have distinctive badges and/or Union Jack brassard. Please don't stew. Let us help.

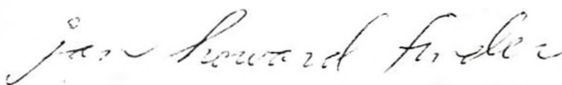
### AUSTRALIA IN 1983 !

It may be only 1979, but in only two years members of the 1981 worldcon/DENVENTION II will choose the site of the 1983 Worldcon. I, Jan Howard Finder, chairfan and resident wombat urge you to join DENVENTION II and vote for the AUSTRALIAN bid. Let's all meet in Sydney in August '83. To become a FRIEND OF AUSTRALIA just give your nearest A IN '83 agent \$2.00. For the nonce that is I, Jan Howard Finder, P.O.Box 428, Latham, NY 12110, USA. The Australian address is A in '83, P.O.Box A 491, Sydney South, NSW-2000, Australia. The A IN '83 committee is also publishing a bulletin at \$3.00 a year via surface mail. Try \$6.00, if you want it to come by air. WE ALL AGREE, IT IS AUSTRALIA IN '83!

## THE LAST WORD


Last, but by no means least, some of the really super people, who have and are making this convention possible and a success: Nathan Ainspan, Marla Baer, Jim Barker, Marg Baskin, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Kim Brainard, Seth Briedbart, Barb Brown, Christine Bunt, Jack Chalker, Jack Cohen, Byron Connell, Diane Connell, Tina Connell, Scott Dennis, Wilma Fisher, Mike Fox, Ellen Franklin, Judy Gerjury, Michael Glicksohn, Frank Goodman, Anne Goodman, Claire Graham, Brian Hampton, David Hardy, Andrea Hedgecock, Becky Heydemann, Rick Katze, Pat Kennedy, Peggy Kennedy, Scott LeGrand, Jacqueline Lichtenberg, Barry Longyear, Bob Lovell, Selina Lovett, Shirley S. Maiewski, Craig B. Mathieson, Linda O'leary, Mary O'Neill, Pat Orendi, Roger Peyton, Fred Ramsey, John Robinson, Ellen Ross, Kathy Routliffe, Alan Ryan, Louise R. Sachter, Barb Schofield Bob Shaw, John Sicker, Andy Sigel, Paula T. Smith, Norbert Spohner, Wilson Bob Tucker, Mike Wallis, Mike Walsh, plus all the good and gentle folk, who decide at the door to help or I've inadvertently omitted. If you are having a good time, please go tell the above fen. If you are dissatisfied in any way, don't yell at them come and yell at me, your scapewombat.

Enjoy! I'm going to try. Ciao & teggeddizzi! May the Ghreat Wombat smile on you!



Jan Howard Finder  
Chairfan

P.S.: Don't want to forget Peter Weston, Jackie Causgrove, Terry Jeeves & Roberto Bonidamani.



Do you belong to a different Time?

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Highland Hills 606  
E. Greenbush. NY

## THE GUEST GOES WEST

by

James White

Once upon a time a group of Birmingham, UK, fans hit on the idea of brightening up the dark, unfannish winter of 1971 by holding a convention in November. Called inevitably the Novacon, it was a very uncertain undertaking indeed, with a committee who were intensely enthusiastic but unsure of themselves and even more unsure of the behaviour of the Guest of Honour who was also new to the game. But they were not seriously worried, you see, because Novacon was to be a strictly one-off affair which they firmly believed would be an utter shambles. But now, nine Novacons later, this series of successful utter shambles has extended a psuedopod--no, not Fan GOH Jack Cohen--into the US and the GOH of the first Novacon has been given the very pleasant and totally unnecessary job of introducing Bob Shaw, the Guest of Honour of Novacon 9 West, the first one over there.

As one would expect of such an essentially modest being, Bob Shaw was born without benefit of any showy meterological or astronomical portents. He lived quietly in Belfast, Northern Ireland (It was possible to do that in those days) until he discovered a science-fiction shelf in a feeelthy bookshop and went straight to it without allowing his attention to wander, and realised that he was one of the star-begotten. Later he joined the Belfast fan group who were producing Slant--Walt Willis, George Charters and myself--and began trying to subvert me because I pre-



ferred Rogers-style spaceships to wimmin (later I discovered that he had been right all along), and adding significantly to our collection of missed deadlines (it was difficult setting type while holding our sides with both hands) and contributing serious, technical articles to Slant and Hyphen on how to convert bicycles into duplicators and vice versa as well as writing one of the finest fan columns in past and present fandom, The Glass Bushel.

His more mundane activities of the time included ceremonially drowning his sixteen-year-old bike in the river Lagan, shooting spiders with an air rifle, and marrying the charming Sadie. During his structural draughtsman period he was responsible for stressing the steelwork for our local cinema, an edifice which has since withstood two car bombs, conversion to a Bingo hall and the last winter. He moved to Canada for a few years but was re-imported when an enlightened Government realised that SF stood for science-fiction in his case and not Sinn Fein. Subsequently he joined the public relations department of our local aircraft factory, Shorts, where some years later I had the privilege, or at least the experience, of working in an office adjoining his.

I can well remember some of the plot conferences we had during lunch breaks and, in office hours, the way he would sometimes pass through a crack in the partition a note reading "Help, I am a prisoner in a press release factory!"

But the prisoner escaped to work for a couple of years as a feature writer on the local evening newspaper before returning to PR work with a shipbuilding company which necessitated him moving to England, after which he decided to throw off the shackles of authority and please himself, and his constantly growing readership, by writing full-time. The rest is history.

In his twenty-five years of writing science-fiction he has yet to produce a bad or even mediocre story, and it is difficult to say whether Bob Shaw is a professional who remains a fan or a fan who became a top professional and can't get used to the idea. But in either event the con committee could not have picked a better man to be Guest of Honour at the first stateside Novacon, Novacon 9 West.

**DAW**<sup>sf</sup>  
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"MOST TITLES HAVE FAR TO GO TO MATCH THE DARKOVER NOVELS OF MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY."  
—*Wilson Library Journal*

"THE SHATTERED CHAIN AND STORMQUEEN! ARE SOPHISTICATED ADULT SF ENTERTAINMENTS."  
—*The Madison Review of Books*

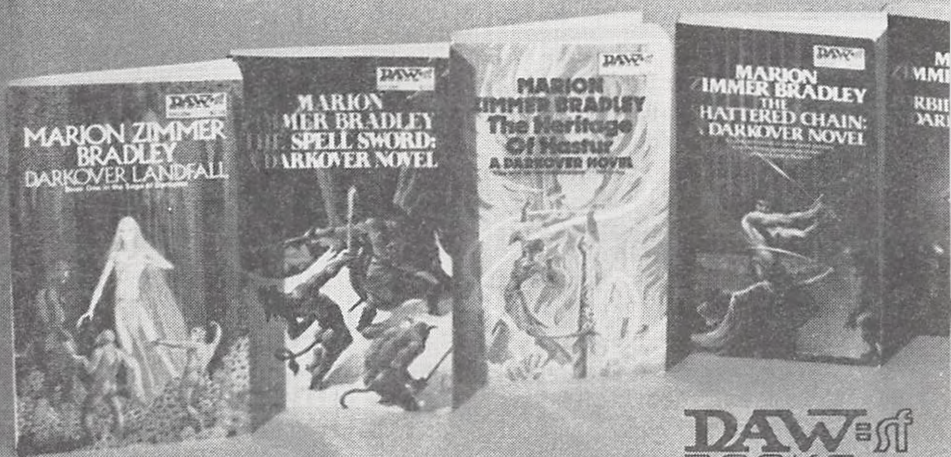
"MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY IS RAPIDLY BECOMING ONE OF THE BEST WRITERS IN OUR FIELD."  
—Lester Del Rey, *Analog*

"THE DARKOVER SERIES HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SERIES OF FANTASIES EVER WRITTEN."  
—*Milwaukee, Wisconsin Journal*

"BRADLEY CASTS A SPELL."  
—*Pacific Sun*

"BRADLEY BUSTS THAT OLD BALLOON THAT SAYS SCIENCE FICTION HAS TO BE SIMPLISTIC."  
—*Newsday*

"PERHAPS ONE OF THE BEST SERIES IN SCIENCE FICTION TODAY."  
—*Drexel Triangle*



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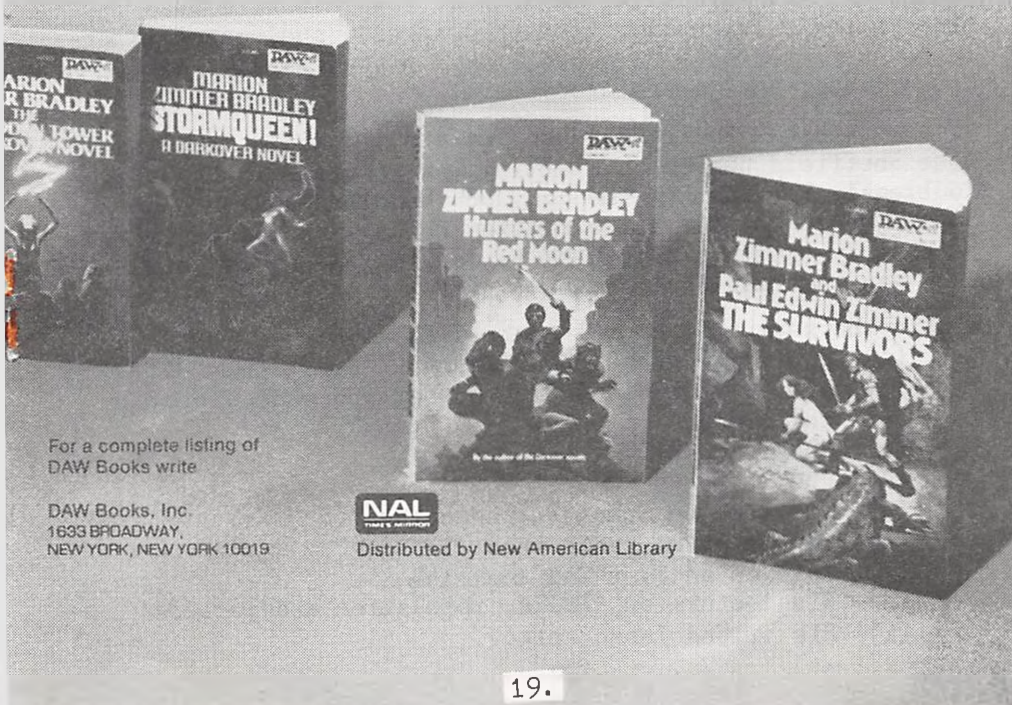
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## THE MAN WHO TRAVELLED IN COCKROACHES

I remember my first meeting with Jack.

It was a warm summer evening in 1969, and I was quietly weeding the borders outside our new little house at Pine-wall Avenue, Kings Norton, when suddenly a rather battered green Austin 1100 drew up and its driver emerged.

"You must be Peter Weston", he called in that characteristically excited, rather high-pitched, slightly breathless voice, rushing across my lawn, waving both arms in the air and talking non-stop.

Within five minutes this apparition with the brown open-necked shirt and steel-wool hair was inside the house, still talking, terrifying my wife Eileen, a shy and sensitive girl newly out of convent.

Within ten minutes I was inside his car, clinging on as he drove fast and erratically across the city to his flat at Edgbaston, still talking, taking me to see his collection of books, axolotls, curios and whatever.

Actually, I don't for the life of me remember exactly why I went to his flat; I don't think I was very sure even then, but was simply caught up in the infectious torrent of enthusiasm that simply pours from Jack on a 24-hour basis.

That first visit was absolutely typical of the man. He really did have axolotls, in a tank, together with dead mice in the refrigerator (for the snakes), shelves of paperbacks supported on blue housebricks, monkey skulls, exotic houseplants, and papers everywhere.

"You must speak to Brenda," he insisted, rapidly dialling some Sheffield number and putting the receiver in my hand, doubtlessly bewildering the lady on the other end to whom I dutifully 'spoke' for a few minutes while Jack looked on paternally (she was something to do with MENSAs, of which Jack was chairman at the time).

Within the next half-hour I learned about:-

- (a) His friend Olga the Dolphin
- (b) His 90-year-old Jewish mother who rode a bicycle to Israel.
- (c) Cockroaches
- (d) Judy
- (e) His book on Human Reproduction
- (f) How to build radio sets
- (g) Life on an East End bombsite.
- (h) His lecture on 'Pills, population and paradox'
- (i) His friend Issac Asimov.



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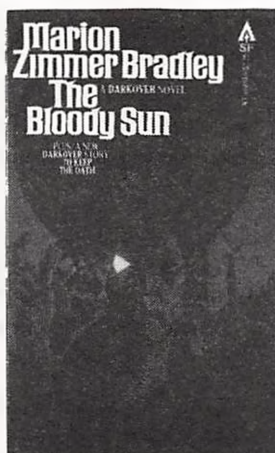
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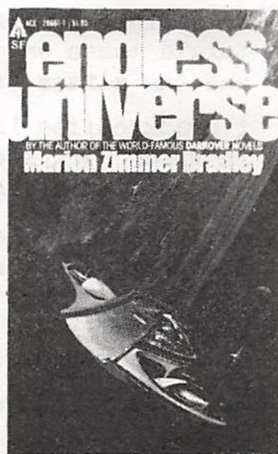
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It was one of the more unforgettable evenings of my life!

Jack had heard of me through a roundabout chain of circumstance. That summer at the University of Birmingham (where he is Doctor of Biology) he had taken on a temporary assistant named David Pringle, who had showed him a copy of my fanzine Zenith, which he had originally acquired from a bookstall in the city as a result of an ambitious but short-lived scheme of mine to secure newsstand distribution.

In subsequent months I came to know Jack Cohen a little better, became familiar with his lovable ways.

"Just look at these wonderful cockroaches," he said on one occasion in the basement at the University, thrusting a glistening handful of Amazonian 2-inch horrors into my face.

"The snakes have escaped again," he explained one evening, poking around under the upraised floorboards. "I don't know why the police were so worried, they're only bo-contractors".

I grew to know Jack's room at the University, with the battered copies of Larry Niven's books nestled up against the turgid tomes on cytology, those bubbling tanks of slime and the slides of old Astounding covers.

I drank coffee in not one but two of the ruined houses in which Jack specialises, watched him gut and rebuild them in a matter of months.

"We need to replace the roof, all the floorboards and all the doors and windows," he said thoughtfully, "but that won't take long. Of course we'll have to put in a damp course all round then I think we'll knock down those walls there and..."

I met Judy, his second wife, a slight, quiet girl with an I.Q. of 180, who is a qualified doctor, an excellent cook, and a first-rate bricklayer and cabinet-maker.

I was introduced to the lecture circuit, to the joys of long walks in muddy fields, and to unblended malt whisky.

In turn I took Jack to SF conventions, advising him what to do about the David Gerrold problem, and perhaps gave him a little perspective upon the grubby world outside the University:

"You mean you don't have 12 months' notice with your job!" he once exclaimed in utter horror.



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But times have changed. We moved away from Kings Norton and I don't see Jack very often these days. Now he's up there in the big league, sitting up corners designing ETs with Jim White and Larry Niven. His textbook is finally published, and is a big success; he's put the roof back onto the house, and is seriously thinking of leaving the University and opening a pet-shop.

One thing doesn't change; that wild, unfettered, crazy, sincere, wonderful enthusiasm. Jack is one of the nicest, most genuine, most stimulating, most interesting people you will ever meet.

But don't believe him when he takes a deep breath and starts talking about Olga the dolphin; she must be at least 250 years old now, the way dolphins reckon time, and long since gone to the Big Pond up there in the sky! - Peter Weston

#### WILSON TUCKER

(or BOB, as he is known in fandom)

Wilson "Bob" Tucker is a man of many facets. Writer, storyteller, appreciator of female charms, a First Fandom member who helped shape the fandom we know of today; Tucker has lead a varied life.

From the hills of Missouri, where he was born, to the prairies of Illinois, where he spent most of his life, through the streets of Chicago where he came as a teen to find his fortune (an experience partially depicted in the pages of one of his novels, WILD TALENT), all the way to Australia, where a grateful fandom sent him for the 1975 Worldcon, Tucker's travels read almost like an example of his own fiction.

Bob sold his first story in the mid-forties and though he's never been a prolific writer, he still crafts his tales carefully and sells today, thirty years later. His contact with fandom extends even further back, into the late thirties, and one of his fanzine titles, LE ZOMBIE, spans a life of three decades, being resurrected whenever Bob feels the old familiar urge to publish. He is a notable convention goer, traipsing the country through the course of the year, acting as M.C. or GoH or simply as attendee. Whether he is serious or slightly lecherous when you meet him at NOVACON, welcome him warmly. Whichever facet he's showing, it's bound to be an asset to your enjoyment of the weekend.

Jackie Causgrove

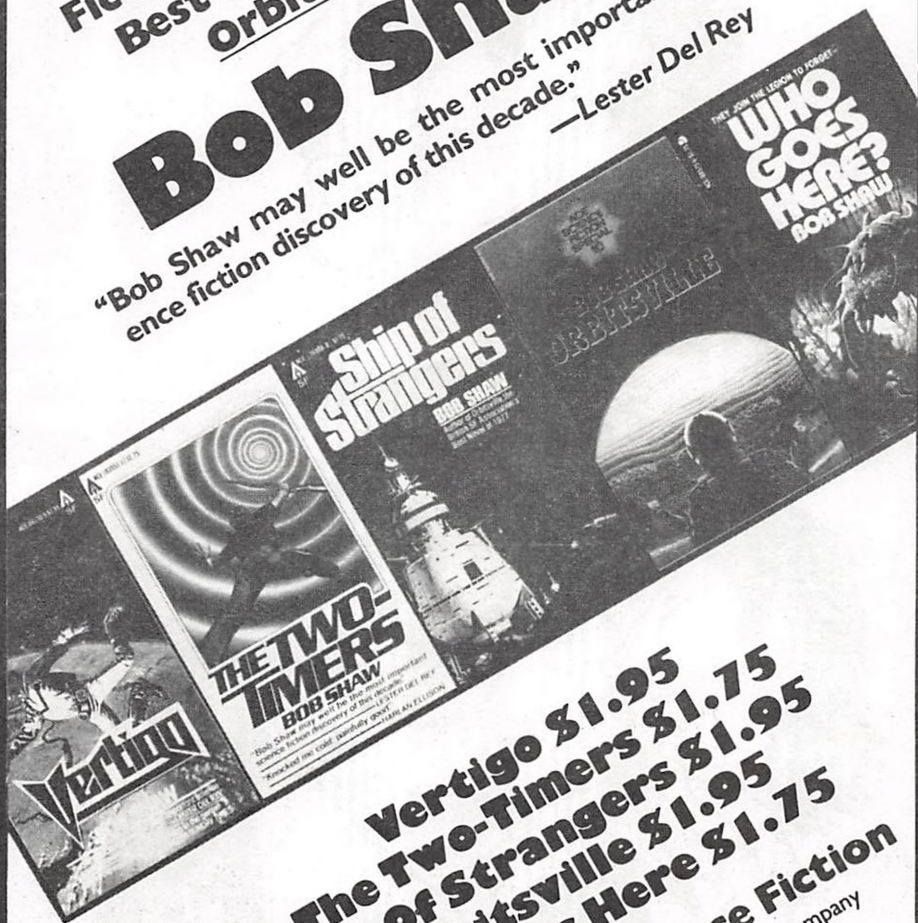




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Altar Egos		BEYOND THIS HORIZON (ed. Carrell)
Amphitheatre		ANTICIPATIONS (ed. Priest)
And isles where good men lie	NEW WORLDS 10/65	TOMORROW LIES IN AMBUSH (Shaw)
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Aspect	NEBULA 8/54	
Barrier to Yesterday	" 3/56	
The brink	FANTASTIC 8/72	COSMIC KALEIDOSCOPE (Shaw)
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The Dissolute diplomat	IF 1/60	
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- Dagger of the mind GOLLANCZ 1979
- Ground Zero Man AVON (US) 1971  
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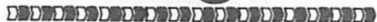
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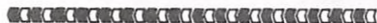
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