

RIVERCON XII

July 31 - August 2

Louisville, Kentucky



RIVERCON XII

July 31 - Aug. 2, 1987

**Bob Shaw, Guest of Honor
Ken Moore, Fan Guest of Honor
Michael Banks, Toastmaster**

Committee

Steve Francis Sue Francis

**Lynn Harris, Jack Heazlitt, Teddy Laun,
Bob Roehm, Mike Sinclair, B. J. Willinger**

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*department head

WELCOME ABOARD...

Welcome to the dozenth RiverCon! We've passed into our second decade, and we're still going strong. Glad you're with us. Following are some items of interest to help you enjoy the convention even more (or, in recognition of our Fan Guest of Honor, Moore).

Badges

We repeat this every year, but we'd still like you to pay attention. Please wear your membership badge at all times you are in the convention areas of the hotel. Not only does it have the obvious benefit of identifying you to fellow con-goers, but you may be refused admission to certain convention areas and events if you aren't wearing it.

In case you've noticed that some badges have colored stickers on them, here's the reason: Our guests and other VIP members have blue dots on their badges (these are the folks you ask for autographs); hucksters have green ones (these take your money); a yellow dot denotes a special membership of some sort—children, press, complimentary, etc. (so be nice to them); and finally, RiverCon staffers are wearing red dots (these are the people who are supposed to know what is going on). In addition, department heads (those with the asterisk by their names on the preceding page) are also wearing red ribbons. Please come to them if you have any problems or questions.

Belle of Louisville Cruise

If you are planning on going on the riverboat cruise on Sunday afternoon, please buy your ticket in advance at the RiverCon registration desk. These are discount tickets and without one you will be charged the full price at the wharf. If you do buy a ticket and later change your mind, just return the ticket to registration at any time for a full refund. Although the Belle will be leaving the dock at about 2:00 p.m., it's best to show up a little before that (boarding begins at 1:00 p.m.), since space is not guaranteed. There's a snack bar on board, but you're free to take anything with you, except styrofoam coolers. (They have a tendency to fly overboard, in case you were curious.)

Programming

We've tried to balance our program schedule with a wide range of

subjects, while still leaving you with enough time to meet other fans, which we like to think is one of the main purposes of RiverCon. The schedule in the program book is complete and accurate as we go to press, but since that is a few days before the convention begins always check your pocket program for any changes or additions. Also, you might want to check the registration area for signs posting any really last minute changes.

Since the Great RiverCon Scavenger Hunt was so much fun last year (and we've noticed a couple other conventions have picked up on the idea, as well), we're doing it again. For those wanting to participate, complete rules and entry forms are available at the registration desk.

We're trying something new and, frankly, a little experimental this year for the benefit of all you amateur, unpublished authors. All day Sunday the Anchor Room will be open to anyone wanting to read a story, poem, or whatever and ask for reaction from the audience. We've scheduled the time in 30-minute blocks, and you must sign up in advance on the poster outside the room. If this works out, we'll repeat it next year and publicize it more in advance so you can come prepared, although in our experience budding authors always carry around a story or two in progress.

Newsletter

If news volume warrants, we'll be publishing a newsletter on Saturday to fill you in on what's happening. There'll be a box at the registration table for you to leave any news items, party announcements, party reviews from the night before, messages, etc. Please have them submitted by 12:00 noon Saturday.

Babysitting

RiverCon's babysitting service, staffed by professional sitters, is available on Friday from 9:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. and on Saturday 12:00 noon to 4:30 and from 5:30 until 2:00 a.m. This service is free to all children who have a RiverCon membership.

The babysitting room will also be showing a series of children's videos throughout the day. Please check the registration for a list of titles and the times they will be shown. RiverCon would like to thank Steve Spero and Movies to Go for providing these videos and a VCR.

Weapons

We want to remind you once again that weapons of any kind may not be worn or carried in the convention areas of the hotel (and we would very strongly discourage wearing them outside the hotel and in the parking garage, too). Hucksters may sell weapons provided that they are wrapped securely once they are purchased and removed from the dealers room. Weapons may be worn or displayed during the hours of the masquerade (Saturday, 10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.) if a part of your costume on stage or elsewhere if part of a bona fide hall costume. Please, however, use extreme caution when navigating crowded hallways, stairwells, and elevators. This exception applies only to the hours indicated and only to those in costume.



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We ask that everyone please follow these rules in the interest of safety and security for all. Failure to do so may result in revocation of your convention membership.

Banquet

Tickets for the Saturday evening banquet are available at the registration until 12:00 noon Saturday. The price is \$15.00 per person.

The Galt House banquet staff always provides a large quantity of delicious food, and of course it is an all-you-can eat buffet. The menu this year is:

Kentucky burgoo
Fried chicken Country ham
Six Salads
Corn on the cob Green beans with ham
Sliced apples
Hot Rolls Corn bread
Peach cobbler
Choice of beverage

Freas/Dickson Benefit Auction

As many of you know, Kelly Freas lost his wife Polly recently, and Gordon Dickson lost his mother Maude. Both ladies were victims of long illnesses, and both Kelly and Gordie have many medical expenses that have not been covered by insurance.

RiverCon is proud to cooperate with the Dorsai Irregulars in sponsoring one of a series of memorial auctions, with proceeds to be divided between Kelly Freas and Gordon Dickson. This auction will take place between sessions of the regular art auction, and is being coordinated by Murray Porath. Artists, hucksters, etc. are encouraged to donate material for the auction and of course everyone is encouraged to bid. Because this is being run separately from the RiverCon art auction, payment for benefit auction items should be made to the Dorsai Irregulars.

BANKS (continued from page 19)

a novel and maybe done a little research on a nonfiction book, and he has very likely taught a college class on writing, and he has had time to turn Delphi into SFWA's home away from home, and he still has time to spend with Rosa and his kids, and somehow he also manages to be the Assistant Editor for *New Destinies*, and this is a definite boon to the field of science fiction, which needs a hell of a lot more guys like Mike Banks, and if he'd just come back to the kennel after all these years and finally fix the refrigerator and the air conditioner I could even be coerced into saying something complimentary about him.



GILBREATH
1992

Bob Shaw

by John Brunner

There was this miniature strip-cartoon, you see, with a caption that ran:

How I Would Love to Read...

"A van Vogt yarn in which the hero, after a long series of clues, finds out that he is—just an ordinary man!"

"Or one in which he gets one of his hands cut off, and instead of growing a new one—has to eke out his life with only a stump!"

"Or an E.E. Smith epic in which Kimball Kinnison does something really human—like catching a cold!"

That was in the legendary Belfast fanzine *Slant*, the Winter 1951/2 issue with the seven-colour cover achieved in three passes of a roller-inked hand press. (Clever, that.)

Immediately I saw it, I recognised a kindred spirit. Mark you, I would scarcely have dared to go up to the person responsible and make such a claim. You see, the person who drew the strip was already a Big Name Fan and I was—

Excuse me? Oh! Yes, I am talking about a cartoonist. But I am also talking about Bob Shaw, for it was he who had so neatly pilloried the shortcomings of those famous authors. Respect for received authority has never been one of his characteristics—though I must admit that when someone can enlighten him concerning a good beer or a good whiskey, he is amazingly willing to accept advice, especially when accompanied by samples of the beverage in question.

The kind of received authorities he doesn't respect, however, tend to be those who don't deserve respect from any quarter, yet get received anyhow. For many years, one of the highlights of British cons used to be (and I hope this use of the past tense is only temporary) Bob's Serious Scientific Address. These have been made available as *The Eastercon Speeches*, and I commend them to you. Make the acquaintance of Von Donegan, for example; unravel the mystery of the Bermondsey Triangle and learn the origin of fish-and-chips; discover why satellite forecasts are just as wrong as the old kind (I don't think I'm giving too much away when I explain that it's because the satellites are *too far from the weather*; and the only credible explanation for the building of Stonehenge...

Read these astonishing feats of deduction, exposition and imprecation, and you will no longer wonder how Bob hit on the idea for his famous "slow glass." You will deduce, as I did long ago, that originally he and Von Donegan were trying to design a glass that, even though it only held the

same amount as the ordinary kind, took much longer to empty—

Ah, but this is neither here nor there. (More exactly, Bob isn't here and I'm not there, but that is topologically equivalent.) Why am I wasting space telling you what an amusing guy he is? You're on the verge of finding out; indeed, you probably have found out, if you're like me and read convention programme books on the way home. And you must know all about the good SF he's published—or at any rate some of it—because there will no doubt be a bibliography and a scholarly essay evaluating his contribution to the genre and a lot of advertisements from his publishers on the preceding or subsequent pages.

So let me just go back and see whether I've said anything libellous or actionable. . . No, I've deleted those bits. It only remains for me to say you made a very sound choice by picking Bob Shaw as your Guest of Honour, and I hope he enjoys your convention as much as I'm sure you will enjoy his company.

P.S. to Bob: No need to say thanks for the above. Just buy me a slow glass at the worldcon.—JKHB

by Walt Willis

"A watched petal never coils," said Bob Shaw.

Irish Fandom was lying on the grass outside Dunluce Castle, near the Giant's Causeway. At that time it included Dr. Ian Macaulay, a nuclear physicist of international renown (as Assistant Editor of *Hypen*). He had just been speculating as to why the daisy petals did not curl up when a cloud passed over the sun, as they do at night.

Bob Shaw's offered explanation was typically subtle and profound, raising as it did a question now at the heart of subatomic physics: the role of the observer in physical phenomena. But that sort of thing was normal with Bob. What worried me was this: Was it conceivable that an atomic physicist from Dublin had joined a fan group in Belfast just to speculate about the behaviour of *bellis perennis*?

I remembered this question the night Bob turned up at an Irish Fandom meeting in his new two-tone Triumph. This was the latest result of his professional career, which had started in the days he used to dazzle every meeting of Irish Fandom with the plot of his latest book and left promising to start writing it immediately. But next week it was always a completely new book. I remember suggesting he was waiting for a new prozine to be called *Seventeen Unfinished Science-Adventure Books*. (Or does no one but me remember a short-lived prozine called *Two Complete Science-Adventure Books*?) It wasn't until Terry Carr and Ted White gave him an advance of \$500 for a book that he actually finished one.

Anyway, at this meeting he was late, and someone asked if his car had

broken down. (His new Triumph was of course secondhand—we didn't even know anyone with a new car.) "No," said Bob, "those cars were built to last, like the Pyramids." "I didn't know the Pyramids were enamelled in two colours," mused George Charters. "They must have been a wonderful sight, cruising up and down the desert." "What did they use for fuel?" I enquired, foolishly. "They must have used water," said Bob, "judging from something I found in the toolkit." I saw a pit yawning before me but fell in anyway. "What was that?" I asked. "A Nile phial," said Bob.

At that I cowered like a shadowed daisy, knowing that the world was shortly going to come to an end. For what were the odds against that opportunity? The word was astronomical. Classic cosmology has it that the world was created for the glorification of God, i.e., for egoboo. But this is a slight on the Almighty, implying as it does selfishness and conceit of a positively neofannish nature. How much more likely it is that it was created for a joke? And those of us who know Bob Shaw can think of no more suitable agent to deliver the ultimate punchline. When the inconceivably improbable combination of events occurs for which the world was created, he will utter the crack of doom and thereupon, to cosmic applause, we will all vanish. I'm afraid I must warn you that the circumstance of our diffident, shy old friend from the Cregagh Road, Belfast, being invited to address a convention in far-off romantic Kentucky seems to me just such a combination.

Panic-stricken, you may protest that Bob invented the item in his toolkit. If so, you don't know Bob Shaw. He will lie in wait for an opportunity, but in his twisted mind a weird sense of ethics will not allow him to create one. There really was a nail file in his toolkit. The question that confronts humanity is this: Who put it there, the previous owner... or God?



SCHEDULE

The following schedule is correct as of program book press time. However, please consult your pocket program schedule grid for any changes or additions. All rooms listed are on the third floor of the Galt House, with the exception of the Liverpool Room, which is on the second floor, just before the entrance to the River Grill.

The *RiverCon Hospitality Suite, Rooms 501-503* is open continuously beginning Thursday evening and continuing through Monday morning.

The *Corn Island Room* will be open around the clock to provide space for gamers.

Friday July 31, 1987

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1:00 p.m. - 12:00 mid. | Registration and information. <i>Third floor lobby.</i> |
| 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Art Show. <i>Water Poet Room.</i> |
| 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. | Art Show Print Shop. <i>Old River Room.</i> |
| 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. | Huckster Room. <i>Cochran Ballroom.</i> |
| 4:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. | Video Program. Check pocket program for titles and times. <i>Queen Room.</i> |
| 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Time Travel. The theory (and practice?) of a staple device of science fiction is explored in a timely fashion by Al Macintyre. <i>Archibald Room.</i> |
| 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | Publishing What You Write. This is part one of Mike Banks' hints for would-be SF writers. This part concentrates on the mechanics of storytelling and manuscript preparation. See Saturday at 5:00 p.m. for part two. <i>Archibald Room.</i> |
| 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Dragons! In case you haven't noticed, dragons are back in stories and art. Jan Moore discusses why. <i>Anchor Room.</i> |
| 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | The Making of a Fan. True confessions from trufans. Buck Coulson and Ken Moore tell how they got involved in this craziness to begin with. <i>Archibald Room.</i> |
| 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Doc Smith Lives! One of the fathers of modern science fiction as seen through the eyes of his daughter, Verna Smith Trestrail. <i>Liverpool Room.</i> |
| 7:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. | Film program. Check your pocket program for titles and starting times. <i>King's Head Room.</i> |

- 7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Childrens Story Hour. Jack Young reads stories suitable for those seven and under. *Room 400*
- 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Autograph Party. Bring pen and books and we'll furnish the authors. *Archibald Room*.
- 9:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. SCA Demo/Dance. Demonstrations of medieval fighting and dancing provided by members of the Barony of the Flame of the Society of Creative Anachronism. *Archibald Room*.
- 10:00 p.m. - ? Filksinging. *Liverpool Room*.

Saturday August 1, 1987

- 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration and information. *Third floor lobby*.
- 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Huckster Room. *Cochran Ballroom*.
- 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 a.m. Video Program. *Queen Room*.
- 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Art Show. *Water Poet Room*.
- 12:00 noon - 7:00 p.m. Art Show Print Shop. *Old River Room*.
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon The Candid Stuff VII. All the latest inside stuff on the space program (Ours and Theirs) from our resident expert, Dr. Bill Breuer. *Archibald Room*.
- 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. Keeping It Together. Keeping the pages in your book collection and the mildew off your prize-winning costumes. Lisa Lovitt discusses museum-quality preservation for you possessions. *Anchor Room*.
- 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. Different shores. Differences and similarities in the writing and publication of science fiction here and in England, as discussed by Bob Shaw, Mike Resnick, and Gene Wolfe. *Archibald Room*.
- 12:30 p.m. The Second Annual Great RiverCon Scavenger Hunt Begins. Participants must gather in the *Anchor Room* to receive the Official List. Scavenger hunt rules and registration forms are available in advance at the registration desk.
- 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Hospitality Suite. The death of the beer tub, weapons policies, and other sometimes controversial facts of convention life are discussed and debated by Ken Moore, Sue Francis, Todd Fluhr, and Murray Porath. Moderated by G. Pat Mulloy. *Archibald Room*.
- 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Zen and the Art of Audience Participation: Sounding Out Their Audience. The artists ask the questions. Audience participation necessary; bring your opinions. Alan Clark,

- Bob Daniels, Keith Berdak, Raymond van Tilburg. *Anchor Room*.
- 2:00 p.m. - 12:00 mid. Movie Program. Check your pocket program for titles and times. *King's Head Room*.
- 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Children's Masquerade Workshop. Rivercon masquerade director B. J. Willinger teaches children how to make their own costumes. *Liverpool Room*.
- 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Works in Progress. Previews of their forthcoming novels and stories by Bob Shaw, Gene Wolfe, and Charles Fontenay. *Archibald Room*.
- 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. The Exquisite Corpse. Based on an old parlor game, which the surrealist artists adopted as a visual equivalent of automatic writing. Several artists draw on a folded piece of paper, each one working on a single section without seeing what the others have drawn. Join us for some spontaneous energy and possibly a little spontaneous human combustion. With Dell Harris, Alan Clark, Bob Daniels. *Anchor Room*.
- 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Who Do You Write For? A Profile of the Reader. Who do SF writers write for: an ideal reader, the publisher, the market? Michael Banks, Mike Resnick, and Gene Wolfe tell us. *Archibald Room*.
- 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Artist Roast. This person is going to be roasted alive by people he thought were really his friends. Ken Moore, moderator. With Bob Daniels, Rick Lieder, Dell Harris, Kevin Ward, and Jack Daves. *Anchor Room*.
- 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Children's Story Hour. Jack Young reads stories suitable for those 7-12 years old. *Dorset Room*.
- 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Women Characters in SF. Roles have changed in fiction as well as in life. The evolution of female characters in SF is discussed by Sandra Miesel, Betty King, and Juanita Coulson. *Archibald Room*.
- 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Creative Art for Kids. Beth Willinger. *Anchor Room*.
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Writing to be Published, Part Two. Mike Banks surveys the current SF market and tells you where to sell your work. *Archibald Room*.
- 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. RiverCon XII Banquet. Following the meal will be presentations by Guest of Honor Bob Shaw, and Fan Guest of Honor Ken Moore, with introductions by Toastmaster Michael Banks. Spectators will be admitted to the rear of the room at approximately 7:30 p.m. *Archibald Room*.

- 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Art Auction. Between art auction sessions will be a Polly Freas Benefit Auction of donated materials. Auctioneers: Robert Daniels, Jr., Murray Porath, and Rusty Hevelin. *Archibald Room.*
- 10:00 p.m. - ? Filksinging in the *Liverpool Room* may begin at any time.
- 11:00 p.m. - 12:00 mid. Masquerade Pre-judging. Masquerade participants and judges only. *Archibald Ballroom (rear).*
- 12:00 mid. - 1:30 a.m. RiverCon XII Masquerade. Hall costumes will be invited on stage at intermission (approximately 12:45). Judges: Ann Chancellor, Sandra Miesel, and Ken Moore. *Archibald Room.*

Sunday, August 2, 1987

- 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Art Show. Art unsold at the auction may still be seen and purchased. *Water Poet Room.*
- 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Art Show Print Shop. *Old River Room.*
- 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Registration and information. *Third floor lobby.*
- 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Hucksters Room. *Cochran Ballroom.*
- 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Video Program. *Queen Room.*
- 11:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Unpublished Authors. Thirty minutes of time to read your masterpiece to anyone who will listen. By advance registration only. *Anchor Room.*
- 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Belle of Louisville Cruise. Advance tickets required. Boarding begins at 1:00 p.m.

FILM NOTES (continued from page 17)

Earth vs. the Flying Saucers (1956). Earth's fate swings in the balance as humans battle alien invaders who want to call our planet home. Special effects by Ray Harryhausen, who spectacularly destroys the famous monuments of Washington, D.C. Starring Hugh Marlowe and Joan Taylor. Directed by Fred F. Sears. (82 mins.)

Yellow Submarine (1968). Commemorate the 20th anniversary of *Sgt. Pepper* and take a ride on the magical mystery tour with the Beatles as they rescue the inhabitants of Pepperland from the anti-music oppression of the Blue Meanies in this psychedelic animated fantasy film directed by George Dunning. Voices by you-know-who. (Lots of color, 85 mins.)



Photo by Ken Amos

Ken Moore

by John Hollis

Years ago, before any of us had even met Ken (Kenneth A.) Moore, he was born on August 19. Later, he entered fandom by going to Chicon III, the 20th world science fiction convention, in 1962. Not much of interest happened in-between.

In the mid-sixties I had met Ken at the Nashville model airplane (primarily control-line) flying field. We drank beer together, even played chess a little. One day, having learned that I too read science fiction, he said, "Let's go to Tricon!" Never one to miss an opportunity, I quickly replied, "What?" So I drove up to Cleveland that day in 1966, found the hotel, joined the con (which happened to be the 24th world SF convention), then drove out to the airport to pick up Ken and Dan Caldwell. So I entered fandom and met Dan all at the same time. It's all Ken's fault.

Employment? Ken? Well, he worked at Nashville's Hobby Lobby in the Melrose Shopping Center a long time ago. Then he went to work at Avco bucking rivets in a Huey (that's a helicopter) tail boom. Rising through such things (to coin a phrase) as L-1011 and C5 wings, Ken now sells B-1 wings to Rockwell. And sometimes, for Rockwell, B-1s to the USAF.

Okay, back to SF. Later on (after Tricon), we were talking and decided that Nashville needed an SF fan club. I wondered where we could meet, and Ken suggested an empty room at the Green Hills Theater, provided of course that manager Richard Cornwell, coincidentally also a fan, would let us use it. And just then came the very first mailing from the Southern Fandom Confederation, including a list of all the fens Meade Frierson knew about anywhere in the South! So we had a mailing list, and soon the first meeting of the Nashville Science Fiction Club was held. Today, some twenty years later, it's still holding regular meetings. It's all Ken's fault.

Ken's other claim to fannish fame came about one day in 1971, when we all went to the Upper South Clave, an annual regional rotating convention, held that year in Johnson City, Tennessee. When someone wondered where it could be held the following year, Ken said (and I'm paraphrasing here), "Why not have it in Nashville?" So next year we held the first Kubla Khan Clave in Nashville, and the rest is history. You see, it *really* is all Ken's fault.



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Film Notes

by Richard Harland

"One man's junk is another man's treasure," the saying goes, and in keeping with this our film program for Friday night presents three all-time cult classics.

Fans of special effects should recognize the name of Ray Harryhausen, who helped pioneer FX into what it is today. As part of our Saturday schedule, we proudly present several of Harryhausen's best.

This wide-ranging film program has something for everyone, we think. Check your pocket program and the schedule posted at the film room for show times and for last-minute additions.

Enjoy!

The Little Shop of Horrors (1960). This is the original film starring that botanical bloodsucker, Audrey II, which later "sprouted" into a smash musical play and movie. Produced, directed, and written by Roger Corman in less than three days using leftovers from Corman's previous film, *Shop*, stars Jonathan Haze and Jackie Joseph, with a cameo appearance by Jack Nicholson in the role later played by Bill Murray. (70 mins.)

Plan 9 from Outer Space (1959). This cult classic may well be the all-time turkey of sci-fi films. Aliens reanimate dead humans in order to battle their living counterparts to stop man's discovery of a force which could destroy the universe. Starring Bela Lugosi (who died only two days into filming!) and Vampira. Written, produced, and directed (if those are the words we're looking for) by Edward Wood, Jr. (79 mins.)

Glen or Glenda? (1953). If you thought *Rocky Horror* was a gender bender, wait 'til you see this one! Again, written and directed by the notorious Edward Wood, Jr., who also appears in this one, and narrated by Bela Lugosi, (67 mins.)

Jason and the Argonauts (1963). Jason's search for the Golden Fleece leads him into many strange adventures. The special effects by Ray Harryhausen are dazzling. Starring Todd Armstrong and Nancy Kovack, and directed by Don Chaffey. (color, 104 mins.)

First Men in the the Moon (1964). While watching the first U.S. lunar landing, old man Bedford (Edward Judd) recounts his adventures on the moon a century ago. Everyone believes him to be just a senile old man, until... Adapted from the H.G. Wells novel. Also starring Martha Hyer and Lionel Jeffries and directed by Nathan Juran. (color, 103 mins.)

(continued on page 13)

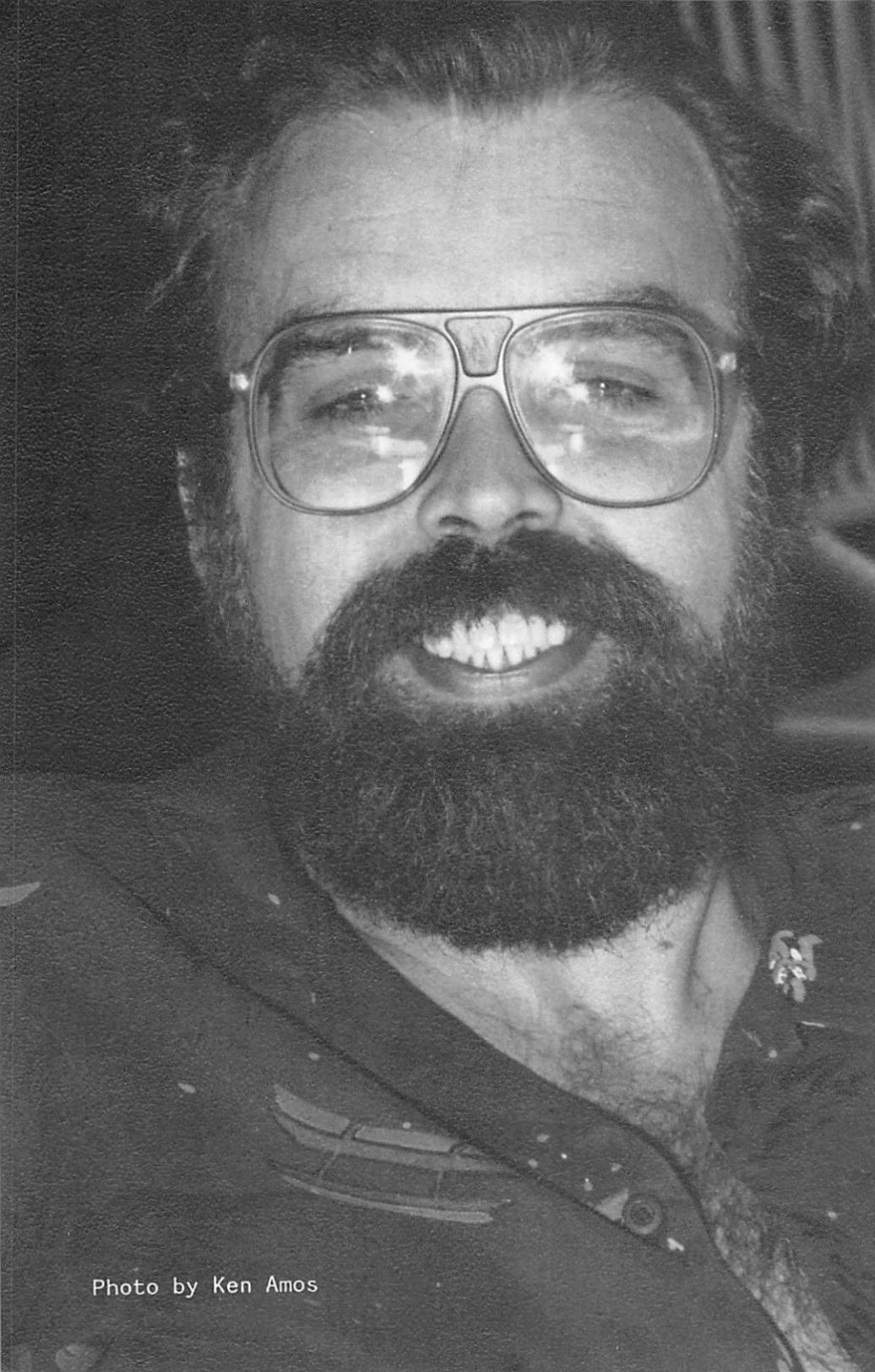


Photo by Ken Amos

Michael Banks

by Mike Resnick

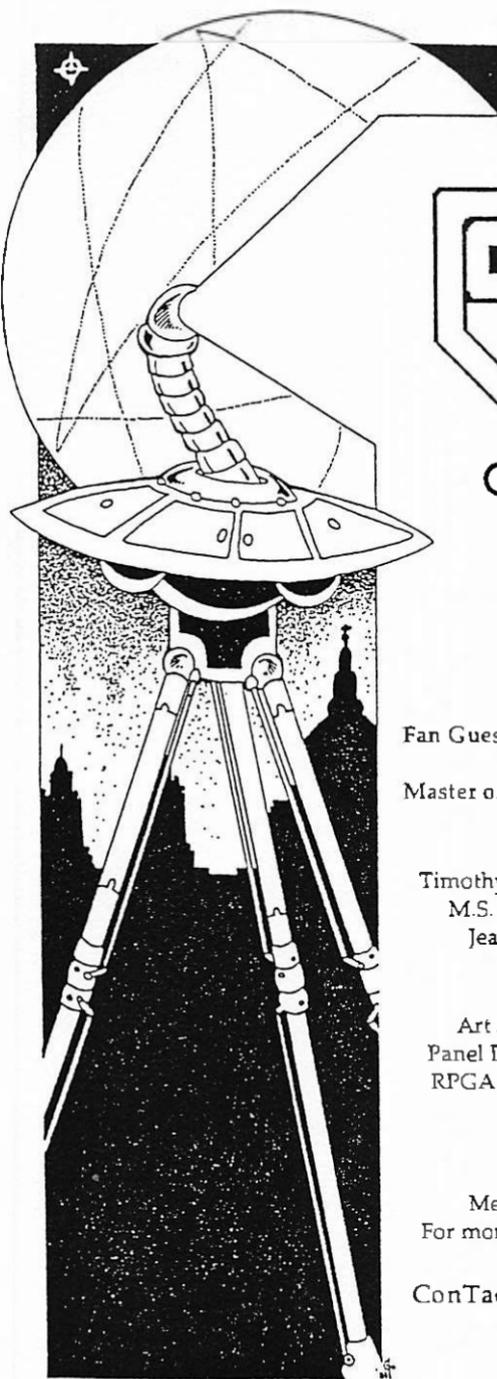
So one day I'm sitting there, watching a ton of dog food melt, and Mike Banks, who is visiting my kennel, says that fixing my refrigerator is child's play, and since I am desperate I tell him to go ahead and I will pay him union rates (as long as they're not totally unreasonable, like more than \$2.50 per hour). And while he's working on it, the air conditioner goes out, and he gives me that confident grin and says air conditioners are even easier to fix than freezers and he'll take care of it for no extra charge, or at most a nominal one, and maybe he'll go into the appliance repair business because this stuff is so easy to do.

So he takes the refrigerator and the air conditioner apart, and lays all the pieces out semi-neatly on a table, and says he needs some parts and he'll be right back—and I do not see him again for the better part of two years.

Then he shows up at a meeting of the venerable Cincinnati Fantasy Group and says he's going to become a writer, and I figure that if he writes like he fixes air conditioners and refrigerators, his lovely wife Rosa is going to lose her girlish figure and get a job impersonating skeletons, because he is not destined to put an abundance of food on the table.

Which just goes to show you why you should never trust science fiction writers to predict the future, because damned if Mike Banks doesn't go right out and do what he says he is going to do. First come about 200 articles on computers, and then some pieces on rocketry, and then a non-fiction book about writing science fiction (which in my greatheartedness I do not take as a personal criticism), and then some surprisingly good short stories, and then still more articles, and then he's collaborating with dead men for Baen Books, taking two-sentence outlines and turning them into 60,000-word pieces of literature, and then comes *The Odyssey Solution* in collaboration with Dean R. Lambe, and suddenly I have to reappraise the situation, and I decide that if he could just repair refrigerators and air conditioners the way he can turn out saleable copy I could lease him out by the hour and become an instant multimillionaire, because along with everything else he has managed to solve the principle of perpetual motion, which is what he is perpetually in, and before you know it he's running the Science Fiction SIG on Delphi and giving out interviews all over the place and writing still more books on subjects ranging from computers to science fiction, and it occurs to me that the real difference between Mike Banks and all the other hopeful writers who were trying to break into print when he gave up molesting refrigerators for abusing keyboards is that they all *talk* about writing, but Mike *works* at it.

When the dust has cleared from his weekly endeavors he is likely to have written three or four articles and a short story and worked some on (continued on page 5)



CONTACT-5

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