



# Small Mammal

from  
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## EVENT HORIZON

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- 28 - 31 Mar - ALBACON III - Central Hotel, Glasgow. Guest's Joe Haldeman, Clive Barker, Pete Lyon and John Jarrold. PLUS 20 films, talks & panels, books, book eating, fancy dress, wargaming, spaceflight exhibition, silly games and very silly games. Registration £12 to Albacon, c/o Vince Docherty, 20 Hillington Gdns, Glasgow G52 2FL.
  - 8 - 10 Aug - UN7CON ( CONSEPT ) - University of Surrey, Guilford. GOH Tanith Lee. Membership £8 ( £4 supporting ) to consept:un7con, 9 Graham Rd, wealdstone, Harrow. ( Cheques & postal orders payable to consept:un7con ).
  - 22 - 25 Aug - RUBICON - The Chequers Hotel, Newbury, Berks. A SILICON clone ( not to be confused with SILICLONE ) ie a very fanish convention with a loose program and probably even sillier games than Albacon. Membership £5 to Krystyna Oborn, Bishop's Cottage, Park House Lane, Reading, Berkshire. RG3 2AH.
  - 26 - 28 Sept - FANTASYCON XI - Midland Hotel, New Street, Birmingham. Registration £8 to 'Fantasycon XI', 15 Stanley Rd, Morden, Surrey SM4 5DE. ( Fantasycon scandal: Peter Weston is rumoured to have put up the money for a stripogram girl to present Rob Holdstock's award at last years convention but his accomplices chickened out and gave the money to charity instead.)

## MEXICON II

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I suspect that Mexicon may turn out to be a very influential convention, indeed it may be that its influence has reached outside the realms of fandom. Sources close to Birmingham report that the Mayor has called on a local magistrate ( one Tom Price ) to resign because of his attitude to the granting of drinks licences. Conspiracy minded fans see the hand of Greg "I invented stapled fanzines" Pickersgill.

The convention itself easily lived up to expectations providing a friendly and fun atmosphere together with a massive and high quality program. The greatest success of the con was in assembling such a large number of writers as guests and attendees. Many of these seemed to enjoy the occasion and so may begin attending other conventions in the future. Paradoxically I think that this was also the area where the convention might have been improved. With such an embarasement of riches in terms of available speakers some of the panels some of the panels still seemed to fall a bit flat. This seemed to be because many of the speakers were slow to warm up or were repeating arguments which are rather familiar at SF cons. The solution would be to use better researched and more provocative chairmen ( er.. persons ). Of course how you persuade them to do all the extra research and planning required is a more difficult problem. (PTO)

----- Title artwork credit Deborah Jordan (art), Chris Suslowicz (duping)



The hotel seemed rather bemused by the whole affair. An overheard comment from one of the bar staff was "they're something to do with Mexican disaster relief, they come here every year" ( obviously an example of the racial memory of hotel staff at work according to Keith Oborn ). Sadly the racial memory didn't extend to the amount we drink as the bar seemed to run out several times.

The convention newsletter Cactus times seemed to pick up the friendly spirit of the convention well probably because of the number of people contributing ( at least as seen by an embittered former convention newsletter editor ). The item on fanzine duplication in the Cactus Times offices was highly informative if somewhat shambolic ( why does all information on duplicating have to be handed down orally ) other conventions should repeat this item.

An unexpected 'highlight' of the convention was the emergence of the Hitch Hiker fans, henceforth to be known as the towelies, as a more integrated part of the rest of SF fandom. After mumblings linking the towelies to the troubles at the Strathallen they emerged completely exonerated and without a stain on their laundry.

Two results in the not-so-serious awards category are worth recording here. The winner of the 'fan you'd most like to see dressed in mini skirt suspenders and reading Zola' was Ashley Watkins. In the ' fan you'd most like to have on a waterbed' the winner was Ashley Watkins.

A couple of questions occur to me after the con. Firstly why do I remember less of a convention the better it was ( could there have been a convention in the past that was so mind bogglingly great that we've forgotten all about it ? ). Secondly why is it that if I were to 'design' an ideal convention I'd have the fannish Mexican group handling the main program and the con-running ( and unfannish in their own opinion ) Becon group running the fan program.

#### EATING AT ALBACON

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To keep our mexican theme Small Mammal recommends that the best Mexican food available in Glasgow is to be found ( assuming it hasn't closed or changed hands since last year ) at JOE'S GARAGE on the Corner of Bank St and Gibson St. ( phone 041 339 5407 ).

#### FANZINES

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Fanzines seemed to be undergoing a revival at Mexicon and Lillian Edwards in 'NO PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS 1' was complaining at the lack of fanzine review columns so here is one.

NO PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS 1 - Lillian Edwards and Ian Sorensen.

Spends a disappointing amount of its time impersonating a limp lettuce ( are you sure you wanted more fanzine reviews Lillian ? ) and engaging in profitless discussion of the future of fandom. A topic which has become the fannish equivalent of 'nice weather we're having'. Lillian never reaches the standard of 'This never Happens' and Ian still can't be as free and relaxed in print as he can be live. The final two items; a scurrilous Mexicon Alternative program and a poem 'The lay of the ancient congoer' stand out above the rest and promise better things from future issues.

Available from 1 Braehead Rd, Thornton Hall, Glasgow G74 5AQ or 34a Main ST, High Blantyre, Glasgow G72 0DH.

THE MIRROR CRACKED - Caroline Mullan.

A fanzine devoted to the analysis of things resembling a glittering and spinning collection of Occam's razors. Contains a brilliant analysis of Suzette Elgin's 'Native Tongue' by Mike Christie and an unnerving portrait of life in a maternity ward by Ros Calverly. Available from 'asylum', 9 Graham Rd, Wealdstone, Harrow, Middx HA3 5RP.

Also two traffic zines NUTZ and STRUMPET from Pam Wells, 24a Beech Rd, Bowes Pk, London N11 2DA. Not recommended for males of a nervous disposition.