



INTRODUCTION

Well, here I am again, sitting in front of yet another different computer to write Progress Report 4 for BECCON 83. In this august (sorry, July) publication you will find a separate sheet giving details of how to find the Hotel, and another sheet which contains a full reprint of the diabolical Kwiz which appeared in the previous three P.R.'s. There also follows some information about how our preparations are going:-

HOTEL

I hope that you noticed the changed room rates on the slip with P.R.3 - these were agreed after we had gone to press and are:-

Single; \$16.50
Double/Twin; \$28.00 (for \$ read pound).

These prices are still per night, including V.A.T., but are now INCLUSIVE OF ENGLISH BREAKFAST. Breakfast will be available to non-residents at \$3.50, so we consider that this represents, in effect, a worthwhile reduction in the rates. Breakfast will be served 7-11 am on Saturday, 8-11 am on Sunday, and 7-10 am on Monday.

I imagine most people will have booked their Hotel rooms by now, but if you have not, please hurry and do so. Although the Hotel is not full, we cannot guarantee that last minute bookings can be accommodated, and in particular we would not recommend you to turn up on the day in the hope of getting a room.

If you are about to book a room, I am sorry to have to say that all singles are now taken.

PROGRAMME.

Due to the number of people who have decided to grace Basildon with their presence over the Sunday night, we have now booked an additional film for their entertainment; this is "The Mask of Fu Manchu", a stylish 1932 MGM film starring Boris Karloff. We are also planning a thoroughly scurrilous Radio play!

Apart from this, the majority of the programme is now finalised, though of course we are always interested in hearing from individuals and teams willing to take part in entertaining the masses (and can anyone lend us some lions?..)

Seriously, though, we hope that we have set up any interesting and varied Programme, with at least something to draw in even the most dedicated sitter - in - the - bar.

AUCTION.

We now have sufficient material to hand to be sure that this item will run on a worthwhile basis, but of course we would be pleased to have more! Let us know in advance if possible, and in any case see the Committee as soon as possible after you arrive so that we can get everything organized. We will charge the usual 10% commission for Convention funds.

ADVERTISING.

The deadline for advertisements in the Programme Book has now passed, but thanks to computers it may be possible to fit them in even now. Check P.R.3 for the rates, - but you will have to be Quick!

CORRESPONDENCE

As some people will have lost their earlier Progress Reports (I know I often do) we will repeat again that the address for ALL correspondence is:-

191 The Heights,
Northolt
Middlesex
UB5 4BU

where it will be dealt with by Mike and/or Kathy.

NEW RECRUITS.

And whilst mentioning Kathy, BECCON would like to congratulate her (and Mike) on the birth of a son, Peter Michael Westhead, on 17 May 1983 - weight 8lbs 3oz, for those to whom that means anything; (I would have thought that was heavy enough to make the stork crash into the gooseberry bush.)

THE WEE KIRK IN THE GIN.

The planet Cain is a forest world. Long ago, the trees gained dominance, covered the land, and all other life moved up into the mighty branches. So successful was this adaptation to arboreal existence that the planet even produced an intelligent life form (humanoid, of course) which built great cities and castles in the forest canopy. Cain lies in the neutral zone between the Romulan and Terran empires and thus it became the centre for peace negotiations between these two great and warlike peoples (well, they are both humanoid!).

Star Fleet dispatched its flagship, the USS Enterprise, to the planet, in part to forcibly impress on the Romulans their desire for peace and also to lend their advanced medical expertise to the people of Cain. The population had long suffered a terrible disease which was currently reaching epidemic proportions and threatening the very survival of this neutral race. The disease affected the central nervous system, causing it to slowly seize up until the victim died of this paralysis, thus it was given the name "Seizer".

While the peace negotiators peacefully negotiated, the medical teams tirelessly pressed on to save the people of Cain, so that they would be able to resume leading a normal life. Before long, a cure was discovered, but producing the medicines would require vast amounts of an unusual catalyst - Ureac acid.

The Admiral of the Romulan fleet was showering diplomatic praise on his opposite number, Captain James T. Kirk, and they were toasting each other in the juice of Juniper berries, when Earl Norbert Fetilphoon arrived at the Great Hall of the High Council of Cain with the good news. Ignoring normal diplomatic etiquette, Earl Norbert rushed up to the podium and pleaded for help from all assembled there, with these now famous words

"Friends, Romulans, Cain Treemen, lend me Urea,
for I came to parry Siezer, not to praise Jim."

(For those of you who have enjoyed these classic vignettes in the PR's, we can recommend a good psychiatrist! The rest of you BEWARE!, read your programme book cautiously!)

GUEST OF HONOUR.

Whilst you are browsing round the bookshops for something by our Guest of Honour, Ken Bulmer, you will soon discover the omni-alphabetical nature of his work, ranging from A to Z in all varieties of labels.

Pseudonyms - from Alan Burt Akers to Tully Zetford.
Fanzines - from Aaah to Ziz.
Titles - from Allies of Antares to Zhorani (Master of the Universe).

MEMBERSHIP.

Since Eastercon, memberships have continued to come in at a steady rate.

the list below updates (in numerical order) that given in P.R.3.

210A J. Gibbons
211A M. Lynes
212A L. Pickersgill
213A R. Johnson
214A A. Warren
215A J. Watkinson
216A T. Watkinson
217A M. Figg
218S A. Hodge
219A H. McCarthy
220A D. Webb
221A A. Snowden
222S N. Ross
223S K. Slater
224S J. Slater
225A P. Chee
226A S. Rothman
227A J. Robertson
228A T. Fern
229A J. Nevin
230A T. Hayward
231A C. Bulmer
232A G. Conner
233A B. Colgan
234A S. Ounsley
235A D. Angus
236A J. Mottershead
237A N. Pearson
238A A. Watkins
239A A. Kelley
240A G. Morris
Sm1A P. Westhead
LstA S. Starshine

A = Attending,

S = Supporting