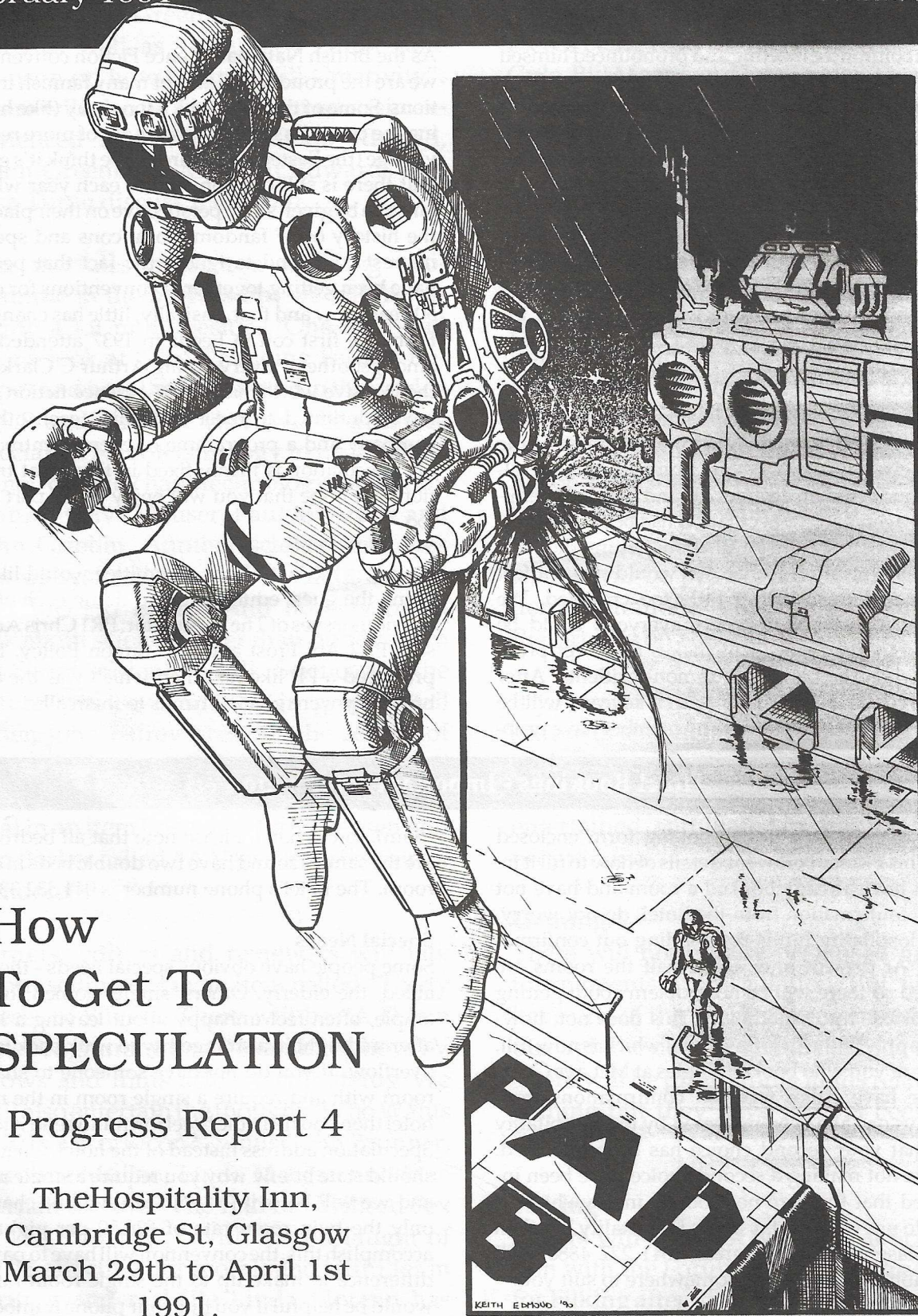


# The Speculator

February 1991

Number 4



## How To Get To SPECULATION

Progress Report 4

TheHospitality Inn,  
Cambridge St, Glasgow  
March 29th to April 1st  
1991.

KEITH EDMOND '93

SPECULATIVE TRAVEL

NO 1

## Hello and Welcome to Progress Report 4

This is the "how to get there" PR from Speculation. It also contains exciting items like hotel booking forms and the latest news on the programme. Our Guest of Honour Rob Holdstock turned up at a recent committee meeting and pronounced himself "raring to go" on the programme items we have lined up for him. Our approach to the programme has been explained in previous PRs but it is worth repeating that the programme is split into a number of themed modules. Different types of item are being staged in differing programme rooms, the idea being, in all cases, to try to involve the audience in the programme. An item put on in one of our large halls will be able to overrun if necessary because the following item will take place in the other large hall. Thus we expect the programme to run smoothly and to time. (Famous last words.)

Memberships are coming in at an increasing rate. Some people have expressed their surprise at the relatively low membership numbers but we always budgeted on around 700 and that looks eminently achievable. Speculation has been designed from the very start to be all about getting the right atmosphere; any less than 600 would make it feel empty and over 1000 a little too crowded. We wanted a convention where everyone could be housed in one hotel. (This makes for fewer problems when the bar closes to non-residents. After 1am a committee member with a keycard will be available in the bar should any member have prob-

lems getting served. Strangely enough, there hasn't been any shortage of volunteers for this onerous duty....).

As the British National Science Fiction convention we are the proud upholders of many fannish traditions. Some of these go back a long way (like holding the con at Easter) and others are of more recent vintage (the Eastercon Awards). We think it's great that there is still one convention each year where fans can be given some perspective on their place in the history of SF fandom. Local cons and special interest cons tend to ignore the fact that people have been getting together at conventions for over 50 years now and that, basically, little has changed. From the first con in Leeds in 1937 attended by, amongst others, a very young Arthur C Clarke, to the massive worldcon in 1987, science fiction fans have continued to meet and enjoy each other's company and a programme of events centred on SF. Speculation is firmly fixed in this great tradition. We hope that you will enjoy being part of it too.

As this is the last PR the committee would like to thank the guest editors we had doing each of the previous issues of *The Speculator*: PR1 Chris Atkinson, PR2 Abi Frost and PR3 Simon Polley. Each produced a PR like no other, which was the only brief they were given. Thanks to them all.

### Hotel Bookings - Important Information

There should be a hotel booking form enclosed with this PR: see below for details of how to fill it in. If you have already booked a room and have not had a confirmation from the hotel, do not worry. The Hospitality Inn is not sending out confirmations. At present only about half the rooms are booked so there will be no problem about getting the correct accommodation. This does not, however, apply to the overflow hotel which is now full. Those of you who booked singles at McLays Guest House have either received confirmations from McLays or have been informed by the Hospitality Inn that your second choice has been allocated. People not making a second choice have been informed that they are not booked in anywhere. If you do not wish to stay at the Hospitality Inn then the Glasgow Tourist Bureau (041 227 4880) will probably be able to find somewhere to suit you.

#### **Booking a Room**

If you want to book a twin, double, triple, or quad room in the Hospitality Inn then simply fill in the form and send it, along with a £20.00 deposit (per

room), to the hotel. Please note that all bedrooms are the same size and have two double beds in each room. The hotel's phone number is 041 332 3311.

#### **Special Needs**

Some people have obvious special needs - the disabled, the elderly. Others, single women for example, often feel unhappy about leaving a hotel after midnight in a strange city to walk back to the overflow. If you do not have someone to share a room with and require a single room in the main hotel then you fill in the hotel form and send it to the Speculation address instead of the hotel. On it you should state briefly why you require a single room and we will book it for you. You will be charged only the twin room rate of £26.50 per night. To accomplish this, the convention will have to pay the difference to make up to the single room rate. It would be helpful if you put your phone number on the form so that we can contact you to confirm that your booking has been made. Bookings will be made on a first come first served basis, so return the form (and deposit) quickly!

## Creche

The creche will be available for parents to deposit their kids from 10.30 to 1.00 and 2 to 7 (2-4 on Monday). Vicky Evans who is organising the creche has suggested that parents bring along a favourite toy, clearly labelled with the child's name, as this helps with settling in. In the case of babies, a few extra disposable nappies will help greatly. Vicky is not really superhuman, she just seems it, so it would be great if parents could take a turn looking after the creche for a few minutes to give her a chance to have a break. There will be a nominal charge for the creche to help pay for consumables.

## Awards

There will be two sets of awards given at the convention: The BSFA Awards and the Eastercon Awards. Some people dislike awards, describing them as unrepresentative of true merit or popularity, especially when the winner is not the one they would have voted for. The best way to make the awards mean something is to vote. There will be boxes to collect votes for the Eastercon Awards at the convention (BSFA members will already have voted). Please vote, then go to the Awards Ceremony on Sunday night to see if you voted for the winner. After the awards are announced there will be a party hosted by a number of publishers to which all convention members are invited.

### The Ken MacIntyre Award

The Ken MacIntyre Award goes to the person who does the best artwork to appear in a fanzine or convention publication in the preceding year. To be eligible the original artwork and the publication it appeared in must be handed into the Artshow organiser by noon on the Saturday of the convention. The winner is judged by a committee consisting of a Knight of St. Fanthony, the award administrator and the artshow organiser. In recent years there have been few entries for the award, usually because someone forgets to bring along either the original artwork or the published version - so, pack them in your suitcase NOW. The actual award is a bowl engraved with names of former winners.

### The Doc Weir Award

This is a "big heart" award which goes to a person who has done good deeds in fandom for a considerable amount of time. Anyone can be nominated and anyone can vote. The winner receives a cup on which are engraved the names of past winners which they hold for a year. The Doc Weir award is named after a famous fan in the fifties who, sadly, died all too soon. Since it's inception the award has been fandom's way of saying "good on yer" to people who have helped make fandom a better place to dwell. Ballot boxes will be scattered throughout the convention.

## Critics Workshop - Correction

In PR3 we announced that there will be a critics workshop at Speculation run by Colin Greenland. Colin still wishes to run this but has asked for the format to be altered a little, so please ignore the instructions in the PR (as well as the garbled correction sent out at Christmas) and read the following instead. Please note that there are very few places available so work fast! Successful applicants will be contacted before the convention (a phone number might help here).

### Reviewer's Workshop

Everybody can say whether they enjoyed a book or not, but how do you describe it in print, in a limited number of words? How do you tell your readers what they need to know to decide whether they want to read it?

If you're interested in trying out your skills as a reviewer, join me, Colin Greenland, at the Speculation reviewer's workshop. All you need to do to take part is read The Player of Games by Iain M. Banks, and write a review of it in 400 words or fewer, as if you were writing it for the BSFA magazine Vector. Send it to me to arrive by 10th March 1991. To: Colin Greenland, 2a Ortygia House, 6 Lower Rd, Harrow, HA2 0DA.

## The Art Show

The Art Show will be in the large hall being used as the dealers room which will ensure better security and that more people get to see the artwork. There will be the traditional Art Auction on Sunday for which the convention will take a mere 10% of the selling price commission. If you wish to book space in the Art Show then you should telephone Mark Meenan (0389 65313 after 6pm) and he will give you further details.

## Mask Competition

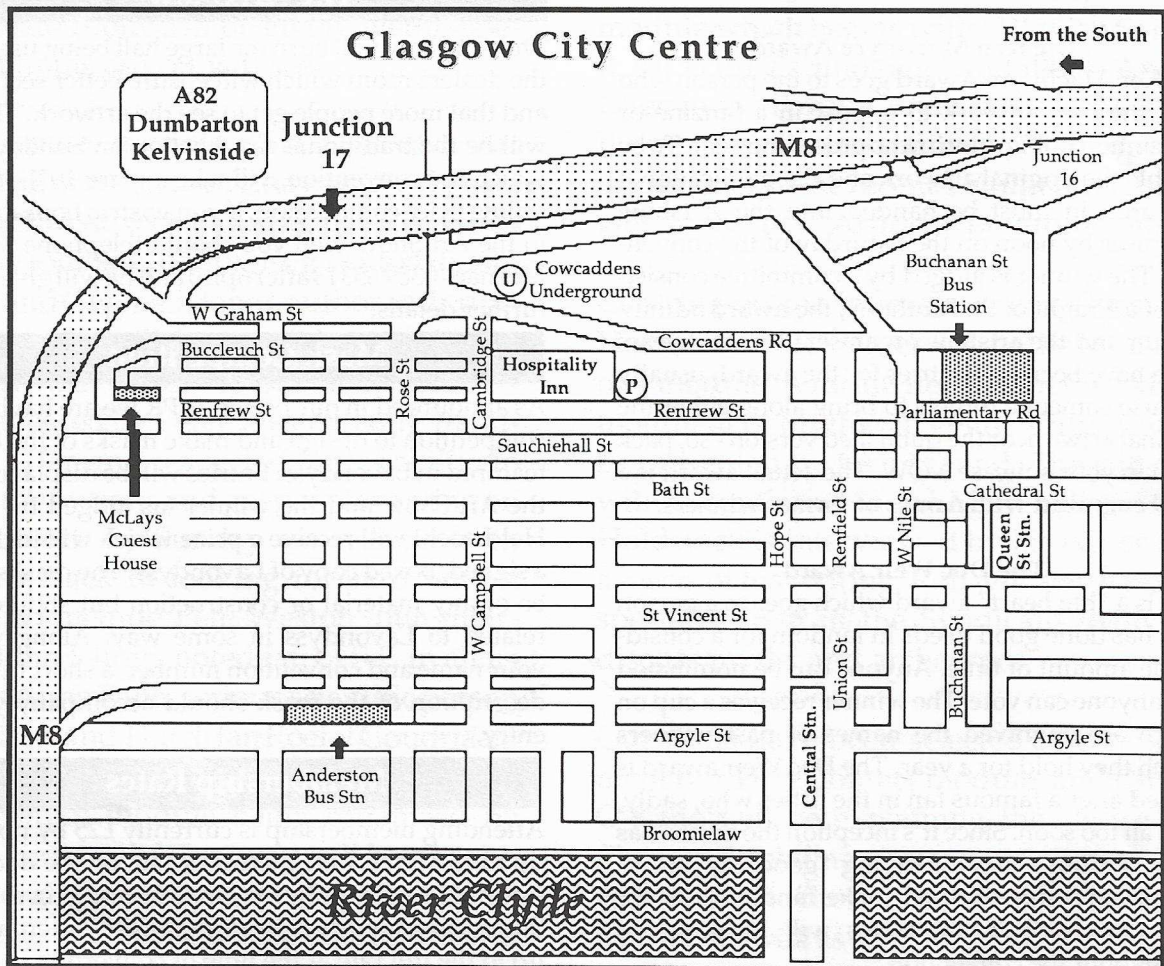
As announced in our previous PR we are having a competition to design and make masks of the type featured in Lavondyss. Entries will be displayed in the Art Show and the winner (as judged by Rob Holdstock) will receive a prize which will include a signed, boxed copy of Lavondyss. The masks can be of any material or construction but should be related to Lavondyss in some way. Along with your name and convention number, a short title or description of the mask should accompany your entry.

## Membership Rates

Attending membership is currently £25 by post up to 15 March 1991 thereafter the "on the door" rate of £30 will apply. Day memberships cost £10. Supporting members have to pay the difference up to the full rate at the time of converting.

# Speculation Membership 4 November 1990 - 20 February 1991

Russell	Aitken	409 (A)	Zoe	Deterding-Barke	431 (A)	Jukka	Laajarinne	374 (A)	Simon	Perkins	422 (A)
Brian	Ameringen	425 (A)	Richard	Doyle	421 (A)	Andrew	Lane	461 (A)	Heather	Petty	344 (A)
Linda	Apperley	362 (A)	Lilian	Edwards	342 (A)	Helen	Lanc	462 (A)	Arlene	Peyton	308 (A)
Roy	Apperley	363 (A)	Brian	Ellis	345 (A)	Colin	Langeveld	318 (A)	Rog	Peyton	309 (A)
Chris	Baker	341 (A)	Richard	Evans	440 (A)	Nick	Larter	312 (A)	John	Philpott	300 (A)
Dave	Baldwin	320 (A)	Rufus	Evison	333 (A)	Amanda	Leeds	432 (A)	Terry	Pratchett	424 (A)
Jim	Barker	355 (A)	Allison	Ewing	348 (A)	Ethel	Lindsay	337 (A)	Phil	Race	324 (A)
Linda	Barker	356 (A)	Ian	Francis	364 (S)	Daniel	Livingstone	392 (A)	Philip	Raines	393 (A)
Trevor	Barking	430 (A)	Rosi	Frisch	10 (A)	Wilson	Logan	410 (A)	Chris	Reed	428 (A)
Chris	Bell	426 (A)	Kathy	Gale	437 (A)	Judith	Looker	435 (A)	Theresa	Renner	402 (A)
Kenneth	Bell	427 (A)	David	Garnett	366 (A)	Alasdair	MacKintosh	296 (A)	John	Richards	291 (A)
Philip	Bell	449 (A)	Douglas	Gaylor	388 (A)	Pat	MacLeman	412 (A)	Rod	Rishworth	334 (A)
Ron	Bennett	370 (A)	Dave	Girling	416 (A)	Nicholas	Mahoney	317 (A)	Liz	Robertson	407 (A)
Meike	Benzler	294 (A)	Clare	Goodall	439 (A)	Ann	Mair	329 (A)	Mic	Rogers	418 (A)
Friend of	Benzler	295 (A)	Alan	Gordon	396 (A)	Ansi	Makkonen	375 (A)	Andrew	Rose	458 (A)
Helen	Bernardi	446 (A)	Irene	Gordon	444 (A)	Hugh	Mascetti	454 (A)	Bob	Shaw	666 (A)
Pete	Binfield	384 (S)	Roelof	Goudriaan	368 (A)	Barbara	Mascetti	455 (A)	Linda	Shipman	292 (A)
Skyrack	Books	371 (S)	John A	Graham	419 (A)	Kari	Maund	297 (A)	Ina	Shorroch	326 (A)
Skyrack	Books	372 (S)	Jim	Greer	406 (A)	Tim	McAire	343 (A)	Teddy	Sidoli	387 (A)
Nigel S	Brooke	420 (A)	Oliver	Gruter	328 (A)	Paul	McAuley	357 (A)	Cyril	Simsa	456 (A)
Pat	Brown	304 (A)	Peter	Gwilliam	453 (A)	Paul	McAuley	443 (A)	Robert	Sneddon	325 (A)
Ceri	Brown	361 (A)	Jasper	Hedger	383 (A)	Tommy	McClellan	408 (A)	Adrian	Snowdon	451 (A)
Ben	Brown	399 (A)	Karen	Heenan	417 (A)	Pete	McGarvey	405 (A)	Nicole	Steck	386 (A)
Pamela	Buckmaster	340 (A)	Alasdair	Hepburn	349 (A)	Richard	McKelvie	389 (A)	A J	Sullivan	448 (A)
Brian	Burgess	397 (A)	Chris	Hughes	404 (A)	Ann	McKelvie	390 (A)	Emma	Taylor	391 (A)
Stephen	Burridge	311 (A)	Glyn	Jackson	436 (A)	Lorna	McLaren	433 (A)	Eeva-Liisa	Tenhunen	403 (A)
Steven	Cain	322 (A)	Helen	Jeffries	438 (A)	Gregor	McNeil	350 (A)	Jean	Thompson	395 (A)
Jane	Carnall	358 (A)	Frances	Jobling	367 (A)	Kenny	Meechan	415 (A)	Manda	Thompson	429 (A)
Mike	Cheater	323 (A)	Stuart	Johnson	423 (A)	John	Merry	359 (A)	J R	Tibbets	293 (A)
Helen	Chisholm	394 (A)	Jeremy	Johnston	459 (A)	Rod	Milner	307 (A)	Helen	Tidswell	378 (A)
Helen	Clark	315 (A)	Gwyneth	Jones	452 (A)	Mike	Moir	346 (A)	Neil	Tomkinson	338 (A)
Paul	Clough	445 (A)	Caroline	Juler	457 (A)	Debbie	Moir	347 (A)	Alison	Tomkinson	339 (A)
Malcolm	Cohen	299 (A)	David	Julyan	336 (A)	Mike	Molloy	413 (A)	Mark	Valentine	319 (A)
Jack	Cohen	335 (A)	Karen	Kelly	314 (S)	Andy	Morris	379 (A)	Ari	Veintic	373 (A)
David	Cooper	327 (A)	John	Kelly	330 (A)	Lyme Ann	Morse	369 (A)	Jaine	Waddell	377 (A)
Gail	Courtney	400 (A)	Morag	Kerr	380 (A)	Sue	Mowbray	385 (S)	John	Wat	450 (A)
Andy	Croft	310 (A)	Barbara Jane	Kershaw	301 (A)	John	Murphy	360 (A)	James	Watson	460 (A)
John	Crudgington	382 (A)	Paul	Kincaid	303 (A)	Phil	Nanson	298 (A)	Dave	Weddell	376 (A)
Mike	Cule	442 (A)	Gary	Kluepfel	351 (A)	Tom	Nanson	401 (A)	Richard	Wheatley	398 (A)
Rafe	Culpin	302 (A)	Uschi	Kluepfel	352 (A)	Lisanne	Norman	365 (A)	Bridget	Wilkinson	332 (A)
Steve	Davies	306 (A)	Toby	Kluepfel	353 (A)	Andrew	O'Donnell	313 (A)	Matt	Williams	381 (A)
Paul	Dawson	331 (A)	Jenny	Kluepfel	354 (A)	Eamonn	Patton	411 (A)	Phil	Willis	441 (A)
Guilia	De Cesare	316 (A)	Alice	Kohler	305 (A)	Harry	Payne	321 (S)	Andrew	Wilson	434 (A)



## How To Get There

### By Rail

If you travel by rail you will arrive at either Central Station or Queen St Station (if coming via Edinburgh).

#### From Central Station

You should walk out of the station at the main exit facing you as you leave the platform. Out there you will find a taxi rank (a taxi to the Hospitality Inn costs £1.20). Turn left then right into Hope St and walk up the hill. You will walk past the Suchiehall St pedestrian precinct then turn left at the next junction into Renfrew St. You will see an enclosed pedestrian walkway over the road. The hotel is beyond that on the right at the corner of Renfrew St and Cambridge St. It will take you about 15 minutes with luggage.

#### From Queen St. Station

Take the exit on your right as you leave the platform. Once outside turn right up some steps and continue up to the corner where you turn left into Cathedral St/Bath St. At the corner where BHS is sited turn right into Renfield St, cross over the Sauchiehall St pedestrian precinct and at the next corner turn left into Renfrew St. You will see an enclosed pedestrian walkway over the road. The hotel is beyond this on the right at the corner of Renfrew St and Cambridge St. It will take you about 8 minutes with luggage.

### By Bus

Long distance coach services arrive at Buchanan St. Bus Station. Leave by the main exit and you will find yourself on Parliamentary Rd/Renfrew St opposite the new concert hall. Turn right and walk along Renfrew St towards an enclosed pedestrian walkway over the road. The hotel is beyond this on the right at the corner of Renfrew St and Cambridge St. It will take you about 5 minutes with luggage.

### By Air

The Airport bus will take you to Anderston Bus Station but stay on to Buchanan St bus station then follow the directions above. Alternatively, the Hospitality Inn has a courtesy bus which may be able to meet you. Contact the hotel to arrange this. (041 332 3311).

### By Car

Coming from the south on the A74/M74 you should follow signs for GLASGOW M8 (also signposted for the SECC) until you are on the M8, thereafter head for CITY CENTRE & GREENOCK. As you approach the city centre lanes disappear and emerge both from the left and, astonishingly, from the right. BE CAREFUL! The best policy is to stay in the middle lane. You want to exit at Junction 17 DUMBAR-TON & KELVINSIDE A82 (the inside lane becomes this exit lane). At the traffic lights on the exit go left (CITY CENTRE). At the next set of lights go straight ahead (ie curving right) and turn RIGHT at the next lights into Cambridge St. The Hospitality Inn is on the left. To get to its carpark, go past the main hotel entrance and turn left at the lights on the corner and first left down an alley at the side of the hotel where you will find the entrance to Kings Carpark. There are 2 levels and space for over 200 cars. Keep your ticket, get the reception desk to stamp it, and there will be no charge on exit.

Please note that on the map provided you will approach from the right hand side of the map on the M8 travelling west. If you are staying at McLays Guest House you should beware the complex one way system around it. From Cambridge St drive along Buccleuch St until it narrows and curves round 180 degrees into Renfrew St.

See you in Glasgow at Easter.

## What's In Store When You Get There?

We had hoped to be able to post out your programme book along with this PR, but time has beaten us (as usual). The programme will start at noon on Friday and finish at 5pm on Monday. Between these times there are lots of things to see and do. To whet your appetite and prepare you for some of the key ideas in our programme, here is Linda Krawecka with some choice items.

### A Damn Fine Programme

The Speculation programme is shaping up to be quite a diverse, interesting event. In keeping to our philosophy of an integrated programme appealing to all manner of S.F. enthusiasts, our module approach is working well. For items that will appear in the Programme Halls, we will have a semi-"in the round" layout, with the audience seated in a semi circle around the panel who themselves will be seated in lounge chairs around a coffee table, thus promoting a relaxed, intimate atmosphere conducive to a free flow of discussion and close participation of the audience. Even more participation will be encouraged in The Forum room where items generated in the Main hall will continue with a finer attention to detail and points of debate. The syndicate room will be given over to specialist items as you will see.

Our prime module "State of the Art S.F." will start on the Friday with a discussion of the subject featuring panelists such as Jane Johnson, editor, Rog Peyton, book-seller and Gwyneth Jones, author and critic. The subject will be carried along in the Forum with a view to our historical perspectives led by Peter Weston, long standing S.F. fan and respected for his ability to push the buttons and get people ranting on the subject. By Sunday we will go from looking back to looking forward with a panel to include Pete Weston, our chairman John Fairey, noted fan of S.F. in all its forms Anne Page, serious scientific person Bob Shaw and Dutch fan Roelof Goudriaan.

The comics module being organised by Igor Goldkind of Fleetway will begin with an overall look at British comics in a panel chaired by Lilian Edwards, comics fan and

reviewer, and including a professional writer and an artist along with Jim Barker, a comics fan now working as a graphic artist. There will be two follow up items in the Syndicate Room: one on writing for comics and the other on comic art.

Jack Cohen will kick off our environment module with a diatribe in the Forum that will centre on the idea that environmental problems can be solved with bigger and better technology. This will carry over into the Main hall with a panel discussion titled "The Future Will Be Green" involving Jack Cohen, Rob Meades and Shona Douglas. Finally, Jem Taylor will chair a specialist environment item in the Syndicate room. Related to this module is our "Biospheres" module which begins with "We Can Solve It All With Technology" - a talk by Anna Chen in the Forum. Anna then joins Chris Boyce, Nick Larter and Irving Rappaport, the director of the recent TV film on arcologies, to discuss "Artificial Environments".

Centring on the interests of our Guest of Honour Rob Holdstock will be the Mythology module. A forum item about the "Mis-treatment of Myths" in genre writing will be presented by Kari Maund. The subject will be continued in the Main hall as Rob Holdstock is interviewed by his editor on aspects of his writing. Rob will also hold a specialist item in the Syndicate room to discuss myths and archetypes.

Our films have been selected to complement our First Contact module, and Chris O'Kane will be explaining the choice of films and relating them to a talk on our approaches to the existence of alien intelligences. As well as the films featured in this

module we will have a wide selection in our video programme, chosen by Dave Lally.

The Reviewing/Criticism module will include Colin Greenland's workshop sessions as well as a rant by editor Jane Johnson on how "Critics Kill Creativity". There will also be a panel item wherein experienced reviewers like Paul Kincaid, Colin Greenland, Malcolm Edwards and Lisa Tuttle discuss their craft.

The modules present a fulfilling programme in themselves but we will be offering a lot more besides. One item will take a look at "The Changing Face of Europe" and how this is reflected in the worlds of S.F. and Fandom. There will be a science special on Nanotechnology to tie in with a panel on Bio/nanotechnology in fiction featuring Eva Hauser, Paul McAuley and John Gribbin. Another science item sees Astrophysics discussed by Marcus Chown and Richard Evans. And nobody could talk about science better than Bob Shaw in his Serious Scientific Talk. Science and the future will be examined in great detail when John Fairey presents the results of his analysis of the Delphic Poll conducted by Speculation. Fandom will be put on trial in an item hosted by Ian Sorensen and Jim Barker called "A Very Cross Section of Fandom".

Writers, editors and reviewers will talk about selling out in an item called "Thirty Pieces of Silver". There will be "A Damn Fine Programme Item" examining how TV shows and films achieve cult status. We will also entertain the thought "Who Wants to Run a Worldcon?" whilst John Brunner, Caroline Mullan, Linda Morgan and Jane Carnall discuss "The End of Civilised Sex as We Know It". With the onslaught of AIDS affecting our morals and attitudes in writing and real life Linda Morgan has offered to run a series of Safe Sex workshops to further enlighten attendees on the changing state of sexual responsibility.

A series of readings are being scheduled to entertain: on Saturday there will be a Midnight Horror Reading featuring Ramsey Campbell, John Jarrold, Lisa Tuttle and Rob Holdstock while on Sunday we will have a Midnight Laugh-In with comic pieces being read by Terry Pratchett, Mike Cule, Bill Morris and Iain Banks. There will be other author readings and fan readings in the Forum throughout the weekend.

The traditional has not been forgotten. There will be book auctions, an art auction, and quizzes on Films and SF. The traditional masquerade will be given a new twist with a continuous narrative being improvised to link the entries as they appear. We will be presenting both the BSFA and Eastercon Awards and afterwards there will be a party sponsored by major publishers where the winners and losers will mingle with the rest of the convention. Continuity with next year's Eastercon will be provided by the Illumination Committee presenting a Progress Report live on stage.

If you can't find a thing that you want to see out of all that programming you can sit in the 24hr video room or stay in the bar. One way or another you are bound to be entertained, stimulated or amused by our programme.

### **Gaming**

There will not be any organised gaming tournaments at Speculation, but we will have one of the syndicate rooms available through the day for gamers to hide out in. There will be programme items relating to gaming but they have not yet been confirmed.

### **Filking**

Filkers will be most welcome at Speculation with the Forum being made available for Filking after its daily programme ends. Earlier filking can be done in one of the syndicate rooms by arrangement with the operations manager.

# N E X U S

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**Gwyneth Jones**, fiction from **Geoff Ryman** and **Christina Lake**, cover art  
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### And Finally... Odds and Endings

Anyone wishing to bid for the honour of running the 1993 Eastercon should write to us so that they can be included in the bidding session. If you want to hold a bidding party that can be done in one of the Syndicate rooms by prior arrangement.

The convention is being organised by a small committee with a great many helpers. If you would like to help too then please fill out a volunteer form and send it as quickly as possible to the address above. All gophers and stewards will receive a nifty badge based the cover illustration by Keith Edmond for this PR.

The committee of Speculation hope you have a safe journey and arrive in Glasgow ready for the best convention of your life.

The committee consists of:

John Fairey Chairman  
KIM Campbell Member Services  
Paul Oldroyd Programme  
Mark Meenan Logistics  
Ian Sorensen Publications

Speculation's address stubbornly remains **35 Buller Rd, London, N17 9BH** but, as the convention draws ever closer, telephone communication becomes more reliable than the mail so Mark Meenan has volunteered his number as a contact point for the convention. Mark's number is 0389 65313 (evenings and weekends). Any enquiries about the hotel should go to the Hospitality Inn on 041 332 3311.

**Speculation PR4. February 1991**