

FAIRCON '84 PROGRESS REPORT 2

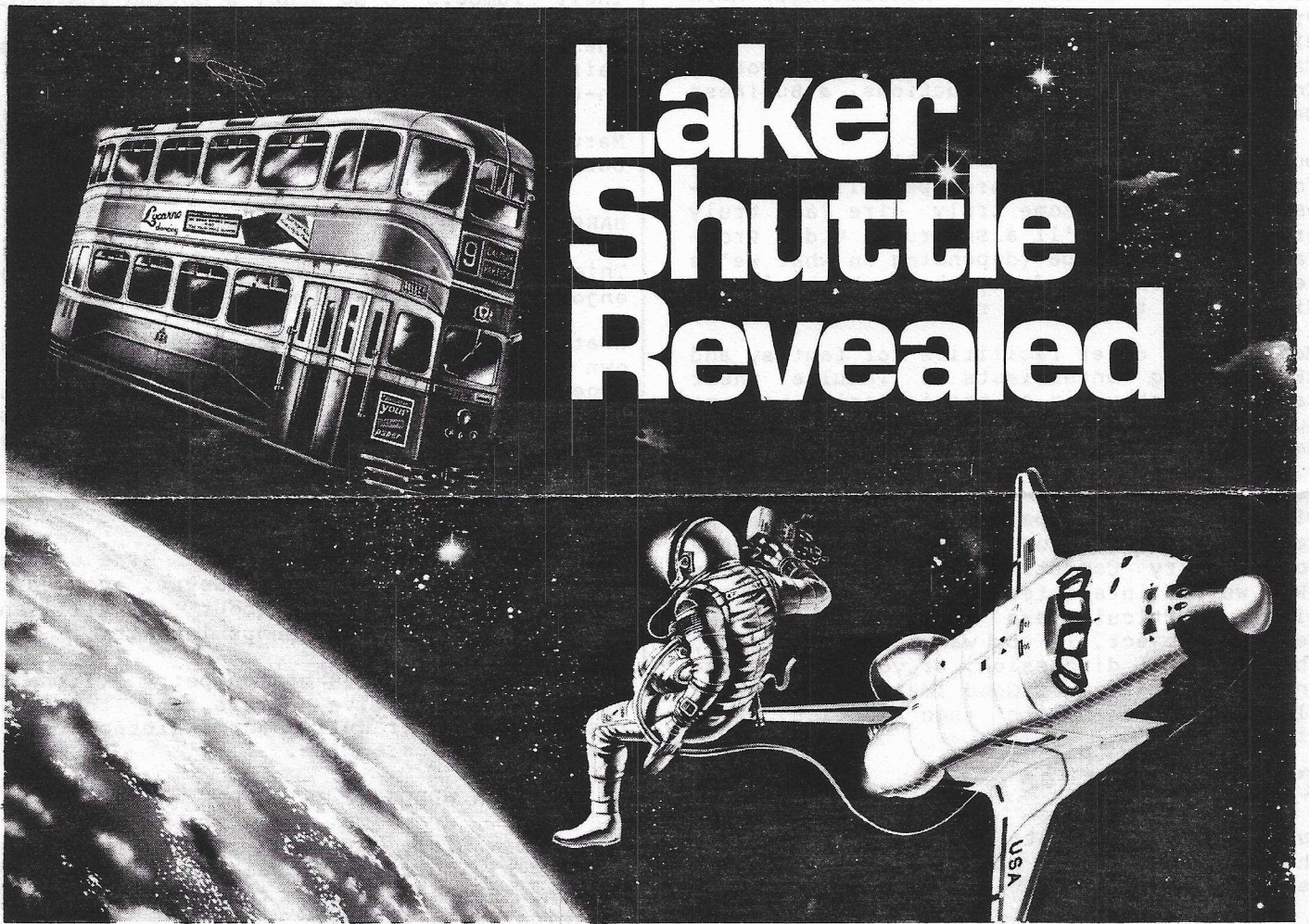
*Dateline July 2083
Fun in the 21st Century*



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Laker Shuttle Revealed



David Alexander

INTRODUCTION

This is Progress Report 2 for Faircon '84, Glasgow's ninth Science-Fiction Convention. Faircon '84 will be held in the Ingram Hotel over the four days from 20-23 July 1984, and will feature all the standard Faircon attractions plus as much else as we can cram in!

This Progress Report is in fact our third publication. Progress Report Zero was widely distributed from July 1982 at Faircon '82, Novacon 12, and at RaCon earlier this year. PR1 was mailed in March 1983, and was also available at the Albacon II Eastercon. If you didn't receive either of these PRs then send us an A5 SAE and we'll be pleased to issue you with copies.

In order to save considerable expense we've

decided NOT to phototypeset our PRs, and will instead make use of a word-processor to create the material used for eventual printing. We will, however, probably return to the more expensive method for our Convention Programme Book. So now you know the reason for the slight 'typewriter' look in this and our other publications!

Inside this Progress Report you'll find more details about our Programme, Membership and Hotel Booking Forms and information, address update slip, kidney donor card, reviews of our films, Committee details, publicity posters, and a whole pile of other stuff.

We look forward to Faircon '84 (slightly over a year away as this is written) and hope that we can make it a Con to remember. This is one Convention where the Committee is determined to learn from past mistakes,



and if you've got any good advice then do, please, drop us a line. Some 'Good Ideas' turn out not to be, but in general we're ready and willing to listen to anyone.

At various places in this Progress Report you'll be advised to contact Committee Members. All the required addresses are shown on the final page of this PR or on the appropriate forms.

PROGRAMME

We will have a full (and interesting!) Main Programme with feature films, talks, panel discussions and such silly events as the Fancy Dress Competition and Vogon Poetry Competition. We'll have auctions, a Business Meeting, and some surprises.

Our Alternative Programme will provide space for various items of more specialised interest as well as some truly dire (and truly great) films. We'll also run a Video Programme of some type (depending on what we're legally allowed to do by then) which will be distributed to various rooms in the Hotel.

We'll also offer facilities for fantasy and SF wargaming enthusiasts to indulge their habit - probably in a particularly noisome sub-basement, complete with greenly dripping walls...

As always, we're on the lookout for people willing to participate in the Programme. As well as entrants for such events as the Vogon Poetry Competition (of which more in PR3) we're interested in anyone out there with a particular axe to grind on any SF related subject. If you want to give a talk, chair a panel discussion, or you simply have one of those famous Good Ideas that someone else should deal with then contact Ellis Simpson.

THE HOTEL

As a result of continued negotiations with the Ingram Hotel we have arranged a further reduction in Hotel rates.

The Convention tariff per night will be:

Single Room - £16.50
Twin Room (each) - £14.50

These rates are inclusive of VAT, Service, Full English Breakfast and a morning paper.

You are advised to return your Hotel Booking Form as soon as possible; for a number of reasons we feel that we may well fill the Hotel fairly quickly. Completed Hotel Booking Forms should be returned to Ellis Simpson, NOT to the Hotel.

The Ingram Hotel is situated at 201 Ingram Street, Glasgow. The next PR will include a map showing you how to find the hotel, as well as the private hotel car park and a selection of local eating places.

FAIRCON

THE VIKINGS

Dark nights up north see everyone enjoying themselves as they consume huge quantities of food and drink and indulge in a little debauchery here and there. But dark nights bring mornings when a day's work must be done, and so the cast drag themselves from their slumbers to do a day's acting instead.

The Kirk Douglas dimple, and the Tony Curtis haircut do battle, and take the old eye-for-an-eye routine a bit too far.

Marvellous action, fun, and photography. Lie back and enjoy it.

BARBARELLA

This is another one where the cast seems to enjoy the film. Well, maybe not Jane Fonda!

What seems to be a good idea succumbs to its own excesses and camps up the whole script. Ingenious -and somewhat sick- designs mark the whole film for the era in which it was made. The story isn't dated, only the approach. Still recommended.

DOPPLEGANGER

Ho hum. Guess what? On the other side of the Sun is a duplicate Earth. Never, you say. Yes. And no one knows about it till an astronaut accidentally bumps into it...

Gerry Anderson takes his puppetry skill and attempts to use live actors, and the end result is rather dull and predictable. But the explosions are nice.

AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON

Beware of misty Yorkshire moors at night. You and I would never walk over them, but you know these American tourists. They'd do anything for a laugh...

And they do. They take a straightforward horror story (amazing transformations) and add a massive injection of humour to get you laughing. Just when you've tagged it as a comedy back comes the horror...

A real treat of a film.

NIGHT OF THE LEPUS

This film beat the actors. Show terror, they were told. OK. Show drama, tension, and worry. Fine.

Then see the Menace.

Giant Floppies and Toppsies. Yep, the bunnies. They forget all about breeding and come up with a much better idea: a taste for actors (who strive desperately not to



FILM

laugh). They should have developed a taste for the writer and director.

Watch especially for the Sam Peckinpah ending, all slow motion and fur.

NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD

I find nothing in this film to recommend, except perhaps the end credits. Not surprisingly, this is a cult film. I find it all distasteful, especially as it became the basis of a minor sub-genre of films.

Avoid if you have eaten, or plan to eat.

SATURN 3

Not as bad as you may think. It boggles the intellect somewhat as you consider the pursuit of that Kirk Douglas dimple (again) by Farrah Multi-Barreled Name. Having seen her taste in consorts it isn't at all surprising that Hector gets ideas that don't earn this film a 'U' certificate...

A good 'crack-jokes-as-you-watch' film. Even Kirk isn't really that bad; unlike Farrah or the cast in the next two films he at least has been known to act.

BEDAZZLED

A film of excesses and the massaging of the egos of the stars. The plot and sketches are worn once you get past the idea of a Faust spoof. Mastering acting did not seem to be a goal of any of the performers as they meander through the film.

Raquel Welch looks good, but Elenor Bron as the love interest!

In this film, Hector would have had a good chance with Raquel. Only really good bit is the dancing nuns, and Peter Cook as a suave devil explaining that he only needs a few more souls.

THE HUMANOID

A really dire movie. Every action gets a laugh. So bad it makes your eyes water. You can't really review this film.

You have just got to watch this one.

GODZILLA Vs THE THING

How Tokyo saves costs by not employing demolition contractors to destroy old buildings. They just employ the services of one Godzilla, who destroys Tokyo again, just as soon as they rebuild it after his last film.

Not a bad film, but nowhere near Godzilla, Son of Godzilla, or Destroy All Monsters.

Worth watching if you haven't seen Godzilla.

REVIEW

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

West Side Story perpetuated into the future without the songs, the morals, or Romeo and Juliet. Everything is depressing. Hoodlums and gangsters rampage through New York until the cavalry rides in: Yul Brynner. His gleaming head doesn't raise any sweat as it polishes off all attacks.

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

You have either seen it or not. You love it or loathe it. Either way, you have already decided whether or not to watch it.

Pointless reviewing it.

PS - I hate it, so there!

WIZARDS

The animation and story are a joy. Sorry, I should say the normal sort of animation. When they use the technique of drawing over live action it gets to be rather boring and dull.

The technique is very unimpressive. But the rest of the film makes up for it. A joyful tale that achieves a Disney-like care for its characters. As in Disney films (the ones done by old Walt) they elicit our sympathy and concern.

FUTTOCKS END

Ronnie Corbett and Barker produced this silent version of their brand of comedy. Mildly meanders with many humorous moments. If you like them then you'll enjoy this one immensely.

THE PLANK

Completely hilarious adventure with Eric Sykes trying to do a day's work. This had me on the floor the first time I saw it. Takes a simple idea and piles on the laughs. Much more satisfactory than Futtock's End.

HENRY NINE 'TIL FIVE and KAMA SUTRA RIDES AGAIN

Two cartoons from Bob Godfrey. Quite fun. Featured on OTT so you know what type of humour to expect.

BUGS BUNNY

No need to tell you how good Bugs is. See him for yourself. The best are the old ones you've seen time and time before.

BRUCE SAVILLE

All the films listed have been booked and confirmed by the distributors. We also hope to show DESTINATION MOON, DARK STAR, and HARDWARE WARS.

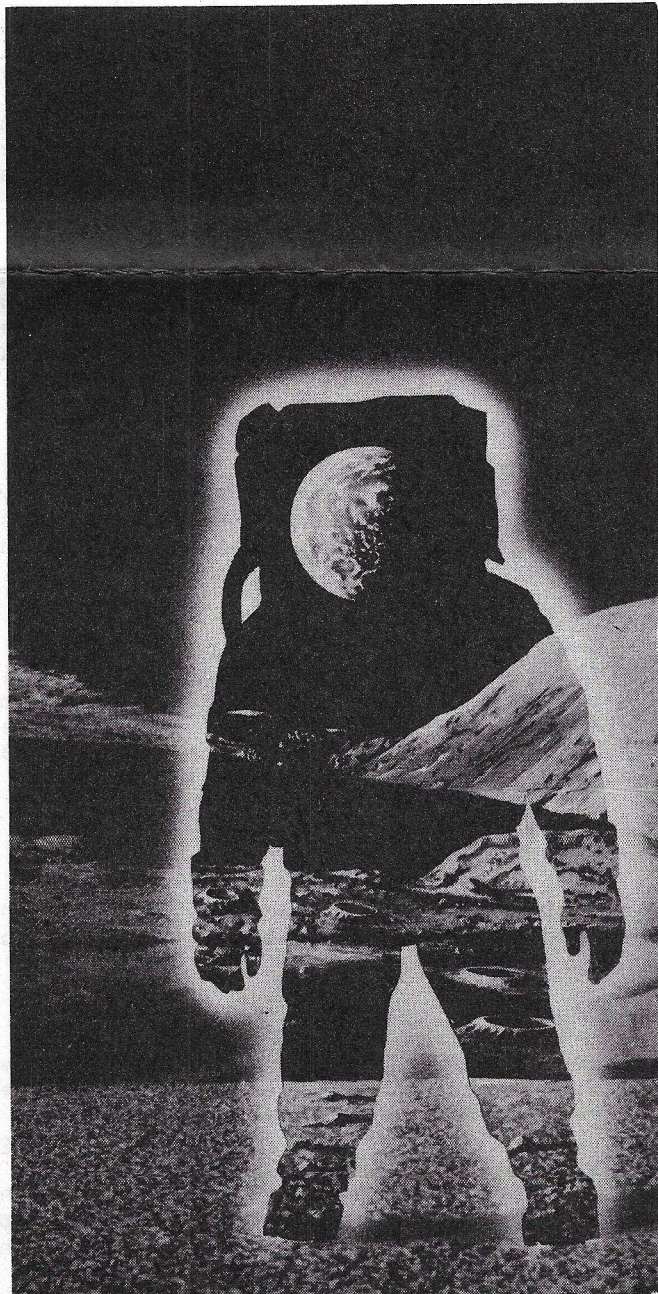


INVENTION

Glasgow's next SF Convention is Invention. To be held at Glasgow's Central Hotel from 23 to 26 September 1983, it features Chris Boyce as Guest of Honour, Jim Barker as Fan Guest of Honour, and the real Bob Shaw as Special Guest.

Full Membership details are available from Invention, c/o Kevin Henwood, 10 Bothwell Gardens, Glasgow G71. Full Attending Membership is £10.00 to 18 September 1983, after which date it rises. No postal applications will be accepted after 18 September.

The Committee of Faircon '84 wish to thank the organisers of Invention who have kindly agreed to allow us a recruiting table at their Convention. We look forward to taking your money there!



David Alexander

GUESTS

Guest of Honour:

Sydney Jordan

Second Guest: **Mat Irvine**

Special Guests:

The 2000 AD Team

Faircon '84 has several Guests. Our Guest of Honour is Sydney Jordan, creator of the 'Jeff Hawke' and 'Lance McLane' SF comic strips.

Sydney Jordan comes originally from Scotland, and is the first ever Scottish GoH at any Convention north of the border! He is currently familiar to readers of the Scottish Daily Record where his latest colour SF strip now runs. He is best known in the rest of the UK for his long-running 'Jeff Hawke' strip in the Daily Express and, of course, to Scottish readers for later Hawke material in the short lived Scottish Daily News of the mid 70s. He now lives in Surrey.

Our second Guest is Mat Irvine, BBC special effects expert and the creator of many of TV's most famous SFX sequences.

Among the TV programmes that Mat has been involved with are Dr Who, Blake's 7, and - believe it or not - a gaelic children's SF show called Mag is Mog!

A regular contributor to the SF model orientated 'Voyager' magazine, Mat is a keen modeller of space fact and fiction, and we hope to persuade him to be a judge in the first Faircon model competition. More details in our next Progress Report...

Special Guests are the 2000 AD team. We've invited four as yet unnamed artists to Faircon '84, and - work commitments willing - expect a good representation of 2000 AD next July.

2000 AD is, of course, the home of the ever-lawful Judge Dredd. Under the firm editorial control of a super-powered alien called Tharg, the comic is nevertheless without any doubt one of the major British influences on a whole new generation of SF enthusiasts (and a good few faans, too!). 2000 AD has, as well as providing meaty SF for kids, also nurtured a whole host of artists and writers who have since gone on to even better things. Included among the 2000 AD writers is, of course, Harry Harrison (GoH at Faircon '82) whose Stainless Steel Rat novels proved readily adaptable to 2000 AD. In fact it isn't just a comic, but is instead one of the seminal influences on the SF establishment of tomorrow.

We're sure that the Members of Faircon '84 will make all our Guests most welcome!



PUBLICITY

One area where you can help Faircon '84 even at this early stage is by the distribution of the posters enclosed with this PR. You'll find two in each envelope, and it would be a big help if you get them put up somewhere public. If you want more copies then just get in touch and we'll send you some out as soon as we can.

We have also recently produced our first Press Release. If you can pass a copy on to your local newspaper, radio station, or whatever, then contact us and we'll send you as many copies as you need.

ADVERTISING

In PR3 we will run FREE advertising for Faircon Members. Subject to space limits we will print up to 50 words (including your address) at no charge.

Advertising space in our next PR and our Programme Book is still available. Our standard print run is 1,000, of which 850 copies will be sent out in a first mailing with the remainder sent to anyone sending in a postal enquiry. Rates are given in PR1 or may be had from Ellis Simpson on request.

The deadline for all adverts in the next PR is 1st November 1983; in the Programme Book 1st June 1984.

We are particularly keen to swap advertising space with other Conventions and similar bodies, and are willing to distribute their fliers in return for our own being sent out. Such a deal is, of course, excellent value for both parties!

GOPHERS

Q: What is a Gopher?

A: A small furry mammal that eats problems

That might well be the best way to describe a Gopher. Alternatively, you could say that Gophers gofer things...

Every Convention has a Committee who organise matters in advance ('organise' is probably too dignified a term!) and who, by the time of the event, are generally too shattered to do anything except gibber in dark corners of the Con Hall. At this point Gophers scurry out of their holes and take over much of the running of the Con, making all sweetness and light once more.

That, at least, is the theory.

We need help with various aspects of the Convention. Folk are needed to sit in the Art Show and Computer Room making sure nothing gets damaged, at the Registration Desk, looking after the Guests, and generally helping out. We don't need your help for the whole period of Faircon, but a couple of hours over the weekend would aid us enormously.

We do, however, need to know that you're available prior to the Con so that we can make up rotas and so forth - although help on the day will be more than welcome it won't be as much use as assistance that we can count on in advance.

If you're keen to help then write to Carla Salveta as soon as possible (enclosing an SAE) and she'll send you more details in due course. If you want to help in any particular place (like the Book Room) then mentioning it would be a good idea.

A final couple of points about being a gopher: you get to meet folk, and gophering is FUN!

FOKT + TEN

Glasgow's SF fan group was formed following the 1974 UK Easter SF Convention. Called the Friends of Kilgore Trout (or FOKT), it has met regularly for most of the decade since it was formed. One reason for the regularity and survival of FOKT has been the anarchy adopted by the founders, resulting in widely different sub groups managing to exist side by side without fear of too much politicking intruding!

FOKT currently meets every Thursday from about 8pm in the Lounge Bar of Wintersgill's Bar, 226 Great Western Road, Glasgow G4 9EJ.

As a celebration of the tenth anniversary of FOKT a special party will be held in the Ingram Hotel on the evening of Saturday May 5th 1984. We will do our best to gather as many old FOKT regulars together as possible plus as many more modern members as we can get too. There will be a late bar, a buffet, minimal programme and a sprinkling of silliness. If you want to stay overnight after FOKT + 10 then rooms will be available at the Faircon rate.

An organising Committee of white-haired (or balding) FOKT regulars has been formed, and if you want to help then contact Bob Shaw.

Tickets costing £2.50 plus SAE are now available from Bob Shaw or at any FOKT meeting. All cheques/POs etc should be payable to FOKT; no cash, please.

ORGANLEGGERS

In your mailing you'll find a tissue donor card. Callous though it may seem, it remains fairly obvious that some of the folk on our mailing list are likely to die in the not too distant future. Don't believe us - just ask any insurance salesman!

If, by the way, you're thinking of taking out insurance then remember not to mention that you're an SF fan; insurance companies can cope quite readily with the statistics for jumping out of aeroplanes (preferably with a parachute) but if you try to explain about the possibility of death and destruction at an SF Con then you'll lose your no claims bonus on your Life Insurance!

By carrying a Donor Card you may help some other individual to lead a full life; it'll do you no harm, and could do someone else a lot of good.

LIFT PARTIES

There will be NO lift parties at Faircon! If you want to nominate anyone (except the Committee - we may be crazy but we're not that stupid!) to be placed in the Central Hotel lift with twenty other victims in order to test the springs at the bottom of the lift shaft then see page 9 of this PR.

Just as we're going to exercise some care with regard to clowns running around with swords and guns at Faircon, similarly we will continue the policy outlined in PR1 as regards safety in general. We'll make plain to you the location of fire exits, and we'll do our best to control cables, empty beer glasses, and so on. In this, as in all other aspects of a happy Con, your cooperation is required, and we hope that you'll be as responsible as possible.

So, we want NO lift parties, NO sharp pointed sticks and - best of all - NO accidents either!

FAIRCON RAIL DEAL

Investigation with British Rail reveals that

the group bookings available to Faircon Members are barely competitive with a number of other cheap rail offers. Specifically, students, those under 25, and a variety of other people may purchase discount cards which undercut the rates that we can obtain. Additionally, the 'standard' fare that is used as the basis of group bookings is significantly higher than the fares normally available to anyone merely by asking at the rail station.

It therefore looks as though there would be no point in going ahead with a rail deal!

If enough of you write then we'll consider arranging 'cheap' fares; otherwise, we will reluctantly decide not to do so.

THE BOOK ROOM

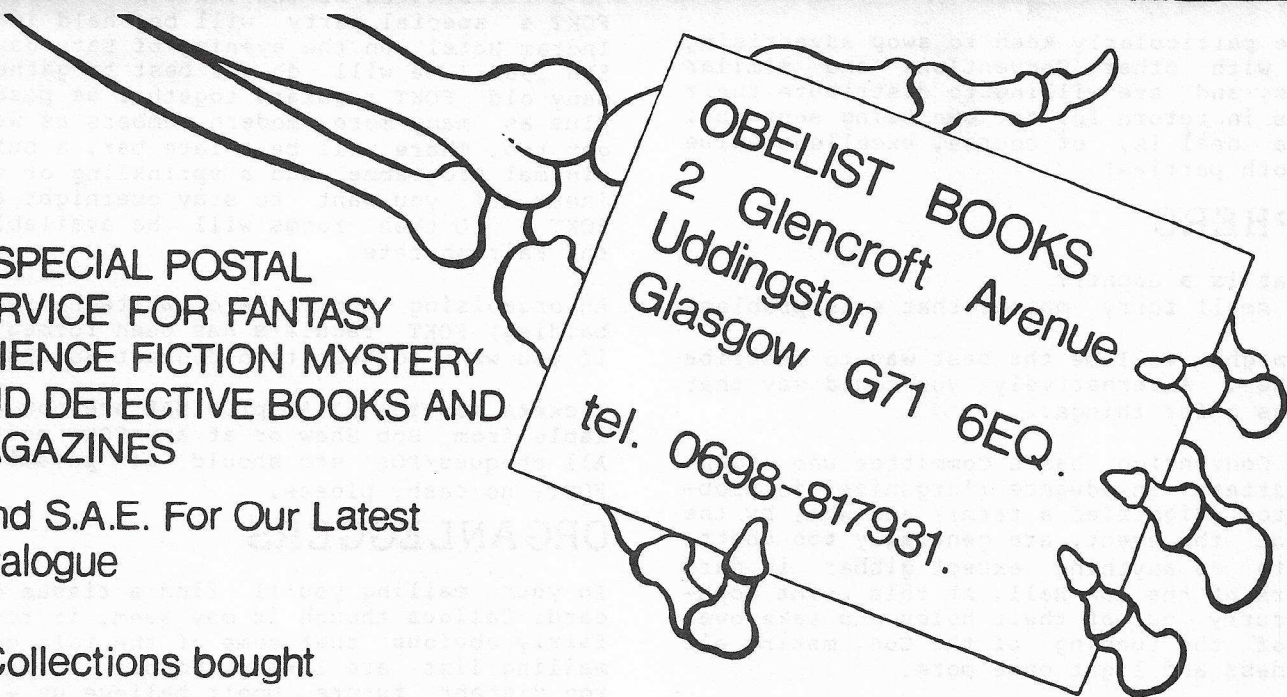
Dealers' tables in the Book Room will cost £10.00 each or three for £25.00. Tables are strictly limited in number, and will be sold on a first-come basis. Each table measures approx 6'x2'. Although Faircon '84 will carry a reasonable level of insurance to cover the Book Room you should tell us in advance if you propose to bring especially valuable stock.

Book Room enquiries should be directed to Richard Holt.

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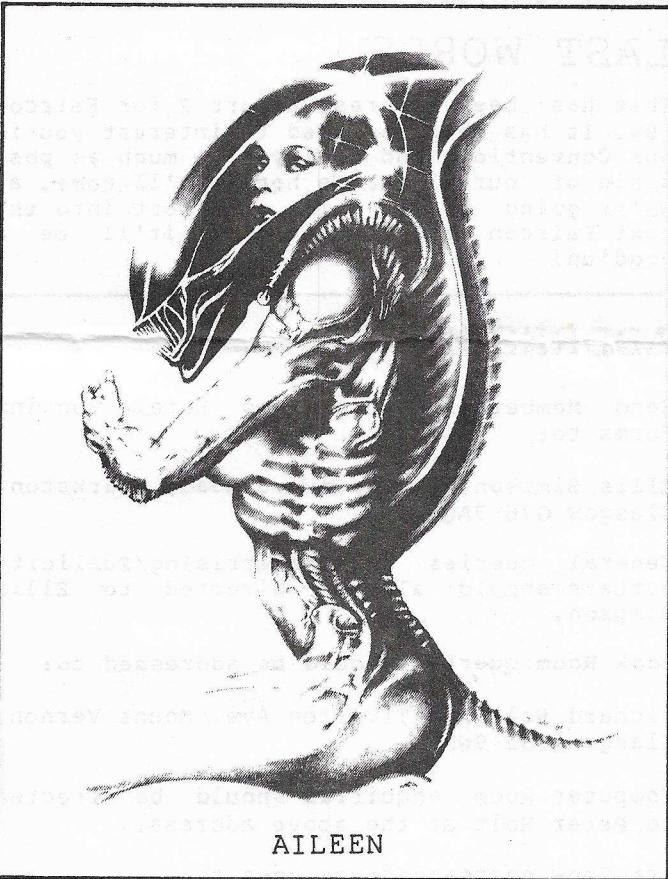


THE COMMITTEE

Faircon's Committee includes: Bob Shaw (Chairman), John McShane (Treasurer), Ellis Simpson (Secretary), Kevin Clark (Art Show), Peter Holt (Computer Room), Russell Aitken (Book Room), Richard Holt (Book Room), Dave Hutton (Production) and Doug McCallum. (Technical).

In addition, we've been offered the help of Allister Gourlay (layout and design of PRs) and Carla Salveta (Gopher organisation) plus Gordon Milne, Martin Jeffrey and Michael Smith.

The Committee would like to thank David Alexander (for the use of his paintings), David Black (for help with the Donor Cards) and Bruce Saville (for the film reviews).



AILEEN

Kevin Clark

ART SHOW

Faircon '84 will have an Art Show where both professional and amateur artists will be encouraged to present their work. There will be no hanging fee, but if your work is sold in the Art Auction (it doesn't need to be for sale, of course!) then Faircon takes 10% commission. There will be a 'Best of Show' award, voted on by the Convention Members and Guests.

As with the Computer Room we carry insurance for reasonable sums, and we will totally ban food, drink and smoking from the Art Show. Models or 3D artwork can be placed in a glass case, but ONLY if we have prior

warning.

Full details of the Art Show arrangements may be had from Kevin Clark; remember to tell us in good time that you're coming, as space will be limited.

COMPUTER ROOM

There will be a Computer Room at Faircon '84. We're keen to borrow computers and software, and we're looking for volunteers to help run the Computer Room.

Past experience indicates that there is a great deal of interest in computers among Faircon Members, and we'll try to make the 1984 Computer Room at least as good as any we've had before.

If you're willing to loan computers, software, monitors or anything else then contact Peter Holt. We carry insurance and will do our best to make sure your precious machines are well looked after. We'll even look after your not so precious ones, too!

MEMBERSHIP

To attend Faircon '84 you must be a Full Attending Member. You may, however, become a Supporting Member now, and pay the difference between the two classes of Membership at Faircon. Full details are on the Membership Form accompanying this PR.

Full Attending Membership currently costs £8.00, and Supporting Membership costs £5.00. These rates will rise by £1.00 on 1/1/84 and again at the Convention itself. Day Memberships at £4.00 per day will be available at Faircon but not in advance.

Membership forms (bottom half only) should be returned to Ellis Simpson.

YOUR ADDRESS

Accompanying this PR you'll find a sheet asking you to update (if required) our record of your address. Your help is appreciated!

THE SCOTTISH COMICS GROUP PRESENTS:

DC, Marvel, Warrior and 2000 AD artists
 * ALAN MOORE * ALAN DAVIS * DAVID LLOYD *
 KEVIN O'NEIL * MICK MCMAHON * ROBIN SMITH
 * RICHARD BURTON * DAVE GIBBONS*

COMIC MART

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Second Foundation

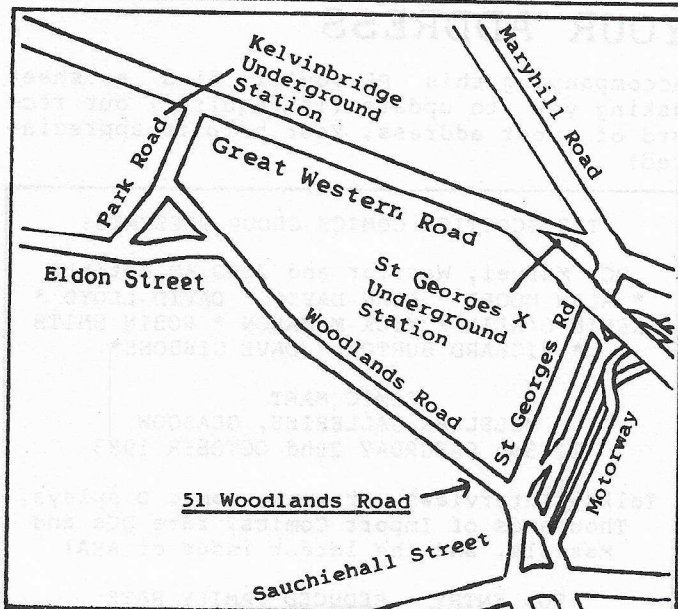
Our new Comic and SF Bookshop - BOOKS 'N' PHOTOS - is at 51 Woodlands Road, Glasgow G3 6ED. As well as the enormous range of items we carry at our Candleriggs branch we'll also offer general books and magazines and 24 hour photo processing.

Both shops sell UK paperbacks, imported US paperbacks, secondhand books (at sensible prices!), magazines, astronomy and space material, posters, model kits, UK distributed comics, and US advance import comics (at reduced prices in our Woodlands Road shop). We sell old comics at Austin Price Guide prices or below - compare us with the competition (and then come back for a fair deal!) and we buy books and comics at top rates. In addition, our Woodlands Road branch will shortly offer a video library, and our Candleriggs shop sells a fine selection of D&D and wargaming aids.

We now offer a mail-order service for US advance comics - write for details to our Candleriggs branch.

SECOND FOUNDATION 44 Candleriggs, Glasgow G1 1LE

BOOKS 'N' PHOTOS 51 Woodlands Road, Glasgow G3 6ED



BUSINESS MEETING

As stated in PR1 there will be a Business Meeting at Faircon '84. We'll present draft accounts, and make feeble excuses for our many errors. You'll be given the chance to speak, and to offer advice (and practical help) on the running of future Glasgow SF Cons.

THE FOKT AWARD

The regularly given FOKT award will be presented at Faircon '84. Faircon Members don't vote on the recipient of the FOKT award, but all FOKT Members are given the opportunity to do so.

The new Prime Trout will also be announced at Faircon. 'Prime Trout' is a silly honour given by long-serving FOKTs to one of their number each year.

LAST WORDS

This has been Progress Report 2 for Faircon '84. It has been designed to interest you in our Convention, and tell you as much as possible of our plans. We hope you'll come, as we're going to put a lot of effort into the next Faircon and reckon that it'll be a good'un!

ADDRESSES

Send Membership Forms and Hotel Booking Forms to:

Ellis Simpson, 18 Greenwood Road, Clarkston, Glasgow G76 7AQ

General queries and Advertising/Publicity matters should also be directed to Ellis Simpson.

Book Room queries should be addressed to:

Richard Holt, 14 Tiverton Ave, Mount Vernon, Glasgow G32 9NX

Computer Room enquiries should be directed to Peter Holt at the above address.

Art Show correspondence goes to:

Kevin Clark, c/o Second Foundation, 44 Candleriggs, Glasgow G1 1LE

Prospective gophers should get in touch with Carla Salveta, 52 Victoria Park Drive North, Jordanhill, Glasgow G14 7NW.

If all else fails then contact Bob Shaw. His address is:

Bob Shaw, 2/L 244 West Princes Street, Kelvinbridge, Glasgow G4 9DP
tel (041) 334 6874 (home) 552 8138 (work)