

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to UNICON, the tenth annual Science Fiction Convention to be held at a place of higher education. I was told to put that in so we would look really serious and business-like. Not that we aren't, I hasten to add, but we do like to have the emphasis at our cons on having a good time. That's what the previous three NICons have been like and it is this ethos that the committee is carrying over to its UNICON commitments.

As you can see we've also carried over our logo, the boozy cat, which has featured in our publications on numerous occasions before. As editor I'm required to go along with committee policy, but if I had my way that \*&£@/+% cat would be a nice draught excluder now.'After the last incident though, I've been bound over to keep the peace. Okay, okay I'll get on with it...

Inside you'll find all the necessary information and a nice little form to fill, we know how much you enjoy doing that. We'd be very grateful if you could return this to us, even if you have already joined, as it keeps our records straight; you know what bureaucracy is like. Also there are some brief outlines of the committee, guests and a few brief details of the site; our next report will carry details of travel information, a map to get here, details on postal bidding for the next UNICON and further guest information.

(Well that was certainly a functional introduction and now onto the perpetrators of this heinous crime, the committee...)

TOMMY FERGUSON- Progress Reports, Programme Book, Phan, litigation, breakdowns.

Original instigator of this mess, I formed the University Society three years ago and organised the first ever NICon in 1986 with Euge. Since then I've been Chairperson of the society and have helped run the cons ever since (with more and more help). Interests include three fhannish zines, the art of Bill Sienkiewicz, and Philip K. Dick. At the moment I'm running for election in the union before falling to pieces over my Political Science finals exams. <u>EUGENE DOHERTY</u>- Chairbeing, site liasion, Hawaiian shirt wearer and bureaucrat.

Co-founder of the society and co-runner of the first NICon and he still hasn't learnt! Recently appointed editor of the society zine quirkafleeg, which has nothing to do with the fact it has yet to reach its first issue. Interests include Judge Dredd and Call of Cthulu RPGs, Batman comics and the paranormal; he is also a big fan of Larry Niven, are these facts linked? Is currently about to start training as a nurse, God help us!

BILL BOYLE- Programme Co-ordinator, publisher, advertising and Astrogation.

Bill joined the merry throng in the post NICon '86 fannish remaissance and has been on the committee ever since. He is the main Fantasy fan on the committee and keeps our attention focussed on that area throughout the programming. He is also a keen wargamer/Role player and will be running the UNICON Championship at the con. Is currently devising foolproof methods of avoiding his exams in June... JOE McNALLY- Membership Secretary, transport, guest liasion, Mr. "Sod All".

Joe won the original Harry Harrison round quiz at NICon '86 and thus we had to get him on the committee because he obviously knew too much to be safe on the outside. His interests range from Michael Moorcock and the Occult to games on the Spectrum, of which he is a firm defender; he also dabbles (sic) in fannish activities and is going to publish RSN. Currently doing a Media Studies course at the University of Ulster at Coleraine, he insists this doesn't make him a Media fan and that those outre videos he makes <u>REALLY</u> <u>ARE</u> for his course...

PETER DUNN- Treasurer, Minutes Secretary, token teetotaller, "Man on the inside"

A relative newcomer to the con scene Peter is a vereran of the Society and his links with the University have made things a lot more easier for the society and hopefully the con itself. His main interest is The Prisoner series, Larry Niven, student union politics (he is running for election as well) and God; but not necessarily in that order. He is the rational element in the con and keeps the books and the University happy. Currently he is trying to interview as many Irish politicans as possible for his PhD on Irish Foreign Policy before they die on him.

As well as this talent there will also be a few other guests, have a look: <u>TERRY</u> <u>PRATCHETT</u>- Author of the well loved Discworld series, Terry has made numerous appearances at cons last year, but at UNICON X he will unveil his new GOH speech! On his first convention visit to the province he is sure to be a great success and well appreciated.

JAMES WHITE- What NICon would be complete without James? He has been to every NICon and last year he was of our main guests. Honorary President of the University Society, James proves to be as popular a guest now as he was in 1936 and we look forward to meeting him once again.

IAIN THOMAS- Another NICon regular. He was so well received last year as a member that we just had to bring him back as a guest; although he is enevitably going to cause some controversy. Humorous and personable Iain looks set to be very popular again this year as our Fan Guest of Honour.

JOHN FLYNN- An unfortunate victim of circumstance last year John is going to give his talk this year instead. A popular guest at NICon '87 when he debunked many sightings of UFOs and UFOlogists generally, John will no doubt have another interesting and informative talk as our Science Guest of Honour.

Apart from these main guest we hope to have another surprise guest which will be announced later. Also there will be a special guest list for the comics programme which is in the final stages of preparation; more on that in PR2.

## ADVERTISING RATES

Progress Report 2: Full Page - £10.00 Half Page - £5.00 Quarter Page - £3.00 Programme Book: Full Page - £15.00 Half Page - £10.00 Quarter Page - £5.00

(Rates for fans: 75% normal rate)

All advertising should be A4 or equivalent, 15mm border and camera ready. All submissions should be accompanied with payment, cheques made payable to "Queen's University Belfast" and sent to Euge Doherty at 78 University Ave. Belfast BT7.

## MEMBERSHIP RATES

Attending membership: £6.00 Non-attending membership: £2.00 All cheques should be made payable to "Queen's University Belfast" and sent with the form below to Joe McNally at 106 Somerton Rd., Belfast BT15, N.I.

## ACCOMODATION RATES

Single Room: £6.50 (including VAT) (Student Rate: £3.50)

Double rooms are available on rquest but numbers are strictly limited, price is double those for single rooms. All rooms are by the hall where the convention will be taking place. They have wash - basin, desk and cupboard with showers and toilets for every six rooms. There is also a large communal kitchen with cookers for each floor (about 20-rooms) which will be great for parties. A "student" is defined as someone who has a valid National Union of Students card.

APPLICATION FORM (THE DULL FORM FILLING BIT).

Name.... Address... Would you like to take part in any of the following: NICon Quiz(\_) Role Playing Championship (\_) Artist/Writers Workshop (\_) Various games of an indeterminate nature (\_) To help run the convention (\_) I would like accomodation for: Thurs. (\_) Fri.: (\_) Sat.: (\_) Sun.: (\_) Mon.:(\_) I enclose £\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_(number of nights) I enclose £\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_(Number of memberships) Total £\_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed form and remittance to Joe McNally at the above address. (Memberships will be kept on computer file. Please indicate your disapproval). This has been a NICon Production. Reproduction (in full) is encouraged.

And so, to bed ...

