



CONFACTS

Issue #0

Thursday Morning

& ConFictions

CEILING VANISHES!

The upper top floor of the Congress Centre evaporated today, but will be back at some point. The lifts are out of action, which limits access for those not happy to climb. Stairs are available for the fit, but faint-hearted.

This limits the Fan Room, Rembrandt Lounge and Rembrandt Terrace; *Fan meets Fan* will be moved to somewhere on the main top floor; other programme changes will be notified in the Programme Busters sheet.

Good reasons for going to the Fan Room include the Charades Marathon, on Saturday, which is aiming for the World record for continuous charades (at least 24 hours, volunteers needed), and sandwiches and snack food. Ice-axes, pitons and ropes are available from Ops Secure Storage.

Things that go Whizzz! in the night.

Want to see the bright lights? Try the 11th International Fireworks Festival which is happening every evening at Scheveningen Pier (until Saturday 25 August). Top pyrotechnicists from Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Japan and the Netherlands are competing for the annual Scheveningen Trophy. There are two shows this evening at 22.00 and 23.00. Friday and Saturday have three shows, at 22.00, 23.00 and 23.45. Take Tram 7 or 8.

Entries include the Spanish *Comets* and the Japanese *Chrysanthemum* (the title translations are approximate!). *ConFacts & ConFictions* may review these, and the Festival's other exotic attractions, in future editions.

Members of ConFiction are asked to keep watch for the Ops team: any Ops persons found should be reminded gently of their duty to ConFiction and returned to the Congress Centre pronto. At gunpoint if necessary.

THE EAST EUROPEANS ARE COMING

ConFiction, more than most Worldcons, is likely to be remembered as one of the turning points in convention history. Not only is it just the second Worldcon ever to be held in a country whose official language is something other than English, but it is also likely to be the first Worldcon ever to have a significant presence from Eastern Europe. Already, some weeks before the convention opened its doors, we had heard rumours that the fandoms of Eastern Europe were making a concerted effort to get their members to the con. In Czechoslovakia, for example, a group of Prague fans have hired a bus, and if all goes well there could be as many as 30 or 40 Czechoslovak fans at the convention. Polish fans have hired another bus, and say there may be up to 80 of them. I have also heard, from one of ConFiction's national representatives, that the convention had received more than 300 enquiries from citizens of the Soviet Union; even if only a fraction of these turn up, they will constitute the largest Soviet presence at any Worldcon anywhere.

Because of the large European presence, this is also the first Worldcon where there is a serious possibility that Americans will be in a minority, and where English will no longer be the automatic language of choice when two fans meet each other. All this adds up to the most international SF convention ever held, and a unique opportunity for fans from the West to meet their eastern counterparts.

It is the intention of this newsletter to introduce you, over the next few days, to some of the many interesting fans from Eastern Europe who are present at the con, but why wait for us to tell you who to talk to? What all our visitors from Eastern Europe want more than anything else are contacts. If you see a group of East Europeans wandering around the con, why not go and get acquainted? You never know — one of them might turn out to be the next Stanislaw Lem. Cyril Simsa

Warning!

Medical Matters

People with special medical conditions, requirements for or allergies to medication, or anything else of medical interest to communicate in case of medical emergency, are encouraged to get medical alert stickers for the backs of their badges. These can be obtained from a desk in Registration, next to Programme Participants registration. Advice on restricted-mobility access to difficult parts of the Congressgebouw is at the same desk.

Creche change

The creche will close at 5.00 pm, not 6.00 pm as stated in the programme guide. Sorry!

In The Real World

Even cheaper travel

If you're staying for a week or more, there is an even better deal than the convention's 5-day special ticket for local busses and trams. This costs Dfl 17.50, from the HTM desk at the front of the Congressgebouw, and is the best bet if you're only staying until Monday.

If you go to a post office or the railway station and provide a passport photo, there is a 7-day ticket for Dfl 19.75, if and only if you're not Dutch. At this rate, they'll be paying us to travel by Sunday.

Culture Unlimited

VVV (the Dutch tourist office) can sell you a Museum Card (Dfl 40.00 and a passport photo), which gives free or reduced entry to national museums throughout the Netherlands for a year. Given the number of museums in The Hague, it could pay for itself in a day.

Ops supremo and British con-running guru Tim Illingworth was given three major problems to solve on Wednesday. The solutions were:

- Gaffer tape;
- Gaffer tape;
- Gaffer tape

SMALL-SCREEN SF/FANTASY AT WORLDCON

The alternative video programme will be screened in Room F on the mezzanine floor of the Bel Air Hotel (along Johann de Witt Laan past the Congress Centre). Programme times are:

Thursday 23 — 1100 to 2400

Friday 24 to Sunday 26 — 1000 to 2400

Monday 27 — 1000 to 1600 (or maybe later)

The programme will include episodes from *The Avengers*, *The New Avengers*, *The Prisoner* (in three languages!), *UFO*, *Fireball XL5*, and a large selection of other television SF, old and new. Some showings will be repeated for late arrivals. There will also be a selection of films on video (including *The War Game* (1965) — nuclear-attack drama documentary, banned for 20 years by the BBC) and of Japanese anime. Further details are in the Video Guide; for last minutes corrections see *Programme Busters* or the list outside the door of the video room. □

Revolution threatens!

The USSG (Union of Soviet Socialising Gophers) was considering strike action on Wednesday. Promised T-shirts for 8 hours gophering had not materialised. An unnamed gopher said 'Total all-out strike is our only option, comrades'. A member of the convention staff was heard to say "We never expected them to do eight hours gophering by Wednesday lunchtime".

Meanwhile, the threatened British ops strike was never threatened at all, we are informed. There is no truth in any rumour that the staff lounge was going to be not only non-smoking but also non-alcoholic. Indeed, neither of these ideas has even been thought of... ever.

Deep Throat

Books go East

The fans visiting ConFiction from Eastern Europe not only want to make contacts — they want books! English language SF books are expensive and difficult for them to acquire, so Fans Across the World are collecting books at the con for the libraries of Eastern European SF clubs.

You may have some you wish to give away — for example, the ones you read on the plane or boat on your way here, or those you bought as part of a "lot" to get that one title for your own collection. Unwanted books can be dropped off at the Fans Across the World stall in the Fan Market. Please contribute. □

First Worldcon?

Takes getting used to, doesn't it? Looking for pointers, for a painless introduction into the world of worldcons? Hear Gay Haldeman and Rusty Hevlin telling you how to enjoy your first Worldcon, Thursday at 4.30 pm or Friday at 10.00 am in Rembrandt Hall.

On with the motley

Rumour has it that as of Wednesday night there are very few entries for the masquerade. We know you've always wanted to parade the catwalk in a see-through tuxedo and fishnet socks, haven't you Bernie? Anyone else who's ever deamed of dressing up should contact Anne Page ASAP.

Even if you don't aspire to a masquerade prize, you'd like to know your hall costume is appreciated. On Saturday, at 5.30 p.m. in Rembrandt Hall you may parade at your heart's content. A hawk-eyed jury will try to award the available prizes as partially as possible! □

Eerste wereldconventie?

Allemaal een beetje verwarrend mis-schien? En wat betekenen al die afkortingen en Engelse kreten? Op donderdag om 17.30 uur maken we je in de Rembrandt Terraszaal (trap op naast Rembrandtzaal) een beetje wegwijs in deze wonderde wereld. □

Issue 0 of *ConFacts & ConFictions* was produced by John Dallman, Abigail Frost, Caroline Mullan, Carol Shetler, Tom Scheelings, Bernie Peek, Mike Abbott, Steve Linton, Christine Milford, Giulia de Cesare, Steve Davies and too many other people to list. Masthead by Sylvia Starshine, wordprocessing and typesetting on a vast range of equipment, printing on the wonderful A.B.Dick. □

Bookshops are like grapes...

You find them in clusters. Having said that, there aren't very many clusters I've found in The Hague... The best two secondhand bookshops with English and/or S.F. sections, so far, are: **De Slegte in Spuistraat (No 21)** This is a remainder bookshop with a large secondhand section upstairs, English and Dutch S.F. mixed together, and English 'Literature' both paper and hardback in large quantities. The stock is well sorted. Prices about Dfl 3.00-7.00 per paperback.

'Can't remember the name' in **Prins Hendrik Straat**. This is everything the other bookshop isn't. It's antiquarian anda shambles. Books stacked on racks up to the ceiling, horizontal, vertical, everywhichway. Many of the books are unpriced and the prices on the others can be ignored... the owner hasn't updated them in years. But, he has a lot of S.F. paperbacks from the 50s and 60s; example price: 16 paperbacks for Dfl 35.00. Like grapes, these bookshops have attracted others nearby, but these are the best of the bunch.

Bookfinder General

Let's get International

Fancy tea with some Swedes on the side? Like to finish off a beer with the Fins or polish up your Polish? National fan groups will take turns to gather round their table anyone interested in getting to know them. How is fandom in Prague? On what do Belgian fans subsist? Find out in the Fan Room, and look for the Fan Meets Fan schedule in this paper. □

When we were very young...

Remember how it felt when we were neos? Putting our feet in our collective mouths every time we spoke up at a con? Getting innocently into fan feuds, covering room, table and selves with duplicator ink?

Those were the days — and you can relive them tonight at 10.00 pm in *Neo Goose Game*, where living counters wend their way through fandom to reach Big Name Fan Heaven. Rembrandt Terrace room, upper top floor. 22.00 hrs. Don't forget. □

A.B.Dick is buried in Rosehill cemetery in Chicago. □

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Exchange Rate Consumer Alert

Those dealers who are selling British merchandise (ie priced in pounds) have agreed to charge at 4 Dfl to the pound. This is to cover both the stated price and the 6.5% local value-added tax (VAT). Since today's Guardian gives the exchange rate as 3.37 to the pound, this is an overcharge.

In the United States, there are laws against this sort of agreement ('combination in restraint of trade').

A finance professional recommends the following methods of paying for such items:

- 1) Using pounds, pay the face amount + 6.5% VAT.
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Rumour: Alison Scott is winning the staff rosette competition, holding five different colours. But it's close.

Ben Yalow Day

Ben Yalow's comment on 'Ben Yalow Day' was that he was surprised, thrilled and very honoured.

For those who did not realise, most of the ops staff wore white shirts and bow ties yesterday - Ben's habitual wear.

5, 4, 3, 2, 1, Fanderson is Go...

Do you remember *Four Feather Falls*, *Thunderbirds*, *Fireball XLS*, *UFO*, *Captain Scarlet*, and *The Mystereons*? There is a large active fan club for all the works of Gerry Anderson. If you are interested in *Fanderson*, contact Katie Runciman via the Voodoo Board.

Japanese Fireworks

The Japanese entry, Wednesday at 23.00 was excellent; it's almost impossible (for chemical reasons) to get a proper blue, and there were some very good blues on show. Also noteworthy were the double-burst shells and the on-off magnesium flares.

The Japanese are tipped to win this year's competition, which they have won twice in the last five years. Make the time to see at least one performance during the convention (for details, see issue #0).

Hugh Mascetti (told to Harry Payne)

Warning!

Contrary to the Programme Guide, Gophers do not wear Green ribbons, but nice clean white ones. The Dark Green ones are for Staff only, and the Lime Green are Press.

Attendees are asked not to leave Abags, cameras etc. lying around the convention lest Security mistake them for bombs and take them away for a precautionary test explosion...

Food

Cheap fast food until 03.00

Care for a roll 'Carcrash'? A Frikadel special? Or do you perhaps prefer a bite of 'French fries at war'? These and all other kinds of tasty fast foods are in reach at about 1 km walking distance from the Congress Centre. (Yes, USA fans, they even provide hamburgers. Try and compare them...)

These shops are on Prins Willemstraat, an extension of Scheveningse weg. Turn left out of the Congress Centre and go along Johan de Wittlaan. Turn left at the Scheveningse weg and follow the tram tracks as far as Duinstraat. The shops are on the right.

In The Real World

Despite Jordan's announcement that its border with Iraq is closed, at least eleven thousand refugees crossed into Jordan today. The EC is giving Israel a million dollars for emergency airlifts to get refugees out of the region.

The Soviet Union has been allowed to fly its remaining nationals out of Baghdad. The USA is taking out non-essential staff from its embassy in Kuwait, but is keeping on a skeleton staff to protect its interests there.

Tom King, British Minister of Defence, has announced that a squadron of Tornados will go to Bahrain. He will not rule out the possibility that the Tornados will be carrying nuclear weapons.

Happy Birthday Ray...

Wednesday, 18.30, The Ivy Club, London: Under the genial eye of Grafton's party-loving editor Malcolm Edwards, Ray Bradbury was given a combined 70th birthday party and launch for his book *A Graveyard for Lunatics*. The usual rabble swilled free wine; less usual guests included Angela Carter, Russell Hoban and Michael Moorcock. Bradbury himself looked bemused and several dozen kilos huger than his publicity picture, but it was an oddly touching moment when he blew out the seven cautious candles on his book-shaped birthday cake, to a tuneless roar of "Happy Birthday To You..." Somewhere at the back, an evil voice explained that in keeping with Grafton policy, most of the cake would be stored in a warehouse for eventual remainder distribution... but Bradbury was already being whisked off to promote the book closer to home. No ConFiction for him.

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We must protest the threatened action by the USSG. These revisionist running-dog establishment lackeys are usurping the rights and privileges of an old established revolutionary organisation. We will not collapse when the time for action comes. **The Gopher Liberation Party**

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During the "Pissed Fly" panel with Bob Shaw: discussing crop circles, one member of the audience suggested they were made by tests of the British Army's new Stealth Tractor.

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Reactions to the ConFiction Opening Ceremony seem typically mixed. Ranging from 'very funny' to 'pretentious claptrap', the various reports do agree that the Worldcon has been well and truly opened. A short, highly symbolic sketch portrayed the handing-over of the Worldcon from Noreascon's Alice to ConFiction's mouse and then led into Kees van Toorn's welcoming speech. Chelsea Quinn Yarbro as Toastmistress for the convention then introduced the guests of honour. The guests rose up into the theatre on the floor-lift accompanied by Bach's Toccata and Fugue - though not by the intended clouds of dry ice ('You want *how much dry ice!*' Tech) - a sight which will doubtless become mandatory for all future Worldcon opening ceremonies. After short speeches by the guests and by the Netherlands Minister of Culture, Kees announced the first programme items. The convention was at last under way.

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African Magic: As you walk down the entrance hall past the information desk, you might notice a number of boards with a list of all pre-registered convention members on your right. This is known as the Voodoo Board. It works like this: to communicate with anyone registered at the con, just stick a red needle (from the desk near the boards) next to the someone's name, and place a message in the little file-boxes (on the same desk). Of course, this only works if people check the board frequently for messages placed for them - so stop by every now and then.

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Rog Peyton of Andromeda Books said of the third method 'That's what we want people to do.' Presumably the same is true of Fantast Medway, but not of Van Ditmar (which is Dutch). You could try negotiating. Andromeda rounds the result down, and will haggle on larger purchases.

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Issue 2

Friday Afternoon

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The Pill – Population and Paradox:

Talk by Jack Cohen

I'm going to say things about sex' led via ignorance, paradoxes, sex and sperms (and porcupines) to the paradox: 'Why has the birthrate risen steadily from the all-time low of the 1940's despite the increase in the availability of contraception?' Answer: 'Affluence'.

Cohen described what he called 'the Oxfam paradox', or 'why when you give 1000 hungry peasants food aid you get 1200 hungry peasants'. Or, otherwise, 'an awful lot of science is counter-intuitive'. And then it was back to London Zoo's rhinos producing offspring, lactation cycles, sex as an art form, and a very satisfied audience (though one already familiar with Jack's style from other conventions).

Rhona F. Neil

Multinational Con

At the close of Registration on Thursday evening, ConFiction had registered 1921 full members actually attending, plus 71 one-day memberships, said Registration Coordinator Larry van der Putte.

British fans remain the largest national group in attendance, with 614 at the con. The USA, which had the largest number of pre-convention paid attending memberships, is second with 474. Holland has 282 attendees and there are 160 West Germans and 65 Finns.

Smaller representations include two Israelis, two Hungarians, two Russians, two Malaysians, and a lone fan each from Bulgaria and Rumania.

At press time, 31 East Germans had just arrived in three buses, adding to the seven who had already registered. □

Late Night Buses

Fans who stayed to the end of the filk concert will be pleased to hear that HTM are running free buses from 01:00 to 03:00 on Saturday, Sunday and Monday mornings to the town centre, Scheveningen and Kijkduin.

Exact times from Sunday are only provisional. Any changes will be reported in *Confacts and Confictions*. □

Signings

Johnathan Wylie signing session will take place at the van Ditmar Stand in the dealers room on Saturday at 10:30. □

Dealers Deny Fix

Comments in issue 1 that a cartel has been fixing the exchange rate in the dealers' room have been hotly denied by several dealers. Commenting on the 'rubbish' printed, Ken Slater indicated that he had been using an exchange rate of 3.5 at the time with the 6.5% VAT on top and other dealers confirmed similar rates. □

Exchange Rates Investigated

Following the article on exchange rates in issue 1, more information has come in on the best places to change your money. The Exchange Booth at the Congress Centre is definitely not the place to go. It will give you Dfl 1.60 for your dollar, or Dfl 3.05 per pound, at a commission of Dfl 5 for travellers cheques or Dfl 3 for cash or Eurocheques. The Wagon-Lits travel agency is better for dollars, offering Dfl 1.70 at no commission.

As for the banks, yesterday the ABN and Ambro on Frederick Hendricklann were offering sterling exchange rates of Dfl 3.37 and the Bio Bank was offering Dfl 3.27.

These are rates for conversion to guilders; rates from guilders to dollars or sterling are unlikely to be as good, and these are the rates that British and American dealers have to cope with. □

Music VAT Horror!

VAT on all music-related items - cassettes, songbooks etc. - is 18.5%, not the usual 6%. The filkers are not making a killing, the Government is. □

For Your Diary

Saturday 13:00 Science Fiction Club Deutschland

The Annual General Meeting of the SFCD will take place on Saturday at 13.00 in Room C in the Bel Air Hotel (behind the Congress Centre). Only SFCD members will have the right to speak or vote but all interested members will be welcome. (Please note that the proceedings will be conducted in German).

Die Mitgliederversammlung des SFCD wird Samstag, 13:00 in Raum C des Bel Air Hotels (hinter dem Kongresszentrum) abgehalten werden. Nur Mitglieder haben Rede- und Stimmrecht, aber interessierte Teilnehmer sind willkommen.

Videos

Late night showings of the Alternative Video Programme will be in Room F in the Bel Air. There has been an increasing attendance night after night. N.B. on Saturday night the BBC's *The War Game* will be shown. □

Preview: Tales of Beren and Luthien

Maggy and Mike Percival will perform *Tales of Beren and Luthien*, a ballet they previously performed at Oxonmoot in 1988. This interpretation of Tolkien is well worth seeing; be sure not to miss it on Sunday at 13.30 in Mondrian Hall. Rhona F. Neil

Women's APAs

The three women's APAs - AWA, BWA and TWP - are forming a lunch party on Sunday morning at 11:00. Meet in the central lobby near the main doors. □

Fan Meets (Nordic) Fan

There will be a meeting in the Fan Comfort Lounge on Saturday from 14:00 to 15:30 approximately for Danish, Norwegian and Swedish fans. Anybody wishing to make contacts with Nordic fandom will be welcome.

Of interest to some:

India 324 - 4 Shastri 135*

Filking and other cat-related programmes

Yesterday's filk concert, presented by veteran British filkers helped out by several American filkers, returned consistently to one of British filk's favourite themes: cats. *Overflowing Caibox Blues* (sung twice) and *Spin the Cat* were only a small sampling of the cat topical songs. Cats - love them or hate them, you can always filk them.

In addition to straight singing, there was a saxophone and guitar jam session, some short (and vulgar) poems, and Mike Cule's wonderful translation of *Hamlet* - into sign language.

After the British presence at Noreascon last year and the concert last night, the Americans certainly have to admit British filk is a force to reckon with. British filk fandom has had American guests at its annual conventions in the past and now the favour is being returned: Gytha North is to be GoH at a filkcon in Oakland, California, next year. □

Bear disenfranchised

Sherlock Hoka, the furry companion of New York fan Elan Litt, has been barred from casting a preference ballot in the site selection.

The stuffed bear has cast a ballot in every site selection since 1977, Litt said. This year, however, 'his ballot was looked at and changed to "no preference" by the (ConFiction) committee,' she said.

Litt believes the bear's vote was discarded as a result of a complaint by a supporter of the Hawaii write-in bid.

The WSFS constitution does not explicitly ban non-humans from voting, but Article III, Section 2 does require that ballots be signed by the voter. According to Roelof Goudriaan, site selection chief, that was the basis for the exclusion.

The constitution also contains a reference to the Worldcon membership as 'people.' In the past, clubs, corporations and unnamed guests have been allowed to vote.

It seems likely that someone will suggest a change in this rule at the WSFS Business Meeting. □

Party! Party!

Phoenix In 93 - Bidding Party: 22.00, Friday in Escher 2.

Party on Thin Air

The USSG (Union of Soviet Sociopathic Gophers) was the first to throw a party at ConFiction. This group has always been known to be a little jumpy with threats of its impending strike contributing to the war of words. However, this time the gophers really showed their true colours in the Bouncing Castle, everybody ending up with their heads in the clouds. But then the experts know that the only way to drink a beer is in free fall.

i Information

Food for Thought

If you would like to meet your favourite author for (non) intelligent discussion what better way than to buy him/her a meal and a drink. "Love goes through the stomach," as we say in Dutch. To show your hospitality all you need to do is register at the Information Desk for your Dutch Treat - there are a limited number of places on each so get in early. □

Discount Books

ConFiction attending members enjoy a special 10% discount on all books at the American Discount Bookshop. Take tram 7 or 8 to the city centre and get off at Spui; the bookshop is in Spuistraat. Don't forget to bring/show your membership badge.

Volunteers Ahoy!

Volunteer stewards are required. Anyone willing to help for a while, please report to the Steward's Room in the ConPaper Suite or via volunteer reception in the gopher hole. □

The Fans that Time Forgot

Dinosaurs are roaming the Netherlands for the first time in 65 million years. An exhibition of moving, bellowing dinosaurs is currently at the National Museum of Natural History at Pesthuislaan 7, Leiden (and signposted unmistakably). The models have been built in accordance with the latest scientific ideas of how dinosaurs looked and even sounded. This journey through time takes 15 minutes from Den Haag Central and costs only Dfl 6.50 return if you buy your ticket at the railway station. □

Overheard at ConFiction

Three out of ten British stewards can't tell the difference between Dutch police cars and taxis.'

On Radio 4 (London): New Polish bank notes have been printed with foul-smelling ink. 'Will this mean that Polish people will think that capitalism stinks?'

Site Selection

The vote this year will choose the Worldcon site for 1993. Your voting fee automatically assures you at least a supporting membership of the winner, wherever it is.

You should cast your votes in order of preference, with 1 as your first choice, 2 as second, and so on. If you don't care, you can vote for 'no preference' and still get a membership in the 1993 convention.

A vote for "none of the above" means you want the WSFS Business Meeting to choose the site.

If one site gets more than half of the first choice votes, it wins. If not, then first place votes for the least popular site are thrown out and the second choices on those ballots are counted as if they were first choice.

If there is still no site with more than half the votes, the next last place is discarded and the process is repeated until a clear majority emerges.

Voting will be open until 18.00 today and from 10.00 to 18.00 Saturday.

The Guff Auction has moved!

Rather than compete with Harry Harrison's GoH talk, the auction is moving to 11:00 on Sunday.

Items include some real gems:

- * a copy of the rare AussieCon time-travel poster;
- * an exclusive Eco-fans' T-shirt;
- * bundles of *Critical Wave*;
- * a Conspiracy programme book (rare in some parts of the world);
- * fannish games;
- * the guide to Aussie English for fannish pedants;
- * East European Con posters (real works of art, these);
- * a programme for Shakespeare's long-lost space opera *Return to the Forbidden Planet*;
- * miscellaneous fanzines and goodies.

The auctioneer likes theatre sports, so free chocolates, give-aways and other goodies will be cast upon the audience at regular intervals. □



Issue #3

Friday Evening

& ConFictions

DAVE'S MILLION

David Pringle, editor of *Interzone*, is promoting a projected companion magazine to it called *Million*. It is described as 'The Magazine of Popular Fiction'. Unlike *IZ*, *Million* will be primarily non-fiction, including articles, interviews, reviews, and news. There will be one or two short stories each issue to complement the issue's main theme.

Million will cover crime, thrillers, romance, horror, humour and other genres. When asked whether the interest in these fields overlapped enough for the magazine to succeed, David Pringle replied 'That's the gamble'. If it pays off as well as the gamble on *IZ* did, *Million* should get by. The first issue will appear in early December, and large-scale publicity is starting in September.

IZ subscriptions cost £23.00 in Britain, £25.00 abroad, for twelve issues. Single issues are available in the dealers' room. The subscription address is 124 Osborne Road, Brighton, BN1 6LU, United Kingdom. This is also the address for enquiries about *Million*, and the contact for potential contributors - David is particularly interested in contributors with a good knowledge of one specific genre, or of a wide range of genres.

One *IZ* contributor remarked, 'This companion to *IZ*, the magazine of unpopular fiction, is long overdue'. □

Greg Pickersgill quits Mexican

Mexicon IV's chairman, Greg Pickersgill, has resigned due to 'a series of personal problems and disappointments'. The rest of the committee, including Abigail Frost, Colin Greenland, Dave Hodson, Paul Kincaid and Linda Strickler, are proceeding with

the convention. Mexican concentrates on written SF; membership is £15.00 or Dfl 50 (at the time of writing; this may change) at the Critical Wave desk in the dealers' room, or send £15.00 to Mike Ford, 27 Stanmore Crescent, Bury, Leeds, LS4 2RY, UK.

APA Facts

BWA, the international women's amateur press association, is looking for members living outside the United States. Contact: Amy Thomson, 4014 Latona Ave., N.E. Seattle, WA 98105, USA, or leave your address with her via the voodoo message board.

AWA, BWA and TWP are forming a lunch party, Sunday morning, 11.00am. Meet in the central lobby near the main doors.

There will be a FAPA (Fantasy Amateur Press Association) party for all past and current members and present waiting listers on Saturday from 15.00 to 18.00 in the Bel Air, room 418. □

Overheard at the Worldcon

I'm showing these Russians round the con - they read and write English but can't speak it - and I'm dyslexic! *** I haf goot Dutch but, unfortunately only past and present tenses - no future!

Unwin's dead, long live Grafton

British fans had feared for the future of quality SF&F publisher Unwin Hyman after takeover by Rupert Murdoch's Collins group. Jane Johnson, former editor at Unwin, is now Senior Editor for SF, Fantasy and Tolkien at Grafton (part of Collins), which will be continuing the whole Unwin line under its own imprint. The Unwin imprint will vanish. As anticipated, Grafton will be promoting Tolkien heavily in 1992, the centenary of J.R.R.T's birth - but with more taste and quality than one might fear from a Murdoch organisation. Grafton has a reputation in the trade for effective promotion and management and should be around for years to come.

John Dallman

How many Fan Repro staff does it take to change a light bulb?
Ask in the newsroom!

Warning!

LATE NIGHT BUSES

HTM are running late buses on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, from 1.00am to 3.00am (ie, early the next morning). Unfortunately, our article in CF&CF #2 was easy to misunderstand. **Medic Alert**

Another reminder for people with special medical conditions, requirements for or allergies to medication, or anything else of medical interest to communicate in case of medical emergency, to get medical alert stickers from the desk in registration near Programme Participants' registration. □

In The Real World

Bureau de Change

GWK Bank at the Central Station (tel 3471231 and take Tram 7 to get there), will give Visa or Mastercard cash advances in guilders, unlike the bureau in the convention foyer and the banks and post offices in Hague Central. □

For Your Diary

Fan Meets Fan

Fancy tea with some Swedes on the side? Like to finish off a beer with the Finns? Fan groups of all nations are taking turns to gather round their table anyone who'd like to get to know them. How's fandom in Prague? On what do Belgian fans subsist? Find out in the Fan Room, and look for the Fan Meets Fan Schedule in this paper.

Saturday's schedule is:

11.30	E Germans
14.00	Scandinavian
15.30	Finnish

Masquerade

Now 25 entries and counting, some extremely silly. Photocall rumoured to be 19.00 Sunday: check with Anne Page. □

WSFS Business Meeting

Speaking legally, the Worldcon is the annual meeting of the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS). Its constitution controls Worldcon site selection and the Hugo Awards. The Business Meeting is the governing body of WSFS; all full members of ConFiction are entitled to attend and vote. These meetings are run under the formal rules given in the Programme Book.

Report of the Friday Preliminary WSFS Business Meeting

Adopted:

Continuing the following committees: To codify business meeting resolutions; Worldcon Runners' Guide Editorial, with the addition of David Berry as Executive Officer; Hugo Preservation.

Defeated:

Deregulation of Hugos amendment.

Scheduled for Saturday (10.00 Maris 1):

Financial reports Nolacon – MagiCon; Election of 3 members to the Mark Registration & Protection Committee.

Ratifications ("*" marks 'controversial' items): NASFiC skipping; Additional Financial Reports*; Hugo nominating cut-off*; Doubling Membership fee*.

New Amendments: 4-year lead time*; Best Original Artwork Hugo; Life Master (Professional) Hugo*; Life Master (S.M.O.F.) Hugo*; Examination of financial records; Committee report on one-person one-vote*; Mark Registration & Protection Committee name; Deletion of 'except where prohibited by local law*'; Deletion of Art. II, Sec. 1 on the Hugos*; Amendment (yes, we do mean they want to rewrite the Amendment provision).

Business scheduled for Sunday (10.00 Maris 1):

1993 Site Selection report and winner's presentation; Question time – Chicon V and MagiCon; 1994 candidate presentations (time permitting). **Robert Sacks**

SAFE SEX AND THE SINGLE FAN

Full marks to 18-year-old Ryan Alexander, at his first con out of his home state Indiana, who had never moderated a panel before. He entered an empty room, decided that Safe Sex and the Single Fan was an important subject, and sat on the stage until more people showed up, eventually press-ganging a friend, Neil Rest, to join him.

The expected hordes weren't there; maybe there aren't that many single fans these days; maybe everyone thinks they already know all they need to about safe sex ('yeah, well you just stick it on, don't ya'); maybe they didn't want to know anyway. Even the advertised speaker didn't show. Maybe she was off practising...

Considering neither the audience nor the *ad hoc* panel had any idea what AWOL speaker Linda Morgan had in mind, there was a pretty good

discussion on safe sex and what we all think of condoms, and society's (and governments') attitudes in different countries.

Three points of note:

1. Apparently it's now becoming fairly commonplace at US cons to give out condoms in the hospitality area, which raises an interesting question of whether this encourages promiscuity – but as Rest pointed out, cons provide beer; there's a difference between encouraging and acknowledging the fact that people want it.
2. In 20 years Rest has never seen a serious outbreak of VD amongst fandom; fans seem to be taking care of themselves. This, he says, is because fans do genuinely care for each other.
3. Says one UK audience-member: 'All the cons I've been to have been very chaste affairs!' One detected a somewhat wistful tone... **David V Barrett**

And a Cast of Thousands

This issue produced by Michael Abbott, Trevor Barker, Simon Bradshaw, Giulia De Cesare, John Dallman, Zoe Deterding, Abigail Frost, Roman Orszanski, Kate Solomon, Martin Tudor, anyone we forgot in the deadline panic or the excitement of the moment (all those late-night fireworks) – and a wilting Dick.

Musical Notes

Thursday night's Filk session: T showed a high standard. It could show many folk clubs and some festivals what folk-singing is all about. From a conversation with Gytha North: 'There was a time when *anything* was good enough for filk, now you have to be good enough for filk'.

Rumour had it that Security wanted to shut the session down at midnight, but they couldn't find anyone brave enough to tell Gytha. It finally closed because Tech Ops wanted to go home. It then transferred to the Bel Air until about 5.30 am.

Peter Tyers

Another comment from last night: 'Filk used to be fun when anyone could join in, but now they won't let you sing unless you have a good voice, else you'll spoil their recording.' **AN Other (scared)**

Double Dutch

Having spent three days in Holland one of our intrepid reporters is beginning to pick up the language. The only Dutch phrase she can remember from the Dutch workshop at this year's Eastercon translates as 'My hovercraft is full of eels'. Despite this handicap, she can now ask for beer, but as she only has ten fingers she can only manage ten beers at a time.

She has been helped greatly by the friendly natives, and discovered that, luckily for her, even Dutch people who do not speak English speak a lot more English than she speaks Dutch. Indeed, it appears that there is always someone nearby who speaks English better than... **Alison Scott**

Social drought

What kind of con is this? Where did the room parties go? Not the Bel Air! Last night saw four Worldcon bid parties – Phoenix led for supplies, Hawaii for numbers. The Europeans disgraced themselves at both. Are they hungrier than the Americans or just poorer? The Art Show Party was dismal – enlivened only by arguments over copyrights. At the Bouncy Castle things bounced – mainly 15-stone things. Room parties were invisible – certainly by 03.00 when the Congress Centre closed. Prove me wrong! Fun was nearly had. 'Fire Alarm – Break Glass' translates to Swedish as 'Party Button'. Tonight sees a beach party for the fireworks. I don't know what else yet but I'll find them! **Party Pooper**



CONFICTIONS

Issue 4 Saturday Morning & ConFictions

German Convention Cancelled

The committee of X-Con 1991, a major convention planned for between Christmas and New Year 1991 in Dusseldorf, Germany, has announced that it has had to cancel the convention. Unconfirmed sources suggest that the committee became discouraged by the small attendance at their last German convention and decided they could not continue.

In view of the early cancellation, there will be some refunds – not, unfortunately for supporting members. Attenders will get the difference between the price they paid and the current support rate. Cheques will be sent out soon.

Bidding the 1993 Worldcon

There are four bidders for the 1993 Worldcon: Phoenix, Arizona; San Francisco, California; Zagreb, Yugoslavia; and a 'Write-in' bid for Honolulu, Hawaii. ('Write-in' means that you have to write their name onto the ballot; they are not listed.) Hawaii is nevertheless an (extremely) serious bid, given a 50% chance of winning against San Francisco. Deadline for voting is 18.00 Saturday.

All four made presentations and answered questions during a long session on Friday. Phoenix and Hawaii both boast conrunning competence; Phoenix and Zagreb cheapness; Phoenix their terraforming of the 'Anvil of God' (Phoenix City Plaza, famed for its infernal heat). San Francisco (like New Orleans before them) boasted their beautiful city.

All promised festival themes: Phoenix has Indian and Mexican culture. Hawaii has beaches, Polynesians and the Pacific Rim, and promises a 'relaxa-Worldcon'. San Francisco wants to 'bring spontaneity back into the Worldcon' with street theatre from around the world. Zagreb ranked Yugoslavia with Barsroom and Arakis for mystery, and offered a 900-year old city and Eastern European fans. At the con the Art Show will be run by a Museum Curator, and the Masquerade by a theatre director.

Robert Sacks and others

Con-Running slang for Neo Gophers (and Others)

Green Room keeps the programme running and makes sure programme participants turn up for their items;
Ops Room keeps the con running;
Oops put things right when they go wrong;
Stewards handle security, keeping people and things in the right places and out of the wrong places;
Tech provide microphones, lights and other equipment;
Wallyphone is the radio that keeps all the above communicating;
Woollyphone a knitted toy that pokes fun at wallyphones;
Gophers fetch, carry and generally help out everywhere and the **Gopher hole** is where the gophers wait until they are needed.

SF Nexus Launched

SF Nexus, a new British magazine devoted to 'excellence in SF' has been announced at ConFiction. The flyer includes a competition with five free subscriptions to be won. Find two typographical errors in the flyer, then find Paul Brazier, editor and general boss-man, and tell him. If you know Paul, you have to find all three errors, as you don't have the problem of recognising him. Answers and winners on Monday.

German Translator Wanted

Mrya Cakan, PO Box 201807, 2000 Hamburg 20, is looking for assistance to translate her published work from German to English. Could anyone willing to help contact her via the Voodoo board.

i Information

Do Youdo Voodoo?

Please remember that if you want people to be able to find you by means of the Voodoo board, you first need to tick off your name to show that you have arrived at the convention.

AIRPLANE, the survey.

Some nice Dutch people are doing a survey of people who travelled to ConFiction by air. They need 1000 victims by Sunday evening, and will reward each and every one with a sticky tulip. No, not a triffid, a tulip. They are the ones with the computers in the Grand Foyer, by the Congress Centre Information Desk.

Lost and (not) Found.

Lost during Thursday Hawaii Party, a Canon AV-1 camera with a 35mm lens and Braun flash unit.

Lost, one beebear (two-headed teddy bear), black with pink paws and ears, wearing an Eastercon badge and answering to the name of Freddie.

Both to the Info desk please.

Masquerade photocall

Photographers need to register and collect their coloured ID on Saturday afternoon if they wish to attend the photocall. To do this, find the Masquerade desk behind the Information desk. The photocall will be at 19.00. The children's masquerade is now due on at 20.00 and the adults at 20.30. The results of the children's competition will be announced after the last adult entrant, and there will be entertainment during the judges' break, before the adult results are announced. Please note, no flash photography will be allowed during the Masquerade and the front two sections of seats are reserved for judges and the like. Please be careful not to obstruct the view of other members of the audience.

Anne Page

i Information

The Green Room (see glossary) can provide information to programme participants about any and every programme item, whether held in the Congress Centre or the Bel Air.

The Gopher Hole (aka Staff Lounge in the Vermeer Lounge) will be providing soup (and maybe stew) as well as its present free(ish) drinks from Saturday for people helping with the convention. New volunteers are always wanted, nay, needed (the Volunteer Reception Manager says, 'please,' very nicely).

The question most often asked at the info desk is "Where are Commission rooms 1 and 3?". They are labelled 'Programme rooms 1 and 3', and are reached from the corridor beside the Prins Willem Alexander Hall.

Anyone for battery-operated Hugo awards? On Badhuiskade (off Scheveningse weg) there is a sex shop with an sf section.

Water of Purification There is a launderette on the corner of Genetstraat and Stevinstraat – ten minutes walk from Scheveningen hotels, Carlton Beach end. Service wash is Dfl 13.

Confusion and Befuddlement Corner An understandable (i.e. with times in straight lines) timetable for the convention is pinned up in the Fan room.

Exchange Rates (as at 12.00 Friday): Rabobank will buy travellers' cheques at the average of the following rates per Dfl (as shown on their boards), and charge a flat rate of Dfl 5 per transaction. For example, for \$100 you should get about Dfl 176, less Dfl 5.

DM: 110.25 – 114.25

US\$: 1.70 – 1.82

UK£: 3.24 – 3.49

Fr.Francis: 32.1 – 34.85

AUS\$: 1.38 – 1.50

CAN\$: 1.48 – 1.60

Missing Guests Sadly, we have to announce that *Perry Rhodan* has not collected his participant badge yet and is not expected to arrive at the convention at all.

Confusion Alert The party board lists 'World SF Business Meetings'. It also lists 'WSFS Business Meetings' in Maris 1. The World Science Fiction Society was explained in *C&C* #3. It controls the Hugo Awards and World-Con site selection. World SF, an international association, is a group of SF writers, meeting at the same time as but independent of this convention.

A Partial, Prejudiced & Hostile Review of The Oracle

This is a deliberate, malicious attempt to set a 'classical' murder mystery in a New York Witches coven. Not merely do these people believe in the occult but they talk about and experience little else. Occult events and entities are coming out of their ears. The Oracle of the title is a huge vase that repeatedly screeches and then delivers meaningful prophecies. In limericks?

Then the Priestess is murdered at the esbat, bitten by an inadequately defanged ritual snake. The esbat is played out in full which is fairly dull with lots of songs about oppressed witches throughout the ages. And I seriously doubt if any New York coven has a string trio. Or UV lights.

And one of the witches is a detective story writer. And she enthusiastically helps the (female) Inspector while the rest of the coven stand around and deliver a lot of ideological stuff about co-operating with the patriarchal state. On top of all the exposition of a badly written detective story there are invocations, psychic events and hexes enough to put anyone still there to sleep.

Any curses that come my way as a result of this review are totally unjustified. If I followed the Old Ways I'd lay a good one on everyone involved in this for depicting witches as brainless, pontificating, credulous idiots.

At the final "I have called you all here..." scene someone says: "But we must find out which witch is which!" Sums it all up really.

Mike Cule, one additional joke by Dave Langford

WorldCon APA

WOOF (the Worldcon APA) will be collated at noon on Sunday in the Rembrandt lounge. New contributors are welcome – the deadline for inclusion is 17.00 on Saturday. 300 copies of your zine should be left in Fan Repro.

WOOF needs a new collator whose duties will begin with arrangements for Chicago. Volunteers should see Robert Sacks as soon as possible or meet him in Fan Repro between 17.00 and 17.30 on Saturday.

Credits

This issue produced in the small hours by Caroline Mullan, Steve Davies and Roman Orszanski.

Friday Night Live

Ah, this is what I came to Holland for. The Glasgow in 1995 party on Friday night was overcrowded, loaded with beer and most important of all possessed of a generous supply of ice cubes. San Francisco handed out kazooos to anyone who wandered in, leading to outbreaks of *Ode to Joy* (cultured fans but tone-deaf ones) and 'How the hell do you get them to make a noise' (the Oxford group). Hawaii were still handing out stickers, but it looks like the auctorial tent will have to learn to live with two lonely helium-filled parrots. Still, at least we got a musical version of *The Wasp Factory* out of it.

Ivan Towlson (23.30 Friday)

One Kind of Dutch Treat

The major event of Friday night was the Rijsttafel, served to 400 people in a specially set-up area in an otherwise unused hall. This felt like an institutional cafe, but the atmosphere was convivial, with fans and pros from all nations randomly mixed among the tables, and Hawaiian parrots floating overhead.

ConFacts & ConFictions collared one table at random for a sample of views.

Dana Hudes and Loretta Carlin from the USA had a better rijsttafel in Amsterdam earlier this week, but that cost Dfl 100 for two, without drinks. As a convention banquet, this one compared well with, for example, the Constellation crab feast. Loretta also mentioned with approval that the sauces were not highly spiced. The best thing was sharing a table with fans from Germany and Denmark.

Juergen Marzi from West Germany, at his second Worldcon, thought it well organised at a very fair price. The service was excellent: indeed, his plate was cleared before he ate his banana. It was a pity there were no speeches, or funny remarks by Terry Pratchett.

Some other comments reinforced this impression: as a rijsttafel, so-so; as a convention banquet, good. On the other hand there were complaints that it was overpriced and that professional authors had had to pay for their own tickets. You can please some of the people...

Caroline Mullan and others



CONTRACTS

Issue 5

Saturday Afternoon

& ConFictions

Bells over Holland

Friday saw an extra programme item when it was discovered that it was Kees and Angelique van Toorn's fifth wedding anniversary. The unsuspecting couple were summoned from the depths of the convention, somewhat annoyed at having to attend an unscheduled item. Most of the guests of honour were present and Chelsea Quinn Yarbro began to speak on a number of topics, slowly working up to the true purpose of the item when she invited the couple up on stage and presented them with a bottle of champagne. Kees thanked the audience for coming along, claiming he had simply forgotten that it was their anniversary.

East European MPs at ConFiction

Two of the East European fans attending the convention are sitting MPs in their respective countries. Pavel Konecny (Czechoslovakia) is an MP for the Moravian Nationalists, and vice-president of the committee charged with drawing up a new Czechoslovak constitution. The other MP is Nikolay Bliznyakov from Bulgaria.

FATW Update

The Fans Across the World raffle is now running at the FATW/Friends of Fandom table in the fan market. Prizes include champagne, chocolates, a first-edition copy of *Ancient of Days* by Michael Bishop, and last but not least, Marcus the Monster.

Dutch Treats?

I am disappointed that the 'Dutch Treats' of Ian Watson and Jack Chalcker were cancelled. I think the 'Dutch Treats' are a good opportunity to meet authors and speak to them in a small informal group, even if you have to pay for them. I also think the PR and information concerning these items was really bad. Neither the authors nor the staff can explain what 'Dutch Treats' really means. **Gunther Derra**

First Impressions of a WorldCon

We travelled overnight from Czechoslovakia by bus. It was rather tiring, but our fatigue was forgotten the moment we came to registration. Such a lot of relaxed, hilarious, strangely dressed people! A wizard in a long black frock... a man whose clothes were all orange... a boy who emptied his bag in the entrance hall and tried to sell its contents because he didn't have enough money for the registration fee...

I became immediately enthusiastic with the atmosphere of joy, friendship, and openness. It's so wonderful when people speak spontaneously to you — when you feel this marvellous community of equally crazy fans. **Eva Hauser**

In The Real World

Irish Hostage Released

According to *The Independent*, Irish hostage Brian Keenan was released in Beirut on Friday. He was handed over to Syrian officials and has probably been taken to Syria to be received by the Irish ambassador.

Our Hero

The membership salutes Roger Dearnley who produced the new program sheet. Now we can all see what program items we are missing.

Roger has been awarded a Convention Hero ribbon. Tim Illingworth is now trying to get one too.

Warning!

Late Night Buses

Late night buses do NOT run up to 3 a.m. Friday night, the last bus left at 2.20, which was announced over the speaker system in the Congress Centre — or so Rafe Culpin was told when he got back from the Bel Air at 2.50. The transport desk in the lobby says they won't give a definite time for the last bus, according to Culpin.

i Information

Where?

The question most often asked at the info desk is 'Where are Commission Rooms 1 and 3?'. They are the rooms labelled 'Programme Rooms 1 and 3' on the map. They are reached from the corridor beside the Prins Willem Alexander Hall.

Fantasy Aids

On Badhuiskade (off Scheveningseweg) there is a sex shop with an sf section. Anyone for battery-operated Hugo awards?

Missing Persons

A correction to the Souvenir Book: The MagiCon committee Chairmen are Joe Siclari and Becky Thomson.

Smoking Reminder

Due to some problems experienced by fans with asthma and other respiratory ailments, the ConFiction staff would like to remind members that smoking is prohibited in halls and public areas, except the Great Foyer, Grand Staircase, lounges, bars, restaurants, and the smoking section of the Upper Rembrandt Lounge.

Lost and (not) Found

Lost: White envelope containing Dfl 600 and £100 in travellers cheques. Return to info desk if found.

Lost: A copy of a thesis 'Highways In The Brain'.

Lost: A baby bottle, probably in the Rembrandt Lounge.

Prisoners?

The Convention Centre staff have assured worried convention members that the lifesize 'Rover' in the middle of the stairwell is purely a model, and does not pose any threat, even to people trying to leave the con.

Volunteers Ahoy!

Volunteer stewards are required. Anyone willing to help for a while, please report to the Steward's Room in the ConPaper Suite or via normal Volunteer (Gopher Hole) Reception.

The Fall And Rise of X-Con

As ConFacts #4 reported, X-Con '91 has been cancelled. The 'unconfirmed sources' are now ready to leak further detail.

An event of Eastercon-size had never been attempted in Germany before. When no sponsors were found to support the preparations, and a smaller con of similar style this summer fetched only half the expected membership, the X-Con committee became insecure about their financing. Difficulties in recruiting staff convinced the few remaining strugglers that it was time to pack in rather than carry on and end up with a half-baked con in 1991. However, we have not given up, and ask you to look out for further announcements!

Oliver Gruter

International Head-Count

Among the latest attendance statistics received by the newsroom: there are 92 Finns, 40 East Germans, 5 Russians, 8 Yugoslavs, 3 Bulgarians, and 2 Tasmanians to be found among ConFiction's members. This is in addition to the 10 Czechs and 42 Poles who arrived on Thursday. In the race for 'most attendees from a single country,' Great Britain still leads the USA by a count of 679 to 539. Attendees from the Netherlands number 331.

Overheard at ConFiction

After his reading yesterday, M. John Harrison was heard complaining that he had been lured to ConFiction under false pretences. 'They promised me mountains,' moaned SF's second most famous climber.

Name Game

All convention publications, including ConFacts, have been referring to Terry Berry by her former name, Terry Gish. An understandable mistake; it was only a fannish year ago, at the last Worldcon, that David Berry proposed to her.

Credit Where Credit is Due

This edition was put together by Carol Shetler, Ivan Towison, Bernie Peek, Steve Bull, Dave Clements, Amanda Baker, Sylvia Starshine, Jeanette Roth, Vicki King. Apologies to Abi for making her work on her day off. To those who asked: thank you, our Dick is much better now.

CROSSED CURRENCIES

Recent events in the Gulf have apparently had a dramatic effect on exchange rates. When ConFiction began on Wednesday, it was only possible to get Dfl 3.27 per pound sterling, but by Friday afternoon the Amro Bank on Fredrik Hendrickslaan were offering Dfl 3.39. Despite this, however, many hotels are only offering only Dfl 3.05 to the pound.

Visitors to the Dealers Room should note that their rates are for conversion to guilders; rates from guilders to dollars or sterling are unlikely to be favourable, and these are the rates which British and American dealers will have to face when they return home. The British also have to face the fixed price rate on books.

Dealers are reacting in different ways to this difficult situation. Andromeda and Forbidden Planet bookshops have calculated their prices on the current exchange rate, UK fixed price plus VAT. Fantast Medway and some other dealers have stuck at a rate of Dfl 3.50 to the pound including VAT.

In addition, Rog Peyton of Andromeda bookshops said that if he and Forbidden Planet had agreed to the price list which they were given by Dutch importers, prices would have been 25 to 30 per cent higher.

Martin Tudor

i Information

Critical Wave

If you are a subscriber to *Critical Wave*, you can collect the September 1990 issue from their table in the Dealers' Room.

Silly Goose

Who is Head of ConFiction Security? Who goosed Poul Anderson by mistake?

Births, Deaths, Marriages

We are happy to announce that Collette Hodson, wife of London bookseller and Mexicon IV committee person Dave Hodson, has given birth to a baby girl. All three are well.

Tech Ops report that they have hung the first gopher of the convention.

Intelligent Life In Tech Ops!

Three nomadic parrots have taken up residence in the Tech Ops room. Rumours that these are the legendary 'Polly-technics' are currently being investigated.

Stop press! Dead parrot found in Tech Ops. Yes, they have a polygon.

Films

THE ABYSS: ABYSMAL

From an original idea, *The Abyss* developed into one of the most uneven SF films it has ever been my misfortune to watch.

The vast collection of sub-plots (I refuse to apologise for the pun) included an alien aquaculture, a sunken nuclear sub, an underwater rescue attempt, a wacko Navy SEAL, and an on-again, off-again romance between Bud, played by Ed Harris and his ex-wife, whose name was mentioned so seldom I can't remember it, played by Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio.

These plots were heavily cut with montages plagiarised from *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and *The Right Stuff*, which also starred Harris as John Glenn.

A ruthless editor would have made all the difference to *The Abyss*, possibly resulting in a film worthy of the Hugo for Best Dramatic Presentation of 1989. Instead this film deserves to be consigned to as deep an oblivion as the chasm for which it is named.

Carol Shetler

For Your Diary

Gay SF Fans

Like to get together, go out as a group? Meet on Sunday, 16.30 in the Prins Willem Lounge (upstairs).

Signings

Harry Harrison

Harry Harrison says 'Be There!' Leon Stover and Harrison will both sign copies of Stover's book *Harry Harrison* at the Forbidden Planet Books table in the Dealers' Room at 14.30 Sunday.

It's A Lie!

There is no truth in the rumour that ConFacts is to be retitled ConFusions.

OOPS!

We would like to apologise for an error in issues 1 and 1a in which it was implied that certain UK dealers were collaborating to fix their selling prices. The comment printed correctly stated that this would be illegal under US law. What was not stated was that book prices are fixed under UK law.



CONTRACTS

Issue # 6

Saturday Evening

& ConFictions

SF and Fantasy Museum for Berlin

Forry Ackerman announced today that the *Esplanade Hotel* in Berlin has been purchased for \$40 million in order to house the *Forrest J. Ackerman Metropolitan Museum*. The museum will contain 600 film props and over 1,000 books which have been made into SF and fantasy films. In addition, there will be 1,000 photos from *Metropolis*, approximately 100,000 stills from fantastic films made during the last 90 years and 500 fantasy film shooting scripts, besides posters, cinema lobby card displays and press books. Forry plans to spend one month a year in Berlin as a curator and lecturer.

Several years ago, 125,000 fans attended an exhibition of part of Forry's movie collection in one of Berlin's largest department stores, although only 25,000 had been expected.

Forry also reports that the studio which produced *Metropolis* now plans to make *Metropolis 2*. As a good friend of Fritz Lang, Forry, who has seen the film 78 times, will be the creative consultant for the *Metropolis 2* project. □

Convention Mumbblings

*It is rumoured that Pavel Konecny, a Czech MP for the Moravian Nationalist party, wishes to meet any Scottish separatists who may be here.

*In response to the panel on where do the Dutch go when the waters rise, well known northern Fan Ian Sorensen is reported to have suggested using the spoil from the Eurotunnel to fill part of the North Sea. The new land mass created would be shared between the Scots and the Dutch.

*Rumour has it that Dutch film director Paul *Total Recall* Verhoeven beat up Arnold Schwarzenegger and to make up gave him a big kiss. Arnie's reply? "This man has a VERY, VERY sick mind."

*The *ConFiction* pocket programme is reputed to be eligible for the short fiction Hugo. Will it be nominated? □

Strange talk

Jane Stableford to Dave Langford: 'Dave! Are you on a panel?'

'Er, no.'

'Will you come on the Hard Science Fiction one 'cos Brian's on his own.' More language problems:

'The first difference I noticed between Great Britain and Holland is that here all the waiters speak English...'

TV crew to charades player:

'Can you speak up a bit for the cameramen please?' □

Kaleidoscopic Con

The BBC Radio Four Kaleidoscope programme will be running a major item on ConFiction. Kaleidoscope is a daily Arts programme which reviews plays, books, films etc. and has longer items about special events, such as this Worldcon. They have interviewed several fans and pros, and have even bought two film tapes to provide musical interludes between the interviews. The whole piece is expected to be about 12 minutes long, and will be broadcast on Wednesday evening with a repeat on Thursday afternoon. □

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Apparently Brian Keenan, the Irish hostage released in Beirut on Saturday (see *C&C* #5) was asked 'How does it feel to be released?'

'How do you think?' □

Help

Someone is needed to handle a camcorder and video at the Masquerade. Contact Sylvia Starshine via the Voodoo Board. □

i Information

'Convention Money' only works in the Gopher Hole, where it can be exchanged for coffee or soup, as well as beer and soft drinks.

There is a **mobile bank** on Scheveningen front, west of the Flora Beach Hotel. Like many, it offers better rates than the Congress centre (Dfl 1.68 per dollar, and Dfl 3.25 per pound).

The minimum cash advance on Visa cards at the GWK Bank mentioned in issue three is Dfl 300.

The Monster Collecting Box for Friends of Foundation has so far been fed with Dutch, Russian, Mexican, Czech, English, Belgian, Norwegian, German, Swiss, Polish, Jersey and Scottish coins, as well as one American quarter. He thinks you can do better than that, so take pity on a *very* hungry monster.

People from Minneapolis who arrived on Friday via Martinair, please contact Rosalind Nelson via the Voodoo Board. She may have something that belongs to you.

Fans Across the World would like to thank Games Workshop for the gift of books and T-shirts for the raffle for Eastern European fans.

Attn. Alison Scott, Tim Illingworth: One 'Board Member' pure red ribbon will be auctioned at the fan-fund auction, to complete your collection.

One Russian samizdat fanzine will also be auctioned as a run of ten issues in a binder.

There is an **antique and book street-market** in Lange Voorhout on Sunday from 11.00-17.00. □

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Please remember to be careful with your belongings at the con. Keep them with you at all times - there have been some thefts during the con. Also Congress Centre security may remove anything found unattended. □

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4-year lead time; Life Master (Professional) Hugo; Life Master (SMOF) Hugo.

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Original Artwork Hugo; Examination of financial records; One natural person, one vote.

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Robert Sacks

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The Saturday morning session of the Business Meeting added *two* new items to the WSFS Hall of Silliness. In any other year, a motion to amend an amendment to an amendment (a third order amendment) would have made getting to the meeting by ten in the morning worthwhile to aficionados.

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Neil Rest

Food

Restaurant recommendation

Residence Bandung is an Indonesian restaurant in Scheveningen, at 83 Renbaan Straat. Take the number 7 or 8 tram towards the coast, get off after five stops, go down Rotterdamsstraat and turn right at the crossroads. This is Renbaan Straat. Be warned, they can only seat 18 people maximum, but it's worth it: the service and food are excellent and they speak good English.

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Name and address of a good Dutch cheese shop that will supply a hungry British fan by mail. Contact Cheesius.

For Sale

One return ticket to London by coach and ferry. Date and time can be arranged as necessary. Contact David Kyle on the Southworth Books table (Table 125) in the Dealer's Room.

Of Further Interest to Some

India won the toss and finally went in at 606-9 declared. Shastri 187, Kapil Dev 110, Malcolm 110-2, Fraser 112-2, Williams 148-8, Gooch 44-0, Hemmings 117-2, Atherton 60-1. At close of play England were 36-1, Gooch 5*, Williams 15*.

Party! Party!

USSG – The United Soviet Sociable Gophers declare a party tonight, beginning at 00:30 in the Vermeer Lounge, and moving to the Bel Air at 03:00 (room number to be announced later as details become available).

Fan Meets Fan – At 22.00 in the lower foyer of the Rembrandt Lounge. The organisers are looking for persons with similar liquid interests. Refer to listing in the 'consolidated pocket programme'.

Noreascon 3 Thank You Party. Sunday night, 22.00-02.00 in Congress Centre. Check party board for location. Open to all. Any committee or staff who have not yet received a thankyou T-shirt, please stop by and tell us your size.

Feeling Trapped?

Six of One (The Prisoner Appreciation Society, PO Box 60, Harrogate, UK) welcomes all fans of Number Six to WorldCon. Episodes from the series will be shown at the Alternative Video Programme (Room F, Bel Air Hotel) – see *Programme Busters* for times.

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ConFiction T-shirts are available in the dealers' room, on the *Locus* stall. A number of people have been asking the Info Desk for this information. Yes, they really are there!

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After a meeting with their Chinese and Russian opposite numbers, WSF has decided to hold next year's meetings at two separate venues. These will be at Cracow in Poland, and Chengdu in Szechuan, China. The Poland meeting will be held in conjunction with the Eurocon.

Brian Aldiss

Pen Friends Wanted

I am searching for pen friends. I like to write about books, films, everyday life, fandom, my own crazy ideas, and publishing SF... but most of all, I like to write letters. Please write to Eva Hauser, Na cihadle 55, 16000 Praha 6, Czechoslovakia.

Wolfgang Jeschke Writes

I love the cons in the Netherlands because they are so cosy. They are not over-organised and not quite so hectic. Even publishers and agents feel they have to restrain themselves so as to not spoil the atmosphere. Authors are relaxed if only because of this. They have more opportunities to enjoy each other's company and more time for a chat without being permanently hunted down or dragged away to appointments by their agents. One has more time for old friends and to make new ones - especially this time because of new contacts with authors from East Germany and Eastern Europe. It is nice to feel that everything there now works in a much more relaxed way, without the state's dirigisme, and one can look forward to seeing what science fiction will look like in the near future.

Translated by Oliver Gruter

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CONFLICTS

Issue # 6a

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CONTACTS

Issue 7

Saturday Night

& ConFictions

Two Views of the Hugo Ceremony

Quite a bit of fuzz, one might say, all those security people, the no-flash rule for photographers and the strict seating arrangements, for handing over 14 little rockets plus a few plates. But all right, the US ambassador to the Netherlands, C. Howard Wilkins, was among us, which makes certain additional security efforts understandable. He introduced the event with a speech revealing his own enthusiasm about science fiction and proved to be a skilful presenter at the end when he handed over the award for Best Novel to the representative of Dan Simmons. Not quite, though, could he beat the opening scene of the famous rocket enlarged and rising from the depth of the stage to the tune of the European Fanfare and shrouded in mist and stage light. Congratulations to our techies. Having seen only one Hugo ceremony before I haven't got much to compare this one with. However, it seemed well practised to me, festive and exciting for those actively involved, even though somewhat routine for the fan who hadn't read or seen many of the nominated pieces of text and painting. But that is in the nature of the beast, isn't it? And Anne McCaffrey's sprint to the stage to collect the first of Don Maitz's two awards was fun for all to see.

Oliver Gruter

The Hugo Ceremony staggered to a start due to the uproar caused by the (fan) American Ambassador. Security necessities aside, the tone of the commands issued from the podium by both security personnel and the Master of Ceremonies were unnecessarily brusque and impolite, and set an unpleasant tone for the beginning of the ceremony.

The ceremony itself was hindered by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro's inability to speak slowly enough for the slide projector, atrocious lighting and general confusion regarding timing and who was supposed to be doing what when. The highlight of the performance occurred at the beginning, when a perch of parrots was released by an unnamed gopher to hover dramatically over the audience before roosting in the rafters.

Saku

Our Hero - Part 2

Roger did a great job typing up the new yellow programme sheets - but I'd like the brave Fan Room staff to be remembered too for copying and cutting and pasting a full afternoon to produce the model. Tim Illingworth will have to stand in line for his Hero ribbon after the collective Cleton family, Karin, Paul, Jean, Aard and assorted gophers. Annemarie v Ewyck

PS Thanks also to the nameless gopher who prepared Sunday's programme sheet at Roger (Hero) Dearnaley's request.

Lift Wanted

Single Yugoslav girl wants a lift at least as far as Munich, but preferably as far as Yugoslavia. Contact Zechaguge Hotel, room 323.

Gopher Glut Horror

Blue shift ops was quiet. Too quiet. Suddenly, red and orange shifts tried to take over simultaneously. Non-plussed but manly blue shift manager Hugh Mascetti was forced to resort to committee member large-but-perfectly-formed Tim Illingworth to repel shift manager militant Fiona Anderson and her horde of restive orange gophers.

Graveyard Shift

This issue was produced by Michael Abbott, Trevor Barker, Simon Bradshaw, Seth Breidbart, Zoe Deterding, Wilf James, Steve Linton and Chris ('I think we badly need the lavatory at the bottom') Milford, who all get paid by the adjective. Also thanks to all our contributors and distributors, and the Dick, even though it kept getting jammed in the oddest places.

Charade Update

After eleven hours of the marathon, someone successfully mimed *Circularisation of Condensed Conventional Straight-line Word-image Structures*.

Lost Fantasies

A US fan (who told this reporter: Mention my name and I may not kill you, but my husband certainly will'), having read in *CF&CF 4* and *5** about the sex shop with an SF section, complained that try as she might she was unable to find it. The newsdesk was unable to elicit further details.

**I told you we'd already used it!*

Signings

Joint signing session with Geoff Ryman, Jack Womack and Colin Greenland at the Forbidden Planet Stand (Dealer's Room), 13.00, Sunday.

Warning!

Thefts from Car Parks

A car radio was stolen yesterday from the car park between the Congress Centre and the Bel Air Hotel.

Be alert (your convention needs lerts) to help prevent similar incidents.

Travels in Time?

Many fans were greatly confused by the dateline of *CF&CF 6*. This deliberate error is expected at least to double the value of a complete set of newsletters over the next year.

Correction

Volunteers to handle the Camcorder at the masquerade should contact Sylvain St. Pierre, not Sylvia Starshine as we indicated in issues 6 and 6a.

Big Brother presents his apologies, but he is busy at the moment. He will be watching you later.

Lavatory Graffiti

Hugo your way

Full marks to **Chelsea Quinn Yarbro** for fast and user-friendly presentation, keeping up a pace which seemed furious to *Conspiracy* veterans *** Some credit is due to Tech Ops supremo **Dermot Dobson**'s restraint when asked five minutes before the ceremony for a vital piece of equipment. 'No screwdrivers to be removed from Tech Ops,' he *didn't* say *** Shiffman's award — busting his record for number of nominations without a win — was audibly popular, as were those of first-timers **Suzy McKee Charnas** (short story) and **Leslie Turek** (fanzine, for *Mad 3 Party*); but **Don Maitz** (artist) must have scooped the applause pool, as 'first new winner in a decade' *** The Beckettesque clowns assisting Yarbro were loved by some, hated by others *** Asked about the semiprozine award, the **Interzone Claque** stated: 'OK, so that's it; but we do wish **Brown** wouldn't start his acceptance speech with "as usual..."' ConFiction's FGoH, **Andrew Porter**, second in category, seemed to agree *** '**Uncle Kees**' said of the con's fan stewardship 'I thought I'd only got three security professionals, but it turns out I had at least thirty professional people'.

Lounge Lizard

Party Party!

Birthday

Arthur W. Boots Coleman lost 6 hours of his birthday crossing the Atlantic. His birthday cake was an airline 'treat' with candles stuck in it. To make up for this, the rest of **Boots'** birthday will be celebrated on Sunday from 18.00 to 24.00. □

Wolfgang Jeschke Schreibt

Ich liebe die Cons in den Niederlanden, weil sie so gemütlich sind. Sie sind nicht überorganisiert, nicht so hektisch, sogar Verleger und Agenten haben das Gefühl, sich zurückhalten zu müssen, damit sie die Atmosphäre nicht verderben. Schon dadurch sind die Autoren relaxed, haben mehr Gelegenheit, unter sich zu sein und Zeit für einen Schwatz, ohne von ihren Agenten zu Terminen geschleift oder gehetzt zu werden. Man hat mehr Zeit für alte Freunde und dafür, neue kennenzulernen. Diesmal sind es besonders die neuen Kontakte zu Autoren aus Ostdeutschland und Osteuropa. Es ist schön zu spüren, daß alles nun dort viel zwangloser geht, ohne staatlichen Dirigismus, und man kann gespannt sein, wie die Science Fiction der nächsten Zeit aussehen wird.

NB: *The English version of this article appeared in issues 6 and 6a.* □

Access to Masquerade

Please contact the Handicapped Access desk before 16.30 on Sunday if you require preferential seats or other help with attending the Masquerade.

If For Your Diary

Would you like to run a Worldcon?

Think you could do it better? Then come and play 'If I Ran The Zoo...Con', a participation game that takes you through the bid, planning for the con and running the con. You make the decisions, you live with the results. Rembrandt Room, Sunday, 13.00 to 16.00. [Alternatively, it is not quite too late to file a bid for the 1994 Worldcon - Ed.] □

Appeal

Due to the non-appearance of the envelope containing my cash and travellers' cheques, I need to call on the generosity of Fandom to help me pay my hotel bill. Loans or donations may be left with Ops or handed to me in person. My profuse thanks.

Richard Bazooka James

Absent Friend

It is, perhaps, a miracle that the streets of London do not seem empty. But there is an ant hum of shopping through the open window here in Camden Town. Benzine stirs the curtain. The streets inside one's head are full, too. A new setting of *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* (1979) is due any day now, on disk, all 730,000 words of it; and Peter Nicholls and I will soon be reshaping those words into the 950,000 words of the revised edition due from Macdonald in 1991. But that much copy won't fit into floppy disks, and today I'm staring into the brand-new screen of a brand-new hard-disk IBM-clone. It is a new mind tool, and it feels very strange, like one's first moments at a convention, with half-familiar face-prompts dashing off into the hard disk core, leaving you behind in the *Error* of your ways. These are my first words on the new tool. They feel like the first words in the world. But very slowly the door seems to be opening. Through the screen, inside the IBM-clone head, the streets are full of prompts.

It's a bit like a convention in here.

John Clute

PS Peter Nicholls and John Clute are hoping that anyone with any complaints, corrections, revisions, suggestions, or whatever for the Encyclopedia, will contact:

John Clute, 221 Camden High Street, London, NW1 7BU, England.

Voice/fax 071 485 9120. They wish to thank everyone in advance.

Overheard in Main Lobby

Richard the Rampant, when asked about the significance of the four lustrous locks of hair on his 'Memory Necklace', said: 'What do you think I'm remembering?' The reply: 'Not the number of times you were beaten into the ground with a sword?' Whereupon Richard blushed. □

Fan Guests

The talks by Andy Porter and Neil Belsky were quite complementary. Andy mainly asked for a way to keep the fandom community spirit as it was twenty years ago. One threat was the attitude of the new 'visitors', who wanted to be entertained rather than to participate. Another was the competition for accommodation by normal business at the weekends nowadays.

Andy would be happy about the participation rate (50%) of the public during Neil's talk. It went so well that the discussion had to be confined to the gangway, to clear the room for the next panel. We began with the story about how the Dutch government was talked into subsidising the bid, when Neil thought that a one-bid selection (of LA) would not be nice. Mostly we discussed how the Worldcon should be world-wide, not just in America, and how we should accept new ideas and new fans rather than rejecting them.

Paulus Meys

Attendance

1: Venezuela - the first ever!

4: Principality of Liege (not Belgium!)



CONFLICTS

Issue 8

Sunday Afternoon

& ConFictions

SF In SF In 1993

This morning's 1993 site selection meeting announced that after three voting rounds the final tally was:

Zagreb 193
Hawaii 324
San Francisco 520

The first choice votes cast were:

Phoenix 147
San Francisco 436
Zagreb 175
Hawaii, write-in 299
Other write-ins 2
None of the above 0
No preference 26

Therefore the 1993 Worldcon will be in San Francisco. PRO for the convention is available, and a desk should be open for registration.

The anticipated bloodstains did not appear on the walls, but might have if Hawaii had won. The issue was whether it was permissible for a write-in bid to produce ballot forms with the additional entry pre-printed. The expected objection did not appear but it was strongly suggested that the balloting and voting system should be closely examined.

Bernie Peek



Food

Eat to the beat: good fish to be had cheaply from Pavarelli Strandpavijoen, Strandweg 7, Scheveningen. Their unbelievable band, 'De Blemo's' is Holland's answer to 'Raw Sex.' You should hear 'I Can See Clearly' in Dutch accompanied by a Hammond organ. They're very sincere, but maybe have a short engagement.

Sylvia Starshine

Also recommended
Restaurant Djawa, Mallemolen 12a,
2585 XJ, Den Haag.

Non-Hugos

The Hugos are not the only awards to have been announced at *ConFiction*. Others have included the ASFA Chesley Awards, the Gilgamesh Awards and the Japanese National Awards. Unsurprising winners have included *The Colour of Magic* and *Mythago Wood*. The five winning stories in the King Kong Awards are on sale in the Dealers' Room in a book entitled *The Mound and Other SF Stories From the Lowlands*.

There will be a full list of other award winners in the newsletter room.

The Spoken Word

Is the true spirit of the Netherlands what is known as a *poldergeist*?

Art Show - See it while you can

One could say that this year's art show, organised by Arjay Jimmel, was small compared to past world cons - doubtless customs and distance were a problem. However an unusually high standard was in evidence. The high profile of obviously commercial art lent a certain dryness but this was enlivened by some genuinely unique work. My (and the staff's) particular favourite was Lies Jonker's 'Never Again' followed by Jim Burns' 'Illustrated Man'.

The main disappointment was the lack of bids and sales. There are many items in a medium price bracket well worth taking home; I suggest anything by 'Unquedor' (average Hfl 750). Also of interest is 'Klin-zha', sculpted by Q'Kadrak, which I presume is a Klingon gaming set. Prints are available and Sunday's auction will go on as planned with several pieces to be auctioned for charity. Potential buyers should remember that only cash and Visa cards will be accepted. Traveler's cheques will be exchanged upstairs.

Sylvia Starshine

Happy Birthday Howard: 27 August 1890, Howard Philip Lovecraft.

Absent Friends

Boston area fandom is at *ConFiction* in spirit, Mark and Priscilla Olson report. They are holding a 'Can't Get To Worldcon' party, with Dutch beer and food, and announcing the Hugo results as soon as they get them. What more could you want, except for actually being here?

Guff Auction

The auction raised Hfl 175 and a few smiles for GUFF, and consumed copious amounts of chocolate.

There is rumoured to be no truth in the rumour that Roman Orszanski had to be smeared with chocolate paste before anyone would bid for him.

Many thanks to all who contributed material or bid.

i Information

INFORMATION

Sprechst du Deutsch? : Those interested in German Fandom can contact Matthias Hofmann or Thomas Recktenwald at the German table in the Fan Market or meet them at the German Room Party.

Lost & (not) Found: lots of photos in a plastic bag left in one of the Maris rooms on Friday night. Please contact *Confacts* staff.

Lost: A pink-and-white striped money pouch, with a Mickey Mouse on the front. Please return to Adrienne Stearns.

Sunrise Book Review's rep wishes to thank all the publishers he has seen. Our address is Sunrise Book Review, Attn: Michael J. Lowrey, 1827 N. 2 St, Milwaukee W1 53212-3760 USA.

A big **Dank U** from two Finns to all the friendly Dutch fans, especially the (very) nice man who gave them a lift last night.

Thieves' World?: Paul Wilder's Peugeot car-van was broken into. Anyone seeing anything suspicious in the Catshuver Carpark (near Gopher Hole and creche) on Saturday please contact him ASAP.

Also, a radio was stolen from the car park behind the Congress Centre and the Bel Air. Lock your buggy and leave nothing in sight.

POLISH SF IN CRISIS SITUATION

The political changes that made post-communist countries from communist ones resulted in the financial breakdown of most Polish SF clubs. All programmes are still running, but on a much smaller scale. Conventions are still held, but the number of participants dropped from the average 500 (per con) to 150. The best fanzines, edited on an almost professional level, collapsed under the strain of rising printing costs and prices fixed by the market. The few left are mostly of a newsletter quality, with narrow circulation.

The book situation is getting better all the time. Due to legal changes the new publishing houses multiply (like orcs in the mountains). New translations are appearing as the rights can be paid for with no problems now for classics: P. K. Dick, U.K. Le Guin, Kuttner; and the younger generation: Card, Eddings etc). In such a competition Polish writers do rather poorly (at least most of them). Some try copying stories of Conan type, others imitate Chandler's novels in an SF setting. We do hope they will soon know better. □

Credits

This issue of ConFacts was edited by Bernie Peek with the able assistance of Giulia de Cesare, Sylvia Starshine, Carol Shetler, Wilf James, Steve Davies, Steve Green, Amanda Baker Vicki King a Jeannette Roth, Steve Bull.

Leah Zeldes Smith's name was accidentally omitted from earlier credits and Jackie Hawkins was not credited for her work on issue four. Assisted by the well worn Dick. □

The Foreign Exchange

Kaikesta tästä parasta on ihmiset. Ihanat, mukavat, älykkäät ihmiset. Olen nauranut ja puhunut kansanne, tavannut joitakin vanhoja ystäviä ja saanut uusia. Kiitos teille kaikista!.

Suomen tieteskijottajat Ry:n puolesta.

The best thing has been the people. Wonderful, friendly, intelligent, people. I have laughed and spoken with you, met some old friends, and met new ones. Thanks to all of you!

On behalf of the Finnish Science Fiction Writers. Anetta Pirinen.

Det intressantasta med denna kongress är att man får möta folk från

Gor Blimey!

Last night's Gor panel was attended by several well-known fans, who may possibly prefer to remain nameless. Amongst them was ruggedly handsome Mike Cule, who once attempted to found a John Norman Appreciation Society. To everyone's surprise none of the panellists actually turned up, so by popular acclaim Mike was 'persuaded' to take the helm, and revealed many unsuspected facts about Gor and its creator. Did you know:

John Norman is a philosophy lecturer;

The second Gor movie has the hero taking an impassioned stance against slavery.

All 70 people in the audience had read at least one Gor book; most of them had read five or more, and a couple had read all of them.

Hitch-hiker fans should note that John Norman thinks that the most useful thing to carry is a tie, not a towel....

Marcus L. Rowland

Tim Illingworth's team lost the How to run a Worldcon game.

A View from the Dutch Side

You know what? I do enjoy this convention, my very first. There are some annoyances, but these do not weigh up against fun I'm having and the pleasure of meeting so many weird SF fans from around the world. There is one thing though - ConFacts seems to be written by British and American fans. This is supposed to be a World-Con! So Dutch, Polish, Swedes, Finnish, Chinese, Russians... write what you think of this Con and send it to ConFacts. Norman Verburg

hela världen. Jag har träffat folk från alla östeuropeiska länder, Andorra, Japan - ja naturligtvis från de flesta Västeuropeiska länderna och USA. Det värsta är det trots ölen är billig den serveras i löjligt små glas.

The most interesting thing in this convention is that you can meet people from all over the world. I have met people from all the East European countries, Andorra, and Japan, and naturally from most of the Western European countries and the USA. The worst thing is that although the beer is cheap, it is served in ludicrously small glasses. Ahrvid Engholm.

i Information

Tim? Alison?: Sorry, guys, there won't be any tech ribbons available at the auction. □

AIRPLANE, The Survey: The Sequel. If you flew here and still don't have a pretty, sticky tulip on your badge, see the people doing the survey by the Congress Centre Information Desk. Superheroes need not apply. □

More is Less: Sealink's Harwich - Hook of Holland five day return (actually valid for six days) costs fourteen pounds less if you bring a bicycle. This offer, which saves twenty-six pounds, is open to motorists and cyclists but not foot passengers. A bicycle return (for the machine) costs twelve pounds, so you save fourteen. □

From Miranda Aldham Breary: Betty and Michael, disabled American fans, were ripped-off in Paris. A collection box for donations will be with the shift manager for registration and at information. Thanks for donations so far, especially to some Los Angeles fans. Any surplus will be passed on to Fans Across The World. □

Souvenir Tip: Original Dutch SF - particularly in English - is hard to find in the bookroom. An exception is 'The Mound and other SF Stories'. This anthology contains the five best (KING KONG AWARD 1990) Dutch SF stories at Dfl 10.00. Orders by post to: Roelof Goudriaan, Caan van Necklaan 63, 2281 BB Rijswijk.

From Roelof Goudriaan
FATW News: The Fans Across The World raffle will be drawn by David Pringle (if we can find him and he agrees) at 17.45 at the stall in the Fan Market. We would like to thank Sue Mason, Fantast Medway, Andromeda Books and Critical Wave for donations of prizes and all of you who have bought tickets.

Test Score: 13.00 26/8
England look doomed. India 606 for 7 declared, England 293 for 7, (Gooch 81, Smith 57, Russel 34, Hemmings 26 N.O.)

Correction for Issue 7: For 'her horde of restive orange gophers' read 'her rampant horde of restive orange gophers'.

Many thanks from Bazooka for the money raised after his money was stolen. □



CONFACTS

Issue #9 Sunday Evening & ConFictions

Members, Members Everywhere

When the ConFiction registration desk closed on Sunday, the total membership in all categories had reached 3029. The con has 2,339 full attending members from all over the world, with the largest national contingents being from Britain (709), the United States (556) and, funnily enough, the Netherlands (360). The con has 106 Eastern European full members, mostly from Poland (41) and East Germany (33), and of course almost every corner of the globe is represented to some extent. The single Saudi Arabian failed to make it, and the nationalities of the 10 pre-registered full attending who arrived on Sunday are unknown. Almost half the 998 USA attending members registered failed to come, with the falling value of the dollar and the state of the USA job market cited as the most probable causes.

There were 652 day members from Holland over the whole con, and an additional 400 came specially to see the Perry Rhodan event. Day members' nationalities included Japanese (5), Finnish (4) and Australian (1).

Two late arrivals on Sunday were issued one badge between them, on the condition that they always stayed together. It was suggested to Johan that he borrow a pair of Ome Kees' handcuffs. □

A Sad Tale and a Happy Ending

Soviet fan Anatoly Parubetz has had all his papers and the money of three other USSR attendees stolen. They have asked everybody to come to their stall in the Fan Market and buy their t-shirts and posters. They need the custom to cover their costs getting home from the convention. They are planning to leave the Hague on Tuesday or Wednesday – please help.

Meanwhile, on a happier note, the Betty and Michael fund in conjunction with Fans Across the World have raised enough money to get them back home. Thanks everyone. □

For Your Diary

Barcon 91 Presentation

Berlin SF fans at ConFiction are advertising Barcon 91, to take place 6–8 September 1991 at the Kindl-Festsale in Berlin. A slide show in German and English featuring an alien robot stranded on Terra was shown on Saturday at the SF Club Deutschland room party. As the audience liked the show very much, it will be repeated at 11.30 on Monday in Commission Room 3. □

WSFS Business Meeting: Sunday

Reported to the meeting: 1088 voted in site selection, 329 by mail, 759 at the door. 'None of the above', and 'write-ins other than Hawaii' were eliminated on the first ballot; Phoenix on the second. San Francisco won on the third ballot, with 520 votes to 324 to Hawaii, and 193 to Zagreb (but see 'Stubborn as a Mulecon' overleaf).

Reported after the meeting:

Colin Fine, Sue Francis, and Kent Bloom were elected to the Mark Registration and Protection Committee. Sasha Miller was appointed to the committee by ConFrancisco.

Adopted:

Mark Registration and Protection Committee name change; Amendment procedure; Foreign language translation eligibility correction; Commending both 94 bids for not making presentations; Adjourn Sine Die (there will be no Monday Business Meeting).

Defeated:

Deletion of 'except where prohibited by local law'; Deletion of Article II, Section 1 on the Hugos; Consideration of rewriting standing rule 1 to switch meeting and session.

Robert Sacks

ConFiction Round Up

Charades Marathon

Charades marathon achieves 24 hour target! There's no more to be said really. Annemarie van Ewyck

Founder's Dream

I walked 50 feet through the all-night party – I heard seven languages spoken and met several hundred fans. THIS IS WHAT INTERNATIONAL FANDOM IS ALL ABOUT! PARTY! PARTY! PARTY! Neil I. Belsky

Fun, Quick and Expensive

A packed audience were shown 'How to Design a Religion' as Jo Fletcher, Ellen Kushner, Mike Ford and Mike Harrison revealed the mysteries of Money, Sex and TV. They thrilled to the Three Deadly Sins, Organised Sport, Insufficient Wealth and Decoding Satellite Transmissions Without Paying; gasped at the news that the temple prostitute cost Dfl 5 and a Silk Cut, but that he (*sic*) refused to wear see-through blouses; and quickly learnt the ritual greeting: 'That's a great t-shirt, where did you get it?' 'What, this old thing?' And Donald Trump was nominated as the religion's first martyr.

Rhodri James

Punish The Editors!

Actually, a lot of the people at the Gor panel had *not* read any Gor books – they just went to see what sort of people would go to such a panel.

'Embarrassed' of Croydon

Warning!

Attention All Gophers

Martin Easterbrook asks that people with 16 hours on their worksheet get receipts from the gopher hole, and those with 8 hours collect their t-shirts from the same place. He also thanks all of the gophers for all their work during the convention. □

1993 Worldcon Hit By Truck

Two months prior to the voting for the 1993 Worldcon, Ford Motor Company booked a two-week sales conference into some of the same facilities that the Worldcon was planning to use. Fortunately, the Worldcon still has the use of most of the space it needs, with one-third of its total space available from Wednesday, and the remainder from Friday. The current letters with hotels have room blocks totalling about 1000 rooms from Tuesday, climbing to over 2000 rooms from Thursday. These blocks can be increased as needed.

There are various rumours running round ConFiction relating to ConFrancisco which the committee say are false.

Item: ConFrancisco will be non-smoking. **Refutation:** San Francisco city ordinances severely limit smoking in enclosed public spaces, but the convention has no intent to totally ban smoking. They plan to explain the laws in PR1.

Item: ConFrancisco will be a 'dry' convention. **Refutation:** Upon hearing of the 'dry' convention rumours, various amazed committee members were heard to say things like: 'If it were going to be dry, why did we spend so much effort getting corkage waived?'

Item: At a ConFrancisco bidding party, a server refused to give a Polish fan a drink. **Refutation:** Every member of the ConFrancisco committee present at this convention was asked about this: every member was appalled that someone had been rude to this fan at their party. It was confirmed by C&C that the Polish fan in question had indeed been served his drink.

Item: ConFrancisco will be another Nolacon. **Refutation:** No, idiot, they're calling it ConFrancisco. As to how well it will be run, we'll just have to wait and see. But San Francisco is almost as much fun as New Orleans.

The San Francisco committee have no objection to rumours, so long as they are true ones. Visit their Facts Table for further information. **Seth Breidbart**

What, More Bidding?

At a second WSFS bidding session for bids from 1994 onwards, Louisville (Kentucky) and Winnipeg (Manitoba) made presentations. Louisville has four hotels and the convention centre in a block down one street connected by a free tram, cited the conrunning competence of their committee, and promised a lot of programming. Winnipeg, the first Canadian bid in 21 years, referred to their compact, connected facilities; their badge would be a free pass for buses and to the four connected theatres showing SF movies during the con. Their Centre also includes a Chinese buffet, one price printing and a chocolate shop.

Glasgow (Scotland) and Sydney (Australia) are bidding for 1995. Glasgow are bidding their experience and showed slides of their facility and city. Atlanta did not make a presentation, but said that they had bidders here, and that they would be using the same facilities as in 1986. Los Angeles (LASFS plus outside staff) is bidding for 1996, with the same facilities as in 1984. Other bids noted included the joke bids for Moscow and New York in 1995, and the unorganised bids for Boston (Massachusetts) and New York in 1998. □

Stubborn as a Mulecon?

Zagreb 93 may have lost the Worldcon but they haven't lost the war. All presup-
porters and anyone else interested in a convention in Zagreb going ahead, there is a meeting in Commission (programme) Room 3 at 23.00 Sunday (or as soon as the masquerade is finished, whichever is later). Come on along, please. □

Future Illustrators

The L Ron Hubbard 'Writers of the Future' Contest has been joined by an 'Illustrators Contest', now in its second year. There is no entry fee, and prizes range up to \$5000 for these contests.

Entries are welcome from countries throughout the world, although stories must currently be submitted in English. Contest rules are available in the dealers room. **Vicki Francies**

Credits

Issue 9 of *ConFacts & ConFictions* has been created by all its contributors, both named and anonymous, by Seth Breidbart who saved the issue, by Caroline Mullan who nearly lost it, and by Dave Clements, Ivan Towlson, Steve Bull, Amanda Baker, and Rhodri James. Apologies for the late distribution, especially to people whose items failed to be included.

Science at ConFiction

Few science programme items have had the advertised people talking on the advertised subject. Even so, some items did satisfy hard science buffs, especially Harry Harrison's panel on 'Where the Dutch will go to when the water rises' and Robert Forward's talk on interstellar travel.

The panel on 'Another bestseller: another rainforest' revealed that chopping down trees to make books could be environmentally sound. A later bar conversation revealed that David Brin's publishers of *Earth* failed to advertise that it was the first commercial US SF book to be printed on recycled paper. **Gaia**

Overheard at ConFiction

Andy Porter, on seeing his own photo in the programme book: 'If I saw that guy in a dark alley, I'd run like hell.'

Abi Frost: 'Where's the lager-free alcohol when I need it?'

Anonymous: 'I was reading *Star Smashers of the Galaxy Rangers* and taking it seriously. I threw it away after twenty pages because I couldn't believe it.'

Colin Fine: 'Before the Dawn' is the Perry Rhodan of filk.

UK and US Unite to Save Fandom

A scream rang out as a sound—perhaps a shot?—shattered the air.' The opening line of a bad mystery? No, it actually occurred on Friday night shortly after midnight, as a group of fans and authors gathered at a party sponsored by a well known con goer. An arcane ritual was attempted involving much chanting, swaying, and 14 dead chickens. A broomstick is rumoured to have been employed well, and may have injured a well-known author as he and other participants attempted to revive the spirit of true fandom. One American fan selflessly allowed herself to become a 'sacrifice' to achieve the desired result. This in itself is proof that the spirit of true fandom is within us all. **The Sacrifice**

Hogu Awards Invalid!

The 1990 Hogu and Blackhole final ballot forms have NO write-in spaces. This means that the awards are invalid. This scandal must be exposed. **Paul Dion**



CONFiCTIONS

Issue #10

Early Monday Morning

& ConFictions

Well, Fancy That!

The children's masquerade was well-received by the audience to laughter, applause and cheers. It was a good ice-breaker for the 'adult' masquerade, the results of which were:

- Best of Show: Neale Anthony Gerald Mittenshaw-Hodge, *Mort*
- Best Performance: Sylvain St. Pierre, *The Wizard Mazegreen*
- Best Humorous: Douglas McCallum, *Total Reball*
- Best Novice: Mike Percival, *Morgoth*
- Best Journeyman: Jaine Weddell and Liz Reid, *Elementals*
- Best Master: No Award... no entries [mutter, mutter, NASFiC, mutter]
- Best Irreligious: Helen McCarthy et al, *The Triple Goddess*
- Armageddon Award: Gail Courney, *Queen Mahalat*

Judges' Awards:

- The Soldier & Sailor special Reeperbahn Tumescence Transvestite Bisexual Antiphony: Teddy and Gail Courtney, *Vaysh, the cool Wraeththu*
- Best Vamp: Elizabetta, *Selene, Queen of the Hellfire Club*
- Best Presence: Sue Mason, *Deep Waters*
- Special Judges Award 2: Teddy, *A visiting Kender* [I thought they made chocolate eggs! -Ed.]
- Best Unentered Costume: Henry John Landis (feathered hat!)

The interval entertainment, a must for rubber fetishists, or so CF&CF is assured, seemed to be a rehearsal for a wet dream game of statues. Several women, and at least one man (?), walked in slow motion across the stage in various states of undress, while an almost hypnotic music throbbed through the auditorium. A tech person is reported to have said that when played backwards the lyrics say 'Vote Hawaii in 93 - Ben Yalow is the king of the SMOFs'. Some vegetarian rubber fetishists (and others) quite liked it. Others said that 'there is nothing more boring (sic!) than the clean parts of pornography in slow motion'.

Robert Sacks, Madeline Tyrrell, Chris O'Shea II

Tolkienists are here

A strong group of Polish Tolkien fans arrived disguised as common conventioners. Here they met representatives of international under- and overground Tolkienist organisation and started their plots and subplots. Fortunately, there is also present the most prominent (and probably the only) Polish anti-Tolkienist (not anti-Tolkien, mind you) - science fiction's last defence before the torrent of Tolkienistic literature.

Eurocon in Poland

The 1991 Eurocon will be held in Krakow, Poland, on 9-12 May, with Poul Anderson and Gianfranco Viviani as GoHs. We invite all of you to come. Information: Wiktor Bukato, P.O.Box 983, 00-950 Warsaw, Poland. Wiktor is also to be found at ConFiction.

International Cons

ConFiction's international style has obviously struck a chord in the hearts of European fans. Nearly everyone attending the con has praised the organisation and suggested that more of the same would be a Good Thing. Hamburg and Hanover in 1992 or 1993 have been proposed.

The Zagreb in 1993 committee is considering going ahead with a non-Worldcon event. Some have gone so far as to argue for a European, or even (whisper it) rest-of-world counterpart to America's NASFiC, whose administration would work similarly to that of ConFiction. Since conrunners from six countries have expressed interest in the idea, all that is needed to make it happen is a core of people to set things in motion. Any volunteers?

For Your Diary

Home And Abroad

If you are leaving ConFiction to go back to or to visit Britain, don't forget that Monday is a bank holiday, and that a lot of shops will be shut. In main towns, you should be able to find things like food, and major department stores are likely to be open, and you will be able to exchange money at bureaux de change (but as you are no doubt tired of hearing by now these will not give you as good a rate as a bank). Transport should be largely unaffected - ie it will still be awful.

Gamma requires a lift to Antwerp on Monday or Tuesday. Can anyone help?

Warning!

Con Correction

In C&C 9 we stated that 'Los Angeles (LASFS plus outside staff)' was bidding for the 1996 Worldcon. The organization that is bidding is SCIFI (the Southern California Institute for Fan Interests). It has nothing in common with LASFS save for all of its members.

New York in 95 is not a joke bid, it is a real bid with a sense of humour.

Boston in 98 is not unorganised, it's a very organised bid that doesn't exist.

Ribbons of Glory

- Overheard in the bar, from one American to another - 'I think the green ribbon means they're British.'
- The latest news is that Tim Illingworth now has ten official ribbons and two illegitimate ones. *Subs: Please cut to ribbons - Abigail*

Credits: Mike Abbott, Chris O'Shea, Abigail Frost, John Dallman, Ivan Towlson, Seth Breidbart, Wilf James, Simon Bradshaw, Roger the Convention Hero, the editors of issue 9 and a cast of thousands, all of whom commented on the masquerade.

For those who have been enquiring, the Dick is pumping away merrily.

Monday Afternoon

	10 am	11 am	12 noon	1 pm	2pm	3 pm	4 pm	5 pm
Prins William Alexander	Will There Ever be Another Golden Age? (countdown panel)		The Face of Mars (talk) Chris O'Kane		Closing Ceremony			
Van Gogh Auditorium		World of Vision: a Doomed World (countdown panel)		World of Vision: Escape & Safty (countdown panel)	World of Vision & Passion (countdown panel)			
Rembrandt Hall	What's Next: Upcoming Conventions in Europe		Future Cons - More Fans, Fewer Authors? (panel)		Programming: for Fun, for Fan, or for Fact? (panel)			
Maris Hall One	WSFS Business Meeting		Pictorial Tour II Unknown Regions of Star Wars					
Maris Hall Two	How to Use Life to Work Out Distances & the Greenhouse Effect (talk) J Cowie		H.P. Lovecraft (talk) Darrell Schweitzer		Breakthrough Books (panel)			
Escher Hall One	Masquerade Gripe Session (panel)		This Book Should Have Been Nominated (panel)					
Escher Hall Two			A Course in SF Through Art (panel)		Filking with Gytha North			
Rembrandt Terrace	Kid's Gripe Session (panel)			Smoking at Conventions: Problem of the Past? (panel)				
Rembrandt Lounge						Hangover Party - The Barf Bag Syndrome (talk) Heiko Cleton		
Mondriaan Hall	The Small Presses (panel)		The ConFiction Gripe Session (panel)					
Mondriaan Terrace	Dutch Treat Arthur D. Hlaverty	Dutch Treat John Cramer	Dutch Treat Peter Schaap	Dutch Treat Gerben Hellinga				
Commision Room One	Sex and Sexism in Art (panel)		L.Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future (talk) Algy's Budrys & Dennis Minor					
Commision Room Three	Contact - Solar System Council (panel)		The Barcon '91 Slide Show - Kempen, Winkler		The Vampire Theme as a Sub-Literary Genre (panel)			
Bel Air Rooms	G: Ohne Phosphor keine Gedanke (german workshop)							
Films Willink Hall	The Golden Voyage of Sinbad		Alien		Ladyhawke			
Videos Karel Appel	Innerspace		Master's of the Universe		Back to The Future		Altered States	
Readings Mondr. Lobby		Josepha Sherman						
Kid Con								

All programme rooms in the Convention Centre will close at 6 pm. The bars and central areas will remain open till 2 am. For large parties, try the Bel Air rooms.



Issue #11

Monday, and Last!

& ConFictions

Looking Back

Looking back on the con I think that despite the inevitable problems it was undeniably a success. Of course I can't really comment on the programme; I have seen two items. The *ConFacts and ConFictions* Instant Opinion Poll shows that the average number of items attended by visitors to the newsroom was five, as at 11.00 on Monday morning. (Mike Abbott made seventeen, obviously a shirker.)

Neil Belsky, founder of the con, says in a message to Kees, 'This has been the best Worldcon I've been to since I joined fandom in 1974. Thank you for making a pipe dream a marvellous reality. Let's not wait another twenty years to do it again.'

I know that many of the UK fans feel the same way, a very different situation to that at the end of Conspiracy 87. We shouldn't lose the experience we have gained over the last few years. It would also be a pity to lose the special atmosphere that we have built up. This has been a real *Worldcon*. It has been a genuinely international operation which showed the true fannish spirit. When a couple of American fans were 'ripped-off' by their Parisian hotel even the Russians and Poles contributed money. This is it. This is what it's all about.

Bernie Peek

European Veterans Gather

At Conspiracy, when the Worldcon came to Britain for the fourth time, a party was organised for those who had been at all four occasions. A similar party on a European basis was held here on Friday evening, with anyone who had been to four of the six Worldcons this side of the Atlantic eligible. Unfortunately several eligible fans — probably at least as many as those who came — were unable to get there because of other commitments, and several who were at Brighton could not come to the Hague because of poor health. They were remembered as 'absent friends'. Eleven actually gathered, from Belgium, Germany, Holland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States in the formidable person of David Kyle (who, incidentally, produced the first ever Worldcon newsletter at Philcon in 1953, typing directly to stencil — somehow, ponders a *CF&CF* editor, things seemed so much simpler then). Those attending signed a book of record to which it is hoped to add the names of others eligible and present at ConFiction. It was agreed that a similar occasion should be planned for the next European Worldcon, to be organised by...

Frank Smith

Extra Nationality at Worldcon

At least two of the editors of *CF&CF* wish it to be pointed out that the Friends of Foundation collecting monster has now been fed some Welsh money.

USSG Bid

The results of the USSG Bidding Party vote are not available as the Official Ballot Box has gone missing. There was a rumour that Scandinavian party supporters were stuffing the ballot box even more than we were, but this cannot be confirmed.

However, judging from the activity with the Bouncy Castle and the 'UFO' frisbee, not to mention the enormous flow of beer, the USSG party would have won by a landslide.

Neale Mittenshaw-Hodge (our security hero) was heard to remark that woolly phones taste like chow mein when unravelled.

A man of his word, he tried at the USSG party, with Martin Easterbrook's woolly phone.

Bear Yalow

Bid Party Cancelled

The Ratcon 2002 Worldcon Bid Party has been cancelled due to the late arrival on Sunday of its organiser, J. J. Styles, and further commitments on Tuesday.

Overheard

'You can tell that the newsletter has been done by the British — they put the cricket score under "Food".'

In The Real World

Mining Disaster: First Reports. 150 miners have been trapped in an explosion in Yugoslavia.

Another SF Prize

East German author Gert Prokep won the SFCD-Literaturpreis for short stories for his story 'Kasperle ist wieder da'. Maria J Pfeinhholz won the prize for the best novel for *Den Überlebenden*. Both prizes were presented at the annual meeting of the SFCD (the German SF club).

Jurgen Marzi

Thanks!

The Fans Across the World raffle raised Dfl 666. The organisers would like to thank Forbidden Planet for their donation of a prize.

The Foreign Exchange

I came here because I liked Conspiracy in Brighton in 1987 so much that I decided to repeat the experience. But I did not expect ConFiction to be such an absolutely marvellous event. The most fantastic thing was to meet people from all over the world. It is strange how, after having talked to someone for a few minutes you then keep bumping into them all the time. The programme is very interesting, and the con's membership more balanced than in Brighton.

I had an opportunity to talk, on behalf of Europe, to several people whom I knew only from the jackets of my favourite books. The best thing of all was to be on the Green Room Staff — that really gave me an idea how a Worldcon is run and allowed me to feel that perhaps I too have helped it succeed. Contribution is so much more fun than merely watching! Last but not least: everyone is unbelievably friendly here, from bus driver to big names in SF and fantasy, plus the whole crowd of fans. Thank you all for this wonderful atmosphere!

Agnieszka Sytlanowicz

How the newsletter is really run

It's all very simple really. Bert Visser, the roving reporter, is responsible for finding stories (including those with no handicapped access), and hands them in to Nico Veenkamp on reception. Martin Tudor vets all submissions, logs their arrival, checks their accuracy, and bins them. Ivan Towlson then makes something up on the subject, and gets clipped round the ear by Sylvia Starshine for his pains. Kate Solomon makes peace between them, and Leah Smith supplies bandages. Dick Smith types a random string of characters, and Carol Shetler, an automatic spellchecking program, turns them into decent English. Tom Scheelings raises demonic forces, represented for the occasion by Robert Sacks, and Jeanette Roth stands nervously within a protective pentacle. Neil Rest is the human sacrifice, after Bill Ray carries out a check and decides that he is indeed human, much to Bernie Peek's surprise. On the door, Roman Orszanski fends off intruders, and Chris O'Shea II mans the searchlights. Caroline Mullan pours coffee, Chris Milford adds sugar, Annette Lotz puts in the milk, and Saku Lipton drinks it. Steve Linton just puts some coffee granules in his mouth and empties the kettle straight down his throat.

By now, the material is ready for typesetting. Vicki King converts the floppy discs, Kate Jeary persuades them that there is, in fact, no God, and Wilf James helps them come to terms with the fact, using Rhodri Jamesian psychology. Jackie Hawkins sets up the standard newsletter, Oliver Gruter knocks it down again, and Steve Green does something mysterious that no-one else understands, but that seems to do the trick. Abigail Frost is tied to the railway tracks, and rescued at the last moment by Johan-Martijn Flaton. Meanwhile Zoe Deterding splits the atom, and Steve Davies fixes it again, with gaffer tape. John Dallman takes the gaffer tape back to TechOps, and says thank you. Dave Clements feeds the laser printer, and Giulia de Cesare cleans the chocolate out of it. Steve Bull proffreds. Seth Breidbart sets up the touch-sensitive Dick, and Simon Bradshaw feeds it — with paper! Trevor Barker distributes it, and Amanda Baker picks it up and shreds it all to hide the mistakes. Meanwhile, all this thoroughly co-ordinated nest of efficient activity is carefully recorded by...

Michael Abbott

Pride comes before a nasty financial shock...

Two separate reports have come to our attention. Could they be related?

- Tim Illingworth displaying an array of ribbons that would have been the envy of General MacArthur, 'I've even got the Chairman's ribbon.'
- Overheard — 'Who has taken my Chairman's ribbon? It doesn't matter, because whoever has it pays all of the bills.'

Absent Friends

There was bloody Martin Smith from Croydon, having a drink or five at the Yorkshire Grey Brewery, and he couldn't finish a sentence all night. 'I was trying to get a birthday card —' 'What on earth for?' asked Rob Hansen. 'Because it was my boss's birthday and —' 'Ah, brown-nosing,' said Rob. 'She has this dog that she keeps in her car all day —'. 'Brown-nosing to an animal-torturer,' I said. 'Anyway, I thought I could get her one of those Gary Larson cards...' Rob poked at Smith's hair until Martin was forced to admit to having had a haircut. This led Owen Whiteoak to speculate on while-you-wait ear-piercing. 'There's a place near us that advertises punctures while-you-wait,' I said, encouragingly. 'Did you see that show last night about orgasms?' Martin tried; 'That Reagan thing turned out not to be a blooper reel,' said Owen in disgust. 'It was a *tribute* to him — "to America's most beloved president,"' it said. 'I was shocked. 'Reagan isn't America's most beloved president! Our most beloved presidents have to die in office.' 'He did,' said Rob. 'That was only brain death.' 'And he was like that *before*,' said Owen. 'I'm reading this book about the CIA,' Martin said. 'We almost bought you that book, you know. It was remaindered for £2.' 'I paid full price, but I saved money not going to the Worldcon.'

Faux Pas of the Week

It has reached our attention that one LMJ 'Simo' Simpson, Editor of *Oc-tarines* (not a Terry Pratchett fan club zine — honest) was seen preventing a fan from entering the convention because she didn't have a badge. When it was revealed that the fan in question was in fact Mrs Pratchett, the resulting apology was apparently reminiscent of a scene from 'Black Adder'...

John Waggot

Brian Aldiss Party

Lovable Brian Aldiss celebrated his 65th birthday in fine form at a glitzy do in the Kurhaus last night. Under chandeliers fit to rival the Liverpool Adelphi (or the Titanic) over a hundred prominent persons drank Brian's health. Also in fine form was exuberant Eileen Weston, who claimed to be Brian's mistress, while in a corner boring old Peter Weston talked about Heinlein all night with Leon Stover. Margaret Aldiss presided over a very pleasant bash, terminated prematurely by the hotel's removal of all glasses and drinks on the stroke of midnight.

Past Worldcon Chairman

Those Magnificent Men

Tech Ops organised a paper airplane competition that attracted approximately fifty participants and spectators. Competitions were held in two categories: hand and rubber band projected craft.

In the former category, Finland achieved a triple victory in the distance throwing, with victory going to Karla Loppi, Ari Vientie, and Markku Mane-la. Vientie also picked up a win in the most pathetic throw attempt with his first craft. His 'throw' went five metres (196.95 inches) backwards. Most expensive launch vehicle (valued at USD 2000) was Terry 'Isoäiti' Terry, who had recently been proclaimed a Finn. Victory for the most aesthetically pleasing throw went to Bazooka, who was then granted honorary Finnhood. The contest was judged by the totally impartial and neutral Saku, from Finland. This is just a coincidence. Really.

In the latter category, Tech Ops InterHall Ballistic Missile and Dart systems were so impressive in distance, speed, power, and height that the opposition was reduced to rock-throwing. The winning system was designed by Dermot Dobson, Brian Macdonald, Saku, and the rest of the Tech Ops crew, with a guest appearance by Chris Cooper as the Launch Tower.

Later, there was an attempt to launch the judge, which failed. □

The CF&CF team would like to thank Philip Chee, Paula Liebermann, Spike Parsons and Kaare Sidselrud, all of whom offered to, but were unable to help for various reasons. □

This issue was done by a few humans, sharing a throbbing, churning Dick. □

Issue 12 September Wellington & ConFictions

The End of ConFiction

The Closing Ceremony was a peaceful affair, with soft lights and music setting a mournful tone. Kees van Toorn thanked everyone who made the convention possible, especially his wife, and apologised that non-functioning lifts had left the handicapped without access to the panel on handicapped access. Chelsea Quinn Yarbro asked to come back if they ever do it again. Andy Porter had found the natives friendly, and had had a wonderful time. Joe Haldeman noted it was more than a worldcon: it was the only con ever where Heineken was a local beer. Wolfgang Jeschke, speaking in German, thanked everyone involved, and was capped by Harry Harrison in Esperanto. The guests called up wood-carver Urban Gunnarsson to present Kees with a carving of himself, made at the con.

Then, to the opening lines of Hamlet's *To be or not to be...*, ConFiction's mouse drooped, died, and was carried off by pallbearers, stage right, exeunt ConFiction. Enter centre stage, two sassy Chicago waitresses in a burger bar, persuading an indecisive fan to order a Chicon V worldcon with all the trimmings, "and burn it".

Next year in Chicago... (but ConFiction II badges were being worn at the dead dog parties).

Steve Davies

The 1990 Hugo Awards at ConFiction

For the record, and for those readers of C&C who were unable to pick up a copy of the 'official' results list, the Hugo awards presented on Saturday night at ConFiction were:

Best Novel: *Hyperion* by Dan Simmons (beating *Prentice Alvin* by Orson Scott Card into third place, and denying Card his third successive Best Novel Hugo for the 'Alvin Maker' trilogy).

Best Novella: 'The Mountains of Mourning' by Lois McMaster Bujold.

Best Novelette: 'Enter a Soldier. Later: Enter Another' by Robert Silverberg.

Best Short Story: 'Boobs' by Suzy McKee Charnas.

Best Non-Fiction Book: *The World Beyond the Hill* by Alexei and Cory Panshin (leaving as runners-up Heinlein's posthumous *Grunbles from the Grave*, LeGuin's *Dancing at the Edge of the World*, Clarke's autobiographical

Astounding Days, and Ellison's *Harlan Ellison's Watching*).

Best Professional Editor: Gardner Dozois.

Best Dramatic Presentation: *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

Best Semiprozine: *Locus* (beating *Science Fiction Chronicle* into second place and *Interzone* into third).

Best Fanzine: *The Mad 3 Party* edited by Leslie Turek (the Noreascon 3 worldcon running fanzine).

Best Professional Artist: Don Maitz.

Best Fan Writer: Dave Langford.

Best Fan Artist: Stu Shiffman (on his tenth successive nomination).

Also presented at the Ceremony: The John W. Campbell Award for best new writer: Kristine Kathryn Rusch.

Best Original Artwork: *Rimrunners*, cover of C.J. Cherryh's novel published by Warner/Questar, by Don Maitz.

Gaffer Tape Is passe—

The Film Projection Crew are now into bricks. They had difficulty finding these, as Dutch builders are so maniacally clean that there was no rubbish left in the cinema roof space.

Overheard:

'Reading the programme book means you don't even know what day it is...'

'People from all over the world really do speak English!'

'Rijsttafel translates as "too much".'

Belgian Appeal

The Brussels branch of W.H. Smith will hold an SF afternoon on 15 September, and there will be a Fan Corner, where SF readers can meet fans. Fanzines, posters and convention promotional material from all countries would be appreciated since the Belgian fans involved would like to stress the internationalism of fandom. Please contact: David Stewart, Ch. de Wavre 1715, 1160 Brussels, Belgium. Phone 32-267-50128.

Dutch Anniversary

We congratulate the Nederlands Contactcentrum Voor Science Fiction (NCSF) on the 25th Anniversary of their founding in 1965.

Illumination Seeks Friends

Illumination, the 1992 British National SF Convention, wishes to make international contacts. As well as European fans they would like to get in touch with SF groups outside the Euro-American SF-cultural mainstream. Can anyone help them make a national con more international? Please contact Ivan Towlson, Israig, 9 Friars Avenue, Bangor, LL57 1BB, Wales, UK.

Generous Dealers

Thank you to all the dealers who donated items for FATW and other good causes during ConFiction, from all the beneficiaries.

In The Real World

The War That Wasn't

C&C is pleased to report that the Gulf War did not happen during the con.

Is It Cricket?

The England vs. India match ended in a draw on Tuesday 28 August, D.I. Gower 157 not out. England won the series 1,0.

Scheveningen Fireworks

The Scheveningen Trophy for the fireworks competition which ran from Wednesday to Saturday during the con was awarded to Italy, whose display was one of the three on Saturday.

Fans Across The World

FATW, which is not a standard fan fund, used its money at ConFiction in two ways: It assisted fans from Eastern Europe, the US and the UK by paying for con memberships, travel, visas, and accommodation; and it helped fans in trouble at the con, whatever their country of origin. It also helped practically and socially by providing negotiators to help sort out details, and by helping Eastern European fans to make contacts, both by mixing at room parties and by gophering.

ConFiction was a truly international Worldcon, perhaps the first ever. Now, FATW needs contacts in other countries, particularly with the next three Worldcons in the US, to ensure that Worldcons continue to be globally representative.

The easing of restrictions on transfer of both people and currency has meant more fans coming from the East, and those who come in future will have a little more money and know the ropes. This will enable FATW to look farther afield, both to more distant countries (China? Argentina?) and possibly to send western representatives to eastern conventions with the aim of stirring the Fannish cocktail.

FATW also sends books to the organized SF clubs in Eastern Europe so that they can be circulated among several readers. In the UK books can be sent to the Foundation; we are looking for a US equivalent to assist in book exchange.

Anyone interested in working with FATW should contact Bridget Wilkinson at 17 Mimosa, 29 Avenue Road, Tottenham, London N15 5JF, UK.

International Cons

Wilf James reports: ConFiction appears to have inspired a new spirit of internationalism among at least some European fans. Thomas Recktenwald, chairman of the SFCD (Science Fiction Club Deutschland), has proposed forming an international committee, along the lines pioneered by ConFiction, to run an international convention of about 1,000 attending members in Hamburg or Hannover. (Apparently the Hamburg Congress Centre has in the past offered cheap

facilities for use by SF conventions, although the offer was not taken up.) A date of late August in either 1992 or 1993 has been proposed, partly to provide a European alternative to the American Worldcons of those years, and partly because it is a time of year that suits the many students in European fandom.

Anyone interested in discussing these ideas further should contact Wilf James, 106 Jarden, Letchworth, Herts SG6 2NZ, UK

Saturday Night and Sunday Morning...

Steve Davies was one of 30 filkers who took over the Prins Willem Alexander Hall, the main auditorium, for a couple of hours filking until they were thrown out by tech ops — the acoustics were splendid. ** Americans Dick and Leah Smith helped the Louisville party scrub graffiti off its wall. ** King Kong Award winner Gerben Hellinga (Dutch) had a hell of a lot of fun at the Hugo Winners party. ** UK artist Don Lawrence drank quietly with friends in the basement bar of the Bel Air. ** Australian Mandy Osborne was at the disco: 'Mysterious men in black kept appearing. They danced very well.' ** Projectionist Pat Brown showed 250 people the Star Wars trilogy, and expert projectionists in the audience failed to spot the reel changes — that's reel expertise. ** Anita Winkler (W. Germany) moved from the SFCD room party to 1/2r Cruttenden's Stroh-soaked cherries, and talking, talking, talking all night long. ** On the Bouncy Castle a gopher was having fun: 'SF is good, sex is better, but this is the real thing.'

There were 2,000 people at ConFiction on Saturday night. That's a Worldcon.

Winding Up ConFacts

This is the post-ConFiction issue of *C&C*. The last figures for attendance we had were those reported in Issue #9 (yes, we did mean 3,029 warm bodies at the con). On Sunday the treasurer thought that ConFiction had come close to breaking even, but was unsure whether a small loss or a small profit would result. The wonderful A.B. Dick duplicator ran 215,000 copies during the con, and it was due for a service before it began. Issue 12 was produced by Caroline Mullan and Carol Shetler, with help from Roelof Goudriaan. Much thanks to everyone who contributed or helped with *C&C*. Copies of Issue 12 can be had by sending an S.S.A.E. to *ConFacts*, 9 Graham Road, Wealdstone, Harrow, HA3 5RP, UK.

Woolly Phones

The popular soft and cuddly 'woolly phones' were knitted by Pete Tyers' mum. It would be a very nice gesture (which would mean a great deal to her) if those who have used or acquired them could express their appreciation. Letters c/o Pete Tyers, 114 Shakespeare Way, Taverham, Norwich, Norfolk, NR8 6TZ. Many thanks.

Snippets

The first film of the programme was *Tugetsu Monogatari*, a Japanese ghost story subtitled in Dutch. There was an audience of eight for this film.

Rob Meades spent the con in Secure Store, watching his beard grow.

Overheard during Hugo rehearsals: 'If you're caught in the spotlight just wave. They'll know it's nothing to do with you. Or else you're Harry Harnson.'

Stu Shiffman's first words on being told Saturday night by 'phone that he'd finally won a Hugo: 'Oog! Aahg!'

When Friends of Foundation wanted Bulgarian money in 'Robert', they needed to translate English to Polish, Polish to Russian, then Russian to Bulgarian. True *glasnost* prevailed at ConFiction.

Party Party!

Do bid parties really make any difference to the way people vote? Do bid party reports? (Especially ones reported after the end of the con—Ed.)

The Hawaii bid parties were dark and crowded, probably because of the rum punch. San Francisco was well-lit and a bit sparse, maybe because they ran out of Jules Masson wine on Thursday, and so served iced spring water, while their (French wine) spritzers on Friday were also mostly spring water. But they were by far the friendlier committee, and they are very anti-tobacco pollution. And it was nice.

Phoenix were well-organised, with raffles, cacti, and a lady in an amazing tiger suit. They ran a joint party with Zagreb on Friday.

Glasgow '95 shared with Australian rivals (this led to rumours of a split-site convention), but I didn't notice the Oz desk in the corner, what with all the kilts and other traditional Celtic pursuits, i.e. drinking. Party Peter

ConFiction - the 48th World Science Fiction Convention - August 23-27, 1990, The Hague, Holland

ConPaPer

June 28, 1990, First & Last Issue

Just when you thought it was safe... but why wasting the blank side of a letter? So, here is some juicy stuff, some reminders and what-not. The weather is OK, and so are we. This is the last Roaring Mouse before the actual opening of ConFiction...

Flash from the Programme Desk!

SF Blues in Town

At the last moment we could lay our hands on Brian Aldiss' *SF Blues*, a mixture of - surprise! - science fiction and a very special kind of theatrical 'blues', where Brian lays bare his inner thoughts and outer movements, with professional theatrical assistance. See 'Hamlet' in just under 4 minutes! Wink an eye and you'll miss the theatrical event of the decade. Soon to be opened in Broadway, but First Performance on the Continent of Europe during ConFiction!

Suspense in the air

We're also proud to announce 'The Oracle', a very special thriller, where a sinister prophesy and a witches' coven in the house of Edgar Allan Poe will set your blood running (not to mention tears). Who is the victim, and why is the full moon so important? It's mystery, comedy, and suspense, written by the American poet and playwright Edith Fern,

directed by Svarupa (Goodman Theater of Chicago), and played by seven actresses. Keep someone friendly at hand; you'll might need an arm to squeeze.

Meet the Pro's - and the Rijsttafel

Don't forget our *real* Dutch Treat: a genuine Rijsttafel wit lots of exotic dishes, during an informal meeting with the pro's at Friday Evening. Not a stiff banquet but a standing buffet (but with lots of places to sit down). It's only dfl 25.00 (about US\$ 13.00), but we *have* to know in advance how many of you we can expect. Just drop us a card or a letter (PO Box 95370, 2509 CJ The Hague), and we'll reserve a ticket for you, to be picked up and paid when you'll pick up your badge and goodies. Don't miss the fun; you'll never be the same again!



Roving Reporters Asked

A Worldcon - any Worldcon - wants to produce a snappy ConPaPer, and we're no exception. Care to join the team, offer some spare time to report newsy and juicy items? Just ask for the ConPaPer team at the Infodesk on the convention site, and we'll welcome you with a song and a silly little dance. PS: cartoonists are more than welcome. PS, PS, *all* of you are welcome!



Hotel & Travel

Time is flying, and so is hotel space. Please, book your rooms as soon as possible (don't forget to include your membership number). For our American fans **Holland Approach** is still available (230 Sherman Avenue, Berkeley Heights N.J. 07922 - phone (201) 464-3300 or (800) 225-1699 - fax (201) 464-5059).

If Holland Approach can't accommodate your demands, you may also contact **Convention Travel International** directly (P.O. Box 82170, 2508 ED The Hague - fax (31)70-3512833). This is also the address for all fans from the rest of the world. There are *still* hotel rooms available, but you'll better hurry!

ConPaper

Friday, August 24, Really the last!

From the Desk

At this moment - it's four in the morning, those wonderful people at the Registration Desk have checked in 3,848 attendees, including 2 dogs, 6 babies, a wandering kangaroo and a spare tyre. One of our Roving Reporters even spotted half a dozen Burmese tradespeople, obviously wandering into the wrong convention. They're welcome nevertheless.

According to the Front Desk and the Committee everything that was destined to go wrong went wrong, thus the majority of things went right as well.

Things to remember today

- Always look at The Programme Busters, the yellow poop-sheets indicating changes of programme. You'll find them at the Paper's Corners all over the building (yes, under the sign that says, "Paper Corner"), as well as on the Information Desk in the main foyer.

- Don't forget a clean handkerchief as well. Comes handy with the umpteenth re-run of "E.T".

- The night bus service to the down town hotel area departs from the front of the Centre at midnight, half past one and one o'clock. After that you're in for a lovely nightwalk so don't forget those times.

- And don't miss Friday Fright Night! With the Best and the Worst of the Horror Movie Circus (yes dear, Part VI will be shown too), including a Very Special Live Performance of the Only Magician Who Really sawed Off a Maiden in Two (and got away with it).

- A bit of domestic business. The catering people of the Centre are kindly asking us *not* to use plant pots as exotic ash-trays or wastebins. Be kind to animals and plants! Go, kill a triffid instead.

- A bit of more serious domestic business. Smoking is *not* allowed in all the Halls except for the Fan Room. The Fire Busters Are Watching You!

- The last of domestic business: the Frans Hall room is allotted to the crèche, where the youngsters are being cuddled and huddled and whatnot. Nevertheless, a lot of those cuddlers need their sleep. So, please muzzle your dragons, and reduce your goodnatured bellowing in the vicinity of that area. On behalf of the cuddlers...thank you!

The Hobbit Kitchen Korner

A word of mouth(watering) from a couple of fans from Alabama: they discovered *El Paisaño*, a terrific Mexican restaurant, where the owner also sings sweet native birthday songs for anyone who happens to celebrate this day. The dishes are really *hot*, so it's not for the faint-hearted, but to cool it off they also serve the real *Marguerita*. So, change your birthday (if it's not in August), grab a cab, bus or tram and head for *El Paisaño*, Noord-einde 62, smack in the centre. Look at your street map for details or ask the Info desk. Amex, Diners and Visa/Masters accepted.

Parties & Roomparties

- Fred, Caroline, Amy, Roger, Greg & Dog: Bel Air, Room 314, somewhere around midnight.

- Room Party Holland SF (the oldest Dutch fanzine), Rubens Room, this building, 11.00 PM.

- Publishers Party at the Tower of this Centre, 20.00 PM (for invited only).

- D(r)owning Under Bidding Party of Sidney in '94, Rembrandt Room, this Centre, 11.00 PM (there won't be any crocodiles, dundeos or sheilas around, but for the rest.....)

- Harry & Tonto are residing at the Promenade (r. 119) between 11.00 PM and AM.

- Bregamoot Holbytla (whichever comes first) in R.65 Parkhotel De Zalm, around 20.00 PM.

Wanted: Roving Reporters!

A Con Pater is only as good as the news and funnies being supplied by the fans. And the desk of ConFact is greedy. It wants copy, lots of copy. And art as well. You want to report about a particular programme item? Or a fannish item? Any item. Get in touch with editors of ConFact (room 1 on the left side of the main foyer). Your help will be appreciated!

Parabolic Disease

by Lynn Elizabeths

It's no mean feat to conquer strange countries without knowing a syllable of its language. I'm told Dutch is one of the 10 most difficult languages in the world, and believe me, I believe it!

True, most Dutch go as easily over on English as I switch to another channel. Amazing! Nevertheless, there are a few innocents in this country who do *not* speak anything but Dutch. And I went for a parabolic antennae. You know, trying to get signals from Marsport or - preferably - from European radio-freaks.

(continued at the other side)

Next issue of ConFact will hit the newsstands at about 16.00 PM this afternoon

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