

## SIA BRITICH ERUTER

#### INTRODUCTION

This is the third and final Progress Report for Albacon, the 31st UK national Science-Fiction Convention.

Albacon has in recent days circulated details of Conference rate rail fares and the Banquet, thanks in part to the kindness of the BSFA and Ken Slater. If you are interested in either and have not, by some mis-chance had notification then contact Bob Shaw at once on (041) 334 6874.

#### THE PROGRAMME

General details about the Main and Alternate Programmes were given in the last PR. No major problems appear to have arisen, and we look forward to having all -and, indeed, more- than we promised last time.

Thanks to the aid of OMNI,  $Patrick\ Moore\ will\ now\ participate\ in\ the\ Programme.$ 

Video tapes etc are still required; you should contact Dave Ellis, 6 Talisman Walk, Saltcoats KA21 6HT.

Various strange and unusual items have been promised, including filk singing and non-stop playing of The hitch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

#### MEMBERSHIP

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP now costs £4.00; FULL MEMBERSHIP £7.00. There may well be a further at-the-door price rise. DAY MEMBERSHIPS will be available at a prohibitive rate.

Naturally, if you have become a Member prior to the present rates coming into effect these increases will not effect you.

Postal Applications for Membership postmarked after 20 March will not be accepted.

The List is complete to 5 March 1980, and (including some reserved blocks) has about 600 names on it. At the last Convention we ran there were 400 attendees, and only 150 were signed up at this stage; we may well still reach the thousand.

You should note that if your payment for Membership was not of the correct amount then you may have been credited with only SUPPORTING, rather than FULL, Membership. You will be asked to pay any balance at the door.

If you spot an error on the list (we're still not sure of a couple of spellings!) then write at once to GERRY GILLIN, 9 DUNNOTTAR STREET, GLASGOW G33. We'll do our best to sort matters out.

The Albany Hotel is full, and we are now unable to place further bookings with the main Hotel. Our overflow Hotel is the Centre Hotel, on Argyle Street (see map).

Rates at BOTH Hotels are: £11.70 per night per person, exclusive of Breakfast but inclusive of VAT and Service.

All Hotel registrations to date have been confirmed by post; if you think you should have had one (but don't hold a receipt) then ring Steve Miller on (041)



#### THE ART SHOW

Entries for the Art Show should be received by 2pm on Friday 4th April. Please attempt to come early, as any hangings after this time will be by PRIOR ARRANGEMENT ONLY. So, if your travel plans mean that you have to arrive on Saturday, let Ed Buckley know now!

It will help if entrants send details of their work- eg number, size, type (colour, b/w, framed etc). To save delay, Bid Sheets etc may be obtained from: Ed Buckley, 232 Hollybrook Street, Glasgow G42 8SR. Please enclose an SAE with your application.

#### THE FILM QUIZ

Various demon quizmasters have had lots of fun preparing our Film Quiz, and all we need now are participants! If you know the answers to a variety of cruel and unusual questions then write to Bruce Saville, 9 Regent Street, Greenock. Prizes are to be had for the winners of the Quiz; team entries are especially welcome!

#### BLACKMAIL

If you've got any particularly unpleasant pictures or mementoes of past Conventions (like Pork Pies in formaldehyde, or Pork Pies, or...) then bring them along to us for the Blackmail session. Organised by BAGS, (the Blackmail Association of Glasgow (Scotland)), this event has caused hideous items to appear at the last two Faircons. Blackmail is probably the only chance anyone will have to get money out of Bob Shaw (or the two youth organisations involved) all weekend:

Write to Bruce Saville at the address above, or bring your evidence along to Albacon and surprise even him!

#### THE FRIENDS OF KILGORE TROUT

As time has gone on Albacon has somehow grown. We at first had thought that few southern fans would brave the Glasgow climes for more than a day or so, and assumed that Eastercon would be a three day affair.

Then came the news, hot from the Hotel Booking Forms we'd sent out, that lots of folk were coming. And staying. And staying. Finally, in a fit of hopeless despair, we decided to do the one thing that would surely drive all the incomers away: we lengthened the duration of Albacon, and included Monday.

Not enough, it seems, for then it was discovered that a covert assembly of fans was taking place at the opposite end of time; nearly sixty were signed in on the Thursday before Eastercon!

So, be warned.

The Prime Trouts (the original six, of whom there are now eight, and in whose numbers the ever-cuddly and beloved fake Bob Shaw ranks a lowly seventh and least, if not last) met in secret conclave, and agreed to do the undoable.

Yes, for one night only, by special request, The Friends of Kilgore Trout move to the Albany's Cabin Bar.

Known normally (ha!) as FOKT, or Trout, the terrifyingly weekly meeting of Glasgow's fans is suitably anarchic for even the most devout and hardened extrovert. It features a gamut of strange and unusual attendees, many of whom are on the Albacon Committee. FOKT does nothing by itself; it has no Chairman, no Rules, no Fees. It is merely beer and talk. And the odd, drunken burst of the Ode to Joy!

So, be warned.

On Thursday the 3rd, from 8pm or so onwards, the Cabin hosts FOKT. If you're in Glasgow come along and meet the locals. If not, then count your blessings!

#### THE FANCY DRESS COMPETITION

ROG PEYTON will compere the Fancy Dress parade and competition at Albacon. It is a noted example of fannish diligence, care, and insanity and each year features a number of entries over which time and effort have been expended and a number thrown together at the last minute.

In order to reward you all for your efforts, Rog has twisted our weeks arms to make us provide generous cash prizes for various

groups. These will include such classic descriptions as 'Best....' and are available to all Members of Albacon, should they enter!

If you've got an entry that requires any lighting changes or other special effects then ring BOB SHAW now.

#### THE AWARDS

Various awards are presented at the annual Eastercon. These range from the BSFA awards through to a number which celebrate the memory of deceased fans. Full details of all awards will appear in both the Programme Book and the pack given out at the Registration desk.

#### AUCTIONS

Glasgow's demon auctioneer, MARTIN WOOLFE and a host of stars will auction articles of dubious value over the weekend. Bring old SF books and junk to Albacon and support: The BSFA Litho Fund; TAFF; GUFF; and a host of other causes!

#### RIP

BOB SHAW's IBM Selectric typer was lost in action early this week. After a hard fight with Albacon it gave up. This final PR is being typed in part on an Inland Revenue machine more normally used for nasty letters....within seven days or Legal Action ... oops!



be pleased to provide you with further

information.



The Convention Hotel is the Albany Hotel. There are two entrances, one to the Convention Suite (in Douglas Street) and the other to the Hotel proper, in Bothwell Street. If you are not registered at the Albany then you should enter through the Douglas Street doors, where the Albacon Registration Desk will be set up.

Remember, please, that parking immediately outside the Douglas Street entrance is for limited periods only.

#### If you travel by TRAIN:

Glasgow has two Railway Stations: Queen Street (which handles the East side of the country) and Central Station (which deals with the West). From Queen Street, you should leave the Station and proceed South across George Square onto St Vincent Street. Walk up that street to the junction with Douglas Street (1 mile) and turn South (left) down the hill to the Albany.

From Central Station you should leave by the vehicular exit in the North-Western corner of the Station (right hand side as you face the ticket barriers from the trains). Walk onto Waterloo Street and after 300 yards the Albany faces you.

#### If you travel by CAR:

From the East and North: (M8 and A8, and M80 and A80) Join M8 section of the Urban Motorway system at the first available entry heading West. Take slip road marked "City Centre (South)" and turn left onto Castle St; then continue south onto High Street, turn right onto George Street and thence to George Square, from where you should proceed up St Vincent Street to Douglas Street. Watch out for one-way streets. Don't Panic if you do get stuck in a one-way system, as the City Centre is built on a grid pattern and it is always possible to find your way back!

From the South: One mile after the end of the M74 fork left at traffic lights lights under the bridge and turn onto London Road. Follow same for 5 miles to Glasgow Cross, where you should turn right onto High Street, then left onto George Street. Thereafter, see above.

#### If you travel by divers unusual means:

Buses arrive from distant places at Buchanan Street Bus Station. Walk down the hill (South) to Queeen Street Station. Then proceed as above. By air, get a taxi from the airport; although less than ten miles from town bus and rail services are not particularly good. In any case, if you can afford a Shuttle seat (soon to rival NASA's for cost) you won't be beggared by a mere taxi fare.

### If you get totally lost:

Call the Committee at the Hotel (tel (041) 248 2656).

#### Car Parks:

NCP Multis on Montrose Street, Mitchell Street, Waterloo Street, Douglas Street (Anderston Centre) and various other locations. Abundant free areas behind offices, and many parking meters. The Albany has only a small car park, and car keys MUST be deposited with the porters.

# ALBACON members

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                         58 Mark Craske (s)
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   Steve Miller
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                            Vernon Brown (s)
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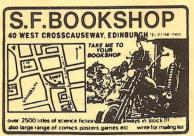
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