

ALBACON 84

PHOTOGRAPH ~ MICHAEL J. ELDERMAN PHOTOWORKS



HARLAN ELLISON

GUEST OF HONOUR

GLASGOW'S NINTH
SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
HELD AT THE CENTRAL HOTEL
20th-23rd of JULY 1984

Progress Report no. **1**

ALBACON 84

Progress Report no.1

The first Progress Report should outline the committee's plans for the convention. As this is the first PR for Albacon 84, guess what we're going to do? Got it in one!

Your friendly committee (and you can learn more about them by playing the **Committee Game** on Page 4) have been responsible for running a great many conventions over the years. Each committee member has attended plenty more of them around the world, so they ought to know what makes for a good 'un. And they do. It takes

- 1) A good Guest of Honour
- 2) A good hotel -
- 3) Late bars -
- 4) Varied programme -
- 5) Experienced committee -
- 6) A sense of humour -
- 7) Members.

We have arranged items 1 - 6; we need your help with item 7! If you've attended any cons in Glasgow before, you'll know the kind of convention we provide - four days of non-stop entertainment, in a setting that provides for all your bodily needs. You need never leave the hotel. In fact, there are some who never leave the video room/computer room/wargaming room/bar and so miss out on the rest of the attractions - whether it's the fascinations of the bookroom or the chaos of the fan room!

There's so much going on at any one time that you have to return to the bar not just to refuel but to give yourself a chance to sit down, look at your programme and decide whether you'll go to the film in the main hall, watch

the quiz in the alternative programme room, join in the silly games in the fan room, blow up more Klingons in the computer room or vote in the Art show.

The best description we can think of for our type of convention is that it's a four day party with everything you'd ever dreamed of provided. If you don't mind sharing your dreams with us, come along to Albacon 84 - it's going to be the best convention Glasgow's ever seen. ★

Harlan Ellison

When the committee was asked, "If you could get anybody in the world as Guest of Honour, who would you choose?" the result was Harlan Ellison.

Harlan Ellison is a great writer - not just of S.F. but in many other fields. He has won 7 Hugos and 3 Nebulas for stories like, "'Repent, Harlequin!'" said the Ticktockman' and 'I Have No Mouth And I Must Scream'.

As well as writing books Harlan has written for television series as diverse as *The Untouchables*, *The Outer Limits* and *The Man From Uncle*. He received one of his Hugo awards for an episode of *Star Trek* called *'The City on the Edge of Forever'* and a Nebula for the film *'A Boy And His Dog'*.

As if that wasn't enough he also edited the anthologies *'Dangerous Visions'* and *'Again, Dangerous Visions'* which were probably the most influential S.F. books published in the 70's, breaking new ground in both content and style and inspiring the current generation of writers. ★

What the hell Is a Science Fiction Convention?....

Depending on how you react to that first, seemingly endless weekend, a first convention can be very much a make or break affair. You either like it and come back for more or else you put weekends to more profitable use - like dusting your collection of S.F. books. The key to enjoying a first con enough to want to come back for more is constant repetition of the statement that "Anything is possible".

For myself I discovered that

- it was possible to sit through the whole of Solaris
- it was possible to go without food all weekend and survive
- it was possible to move a television set from the fourth floor to the sixth without the chambermaid batting an eyelid.
- ginger beer smuggling rackets do exist among convention goers
- it was possible to squeeze twenty people into a single room and watch - Thunderbirds.

Now I'm not suggesting that at your first con you set out to move the furniture on the third floor up to the fifth (or vice versa), I'm only suggesting that it is possible to do so. What I further suggest (I'm hoping to lift the prize for the most suggestive article in the PR) is that if Albacon 84 is likely to be your first con or even if it isn't, then you too will be able to do seemingly impossible things.

- you will be able to meet incredibly famous people and you may even be able to buy them a drink
- you will not have to sit through Solaris
- you will love the convention committee
- you will be able to drink all day and not fall over
- you will be able to enjoy a magnificent variety of talks, games, films and videos.

Sounds good, doesn't it... but remember, all this is only a suggestion.

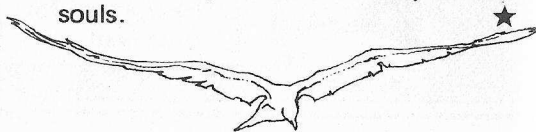
Programme

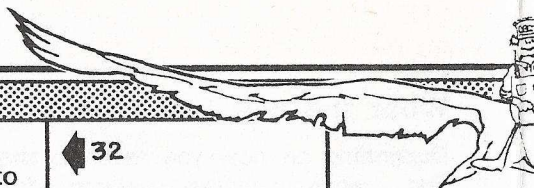
So what do we have on the Programme for Albacon 84? It's easier to say what we don't have:- women wrestling in mud, budgies on tricycles, indoor hang gliding (we hope!) and gardener's question time. Apart from these exceptions, anything is possible somewhere in our Main, Alternative, Video or Fan Programmes.

There will be films, old and new with as many recent titles as the budget allows. The talks and panel discussions will range from the serious scientific to the utterly whimsical, while the quizzes will have ginormous prizes for the whizz kid contenders to win.

The Fan room promises to be 'a bit odd', being a quiet, comfortable area where the fan who seeks to escape from the other Programmes can relax and be silly. Events planned include a blow football match. Bring your own vacuum cleaner!

Events on the Main Programme will inevitably include a Fancy Dress competition. Due to overwhelming public demand there will be a Vagon Poetry competition. May God have mercy on our souls.





Hotel has fire.
Change banquet to
barbeque. Back 2.

32

Go to Trout.

Hotel filled by
3 coachloads
nuns. Back 3

Convention a success.
Go back to start.

THE COMMIT

THE START

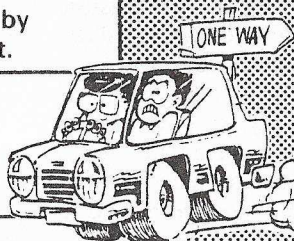
Asked to join
committee by
Bob Jewett.

Ansible offers fr
sub for inside in
ation. Forward

11

1

Mike Molloy drives
you to meeting. Miss
a turn to recover.



10

Go to Trout

3

Trip over Bruce
Saville. Stagger
forward 3.



8

Wait for 2 turns
get a straight y
or no from Dav

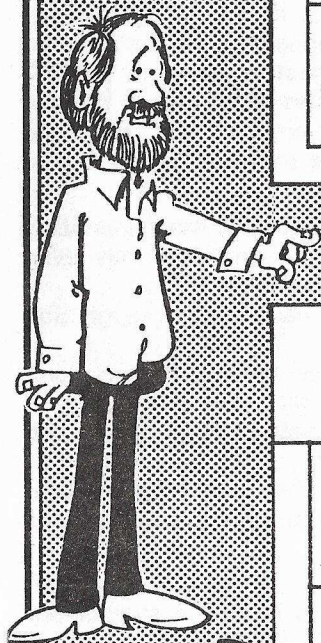
Disagree with
Frances Nelson.
Miss a turn for
treatment.

5

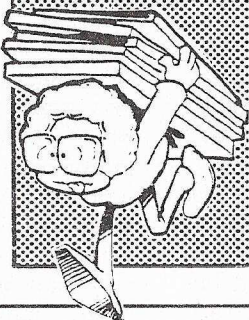
6

7

Go to Trout. G
directly to Trout
Do not pass ba
not collect 2 p



WINTER GAMES

30 Henry Balen asks you to be quiz master for University Challenge. Forward 3.	29	28	Notice postmark is Brazil. Go back 4.
			Get postcard from treasurer Ian Sorensen. Forward 1.
Free information 3.	13		24
Go to Trout.	14	Trout. [The Friends of Kilgore Trout] Wintersgills Lounge, Gt Western Rd. Thursdays at 8 p.m.	24
15	15		Iain Dickson tells you about Chicon. Miss 2 turns.
16	16		Vince Docherty spots typo in Programme Book. Back 1.
Kevin Henwood lets you listen to personal stereo in meeting. Forward 1.	17	Help Jackie Robinson with art boards. Get hernia. Miss a turn.	20 19 Go to Trout.
	18		

ALBACON 84 GUEST OF HONOUR **HARLAN ELLISON**

How can I begin to describe Harlan? How could anyone? How can I attempt an introduction to our Guest of Honour when I have never actually met the man, despite being a fan of his writing for over ten years, from a first, mind-shattering encounter with "A Boy And His Dog" at the age of fourteen?

I could list some of his achievements and awards in the many fields of writing that he has tackled. That would only prove that he's recognised as a brilliant writer; it doesn't begin to convey the experience of reading an Ellison story or explain his place in SF fandom.

The trouble with writing about Ellison (or talking about him with other fans or passing him for thirty seconds at a con) is that you can forget you've never met him and have no right to treat him like a personal friend. You see (for those unfortunate enough never to have encountered his books) Ellison doesn't just write stories. He writes prologues and introductions and fillers and epilogues; for his own work and when he edits other peoples'. He writes non-fiction, like TV criticism, full of enthusiasm, anger and passionate conviction. In all that writing he has portrayed a very powerful personality to his readers, and while that person may or may not be the real Harlan Ellison, anyone reading his books could be excused for thinking it is and relating to him on a much more intimate level than achieved with most writers. They start to think of him as someone they actually know, whether that creates admiration or hatred. This possibly explains his relationship with fans. Go to most conventions (even in Britain) and you'll hear people telling Ellison stories, swapping gossip about his latest exploits. Stand



**IN ANTICIPATION OF A
HISTORIC EVENT IN MY LIFE
(AND YOURS)**

around an American con for very long and you can overhear fans referring to "Harlan" as if he were a life-long buddy when in fact you later figure out that their only claim to being acquainted was a five minute conversation at another convention. SF fandom is unique in allowing authors and readers to get together socially but sometimes writers must feel they'd rather miss out on this dubious pleasure. Harlan Ellison probably has more to put up with than most. Occasionally stories circulate of his clashes with fans at conventions; people boast about being insulted by him. Maybe they forget that writers can usually expect total strangers to observe some social niceties before being forced to accept criticisms and put-downs of their work. All that said, Harlan is supposed to be a great asset to any convention and even if descriptions of encounters with him tend to be a little awesome ("pure energy compacted into

by Joan Paterson

human form", from Lee Hoffman, or David Gerrold on explaining Ellison:- "It would be easier to put a leash on a whirlwind"), I can safely say you won't forget our Guest of Honour quickly. Hopefully, he can get back something worthwhile from meeting US.

And what about his stories? Well, they're not easy to read. By that I don't mean that he can fill up a paragraph describing how his protagonist blinked. I mean that they're not just something to fill in the bus journey to work (you'd probably miss your stop if you tried). One of his collections, **"Deathbird Stories"** has a black edged warning to readers saying not to attempt reading the book in one sitting, because the stories are so emotionally charged that they could be upsetting. It's not hype. Ellison writes to shock; he admits it himself, in his introduction to his recent book, **"Shatterday"**.

You can sit down to read one of his stories with a warm complacency, content in the knowledge that you're one of the nicest people you know, loved by little children and animals. Having finished the story you are left feeling disgusted with yourself. You realise how ugly you can be simply by being human. Ellison shows you that part of yourself you'd rather deny. His titles alone are a warning of what you are about to encounter: **"Alive and Well and on a Friendless Voyage"**, **"The Man who was Heavily into Revenge"**, **"The Whimper of Whipped Dogs"**, **"I Have No Mouth And I Must Scream"**...

And even knowing what you're in for you wait eagerly for his next story to be published. I think it's probably more perverted than enjoying horror stories!

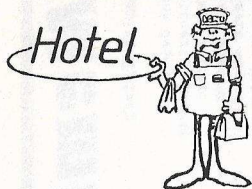


Membership

MEMBERSHIP AS AT 1/9/83

1	Harlan Ellison	20	Caroline Mallon	39	James White	58	David Porter	77	David Anderson
2	Bob Jewett	21	Alastair McDonald	40	Peggy White	59	William Ramsey	78	James Greer
3	Vincent Docherty	22	Oscar Dalgleish	41	Imma Whentley	60	Kay Johnson	79	Elquest Fan Club
4	Mark Turner	23	Elis Donald	42	Linda Pickersgill	61	Gordon Johnson	80	Elquest Fan Club
5	Iain Dickson	24	Morgan Kerr	43	Roslof Gordonian	62	Andrew C Irvine	81	Ed Buckley
6	Kevin Reswood	25	Steve Lawson	44	Martin Reed	63	Malcolm Rodden	82	Michelle Dreyton
7	Frances Nelson	26	Owen Whitecock	45	Alex Stewart	64	Wall Taylor	83	Robert Snaddon
8	Michael Mollay	27	Ken Slater	46	Paul Dornier	65	Garry Hunt	84	John Martindale
9	Ian Sorensen	28	Joyce Slater	47	Jim Barker	66	Ray Thompson	85	Sean Brady
10	Dave Ellis	29	Neil Craig	48	Joan Paterson	67	Bob Shaw	86	Gordon Corden
11	Bruce Saville	30	Owen Funnell	49	Mike	68	Seale Shaw	87	Mark Weenan
12	Jacqui Robinson	31	Peter Wareham	50	Fiona Spy	69	Joyce Meads	88	John Kelly
13	Henry Balen	32	Martina Holroyd	51	Madeline Campbell	70	David Clark	89	James Watson
14	Chris O'Kane	33	Jonathan Cornhead	52	Bruce MacDonald	71	Peter O'Rourke	90	Brian Meads
15	Joan Thompson	34	Pat Keenan	53	Zorla Westwood	72	Alan Watson	91	Paul Pauland
16	Chris Holdstock	35	Jeremy Johnston	54	David R Smith	73	Alan Blair		
17	Dave Rowley	36	Aileen Gillespie	55	Tom Taylor	74	Robert Collins		
18	Joy Elbert	37	Key Allen	56	Andy Mamo	75	Colin Goldie		
19		38	John Wilkes	57	Ian Thomas	76	Jette Goldie		

---Information---



ACME
SPACE - FILLERS!
WE FILL

FAST!

The convention will take place in Glasgow's Central Hotel. The hotel has already been the venue for three hugely successful cons and so the staff are well used to coping with the requirements of such events. The bars will be open until very late (or early, depending on how you look at it) and real ale will be available.

If you plan to have a room in the Central Hotel for the convention then special very low rates will apply. More details and a hotel booking form will be available in PR2.

Advertising

If you wish to advertise in any of our Progress Reports or Programme Book the rates are as follows:

Progress Reports Programme Book

Full page	£16	£20
½ page	£ 8	£10
¼ page	£ 4	£ 5
Back cover	£20	£25

Fans can advertise at 20% less than above. All adverts should be camera-ready, A4 sized, with 15mm margins all round.

Bookroom

The bookroom rates are £10 for the first table and £5 for each additional table up to a limit of 6 tables.

Membership

Until the end of 1983 attending membership costs £8 and supporting membership £3. (Make cheques payable to ALBACON). Paying supporting membership "freezes" your cost of attending, so paying £3 now means you need only pay another £5 to attend no matter what the attending membership rate has risen to.

Well, what can be said about memberships? Memberships are very important things. They're what we use to pay for things like printing this PR and various other mundane items like films etc. Memberships are also useful in telling us who and how many people to expect so that we can plan our programme better. But what do you benefit out of joining this fantastic thing called Albacon 84? In short you get to belong to a fun gathering of fellow ~~members~~... con-goers and experience the thrill of just being there. So after the hard sell comes the pun: join Albacon, be conventionally happy. Send your membership NOW to:

ALBACON 84
c/o Ms F J NELSON
62 CAMPSIE ROAD
WISHAW
ML2 7QG
SCOTLAND

PS Did you know that the dictionary defines a convention as:- "The act of coming together" (nudge, nudge, wink, wink, say no more squire.... whatever that means).

All correspondence or queries should be sent to the above address.