

Skycon

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29th British Easter Science Fiction
Convention: 24th to 27th March 1978
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Guest of Honour

ROBERT SHECKLEY



Progress Report 1

Skycor

[illegible]

THE COMMITTEE

SKYCON, 5 ASTON CLOSE, PANGBOURNE, BERKSHIRE, RG8 7LG, UNITED KINGDOM.

Our cover photograph shows Robert Sheckley smiling happily at a convention; this was, of course, just *before* we told him politely but firmly that he was attending Skycon as the Guest of Honour. Warming to our theme, we explained that a writer as witty, imaginative and profound as Robert Sheckley could not be allowed to go unhonoured; conversely, we added, it takes a writer as hilarious, chaotic and downright silly as Robert Sheckley to withstand the appalling strain of the position.

The tales of the Sheckley "down-at-heel galaxy" (as Brian Aldiss puts it) have been appearing since the 1950's---where they stirred and convulsed innumerable *Galaxy* readers---and are now enshrined in these collections: *Untouched by Human Hands*, *Citizen in Space*, *Pilgrimage to Earth*, *Store of Infinity*, *Notions Unlimited*, *Shards of Space*, *Grey Flannel Armour*, *The People Trap*, *Live Gold* and *Can You Feel Anything When I Do This?* ---the last of these being retitled *The Same To You Doubled* in British paperback, presumably so that youthful fans could show the book to their mothers without fear.

His SF novels, to date, are: *Immortality Inc.* (*Time Killer*), *The Status Civilization* (*Omega*), *Journey Beyond Tomorrow* (*The Journey of Joenes*), *The Tenth Victim* (expansion of his short *The Seventh Victim*, later filmed), *Mindswap*, *Dimension of Miracles* and *Options*. Also not to be missed is his very funny spy spoof *The Game of X*.

If you've read more than a few of the above (and what fan hasn't?) you'll know the good and sufficient reason for our delight that Robert Sheckley will be Guest of Honour at Skycon.

FAN GUEST OF HONOUR

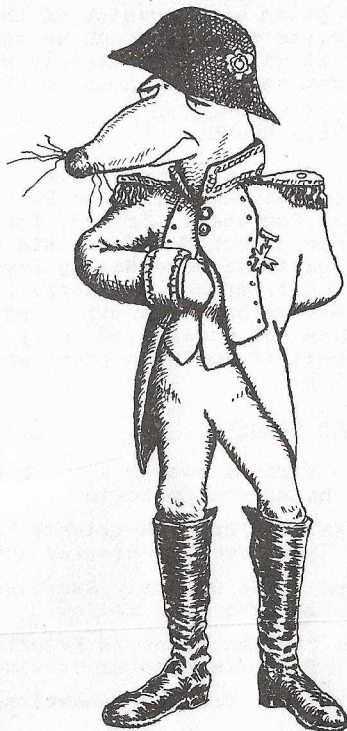
Skycon brings back the Fan Guest of Honour, to be to the Fan Room what the GoH is to the Con Hall. The man we have chosen for this awesome task, and the man we consider fully deserving of it, is (as all who attended the business meeting at Eastercon '77 already know) Leroy Kettle (*right*). Roy has been in fandom since 1969, and in all that time has never been less than active, producing fanzines (the earthshattering *Fouler* with Greg Pickersgill, the poll-topping *True Rat* alone) organizing conventions (Seacon in '75, Seacon in '79) and causing inferior SF magazines to fold (we name no names). A true fan indeed. Come and see him at Heathrow next Easter. The Skycon Fan Room welcomes all.

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LEROY KETTLE SAYS:

"BRITAIN IS FINE IN '79!"

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PROGRAMME

At the Heathrow Hotel we have the facilities for triple programming---in the Con Hall, the film theatre and the Fan Room simultaneously---though we shall be careful not to put all the best items on together. The films are self-explanatory and the Fan Room is still in process of formulation within the treacle-like recesses of Ian Maule's mind. The main programme is also still at the discussion stage, but we do have a few things settled.

There will be a banquet and a fancy dress competition. There will be a quiz, with special rules to prevent Peter Weston and Malcolm Edwards winning. There will be a disco, full of sound and fury and signifying nothing. Naturally, since we have a GoH, there will be a GoH talk. The book room and art show will be open at times throughout the con in different places entirely. And finally---we think you'll like this---Bob Shaw has very kindly agreed to give yet another of his Eastercon talks. Thanks, Bob. You're in danger of becoming an institution, you realise?

We have lots of other ideas, none of which has yet been refined to a state deserving of the name "Programme Item", so we are still flexible in that respect. Any suggestion you may care to make will be given due consideration.

There is one specific area in which we require your aid. The hotel has a swimming pool which will be for our exclusive use. It seems a pity to use it in a purely conventional manner, for swimming, so we are offering a prize to the supporting member who gives us the best suggestion for a novel use for the pool. Judgement will be by the committee and the decision will be entirely arbitrary and unaccountable. The prize will consist of the balance to be paid for attending membership, so that although we cannot yet say how much it will be, we can say it will not be utterly worthless. Assuming you intend to attend, of course. Suggestions to the Skycon address as given on p.2, please.

GROVEL, GROVEL

There will be a brief pause while the committee says "Thanks" to a few people--- To John Bush, Keith Seddon, Ken Slater and International Computers Limited, for various reasons... To our talented but hitherto uncredited artists Deb Hickenlooper (for the hotel drawing on our first advertising flyer), Jon Langford (the Concordes on our second flyer and pre-supporters' badge) and D.West (the picture of Mr Kettle on the previous page)... Most of all, to the hordes of people who encouraged us by taking out pre-supporting membership. Remember: if you're a pre-supporter, supporting membership costs only £1.50p.

AWARD RESULTS

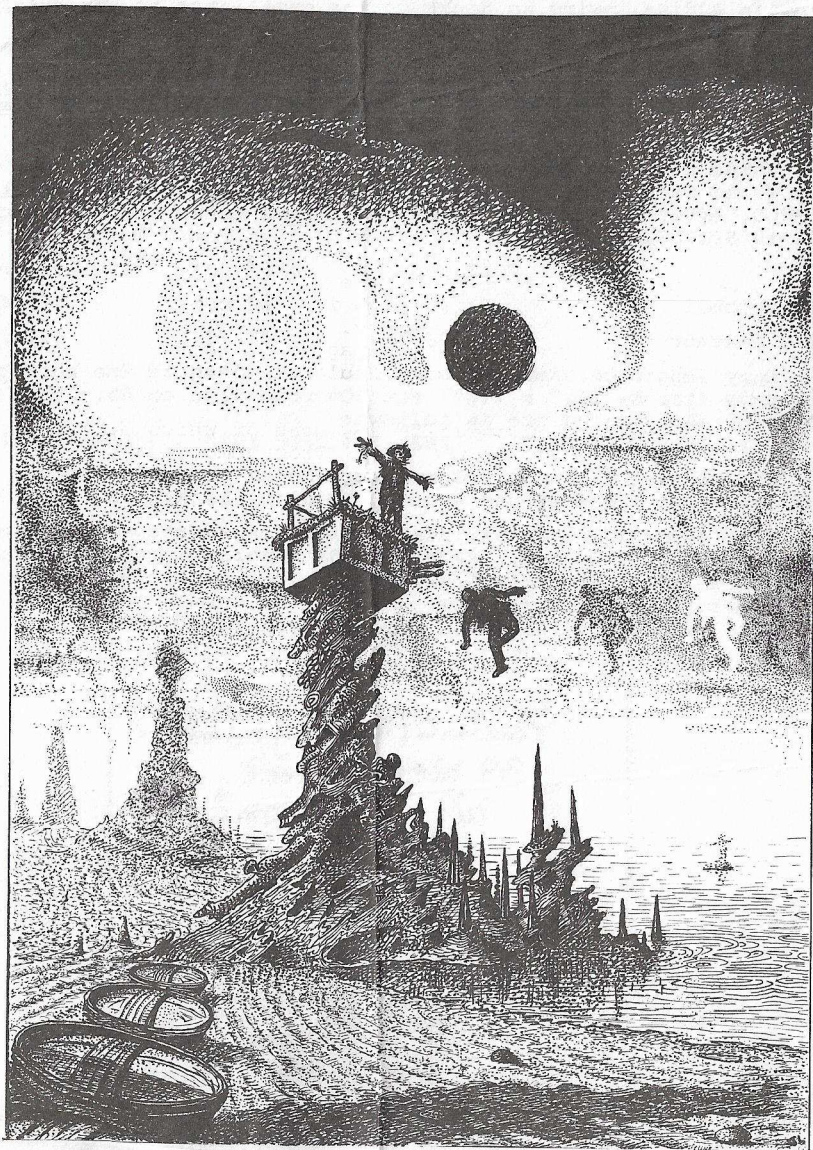
Various awards were presented at Eastercon '77, the most important being the following...

Books: The British Science Fiction Award went to Michael Coney for his novel *Brontomek!* (published in Britain by Gollancz).

People: The Doc Weir Award went to Keith Freeman, of BSFA fame, for being a nice fellow.

Art: The Ken McIntyre Memorial Award went to Jon Langford for his *Drilkjis 2* cover drawing, reproduced opposite.

Criticism: The SF Foundation Award for Excellence in Criticism went



DRILKJIS

to Brian Aldiss, owing no doubt to the excellence of his criticism.

We are asked to point out that no collection for any of the above is made at Eastercon---some confusion having been caused this year by a collection for the hoax "Best Award".

ADVERTISING

Three more Skycon progress reports will be produced, provisionally dated September '77, November '77 and February '78. Print runs: 600-700. Advertisements may be placed at the rates below---cheques payable to SKYCON, please.

	full page	half page	quarter page
Professional	£7.00	£4.00	£2.40
Fan / Amateur	£5.00	£3.00	£1.75

Copy should be camera-ready in black and white (no half tones)---full-page size A4 (8½" x 11½") for 50% reduction to A5. Final copy dates for advertising are as follows:

PR2: Sept 15th 1977

PR3: Nov 15th 1977

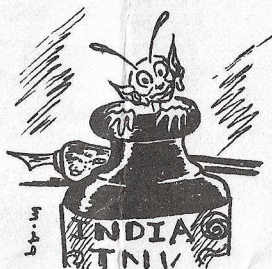
PR4: Feb 2nd 1978

Please send all copy and correspondence on publicity to: Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Avenue, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 7PW.

(NB: Advertisers in the States should send copy to Mary Burns at the address given on p.2, together with a cheque payable to Mary herself, at least three weeks before the deadlines given. Dollar rates for advertising are as follows:

(Pro \$13, \$7.50, \$4.50. Fan \$10, \$6, \$3.50)

Fantant (Medway) Limited
39 West Street
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Still operated by H.F.S. -

- and his

in our catalogue - hunters
a copy

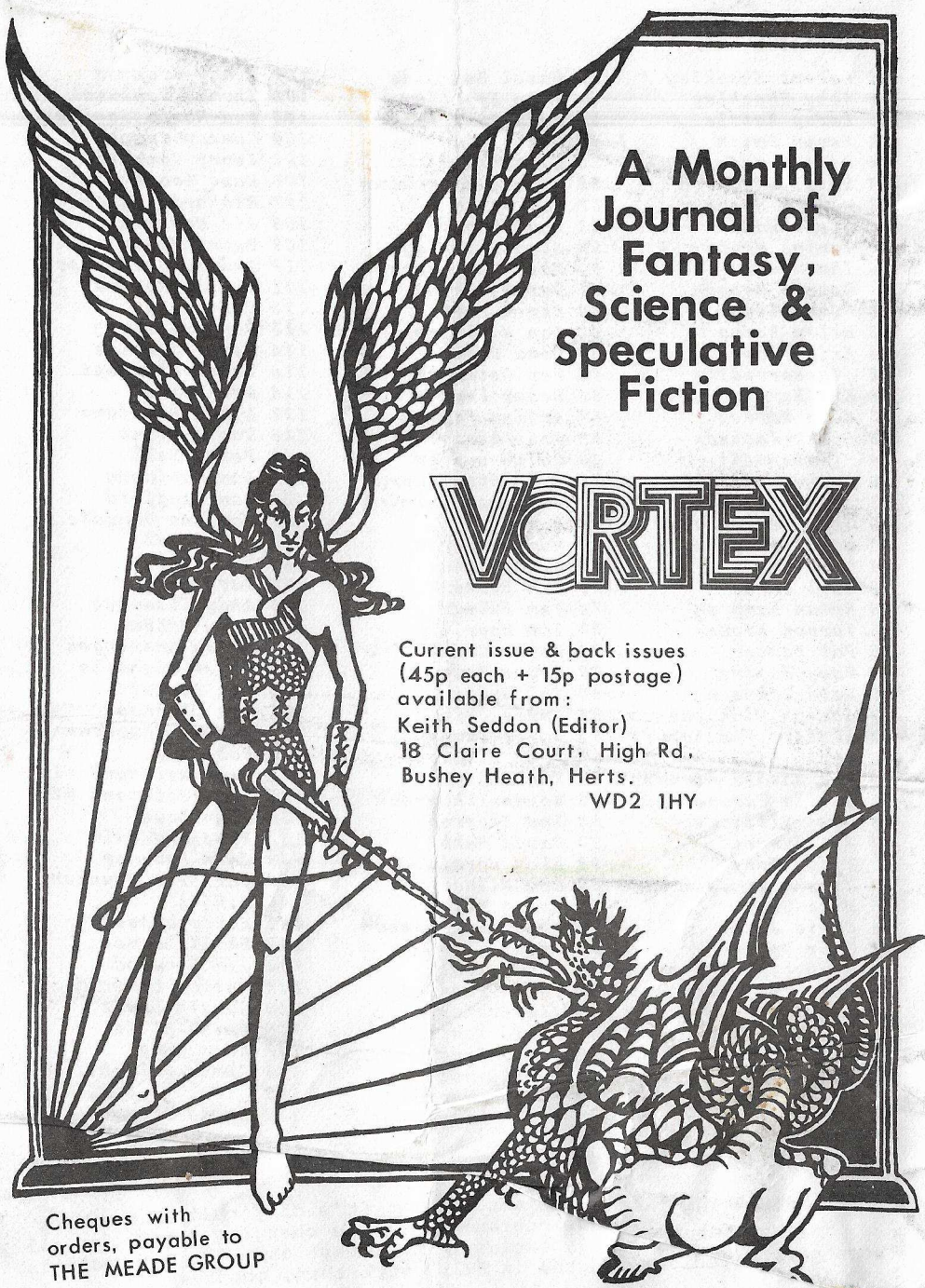
SUPPORTING MEMBERS

1 Robert Sheckley	51 Hazel Reynolds	101 Wendy Freeman
2 Abby Sheckley	52 John Eggeling	102 Thomas Schlueck
3 Leroy Kettle	53 Judy Mansfield	103 Eva-Maria Schlueck
4 Kevin Smith	54 Colin Fine	104 Ramsay Campbell
5 Dave Langford	55 R.Earnshaw	105 Jenny Campbell
6 Hazel Langford	56 Howard Rosenblum	106 Hans Loose
7 Martin Hoare	57 Dai Prieae	107 Richard Hughes
8 Liese Hoare	58 Paul Dormer	108 Jim Marshall
9 Janice Maule	59 Alan Blackley	109 Peter Mabey
10 Ian Maule	60 Russ Shallcross	110 Andrew Stephenson
11 Dermot Dobson	61 Derek Atkins	111 Philip Rogers
12 Stan Eling	62 Derek Holt	112 David Cox
13 Helen Eling	63 Ian Williams	113 Pandora Birch
14 Keith Oborn	64 Lisa Conesa	114 Roger Perkins
15 (Reserved)	65 Per Osterman	115 Keith Plunkett
16 Eve Harvey	66 Roger Peyton	116 Gra Poole
17 John Harvey	67 Arline Peyton	117 Linda Williams
18 Penny Jackson	68 Jose Bernard	118 David Flint
19 (Reserved)	69 Colin Lester	119 Peter Bell
20 Graham England	70 Lars Strandberg	120 Ian Robinson
21 Simone Walsh	71 Waldemar Kumming	121 Jon Langford
22 Greg Pickersgill	72 D.West	122 Pauline Dungate
23 David Griffin	73 Michel Feron	123 S.D.Steel
24 Mary Burns	74 C.Hargrave	124 Ted Ball
25 Bill Burns	75 Ken Bulmer	125 Dave Gibson
26 Brian Hampton	76 Pam Bulmer	126 Andy Ellsmore
27 Vernon Brown	77 Ian Moor	127 Rory McLean
28 Pat Baxter	78 Peter Clark	128 Brian Ameringen
29 Tony Rogers	79 Roger Bean	129 Peter Nicholls
30 Vera Johnson	80 Tel Hudson	130 Ron Bennett
31 Joseph Nicholas	81 Chris Chivers	131 Pat Charnock
32 Richard Wheateroft	82 Boris Lawrence	132 Graham Charnock
33 David Hill	83 John Steward	133 Rob King
34 Jan Howard Finder	84 Ewa Sejby	134 ---Assistant #1
35 Nellie Pardoel	85 Norman Shorroock	135 ---Assistant #2
36 Dewi Williams	86 Ina Shorroock	136 John Lowe
37 J.A.Burnett	87 David Webb	137 Krystyna Bula
38 Eddie Jones	88 Alan Morris	138 John Brunner
39 Marsha Jones	89 Rod Milner	139 Marjorie Brunner
40 Mike Gray	90 Bonny Milner	140 R.Hill
41 Chris Jones	91 Urban Gunnarsson	141 A.Richardson
42 Dave Upton	92 Coral Clarke	142 Philip James
43 Al Debettencourt	93 Bruce Healey	143 Jim Linwood
44 John Piggott	94 Celia Parsons	144 Marion Linwood
45 Ken Slater	95 Jim Barker	145 Gareth Lewis
46 Joyce Slater	96 David Kemper	146 Peter Ellis
47 Merf Adamson	97 Peter Berg	147 Adam Gray
48 Rob Jackson	98 D.G.Lermit	148 Chris Walton
49 Colin Crooks	99 Mike Damesick	149
50 Chris Southern	100 Keith Freeman	150 David Thomas

(This list complete up to the end of ...)

HOTEL PRICES (REMINDER)

...so widely that it's difficult to remember
We've announced that the Heathrow Hotel is charging £13.80 for all
some people (and doubles), excluding breakfast and VAT. More details,
room and tedious length, in PR2; until then, goodbye...



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