

novacon 10

Organised by the Birmingham Science Fiction Group

31st October/1st & 2nd November 1980

Royal Angus Hotel, Birmingham

GUEST OF HONOUR: BRIAN W. ALDISS

PROGRESS REPORT 2

JULY 1980

YOUR HOTEL BOOKING FORM

* HOTEL BOOKING FORMS ARE INCLUDED WITH THIS PROGRESS REPORT - IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT ONE PLEASE LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY. DITTO FOR THE HOTEL RESERVATION CARD. *

To save time at NOVACON itself, we've included a section on the Booking Form for you to convert your supporting membership (you should have paid £2 so far) into full attending membership (a further £2.50 per person). This total of £4.50 is the full amount of Attending membership and you will not be asked for further registration monies at NOVACON 10. Hotel reservations will NOT be processed unless the full £4.50 has been paid.

We trust that the Booking Form is self-explanatory - these will be processed in the order they are received by Krystyna (address at bottom of Booking form). DO NOT SEND THEM TO THE HOTEL.

Although the convention will not commence till Friday evening, many fans like to arrive the night before and get relaxed before the con starts - the Thursday night has been included to cater for this. The convention will run through till after midnight on Sunday so we recommend that you stay on the Sunday night. Anyone requiring to stay on the Monday night as well should include this in the Special Requirements section.

The Hotel Reservation card should also be self-explanatory but there is no need to fill in all the boxes. An example is given below of the required boxes you should complete. YOU MUST SIGN YOUR CARD.

EMI				Leisure Limited — Hotels Division Registration Form	
SURNAME PHAN		FIRST NAME JOE		ROOM No.	
HOME ADDRESS 42 STENCIL DRIVE, TUCKERVILLE, DUPERSHIRE				No. OF GUESTS	
				RECEIVED BY	
NATIONALITY		PASSPORT No.		ISSUED AT	
DESTINATION		CAR No.		CASH <input type="checkbox"/>	CREDIT CARD TYPE & No.
				A/C Co. <input type="checkbox"/>	
NOTICE TO GUEST Money, Jewellery and other valuables must be placed in a safe deposit box or with the reception, otherwise the Management will not be responsible for any loss.				SIGNATURE Joe Phan	

Form H21

ARR 3/10/80	DEP 3/11/80	NAME JOE PHAN	ROOM
REQUESTED BY "NOVACON 10"			PRICE
TEL. No.			TAKEN BY
Room Only <input type="checkbox"/> Inc Cont. <input type="checkbox"/> Inc Eng. <input type="checkbox"/> Voucher <input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> A/C To. Co. <input type="checkbox"/>			DATE
INVOICE NAME : ADDRESS :			ACCOUNT NUMBER
LETTER	REMARKS		
COUNTER			
PHONE			
TELEX			
CRO	ACCOUNT NUMBER	£	DISCOUNT %
TBC	NET		
NTBC	COMM+		
CONF'D	GROSS		1800 RELEASE
CHARTED	EXCHANGE RT.		HOLD

IMPORTANT NOTE: ONLY ONE CARD PER ROOM IS REQUIRED. If you are sharing a room please make sure that only one person returns the card - this should be fairly simple to arrange as most of you will know who you are sharing with. If you are one of those people who are unable to arrange a partner, but want the hotel to arrange it for you, please indicate this clearly on the Hotel Booking Form.

Please return your Booking Form/Reservation Card as soon as possible. Rooms will be allocated strictly in the order that we receive the bookings. You will receive confirmation from the Hotel in due course. Once the Angus is filled reservations will be made at the overflow hotel, the Centre Hotel in New Street. The same room rates will apply. (see Progress Report 1 or Booking Form for rates)

So much for the form filling instructions. If some of you are wondering why we go to such great lengths to explain how to fill these forms in, we suggest you take a spell on a convention committee - you'll be amazed at the variety of ways people interpret fairly basic things - in the past, we've ended up with people booking two rooms when they only wanted half of a twin through to people who find the Booking Form totally incomprehensible. Add to that the comedians out there who deliberately fill in wrong things, and being Secretary on a Con committee becomes a nightmare. Of course, they're the first ones to complain when anything goes wrong with their booking - well, if they will book rooms for Mr & Mrs K Kinnison and forget which name they used this year, they deserve to end up in the overflow!

ONLY NON-MEMBERS ALLOWED!!

It's amazing how things get distorted. At NOVACON 9 you may remember we held an Open Forum to discuss the future of NOVACONS - the committee were looking several years ahead and trying to decide whether to let NOVACONS grow in the way Easter conventions have grown or to attempt to keep the numbers down to a reasonable figure. The Open Forum was a way of hearing your views and finding alternative methods of keeping those numbers down, if that was what the majority wanted. An overwhelming majority expressed a desire to stay at the Royal Angus rather than move to a larger hotel outside Birmingham, leaving the committee to decide on any method of limiting numbers, if the necessity arose. So it was with a great deal of surprise that I read in MATRIX 29 Rob Jackson's review of Jeff Suter's fanzine PERIPHERY 2 where he states "...criticism of the (now aborted) half-hearted attempt to restrict attendance at NOVACON 10 on the grounds that such restriction is elitist." Now I haven't seen PERIPHERY 2 so I don't know the extent of that criticism but my surprise was more of Rob Jackson's acceptance that there had been any attempt to restrict attendance! Were Rob and Jeff Suter at the Open Forum that I chaired? - or did someone else hold one without telling me! It was not decided or announced at NOVACON 9 that there would be any limitation to NOVACON 10 attendance.

MAGNUM

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**M MAGNUM
BOOKS**

If you would like to know more about the Magnum SF list and our full plans for 1980, The Publicity Department, Magnum Books, North Way, Andover, Hampshire, would be happy to help you.

There were several suggestions from the floor, such as only allowing previous NOVACON attendees to register for future cons, invitation only and other ideas guaranteed to kill NOVACON immediately. None of which were even considered by the committee. We did say that we would not be taking any registrations at NOVACON itself - in fact we are not taking registrations after October 1st. This is not solving the problem of too many attendees but more a method of reducing the work on the committee at the event itself. By October 1st we will know the total number of registrations and can print the Programme Book accordingly without having to print extra copies for possible walk-ins. In the past, this has resulted in committees finding ways of disposing of unwanted Programme Books for years after (Programme Book for NOVACON 5 anyone?). Drawing a line at October 1st may or may not change the number of attendees. It will make things easier for the committee - it will put a stop to fans ringing up the night before the convention to see if you can get them in the Con Hotel because they'd forgot to send in a Booking Form. The committee will still have the last minute problems but at least we will be trying to cut down the things that can cause problems. If by any chance we had 700 registrations for NOVACON 10 then we possibly would be forced by the Hotel to limit attendance - the place just isn't that big and that figure would be way beyond the Fire Regulations limit. But we're not likely to get that many registrations - we hope! Every convention runs the risk of having too many people - its never happened yet (though we must have been very close at SEACON) and if it did happen, the committee would have to find a method of limitation. Every committee is aware of this possibility - this isn't something NOVACON invented. By discussing it openly we thought we'd get sensible suggestions that we could consider. Which is, in my memory, exactly what happened. I just don't understand how someone got the impression we'd implemented 'elitist restrictions' or how another person accepts this and states that it is 'now aborted'. Comments, anyone?

PROGRAMME NOTES

As mentioned in the last PR, NOVACON 10 will, we hope, run like a 'Best of NOVACONS' - items from previous NOVACONS that have proven to be very popular together with new innovations, like.....

SLIDE SHOW

We'll be running a slide show of photos from previous NOVACONS and we need YOUR HELP. Martin Hoare will be putting together a short programme item and requires any unusual, interesting, amazing, funny photos you may have of people at NOVACONS - has anyone got a shot of the collapsing table that was laden with crockery at NOVACON 4, for instance? We need your photographs, slides, etc. If you have got anything of interest, please send them to Krystyna at the address at the end of this PR. Please pencil your name on the reverse/edge so that we can return the items to you.

DISCO/FANCY DRESS

The disco this year will again be on the Saturday night. This year it will be run by ex-BSFA Secretary Graham Bullock who, if memory serves me right, ran the disco at NOVACONS 5,6 & 7. This year we are incorporating the Fancy Dress into the Disco. We will not be having the traditional 'parade'. Instead, we hope that everyone attending the Disco will be wearing Fancy Dress and we'll be giving spot prizes for the best costumes. Prizes will be the usual bottles - full. For the benefit of photographers there will be a special area in which photographs can be taken.

FILMS

In addition to WIZARDS, FIGURES IN A LANDSCAPE, SANTA CLAUS CONQUERS THE MARTIANS and DEATHRACE 2000 (we now have confirmation on that) we are attempting to get the Ed Emshwiller short classic RELATIVITY plus the short animated anti-war film shown at NOVACON 4, ATTENTION.

One or two people have mentioned to me that they don't believe there is a film called SANTA CLAUS CONQUERS THE MARTIANS! It is true! It was featured in the book THE 50 WORST FILMS OF ALL TIME - and guest of honour Brian Aldiss points out that there is another SF film featured in the same book - INVASION OF THE GIANT TOMATOES. If we can track that one down, it will be shown next year or whenever - NOT at this convention, though. Have some pity on the projectionist!

OTHER ITEMS

Other programme items will include the popular SF University Challenge from last year. New questions, new teams (well, almost). Can the Surrey limpwrists win again? See panel below for details. The ever-popular Jack Cohen will be giving one of his talks on Aliens - not-to-be-missed. Dave Langford will have returned from his TAFF trip and will delight us all recapping on the bizarre events encountered in America. Phil Strick will be putting together a programme of rare film clips. Eve Harvey will be chatting to 3 guests. There will be another debate and a panel discussion on "How to Sell Science Fiction to a DALLAS-loving Public" - anyone wishing to participate in this item should volunteer their name to Joe Nicholas (address at end of PR).

AUCTION

In addition to the above goodies there will be the usual Auction of items donated by you. Any old paperbacks, magazines, posters, etc that you no longer want will be gratefully received. If you really want to support the convention, you can always donate some expensive goody like that first edition LORD OF THE RINGS you always intended to replace with a new mint copy.

We'll also auction rare items for you. You get 90% of the amount raised - the other 10% goes to the convention funds.

NOW is the time to start sorting out items for the auction!

THE ART ROOM

The Art Room will again be in the Lower Angus. If you have material to display, we'll be pleased to see it. If you wish to put it into the Art Auction, the convention will take 10% of the amount raised - you get the other 90%. Marsha Jones will be once again in charge of the Art Show and the Auction. Any queries please contact Marsha.

Still available -- BY BRITISH

A FANTHOLOGY OF THE SEVENTIES
edited by Ian Maule & Joseph Nicholas

Published to commemorate Seacon 79 and nominated for a FAAn (Fanzine Activity Achievement) Award as the best single issue of 1979, this 81-page A4-sized fanthology contains some of the best British fanwriting of the past ten years by such as Bob Shaw, Rob Holdstock, Chris Priest, Dave Langford, Kevin Smith, John Brosnan, Roy Kettle, Rob Hansen, Graham Charnock, Peter Roberts, John Piggott and Andrew Stephenson, plus a short history of the most important British fanzines of the seventies by Joseph Nicholas.

Price £1.50 inc. p&p (payment with order, please, cheques and POs made payable to Ian Maule), with all profits being donated to the fan charities TAFF and GUFF, from:

Ian Maule
5 Beaconsfield Road
New Malden
Surrey KT3 3HY

1980 UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE TEAMS WANTED

The 1979 'SF University Challenge' was won by the Surrey Limpwrists. Who will win the 1980 title?

We need teams of three for this year's competition based on the TV 'University Challenge'. If you think your knowledge of SF is pretty good why not enter a team?

Submit your team name together with the names of the three people comprising the team by September 21st. In the event that we get more teams than required, there will be a postal knockout quiz.

The questions this year will again be set by Chris Morgan.

Teams submissions should be sent to Rog Peyton, 19 Eves Croft, Bartley Green, Birmingham B32 3QL.

Please try to arrange teams where all the members have something in common - all live in same town, county, etc or all attend same university or other institution.

ANDROMEDA

BOOKSHOP

THE SNOW QUEEN - JOAN VINGE

Arienrhod - the corrupt Snow Queen - as beautiful as she was ancient, had ruled far Tiamat for 150 years. Now her planet's twin suns were becoming unstable and the searing summer was spreading over Tiamat signalling the end of the Winter Clan's rule and the approach of the ritual sacrifice of the Snow Queen. But Arienrhod has cloned an heir, her key to immortality and perpetual dominion and the Queen is prepared to defy the laws of the entire galaxy to retain her power....

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BRIAN ALDISS IN REVIEW

As many of you are aware, the Birmingham SF Group produces a monthly newsletter which is distributed to all members of the BSFG. It has recently featured two reviews, both by Chris Morgan, of new books by our Guest-of-Honour. Those reviews are reprinted here with Chris Morgan's permission.

LIFE IN THE WEST (Published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson at £5.95 - 310pp)

This is a novel of contemporary life, rich in wit and wisdom. Thomas Squire, an upper-class Englishman in his late 40s, has become a respected pundit on the subject of popular culture following his TV series FRANKENSTEIN AMONG THE ARTS. He has been invited as guest of honour to an international conference on future culture at Ermalpa (a thinly disguised Palermo) in Sicily. But this time of greatest success is also, for Squire, the time of greatest upset and soul-searching. His marriage seems to be breaking up and he may be forced to sell Pippet Hall, the home of his family for centuries.

Although Thomas Squire's problems are central to the novel, Brian Aldiss uses them as a pretext for commenting upon many facets of present-day existence. Chapters are set at the Ermalpa Conference alternate with flashbacks of Squire's earlier life. Culture, in its various manifestations, gets a good deal of space, beginning with an episode of FRANKENSTEIN AMONG THE ARTS and continuing through various papers presented at the conference on such subjects as science fiction and pin-ball machines. There is a heavy seasoning of politics, particularly at Ermalpa, where almost all the delegates (most of whom are well-to-do academics) profess a kind of phoney Marxism; an exception is one of the Soviet delegates, Rugorsky, an anglophile.

This is an indulgent novel; Brian Aldiss spends much time describing things which, I felt, are important to him. Fortunately these things are interesting to the reader, and are put across with such a sure descriptive touch accompanied by shafts of irony and wit that one cannot fail to be entertained. Even so, this is a long, discursive book with little action, intended for the intellectual rather than the person who wants an easy read.

ENEMIES OF THE SYSTEM (Published by Granada at 95p - 124pp)

For some time now it has been obvious that Brian Aldiss is not writing SF as an end in itself, but using it as a tool, as a means to other ends. Here he adopts the trappings of SF to present a satire on communism. A million years hence, Homo sapiens has been replaced by Homo uniformis. The principle of Biological Communism has, via genetic engineering and bottle-grown babies, produced what its inhabitants agree is a utopia. But some are more uniform than others, and a group of upper-echelon comrades has been awarded the privilege of a holiday on the planet of Lysenka II (so called, it gradually becomes clear, because its inhabitants have devolved according to the eccentric genetic theories of the notorious Russian biologist Lysenko). From the start their uniformity does not prevent them from arguing over what are to the reader fairly minor points of communist logic. On a sightseeing trip in the wilds, the road collapses beneath one of the motor coaches, leaving its passengers stranded, out of contact with civilisation and surrounded by savage animals. What do they do? They hold a meeting to elect an action committee. Later, as they struggle to survive without the help of their utopian system, their conditioning begins to break down. This is a fairly slight book, due partly to its paucity of pages and partly by the way in which characterisation and background are subservient to dialectic, but a witty one.

Chris Morgan.

REGISTERED MEMBERS FOR NOVACON 10 (Continued from PRL)

If your name is incomplete, or wrong, on the following list please let Krystyna know your full correct name so that the badges can be done correctly.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 157 Phil James | 166 Chris Smith | 175 John Brosnan |
| 158 E De Cicco | 167 Jean Sheward | 176 Stephen Skwarek |
| 159 Sally Underwood | 168 Robert Day | 177 Mary Gray |
| 160 Hugh Mascetti | 169 Simon Watkins | 178 Mike Gray |
| 161 Gary Stratman | 170 Cynthia Strain | 179 Katy Titley |
| 162 Lawrence Lambourne | 171 Milton Strain | 180 Graham Chance |
| 163 Christina Lambourne | 172 Yvonne Jenkins | 181 Rosemary Pardoe |
| 164 Chris Bursey | 173 John Meaney | 182 Darroll Pardoe |
| 165 David Holmes | 174 Sandy Brown | 183 Bob Shaw |

184 Sadie Shaw	227 Tony Berry	270 David Hibbert
185 Anne Page	228 Tony Rogers	271 Carol Willcocks
186 Ina Shorrocks	229 Sue Williams	272 Simon Taylor
187 Norman Shorrocks	230 Kevin Williams	273 Nick Howe
188 George Ternent	231 Chris Mayers	274 Karl Brown
189 Linda Ternent	232 Adrian Snowdon	275 John Kerr
190 Mike Wigley	233 Ewan Chrystal	276 Kevin Pender
191 Jan Finder	234 John Shire	277 Lord 'A' Graham
192 Dave Cox	235 Christopher Murphy	278 Lord 'A' John
193 Randal Flynn	236 Jack Cohen	279 Joy Davis
194 Henry Newton	237 Jules Brockenshaw	280 Philip George
195 Cherry Newton	238 Mark Dudek	281 Sue Tonkin
196 Graham James	239 Tony Seymour	282 Geoffrey Cotterill
197 Brian Ameringen	240 Ray McEwan	283 Bernie Peek
198 Lawrence Proctor	241 Glenys Lewis	284 Dewi Williams
199 Susan Proctor	242 Alec Lewis	285 Gerry Webb
200 Dave Gibson	243 Michael Squires	286 Ian McKeer
201 Terry Robinson	244 Roger Perkins	287 Christina Lake
202 Brian Hampton	245 John Brunner	288 Alison Lowe
203 Pete Lyon	246 Mickey Poland	289 S Ud-din
204 Jim White	247 Keith Freeman	290 A Cullen
205 Peggy White	248 Wendy Freeman	291 Jean Frost
206 Phil Dawson	249 Florence Russell	292 Kevin Easthope
207 Ray Smith	250 Lisanne Norman	293 Alison Paddock
208 Paul Smith	251 Stuart Andrews	294 Jill Paddock
209 George Jones	252 Peter Roberts	295 Murrey Lines
210 Susan Brockbank	253 Nick Taylor	296 Ken Mann
211 Jean Maudsley	254 Marilyn Russell	297 Trish Hall
212 Timothy Headlong	255 David Pringle	298 Chris Hall
213 Su Worrall	256 T Furniss	299 Dave Rowley
214 Ken Worrall	257 Amanda Webster	300 Mike White
215 John Dallman	258 Melinda Webster	301 Neil Robinson
216 Phil Wain	259 Mark Topping	302 Kay Robinson
217 Nigel Robson	260 Duncan Hooper	303 Ian Sheppard
218 Brian Flynn	261 Steven Flint	304 Steve Walters
219 Sheila Cornelius	262 Wayne Morgan	305 Kevin Clarke
220 Laurence Dean	263 Neil Talbot	306 Glen Pritchard
221 John Williams	264 Rune Forsgren	
222 Dave de Leuw	265 Michael Field	
223 Sophia de Leuw	266 Garry O'Hare	
224 N Moloney	267 Andrew McIntyre	
225 E Smith	268 Alan Ferguson	
226 Joe Nevin	269 Trev Briggs	

Correspondence re NOVAACON 10 should be sent to one of the following addresses:-

Registrations, Booking Forms, etc. to Krystyna Bula, c/o 183 Shenley Road, Boreham Wood, Herts.

Art Show queries, etc. to Marsha Jones, 9 Cecil Road, Prenton, Birkenhead, Merseyside, L42 9PF.

Volunteers for Panel discussion to Joe Nicholas, Room 9, 94 St George's Square, Pimlico, London SW1.

All other correspondence to Rog Peyton, 19 Eves Croft, Bartley Green, Birmingham, B32 3QL.

Please enclose SAE with your letter where necessary.