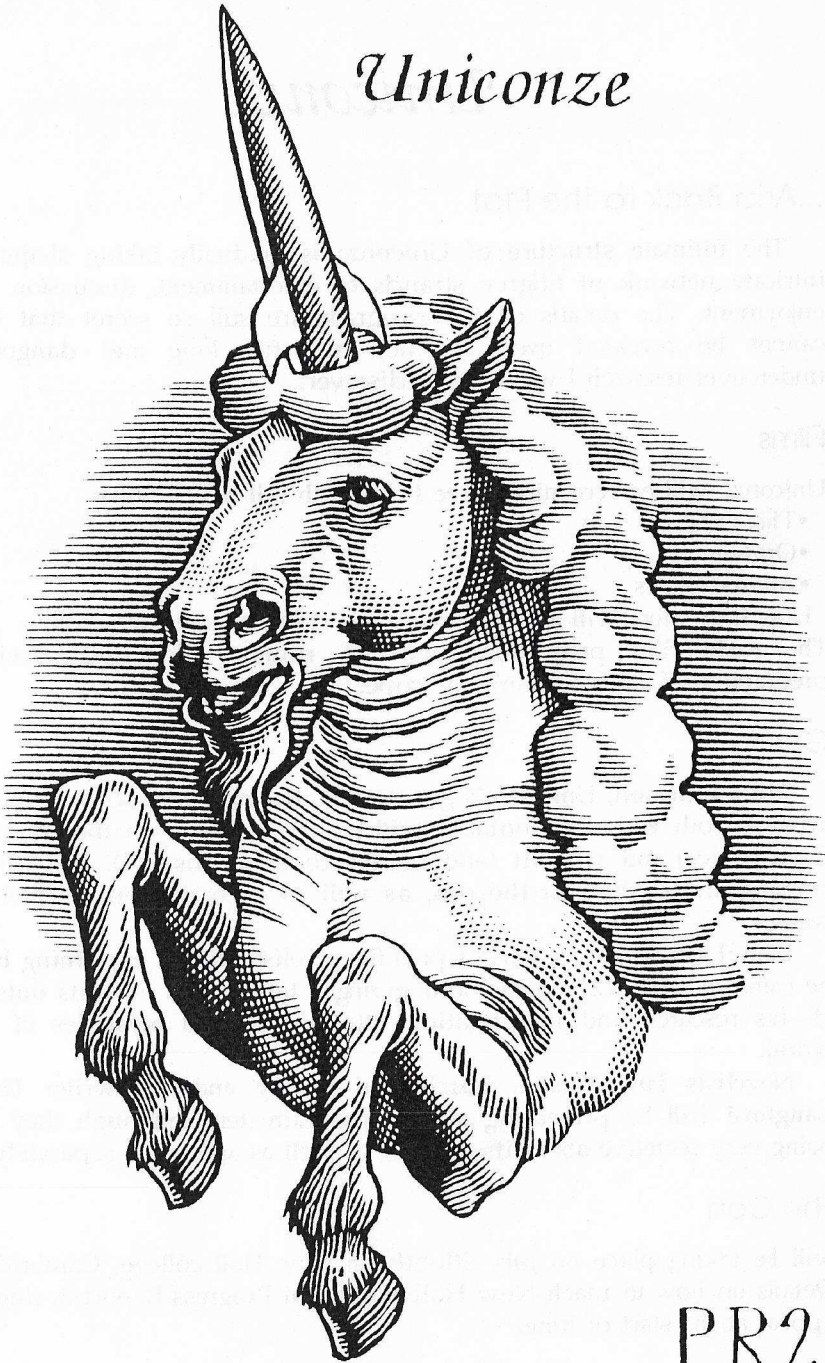


*Uniconze*



PR2

# Uniconze

## ...And Back to the Plot

The ultimate structure of Uniconze is gradually taking shape: an intricate network of filigree strands of entertainment, discussion and enjoyment. The details of the program are still so secret that they cannot be revealed even to me, but after long and dangerous undercover research I was able to discover...

## Films

Uniconze will be screening three full-length full-screen films:

- This is Spinal Tap
- Orpheus
- Altered States

Hopefully there will also be several short Peter Greenaway films.

The main film programme will be running alongside a video programme of almost unlimited scope.

## Guests

Bill Sanderson, Uniconze's guest artist, has produced some stunning artwork both within sf (notably with Harry Harrison on the 'West of Eden' series) and without (and on the cover of this PR!). He will be running an art show at the con, as well as appearing on a panel on comics.

Lionel Fanthorpe, sf's most prolific novelist, will be explaining how he came to write 121 novels, and giving a talk on his pursuits outside sf—his research and investigation into unexplained mysteries of the world.

Novelists Ian Watson, Barrington Bayley and fan writer Dave Langford will be presenting a joint program item (although they are being very secretive about its nature), as well as appearing separately.

## The Con

will be taking place on July 6th-8th, in New Hall college, Cambridge. Details on how to reach New Hall will be in Progress Report 3, due to appear at the start of June.

## Membership Fees

This is the last PR that pre-supporting members of Uniconze will receive, so now is the time to join, before the rates go up!

	Before Easter	After Easter
Attending:	£9.50	£12.00
Supporting:	£6.00	£6.00
Conversion to Attending:	£3.50	£6.00
Reduction for Pre-Supporters:	£1.00	£1.00

## Weapons Policy

If it *looks* like it might be a real weapon, it must be heavily peace-bonded (tied into holsters, scabbards, whatever). Yes, this means water-pistols too.

## The Committee Speak

For those who don't know us, it's time to introduce the committee.

Ahem. First it is my great pleasure to introduce Gareth Rees, the newest member of our committee. Gareth, a first-year Cambridge undergraduate, has bravely volunteered to take on Publications for us and so is editing my every word. This makes it difficult to insult him, but [that's quite enough —ed.]

*"I'm an almost complete newcomer to cons, so my task on the committee seems to be to sit quietly in a corner and express incredulity at the total chaos known as a 'committee meeting'. As for the con itself, I'm just hoping someone will eventually tell me what it's all about (I once had a naive idea that it had something to do with science fiction)..."*

Next in this completely random ordering, we have Julian Todd, whose prize collection of Interzone rejection slips uniquely qualifies him to be our Publicity Officer. Julian can usually be found down in caves or up in a hang glider, but rarely on the same Earth as everyone else.

*"July is the season when many poor students have had to just graduate. 'Great,' say the people who call themselves grown-ups, 'now you can settle down, stop all this learning nonsense and start facing up to the Real World!' In Uniconze we'll have no truck with the Real World, much to the annoyance of self-proclaimed grown-ups who won't stand for anything not the Real World, who would much prefer a Jeffrey Archer to an Alfred Bester. But beer is quite alright. No yuppie would ever have invented it."*

Graham Taylor, on the other hand, is definitely on the same Earth as the rest of us, it's just that no one can understand him. An initiate into the mysteries of creative finance, it is Graham's job to take the money and run, something he does with great enthusiasm.

*"I like to think that Uniconze will return to the Connote8 style of general seriousness mixed with humour, of ideas and their sources and of gallons of real ale. There will be plenty of items, smooth and professional running [optimist! —ed.] and it will of course also be seriously underfunded."*

Our Membership Secretary, **Richard Crook**, is a skilful programmer, musician and invisible man. Having discovered early in his university career that he needed to bilocate and do without sleep, it was only natural that he would be drawn into con-running.

Next we have **Paul Treadaway**, long-time con-goer and party plant. Now studying computers having given up on getting rocks to talk to him, Paul is the Committee-member-with-many-responsibilities-but-no-portfolio, i.e. odd-job man.

*"Uniconze will have something for everyone. We will try to cover as broad a range of interests and activities as possible, and it will be enormously fun. The booze will flow like water and the water will flow, like, hot and cold, man."*

**Alastair Grant** is our other committee troubleshooter, but unlike Paul is new to cons. This allows him to come to committee meetings and impart fresh, new ideas along the lines of 'I know nahtheeng' (but in an Australian accent).

Then there is our Secretary, **Nick Haines**. A Mathematician who has decided that computers are more fun, or at least more likely to get him a PhD place, Nick is wondering why he ever said 'Yes' to being on this committee. Or, for that matter, if he ever said 'Yes'...

*"Uniconze is 'out to castrate people who like Star Trek, burn any wearers of funny costumes, and generally oppose the God-given right of groups like the Reformed Blake's Seven Church of Picking Noses And Running Round With Zap Guns to receive equal consideration in programming as those elitist sods who effately read science fiction.' It must be, Dave Langford said so."*

The Programming supremo is **Douglas Reay**, of whom much can be said. Sadly it's all libellous, so I will be content to note that Doug is a Philosopher who won't take 'No' for an answer, which is why many people are finding themselves unexpectedly on programme items.

*"Uniconze is in fact a fiendish attempt to drive you insane: I've put lots on for first timers, video junkies, Secret Masters of the Bar, normal (?) fans and anyone else I could think of so that no one will escape having too many things of interest to chose from. Also we are planning to ensure total boredom deprivation by stealing only good points which worked from Mexican, Connote8 and other successes."*

Last but not least, in his own opinion at any rate, we have the Chairman, Rhodri James. An upstanding idiot with many years experience in living, he has the horrible feeling that all the nice things he has said about himself are going to get [have been —ed.] edited out.

*"What do I expect Uniconze to be like? Well, it'll be a very traditional Unicon in shape, because I think that way. It'll be very unorthodox inside because everyone else has fresh new approaches. It'll be very friendly, because we have so many Guests who prefer to talk to people rather than just prop up the bar. It'll be very surprising in some of its goings-on. But mostly, it'll be very enjoyable. Even if I do get into the traditional mad flat panic, it'll be fun!"*

### The Great Con: a plagiarized fable by Dave Langford

It is a story that they tell, of how a great Convention Organiser sought to build a convention which should be a monument worthy of his incomparable love for science fiction. A convention it should be of perfect grace and beauty, more marvellous than any other convention had ever been or could ever be, so that to the end of time it should be a wonder, and fans would treasure it and speak of it and delight in its celebration of his love. And this convention he said was to be, because the pearl is lovelier than the most brilliant of crystalline stones, **Pearlcon: The Ultimate Science Fiction Convention.**

Year followed year as he devoted himself to preparing and adorning Pearlcon. A great hotel was chosen in a place of beauty, amidst snows and hills and valleys and winding rivers and convenient access by road, rail and air. Here was planned a Guest of Honour speech of cunning workmanship; and about it grew programme strands of strange and lovely originality, and a promised 24-hour bar as exquisite as a jewel.

With every month of effort the Organiser learnt new possibilities, new interests, new features of holistic and multi-streamed appeal. "Those were pretty things," he said of his early plans for quizzes and panels and Women in Science Fiction; and had them put aside into special interest rooms where they would not hamper his main design.

Greater and greater grew his cosmopolitanism. With awe and amazement fandom saw the Pearlcon progress reports sweeping up from their specialist beginnings to a superhuman breadth and height and catholic magnificence. They did not know clearly what they had expected, but never had they expected so sublime a thing as this. "Wonderful are the miracles," they whispered, "that love of science fiction can do."

From the central thread of the main programme the Organiser now looked out into a vista of marvellous branching alternatives soaring and floating on either side, of tea parties and soft toys and body-painting and computer workshops and silent movies and self-defence classes and obsolete printing equipment and marshmallow interest groups and medieval smithcraft and community singing and Regency history and corporate management strategy and Logan's reruns and construction of orbital lasers and raffia-work, all perfect and unobtrusive in their balance.

Very often would the Organiser look on the planned flow of that vista, deeply moved and yet not fully satisfied. The Ultimate Science Fiction Convention had still something for him to do, he felt, before his preparation was done. Always he would order some little alteration to be put back again, a Coca-Cola special interest display or an exhibition of dragons in fretwork. And one day he thought that Pearlcon's multiple appeal would be clearer and simpler without the heavy emphasis on the main programme; and after regarding it very steadfastly for a long time, he had the main programme dismantled and removed.

At the next committee meeting he said nothing, and the next and the next. Then for two more he stayed away altogether. Then he returned, and as the subcommittees again stood awed by the serene vastness of their achievement, he saw that only one thing there was to mar the absolute harmony. There was a certain disproportion about the centre of things, the dear immortal cause of all this beauty. A little blot of crudity and bias and parochialism lay incongruously in the glorious expanse of Pearlcon's celebration of the entire universe. It was as if the total summary of human aspiration were labelled, "Made in Taiwan".

Long the Organizer mused, but no one knew the thoughts that passed through his mind.

At last he spoke. He pointed to the phrase that jarred, enshrined in Pearlcon's very name, the phrase "science fiction".

"Take that thing away," he said.

Our address is:

Uniconze  
Clare College  
Cambridge  
CB2 1TL

## Using the Forms

Included with this PR are two forms, one for room booking and one for general information. We think that they are fairly self-explanatory, but since there is always scope for misunderstandings here are a few guidelines for filling them in.

1. Please use a black pen or biro to complete the forms. Blue ink and pencil are horrible to photocopy!
2. There are very few twin rooms available, so please only ask for one if you really want one and have someone to share with. As you might guess under the circumstances, we will not be arranging sharers! Please would both people sharing a twin room fill in booking forms.
3. If you would like a vegetarian breakfast to be provided, please tick the box provided. If you want a carnivorous breakfast, or indeed no breakfast at all, then don't tick the box. A small number of breakfasts will be available to non-residents.
4. Since New Hall tables come in odd lengths, we are selling dealer's space by the metre. Please fill in the number of metres you want and include the right money (£5 per metre required).
5. If there is anything at all that you think we ought to know about, from ingrowing toenails to a pet brontosaurus, then write it down in the Special Requirements section or on the reverse of the form. We will attempt to smooth out any possible trouble and advise you of any potential difficulties.

## Advertising

Rates for advertising in future PR's and the programme book:

		<u>1/4 page</u>	<u>1/2 Page</u>	<u>Full Page</u>
Fan rate:	PR:	£2.50	£5	£8
	Prog Bk:	£5	£8	£15
Pro rate:	PR:	£3	£6	£10
	Prog Bk:	£6	£10	£18

## Membership List

1C Rhodri James	25A Paul Dorrner	49A J Coxhead	73A Kathy Westhead
2C Richard Crook	26P Jon Pealfield	50A Vicki King	74A Roger Robinson
3C Alastair Grant	27A Henry Potts	51P Jon Brewis	75A Simon Spero
4C Graham Taylor	28A Phill Allcock	52P Peter Cox	76S John Bray
5C Nick Haines	29P Mike Whitaker	53P John Richards	77A Chris O'Shea
6C Julian Todd	30P Caroline Mullan	54P John Botham	78A Bob Dowling
7C Paul Treadaway	31P Ruth Le Sueur	55A Valerie Housden	79A Mike Abbott
8C Douglas Reay	32P Steve Bull	56P Martin Easterbrook	80A James Steel
9P Rory McLean	33P Allison Scott	57A Rafe Culpin	81A P H Mabey
10A Bill Longley	34A Susan Francis	58P G Suntharalingam	82A Marcus Rowland
11P Jackie Hawkins	35P Mike Cheater	59P Martin Tudor	83A Henry Balen
12P Steve Lawson	36A Peter Wareham	60P Linda Parkin	84A Steve Rothman
13P David Cooper	37A Gwen Funnel	61P John F David	85A Kevin R Joyce
14P Phillip Fine	38A D H Walters	62P A D Smith	86A Robert Sneddon
15P Steve Linton	39C Gareth Rees	63A Peter Dunn	87A Ye Gerbikh
16P Phil Plumbly	40P Darren Gill	64A L van der Putte	88A Andy Morris
17P M Dennis	41A Tim Illingworth	65P Adrian Beattie	89A Tim Broadribb
18P Colin Fine	42P Chris Cooper	66P Joy Hibbert	90S Terry Hunt
19A Ben Brown	43P Steve Glover	67P Dave Rowley	91A Tom Nansen
20P David Vines	44A Alan Braggins	68P Kate Anderson	92A Rob Meades
21A Ivan Towson	45P Marcus Streets	69S Paul Marrow	93A Alice Kohler
22A John Dallman	46A Huw Walters	70A Paul Cray	94A Dave Clements
23P Elinor Predota	47A Simon Arrowsmith	71A Dave Ellis	95A Matt Bishop
24P Sean Barnforth	48A John Rickard	72A Mike Damesick	96A Helen Steele

This list is stored on a computer!

## Conjunction

You might be forgiven for thinking that Uniconze and Conjunction are two names for the same con. Sometimes we heartily wish so, as we covet their experience, however despite both happening in New Hall in July, the two conventions are entirely different beasts. Uniconze you already know about—at least you should by now. Conjunction is a Role-Playing Games con being held in New Hall on 27th-29th July, run by John Dallman, Steve Linton, Karen Naylor, Phil Nansen, Kari Maund, Roger Dearnaley and probably a few other people I've forgotten. With Greg Stafford, the creator of the Glorantha as GoH it promises to be an excellent con, so if your interested in RPGs you might like to contact them c/o 25 Wycliffe Road, Cambridge. Of course, it won't be as good as Uniconze...

Many thanks to Dave Langford for kindly donating "The Great Con", to Rhodri for insulting the committee, and everybody else for contributing.