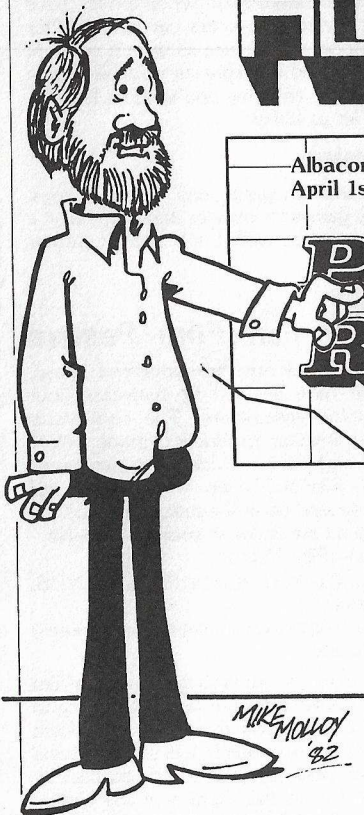


ALBACON II

Albacon II the 34th Annual British Science Fiction Convention.
April 1st-4th, 1983. Central Hotel, Glasgow.

PROGRESS REPORT 2



The Chairman's Bit

This for me is probably the most difficult job to come my way as chairman. The problem, you see, is that I'm just not a writer. Your chances of seeing a fanzine from me are on a par with me winning the pools. I tried to persuade the production team to write it for me but they said "Oh no! We're not writing articles and putting people's names to them. That's not honest." And I used to think they were my friends! Still at least they gave me some ideas, so here we go.

First, they said, tell them who you are. Well, I'm English, bearded and drink Heavy (for the southerners that's Scot's beer). I've been associated with every Glasgow con bar Faircon '81 which I decided to have a rest at. I also produced Big Bob's Big Box Con in the Albacon Report which stimulated some comment (about 1% complimentary as I remember).

From the past to the future and Albacon II. At Albacon this year we are trying for a blend of traditional Faircon and modern Eastercon. We certainly have a very good hotel with a friendly and efficient Staff who have won their spurs with a very successful Faircon, so they know what to expect. As is normal with a Glasgow con there will be heavy programming and a decent size bar area for those like the committee who don't go to the programme. We will have the con bar open on the Thursday night and a programme of films on the Friday morning (that is to say, after midnight) — if we can find enough insomniac projectionists.

We are pleased to see that membership is now higher than that recorded by Channelcon at this time last year, so it looks like being a successful, well attended con.

A last note; will all award administrators please contact the committee. Otherwise there is a chance one will be forgotten to the regret of the members and the embarrassment of the committee.

I feel that most other things I could say would come more aptly from the committee members responsible and anything else . . . well I've got to find something for PR3 and the Programme Book.

I hope not to have excruciated you too severely (*Gene Wolfe* uses lovely words, doesn't he?) and to see you at Albacon.

BOB JEWETT

WHAT'S ON AT ALBACON 2

Albacon II's attractions will, it is hoped, provide something for everyone. In addition to our Main Programme (located in the Central's Banqueting Hall), we will have an Alternative Programme, Fan Room (with programme), Video Programme, Book Room, Computer Room, Star Trek Room, Wargaming Room(s) (including D & D) and Art Show, not to mention bars, which will, as previously stated, remain open until very late (or early, depending on which way you look at it). As was the case with this year's Faircon, the hotel will be supplying 'real ale' (probably Pentland — O.G. 1036 for the connoisseurs among you).

All of the above will be located on two adjacent floors. We absolutely guarantee not to consign any of our attractions to attics or sub-basements.

Main Programme

The Main Programme will feature a wide variety of talks, panels and quizzes, the Fancy Dress Contest, the infamous Vagon Poetry Competition (sorry — Competition), a few extra-special items which are even now being thought of/arranged, and the bulk of our Film Programme (see below for a few details just to whet your appetite). In order to take full advantage of the dimensions of the Main Con Hall, most of our films will be in cinemascope.

Alternative Programme

In addition to the Banquet, the Alternative Programme will host a number of talks and panels of a more specialized nature than those of the Main Programme as well as quizzes and films. One innovative feature of our Alternative Programme is the somewhat ostentatiously named (First Annual?) Eastercon Fan Film Festival — of which more later.

Fan Room

Among the main Fan Room items at Albacoon will be . . . but why should I spoil all *Jim's* surprises.

Video Programme

The Video Programme will show a selection of the best material available at the time. In this YOU can help. To run a Video Programme we need both tapes and machines (the more the merrier). If you can lend us anything then please let us know as soon as possible. Don't worry, they will be well looked after and returned after the Con. Albacoon II carries insurance for all such equipment.

Star Trek Room

Lots of Star Trek oriented items under the benign guidance of *Carla Salveta* and friends.

Computer Room

As many of our embryonic technophiles have already discovered computers can be fun. Our Computer Room will feature as wide a range of both hardware and software as possible. Once again if you have anything you wish to lend us, then please let us know.

Wargaming

Dungeons and Dragons and other things. Introductory games for novices and (hopefully) a prize tournament as well. Look out for further details.

(First Annual?)

Eastercon Fan Film Festival

Always on the look-out for something cheap, different, we have decided to showcase your cinematographic endeavours. The contests is open to any amateur production made before Easter 1983 and will be divided into two major categories — Film and Video — and awards will be made in several yet-to-be-revealed areas. To enter, simply let me know as soon as possible

- (a) Medium (Film/Video)
- (b) Format (standard 8: super 8: 16mm: VHS: Beta etc)
- (c) Duration (approx. running time in minutes)
- (d) Title (if any)

Further information — such as description of film — can be included if desired (anyone writing to say that it is a long narrow thing with holes down both sides will be disqualified). It is safest to hand over films personally but if you find you have to subject your film to the rigours of the British postal service, then please use registered post if at all possible. If your film is a 70m 3D epic in sensurround with six channel stereophonic sound, then we may also need to borrow some of your equipment. Enter now lest 'Faircon Strikes Back' wins by default.

Super Mastermind

It is intended to run an all-winners Mastermind competition at Albacoon II. To enter you must have won a Mastermind competition at some point in the past and be prepared to choose a *different* specialist subject from before. Should response be insufficient by mid-January (i.e. less than 4) then an ordinary Mastermind contest will be held instead.

More programme details in PR3. □

[] Dave Ellis

THE FAN ROOM

Pssst . . . Hey, kid! Yeah, you reading this progress report . . . C'mere . . . Have you ever wanted to organise an Eastercon Fan Room? Okay, here's where you get your chance . . . partially, anyway.

Thanks to a blossoming freelance career (I'm pleased to say), I'm rapidly discovering that I just don't have the time (or, frankly, the inclination) to do the one man show of organising the Albacon Fan Room like what I did at Channelcon. So, I'm after your help.

I wouldn't wish the job of totally organising a Fan Room programme on my worst enemy, but I'm hoping that there may be enough of you out there willing to organise *one* programme item to put a reasonable programme together. So, if you've had this idea simmering away in the back of your mind, that you feel would be perfect for a Fan Room item and you'd like to organise it, please get in touch with me at the address below and we'll see if we can get it together. Serious or silly, I want to hear about it.

I've already sweet-talked a number of fans into doing things, and you'll be hearing details about them in due course. However, *Martin Hoare* asked me to mention his item now, so he can get it properly started. *Martin* wants to hold a *Beer-Tasting*. Probably no people are more appreciative of their local brews than SF fans, and rightly so. We want you to share the taste of your

local beer with your fellow fans. All you have to do is to bring four bottles (more if you want) of your favourite tippie. Everyone is welcome to participate, but entry to the Testing is only by producing the minimum four bottles. For more details, contact *Martin* at

45 TILEHURST RD
READING
BERKSHIRE
RG1 7TT

Though I've taken a back seat in organising the programme, I'm still going to be actively involved in the Fan Room. I'll be responsible for timetabling the programme as well as producing the display material. I'll also be in charge of a couple of special projects: The Second Great Pork Pie Race and the Great Albacon Pint of Beer Fun Run. Again, more details next time. And as usual, I'm looking for masses of display material; silly photos from conventions or parties; rude or patronising articles about SF fans from your local paper; headlines or articles about people with names similar to BNFs . . . that sort of thing. If your SF group holds it's regular meetings in a pub, how about sending me a photo of what it looks like?

I can be contacted most of the time at 113 Windsor Road, Falkirk, Stirlingshire FK1 5BD, Central Scotland. Tel: 0324 35452.

Let's be hearing from you, huh?

Jim Barker

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS ROOM

Have you ever wondered what Dungeons and Dragons is? Have you ever thought of playing a role playing game but have been put off by the difficulty of starting or the cliqueishness of players? Help is at hand, as at Albacon we would like to encourage more people to try these games and so we are presenting special introductory talks and novice games.

There will be two talks which will serve as introductions to Dungeons and Dragons and role playing games in general. After the talks there will be a chance to ask questions and to book a game. The first talk will be held on Friday afternoon, the second on Saturday.

The room itself will be open at signposted times. Games may also be booked there. Games should be booked well in advance if possible, so that we can make appropriate preparations. During its opening hours the room will have experienced

Dungeon Masters present to organise and run games. We plan to have a wide selection of role playing games, including Traveller, Runequest, Dragonquest, Champion and, of course, Dungeons and Dragons. We will have a good selection of scenarios available so there must be something you would enjoy playing.

We hope this system will enable you to integrate fantasy wargaming with the other convention activities, so if you are interested come along and learn a game.

Michael Murdoch



ACME
SPARE-FILLERS!
WE FILL
FAST!



The world of SF tends to concern itself quite often with, "What would have happened if . . . ?" And then proceeds to construct an alternative reality based around a particular hypothesis.

Our particular 'what if' concerns *James White*, who at one time was learning to fly, but was unable to obtain his licence due to health problems.

In our alternative reality, however, *Jim* gets his pilot's licence and is subsequently employed by one of the major airlines.

Time passes by and it is now Easter 1983; the place — Glasgow; the specific location — Central Hotel; the time — 2 a.m.; the scene — a room party: Hotel management person enters stage left bearing tidings as follow, "Could you keep the noise down a bit, there's a *Captain White* on the next floor trying to get some sleep before his morning flight."

All of this, of course, did not in fact transpire and said *J. White* is infinitely more likely to be one of the revellers than one of the complainers; having become, not an airline pilot, but a science fiction author of some little standing.

Jim's career in this field now spans a greater number of years than the lives of many of those reading this.



DAVE ELLIS on **Jim White**

As is oftentimes the way, *Jim's* earliest known writings were not professionally published stories but rather his contributions in the world of fanzines in the late '40s and the '50s. Indeed even today *Jim* still makes the occasional fanzine appearance.

His earliest published professional work (**Assisted Passage**) appeared in *New Worlds* over here while his slightly later American debut appeared in **Astounding**. Book publication, however, eluded him for some little time, but this eventually came his way also with the appearance (in 1957) of **The Secret Visitors** (Ace D237). It is debatable whether this, *Jim's* first book publication, or another event contiguous with it is more of a milestone in his writing career; for this was also the year in which the first '**Sector General**' story was published. From this beginning was to develop an entire series of inter-linking stories which have never waned in popularity, and are regularly reprinted in many languages around the world.

The '**Sector General**' series, though justifiably well loved by SF readers everywhere, forms only a small part of his total output, which, apart from

exploring other vastly different aspects of the medical theme in such stories as '**The Dream Millenium**' and '**Underkill**' (though admittedly the medical aspect is not dominant in either of these), deals also with topics such as survival in a hostile environment (**The Watch Below**), and comes to grips with mystery and detection in '**Tomorrow Is Too Far**'.

His short stories are too numerous to mention (several score to date) and cover a wealth of ideas, a personal favourite being '**Answer Came There None**' (Galaxy Jan. '74) which deals on a personal level with mankind's unending quest for contact with an alien intelligence. A feeling of despair, despondency and failure builds throughout the story and is relieved by hope only in the closing paragraphs. This care and attention with which he meshes character development and plot is to be found in all of his writings.

James White — A writer who maintains a constant appeal to the dedicated reader. A high practitioner of the speculative art and one whom **Albacor II** is proud to welcome as Guest of Honour. □

A PERSONAL APPRECIATION

Jim White is unmistakable. He's the sort of person who, when seated in an audience appears to be standing. Jim is TALL. Only our treasurer, Ian Sorensen, sees eye to eye with him — the rest of the committee has to be content with seeing Jim's trousers. I first met Jim at Novacon 1977 when a few friends, all under six feet, asked me if would like to meet Faircon's guest of honour. Upon my saying "Yes" they introduced me to a pair of knees. I looked up to see a bespectacled figure looking down at me: "Are all you Scots so small?" he asked. From that moment I've got used to talking to his trousers.

No mention of *Jim* is complete without reference to his wife, *Peggy*. People may recall *Peggy* running *Ken Slater's* table at Seacon '79 while *Ken* was away. Everyone that passed was greeted with a cheerful hello and quite a few people stopped just to chat with her.

At this year's Faircon I mentioned to *Jim* and *Peggy* that I was going to Ireland the next day. There and then, they invited me (with *Dave Ellis* and *John Mooney*) to drop in and see them when we were in Belfast, this despite having seen us throughout the weekend. After a few successful attempts at getting lost we arrived at their house in Anderstown and stayed the night, sopping stories and enjoying *Jim's* humour. All this with them preparing for their son's wedding two days later. While we were there we were asked if we wanted to see *Jim's* study where he did his writing. "It's just upstairs," he said. We followed him up some stairs and stopped short when we saw him climb up a ladder. As we climbed up the ladder he said, "I don't know if this false floor can take four people but we'll soon find out." He then showed us round his small study. On one side was a cabinet of his books including many foreign editions, giving us a good laugh at how his titles were translated. On another side of the room was a collection of awards, con badges, artwork, appreciations of his work and so on. In one small corner sat his desk and typewriter. That's where all the work comes from. We then climbed down rather shakily with *Jim* telling us that there wasn't far to fall. This was certainly true for him as he simply put one foot onto the ladder and the other onto the floor.

Jim and *Peggy* are warm, friendly, approachable people — so at Albacon go up to *Jim* and introduce yourself to his knees. Gradually you'll get to know the rest of him too. □

Bruce Saville

THE ALBACON FILMS

One of the popular events at Albacon (I) was the film programme, especially the late night portion, which continued well into the morning (9 a.m. on one occasion) and was open to requests. Fear not, this practice will continue at Albacon II. For our film programme we have the most successful elements of Faircon's film programme and put it on a larger scale. Our aim is something for everyone, thus we have classic SF films side by side with very bad films, thought-provoking suspense with comedy, grand scale SF with non-SF films. The following list has details of the films which have been confirmed.

THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD — The

Howard Hawks film full of much quoted lines
MAROONED — Much seen on TV, now see it in Cinemascope

VOYAGE TO THE END OF THE UNIVERSE —

The ripped off Russian film with American story. Marvellously bad

METROPOLIS — The great silent film by Fritz Lang

CABINET OF CALIGARI — The strange silent impressionist horror film

PYJAMA PARTY — A terrible 60's teenager alien movie

THE LOST CONTINENT — Not the Hammer one. This stars Cesare Romero

APOCALYPSE NOW — Visually stunning movie with Marlon Brando hamming the end

SHOCK TREATMENT — For all the Rocky Horror fans

TIME AFTER TIME — A lovely Victorian romance in modern San Francisco

WELCOME TO BLOOD CITY — Is it a Western? Is it SF? Come and decide

PHANTOM OF THE PARADISE — Marvellous comedy/musical of the Faust legend

A MAN CALLED FLINTSTONE — This year's animated feature film

TALES OF TERROR — Vincent Price, Peter Lorre, Basil Rathbone in a Poe/Corman trilogy.

As well as these we will have shorts like "Hardware Wars" and "Porklips Now". Plus oddities like an episode from the 50's TV show of Flash Gordon. While we have all this we are on the lookout for more. If you have anything of interest like a Gerry Anderson production on film, a silent copy of 1923 "The Lost World", trailers of SF/horror, extracts of 50's films, etc. . . . in short anything you think would be of interest whether on 8 mm, 16 mm or video, we'd like to hear from you. Write to me *Bruce Saville*, c/o the Albacon address.

Bruce Saville



THE COMEDY

– an appreciation
Tanith Lee
 by Nick Lowe

"Let's try a few simple spells. Repeat after me:

*Ernal pernal dippily dock,
 I should like to be a clock.
 Humple, duple, filigree forry,
 Make it snappy or you'll be sorry."*

And Hey Presto! Girdle vanished, and there was a fat clock with a round face, cheerfully ticking. Hynchatti was delighted.

"I'll try," she said, but somehow she couldn't quite remember the spell. What she said was this:

*"Ernie pernie dimilly dick,
 I should like to be a click — oh dear, that's not quite right —
 Himble pimple, funnily filly,
 Make it snappy or you'll look silly."*

There was a terrible bang. The broomstick fell on the floor and the cauldron shot up the chimney. When the smoke cleared, there stood Girdle, quite astonished, and on the floor was a very small Hynchatti, ticking away loudly.

– **Princess Hynchatti.**

A white light sailed high; he looked up at it, thinking to see the moon, but saw instead a pearly skull set in the sky, grinning, ribboning worms of clouds threading its eye-sockets.

– **Companions on the Road.**

OF BONE

on of

I wonder if anyone really survives unchanged the shock of entering fandom and discovering most SF writers are just like their Dad. As a boy, I used to know all about science fiction authors. Whether by habit or design, Langside District Library always used to lop off the bit of the dust-jacket with the author's picture, but I didn't need that to tell me what they looked like. They were always in their early thirties, tall and debonair, smoothly good-looking with only a telltale wicked twinkle in the eye to distinguish them from, say, Paul McCartney or the Man from Uncle. Even the awareness that some of these people had been writing for a matter of decades never clouded the image. Authors had to be larger than their books, and the books were larger than life: the conclusion was incontestable. I think my pleasure in SF diminished irreversibly with the appalling discovery that the gods wore specs, that their hair was vanishing, above all that they tended to be a trifle more, well, mature than I'd imagined them. Those books had been written by *people*. Just people.

Even so, I find the habit of thought hard to shake. In 1976 I encountered an astonishing short story called "**The Demoness**" by a writer with the richly-evocative name of *Tanith Lee*. It was the sort of story you inhale like drugged mist, turning your spine to fire and ice and back to bone in a dozen magical pages, and all the other fantasy you've read that year to dust-flavoured dross. Within weeks I'd hunted down everything *Tanith Lee* had published, and though I'd never seen her picture I knew just what she was like. She'd be pale, blonde, and devastatingly beautiful, with deep, haunting gipsy eyes and a hint of cool vampiric enchantment. At the same time, I knew this was just romantic fancy, and that in all probability her real name was *Doreen Potts* and her true identity a retired shipping clerk from Bristol or an owlish geography teacher in Saffron Walden. It didn't matter, by this stage. She still wrote like a magician, no two books remotely alike, yet each able to snare the sceptical reader in an irresistible web of story by turns violent, lyrical, hilarious, intense, tragic, erotic, ridiculous. That should be enough.

All the same, I was right the first time.

The quotations heading this piece are both from

early works. **Princess Hynchatti and Some Other Surprises** was *Tanith's* second book, a collection of witty, inventive, exquisite fairy stories, now lamentably out of print. (Like a berk, I had to go and read it, the first time, in a university library. By page three I had to run out of the room with my tongue wedged between my teeth and my face purple with suppressed giggles.) **Companions on the Road** was published around the same time as **The Birthgrave**, but was written much earlier — not that you could tell that from the assured writing, chilling dance of images, and brilliantly sustained atmosphere of dread. At the time, it seemed incredible to me that the same author could have penned both, let alone the bloody, passionate **Birthgrave** and the scintillating SF romp **Don't Bite the Sun**.

But then *Tanith Lee* is an extraordinarily versatile talent. In the eight years since her first Daw novels swept through the stale, cobwebby air of mid-seventies SF like a gust of spring breeze, she's produced accomplished, strikingly original work in fantasy and SF, for adults and kids, on radio and TV, besides moonlighting on the score for at least one of her radio plays and the frontispieces to her recent novels. And she's prolific, too: in one astounding 14-month burst in 1978-79 she published five novels totalling almost half a million words, or about the length of **The Lord of the Rings**. A skilled hack writer might equal or exceed this figure; but these were five good books, among them the fabulous tour de force of magical storytelling **Night's Master** and its strange, brooding sequel **Death's Master**: perhaps her finest novels to date, and among the fantasy landmarks of the decade. I doubt there's an SF author past or present who's matched *Tanith's* combined record for range, output, and quality. And none of the three shows any sign of relenting.

All the same, even in this enviable diversity of production there are recurring points of style, theme, and imagination that drench every page of her writing with the addictive *Lee* flavour; and even in those early quotations you can see qualities which are going to distinguish all her subsequent work.

Most obviously, the first passage is funny, and the second is sombre. These two voices weave in and out, and around one another throughout her later writing, and her most original and affecting books are those in which the two strains carry on a constant, unpredictable flirtation. **Don't Bite the Sun** and its sequel, **Drinking Sapphire Wine** is, most of the time, a glorious comic joyride through a glittering blizzard of invention, with new delights popping off like fireworks faster than you can blink them away.

But what makes it one of the decade's outstanding SF novels is the descent into deadly seriousness as the story unfolds, and the moments of sudden, intolerable pain and despair interlarded with the highjinks. Marvellous though the sequel is, the final happy ending rather blunts the stab at the end of the original novel, and I'd rather it were possible for people to read **Don't Bite the Sun** all the way through to that final (literal) question-mark without realising a sequel existed. The emotional power of this tragicomic rollercoaster effect is exploited even more deftly in **Night's Master**, where tales that end in laughter and tales that end in tears are woven together with cruel abandon, so that the reader always knows that the current strand will end in either a shock of blood or a burst of joy, but never knows which till it happens.

Until the recent **Prince on a White Horse**, **Princess Hynchatti** was *Tanith Lee's* last pure comedy; it was also her last pure fairy story. But as with her often bittersweet sense of humour, there are whiffs of traditional story throughout her writing, even when the setting is futuristic (**Sabella**) or historical (**Death is King**). Although it's by now tiresomely traditional in the genre to take traditional legends and give them (ho-hum) a new twist, *Tanith Lee* is, apart from *Angela Carter*, the only author I can think of with enough real imaginative insight into her material to stir new breath in its dry old papery lungs, without it lurching round the story wheezing its guts out. A minor radio play called **Red Wine** is her only descent into the *Unknown*-style yarn of the vampire in modern dress adapting to changed circumstances, and even that manages a great deal more than just the inevitable surprise ending. More typical is the approach of the remarkable **Lycanthia**, an extraordinarily subtle werewolf story that draws out the feral eroticism latent in the myth by weaving it into a fugue with the equally "mythical" themes of the consumptive hero, the decaying, solitary mansion, the still snows of winter and the wild forest beyond. Other legends similarly reanimated are ghosts (**Kill the Dead**), vampires (**Sabella**), witchcraft (**Volkhavaar**), the stories of **Sleeping Beauty** ("Thorns") and the **Odyssey** (**Bitter Gate**). Often the new perspective involves unexpected inside viewpoints, as that of "The Demoness", **Sabella**, Penelope in **Bitter Gate**.

In view of all this, it's little short of outrageous that *Tanith Lee* is still pigeonholed in most people's minds as a sword-&-sorcery writer. Unless you're prepared to stretch the term beyond recognition to encompass books like **Volkhavaar** and **Death's Master**, her work in that genre is confined to the **Birthgrave** trilogy and **The**

Storm Lord (though this has a sequel due): four five-year-old novels in an output of two dozen books, six BBC scripts, and countless short stories still to be collected. And while these four are rather superior specimens of the type — you only have to compare the **Birthgrave** set with *Jane Gaskell's* *Atlan* series that inspired it to appreciate the incomparably better writing, storytelling, and sheer vim of the *Lee* books — I wouldn't say they were anywhere near her best, far less more characteristic, work. They may be the best selling, but that's another matter. You might as well characterise her as a mainstream SF author because six of her books are straight science fiction; or a children's author, because nine books have been marketed as various shades of juvenile; or even a gothic writer, on the strength of **The Castle of Dark**, **Death is King**, and **Prince on a White Horse**. Wilful misrepresentation can cram the motleyest genius into categories if you just push hard enough.

If there's a unity, in fact, to be found in the amazingly diverse *Lee oeuvre*, it's not in what she writes but in how she writes it. You couldn't mistake the authorship of that second quotation, unless perhaps the last phrase had been lopped off. *Tanith Lee's* visual imagination is miraculously fertile, building vivid and haunting images out of a repertory of very spare, stark elements that recur in freshly impressive conjunctions all through her writing: blood, bone, ice, dust, fire, stone, and raw dead colours like black, red, grey, yellow, white. (She seems to have got over an early thing about volcanoes.) In **Death**, in fact, is a pervasive presence in her imagery and her themes — Not the hack-blood-spurt-twitch sword-&-sorcery death, but the dust-dry grey **Death** who stalks silently through the world choking up the wells of life. At least four stories feature **Death** as a leading player, and his odour lingers in many others. And yet these tend, paradoxically, to be the most optimistic stories, with **Death** cuckolded at last if only for a time.

This, for me, is what makes *Tanith Lee* such an incomparably rewarding person to read. I can't think of any one else in the field who communicates so infectiously a feeling being in love with life and in love with writing, though *Brian Aldiss* and *E.R. Eddison* come, in their very different ways, somewhere close. Add to this that she's every bit as captivating in real life as on paper, with more sheer charisma in one twitch of her eyebrow than the entire Albacon committee, cast of **Blake's 7**, and Scottish First Division rolled (perish forbid!) into one.

Albacon II is proud to welcome SF's only **real** author (apart from *J. White*, to be sure) as our Special Guest. She's wasted on the English. □

HOTEL

The Central Hotel is now full (we warned you!) All hotel bookings should still be sent to Central, who will pass them to their sister hotel, the North British, which is our overflow (same rates, 5 blocks away). A list is being kept of those just failing to get into the Central and in the event of cancellations a place at the Central will be offered to them. Hotel rates are:

Single Room (without bath)	£12.50
Single Room with shower	£15.00
Single Room with bath	£15.00
Double Room (without bath)	£10.00
(each sharing)	
Double Room with bath	£14.00
(each sharing)	
Twin Room (without bath)	£10.00
(each sharing)	
Twin Room with bath	£12.50
(each sharing)	
Triple Room (without bath)	£9.00
(each sharing)	
Triple Room — as Twin with bath —	
3rd person stays free,	
pays for breakfast	£4.00

Hotel Bookings should be forwarded direct to the Central Hotel which has its postal address:

The Central Hotel,
Gordon Street, Glasgow G1 3SF.
Tel. (041) 221 9680

Fancy Dress • Vagon Poetry

The Fancy Dress competition will take place on the Saturday evening. Entry will be strictly in advance — all would be contestants must notify me by 5 p.m. on the day of the competition. Any special requirements must be given in advance of the con. Safety is a prime concern of any con committee and details of our safety measures will appear in PR3.

Providing that we can get insurance cover there will be Vagon Poetry on the programme, although it remains to be decided whether it will take the form of a competition or a compenion. But it will be there! Entry as usual will be informal, with anyone sufficiently brave/stupid/suicidal/drunks simply standing in front of the audience and reading their poetic gems. For those not quite that brave/stupid/suicidal/drunks a poetry reading service will be available. Unless we get lots of letters assuring us that you all know what Vagon Poetry is we'll print an example in the next PR.

BANQUET

Over the years numbers attending the banquet have been falling. The reason appears to be poor

quality food at inflated prices and so we have arranged something different. A banquet with GOOD food at REASONABLE prices!

The food comes from the kitchens of the Malmaison, the Central's renowned restaurant. Need more be said? A special low price of £8 per person (inc. VAT) has been agreed, but numbers will be limited. Tickets are bookable in advance, simply send a £2 deposit (non-returnable) to Albacon (s.a.e. for receipt).

The banquet will take place on Sunday evening on the Alternative Programme (Destination Moon will probably be on the Main Programme) and awards will be presented at it. □

BANQUET MENU £8.00

Pate du Chef

Cock-a-Leekie Soup

Roast Sirloin of Angus Beef Bordelaise

French Garden Peas

Sweetened Carrots

Parsley Potatoes

Baked Alaska with Fruits

Coffee and Cream

Chocolate Mints

Vegetarian Menu £8.00

Grapefruit and Mandarin Cocktail

Cheese Tartlet with Salad Vinegarette

Vegetable Nut Roast Baked in Pastry Case

French Garden Peas

Sweetened Carrots

Parsley Potatoes

Baked Alaska with Fruits

Coffee and Cream

Chocolate Mints

Please note the vegetarian menu is only available to those who book in advance.

Frances J. Nelson

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMME

The Alternative Programme will, I hope, be one of the most memorable events of Albacon II. We will try to cover some new ground (some novel ideas are floating around) as well as the 'traditional' type events. University Challenge (my style) will once again appear, details below.

Any suggestions and participation will be welcome. Please send your offers of assistance to the Albacon address — before you get drafted by our team of organisers!

University Challenge

Because of everyone's ~~complaints~~ compliments on the previous (Faircon) University Challenge, there *WILL* be a Uni-Challenge at Albacon II, reflecting the 'traditional' questions set at Faircon '81 (but not the same). If you feel sadistic you can send in questions; if they are very ~~difficult~~ reasonable then they may be used.

The format for entries for Albacon's Uni-Challenge is as follows:— All teams wishing to enter please let us know before 1st January, 1983. If there are more than 8 teams there will be one postal elimination. If there are less than 8 teams the entry date will be extended to the Friday afternoon of Albacon, and only the first 8 teams to register will be entered. □

Henry Balen

CRECHE

As usual the response to having a creche has been totally underwhelming, with one person asking to make use of this facility. If you wish to deposit anyone in it, be they young or old, no discrimination here, let us know. It is no use coming up to us on the first day of the Con and saying "where can I leave little Johnny, while I go and watch Hitch-Hikers Guide to the M1?"

If there is a demand for a Creche then we are also looking for people to look after the deposited offspring. The number of altruistic people who like looking after other peoples' children is not as large as it could be. So there is the likelihood that those who wish to use the Creche will have to take a turn in running it. □

CAR SHARING

The response to car-sharing has been double that of the Creche, i.e. two people have enquired about the service, one possibly offering a lift, and one wishing a lift. Again this is one of the services that you should tell us about before the day, as the committee are far too busy to start phoning around to see if we can find car places for the needy. If people wish to give/or receive lifts then we can put their names and addresses in the Progress Reports, but this will only be done if you ask us to. Otherwise we will try to pair up cars and passengers. □



SCIENCE FICTION FAN?

The British Science Fiction Association is an organisation for anyone interested in SF.

The Association regularly produces:

VECTOR — a journal about SF with reviews, articles, interviews and letters.

MATRIX — a forum for members with news, informal articles and letters.

FOCUS — a writers' workshop magazine with articles, queries and market news.

The Association provides many services, including - the world's largest SF lending library, with over 3000 books; a magazine chain from which all the leading American publications can be borrowed; an SF enquiry service to help in answering your queries on science fiction.

Membership costs only £6 a year, or you can try a sample mailing first, containing Vector, Matrix, etc., for £1 (deductible from cost of membership if you join).

If writers such as Aldiss, Brunner, Clarke, Coney, Cowper, Harrison, Holdstock, LeGuin, Priest, Shaw, Watson and White (to drop a few names) think it's worth being members, perhaps you will, too.

The British Science Fiction Association

Further details from
The Membership Secretary, Sandy Brown
18 Gordon Terrace, Bantyre, G72
Lanarkshire, Scotland

President: Arthur C. Clarke

MEMBERSHIP

Full Attending Membership

to 1 December, 1982	£8.00
to 20 March, 1983	£9.00

Thereafter **£10.00**

Supporting Membership

to 1 December, 1982	£4.00
to 20 March, 1983	£5.00

The Albacon II address is:

ALBACON II
c/o DOUG McCALLUM
B/L 8 HIGHBURGH RD
GLASGOW G12 9YD

All monies should be sent to the address, we cannot accept any responsibility for money sent to any other address.

The memberships are coming along nicely with the number standing at about 264 attending and 48 supporting. Those who have only paid pre-supporting will have their pounds honoured but will not receive any more Progress Reports etc. until they convert to Attending or Supporting.

We will be passing on a list of all member's name and addresses, even those that turn up at the door, to the next Eastercon committee. If you wish to remain anonymous, tell us and we will not pass on any of your details. At the moment only two members of the committee have a list of names and addresses and we will try to keep it this way.

If you have changed your address the only way we can find you is by you telling us.

P.S. We will not tell the hotel who you are sharing your room with on receipt of a deposit of five pounds, in used notes, per sharer. □

Doug McCallum

The following was the membership on the 14/10/82

201 KEVIN	AUSTIN (A)	241 ANDREW	ROSE (A)	281 JIM	BURNS (A)
202 T R	ROBINSON (A)	242 T J	GROOME (A)	282 SIMON	HEACOCK (A)
203 G D	GIBSON (A)	243 MS J	HUNT (S)	283 JON	WHARF (A)
204 MARTIN	TUDOR (A)	244 GORDON G	CUNNINGHAM (S)	284 ANDY	GRANHAM (A)
205 DON	MALCOLM (S)	245 ALEX G	TAYLOR (S)	285 PETE	LYON (A)
206 A	RICHARDSON (A)	246 NEIL	HEPPE (A)	286 KEN	SLATER (A)
207 CLARE	CONY (A)	247 SUSAN	HEPPE (A)	287 JOYCE	BLATER (A)
208 PAUL	DENDINA (A)	248 BRISIO	LOOLING (A)	288 DOUBLAS	GRAY (S)
209 COLIN	WIGHTMAN (A)	249 MARGARET	BANKS (A)	289 DAVE	HARDU (A)
210 ETHEL	LINDSAY (A)	250 JOHN	BRUNNER (A)	290 FRAM	QUITTENDEN (A)
211 LINDA	BAGLEY (S)	251 MARJORIE	BRUNNER (A)	291 ALEX	STEWART (S)
212 GEORGE	TERNANT (S)	252 STEVIE	TURNBULL (A)	292 RICHARD	EDWARDS (A)
213 JAN HOWARD	FINDER (A)	253 JEAN	THOMPSON (A)	293 LESTER	HANNINGTON (A)
214 PAUL	PAOLINI (A)	254 RICKY	TAYLOR (A)	294 JOHN	HOLDORN (S)
215 C N	ENGLAND (A)	255 MARTIN	HATFIELD (A)	295 THOMAS	MCROBERTS (A)
216 MORAG	KERR (A)	256 PAUL	GROOM (A)	296 PETER	THOMPSON (A)
217 GORDON	JOHNSON (A)	257 CHERYL	GROOM (A)	297 JULIAN	HEADLONG (A)
218 MAY	JOHNSON (A)	258 SYLVIA	STARSHINE (A)	298 MADELINE	CAMPBELL (A)
219 ELSIE	DONALD (A)	259 TREVOR	PATTEN (A)	299 ALAN	BLACKLEY (A)
220 DAVID	ELWORTHY (A)	260 H J	HARVIN (A)	300 OWEN	FARKER (A)
221 ALAN	JEFFREY (A)	261 EAMONN J G	PATTON (S)	301 ANDREW	TRAFIELL (A)
222 ANDREW	IRVINE (A)	262 PATRICIA	MACLENNAN (S)	302 MALCOLM	EDWARDS (A)
223 KATHLEEN	GLANCY (A)	263 PAION	BARCLAY (S)	303 BILL	NORRIS (A)
224 DAVE	WESTWOOD (A)	264 DEREK	HEPBURN (S)	304 NIGEL	MAXWELL (A)
225 ANDY	ROBERTSON (A)	265 ANNE	HEPBURN (S)	305 G	MCARTHUR (S)
226 DAVID	BEVAN (S)	266 DAVE	HOLMES (A)	306 SUSAN	ROSE (A)
227 NICK	MILLS (A)	267 MIKE	LLEWELLYN (A)	307 PER	OSTERMAN (A)
228 LAURA	WHEATLEY (A)	268 DAVE	COX (S)	308 BRIAN	PINER (A)
229 MICHAEL	GARVEY (A)	269 DAVID	CLARK (A)	309 RITA	PINER (A)
230 DAVID	BREEN (A)	270 RAY	SHITH (S)	310 CAROLINE	DENPSTER (A)
231 MARK	TURNER (A)	271 B	VEST (A)	311 LES	CHESTER (A)
232 DOUGLAS	REID (S)	272 FRANK V	BARROW (A)	312 JEFF	LIPTON (A)
233 ROY OSCAR	BALGLISH (S)	273 KEVIN	HENWOOD (A)		
234 J	MURKIN (A)	274 ROSS	WALKER (A)		
235 ROB	HANSEN (A)	275 DAVID	CRESSWELL (A)		
236 MIKE	MOIR (A)	276 JAN	VELDHOEN (A)		
237 DEBBY	MOIR (A)	277 PAT	CHARNOCK (A)		
238 SIMON	BOSTOCK (A)	278 VALERIE	PAINE (A)		
239 KIM	WHYSALL (A)	279 ALISON	ELDRED (A)		
240 TONY	HANMOND (A)	280 LES	EDWARDS (A)		

ATTENDING MEMBERS 264
SUPPORTING MEMBERS 48
DAY MEMBERS 0



RA CON

EDINBURGH

FEBRUARY 4th-6th 1983

GUEST OF HONOUR

HARRY HARRISON

FAN ARTIST
GUEST OF HONOUR

PETE LYON

Membership from:-

Chris Anderson

77, Baron's Court TER.

Edinburgh

EH8 7EN

KEN SLATER / EUROCONCAL

If you want your Con to be represented on the next list then write to **Ken Slater, Fantast (Medway) Ltd., 39 West Street, Wisbech, Cambs, PE13 2LX** or tel. (0945) 61242. Why not send him an S.A.E. for his catalogue, too!

1982

Nov 5-7 NOVACON 12 Birmingham (Royal Angus). G.o.H. — Harry Harrison. Details from Novacon 12, Flat No.2, No.1 Broughton Road, Handsworth, BIRMINGHAM B20.

Nov 27-28 CYMRUCON II Cardiff (Central Hotel). Guests — Lionel Fanthorpe, Dez Skinn, Ian Watson, etc. Attending membership £7.00. Registrations Cymrucon, 28 Claude Road, Roath, CARDIFF.

Dec 14-16 SANTACON (Star Trek/Media/Humour) Leeds (Dragonara Hotel). Details from Santacon, c/o Chris Hinchley, 10 Langford Road, Heaton Chapel, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 5BR.

1983

Feb 4-6 RA CON Edinburgh (Grosvenor Centre

Hotel). G.o.H. — Harry Harrison. F.G.o.H. — Pete Lyon. Attending Membership £8.00. Supporting £4.00. Membership Secretary, RA CON, Chris Anderson, 77 Baron's Court Terrace, EDINBURGH EH8 7EN.

May 27-30 SOL III — The 15th Official STAR TREK Convention (Grand Hotel), Birmingham. Guests — James Doohan (Scotty), Walter Koenig (Chekov), Anne McCaffrey, Bob Shaw. Details from the Sol III Convention, 39 Dersingham Avenue, Manor Park, LONDON E12 (enclose S.A.E.)

Jul 29-31 BECCON '83 Basildon (Essex Crest Hotel). Attending Membership £7.00. Supporting £3.00. Details from The Becon Committee, c/o 191 The Heights, Northolt, Middx. UB5 4BU.

Sep 1-5 CONSTELLATION (41st World SF Convention) Baltimore (Convention Centre). G.o.H. — John Brunner. F.G.o.H. — David Kyle. Supporting \$10 till 31/12. Attending \$30 till 31/12. Constellation, Box 1046, Baltimore, Maryland 21203, U.S.A.

Sep 2-4 X-CON (Beneluxcon) Attending Membership £7.15. Supporting £3.30. Contact Ken Slater for further details.

Sep 2-4 UNICON 4 Colchester (U. of Essex). F.G.o.H. — Ken Slater. Special Guest — Garry Kilworth. Attending Membership £5.00 (£6.00 from January). Supporting Membership £3.00.

Sep 17-18 THE CON WITH NO NAME Leeds (Dragonara Hotel). Attending Membership £10. C/o 111 Chesnut Grove, Conisborough, South Yorks. (Star Trek?)

Sep 23-25 INVENTION Glasgow (Central Hotel). G.o.H. — Chris Boyce. F.G.o.H. — Jim Barker. Attending Membership £9 (till Easter 1983). Supporting Membership £5. Queries to V.J. Docherty, 20 Hillington Gardens, Cardonald, GLASGOW G52. Memberships to Kevin Henwood, 10 Woodlands Gardens, Bothwell, Glasgow G71 8NU.

Nov 11-13 ORWELLCON '83 Antwerp (University). G.o.H. — Anthony Burgess. Details from A. Vermeghenlon 21, Bus 20 B-2050, Antwerpen, Belgium.

1984

EASTERCON. Two bids so far; the Blackpool bid — 28 Duckett Road, London N4 1BN and the Brighton bid — 39 Hollybrow, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 4LX. Both offer pre supporting membership at £1.00.

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