PARAGON 2001

The Acme Intelligencer

"primus inter pares"

Issue No. 1 Friday afternoon

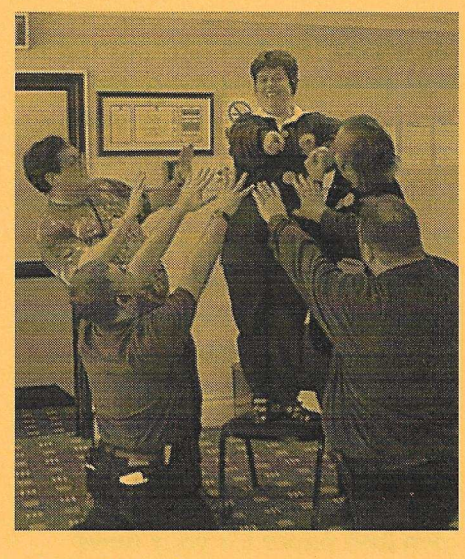
Even Sabine is Not Perfect
Panellists on "The Future Sucks – SF Vampires" tonight please note it starts at *21:00* not *21:30* as it may state on your participant information.

Short Fiction Showcase
The Peter T Garratt-organised ring of short fiction readings will take place in the Paris, today *16:30* (after the Opening Ceremony). It will feature Steve Baxter, Molly Brown, Keith Brooke*, Deirdre Counihan, Roy Gray, Alastair Reynolds*, Elizabeth Counihan (*subject to arrival time).

Readings may also be arranged in the Rotunda later in the con.

Give Us All Your Money
There will be an auction on behalf of the United Fan Funds (that is, the usual round-up of likely fannish causes), after tonight's TAFF vs. GUFF quiz in the Fanroom (Lakeside). Which means 11ish, I understand. Come along and bid on a range of interesting, valuable, or just plain weird stuff. If you have stuff for auction, please take it, clearly labelled, to the Fanroom.
Alison Scott

Restaurant Report (Actually a Pub)
The Axe and Compasses at Wolvey is a busy country pub. The food is served in fan-sized portions on trenchers – it reaches the edge. There is a good range of food for vegetarians as well. The child portions are bigger and cheaper than many "adult portions" served elsewhere. The children's menu is far better than most. The prices range from very reasonable to very cheap and the quality is very good. There is a good selection of real ale available.
The Rosenblum Family



Ayesha Alice says - "You Will Have Fun ..."

Fanroom Manual Ebay
A low-tech, almost hektographic, copy of the most fabulous feature of the Webble, the Fanroom Manual Ebay is a slow-time auction in which you simply enter your bids on a form (the screen equivalent) and if successful, collect your chosen item later that same day.

We've got books, fanzines, artwork, all sorts of other fascinating discards from various fans' attics and sheds. Some of it really good. Come and have a look anyway – you never know...

2003 Eastercon Bid Session
The Bid Session for Eastercon 2003 is at *16:00* on Sunday. As of lunchtime Friday, we have not heard of any potential bids for that Eastercon. If anybody has plans or would be interested in mounting a bid, could they please contact the bid session Chair, Pat McMurray.

We will not consider a spoof bid, unless there is also at least one serious bid. If there is no bid, there will still be a bid session, where we will discuss future plans. The most likely outcome of there not being a bid, is that the decision would be deferred until next year at the Eastercon in Jersey, but we would need to make sure this was our best option.
Pat McMurray

The hotel seems to have run out of pillows! If you can't survive on just one pillow, tough! *Pillow Talker*

Restaurant Report (Not a Pub)
The Harvester just past the roundabout on the A5 (on the way into Hinckley) says it will be open over the Easter weekend. Prices around £6 - £12. The food was OK – though we ordered a rare steak and the inside was cold (but they did offer to scorch a new one).
Alex McLintock

Doc Weir Award
The voting slips for the Doc Weir Award are not in your membership pack like what it says in the ReadMe. They are in fact available from the Fanroom, and must be returned there rather than to Registration. You must put a name and badge number on your vote, so if you intend to vote early and often you must get other people to do it for you.

Stop this Cyber Filth!
We have been told the controversial 'Heavy Metal Ostragoth' rock band 'Iron Feetüs' have been booked to "present" this year's *Beyond Cyberdrome* event. This is an outrage! Do the idiots in power not realize that this is a popular event for children and young women? Have they gone mad? Do we have to subject our impressionable and innocent fans to this open sewer of filth & loud 'music'?!

The *Acme Intelligencer* understands the 'band' plan to sell their notoriously offensive "Asimov is a C-Nut" T-shirts in this very building! Their manager, Mr. Magnus Greely, said: "They're good lads and they love their mums."

Something MUST be done before we're drowned in a tidal wave of gratuitous noise and vile language! The *AI* says "Iron Feetüs – No!"

See centre pages for 'hot sprockette' action pin-up.

Fanzines For Sale & Giveaway
Lots of fanzines available in the Fanroom in the Lakeside suite, some old, some new, some borrowed (and never given back), some of them actually blue. Many of them free, others at extraordinarily low prices (if you use American auctions as your point of reference they're virtually free!) Come and have a look – it's a vanishing world, some say. If it had four legs and stripes it would be protected.

Boring Baby Announcement
The crèche is running in room 314 all weekend; children under seven are welcome. Hours are *14:00 - 18:00* today, *10:00 -18:00* tomorrow and Sunday, *10:00 - 14:00* on Monday. Parents are encouraged to help out, and it's also quite a nice place to hang around with your kids.
Alison Scott

Have you noticed, lounging around the Rotunda on the ground floor, that there's no room 101 in this hotel?
Dave Lally

Desperately Seeking ...
Now you're reading and enjoying this here your favourite newsletter, please think of us when next you have something interesting to report, be it a panel report, party venue, restaurant recommendation, or some interesting fun you overheard.

We are at the end of 'Paris Street just before you step outside (there's the Art Show down here too). You need to go up the stairs to get to admire the grand view of our ballroom – after the first envious look around, please find the text entry table near the entrance, fully supplied with pen and paper for your news item and put it in the "inbox". (Please don't forget to put your name on it for good measure.)

Prizes for best contributions to the *Intelligencer*, donated by `www.DiverseBooks.com`, awarded at the whim of John Dowd (Acme Pooh-Bah).

Chariot Races are Go!
Tim Kirk points out that the outer rim of the Rotunda is an excellent venue for chariot racing. He, Bazooka and Sparks all have recumbent tricycles with them this weekend, so a few exciting but bloody laps should be no problem. To liven things up a bit, we reckon that we ought to liberate the hotel's hansom cab and add it to the mix. Now, if only we had a bale of hay for the horse. Or a horse.
Alison Scott

Jape broke into a sweat – that's worth reporting!
Hey, a gopher's supposed to do some work, no?
Jan

Smoking
Just a reminder that the con is a smoke-free zone except for the Snooty Fox. But there are areas of the hotel which are not under our control, these include the reception area and the toilets, and the nice little patio at the bottom of the Newsroom stairs.

Transportation Act
Three desolate Dutch guys desperately looking for easy transportation to Birmingham Intl Airport Tuesday morning – contact Larry van der Putte (you know *him*), Jaap Boekestein (lumbering around in the bar) or Jan van't Ent (talk to me in the newsroom).

My laptop is slower than yours. Mine's slower still...
Ben, Bjørn, Vince

And Finally ...
Your intrepid reporter was told that a magic bacon butty mine exited in a layby near to the hotel. Investigations led to the info that it was in a layby on the other side of the M69. An expedition to find this magical site was undertaken in the interests of all fankind. Sadly, as your reporter approached the layby, the bacon butty man drove away. He must have seen me coming!
Wilf James

This edition was produced by the Acme Intelligencer Team - John Dowd (Pooh-Bah), Fran Dowd (Begum), Jan van 't Ent, Wilf James, with the support of Nigel Kennedy, Django Rheinhardt, Josephine Baker and Eva Cassidy. Material supplied by the Rosenblum Family, Greg Pickersgill, Alex McLintock, Alison Scott, Pat McMurray, Dave Lally, SMS.

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The Acme Intelligencer

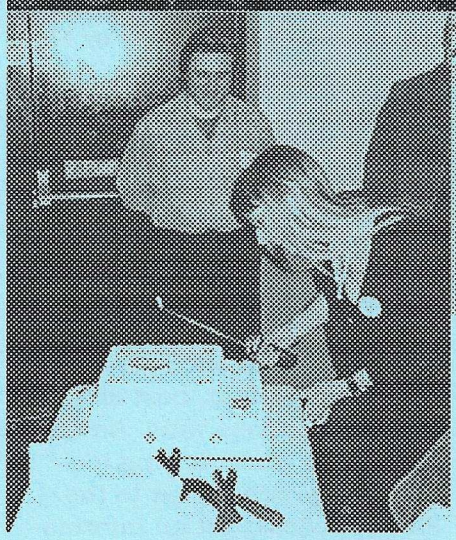
"nulli secundus"

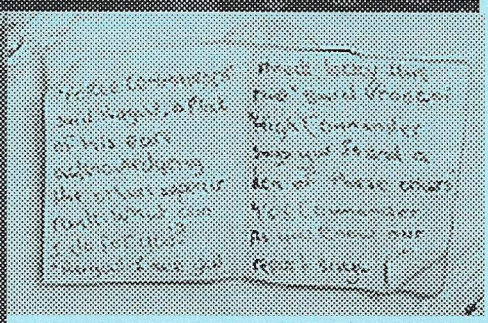
Issue No. 2 Saturday morning

Even Sabine is Not Perfect
The Alternative History panel at *21:00* tonight will feature Pat McMurray in place of Paul Kincaid.
21:00 tonight Westminster The Generic Comedy Panel game moves from Sunday.

Real Ale
A corner of the Snooty Fox has been turned into a Real Ale 500ml Bottle Bar.
Theakston's Best Bitter £2.60, Old Speckled Hen £2.85.

Surprised Guest
Lisanne Norman was successfully ambushed by her 50th Birthday Party last night.
It was organised by Sherrie Powell, with co-conspirators Daw (publishers), Marianne Hollingsworth (the Sholan Alliance fanclub), Pauline and Chris Morgan. The cake was decorated by Ina Shorrock, and cut with a Japanese ceremonial blade donated by Kevin Anderson. Carol Morton created the stained-glass effect card. John Meaney and Dave Hardy presented Lisanne with an original Jim Burns of the coverart for her latest book, *Stronghold Rising*.





Lisanne is made to eat her words

Sir Arthur C Clarke card
This being the 2001 Eastercon, Head of Video (Dave Lally – 'DJL') has arranged for an unusual card to be sent to ACC in Sri Lanka – posted airmail from Hinckley (Tuesday am) just after the con ends.

It is hoped to get as many attendees as possible here (including Paragon's Guests, Committee and Staff) to sign it (and to put a *short* – and we mean short – message as well).
So if you would like to put your moniker on it, the card will be at the Octocon con table (in the dealers' room) Saturday, and the Fantastika con table (in the Rotunda) Sunday. [The people on the tables will also mention their wonderful cons, of which DJL is UK agent, but you're not obliged to sign up.]
After *18:00*, or Monday, see DJL himself (watch out for the distinctive *Prisoner*-style boater) anywhere at the con (or in the video room).
Dave Lally

Fanroom Competition
You, yes, YOU, have been chosen from all the convention attendees from your home town to participate in the Fanroom competition. At various times during the convention up to Sunday evening there will be a question posted in the Fanroom (Lakeside). When you have the answers to all five questions, write them on a piece of paper along with your name and convention number, and you could be the lucky winner of a Ford Orion, a lifetime subscription to *Reader's Digest* or a £20 book token.

Notes: Only one of these prizes will apply. All decisions are final. You are only human. We are in charge.

It's Not All In the Wrist
For those missing their Friday night Buffy fix, Alex the Whipman proved an adequate Spike substitute. Much leather, yum. He unerringly picked Heidi for his demo victim, although he was critical of her handcuffs as not being up to the heavier styles of fun. Disgruntled mumblings were heard from the truly macho in the audience at the revelation that bullwhips prefer limp-wristed handling. Calls for trainees from the audience brought forth Mic Rogers, who strutted her stuff, cracking away and demonstrating a surprisingly encyclopaedic knowledge of Whips of the World. Lovely stuff, can we have that again please with whipped cream and chocolate sprinkles.
Acme Begum

Attention Reviewers
`www.DiverseBooks.com` is giving away classic sf-books over the weekend if you promise to write a review for the website. Find Alex McLintock sometime before Tuesday.

Paper Tiger
The Paper Tiger Art Award – for best single piece of work in the Art Show – will be judged by Michael Scott Rohan, Dick Jude and Chris Bell. The winner will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on Sunday evening. Visit the Art Show and see what the competition's like!
Tanya Brown, Paper Tiger Art Award Administrator

Fan to be switched on before fires are lit.

Restaurant Recommendation
Alho Mondo, 26 The Borough. Italian and English Cuisine, particularly the chicken stuffed with prawns in lobster sauce. Main course around £13.95. A few tables left after *19:30* Saturday night – booking *essential*, phone number 619259. Once again, closed on Sunday and Monday.
John Richards

But Unfortunately ...
We've had several recommendations and reviews of Barnacles Restaurant across the road, but our latest info is that it is fully booked for Saturday night and will not open on Sunday or Monday.

Now you've made Alison Scott an orphan. *Acme Pooh-Bah*

Quiz Gunfights
Almost as intriguing as it sounds – Quiz Gunfights are a series of one-to-one quiz duels, fastest finger first, best of twenty questions wins. And wins something worth having too. Genuine prizes. Come to the Fanroom desk, get an information sheet, enter, and show us your massive stefnal extra-brain. The long walk down the dusty street starts in the Fanroom tonight at *22:00*.

5 Reasons to Watch *Princess Mononoke*
1. It was the biggest grossing film in Japan until "*Titanic*".
2. It's the biggest grossing Japanese film of all time.
3. Neil Gaiman wrote the final translation.
4. Disney own the distribution rights outside of Asia, but won't release it over here.
5. It's better than anything Disney have done in the last ten years.
(The last two may possibly be connected somehow...)
(Video Room, today *17:30*)

How much is that dragon in the window?

GUFF
First chapters in the GUFF Trip saga are already on the web at: `pshphi.server101.com/guff/` The site also features an e-mail auction and details of other ways to donate.
Eric Lindsay

More Pillow Talk
Dear Pillow Talker, no need to be tough. Simply fold some clothes and pile them under the single very thin pillow.
Pillow-and-folded-coat Talker
And what smothering Pillow Talkers and pillow fights then?
AI

Fan Art Catalog
Of interest to fan publishers looking for fan art: Thomas Recktenwald has a huge catalog available with illustrations by some thirty fan artists from all over the world for your perusal. Come talk to him at the *UKin05* table in the Rotunda Saturday *15:00* or Sunday noon.

Parallelocon
Will the Parallelocon Committee please step forward, Alice wants to recruit you for her next convention.

This edition was produced by the Acme Intelligencer Team - John Dowd (Pooh-Bah), Fran Dowd (Begum), Jan van 't Ent, Wilf James, ½R, with the support of Nelson Eddy & Jeanette MacDonald, Django Rheinhardt. Material supplied by Greg Pickersgill, Alex McLintock, the Stratmanns, John Richards, Dave Lally, Eric Lindsay, Tanya Brown.

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The Acme Intelligencer

"stat magni nominis umbra"

Issue No. 5 Sunday morning

The Masquerade
Death of a Dandy (Andrew Adams, Andrew Patton, Tom Nansen) were judged most beautiful last night. First Steps into Space (M@) had the best audience reaction.

The Acme Begum (left hander) apologises to the junior entrants for not knowing clockwise from anticlockwise.

Giulia de Cesare would like to thank all who worked so hard to make the Masquerade a success. She especially wants to mention the tech crews and back stage people.

Hall Costume Day
Wear your costume today, carry your voting tokens (from your membership pack) and vote. If you have votes after Registration has closed please take them to Ops before *22:00*.

Opinion on the Fireworks
We liked the swirly things with the red and green bits.
Ops (confined in the Ops Room)

Fanroom Competition Update
The first three questions have been posted in the Fanroom and two more will be put up during Sunday along with a tie-breaker because, really, this is just so easy. If you don't know the answer to a question ask someone. If you don't know anyone, ask the person at the Fanroom desk.

Put your answers on a piece of paper and place it in the box that will appear on the Fanroom desk between *18:00* and *20:00* Sunday.

The winner will be announced at the end of Fanzine Fans v Conrunners. and the prize is one of: a £20 book token, a space shuttle trip or a lifetime supply of Moet & Chandon.

(Only one prize to apply, judges' decision is final.)
Catherine MacAulay

DAPPER Search
Dutch-based English-language fan-oriented apa is open for new members. We've American, Belgian, Canadian, Dutch, German and Polish members writing every two (or four) months – now looking to fill out the alphabet again by re-introducing the English, and maybe someone from Finland, Hungary, Ireland and Japan to follow up on that? Contact me at the convention (try the Newsroom) or write later:

Jan van't Ent, Vaalserberg 37, 2905 PM Capelle aan den IJssel, Netherlands, or email:
`vantent@few.eur.nl`

Lisanne Norman Interview
Chris Morgan made the interview feel like a fireside chat that all present could join in.

Lisanne started out as an artist but has always written stories. A kitten that had fallen in a river became the kernel of a series of stories featuring cat-like aliens. Lisanne found and joined ASTRA (the Association in Scotland To Research Astronautics) in Glasgow and started to learn about the scientific basis for SF.

Then she joined the Friends of Kilgore Trout, the Glasgow SF society. She consulted Jack Cohen about her aliens to ensure that they would be scientifically feasible. A family connection with Daw Books in the USA led to her first and subsequent SF novels being published.

Lisanne is also known as an active member of *The Vikings!*, a historical events re-enactment society. Lisanne's back problem restricts her somewhat but she played an active part in the re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings as an archer. Pictures of *The Vikings!* in action are now included in some children's school history books.
Wilf James

Even Sabine is Not Perfect
The Big Engine Party tonight will be in the Westminster, and the "Let's Create our own Convention Sidekick" event will be in Conference 11.