

Skycon

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

Fan Guest of Honour: LEROY KETTLE



Progress Report 2

THE HEATHROW HOTEL

This hotel, situated on the edge of Heathrow Airport, is the biggest, most luxurious and best equipped hotel ever selected for an Eastercon. The con facilities include the Wessex Ballroom, which can seat 550 people and will serve as the main con and banqueting hall; the Windsor Room with a floor area of 1250 square feet will be the book room; the Hanover suite, divided by a sturdy partition into George I and George II, will house the fan room and art show; and, pride of the hotel, the York Videothatre with a capacity of 262 and a wide screen will allow all-day film showing to complement the con hall programming. And, of course, the bars which will house most of the fans for most of the time.

The additional facilities of the Heathrow are more than an Eastercon hotel has had before. A heated swimming pool with an attached bar, a sauna and solarium and a shopping arcade can all be found in the hotel.

The rooms are very well equipped with double or twin beds, bedside radio, and a colour television offering a continuous choice of two first-run feature films as well as normal programmes. Each bedroom has a fully equipped bathroom and shower, and, it says in the brochure, a "versatile personal drinks dispenser". We haven't yet tested the limits of its versatility, but the device is there all right.

All rooms have full air conditioning. One of our committee---Dermot---stayed in the hotel during an exhibition and, feeling hot in his room, turned the air conditioning down to *cold*. He woke in the night shivering, with condensation running down the walls. Unlike some hotels, the Heathrow has air conditioning that works!

And needless to say (though that won't stop us), the Heathrow is fully soundproofed. The aeroplanes, and the traffic on the A4, can be seen but not heard.

You'll also find that at least one of the hotel's restaurants is always open, 24 hours a day.



PROGRAMME: THE STATE OF THE ART

Some programme notions were roughly outlined in Progress Report 1---such star items as the talks from Guest of Honour Robert Sheckley and from Bob Shaw, and such regular institutions as the banquet, fancy dress, book room, art show and quiz. Other panels and special items are in preparation (some, indeed, will remain under our various hats until The Day itself), while the Fan Room continues to fester and to pullulate under the guiding hand of Ian Maule.

We have arranged for the appearance of the *Iridescent Village* disco, which has terrorised the eardrums of all Oxfordshire; big Dermot Dobson will be in charge of this. Dermot is also collecting material for the Auction---send your surplus H.G.Wells first editions or copies of *Hyphen* to him at *41 Boswell Road, Cowley, Oxford*. Or save them up in a cardboard box and bring them with you at Easter.

John and Eve Harvey, meanwhile, are struggling with innumerable film catalogues; we are confident that their efforts will succeed in netting at least a few of the following: *Young Frankenstein*, *The Phantom of the Paradise* (vastly enjoyed by a handful of fans at Silicon and deserving of a wider audience), *Rollerball*, *Rosemary's Baby*, *Silent Running* and *Barbarella*. Also, for light relief, we have ordered such gems as *Billy the Kid vs. Dracula* and the ever-popular *Plan 9 from Outer Space*.

NEWS SECTION

The most important news for British SF fans is that our bid for 1979 has been successful: that year's World Convention will be held in Brighton at the end of summer. The next most important news item is that our very own Kevin Smith is now a qualified accountant. And while you're all still reeling from the shock, here are this year's SF and fannish awards...

HUGO AWARDS

Novel: *Where Late the Sweet Birds Sang* by Kate Wilhelm
Novella (tie): *By Any Other Name* by Spider Robinson
Houston, Houston, Do You Read? by James Tiptree Jr.
Novelette: *The Bicentennial Man* by Isaac Asimov
Short Story: *Tricentennial* by Joe Haldeman
Professional Editor: Ben Bova of *Analog Science Fact/Science Fiction*
Professional Artist: Rick Sternbach
Fanzine: *Science Fiction Review* (once *The Alien Critic*) ed. Dick Geis
Fan Writer (tie): Susan Wood, Dick Geis
Fan Artist: Phil Foglio

John W.Campbell Award for Best New Writer: C.J.Cherryh
J.R.R.Tolkien Award ("Gandalf"): Andre Norton

FAN ACTIVITY ACHIEVEMENT ("FAAN") AWARDS

Best Fan Editor: Rob Jackson of *Maya*
Best Fan Writer: Bob Shaw
Best Fan Artist (Humorous): Harry Bell
Best Fan Artist (Serious): James Shull
Best Letter-of-Comment Writer: Mike Glicksohn
Best Single Issue (tie): *Maya 21, Spanish Inquisition 7/8*

CHECKPOINT FAN POLL (BRITAIN ONLY)

Best British Fanzine: *Wrinkled Shrew*
Best British Fanwriter: Leroy Kettle (*Skycon's Fan Guest of Honour*)
Best British Fan Artist: Harry Bell

(Information from *Suncon Newsletter* and *Checkpoint 83-84*)

ADVERTISING RATES

There still remain two Skycon progress reports, whose intended dates are November 1977 and February 1978. The print runs are, as for this present PR, 600+. Advertisements may be placed in PR3 or PR4 at the rates below---all cheques payable to SKYCON, please.

	<i>full page</i>	<i>half page</i>	<i>quarter page</i>
Professional	£7.00	£4.00	£2.40
Fan or Amateur	£5.00	£3.00	£1.75

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

PR3: November 15th 1977

PR4: February 2nd 1978

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

AMERICAN FANS PLEASE NOTE

Mary Burns (at the SKYCON USA address given on p.2) is our American agent. All cheques sent to this address should be made payable to Mary herself. USA supporting membership costs \$4 and full membership \$9.

Advertisers in the States can send their copy to Mary, at least three weeks before the deadlines given above. The dollar rates for advertising are as follows:

Pro: \$13 full page, \$7.50 half page, \$4.50 quarter page
Fan: \$10, \$6, \$3.50

MISCELLANEOUS

In our next stirring PR, along with the much-heralded booking form, we will be announcing advertising rates for the Convention Booklet itself. This should be a really worthwhile production, with Famous Names writing little-known facts about Robert Sheckley and Infamous Names passing snide comments upon Leroy Kettle, while critics survey the progress or otherwise of science fiction in the various media through 1977, fans reminisce upon the fannish scene, and even our shy, retiring committee is persuaded to reveal nearly all. Some surprise items are also planned, of course...

ART CREDITS

The cover for this PR was drawn by Jocelyn Almond, while the possibly atypical fan upon p.3 is from the loathesomely creative pen of Jon Langford.

EMERGENCY! EMERGENCY!

Well... if it really is an emergency connected with registration or bookings---if, for example, you're a registered member of Skycon but don't receive PR3 by mid-December---then ring Martin and Liese some evening, at Pangbourne (07357) 2875. They may even be in...

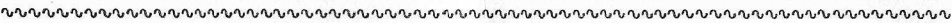


BEGGING AND PLEADING DEPT.

(1) Pamela Boal hopes to fly to New York immediately after Skycon, and (owing to wheelchair problems) needs a travelling companion or two. We'd be glad to hear from anyone intending to make this trip at this time---relevant mail will be forwarded to Pamela.

(2) The harassed Skycon committee reminds fans that it is not possible for us to respond instantly to every query; that it is of no use to request hotel reservations etc. before we send out the booking forms with PR3; and that unless you have a Really Distinctive surname, an initials-and-surname signature upon a letter is quite likely to cause confusion. Please sign correspondence with your full name and (if registered) quote your convention number. Only thus may our nervous and hysterical computer be cajoled into serving its supposed Masters.

(3) The solitary person, who sent in ingenious ideas for the use of the Heathrow's swimming pool, is feeling acutely lonely. There is still time to compete for the Free Attending Membership prize by suggesting a pool use so startling and inane that even the committee has not thought of it...



BOARD WARGAMES

ROLE-PLAYING GAMES

SIMULATIONS RULES

Fantasy

Science Fiction

Games Specialists

a selection:-

Tunnels & Trolls

Buffalo Castle

Tegel Manor

White Bear & Red Moon

Nonad Gods

Elric

Hankmar

Sorcerer

Outreach

Starship Troopers

Stellar Conquest

Starfaring

Godsfire

Ogre

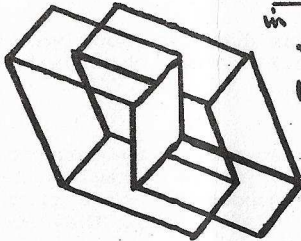
Chitin

- 'Dungeons & Dragons'

- TSR, FGU, F+F, Metagaming, SPI

- Chaosium, Attack, Judge's Guild....

Our catalogue is the most comprehensive in the U.K. Our mail-order team the keenest. s.p. / 2i.r.c.



is

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GU9 8LY.

SUPPORTING MEMBERS, TO DATE

149 L.Hutchinson	184 J.E.Haigh	218 Kathy Sterry
151 Mr Cruttenden	185 Paul Williams	219 Richard J. Smith
152 Wendy Cruttenden	186 Louise Barry	220 Peter Hammerton
153 Jocelyn Almond	187 Ethel Lindsay	221 Anthony Watkins
154 Keith Seddon	188 Ella Parker	222 Ian Barber
155 John Bush	189 Guido Eekhout	223 Ethel T. Buzzard
156 Julia Felton	190 Josaine Cortoos	224 Stephen Wilson
157 Marcus Rowland	191 Joyce Deeming	225 Anders Reuterswärd
158 Rob Carter	192 Dave Cluett	226 Richard Brandshaft
159 Bill Bains	193 Edgar Belka	227 Pam Boal
160 Tim Illingworth	194 Fred Hemmings	228 Derek Boal
161 Margaret Austin	195 Roy Mortimer	229 David Boal
162 Harry Bell	196 Daphne Mortimer	230 Ake Jonsson
163 Richard McMahon	197 Paul Parsons	231 Dave Raggett
164 T. Pickard	198 Louise Talbott	232 Milton Strain
165 Josh Kirby	199 Mike Skelding	233 Charlie Stradley
166 Paul Kincaid	200 Heather Woodeson	234 Mark Knight
167 John Brosnan	201 Margaret Draper	235 I. Newman
168 Jorgen Forsberg	202 S.C. Hatch	236 Norman Finlay
169 David Symes	203 Judy Blish	237 Gabriel Stein
170 Fay Symes	204 Takis Nikolaou	238 Henry Skoglund
171 Douglas Hill	205 J.C.G. Lesurf	239 Ylva Spangberg
172 Michael Hill	206 Derek Hepburn	240 Don Rogers
173 Norman Weedall	207 T.R. Robinson	241 Mic Rogers
174 Kev Easthope	208 Alan Farmer	242 Steve Lovett
175 Martin Stallard	209 Andrew Chapman	243 Peter Weston
176 Mark Woodward	210 Flo Russell	244 Chris Jordan
177 Maxim Jakubowski	211 Miss P.A. Thomas	245 Brenda Piper
178 Andrew Richards	212 Tim Broadribb	246 David Williams
179 Tim Denton	213 Samantha Broadribb	247 Elric Williams
180 Cherry Wilder	214 Don Wollheim	248 David Wilkinson
181 Paul Paolini	215 Elsie Wollheim	249 Alison Lowe
182 Stephen Gould	216 Marion Z. Bradley	250 Jackie Wright
183 Jennifer Marsh	217 Neil Thompson	251 Harry Harrison

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

If you have changed your address since registering for Skycon, please complete the little form below and send it to the Skycon address (see page 2 for USA address).

FULL NAME _____

CONVENTION NUMBER _____

NEW ADDRESS (BLOCK LETTERS, PLEASE) _____



Gollancz



Recently published

Michael Bishop
STOLEN FACES

Algis Budrys
MICHAELMAS

Bob Shaw
WHO GOES HERE?

Robert Silverberg
DOWNWARD TO THE
EARTH

William Tenn
OF MEN AND MOUNTAINS

Ian Watson
ALIEN EMBASSY

To be published shortly

Alfred Bester
STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT

**Gregory Benford &
Gordon Eklund**
IF THE STARS ARE GODS

Algis Budrys
ROGUE MOON

Philip K. Dick
A SCANNER DARKLY

George R. R. Martin
DYING OF THE LIGHT

Robert Silverberg
CAPRICORN GAMES