

Contricks & Contraptions

During the convention you will have been handed a scurrilous rag calling itself "Confacts & ConFictions". DO NOT BELIEVE THIS LACKEY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT.

Contricks and Contraptions brings you the real stories behind Confiction - the names, the feuds, the facts (well, some of them are facts) and fallacies.

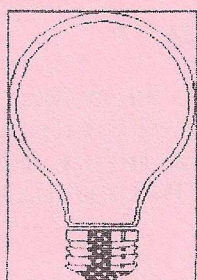


Foreign Affairs

Did you know that there are more Czech fans than French fans attending Confiction.

Robert, the Friends of Foundation collecting beast, has collected more East German coins than American ones.

We liked the Hawaii bid - it was as slick as a parrot!



Light Relief

Illuminating reports from our switched-on reporters round the Con have reached the ohm front. We bring you the shocking news on current events and really socket to you.

How many Gophers does it take to change a lightbulb?

Three - one to go into town to buy the bulb (and go back again to change it for the right one), one to change it, and one to translate between the other two.

How many Ops staff?

Two - one to change the bulb, and one to claim the ribbons for doing it.

How many Tech Ops?

None - They are all out watching the fireworks.

How many Committee?

Mijn luchtwagen zit vol met paling.

Photographers?

only one, and it will be changed in a flash.

Hawaii bid committee?

Two - one to change the bulb and one to fill the ceiling with brightly coloured parrots.

Tribbleshooters?

Two - Rob Muizert to hold the lightbulb, Chris Cooper to rotate the Congresgebouw.



Around The Convention

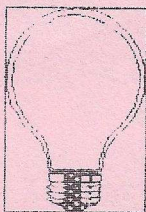
Did you hear that Ad-hoc Repro was out of action for half a day because they forgot to remove the sealing strip from the new toner cartridge.

Congresgebouw staff have been observed using the Voodoo Board.

One of the Committee has just bought a pair of clogs. We know you need durable shoes for conrunning, but this is ridiculous.

Tech Ops seem to have been confused by the safe sex panel - they were trying to inflate a prophylactic with helium. Unfortunately they could not raise enough pressure, so I guess it's back to the gaffer tape again.

Dutch television apparently interviewed soft toy fandom. If true this portrays us as even weirder than those in the fourth estate who ignore anything but costume fandom.



How many USSG members does it take to change a lightbulb?

one to change the light bulb, the rest to organise a party to celebrate

WSFS Members?

one to propose the change, one to second it, and a majority of the next Worldcon to ratify the amendment.

Store managers?

Five
one to get the authority,
one to fill in the form,
one to look for it,
one to deny it was ever delivered,
one to find it later in Registration.

PS. the lightbulb never was changed.

Stewards?

None - KIM hasn't given the lightbulb permission to go off duty.

Programme Oops?

That information will appear at a later time in another publication.

Projectionists?

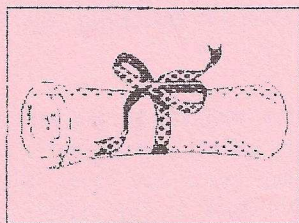
none, they spend all their time in the dark.

Green Room?

Two - one to call Tech Ops, and one to mix the martinis.

Dealers?

It depends what exchange rate you're offering.



Fannish Quiz

Test your fannishness with our multiple choice quiz. Are you Peter Weston, or should you go to the fanroom, go

directly to the fanroom, do not collect 200 fanzines?

I. Is Corflu:

- A. An island in the Mediterranean?
- B. A stencil corrector?
- C. A virus infection?

II. On meeting the guest of honour should you:

- A. Say how much you admire their books, grovel grovel.
- B. Carefully explain where they went wrong in their characterisation, and how their hero is actually Dr Who.
- C. Buy them a drink?

III. On arriving at the Con, do you head straight for;

- A. The Programme,
- B. The Bar
- C. The Bar (hint)?

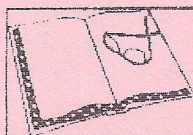
IV. Does SFWA stand for;

- A. An antisocial disease,
- B. The intellectual retreat of our most famous writers,
- C. An impossible place to scrounge a drink?

V. What would you do with Verguuz?

- A. Welcome it to the planet,
- B. Drink it.
- C. Treat it with penicillin?

Answers available from your nearest truefan.



Book Ends

On touring the Dealers Room, our intrepid reporters have observed a number of unusual bargains. Instead of the price being reduced, it is the titles that have been cut down!

Brian Aldiss - 500,000 Year Spree.

Tim Powers - Lunch at Deviants Palace.

Jules Verne 20,000 Milen unter den Zee (this is a Nautilus exhibition on the pier - tacky, tasteless, and very amusing).

Van het concert des levens, krijgt niemand een program.

(In the concert of life, no-one gets a programme).

This publication brought to you courtesy of A. Nony House, with the aid of Greyscale publications.

We would like to be able to thank all our contributors, but most of them gaffiated as soon as they saw the proofs.

Contricks &

CONTRAPTIONS 2

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September 1990

EVENT HORIZON

Signings

- 21 Sept Joe R. Lansdown signing *DEAD IN THE WEST* At Forbidden Planet 6 → 7 pm
- 22 Sept Ramsey Campbell signing *MIDNIGHT SUN* At Forbidden Planet 1 → 2 pm
- 22 Sept William Gibson & Bruce Sterling signing *THE DIFFERENCE ENGINE*
At Forbidden Planet 1 → 2 pm
(There will also be a signing on the 22'nd at Fantasy Inn with William Gibson)
- 22 Sept Iain M. Banks signing *THE USE OF WEAPONS* At Forbidden Planet 1 → 2 pm
- 29 Sept Clive Barker, Murray Close, John Gilbert, Stephen Jones, Les Edwards,
Mark Salisbury, Geoff Fortass, Little John and Simon Sayce
signing *THE NIGHTBREED CHRONICLES*
At Forbidden Planet 1 → 3 pm

CONFICTION HUGOS

Novel	<i>HYPERION</i>	Dan Simmons
Novella	<i>The Mountains of Mourning</i>	Louis McMaster Bujold
Novellette	<i>Enter a soldier, Later: enter another</i>	Robert Silverberg
Short Story	<i>Books</i>	Tracy McKee Chamas
Non-Fiction	<i>THE WORLD BEYOND THE HILL</i>	Alexei and Cory Panshin
Professional Editor	Gardner Dozois	
Dramatic Presentation	<i>Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade</i>	
Semiprozine	<i>Locus</i>	
Fanzine	<i>The Mad 3 Party</i>	Leslie Turek
Professional Artist	Don Maitz	
Fan Writer	Dave Langford	
Fan Artist	Stu Shiffman	

Other awards

John W. Campbell
Original Artwork

Kristine Kathryn Rusch
RIMRUNNERS cover

Don Maitz

CONFICTION - DANK U WELL

I think the con actually happened, but somehow I feel it was another run through and we haven't done it for real yet! On balance I wish I was right because I enjoyed it so much I'd like to go to it all over again (although I would like a chance to get some sleep first)..

Overall a great success for the Dutch and for Kees van Toorn in particular. Since their original idea was to bid for a British Eastercon maybe we ought to take them up on that some time.

The success of the convention was more welcome on the British side because of the memories of *CONSPIRACY*, a convention which was not as bad as legend has now made it but where a lot of people were very badly overworked to keep it running at all. Legend has it that the young Alexander the Great was taken to a battlefield to see the confusion and devastation of his father's troops fleeing from a battle and told "*This is defeat. Avoid it!*". A lot of the people going into *CONFICTION* had received only that same training. One noticeable consequence was that every one of the 'departments' running the con had staffed itself up to the hilt before the con if at all possible, convinced that during the convention it would be every fan for themselves. There was

even an author, Diane Duane, drafted onto an ops shift ! However after the initial couple of hours of panic it was clear that the system was holding up reasonably well and there were reinforcements at hand. Germans, Poles, Scandinavians even San Franciscans, plus a small army of New Zealanders (who else would you expect to turn up in force at a Dutch worldcon ?). Granted there were only 4 New Zealanders when you could get them to stand still but there seemed to be a small army of them at work. We even discovered the odd Dutch con running fan who hadn't been dragged into working on the con already. Most surprised staff member was either Gerald 'Boris' Lawrence, who joined at the door only to find I'd been expecting him and had put him on the staff list, or Phil Alcock who discovered that according to the 'American' classification system in use at the con he was a committee member. My copy of the staff list includes 383 people, not including programme participants, dealers or artists. Even so I can spot missing names who ought to be on the list but aren't ! In theory there were 5 'defensive' lines for a problem to get through before reaching Kees himself but Dutch language problems seemed to beat the system.

As far as I could see no-one below 'Board' level was being overworked unless they were a confirmed workaholic, although we apparently have quite a lot of those. However the 'pace' of the convention was enough to get all the nationalities mixing in without having to think about it. I overheard a comment that **CONFICTION** was probably the first true **WORLDCON**, a comment I suspect is true. Not that there is anything wrong with the American version just that it can be even more fun when all the other lunatics in the world can contribute. We even did our best to create some new American traditions including the 'First Annual Ben Yalow Day' with mandatory uniform of white shirt and bow tie. Winners in the smartness category were Valerie Housden and Diane Duane and the look alike award goes to Ben himself.

The evening parties were good but hot. At the **SEACON 79** party Larry Niven narrowly missed completing the austral pole test but then showed that he's definitely a hard science writer by being the only person able to open a window. The gopher party was easily the best, especially with the addition of the 'bouncy castle', which seemed to spend most of its working time with the adults in the evening rather than with **Kidcon**. Personally I would have liked to have seen the gopher hole like that all the time. Early the next morning of course the gopher hole was the emptiest loneliest place in the universe. If I ever get conned into running a gopher hole again any time worked before ten will count as at least **TRIPLE** time. (Be warned Dutch ops meetings start at 8.30. John Calvin has a lot to answer for !!!)

Of course nothing goes totally smoothly at any con. The programme seemed to require a permanent team of people kicking it back into shape. Also I hope these are the last Hugo awards that need a contingency plan for the guest Ambassador having to leave in the middle because his country has just gone to war.

San Francisco won the 93 Worldcon, despite the popularity of the Hawaii parrots. Those members of *old and shattered* fandom, like myself got a rude shock when we discovered that **Zagreb** intend to go ahead with a 'European' convention with enthusiastic support from the USSG.

The **Phoenix** bid, after having run an excellent party and bid table, then proceeded to shoot itself in the foot, machine gun itself in the ankle and bayonet itself in the knee by objecting to some of the Hawaii votes. Fortunately they withdrew their objection since Hawaii had lost in any case and the business meeting was considerably calmer than it might have been.

Finally one other person deserves a special mention for the success of the con, **Oom Kees** who was in charge of professional security. Fortunately there was little work for him and his men but it makes a hell of a difference to your confidence in a convention to know that there's someone around who can handle **REAL** trouble (he has some interesting professional contacts) but who also will get on well with the fans (you probably didn't notice him because he blended in in his plain clothes of Burmuda shorts and psychedelic T-Shirt). He was last seen at the Monday night Gopher party 'arresting' **Kim Campbell** head of fan security and another Canadian girl for trying to 'pick his pocket' (well that's their story and they're sticking to it). One of his men said that he needed the exercise after 5 days of peace and quiet !

GLASGOW IN 95

The success of **CONFICTION** as a Worldcon and as a European convention leaves us with the question of where we go from here. My answer would obviously be **Glasgow**, hopefully leading on to the Worldcon returning to continental Europe by the end of the century.

If we are going to do this we need to start putting together a really strong bidding effort with as much European support as we can get. Who knows bidding could be fun too. Any volunteers ?

CONDIEGO

First reports say this is a *small* convention of only 2000 (!!!). Apparently there is some lack of correlation between the published and actual programs.