

## FICTION GROUP NEWSLETTER

MARCH '79

**MOVE!**

After eight years at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, the Birmingham Science Fiction Group is changing its venue this Autumn - to the Ivy Bush, Hagley Road.

Many of you will already know why we're moving - the financial and social reasons are not invisible, and a room rate increase of around 50% (without prior consultation or a word of warning) was the last straw.

Last month, those members present voted in favour of a venue change - with a lecture room at Aston University the prime contender.

However, last Monday the committee voted in favour of the Ivy Bush, which is managed by one of the BSFG's founder members, Ray Bradbury.

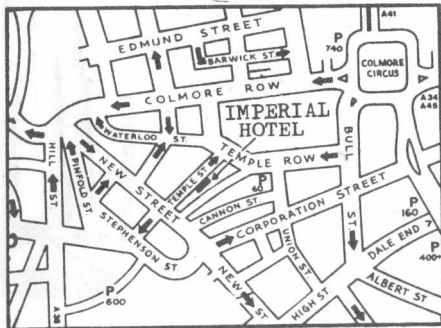
Among the many advantages Ray's pub has over the Imperial is an on-site bar and toilet facilities, which means no one need miss large portions of meetings while re-filling glasses or.. And transport should be no problem - the Ivy Bush is no further away from the centre of Birmingham than the Imperial.

Existing commitments mean that the move to the Ivy Bush cannot take place until around

/turn to page 4/



**RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP YET?  
IF NOT, SEND ONE POUND FIFTY TO  
TREASURER DAVE HOLMES AT: 103,  
CHINNBROOK ROAD, B'HAM, NOW!**



**HONOURARY PRESIDENTS:  
HARRY HARRISON, BRIAN ALDISS.**

**EDITOR:  
STEVEN J. GREEN.**

**EDITORIAL ADDRESS:  
33, SCOTT ROAD, OLTON, SOLIHULL.**

**PUBLISHED BY THE  
BIRMINGHAM SF GROUP. ©1979**

# CONVENTIONS



As reported last issue, the venue for this year's BSFG convention, Novacon 9, is the Royal Angus Hotel, Birmingham, site of Novacon 7. Guest of Honour is Chris Priest, whose novel *THE SPACE MACHINE* was serialised on Radio 4 during last month, and supporting membership is £2. Rog Peyton is hard at work on the first progress report even as I write this, so a quick cheque or postal order made payable to Stan Eling at 124, Galton Road, Smethwick, would be advised. Among those who intend to bid for the 1981 worldcon venue this August is Denver-based Denvention II, who are currently offering pre-supporting membership to UK supporters for just 50p. This includes a Denver '81 badge, news on the bid to take place at this year's worldcon and three issues of the fanzine *Denvisions / Thin Air Wonder Stories*, which is being produced in the old 'Ace Doubles' format.

**BUT BSFG MEMBERS NEED PAY EVEN LESS** - the Bram Group is offering its members a special low price: 25 pence! Anyone wishing to make use of this offer should send cheques or p.o.s to the editorial address (made payable to Graham England). Non-members can send 50p direct to

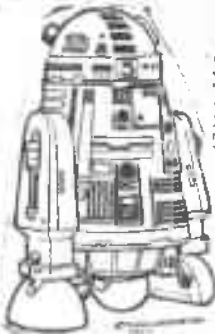
Graham, Denvention II's UK agent, at 1, Fleetway, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 8B7, England.. See how it pays to join the BSFG?

# BOOK-NEWS

March 22 titles from Futura: *NIGHTWATCH* and *THE WALL OF YEARS* by Andy Stephenson; *LIFEBOAT* by Harry Harrison and Gordon R. Dickson; *UFOs PAST, PRESENT AND*

*FUTURE*, 'fact' by Robert Eneberger; *PRINCE OF ANNWN*, *CHILDREN OF LLYR*, *SONG OF RHIANNON* and *ISLAND OF THE MIGHTY* by Evangeline Walton.. The second half of Tanith Lee's sequel to *THE BIRTH-GRAVE* (the first half being *SHADOWFIRE*, in Futura's February 22 print) will be out in the Autumn.. The Glen A. Larson / Robert Thurston adaptation of *BATTLESTAR: GALACTICA* (see *MEDIA NEWS*) is itself being adapted - for *THE WEEKLY NEWS*, beginning in the March 3 issue.. At this rate, it'll take about 3 - 4 weeks...

# MEDIA-NEWS



The TV pilot for the US television series *BATTLESTAR: GALACTICA* will get a British theatrical release at Easter, and there's a sequel planned for later in the year - big deal.. This trans-Atlantic tv-film switch is getting to be a trend - the 1978 release *SPIDERMAN* flipped likewise, and *STAR TREK II* was due to do the same at one time...

Forthcoming from Walt Disney, whose sf projects have included *THE CAT FROM OUTER SPACE* and *THE SPACEMAN AND KING ARTHUR: THE BLACK HOLE*, previously known as *SPACE PROBE*. Shooting on the film, which has a 122-day schedule and a healthy \$17 million budget, begins next month; the cast includes Tony (PSYCHO) Perkins, Joseph Bottoms, Ernest

## ART THIS ISSUE:

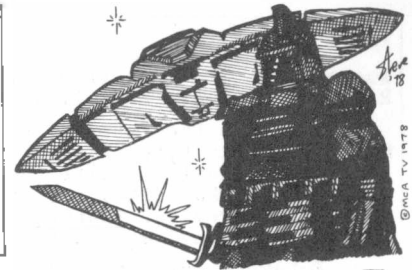
- Martin Longley: "Spaceman & Squat Alien" and "ZZZZZZ".
- Brian Lewis: "R2D2" and "Princess" (from *Astron 1*).
- Steven J. Green: "Darth Vader", "Cylon", "Judge Dredd", "Cylon Attack" and layouts.

## IN MEMORIAM:

Television executive Steve Gentry, 37, killed with tv director Bruce Geller, when their plane crashed in Bueno Vista Canyon, near Santa Barbara.

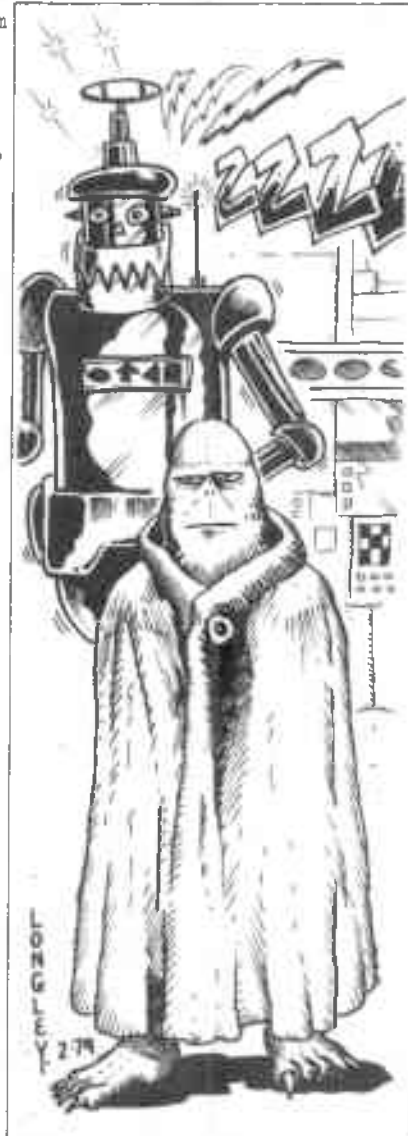
Gentry, formerly involved with *STARSKY AND HUTCH* and *CHARLIE'S ANGELS*, was currently at MCA on the *BATTLESTAR: GALACTICA* production team.

Geller was best known for work in the 60s *MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE* series, which shot *SPACE: 1999* leads Martin Landau and Barbara Bain to tv stardom.



Borgnine, Yvette Mimieux, Maximilian Schell and Robert Forster.. Japanese director Arika Kurosawa's planned adaptation of Poe's classic *MASQUE OF*

*THE RED DEATH* appears to have fallen through.. Likewise Paul Bartel's *FRANKENCAR* - he's off in Berlin with the \$2.5 million *HORRIFIC MOVIE HOUSE MASACRE*.. But not every project is off - John (ZARDOZ) Boorman's *MERLIN* is now in production.. Margot (SUPERMAN) Kidder and James (CAPRICORN ONE) Brodin will star in the 'true' story of supernatural terror in Long Island, *THE AMITYVILLE HORROR*, based upon Jay Anson's best-seller.. Harry Alan Towers' new CTV series *THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME* will feature Jack Palance, Carol Lynley, John Ireland - and a very large budget. Joining these 'stars' are Nicholas Campbell and Koo (SHABBY TIGER) Stark, who accompanies John Stears's latest creation, robot dog Sparky, on trips across a devastated Earth. Yawn.. Harlan Ellison is suing ABC-TV and Paramount Pictures (still hard at work on the *STAR TREK* movie) over the Ernest Borgnine series *FUTURE COP* (a jazzed-up *HOLMES & YOYO*), which he alleges was based upon a story he wrote in 1970 with Ben Bova (BRILLO) - the show's just been axed.. The Brian De Palma / Frank Yablans project *DEMOLISHED MAN* (remember?) seems to be shelved again; Yablans is working with Michael (WESTWORLD) Crichton on two new movies, while De Palma is directing *HOME MOVIES*, a "personal" film.. *PARADISE LOST* sf? Sure, according to Oliver (FORCE TEN FROM NAVARONE) Unger, who's producing the new adaptation. Unger is looking for "the perfect Adam and Eve" for John Collier's doubtful screenplay. In case you're wondering, that sound you can hear is probably Milton rotating in his grave.. Soon from Italy: *THE FISH MEN*, with Joseph Cotton, Barbara (HUMANOID) Bach and Richard Johnson.. The \$13 million disaster pic *METEOR*, with Sean Connery and Natalie Wood, is to have another \$1 1/2 million added to its budget for extra special effects work.. Meanwhile, sfx genius John Dykstra is handling the effects work for Paddy (NETWORK) Chayefsky's *ALTERED STATES* with the rest of the Apogee Inc. crowd; fellow member Douglas Trumbull is also hard at work on a new screen process at his own Future General company.. Forthcoming: Thames TV's re-vamped *QUATERMASS*, with John Mills and Barbara (1990) Kellerman.. The afore-mentioned *SPACEMAN AND KING ARTHUR*, with Dennis (RICHIE BROCKELMAN) Dugan, Ron Moody, Kenneth More and Jim Dale; sfx by Ron Ballenger; screenplay by Don Tait and direction by Russ Mayberry.. *THE MESSAGE FROM SPACE* (dubbed) from Toei Studios in Japan.. Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee in Kevin (WARLORDS OF THE DEEP) Connor's next juvenile fantasy, *ARABIAN ADVENTURE*.. Richard Kiel and *SPY WHO LOVED ME* co-star Barbara Bach join Corinne (STORY OF O) Clery in George B. Lewis's Italian flick *THE HUMANOID*.. Coincidentally, Toho's next sf project has the same name - plot doesn't match, though.. *EATERS OF THE DEAD*, with Michael Crichton directing from his own novel..



**NEXT ISSUE: AN INTERVIEW WITH SF ARTIST PETER JONES**

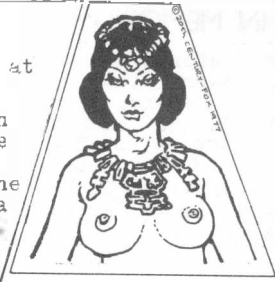
/from page 1/

August, but the more friendly and less formal atmosphere at Ray's room should be well worth waiting for..

So, it's the Imperial Hotel again for our meeting on March 16, when Peter Nicholls, former head of the Science Fiction Foundation visits the Group.

Peter, who edited the Foundation's well-known fanzine of critical review, Foundation, is currently at work on a new sf encyclopedia, due to published in the near future.

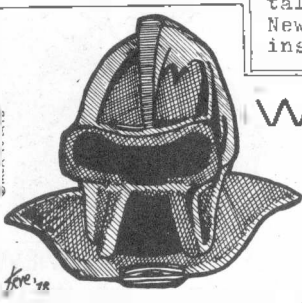
Future guests include Bob Shaw, who's agreed to renew his acquaintance with the BSGF in October. Bob last spoke to us in February '78.



.. IN THE DUST OF THE STARS (a.k.a. STAR DUST) from East Germany, with czech actress Jana Brejchova.. Avco-Embassy's THE OVERLORDS (May release).. SATURN 6, Lew Grade's Farrah Fawcett-Majors vehicle (excuse the pun).. EXPERTS OF EVIL from Belgium : trilogy directed by Robbe de Hert and Guido Henderickx.. MUSEUM EARTH ("Life on Earth in 1978 AD as seen through the eyes of inhabitants of a distant planet 100,000 years after our terrestrial world was destroyed in a huge explosion") from Alexandro (EL TOPO) Jodorowsky and Pascal Duffard Productions in Paris.. Limelight Films have confirmed that they are to adapt sf classics - with scripts by the authors themselves. The authors in question are Asimov, Clarke, Harrison, Ballard, Aldiss, Clement, Heinlein, Van Voct, Niven, Anderson and Pournell. Could be good - if everything works out okay.. Forthcoming (cont.): Arnold (PUMPING IRON) Schwarzenegger as CONAN THE BARBARIAN, as soon as someone picks up the \$15 million tab .. Robert Towne's GREYSTOKE, a "new" version of the Tarzan legend.. Animated "sf" in the form of Sam Frank's 85-episode BATTLE OF THE PLANETS, produced in Japan and edited in Los Angeles (if it's like SPACE CRUISER, that could count as an international crime).. Veteran cop show writer Jack Webb's PROJECT UFO series, a kind of close encounter of the third precinct.. James Bond 007 in space in MOONRAKER.. Gil (AIRPORT '77) Gerard in Glen (BATTLESTAR: GALACTICA) Larson's \$12 million production of BUCK ROGERS IN THE 25th CENTURY - three two-hour television movies.. Joseph Brenner's SHOCK WAVES, with veterans John Carradine and Peter Cushing...

Finally: The Polish Fantasy & Science Fiction Club are looking for contacts in the UK. Anyone wanting to help them out with information, review copies of fanzines, etc, should write c/o Mr. Zbigniew Jonszta, at Kickiego 12, Warszawa, Poland.

The Leicester Science Fiction Group meet on the first Friday of every month, at a pub in central Leicester (their present venue is changing hands at the moment, so phone Janet Hunt on 0533-719615 for details of the new location). Their April 6 meeting is devoted to fandom, and features a talk on the subject by a fan not unconnected with the BSGF Newsletter. So, if you've an evening to waste curing your insomnia, why not come along and waste it with the LSGF ?



### WANTED:

- ARTICLES  REVIEWS  ARTWORK
- LETTERS OF COMMENT  NEWS
- 
- SEND TO THE EDITORIAL ADDRESS

BOOK  
REVIEWS  
BACK  
NEXT  
MONTH