

## SCIENCE-FICTION FANS RAP ON AUTHORS

# Bems scarce at hibited get-together

By JACQUES KHOURI

Bems weren't hibiting on the fourth dimension between time and space at suite 1208 Friday at 1600 hours.

It did seem strange, however, that all who attended the science fiction convention at the Georgia Hotel looked like ordinary earthlings.

Not a single bem (bug-eyed monster) in the bunch.

Those Hibited Men (cancel out the double negative from uninhibited and you've got it) just sat there and rapped about their favorite authors.

Names like Isaac Asimov cropped up, and John Brunner, Brian Aldiss and Philip K. Dick ("the best writer on the earth," they agreed).

When someone mentioned Ursula LeGuin, the 1970 Hugo Award and Nebula Award winner for the sci-fi novel *The Left Hand of Darkness*, who should glide in but Ursula herself . . . direct from Portland, Ore.

Minds were zapped instantly.

Did she come by astral travel\* Or was it molecular



—Ray Allan Photo

URSULA LEGUIN . . . drove from Oregon

retranformation? A time-space pill? Magic carpet ride, even?

"She drove up here from Oregon," whispered one fan. He was quickly silenced.

As soon as she sat down she

was immediately drawn into *The Sun* interview, which began just then. It was as though she could read the reporter's telepathic message.

"People still have an awful faith in science," the 41-year-old mother of three began.

"Almost like a religious faith."

Politicians, for example, know that even the oil supplies in Alaska will be depleted in 30 years. Still, they believe science will come up with a solution just in the nick of time.

The years between now and the turn of the century will be critical ones for mankind, Mrs. LeGuin said.

"Part of the trouble is that we've felt we could control the future," she went on.

"Trying to run things is bad. There's no way anybody can understand all the effects any action can lead to."

In her next novel, scheduled for release in the fall, Mrs. LeGuin writes about a dogooder who tried to run things but failed.

The dogooder manipulates another man's dreams to achieve a "better" world.

"For example, the dogooder makes the other man try to eliminate racial prejudice. So he dreams that everybody is all the same color. His dream becomes true, and everybody's skin color turns

grey," she said.

Are sci-fi novels supposed to be prophetic?

No, agreed the delegates, although a good novel can deal entertainingly with possibilities of what could happen. Such as George Orwell's 1984 or Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*.

Said Robert Scott, president of the University of B.C. Science Fiction Society, sponsors of the two-day convention: "We're getting better sci-fi writers today than we ever had in the past. They are now dealing with deep philosophical themes rather than simple space exploration."

"We're dealing with the inner trip," commented Mrs. LeGuin.

She said people will have to learn fast to adjust to a lower material standard of living and a higher spiritual standard.

"We'll have to do without air conditioning, hair dryers, electric toothbrushes and cars," she said. "Or we'll have them cut out for us when the resources (electric power) run out."

Vancouver SF Convention  
Richard Cameron  
28 D

V-CON ONE

APRIL 9-10 1971

(ACTUALLY, WE DIDN'T CALL THEM V-CON'S TILL V-CON 3 IN 1974)