

IGUANACON

BULLETIN

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FROM THE SQUEEKY CHAIR . . .

I've heard it maybe a hundred times in the last few days—we must be crazy for wanting to do this. Now, I can see that some people might look at just the surface and see a lot of work—hard work—and go *bleah!* But, look at it from another point of view: fun can be walking the length of the High Sierra with a heavy backpack; fun is being an Olympic marathon runner; fun is training for years and years just to walk on the surface of the moon for a few hours. And let me assure you that, while we recognize the extent of the work involved in IguanaCon, we're also planning to enjoy ourselves (you should see the con suite—).

Another thing I've heard, less often, is that the committee form of organization like we have doesn't work. Well, can't say that I agree. An autocratic system traditionally tends to stifle new ideas, and there is no person on the IguanaCon committee who feels that he has a monopoly on new ideas. So, our functional form is a committee that will allow the membership secretary to put forward a suggestion on running the art show and allow the art person to tell the chairman where to put the movie programming.

IguanaCon is for fans, for authors, for artists—for everyone. We plan on giving you five of the most pleasant days in your life. If we can succeed in that, we will have done what we wanted.

There are a lot of people needed to run a WorldCon, and Phoenix will be drawing on outside help for many things. If you feel that you would like to help, either with actual work, or ideas, or whatever, let us know.

In short, come to Phoenix over Labor Day, 1978, and see how much fun a WorldCon can be!

Greg Brown

PROGRAMMING . . .

Although the thought is a bit unnerving, the prospect of working on a WorldCon is exciting.

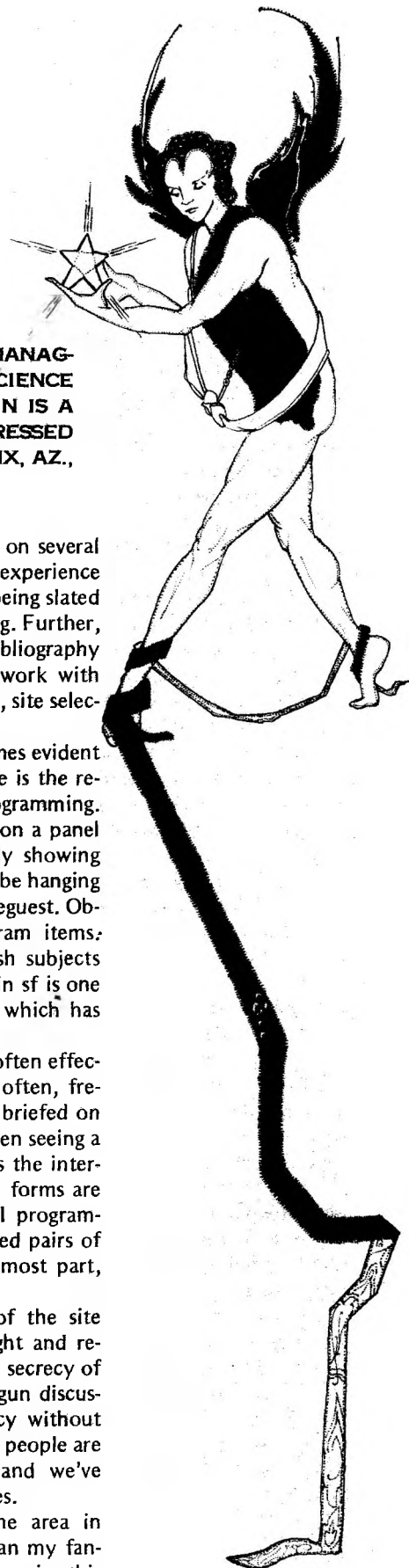
Prior to the Phoenix bid, I had worked on several smaller cons, which, combined with my experience as a veteran congoer, has resulted in my being slated to work with Curt Stubbs on programming. Further, because I've always been interested in bibliography and the literature of sf, I've chosen to work with the Hugo balloting and its companion job, site selection.

The one thing that quickly becomes evident to any peregrinating congoer such as me is the regrettable repetition in sf convention programming. A couple of years ago, I found myself on a panel about sex and sf; the topic was already showing signs of senility then, but it still seems to be hanging onto con programs like a Deglerian houseguest. Obviously it is time for some new program items: There are any number of sf and fannish subjects that have not been used—the cartoonist in sf is one such idea; very appropriate for a field which has produced Bode, Rotsler, and Foglio.

Further, though a good panel is often effective, panel discussions are used far too often, frequently employing people inadequately briefed on the panel's topic. It is true that we've been seeing a number of new program formats, such as the interview, but a number of equally effective forms are being ignored. The effective NYCon III programming, with its dialogues between matched pairs of writers, artists, fans, etc., has, for the most part, been forgotten.

Like programming, some parts of the site selection procedure need to be re-thought and re-worked—in particular the insuring of the secrecy of each voter's choice. We have already begun discussing the problem of insuring this privacy without losing a record of who voted, since these people are members of the winning convention, and we've come up with several workable alternatives.

The Hugo balloting may be the area in which I feel most at home, since I began my fannish career as a bibliographer. Working in this area allows me to make use of all my favorite reference books and files. I will, of



course, check all nominees for the Hugo, Gandalf, and John W. Campbell Awards by referring to the appropriate written sources.

There is going to be a great deal of hard work in the next two years and, I suspect, more than a few short tempers. But I'm confident it will all be worth it come Labor Day weekend, 1978. And, if any kind souls feel the urge to buy me a beer in order to smooth the way of the next two years—feel free!

Jim Corrick

more programming. . .

It has been our intention from the time that we decided to bid for the 1978 WorldCon that we program it in as personal a way, and as fannishly, as we could work out. We want people to meet people, talk to people, and just in general have an enjoyable con. To do this, we are relying on three points.

First, we are doing everything possible to set up modular programming. Our facilities are set up for this, and we think that having centers of communication for those fans who are interested primarily in straight sf, fanzine fandom, convention fandom, film fandom, or collecting fandom will make it easier to find individual people.

And, since the rooms available to us can either be smaller, more intimate rooms, or combined to make much larger, theatre-style rooms, we have the best of both worlds. We can set up an individual room for discussion among smaller groups or combine it with other rooms for an item that may draw more people. Depending on the feedback we get from the members, we hope to use the rooms more as smaller, personal rooms, with the emphasis on conversation.

The second point centers around the professional aspect of the programming. Jerry Pournelle raised an excellent point in one of the MidAmeriCon Progress Reports; he said that a professional panel should be more than just a bunch of pros at a table talking about how hung over they are. Acting on suggestions from Bob Vardeman, among others, we hope to set up dialogues between two pros who are either diametrically opposed in viewpoint or who are excellent complements to each other, or interviews by fans who are devotees of the particular person's work. Both these are ideas that may make pro panels both more informative and more interesting.

The third major part of our programming is the fanish programming. Some of the things we are working on are ideas that have been used by other concons with great success. One such is the fanzine production room that BaltiCon used so successfully this year. Another, even though it was more or less spontaneous, is the "BadgeCon" from AutoClave. Another is a local idea from Lord Jim Kennedy, a "Fan Cabaret"—kind of a fannish talent show.

One of the worst-kept secrets around has been the fact that we have been considering holding a paper airplane contest in the seven-story lobby of the Hyatt Regency. We even have an agreement with the hotel giving us the ok to hold it, as long as the planes are not occupied.

Also in the works is a permanent collation room. It will be available both for those who may wish to take advantage of the fmz production room, and for any apas which may wish to collate at the con, and thus meet some of the "old friends whom you've never met before."

We are also looking at the sacred cows with some thoughts of making them more personal, more relevant—

We've had a couple of changes in our publications scheduling, effective with this bulletin—not in the publication schedules of the Progress Reports, but in ad-deadlines set in the PR Zero. The new schedule is as follows:

- 1st PR ad deadline = 1 November, 1976
- 2nd PR ad deadline = 1 April, 1977
- 3rd PR ad deadline = 1 August, 1977
- 4th PR ad deadline = 1 December, 1977
- 5th PR ad deadline = 1 April, 1978
- Program Book deadline = 1 June, 1978

The publication schedule for the PR's remains the same: 1 January, 1977; 1 June, 1977; 1 October, 1977; 1 February, 1978; and 1 June, 1978. All PR's will be mailed Third Class.

The IguanaCon has retained as attorney Mr. John Christian, or Jennings, Strouss and Salmon's, Attorneys, with offices in Phoenix, Arizona.

Jim and Doreen Webbert have accepted position of Treasurer for the IguanaCon; Doreen will also act as Official Witch. Everything will go O.K. . . .

Bruce Arthurs has agreed to act as meeting secretary; more committee appointments will be made in the near future.

If there is anything wrong with your name and address as it appears on the label, LET US KNOW! Nicknames are in parenthesis, AND will be what appears in the Progress Report and Program Book instead of your legal name. If you want it otherwise, tell us. After this mailing, all labels will be computerized and will cost

to change. If enough people we may have to charge you

If for some reason you feel with IguanaCon, please write you want to help with, be laible (for sure) to give you volunteer for . . . After all, after the elephant parade.

We are planning any number this convention in almost planning—from hotel rel committee organization—now, and ideas require someone have a programming suggest registration, or publication and better, in short, any If it's one we can use, you us, and crediting YOU. If it write you back if you sound

The current membership rate April, 1977. The new membership \$7.50 until 1 April \$15.00 until 31 Dec \$20.00 until 31 Jul \$25.00 thereafter a

Anyone planning to come Tucson areas may write a place for ConCom meetings us use one of their meeting basis, and you're welcome ~~write off about nothing~~ any Also, who knows, it may be

the masquerade and banquet. At the moment, everything is up in the air, and we invite—we beg—you to help us bring them down. Write to the committee; all suggestions are in the hat. We are definitely planning on doing some modification on the film programming. We would like to time the program so that no two films are back to back. It will be so much easier on movie-goers to have time between films to talk, use the facilities, or even grab a bite to eat. Bill tells me that in the PR's, there will even be a section called the "Suggestion Box" for discussion in print of such ideas.

We're quite happy with the facilities for the huckster's room and art show. We have a 40,000 square foot room for the hucksters which should allow a lot of room to breathe, and even allow room for a possible snack stand and sidewalk cage. The artshow room is right next to the hucksters' room and is also quite spacious.

As with all aspects of IguanaCon, your comments about the programming are not only welcomed, they are encouraged. A WorldCon is a big thing, and we need your ideas.

Curt Stubbs

LIAISON PERSON . . .

A lot of you have seen a copy of our bidding prospectus and the proposed organization for our committee. When it was decided that I would do liaison work, I sat down and gave it a goodly amount of thought.

I have done liaison work with hotels in the past, and I have a sound enough background in business and contracts to be able to sit down and negotiate a workable agreement.

SFWA Liaison? Well, someday I hope to join SFWA myself, but for the time being, I must admit to being ignorant of much of what is required for that job, and I will farm it out to someone else.

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...fyi

We are using this mailing to vet our mailing list of mistakes, but one thing that might appear initially as a mistake is that there is no A or S by your membership number to denote whether attending or supporting membership. The reason for this is quite simple: as of member 1268, we have yet to sell a supporting membership. Nearly 1270 of those were sole in Kansas City at MidAmeriCon, where there was no difference in price between the two, and we arbitrarily considered the membership to be full attending.

For reasons known only to the typesetter (*culpa mea*), the fan and pro rates in our PR Zero were reversed.

To those people whom I told this would be in the mail in 2 weeks, I humbly apologize. It has taken three weeks, but I must admit that, if nothing else, I have learned that sometimes you can hurry committee members, sometimes you can hurry the typesetter, sometimes you can hurry the printer, but you can never hurry an artist. We have cover art, but we still lack a logo. Be patient. This, too, shall pass.

Greg Brown

Now, liaison-liaison. This is the area that I gave the most thought to, and the one that I feel is most important. It seems that the larger the convention, the more difficult it is for the fans to communicate with the committee. So I felt that we would have to do something to change this.

In a somewhat unique step, I'm presently planning on taking over the job of corresponding secretary. I'll be picking up the mail every day, reading it, and distributing it wherever. If you have a problem, I'll give the letter to whomever can help you and then stand over him until he replies. If you don't get a response in two weeks, or it isn't satisfactory, write me personally, and I'll take care of it, if anything can be done at all. And if not, I'll write and tell you that nothing can be done and why.

Another idea I greatly admire is that the KC committee had Larry Propp at WesterCon this year answering questions and taking back with him all sorts of queries. I know this worked, as I finally heard what had happened to my room reservation sent in 6 months before (lost, so sorry). I hope to recruit a corps of ombudspersons who attend many regional conventions. You will be able to tell these people any problems you have, or give them suggestions, comments, or whatever. They will also be well-briefed on committee happenings and will be able to answer many questions.

So that's how I look at liaison—the interface between you and us—and I want that meeting to be smooth!

Greg Brown

MEMBERSHIPS . . .

IguanaCon membership now stands at 1289.

The membership secretary and the committee have agreed to a few last minute things. We do not encourage block memberships. None of us are overly fond of the logic

of "saving" people money by scalping memberships, but we will honor all memberships bought in a block for any purpose. HOWEVER, any membership that does not have a name attached to it long enough in advance of IguanaCon for us to process it will be mailed after the convention, with the exception of "Guest of" memberships, which we MAY handle differently. Note to the Fladnag's Neices: please get your Neice numbers straight. Let us know how you want them, because some of you are duplicating each other. We don't care, but you might. . .

Anyone buying memberships for other people or anyone deciding not to attend should send some kind of written notification to the committee, including some means of identifying transfers of membership. Although block membership is discouraged, those buying blocks have the responsibility of notifying the committee in advance of 1 August, 1978, of those buying into the blocks. This kind of processing will not be done at the door. In return for your kindness in these matters, or even without return, I will attempt, U.S.P.S. permitting, to answer any inquiry or suggestion, including your new memberships and corrections, within two weeks. A friend has even offered to consult the oracle (the *I Ching*) for you on any question you want to put to it . . . such as, should you donate a large sum of money to the Committee, or will you have a satisfactory amorous experience during the convention with someone of one sex or another.

Carol Hoag

AND PUBLICATIONS . . .

There are several things I want to make clear about how I feel the publications are to be run and what the publications of IguanaCon will contain. But first...a digression into a subject that I'm sure that other members of the IguanaConCom have covered in their little numbers in this bulletin. I'll repeat it because I feel it's an important point of convention policy. Our mailbox is always open. If you have a comment, or gripe, or want to know what's going on, don't rely on rumor—ask US. We'll get you an answer as soon as the dear, dear U.S. Postal ~~D~~service will allow. This is fandom's convention (that's you), and you have every right to as much information about what's being done to your convention as anyone. And, as a corollary, please let Bill and me know how well we're doing on the publications. How can we do it better? Suggestions? Gripes? What else do you want to see here?

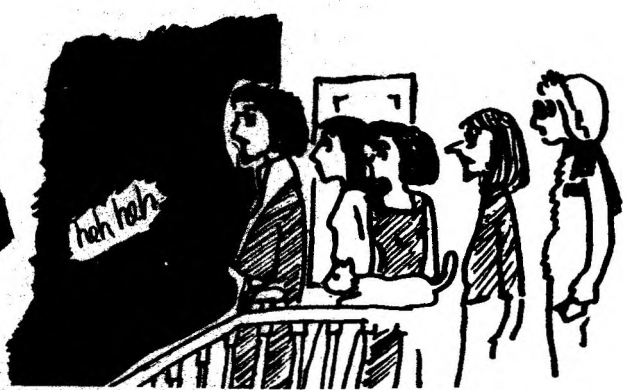
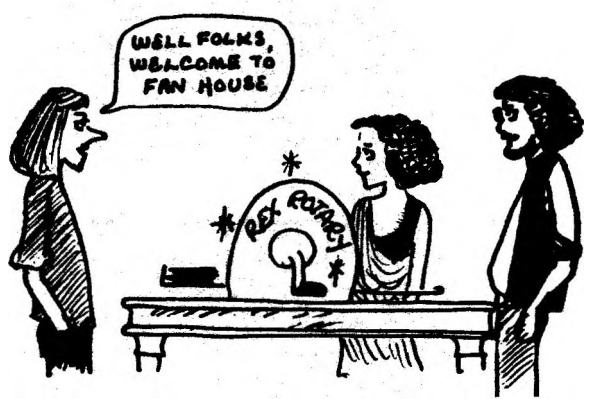
My Gerald Ford speech over, I would like to get around to my Knute Rockne speech. One of the things that I thought MAC did that was effective was in its publications. This was their constant concern for the . . . mind of the first-time convention attendee, the poor neofan. They did a good job of informing the new fan about what to expect from fandom, from a WorldCon, and so on. I think that this is an important function, and one that I would like to see us expand upon to perhaps an even greater extent than MAC. MAC's articles worked; I stood in the registration line and neo after neo started a conversation with me from out of the blue. They'd been told that fans don't bite, and they found out that we don't.

Last, but not least, I'd like to do my Curt Stubb's impression. In the recent past, due to the sheer number of fans attending, WorldCons have become impersonal, dehumanizing affairs. The WorldCon has started to take on the tone and cast of a Shriners' convention, rather than a gathering of *fen*. We hope to be able to reverse this trend.

We want to make IguanaCon the most fannish, and enjoyable, convention this decade. We want to make this a fan's convention. So . . . how do we do it? We have our own programming ideas and so forth, but we are very interested in what others have to say about this. How do you inject humanity and a touch of individuality into a gathering of 3,000 or so people?

If any of you out there feel like spending bucks, you can call me if you want to find out anything about IguanaCon. (602) 949-7605, after 10 p.m., MST. The only thing I ask is—not collect, please, and not at 3:00 ayem.

Tim Kyger



All art this bulletin: D. Carol Roberts.

DCR