



IGUANACON BLUES

IGUANACON BLUES is published by Bruce D. Arthurs of 4522 E. Bowker, Phoenix, AZ 85040 USA. Intended primarily for FAPA, also for TAPS and various private individuals. Prepared August 73. A MalacodaPressPub.
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Attached to this zine is an account of recent occurrences in Phoenix concerning the Worldcon, along with a signature page verifying the accuracy thereof, and an editorial by Paul Schauble, main author (with many assistants, including myself) of the report. Please read those attached pages before continuing this.

The report gives the facts. It tells what happened. It does not tell why. Nobody can be sure. I don't think even the Garret can be sure why they did what they did. I am going to make some speculations, express some of my feelings about this:

What did the Garret hope to gain by firing Rusty Hevelin and forcing Curt Stubbs to resign? What possible benefit could have accrued to the Worldcon?

None.

By firing Rusty, after having already fired the 7th Cavalry from the same position previously, they have made themselves, and the convention, look not only like fools, but like double-crossing backstabbers whose word cannot be trusted. When word of Rusty's firing got out, numerous people holding both major and minor positions in the Worldcon were prepared to resign rather than be associated with the Garret people. It was only because Rusty and Curt personally requested these people to stay on that they have done so.

If the Garret's demands had not been met and the Garret had resigned en masse, the convention would also have been hurt, particularly in the area of Publications, which Bill Patterson has sole control of. (It might be of interest to note that Glen Blankenship, a local fan, was appointed to work with Bill and help him with the Program Book. Bill Patterson simply refused to work with Glen and has instead used Teresa Nielsen, one of the other Garret people, as his assistant.) (It might also be of interest to note that because of the two-day work strike, because of the time used by politiccing and power-playing, because of Bill Patterson's refusal to work with anyone outside of the Garret, that the Program Book missed its final, twice-extended deadline and there

is now a strong possibility that the Program Book will not have been printed by the time the convention opens.)

And, as noted in the report, none of the Garret people were working directly with Rusty. So why were they so vehement, so determined to oust Rusty that they split the Worldcon into two enemy camps rather than let him work with the convention? Why was it only the Garret people who found Rusty so intolerable that they would hold the Worldcon hostage in order to get rid of him?

I have heard a number of specific charges against Rusty from Garret people. Most have been unprovable. Others have been nonsense I can't make head or tail of. Some have been lies.

I have met Rusty. I like him. I think he would have done an excellent job with Iguanacon Operations. I do not think he in any way deserved the treatment he has received.

But the main thing the Garret seemed to hold against Rusty was that they did not like his personality. Why? Perhaps because Rusty preferred candidness and honesty to diplomacy. He stated his honest opinion that preparations for the con were not going well, were not being properly handled. When Bill Patterson insisted that Rusty list the members of the committee in order of their rationality, Bill Patterson and Tim Kyger came out tied for last place. When Patrick Hayden met Rusty, Rusty reportedly said, "People have told me about you. They have said you are temperamental, supercilious, arrogant, short-tempered, hard to get along with,..." and so on for several moments.

All of which might very well make Rusty Hevelin a difficult person to work with, particularly for people so lacking in a sense of humor about themselves as the Garret. However, if being difficult to work with was grounds for expulsion from working for the convention, the only person left on the committee would be Jim Corrick. (Even Curt Stubbs, one of the most lovable people I know, has managed to put burrs under my skin on a few very scattered occasions.) In fact, with the exception of Greg Brown, the person most often talked about over the last two years as being so impossibly difficult to work with that he should not be on the committee is none other than Bill Patterson. I even remember Tim Kyger expressing this opinion on an occasion or two.

But why, why did these eight people decide on a method to remove Rusty that was basically pure extortion: "WE ARE HOLDING LITTLE IGUANACON HOSTAGE. DO EXACTLY AS WE SAY OR YOU WILL NEVER SEE IT ALIVE AGAIN."

Was it because they had already made arrangements to replace Rusty, had already contacted numerous people and promised them positions on Iguanacon Operations, so that they were moved to a desperate, ruthless, and abysmally stupid method when Curt Stubbs refused to quietly accede to their demands and fire Rusty himself?

Was it because one of the Garret members is Kathi Schaefer, a close associate of Ross Pavlac, who was coldly furious that Pavlac had been replaced by Rusty? Did she convince the other people in the Garret that this had been a Heinous Crime, a wrong that must be righted at all costs, no matter what it cost the convention?

Was it because the combination of Iguanacon work and the strains caused by that large number of people squeezed into a tiny apartment created a psychological situation such that the Garret did not realize what it was they were doing, did not realize what sort of reactions and consequences would arise as a result of their actions? A number of people in the Garret, notably Patrick Hayden, have been extremely vehement in the past in stating that any government that

*This is not
the force Patrick
views disallow
no violence
was involved
fault for invasion
respect for
but force
won*

maintains power by the use of force is Evil and Nasty and Utterly Without Redeeming Social Value. Yet, in this instance, those same people apparently completely forgot these views they held and cooperated in, basically, holding a gun on the convention and threatening to cause it serious harm if they were not obeyed. The hypocrisy is so stunningly blatant that trying to imagine the mental state able to do so, apparently without qualms, is frightening.

Or was it a simple case of power-play, of heads swollen by important positions, by influence, by mutual self-admiration, until finally the decision was made to take it all (since, obviously, only the Garret deserved the power, only the Garret could be trusted with the power)?

What I suspect the Garret people do not realize is that as soon as Iguanacon is over, they will be out of power. I seriously doubt, after their actions, that they will be ever again entrusted with any position of power or influence on any major convention. No, not even Kathi Schaefer, despite her close association with Ross Pavlac, since, according to Tim Kyger, Kathi is out to eventually replace Ross Pavlac.

This entire situation has hurt me a great deal. For the first time ever in my life, I wept in public after the August 5th meeting. Eight people I thought I had known, ranging from a casual acquaintance to a person second only to my wife and child in importance to me, eight people whom I had had some measure of trust and respect for, did something I can only regard as shameful, irresponsible, hypocritical, unethical and -- most of all -- stupid. It shattered a lot of very pleasant illusions I had about life and humanity. I think I will probably be a good deal less trusting, a good deal wiser, in my future relations with people.

But not very happy.

-- Bruce D. Arthurs

Official Iguanacon Rumor Number 217

or

Regress Report Number 5.375

or

A Short History of Iggie Operations

A long, long time ago in a city far, far away... There was a Worldcon Committee. As these things are wont to do, it changed and evolved from its original form, and by March, 1975, had become a Central Committee of Tim Kyger, chairman, Bill Patterson, Curt Stubbs, Carol Hoag, and Jim Corrick, and a general committee of others too numerous to mention. Each member of the Central Committee was responsible for one area of the convention, for example, Curt Stubbs was doing Facilities and Operations during the con.

Now, Facilities and Operations is a large job, too much for any one person to handle. So, Curt agreed to work with the Columbus 7th Cavalry under Larry Smith, Ross Pavlac, and Bob Hillis. Many of the Phoenix people were opposed to the use of the Columbus people, but there were no alternatives available, and Curt completed the arrangements with them.

Somewhat later, word reached Phoenix of a 7th Cavalry meeting held during March. The reported theme of this meeting was that the Phoenix Committee had given Columbus everything Columbus had asked for, including a completely free hand in running the convention as Columbus wished, and, in general, Columbus had been asked to come and save Iguanacon from certain doom. This news hit Phoenix like a thirty mile wide custard pie. Even the Columbus supporters felt that if this report was accurate that Columbus would have to go. The Committee asked Rusty Havelin if he could put together an alternative working group. Rusty did so. The Central Committee then voted to drop Columbus and to substitute Rusty and his people. This decision was written into Progress Report 4.5, but, because of the emotional state of Curt Stubbs, the Columbus people were not notified until two days before the P.R. was mailed.

This, because of the way it was mishandled, didn't leave Columbus very happy. At Midwestcon, when five of the leaders of the Columbus group pressured Tim Kyger for an explanation, he was quoted as saying, "...if a kumquat had offered to help, I would have taken it in preference."

This makes Rusty Havelin the kumquat.

Time Passeth....

In Late June, Bill Patterson, who had been living in San Francisco, returned, and several other people came in from out of town. Patterson and these others set up housekeeping in an attic in downtown Phoenix. This group, which eventually came to include Bill Patterson, Tim Kyger, Patrick Hayden, Gary Farber, Anna Vargo, Teresa

Nielson, Kathy Schaefer, and Alan Jostick, become known as and will henceforth be referred to as the Garret. They were a very closed group who rapidly alienated most of the rest of the Committee and most of Phoenix area fandom.

Meanwhile, people in Phoenix were waiting impatiently for Rusty Hevelin to arrive so that the organization of Operations could be completed. When he did arrive, he was asked for his opinions on the organization and personnel, and gave them, along with suggestions.

During the Central Committee meeting in Phoenix on Thursday, August 3, Curt was told by the Garret to fire Rusty, that Rusty was to have no part in running the convention. Curt was also told that the Garret would resign en masse if Rusty was not removed, and that there would be a complete work strike until the issue was settled. Curt refused on the grounds that Rusty was his assistant, did not work with the Garret, and the prerogative to hire or fire him was Curt's. He also insisted that Rusty had a right to be present at his own trial. The Tucson members of the Central Committee, Jim Corrick and Carol Hoag, were telephoned, but Corrick did not wish to decide the matter without speaking to the people involved directly, and a Central Committee meeting was scheduled to be held before the General Committee meeting on Saturday, August 5. Rusty was then called to the Garret in the hope that he could be persuaded to resign before the meeting. He refused. The Central Committee meeting was extended at Corrick's request to include those members of the Garret who were threatening to resign, however, those people waiting for the general meeting that might have expressed different opinions were carefully excluded as "not relevant to the discussion." Several people entering the meeting room were told by members of the Garret in forceful, shouting tones to leave "instantly." Only the active intervention of Gay Miller in the lobby kept the people there from storming in to express support for Rusty.

The Central Committee considered the carefully selected evidence. Before calling the vote, Jim Corrick and Carol Hoag stated that their votes were under protest and that they were being forced to vote for an action they did not believe in. The final vote was 4 to 1 to fire Rusty. The other two votes were by members of the Garret.

Curt, having lost his entire operations staff, and maneuvered out of other choices, resigned in protest. Gary Farber, member of the Garret, moved into the top Operations position.

This makes Gary Farber Son of Kumquat.

And so, three weeks before the convention opens, the committee has replaced almost the entire Operations and Facilities department. This was the premeditated intent of the Garret in that they had made telephone calls to many people, including Ross Pavlac and the Columbus 7th Cavalry, asking them if they would work with Rusty's replacement. These calls were made before the Thursday meeting had taken place. Rusty has spent the time from Saturday until this writing contacting the people he had lined up for his workers, asking them to work with his replacement "for the good of the convention."

*Quest on
Curt's 3rd
right to
hire or fire
Rusty.
He was not
chairman
if he
made up the
regard of
the Central
Committee
Curt's
has
wishes,
with out
he demands
for Rusty's
mission
seems
if many
impractical*

*1 separate
3000 as
a win
30
They considered Party as
fine, but I don't think
choice was made on being
pragmatic as to which
defecto arrangements*

The undersigned attest that the facts contained in the attached account are, to the best of their knowledge, accurate. They do not wish to express any opinion.

M. R. Hildebrand

The undersigned attest that the facts contained in the attached account are, to the best of their knowledge, accurate, and, in addition, wish to vote Tim Kyger a kumquat.

Paul Schauble
Sourdough Jackson

James M. Sieber

Dail Barton

Bruce D. [Signature]

Mike Lampe

Editorial

The unfortunate end of all this hassle is to further increase the chances of yet another Worldcon a la Suncon. This committee holds a valuable property in trust. The more than 4000 fans who have given their time, support, and money to this committee deserve a certain quality of effort in return, not to have the convention used for personal egoboo and power politicking by a group that is too immature to set their own interests aside when there is a job to be done.

This type of problem has grown to the point where it has seriously affected two Worldcons, Suncon and Iggy, and perhaps to the point where it threatens the Worldcon as an institution. The fans to whom this convention belongs need some method of expressing their opinions. I am not suggesting that fans boycott the convention, that would do more damage than the committee has done. Rather, since Tim Kyger is looking very hard for a kumquat to run operations, I suggest that those fan who are displeased with the way this committee has run this convention express their displeasure by sending Tim Kyger a kumquat. If you can't mail him a real one, write the word "kumquat" on a postcard and send it to him at the Iguanacon box:

Tim Kyger, Chairman
Iguanacon
P.O. Box 1072
Phoenix, Arizona 85001

or hand one to him at the convention. If he gets enough kumquats beforehand, it just might make a difference in the way this convention is being run.

* * * GIVE KYGER A KUMQUAT * * *

Paul Schuble