

LOBSTER  
TALES

A SERIOUS FANZINE  
FOR CRUSTACEANS

File 770

# NOREASCON TWO REPORT

-----  
FILE 770's NOREASCON TWO REPORT is written by Mike Glyer, 14974 Osceola St., Sylmar CA 91342. It is a bonus issue distributed to subscribers but not charged to them, as a make-good for the two undersized issues, 18 and 22, which have been published this year. Pubdate is September 25, 1980. FILE 770 remains available 4 issues for \$2. Shelby Bush says, "File 770 is not a newzine as much as a rumor/opinion/feud zine, and you might do well to admit it." Nevertheless, in addition to cash, F770 is also available for news. ~~And rumors.~~  
-----

LOBSTER TALES ELEVEN: Noreascon 2, staged Labor Day Weekend at the Sheraton Boston and Hynes Auditorium, rewrote the record books. Attendance, size of committee, budget, number of voters for Hugo and site selection, all hit new highs. (Attendance figures are later in the issue, as they require<sup>a</sup>phone call not made at this writing). To a degree the success of the convention can be measured by the most damning comment I've heard about it -- Lee Pelton (and a few others) accusing it of being over-organized. This criticism seems to fall in the category with the complaint that there's no more live tv -- because people miss all the goofs.

Of course the convention did have glitches and foulups, but these were amply compensated by the extensiveness of programming and exhibits, which showed detailed planning and the Boston committee's willingness to make welcome every subgroup with an interest in the worldcon. Ironically, the success of Noreascon 2 appeared imperiled, not by operations problems, but by the threat that it would go into the red. On September 23 Leslie Turek, chairman, believed that the con would not lose money based on the information she had so far. However, the books were still being worked -- in fact the treasurer had taken two weeks off from work to devote full time to the con's transactions.



TELL HARLAN  
ELLISON  
STORIES...  
THE CROWD  
IS GOING TO  
SLEEP!



AD  
80

"It looks pretty good if we don't get any surprises," said Turek, who added that would not be the case if they had only gotten their predicted attendance, rather than the record memberships which actually came in. A list of Noreascon 2 workers is being drawn up in hopes that a sufficient profit margin will exist to cover the expense of refunding their memberships.

The source of the budget problem may be clearer when the committee issues its projected postcon report. It seems due in part to unexpectedly costly service contractors in the Hynes Auditorium. But the committee also re-invested some of the potential profits in the con itself -- for example, buying ice in bulk to augment hotel ice machines which were scavenged by party-throwers. (Friday night there were at least 35 open parties. A smaller number of open, and an unknown number of invitational, parties were thrown on the next two nights.)

Speaking of record-setting -- the committee has already mailed Program Books out to nonattending members. And record or not, the Art Show reportedly grossed \$80,000 sales. A record in the negative sense -- I asked Rick Katze if Noreascon 2 would issue a proceedings. Just as soon as Nesfa sells out the Noreascon I proceedings... How soon that might be was hinted at by Leslie Turek who said several cartons of Proceedings were hauled to the worldcon, anticipating a wave of sales based on nostalgia. A grand total of one copy was sold... The Noreascon 2 t-shirt did sell out, and may be reprinted.

CONTROVERSY? In a way it's presumptuous of me to issue a con-report considering that I spent a prohibitive amount of time in the headquarters room at work on the daily newzine (coedited by Larry Carmody and reproduced by an office staff led by Lawrence Ruh and Charles Seelig). But I hope I've managed to hit the major news items that came out of the con in these dozen pages. As to controversy? The cartoons on this page by Alexis Gilliland were banned from Lobster Tales on the grounds that they might upset (1) Harlan Ellison and (2) Kate Wilhelm. Debating the philosophy of humor on two

WE TOOK THE GUEST OF HONOR IN THE MIDDLE OF HER SPEECH AND GOT A STANDING OVATION!



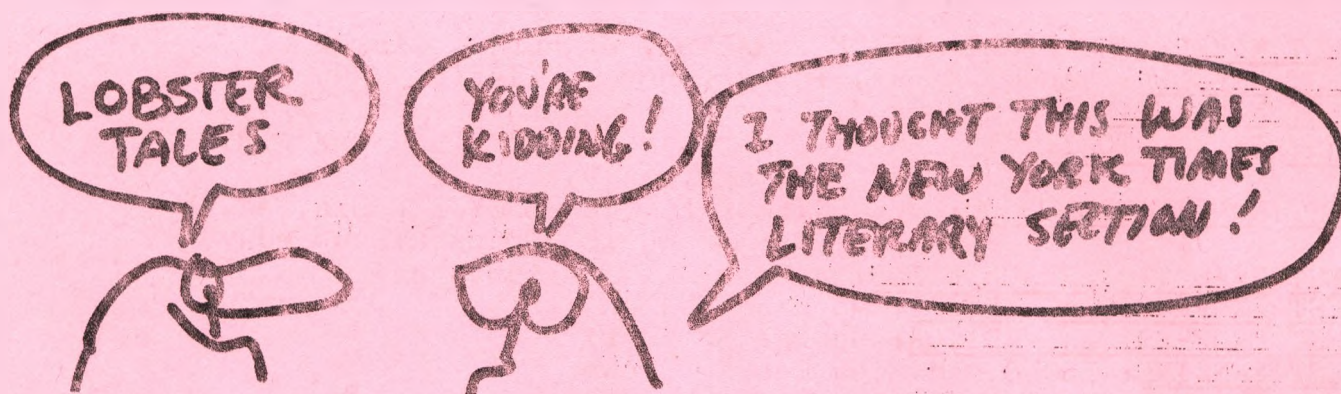
EARTHLINGS ARE STRANGE,



AD  
80

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

John & Becky Thomson 2800 Gulfshore Blvd. #210, Naples FL 33940  
Paul A. Flores 608 Running Brook Rd., Birmingham AL 35226  
Lorna Keith 1115 S. Granville, Apt. 6, Los Angeles CA 90049  
Timothy B. Kyger 874 Borregas Ave. #A9, Sunnyvale CA 94086  
Allan Beatty 1124 F Street, Apt. 18, Davis CA 95616  
Jay Kinney 3165A - 16th St., San Francisco CA 94103  
Mark A. Swanson, 40 Bow St., Arlington MA 02174  
Tony Parker 1745 NW 4th Ave., #5, Boca Raton FL 33432  
Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Alan Bostick,  
Kay Putnam, 4712 Fremont Ave. N., Seattle WA 98103  
Scott Macaulay 325 Hartley Hall, Columbia University, NYC NY 10027



hours sleep was more than I was prepared to attempt -- and it didn't appear that the attempt would be welcome. Leslie Turek and I disagreed that even if Ellison had been scorching some hotel official he would be further provoked by the cartoon. As far as I was concerned, the cartoon directs its sting at those who exploit Ellison as a source of stories (never mind that the cartoon commits the sin it criticizes...) Leslie objected to the second cartoon more strongly because she perceived it as a direct dig against Kate Wilhelm's guest of honor speech. Though I, again, felt differently, seeing the cartoon as a comment on the sf audience generally, there wasn't much doubt that somebody looking for a dig at the GoH would find it in Gilliland's cartoon. Since I fell asleep during the speech three times, and criticized it for consisting of bumper-sticker cliches which were anti-science and anti-technology, ill-suited to the sophistication of the audience, I had to admit a lack of sensitivity to the GoH's feelings. But I wasn't intending to one-up the GoH, and went along with Leslie's requests. (Censorship? Let's reserve that buzzword for something more significant than the right to be smartass.)

ATTENDANCE: September 25 I phoned George Flynn, but detailed attendance stats probably won't be available for another few weeks, he says. Total attendance, counting in freebies, was over 6000 he estimates. Lobster Tales #10 was given the figure 5921 Monday afternoon, but this included people who bought daily memberships on more than one day. Iguanacon had 4283 attendees, according to the figure given in Noreascon 2's Program Book. So the 1980 worldcon was the largest.

# HUGO RESULTS

Noreascon II received 1780 Hugo Award ballots -- and will not be releasing the statistical breakdown and order of finish until 90 days after the convention. Did F770 finish ahead of No Award? Stay tuned to this station.

BEST NOVEL: THE FOUNTAINS OF PARADISE, Arthur C. Clarke

BEST NOVELLA: "Enemy Mine", Barry Longyear (Iasfm 9/79)

BEST NOVELETTE: "Sandkings", George R.R. Martin (Omni, 8/79)

BEST SHORT STORY: "The Way of Cross and Dragon", George R.R. Martin, (Omni, 6/79)

BEST NON-FICTION BOOK: THE SCIENCE FICTION ENCYCLOPEDIA, ed. by Peter Nicholls (Granada;Doubleday)

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: ALIEN (20th Century-Fox)

BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST: Michael Whelan

BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR: George Scithers

BEST FANZINE: LOCUS, ed. Charles N. Brown

BEST FAN WRITER: Bob Shaw

BEST FAN ARTIST: Alexis Gilliland

## NON-HUGOS

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD (Best New Writer 78/79): Barry Longyear

GANDALF AWARD (Grand Master of Fantasy): Ray Bradbury

FIRST FANDOM AWARD: George O. Smith

BIG HEART AWARD: Lou Tabakow

PAT TERRY AWARD: Douglas Adams

Two pieces of awards news came out of the convention. As noted under results of the Business Meeting, a rules change has passed the first hurdle, and would ban the Gandalf Award from appearing on the same ballot as the Hugo Award. Whether or not this kills the award depends on individual committees, who will not be prevented from handling the voting on a second sheet mailed with the Hugo ballot.

Second, Andrew Porter in the current issue of STARSHIP says, "until the Hugo rules are changed to make the so-called semi-prozines ineligible for the fanzine Hugo, I hereby declare that STARSHIP is a fanzine, eligible for nomination under the current Hugo rules. Since I nobly declared STARSHIP, then ALGOL, ineligible for the fanzine Hugo because it was a professional magazine, back in 1977, I've learned that noble gestures only make it easier for snipers to pick you out of a crowd.... Meanwhile, the SFWA has ruled ALGOL/STARSHIP a fanzine all along, while they treat zines like Kees Van Toorn's ANDROMEDA, published in the Netherlands with a circulation of 5000, as a prozine." Somehow the image of Andrew Porter, martyr, is a trifle tough to swallow. One suspects he will find that the

professional niche he carved out for himself was really more comfortable, and that his decision to leave it will only speed up the backlash against semiprozine monopolization of the fanzine Hugo. (This issue is further treated under worldcon business).

-----

## BUSINESS MEETING

(For the full text of items reported on below, reference is made to the Noreascon II Program Book.) Preliminary business meetings winnowed a great many motions which would have altered the Hugos, and a few other items. The following got as far as a vote at the Sunday session.

RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS SUBMITTED FROM SEACON: A voice vote carried the amendment to the Wsfs Constitution requiring announcement of site-selection voting totals at the Worldcon business meeting, and in an early PR of the winning committee, distinguishing by-mail and at-con votes. (p.99)

### NEW BUSINESS SUBMITTED TO NOREASCON II:

PASSED: A motion to restrict the worldcon committee from including any award besides the Hugos and Campbell Award on the official Hugo ballot. (p.100) The effect is to eliminate the Gandalfs from WSFS (World Science Fiction Society, uninc.) ballots, since WSFS does not administer the award. But it doesn't actually prevent a worldcon committee from sending out a separate Gandalf ballot.

PASSED: A motion requiring publication of Hugo voting totals within 90 days of the worldcon. (p.100)

PASSED: A motion to make Best Non-Fiction Book a permanent Hugo category' (p.100) Vote 25-9.

DEFEATED: Motions to change the Best Editor Hugo. (pp.100-101)

PASSED: Changes to the Best Fanzine Hugo (Article II, Section 9). The first would change the publication requirement to two issues in the previous calendar year, rather than four issues total, one in the previous year. The second would eliminate from eligibility for the Best Fanzine Hugo any publication edited by someone for whom it is their main source of income. There was no machinery proposed to investigate the income sources of fanzine editors, and I see no realistic chance of committees throwing Locus, Starship and SFR out of competition, though this seems to be the intent of legislation.

PASSED: Hiking the site-selection voting fee to \$10 (p.101).

PASSED: A definition of Hugo nomination procedures (p.101)

DEFEATED: A motion requiring pass-on of membership info to future worldcons (not in PB).

PASSED: (Amending Article II, Section 15) "No nominee shall appear on the Final Award ballot if it received fewer nominations than the lesser of either: five percent (5%) of the number of nomination ballots cast in that category, or the number of nominations received by the third-place nominee in that category." (text not in PB).

CRIME AND OTHERWISE: One morning there was a persistent knock at the door, "Do Not Disturb" sign notwithstanding. I staggered over to answer it. "Who is it?" I asked through the door. "Hotel valet" was the reply. Huh? I opened the door, and there stood a sawed off guy in a tank top t-shirt, wearing a gold necklace, arms sporting anchor tattoos. Even in my semi-consciousness, I could tell this was not the hotel valet, and told him to bugger off. (It also helped that I hadn't called the hotel valet -- I did my laundry at the coin-op a block from the Sheraton...) In other words, it didn't take long for me to get a first-hand understanding of the warnings I reprinted last issue from Science Fiction Chronicle (Bob Weinlein, ed.)

Reportedly seven arrests were made during the convention, and I could only account for a few. One or more kids entered the restricted 31st floor, went out on the roof and pitched rocks off the top of the Sheraton, striking a woman pedestrian. One was arrested and taken to the precinct house. A pickpocket was apprehended during the Masquerade. A convention member alleged to have been caught by hotel security trying to tape open the doorlock to the 5th floor pool judo-flipped one of the employees and was busted. The employee's arm was reported broken in the scuffle. Assorted thefts of property, wallets, and the receipts of one dealer's table punctuated the con. Don C. Thompson, co-chair of the '81 worldcon, was mugged in town before the start of the con. He was struck and injured, but not put out of action.

Despite the above, it appears the most remarkable dustup of the con was a joke gone awry. From three independent sources I have pieced together information that at the Hugo Loser's Party Terry Carr was struck over the head with a wine bottle, requiring ten stitches. Supposedly he was dispatched by Susan Wood, who forgot to miss. (Pity, that; when Fran Skene and I got to the party we found the main excitement was a game of charades, led by Marta Randall, and we figured that kind of thrill we could do without.)

The blade-and-zap-gun set got through another con without killing anyone, despite an excess of unsheathed cutlery. As for Southern fan Joe Celko, when I saw him Wednesday at the con without his suit-coat, it took me awhile to realize that wasn't the only thing missing. What tipped me was Joe's comment that he had checked beforehand, and found if he wore his pistol into Boston he'd get arrested, so he left it home for a change...

## KATO TAKES GAS

...and goes home. Keith Kato, presently Professor Greg Benford's thesis student at UC Irvine, has graced various Westercons and Worldcons since 1974 with his dynamite chili. Kato, John Burchfield, Dave Gordon and John Scharles started the chili parties because, as relative neos, they did not have access to the really interesting (closed) parties. But his party August 31 marked Kato's step into retirement as the undefeated champion of convention chili.

Keith issued a manifesto explaining the move. Partial reason is the spiralling cost -- a party runs him about \$150. The intent of

the parties has also been defeated by their success -- the attempt at an open chili party at the Nasfic in 1975 met with hotel shutdown. Kato's Natural Gas Co, has had to control admission by invitations ever since, only retaining the open element by not turning away at the door anybody who succeeded in finding the party without an invite. They didn't get into other closed parties by virtue of this self-promotion, they merely became another semi-closed party. More important, Keith says, "I don't have a particularly good time at my parties because I am too busy. Although I have help, some of whom I mentioned, I furnish the vast majority of both cash and labor. I spend the entire day shopping, sneaking the stuff into the hotel, cooking, and preparing the room. I miss the entire program for that day, and I have often missed the major program of that night like the Masquerade or the Hugos. During the party I am constantly answering the door, stirring the pots, making sure I don't set fire to the hotel, and (what really galls me) picking up trash that people don't throw away; I do not get to visit with my guests for more than a few moments. The next day there is this stygian horror to clean up since I think it is chickenshit to leave the mess for the maid. It hardly seems worth the effort anymore, especially since I thought this would be a nice way to meet and talk with interesting people."

Ironically, the Kato parties have been a fascinating event for everyone else -- for example, at Iguanacon, when Jerry Pournelle rounded up the dozen Norwegian fans and led the parade into the party, it only topped off an already amazing cross-section of worldwide fandom and prodom. Unfortunately, Kato continues, "beyond the guests we directly invite -- fully 90% of the people who show up (Sturgeon's Law being universally operative) are Unkissed Toads who do nothing but eat and leave, and in the process treat my friends and me as hired help....Furthermore, I am always wryly amused at how many people know me on party day, but at no other time during the con..."

Kato concludes, "On Saturday, 5 July 1980, at this year's Westercon, Bob Silverberg acknowledged that I had finally manufactured a batch of chili righteous enough even for him. As His Holiness is the spice guru of SF, I feel I have achieved my apogee in this endeavor. After scaling Everest, after capturing the Holy Grail, after possessing Helen of Troy, after Nirvana, what else can be done to top it?"

Postscript: fans, including Ctein, have urged Keith to publish his chili recipe: Keith may make it available, but the era will come to an end unless you put that recipe together with somebody who smuggles big cooking pots and hotplates into hotel rooms, and works his tail-off cooking the batch instead of going to see the Hugos given out. We can only hope that Kato's Natural Gas will...rise again...

-----  
THE REAR ADMIRAL OF ZIMBABWE: Appealing to the egoism and peacockery of a certain kind of fan (especially me), Noreascon made available an impressive variety of ribbons (committee, staff, Hugo nominee, program participant) and buttons (helper, dealer) and badges (Hynes pass, committee photo IDs). Craig Miller set some kind of record for accumulating them -- with a legitimate claim to every one -- so that in full panoply he looked like some third-world generalissimo. "And when I took them off," said Craig, "my shirts looked like cheese-cloth."

# MASQUERADE

The slightest trace of gimmickry in props or staging or lighting is lethal to a fan masquerade entry. Conceded that I have not seen every masquerade; but having attended conventions since 1972, when I look back, I have no trouble remembering the failed sound, the dud rayguns, the sparkless electrical swords, and the incomprehensible lines of dialog. On the other hand, the only two successful gimmicks that are memorable -- gimmick defined as some component of the entry that isn't the costume -- were Bruce Pelz as a one-legged character at Discon in 1974 (one good leg was bound doubled), and 1980's acrobatic Luke Skywalker (Glenn Harrison). The comment is offered in reflection on why "Ylph, Salamander, Undine and Gnome" failed to take top prize at Boston. On the initial run-through, each costume entered the stage accompanied by a lighting change. In practice, this left the audience in the dark for most of the time, and the beauty of these exquisite costumes was marred by the failed effect. When the lights finally revived, the audience had a poor opportunity to appreciate all four. Did this affect the judging? Only Bob Briney, Amy Brownstein, Eddie Jones, Elayne Pelz and Joni Stopa could say for certain -- no question that it cost the four entrants their audience.

Not only did the Judge's Choice, "Xochipilli and Xochiquetzal", use effective color and design, but its staging of the two-faced deity, with amerind music and dance, went off without a hitch. In fact the trademark Sanders wings are becoming to masquerades what Babe Ruth's bat was to pitchers, FDR's cigarette holder was to voters, and handcuffs were to Houdini. Speaking of winners:

JUDGES' CHOICE: Kathy and Drew Sanders: Xochipilli and Xochiquetzal

MOST BEAUTIFUL: Ann Chancellor, Sandra Miesel, Jere Rapp, Frank

Hynicker: Ylph, Salamander, Undine, and Gnome.

BEST SWORD AND SORCERY: Sally Fink and George Paczolt: Sword and Sorcery

BEST GROUP: Patri Pugliese & Co: Polesotechnic League

MOST HUMOROUS: Michael Newman: A Grog, from Niven's "The Handicapped"

BEST ALIEN: Jim Webb: Srook the Space Invader (design by Ray

Heikes and Ralph Crim).

BEST SCIENCE FICTIONAL COSTUME: Yasheya Lee: Planetary Commander Setic

BEST PRESENTATION: Glenn Harrison and Wende Sides: Luke Skywalker & Yoda

HONORABLE MENTION: Joe Pavlo and Dan Niederloh (Disco Klingons),

Sarah Brownstein and Miriam Winder (The Yecchi and The keeper),

Richard Murray (Griffon), Karen Heath (High Lord Elena), Patricia

Osborne (In'serinna, Daughter of the Stars), Lora Trimble (Empress Butterfly), Teresa Patterson (Morgan Le Fay).

Sometime Patri Pugliese will have to headline the rest of the warm bodies -- Polesotechnic League's 7-costume featuring Van Rijn, the Trader Team, and hangers-on, impressed me by bringing to life in remarkable detail a set of stories high on my list of favorites. Teresa Patterson (Morgan Le Fay) was a textbook example of lighting and flash-powder effects detracting from a good costume. And Michael Newman may have more staying power as a Grog, but Disco Klingons got the biggest laugh of the night, two lads in Klingoni makeup gyrating around the stage as "two wild and crazy guys!" (continued)



Other notable costumes commented on in this article do not have the benefit of the masquerade entry cards for their spelling and correct titles -- you may scream at your leisure. There is no award category for MOST FOXY, nor am I saying there should be (but you can sign my petition later), though "Golden Warrior" (Amy Waldron?) seemed the runaway winner. There should be no award category for costumes titled "Ambassador From alien planet", judging by the four efforts in that direction this year. Fortunately humorous costumes are healthy -- High Lord Elena spouting Asimov title puns, the Grog, Disco Klingons, Lawrence Wood as Con Man, The Jedi Stooges and the interpretation "Sam from LORD OF LIGHT played by Churchy La Femme", appealing to the esoteric/bizarre among us.

Halftime at the masquerade was the occasion for the Great Noreascon One-Shot Chorale to take the stage. Approximately 44 fans had rehearsed chorale music at odd moments of the con. It was a fun thing for the participants, and surprisingly good. As a concept for masquerade entertainment, however, it was a failed experiment. You simply cannot have people riveted to their seats during the costume run-throughs, and come intermission, tell them to sit down and shut up. (Lynn Aronson, chorale director, even did as much, and her lack of results proved the point.) Masquerade entertainment, to be practical, has to capitalize on audience restlessness -- by being very lively and funny, or by playing foot-stomping music. Taken on its own merits, the Chorale was not really impaired by the noise in Hynes Auditorium (coming from the side, where entrants queued up for photography), because the audio system usually rendered lyrics incomprehensible on any tune where they were not uttered with slow deliberateness. (The slow version of "Dixie" and "Along the Grand Canal" were all I could decipher -- and I had a good seat.) Otherwise the Chorale was calmly tuneful, and held a fair share of the crowd.

## CHICAGO BY A LANDSLIDE

Following the masquerade Ross Pavlac handed me Chicon IV's Progress Report Zero. I checked out his theory that I was getting a scoop by asking around who knew whether Chicago had won; everybody I asked seemed to have been leaked the result hours earlier. On the other hand, only I knew in advance that Neil Rest had been appointed the committee's Minister of Silly Walks...

<u>SITE SELECTION TALLY</u>	<u>BY MAIL</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>TOTAL AT CON</u>	<u>SUM TOTAL</u>
Chicago	539	192	287	479	1018
Detroit	228	85	97	182	410
No Preference	65	10	18	28	93
None of the Above	7	2	2	4	11
Write Ins*	3	0	1	1	4
Blank	5	4	4	8	13
<u>Total</u>	<u>847</u>	<u>293</u>	<u>409</u>	<u>702</u>	<u>1549</u>

(\*Write ins: Highmore SD:2, Toronto:1, Virgin Isl:1)  
 (12 unpaid mail ballots. 1 mail ballot rejected for being pseudonymous)  
 (continued)

Chicon IV will be held September 2-6, 1982, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel. These will be the guests of honor:

WRITER: A. Bertram Chandler

ARTIST: Kelly Freas

FAN: Lee Hoffman

In order to get the most advantageous membership rates, you will have to act before January 1, 1981. To quote from PR#0:

	<u>Supporting</u>	<u>Attending</u>
VOTED ON '82 AND PRESUPPORTED CHICAGO:	- 0 -	\$6.50
VOTED ON '82 AND NOT A PRESUPPORTER	- 0 -	7.50
DID NOT VOTE ON '82 BUT PRESUPPORTED CHICAGO	\$14.00	19.00
DID NOT VOTE AND DID NOT PRESUPPORT	15.00	20.00

A Chicago bid presupporter is one who paid an American greenback of any denomination to the committee during its campaign, presumably.

Chicago will continue the VOICE OF THE LOBSTER concept, under the title CONS AND SHELL GAMES, where they'll hold an open forum on Worldcon philosophy, operations, and bidding. Subscriptions are \$5 for life-of-the-run. Deadline for #1 is November 1, 1980.

Send your bales of money and other valuables to: PO Box A3120, Chicago IL 60690.

-----  
POST MORTEM: The immediately following comments are editorial material by Mike Glycer. There was a point in early 1979 when the Chicago and Detroit bids seemed comparable in strength. Each could claim a big hotel, and a committee with big convention experience. Both committees expressed mutual friendliness -- with smiles so taut they looked about ready to break their faces.

The Noreascon operations crew (especially the non-Boston element) spent a lot of time during the con discussing methods for controlling convention size, managing the facilities, covering expenses for conrunners, and coping with the bidding process. Some radical ideas were advanced -- in fact, if anyone wanted to run a suicide-mission worldcon bid, they might have tried incorporating all these radical reforms into one bidding package.

Irenically, the Detroit in '82 had already gone into battle flying some of the same banners. Their position was that the committee was experienced, their hotel was excellent, and that should be enough: all the partying, afflicting people with stickers, hustling pre-supporters, was a profligate waste of money better spent on the actual worldcon. As far as I know these ideas enjoy a lot of support. Then how did Detroit get itself blown out, gathering only 26% of the total vote? I would say it's because Detroit ran such a negative bid. What little literature they circulated spent most of its time attacking Chicago, and letting the bidders congratulate themselves in the most amazingly arrogant language of anyone actually trying to persuade the voting public. It may work in Iran, but here, such lines as "fandom saw us as the 'guys with the white hats'" are a turnoff. A conbid does not make itself attractive by taking a holier-than-thou premise.

# EVERYBODY EXPECTS THE SPANISH INQUISITION

An innovation in programming at Noreascon II, the so-called "Spanish Inquisition" used a Meet-the-Press format. The Denvention II committee was examined about its plans for the 1981 Worldcon. Denver committee members Suzanne Carnival, Don C. Thompson, Bruce Miller, Leanne Harper and Bob Alvis were quizzed by a panel including Tony Lewis and Gary Farber. Dana Longo's summary of the Inquisition has been used to create the following update on Denver's preparedness for the World SF Convention next year.



I MAY BE  
< UGLY BUT  
AT LEAST  
I'M AERO-  
DYNAMIC.

**HOTEL CONTRACTS:** None have been signed yet. The committee is continuing to operate with Letters of Intent from proposed hotels. They have worked with the Hilton and Cosmopolitan for a long time, and are not expecting problems. The committee also gave the impression of shopping around, by mentioning that the Marriott, under construction with an opening date projected in June 1981, is eager to get the worldcon.

**ROOMS:** The committee has booked 2000 rooms in 6 hotels. Of the 880 rooms in the Hilton, only 650 could be reserved. The balance are permentnly booked to pilots and the like. Normal Hilton rates start out with \$50 for a single. Denvention rates have yet to be fixed. Registration forms for hotels are supposed to be mailed in the next PR (whose announced submission deadline is October 20.)

**SIZE:** What sized convention is the Denver committee planning to cope with? About 20% less than Boston, due to Denver's isolation, perhaps 4500, perhaps more. The committee plans to do nothing to discourage attendance by media fans, or any other subgroup of worldcon attendees. They want everyone to feel *welcome*.

**FACILITIES:** Though you can see the ruts left where Denver committee members had dug in their heels against using the convention center, and were relentlessly pushed to use it, I don't think we can count that as a firm decision until the committee announces it from the safety of home. It appears the balance has swung in favor of the convention center, because the committee was prone to answer facilities questions by citing the space available in the con center. It appears that in addition to the Hugos and Masquerade, the hucksters and art show might wind up there, too.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Denver public transit already runs a shuttle between the convention center and a stop one block from the Hilton, every seven minutes. Hired buses, under the present scheme, would step the pace up to one bus a minute. Top crowd movement would be 1700 per hour. The rest of peak traffic would probably choose to walk the 8 blocks. Crowding after the Hugos and Masquerade might be eased by having a popular program (like a Harlan reading) hold some of the audience.

