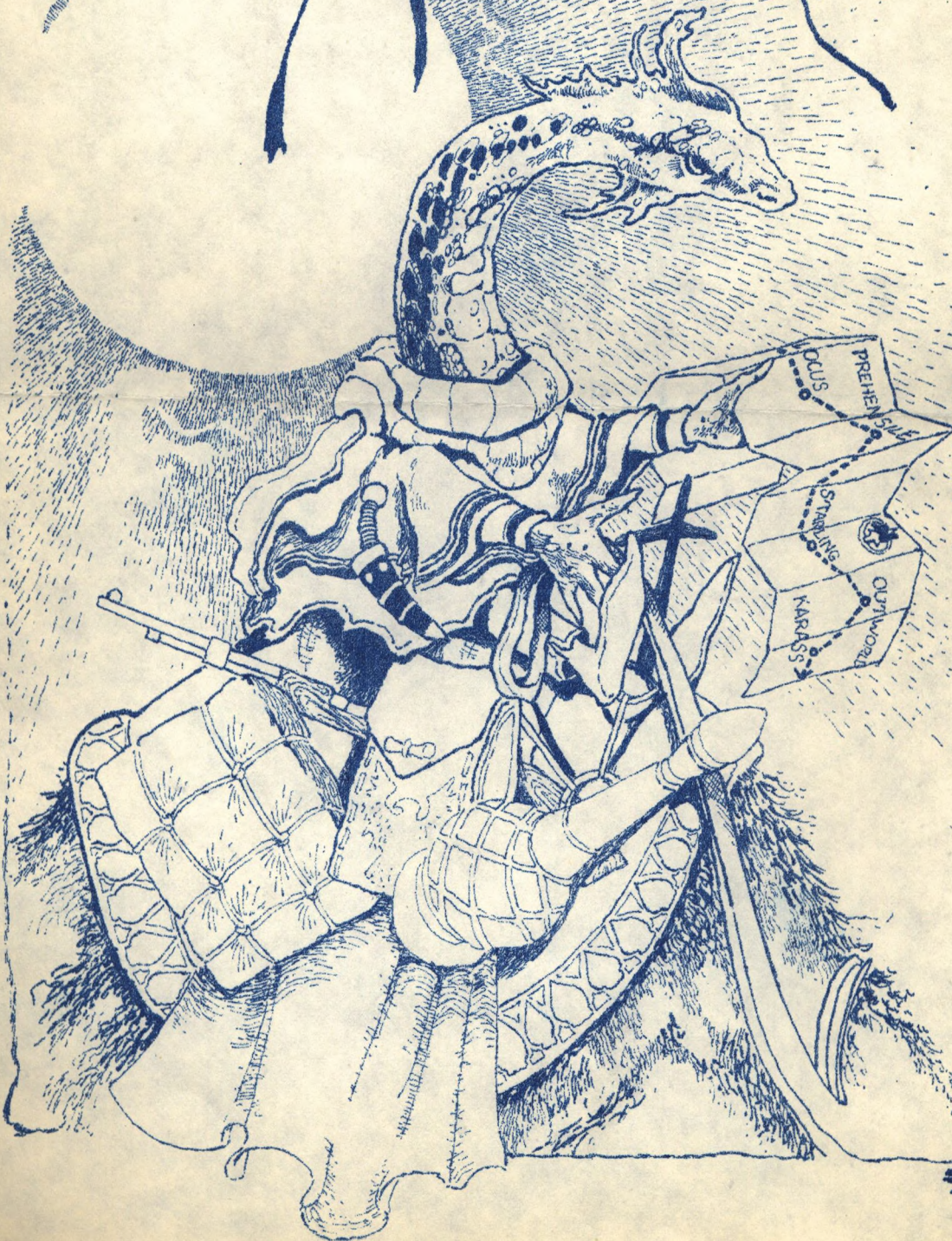
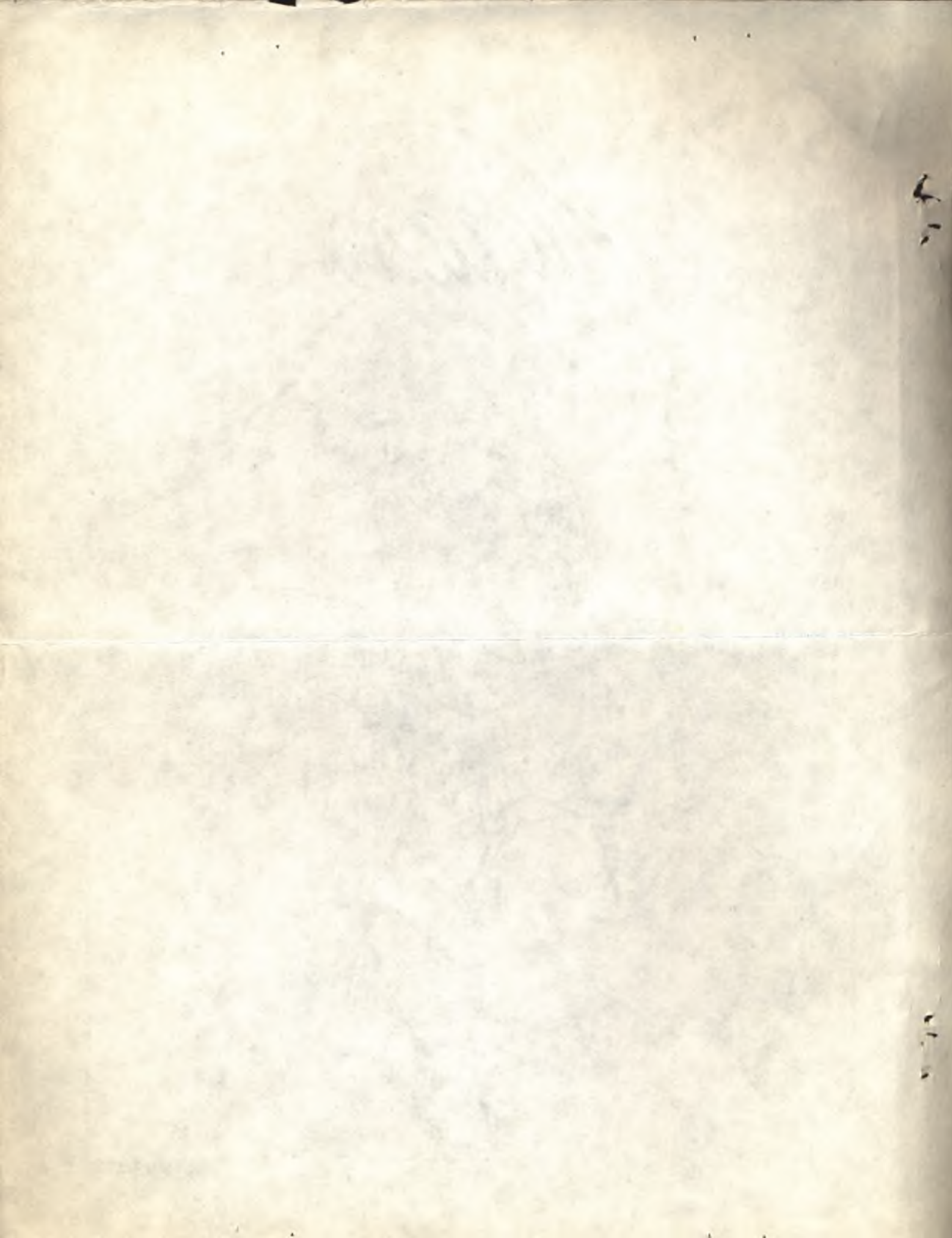


Karas





[] KARASS 9 is edited and published by Linda E. Bushyager, 1614 Evans Ave., Pros- []
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P. SCHUYLER MILLER DIES. Noted book reviewer Peter Schuyler Miller died on October 13 while attending the annual meeting of the West Virginia Archeological Society in Parkersburg, W. Va. He was viewing the society's excavation sites on Blennerhassett Island when stricken with a fatal heart attack. Miller was 62. He is survived by a sister, Mary E. Drake of Philadelphia.

BILL TOOP DIES. Vancouver, B. C. fan, Bill Toop, was killed in October in a five-car collision. Bill Toop was 19.

FAPA NEWS: FAPA is apparently surviving one of the most thoroughly screwed up elections in its long history. Since there was only one candidate filing for each of the four offices, the official editor, Gregg Calkins did not distribute ballots with the August mailing as required by the constitution, instead he told members to make up their own if they wanted to vote. Six members voted, and each submitted an identical ballot, voting for Redd Boggs for each of the four offices. The election was unconstitutional because of the lack of ballots and because six votes did not represent a plurality of the membership. Boggs, who was president of FAPA for 1973-4, then revealed that he had campaigned for this all-Boggs slate for 1974-75 to demonstrate that a write-in candidate could defeat a candidate who filed in FAPA. On the grounds that the incumbent president has power to deal with any situation not covered by the constitution, Boggs then ruled that officers for 1975 will be the individuals who filed for office: himself as vice president, Charles Hansen as president, Bill Evans as secretary-treasurer, and Calkins as official editor.
 (Harry Warner, Jr.)

PEOPLE NEWS: Rev. Darrell C. Richardson, the Memphis fan who owns one of the biggest collections in the world, has now achieved what appears to be a 100% remission from acute lymphocytic leukemia. He has made medical history of sorts as a result, as one case in a million, after being given 3 months to live in April 1973. He looked to be in good health when he spent an evening recently in Hagerstown. (Harry Warner)
 John Berry has moved to Washington, D. C. and is working for the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. He is also running for DUFF this year. (John Berry)

[] KARASS 9. November 1974. Assistance provided by Ron Bushyager. Collating []
 [] provided by the Delaware Valley SF Club. Stencils provided by Brian McCarthy. []
 [] Cover by Jim Shull. Special thanks go to Linda Lounsbury and Connie Faddis []
 [] for their comments on the rough draft of my editorial and to Dick Eney for []
 [] supplying a copy of the WSFS constitution shortly after Discon. Thanks also []
 [] to MGM, pepsi, kleenx, Gestetner, Joe Phann, the U.S.P.O.D., and you. []

TUCKER FUND: The fund to send Bob Tucker to Aussiecon is doing extremely well. The fund has reached over \$1900, more than enough to send Tucker on his way. There are still some items being auctioned off including Tucker manuscripts, books, and such. The auction closing date is Nov. 23. Write Jackie Franke, Box 51-A, RR 2, Beecher, Ill. 60401 for information.

MORE ON ELWOOD: Sandra Miesel announces that as of Nov. 20 she will no longer be handling complaints for Roger Elwood. She writes: "I doubted the utility for an intermediary and my doubts were justified. People with substantail grievances should deal with Elwood directly."

NORTH EAST SCIENCE FICTION GROUP: is sponsoring a series of classic SF films and meetings with talks by well-known SF writers. To find out about this British club, contact Robert Jackson, 21 Lyndhurst Rd., Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 9NT.

FILTHY PIERRE: has a guide for new fans available entitled: THE CON GAME. It is 50¢ + a self-addressed stamped envelope. It's not as good as THE NEO-FAN'S GUIDE, and is more expensive, but does have more information on what goes on at conventions. He also has a songbook containing filk songs from M.I.T., Disclave, and NESFA song books. It contains 69 songs, making it one of the most complete filksong books available. It has been photoreduced however, making it difficult to read. It is available for \$1. Write Erwin S. Strauss ("Filthy Pierre") at 11700 Columbia Pike, #809, Silver Spring, Md. 20904.

CoAS

John Berry, 1749 18th St. NW, Washington, D. C. 20009
Neal Goldfarb, 58 Orange St., Waltham, Mass. 02154
Jerry Lapidus, 1676 1st Ave., Apt. 4-S, New York, N.Y. 10028
Jay Kinney, 480 30th St., San Francisco, Calif. 94131

Conventions

Nov. 29-Dec. 1 -HALF-A-CON, Ramada Inn on Highway 411, Rome Ga. Informal con. Info: Biggers, 621 Olive St., Cedartown, Ga. 30125.
Nov. 29-Dec. 1 - CHAMBACON 4, Ramada Inn, Champaign, Ill. GoH: Andy Offut; Fan GoH: Martha Beck. Banquet \$6.50. Info: Jim Hansen and Penny Tegen, 1602 Linden, Urbana, Ill. 61801.
Dec. 6-8 - APA:ANARCHON, Stuffer's National Center In Arlington, Va. Write Erwin S. Strauss, 11700 Apt. 809, 20904. **CANCELLED**
Nov. 29-Dec. 1. INFINITY. Hotel Commodore, N.Y.C. GoH: Harlan Ellison. Info: Infinity 74, R. R. 3, Box 50 F, Longview, Rocky Point, N.Y. 11778.
Jan. 24-26, 1975. CONFUSION 13. Briarwood Hilton, Ann Arbor, Mich. GoHs: Fred Pohl and Mike Glicksohn. Info: Ro Nagey, Rm 240 Michigan Union, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104. Registration is \$5.
Feb. 28-March 2. BOSKONE. Sheraton Boston. GoH: Anne McCaffrey. Info: NESFA, P.O.B. G, MIT Branch Station, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Registration \$4 in advance.
March 21-23. MARCON 10. Neil House Motor Hotel, 41 S. High St., Columbus, Ohio. \$4 advance registration; \$5 at door; \$9.50 Chinese banquet. Banquet + registration are \$13 if sent before Feb. 15. Art show, hucksters, parties. Info: Larry and Cecilia Smith, 194 East Tulane Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43202.
April 18-20. MINICON 10. Minneapolis, Minn. Info: Bev Swanson, 2301 Elliot Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55404.
July 18-20. BYOBCON V. Hotel Muehlebach in Kansas City. Pro GoH: Robert Bloch, Fan GoH: Linda and Ron Bushyager; Registration \$5 in advance; \$7 at door. Rooms are \$19 singles, \$26 doubles. Info: BYOB CON V, 1915 Mews Dr., Kansas City, Mo. 64131



TOSFIC Toronto

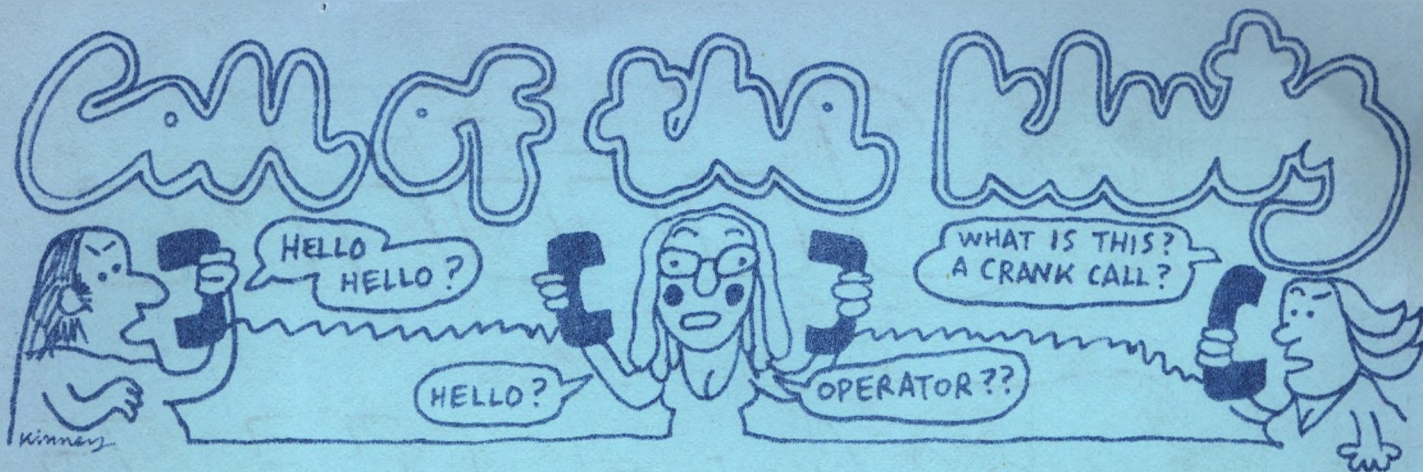
August 1, 2, 3 '75

OSFIC once more gives FANFAIR at the King Edward Sheraton Hotel in Toronto. FANFAIR will be, perhaps, the largest event of the fannish year aside from the WorldCon itself. We want 500 to attend and can handle more. With Lester del Rey as Guest of Honour, a daring program is being ventured by a vigorous upcoming group of people in the Committee - (Chairman - Wayne MacDonald, Treasurer - Valerie Starr, Program Director - Philippe Boyer, Films - Peter McGarvey, Dealers - Richard Pearse, Registration - Mike Smith, Art Show - Elizabeth Pearse) - backed by the experienced advice of Peter Gill and John Millard. We have an art show that will show the work of some of the supremely talented artists that can be found in Toronto - John Lomberg, illustrator of Sagan's COSMIC CONNECTION - Robert McIntyre, well known in Comic and Horror fantasy - Barry Kent MacKay - Derek Carter - Ron van Leeuwen - and others. We have many excellent films to select from for our film program including Harryhausen flics, serials, Star Trek episodes, and Something For Everyone. There are going to two planned meals, one with the authors and pros you want to meet. All with Toronto as a backdrop. Toronto offers a wide assortment of entertainments and diversions for the off chance moment free. The Yonge Street Mall, an enormous open concourse of stores, food, and crowds of revellers listening to the music will be open. The CN tower, completed in 1975, will be the highest self supporting structure in the world. The Royal Ontario Museum contains many world renowned collections.

MEMBERSHIP is \$5.00 until January 1st, \$7.00 until June 1st, and \$10.00 to the door. Supporting membership is \$2.00. Our Progress Report will appear early in the summer of next year.

FANFAIR III

BOX 7230
Stn. A, Tor.
Ont.



THE FUTURE OF THE WORLDCON

What will the Kansas City Worldcon be like? The Discon had approximately 4500 attendees fitted snugly into one of the largest hotels in North America, the Sheraton Park. Will Midamericon have 6000 attendees? Will the 1980 Worldcon have 10,000? Since no hotel in North America has facilities to seat 6000 or more persons at a Hugo banquet or Masquerade, let alone to provide enough rooms, the question of future Worldcon size looms on the horizon.

From 1939 to 1949, Worldcon membership was in the 100-250 person range. During the 1950's, it gradually increased to an average of about 475, with 1000 persons at the Chicon II in 1952. Convention attendance varied over the next few years, but gradually increased -- 400, 300, 730, 600, 525, 350 (London), 850 (Tricon in Cleveland). Then came the really big Worldcons: Nycon in 1967 (1500), Baycon (1300), St. Louiscon (1600), Heicon in Heidelberg Germany (620), NorEasCon (2050), LACon (2100), Torcon II (2900), and Discon II (4500).

Since many fans are unable to go to a Worldcon outside North America, they make a more concerted effort (and have more money) to attend the following Worldcon. This phenomenon is likely to increase Midamericon's size. Robert Heinlein's appearance as GoH and the increased popularity of SF will bring in more people, probably resulting in over 6000 attendees. If Worldcon attendance should continue to increase by 500 or 1000 persons every year, as it has in the past, the problems of finding suitable hotel facilities will multiply.

Future Worldcons can try to cope with continued growth or to limit registrations. Even if membership is limited to some extent, fandom has grown; Worldcons will probably never return to pre-Torcon size. Thus, attempts to cope with the increased attendance must use a combination of ideas to achieve a workable Worldcon which is manageable for the con committee and fun for the fans.

The main purpose of this editorial is to encourage advance Worldcon planning, while the destiny of the convention can be controlled. If 6000 or 8000 bodies descend upon inadequate hotel facilities, the Worldcon may become an unbearable mob scene -- without enough seating at major functions, enough hotel rooms, or enough con committee members.

Unfortunately, KARASS is not the best forum for discussions on these matters, since it will continue to print no letters. Responses to this editorial may be printed if they are in the form of articles or editorials, rather than letters or short comments.

Someone should start a fanzine, apa, or round robin to discuss the Worldcon's future. Probably the best people to be involved with such an effort would be prospective Worldcon bidders and past con committee members.

Ken Keller, Chairman of Midamericon, has requested ideas, comments, and advice. Please send comments on the editorial or a carbon copy of locs to him. (Ken Keller, 1131 White, Kansas City, Mo. 64126).

Please keep in mind that the following comments are intended only to present ideas, not necessarily to advocate any of them. The problems outlined may not even happen -- attendance *could* drop back to 1000 persons; the Worldcon may be as unsinkable as the Titanic.

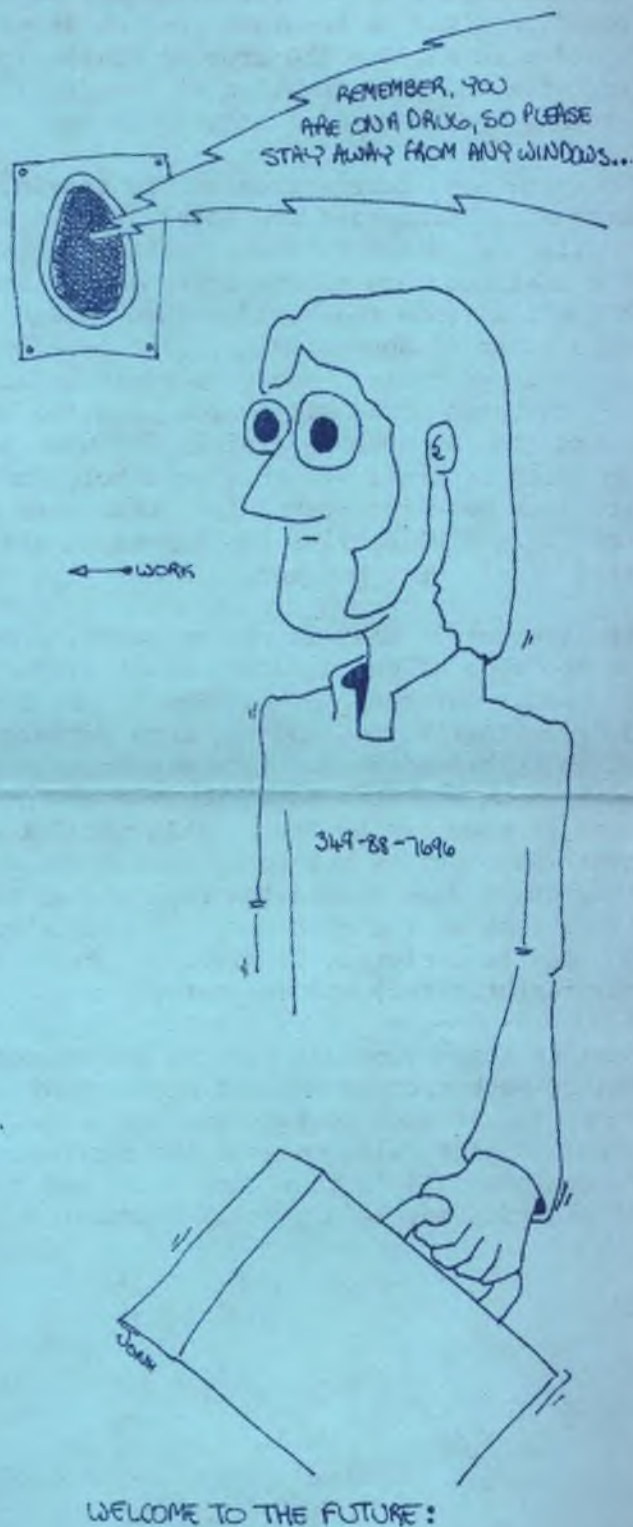
There may be no solution to some of the problems; in some instances the solutions may bring further difficulties or change the form of the Worldcon as we know it.

COPING

The era of the one-hotel Worldcon is gone. The past several conventions have required the use of overflow hotels to provide enough rooms -- almost a third of the Discon rooms were in an overflow hotel. Although all function rooms have been kept in one hotel, this situation may soon change.

The Hugo banquet and the Masquerade are the largest functions, and thus represent the biggest seating problem. Of the 3000 Torcon attendees, about 2200 crowded into the Masquerade; of the 4500 Discon members, at least 3000 jammed the Masquerade. Therefore, a 6000-person con would probably require seating for 4000 persons at the costume ball. The smaller banquet requires as much space because of tables and serving areas.

There just aren't very many (if any) hotels in the world with ballrooms that big. Midamericon's Muehlebach hotel has facilities about 3/4ths as large as the Sheraton Park's. Muehlebach's main meeting area seats about 2600. What will happen to the extra people who want to see the Masquerade or Hugo banquet? Increased attendance will also increase requirements for huckster, art show, panel, and function room space.

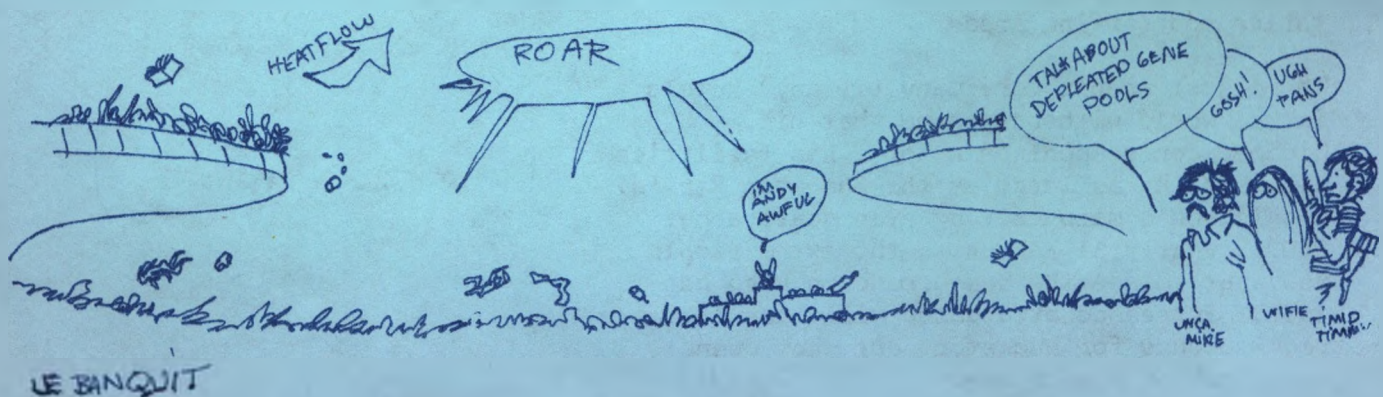


Some possible solutions are not very pleasant. An obvious answer to Kansas City's immediate problem would be to eliminate the big events! Alternatively, only the banquet could be deleted. The Hugos could be presented one night, the other miscellaneous awards could be handed out at the Introduction to Notables (which might give fans more idea of why the Notables are notable), and the Guest of Honor speeches could be given as separate program items (as Roger Zelazny's was at Discon). This would also relieve the problem of the length of the Hugo banquet which is increasing with the proliferation of awards. The banquet could be eliminated on other grounds than mere size as well -- bad, overpriced food.

However, most hotels provide the convention with free meeting rooms *because* of the banquet. To appease the hotel, yet to eliminate a gargantuan banquet, a set of smaller banquets or lunches could be started (lunches are also cheaper than dinners). For instance, how about having a meet-the-authors lunch/dinner? Every author or BNF who attends the Worldcon and appears on a panel could be given a free meal as a token of appreciation. The pros/BNFs would be placed around the room -- one or more per table. Neo-fans would be able to have an intimate dinner with a pro, the pros would get a meal, and the hotel would have a big food function. This could also be done in a similar manner to LACON's eat-with-your-favorite-pro-brunch, in which separate brunches were held for specific pros, and fans signed up with the pro they were interested in. Cash bars and other small food functions such as the Burroughs Bibliophiles Dum Dum might also satisfy the hotel and alleviate the need for a Hugo banquet.

The Masquerade has, in recent years, taken on the elements of an extravaganza; if the type of Masquerade seen at Discon continues, there may be no seating problem -- people may stop going. But if the time for presentations can be limited, prejudging instituted, and the show organized to move quickly, it could continue to be an enjoyable event for future cons. It is often hard to see costume detail from the back of an enormous room, so even if con facilities large enough to seat 4000 or more persons can be found, this problem will be aggravated. Seating and viewing problems might be solved by having the contestants parade through several rooms; they could walk around the room and up the aisles, so that everyone could have a close look at the costumes. If people are really interested in presentations, as opposed to costumes, it might be possible to have a costume parade one night (with no presentations) and an amateur night show at another time.

Another suggestion has been to use closed circuit TV to broadcast events to rooms. But if such systems are not already available at the hotel, they may be expensive to rent. If such systems are available, there is no guarantee they will work or that visual quality will be good (NorEasCon had that problem). Also, viewing the Masquerade ball in your room would not have the excitement of the actual event. Still, this may be a partial solution to crowd problems.





Municipal auditoriums might be used for the largest functions, trading inaccessability and increased costs for the size problem. Fans in skimpy costumes would have to skirt dark alleys to reach the Masquerade. However, some auditoriums do have dressing rooms. Perhaps such auditoriums or convention centers could be used for the entire convention. After all, other societies such as the American Chemical Society and European SF conventions have done this for years. Heicon was held in a city hall. Everyone spent the day there, and at night scattered to 10 or more hotels in Heidelberg -- and still managed to find the room parties. However, the Worldcon would definitely evolve into something completely different.

Since Worldcons with over 2000 people are required to use several hotels to provide enough rooms, an obvious idea would be to use them as complete con hotels. Alternate programming could be set up in each hotel. For example, movies and the art show could be in one hotel, panels in another. Two Hugo banquets or two Masquerades might be set up -- possibly linked by closed circuit TV. Or separate interest groups could be given different hotels and essentially hold independent conventions. The main disadvantages of any of these ideas are obvious: trying to attend two program items at the same time is impossible without benefit of a time machine; difficulties in walking several blocks to attend different functions; and increased problems in finding friends. But would this be preferable to being excluded from the Masquerade or Hugo presentation because of lack of space? Or to staying in a hotel blocks away from con facilities? Or to being denied a huckster table because of lack of space?

The Worldcon rotation plans could be changed. Two Worldcons could be held on the East and West Coasts at the same time, like the Nebula Award banquets. With only 2000-3000 people at each, instead of 6000 at one, we might find hotels big enough. Or keep a rotation plan, but choose two or more cities in the same region to hold simultaneous conventions. The two con committees would work together and present the Hugos in two cities with a phone hookup. Or -- have two Worldcons a year. Or -- have a NASFIC and a Worldcon in the same year -- either jointly or at different times to spread the crowd. Or -- use only hotels big enough to accomodate 5000 or more people. Since there are only 10 or so hotels large enough in the U.S., such as the Sheraton Park, they could be used repeatedly.

Again, the disadvantages of solutions involving two or more hotels for programming under any conditions are obvious. The main reason for the Worldcon is to have one con where everyone can get together at the same time. To divide the Worldcon into several locations would frustrate one of the main reasons for the Worldcon.

One aspect of the increased Worldcon size is the increasing inability of the con committee to be in control of the situation. Divorces and gafiation have always been

hazards to Worldcon committee members. These gigantic cons may bring on a new hazard -- nervous breakdowns. Running the Worldcon is becoming a full-time job. More than one recent Worldcon has used profits to pay for bidding expenses. Some persons have discussed paying themselves a salary for the job of running the con. There has also been talk of establishing a professional con committee which would receive full-time salaries and run all Worldcons.

As the Worldcon expands in size and complexity, the amount of work required to run the con will undoubtedly increase. What fans will be willing to work for nothing? What city has enough die-hard fans to make up a viable Worldcon committee?

This may be the most critical of all problems facing the Worldcon. If the Worldcon is forced into a municipal auditorium or several hotels, the con committee will be spread even thinner trying to keep on top of events everywhere. There will also be more pre-con work to do -- arranging alternate programming, sending out more progress reports, developing new types of programming. Con committee problems in handling a large, complex convention may lead to increased incidents of incompetence and mismanagement.

One way of increasing the size of the committee would be to hire fans or outside help. Professional con committees might move from city to city to help the winning con bid. But these solutions would add to the commercialism of the Worldcon.

Another solution might be to have a pool of volunteers from around the country help at the con. In recent years it has been common practice for the con committee to corral a number of people during the convention and to use them to run errands and to help with registration. Why not refine this practice and make it more organized and effective? Prior to the convention, the committee would request people to volunteer. Volunteers would arrive on Thursday, before official con functions began. An orientation would be held for them; they would be instructed on the hotel layout, the program, and other facts. Each person would be assigned specific times for volunteer work, and a schedule of times would be posted. This pool of people would be large enough so that each person would only need to volunteer two hours or so (although they could volunteer more if they wished). They could be used to run errands, print the daily activities newsletter, help with registration, or act as informal security guards. Additional persons could volunteer during the convention itself, and they would be used for tasks requiring no preparation.

Of course there is one obvious "solution" I haven't mentioned yet. That is to let things go on as they are. This would be the easiest decision to make, but would lead to chaos. We can keep trying to find big hotels to use and hope that all these people will just go away somehow. And if they don't go away, well, too bad. Well-attended events would be eliminated, or put on a first-come, first-seated basis. This latter "solution" has been the practice in the past. But it is a "solution" only by default, and is extremely unfair. Fans pride themselves on having imaginative minds. We ought to be able to come up with a better solution than first-come, first-seated. While it seems drastic to eliminate a traditional program function such as a Hugo Banquet or a Masquerade, or to contemplate alternate programming in several hotels or two Worldcons a year, the alternative of turning away fans because of crowding seems even worse.

AS CONVENTIONS INCREASE IN SIZE

No solution involving letting the Worldcon continue to grow in size without restraint is totally satisfactory. Will a Worldcon with 6,000 or more people be the kind of Worldcon you'll want to attend?

As the Worldcons have increased in size, there's been a gradual change in emphasis and spirit. In the past, every Worldcon attendee had something in common, something which was important in his life, a love of written Science Fiction. This caused a family-type atmosphere in which instant friendship was attained; this fandom was a place where rather shy individuals could lose their inhibitions and talk to other people. The Worldcon was a forum to exchange ideas, meet and hear professional authors, attend parties, see a few films -- but basically a social place to meet people -- both old friends and new fans.

With a large convention (whether it is in one hotel, a municipal auditorium, or several hotels), it becomes increasingly difficult to find the people you want to meet. With the increasing number of fringe fans in attendance, the attendees no longer necessarily have something in common. This has led to a decrease in fannishness: as though the convention has maintained its form, but not its spirit. There has been a change in emphasis -- from entertaining ourselves to a feeling that the convention must entertain us. At Discon, LAcon, and other recent Worldcons, several events were aimed at providing a show, without much regard to the purpose of a Worldcon, or even to SF.

Why must the convention entertain people? If the primary reason for the Worldcon is to provide a forum for ideas and a place to meet, the Worldcon could occur without any programming at all!

Increasing size has also led to increased commercialism at the con. The huckster's room has always been the focus of commercialism -- but now more and more fringe fandom material and non-SF items such as jewelry and pens are being sold. Discon may have had the first non-fan hucksters -- a woman who owned a jewelry store showed up to sell her wares; a man arrived to take photographs of people and sell them buttons with their picture on it; and one enterprising comics fan hired friends (nonfans) to sell his comics fanzine and sweatshirts in the hallways. Increased numbers of thefts in the artshow and huckster's room have been reported. There have also been increased incidents of vandalism and littering caused by "fans." The Internal Revenue Service and local tax authorities have now "found" us, and are checking to make sure appropriate taxes are paid. Professional con committees may become necessary. The commercial aspects can only be expected to increase as Worldcon size increases.

If we don't limit attendance, what kind of Worldcon will we have? We may end up with a gigantic con of 10,000 people in a municipal auditorium or spread over several hotels. Present trends of increased commercialism, increased fringe fan attendance, increased emphasis on non-literary SF programming, attempts to entertain the masses of people and disintegration of the family spirit of the Worldcon will continue. It will become harder and harder to find cities and facilities large enough for the convention, and harder to find con committees willing to put out the required time, effort, and money for a Worldcon. Will splinter groups start their own conventions over Labor Day in competition with an enormous World Convention?

LIMIT ATTENDANCE

Several possibilities exist to limit convention membership. Kansas City may not sell at-the-door memberships. Discon had 4500 registered persons, of whom 1500 were at-the-door members. Of this number, approximately half were local people. Prohibiting sale of registrations at-the-door would cut into attendance to some degree by preventing walk-ins who hear about the con on the local news. People would have to plan to attend in advance, which would give the con committee an accurate idea of how many people to expect and how much money would be available. Unfortunately, many

of those at-the-door people will merely register early. If people realize there is no way they can attend unless they register in advance, they will definitely do so, even though their chances of attending may be slim. Even if this does cut membership slightly, Kansas City most likely will face over 5000 members. An alternative to this method would be to charge an extremely high at-the-door fee. Charges of \$25 are being considered, but with inflation as high as it is, fees of \$50 or \$100 would probably be necessary to discourage people effectively.

Such policies would have an additional problem -- policing memberships. Discon checked membership badges on a haphazard basis, with the result that some attendees did not bother to pay for memberships. Although such deadbeats may be proportionately small in number, 5% of 4500 is still 225 people, or about \$2000 in lost income to a con charging a \$10 membership fee. Selling no at-the-door memberships would require strict policing of badges, or walk-ins who didn't know about this policy and others who thought they could sneak in, would sneak in without paying. Such a policy would also have to be strictly upheld to be fair. Thus, if a BNF or pro neglected to register in advance, he would be treated the same as any neo or walk-in and refused membership. The con committee would have to publicize the policy well in advance and make sure that all panel members had bought or been given memberships.

Some people have suggested limiting the number of memberships sold, depending on the size of the facilities available. The Feb. 1975 Star Trek Con in New York City is trying this policy (limiting membership to 8000). It will be interesting to see how well that works out. Again, strict checking of memberships would be needed to enforce such a policy. Since a manageable SF Worldcon seems to be limited to the 3000 person range in the average single hotel, and since we've already calculated probable attendance at the 1976 Worldcon at 6000 persons, such a policy might require an arbitrary exclusion of some 3000 persons. Unfair? This "solution" is almost as bad as cramming everyone into a small hotel and letting people sit on a "first come, first seated" basis.

Worldcon publicity could be limited. This seems a logical alternative, but it may not be easy. How does one stop word-of-mouth publicity? One of the best ways for finding new fans is publicity in the pro magazines. Should this be stopped too? Should publicity be limited to the point at which no new fans enter fandom? If a person has been reading SF all his life and would be a great new fan, doesn't he deserve a door into fandom?

Perhaps the lines of communication should be kept open to people who read SF, while publicity to fringe fans and walk-ins is discouraged. Limiting or eliminating publicity in the local area would certainly reduce walk-in attendance. One suggestion is to allow publicity in the local town or city -- after the convention is over. Refusing to cater to newsmen would have an added bonus -- it would give the overburdened con committee one less thing to worry about. A serious problem may be the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA). The Worldcon is a big publicity event for SFWA. The Hugos bring additional money and prestige to the nominated and winning authors, so the SFWA may not be amenable to a total lack of publicity. But if the problems of the Worldcon were discussed with SFWA, SFWA would probably be glad to keep publicity to a minimum before the con and to emphasize it after the con -- perhaps even having special events or news conferences on the Monday or Tuesday after the con. Attempts to limit publicity would have to be coordinated with SFWA, fans, prozines, and fanzines to ensure that one group is not still publicizing the con while another is limiting publicity.

FRINGE FANS

Another way of limiting size might be to discourage fringe fan attendance. Which brings up the question -- *What is Science Fiction Fandom?* Who is the Worldcon for?

There is divided opinion about this. Some people believe that the Worldcon is, as it says in the World Science Fiction Society Constitution, a convention run by a literary society. The emphasis is on fandom of the written word. Because of its interest in literary SF, one of the major activities of fandom is literary amateur publications printed, to some extent, in imitation of the professional magazines. This view holds that the Worldcon is for fans of *literary* SF.

While it is natural for a Society to evolve with time, it is not legitimate for it to violate the spirit with which it was founded. Today's literary SF fandom is derived from the fandom which had its beginnings during the period of 1923-1929, when the first four successful SF magazines were placed on sale: WEIRD TALES, AMAZING STORIES, SCIENCE WONDER STORES, AND AIR WONDER STORIES. The editors of those four magazines grew bold and invited letters from readers; they got them in quantity. Soon the readers were writing to each other, and that led to "science clubs," and social and correspondence clubs centered on magazines and their editorial personalities, such as the Science Fiction League started by Hugo Gernsback. The clubs multiplied and eventually invited one another to visit, creating the first conventions. From these early gatherings through 32 annual World Science Fiction Conventions, the essence of the fandom has been written SF.¹

However, some people believe that SF fandom and the SF Worldcon are for fans of SF in *every* form -- written, sung, drawn, filmed, or televised. This view of a sort of omni-SF fandom says the Worldcon should reflect *all* aspects of SF and provide something for everyone. Recent Worldcons, perhaps unthinkingly, have leaned in this direction, providing something for the SFWA, Burroughs fans, sword and sorcery fans, the Hyborian Legion, hucksters, the hotel, film fans, walk-ins, Star Trek fans, comics fans, Creative Anachronists, monster fans, even the Georgette Heyer Society. There has also been an increased emphasis on elements which are not related to SF at all -- such as belly dancers and a Medieval wedding at LACon, selling of non-SF items in the huckster's rooms, showing of films such as THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD, and various masquerade costumes at Discon.

Something for everyone. Perhaps the Worldcon isn't meant for everyone. It started for readers of SF, and could continue to be for them. Certainly some fans may have dual interests related to SF such as SF movies, comics, Star Trek, or monsters. But these fringe areas have their own conventions. The Worldcon is the only literary SF Worldcon. While some fans may have interests in various non-SF items such as jewelry or DUMBO and in non-literary facets of SF, the line must be drawn somewhere. Many fans may be interested in baseball too, but does this justify having the World Series at the Worldcon? The con can show some SF films, but they don't need to be emphasized to the point at which movie fans come just for the movies. All night films have been used as much for a gigantic sleeping room as for their film value. Instead of using all-night films to provide a place for crashers, why not rent cots and set them up in a big room, or rent a large suite for crashers? It would be more comfortable for the crashers, and cheaper for the con.

One of the reasons that fringe fans come to the Worldcon is that many of the leaders of fringe fandom are also SF fans. A fringe fan interested in written SF may feel that other fringe fans would also be interested in it, and some are. So they mention the Worldcon in fringe fanzines and to friends. But unfortunately, many of the

people who hear about the Worldcon from these sources are not interested in written SF. They may attend the Worldcon under the mistaken impression that it is a fringe fandom convention. These fringe fans, who have little or no interest in written SF may be one of the main reasons for increased Worldcon attendance.

At Discon it seemed as though fans interested in literary SF were the minority -- as though what used to be the core of fandom was now the fringe. Perhaps this trend has caused the almost paranoid feelings against fringe fans and much of the sometimes unreasoned hostility toward Star Trek fans.

We face a decision -- what do we want to emphasize at the Worldcon, SF in general or only written SF?

If the Worldcon committee increases omni-SF programming, literary SF fandom will decrease in size until it is another of the fringe fandoms under the omni-SF umbrella, while fans of mass media SF will increase. If the World SF Society is a literary society, it may be possible to reduce Worldcon size by discouraging fringe fan attendance by emphasizing written SF. If the Worldcon stopped providing fringe fandom/mass media SF programming, fringe fans would find less to interest them, and presumably would stop attending.

A negative publicity campaign for fringe fandoms could be instituted. Perhaps we could talk to the leaders of various fringe fandoms and emphasize that the Worldcon is strictly a convention about written SF. We could tell them about our problems and ask that they please not mention the Worldcon, or that if they do mention the Worldcon, they emphasize the lack of fringe fandom programming. Fringe groups could be encouraged to hold their own cons in other cities at the same time as the Worldcon.

Also, non-SF related items could be barred from the hucksters room. In fact, all material not related to literary SF could be barred, such as film clips, film posters, pens, and comics. People could still sell this material in their rooms, but not as an official part of the convention. A less drastic idea would be to prohibit only comics from being sold -- this might well eliminate comics fan attendance entirely. Fringe fandom programming such as comics panels, Creative Anachronist revels, and Count Dracula Society and World Future Society meetings could be eliminated.

CONCLUSIONS

I've presented several possible paths for the future of the Worldcon, some ideas, some problems. The future of the Worldcon is in the hands of its members and the con committees which will run it. Perhaps you feel the Worldcon should continue to expand in size indefinitely; then where can it be held? Perhaps you feel all aspects of SF should be represented at the Worldcon (omni-SF), or perhaps you are concerned about the increased emphasis on fringe fandoms. Whatever your feelings, the time to decide these things is now. I hope all of you will think about the problems and work toward viable solutions.

MY POSITION

Up to now I've tried to present^a reasonably objective analysis of the problems and alternatives. Now I'd like to present a synthesis of some of the preceding ideas. I'd like to emphasize that the following is only one approach to the problem, a possible solution, but not an ideal one. It is only a starting point for discussion, but pretty well sums up my personal feelings.

By limiting attendance to some extent while coping with larger numbers of fans, I believe we can prevent the Worldcon from becoming so large and unwieldy that it falls apart under its own weight or sends groups of dismayed fans off to start their own cons.

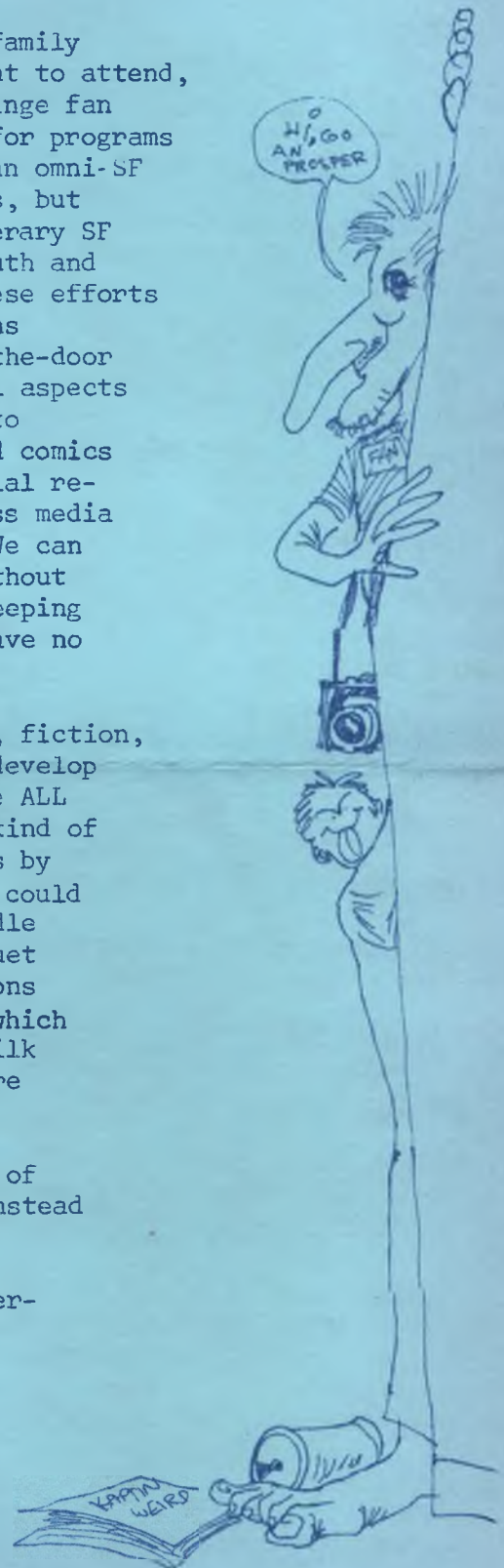
Worldcons will proably never return to an attendance of less than 3000, but we can try to ensure that if more than 3000 people attend, at least they will all be interested in literary SF, because that is the heart of our fandom.

We can try to focus on written SF and to keep the family spirit of fandom. We shouldn't deny anyone the right to attend, but by emphasizing written SF we can discourage fringe fan attendance. People can attend fringe fandom cons for programs on those aspects of SF. If someone wants to have an omni-SF con, they can start their own series of conventions, but the Worldcon should remain the focal point for literary SF fandom. Publicity should be limited to word-of-mouth and mentions in literary SF fanzines and prozines. These efforts will ensure an influx of some new fans, but the fans primarily will be SF readers. We can eliminate at-the-door memberships. We can strive to eliminate commercial aspects which are causing the fannishness of the Worldcon to degenerate into mundaneness. We can bar non-SF and comics huckstering and try to emphasize the sale of material related to written SF rather than that related to mass media SF. We can eliminate fringe fandom programming. We can limit film programs to show the best SF movies, without allowing the film program to become a haven for sleeping crashers or an encouragement for film freaks who have no other SF interests.

Instead, we can emphasize fan history, pro writers, fiction, meeting people, and discussion groups. We should develop new ideas to have people entertain themselves. The ALL OUR YESTERDAYS Fan History room at Torcon was the kind of innovation we need. We can help the con committees by volunteering ideas and manpower. If necessary, we could use two hotels or a municipal auditorium to handle crowds. New ideas such as replacing the Hugo banquet with several presentations and smaller food functions and putting the Masquerade into two rooms through which contestants parade should be tried. We can have filk sings, con sponsored get-aquainted parties, and more emphasis on fan panels.

Most importantly, we should not fall into the trap of hoping the problems will go away by themselves. Instead we should work for viable solutions to give people the best con possible. It may be a difficult transition until we develop solutions, but the alternative is likely to be disastrous. The Worldcon may eventually be 6000-person strong, but we can make the 6000 SF fans friends, not strangers. The Worldcon is evolving and changing. We can work toward making it evolve into something worthwhile. Or we can let it evolve into a large, commercial, mass media SF con, with about as much quality as mass media SF -- and then change its name to the World Sci-Fi Convention.

-- Linda E. Bushyager



WSFS CONSTITUTION

(The following is the new constitution for the World Science Fiction Society adopted at Discon. George Scithers proposed this; although he presented it as though it were the work of the WSFS Constitution Committee, no one on the committee had even seen it until just before the con, and most of the members of the committee were opposed to it (or to major parts) so it can be considered entirely George's. Please read it carefully, because there are many important changes. A major change is that Hugo categories are limited to 10 and category definitions are left to the discretion of the responsible con committee. The rotation plan is stabilized by regularizing the custom of holding a non-competitive Continental Con in North America during years when the Worldcon goes overseas (the NASFIC). A mail-ballot referendum system for ratifying amendments is set up which puts added responsibilities on the con committee to put out such a mailing. Since there are no provisions on what happens if the committee fails to carry out this responsibility, I wonder what would happen if a con committee neglected its duties.

During the Discon business session, I fought against many of the provisions of this constitution, since I feel it gives the overburdened con committee even more responsibilities, opens the possibility of fringe fandom Hugos (or even no Hugos, since the committee can do as it likes), and makes the loose structure of the WSFS even looser by giving the con committee more responsibility and the membership less in some areas. If you find yourself against portions of the new constitution and neglected to attend the business session at Discon, you have only yourself to blame for its adoption. The entire constitution, after being amended during the meeting, was voted on and accepted 32-22. - Linda)

1.01 The World Science Fiction Society is an unincorporated literary society whose functions are: to choose the recipients of the annual Science Fiction Achievement Awards (the Hugos), to choose the locations for the annual World Science Fiction Conventions, and to attend those Conventions.

1.02 The membership of the World Science Fiction Society consists of all people who have paid membership dues to the Convention Committee of the current Convention.

1.03 Authority and responsibility for all matters concerning the Convention, except those reserved herein to the Society, lie with the Convention Committee, which acts in its own name, not that of the Society.

1.04 Each Convention Committee should dispose of surplus funds remaining after accounts are settled for the benefit of the Society membership as a whole, and should publish or have published by the following Convention Committee a final financial report.

2.01 Each year, the Society membership shall nominate and select the winners of the Hugos. The Convention Committee shall distribute and count ballots, procure the material awards, present the awards at its World Science Fiction Convention, and perform such other duties as needed.

2.02 The Hugo shall continue to be standardized on the rocket ship design of Jack McKnight and Ben Jason. Each Committee may select its own base. The name and design shall not be extended to any other award whatsoever. Under rare and extraordinary circumstances, a Committee may make one Hugo award on its own vote rather than that of the Society.

2.03 Nomination and voting shall be by mail ballot, limited to Society members. Members must identify themselves on the ballot to avoid irregularities in voting. In the final ballot, members shall be asked to indicate first, second, and so on choices for each category, among not more than 5 nominees plus "No Award." In counting votes, the Committee shall count first choices, eliminate the nominee receiving the fewest, redistribute ballots of voters who chose that nominee according to their second choices, and so on until a nominee acceptable to a majority of voters is reached or until the Committee should declare the remaining nominees are tied.

2.04 In general, Hugos are awarded for outstanding literary or artistic accomplishment in science fiction or fantasy which became available to the membership by publication or performance in the calendar year immediately before the year the awards are given. A specific work is eligible but once, and cover date of the last installment of a serial governs. Since increasing the number of Hugo categories makes each less significant to voters and to recipients, the number of Hugo categories shall be strictly limited to no more than 10, including the Special Award permitted by paragraph 2.02.

2.05 The exact categories and rules for the Hugos to be awarded at each Convention shall be drawn up and published by the Convention Committee's as early as possible and at least a full year before the Convention's date. Categories and rules should follow tradition, which such few changes as each Committee decides upon, and should be reduced in number whenever a category fails to draw voter interest. At each step of nomination and voting, "No Award" shall be offered as an option to the members. Since the Committee has such wide discretion to establish categories, no person who is a member of the Committee or was so during the eligibility year, nor a publication or production closely associated with him/her, may receive a Hugo at that Committee's Convention.

2.06 Should the Convention Committee delegate all authority to establish categories, prepare ballots, and count the same to a sub-committee whose decisions the Convention Committee cannot reverse, then the ineligibility rule above will apply to sub-committee members only.

3.01 The Society shall choose the location of the Convention to be held two years hence at a meeting held at an advertised time during each World Science Fiction Convention. The current Convention Committee shall supply the presiding officer and staff. Voting shall be by mail and in person, with run-off ballot as described above (but without the "No Award" option), limited to Society members who have also paid at least two dollars toward membership in the Convention whose site is being selected. The current Committee shall administer the mail balloting, collect advance membership fees, and turn over those funds to the winning Committee before the end of the current Convention.

3.02 To assure equitable distribution of sites, North America is divided into three Divisions:

Western: Baja California, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Saskatchewan, and all states and provinces westward.

Central: Central America, Mexico (except as above), and all states and provinces between the Western and Eastern Divisions.

Eastern: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Quebec, and all states and provinces eastward.

3.03 Convention sites shall rotate Western, Central, Eastern. Bids may be considered out of turn only if the rule of rotation be set aside by a three-quarters majority

vote. In the event of such setting aside, the same motion shall also establish where the rotation is to resume.

3.04 A Convention site outside North America may be selected by a majority vote at any Convention. In this event there shall be an interim, Continental Convention in the Division that lost, to be held in the same year as the overseas World Science Fiction Convention, with rotation skipping that division the next following year. To skip a Division without giving it an interim Continental Convention requires a three-quarters majority vote. Selection of the site of such Continental Convention may be by continuation of the World Convention site selection meeting, or by such other method as the competing bidders may agree upon.

3.05 With Sites being selected two years in advance, there are therefore at least two Convention Committees in existence. If one should become unable to perform its duties, the surviving Convention Committee shall determine what to do, by mail poll of the Society if there is time for one, or by decision of the Committee if there is not.

4.01 The Society shall conduct business at a meeting held at an advertised time during each World Science Fiction Convention. The current Convention Committee shall provide the presiding officer and staff. The meeting shall be conducted in accordance with ROBERTS' RULES OF ORDER, REVISED, and such other rules as may be published by the Committee in advance. At this meeting, amendments to this Constitution may be proposed, discussed, and perfected. Such perfected proposals, if approved by a majority of those present, shall be submitted by mail ballot to the entire membership of the Society by the next following Committee, no later than the nomination ballot for Hugo awards, for ratification or rejection by a majority of those voting. If ratified, the amendment shall take effect at the end of the next Convention, unless the Committee of that Convention (which is administering this mail ballot) chooses to make it effective when the vote is tallied. Each Committee shall publish the Constitution, with amendments, in a Progress Report and in its Program Book.

4.02 All previous Constitutions, by-laws, and resolutions having the effect of either are rescinded at the end of the Convention during which this Constitution may be ratified.

Submitted by Richard H. Eney,
Presiding Officer,
DisCon II Business Session

(Copies of the official report of the DisCon Business Session containing this Constitution, results of voting, and some discussion, are available from Dick Eney, 6500 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Va. 22307. I suggest you enclose a 10¢ stamp. -LeB)

Australia in '75

Kansas City in '76

Montreal or Orlando in '77

Britain is fine in '79

NEWS FLASHS!



Mae Strelkov's husband, Vadim, suffered a stroke while Mae was visiting the U.S. after Discon, courtesy of the special Strelkov fund. Mae rushed back to Argentina after spending over a month in the U.S.

APA-ANARCHON (Dec. 6-8) has been cancelled, due to lack of interest and high costs.

The Tucker Fund has passed its goal and now has about \$2000. Extra money collected will be channeled to DUFF (Down Under Fan Fund) and to Aussiecon Fan GoHs, Mike Glicksohn and Susan Wood, who must pay their own way to the con. The fund officially closes Nov. 23. Copies of the REALLY INCOMPLETE BOB TUCKER have been printed.

ORLANDO IN '77. Some clarification on the Orlando Worldcon bid was provided by JoAnn Wood. The "7 in 77" group found several cities eager to host a Worldcon, then decided on Orlando because it was cheaper to stay at the hotel and because the hotel itself had enough meeting and exhibit space to hold the entire program in one hotel. The committee especially sought a hotel large enough for the entire con, since one that gives an SF Worldcon the closeness and camaraderie that professional cons lack is the fact that the entire program is held in one place where a large number of attendees also stay. The exhibit hall in the Sheraton Towers does not have pillars or walls, so the hall can be used as a meeting area. It has 49,800 sq ft and the meeting area has 23,712 sq ft. The exhibit hall could hold 5,700 people. The committee also felt that since it has been 23 years since Nolacon, it was time for the south to host another con. Since the Sheraton chain has been very cooperative with SF conventions, this was taken into consideration. There will be free parking. JoAnn adds: "The 7 for 77 committee has spent a lot of time and effort and used its experience planning all aspects of the 77 Worldcon, the convention as well as the bid. Our purpose is to ensure a successful and enjoyable SF convention." This new data reveals that the Orlando bid has the best con facilities. I'm leaning toward support of Orlando at this point.

MIMEO MAN I mentioned last issues that copies of THE MIMMO MAN with dialog and songs will be available from Moshe Feder. I should have made it clear that they haven't been printed as yet, and will take at least a month to be completed. You can advance order them for \$1 each from Moshe Feder, 142-34 Booth Memorial Ave., Flushing, N.Y. 11355

CoA Al Sirois, 533 Chapel St., First Floor East, New Haven, Ct., 06511
B. D. Arthurs, 2401 W. Southern, B-136, Tempe, Ariz. 85282 (as of Jan. 23)

LAST MINUTE MISCELLANY

Al Sirois will be editing the SFWA HANDBOOK. *Rick Sternbach* will be doing the covers for the new editions of Larry Niven's paperbacks from Ballantine. *Don Ayres* is fasia at the moment. He'll be back in Peoria in December, then probably moving to L.A. *The Baltimore SF Society and Baltimore County Public Library* sponsored an SF week Nov. 13-16 which included a Zelazny talk, films, and a fan panel. *VERTEX* is now returning unsolicited manuscripts un-read with a note to re-submit it in six months. It also takes over 6 weeks to return the manuscripts. *SFinctor* is a new fannish newszine produced monthly by Craig Miller, Elliot Weinstein, and Glenn Mitchell. It is available for the usual or 15¢/1, 8/\$1. Con news, CoAs, etc. Issue #1 is short (2 p.) but sweet.

CREDITS AND SUCH

Again, thanks to you for locs, news, contribs. I really appreciate it people! Artwork this issue is by Shull (cover), Jonh Ingham (p. 5), Mike Gilbert (p. 6, 7, 13), Jay Kinney (p. 4), and Grant Canfield (p. 17). FanFair ad drawn by Wayne MacDonald. Special thanks go to Ron Bushyager for helping me write and rewrite and edit and rewrite my editorial.

I'd appreciate it if people could let me know when they receive their copies of this KARASS and in what condition. If the issue is getting torn by the U.S.P.O.D. I may have to use thicker paper, or envelops, or something.

I've gotten an incredible response to mentions of KARASS and the NEO-FAN'S GUIDE in AMAZING, over 25 I'd guess, which shows that someone out there is still buying that mag. I finally subscribed because I couldn't find it at the news stand.

GRANFALLOON 19 is being typed and will be out by Christmas; it costs 75¢ and contains an interview with Roger Elwood, a Jodie Offut cooking column, D'Amassa and Curlovich book columns, a Mae Strelkov story illustrated by Bathurst and Terry Austin, a Terry Austin portfolio, and more. *Have a nice Thanksgiving; don't eat too much turkey.*

/ / If there is an X here, this will be your last issue unless you subscribe or contrib.

Karass 9, Nov. 1974
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