

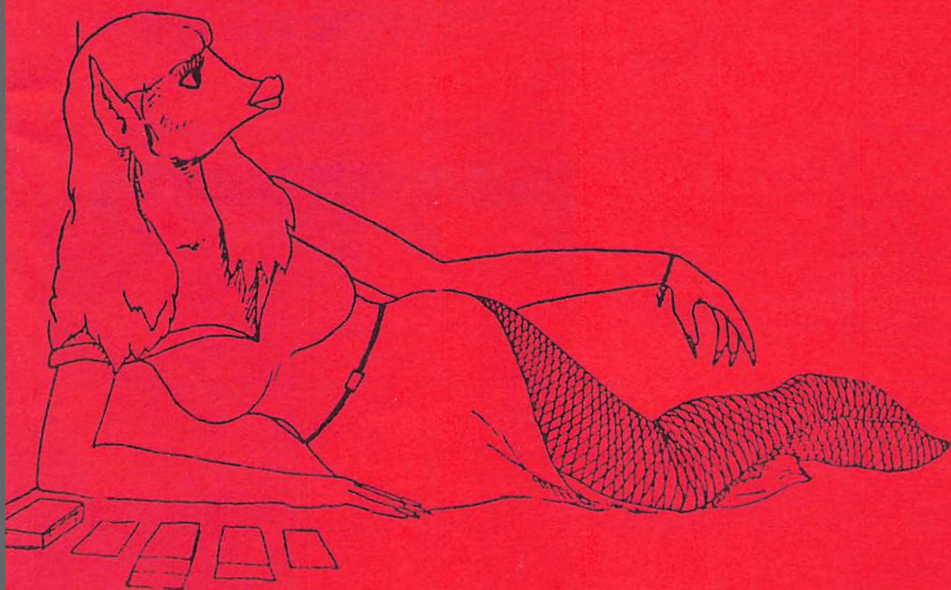
DECADENT CONFUSION

GoH: ALAN DEAN FOSTER

FGoH: Julia Ecklar

TM: Marty Burke

JANUARY 25 - 27



Thanks

The committee of Decadent Confusion extends its sincere thanks to the following individuals and groups:

The staff of the Plymouth Hilton, especially Vickie Pineau and Darlene Moraco, Michigan Writers' Guild, Alex Tons, Cheryl Crawford, David Stein, Bob Tucker, Terry Calhoun (Academic Word Processing), Copyquick, the Shirt Station, Albert's Copying, Dollar Bill's Copying, Dawn Treader Books, Bob Brezeau, Char Berrey, Leo Frankowski, Pete Rogan, Ann Zeddies, George Laskowski, Anna O'Connell, Linda Leach, Mike and Carol Resnick, Ted Reynolds, Michael Kube-McDowell, Cliff Flynt, Mark Bernstein, Alex Berman, Maia Cowan, Howard Scrimgeour, Michael Wallis, Malina Harding, Dean McLaughlin, Chris Clayton, Rusty Westfeld, Kathleen Conat, Jaime Yingling, Ross Anderson, Wayne and Zita Gillis, Big George's, Elizabeth Pearse, Mike Glicksohn, Roger Reynolds, Steve Simmons, Peter Toluzzi, Nancy Tucker, Jean Barnard, Larry Tucker (Tucker Video), Debofe Rigdon, Liz Young, Mark Coleman, Sharon Taylor, Glenn Farmer, Hugh Daniels and everyone else who helped to make this Confusion a success.



Stilyagi Air Corps

HAVING TROUBLE FITTING IN AT THE UO? WHY NOT TRY THE STILYAGI AIR CORPS. THE UOF M SCIENCE-FICTION/FANTASY/ETC. CLUB WERE UOF M'S FRIENDLIEST CLUB MEET NEW AND EXCITING PEOPLE, DO NEW AND EXCITING THINGS, TRAVEL TO FAR OFF GALAXIES. WE HAVE DISCUSSIONS, FIRST SHOWINGS OF MOVIES, SPEAKERS, GAMING, CONVENTIONS, SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND PARTIES.

MEETINGS WEDNESDAY 8:30 LEAGUE



Confusion is brought to you by the Ann Arbor Science Fiction Association/ Stilyagi Air Corps and is signmarked.

CON TENTS

Staff and Committee.	3
Welcome.	5
Neofan's Guide	6
For Your Information	10
Events and Activities.	12
Map of the Plymouth Hilton	14
Schedule of Events	15
Pro Guest of Honor, Alan Dean Foster	18
"Where Do You Get Those Ideas?" (poem)	20
Fan Guest of Honor, Julia Ecklar	22
Toastmaster, Marty Burke	24
Friday Night Speaker, Rusty Hevelin.	26



NEED HELP STAFFING YOUR CON?
WHY NOT ASK THE

DORSAL IRREGULARS

The Dorsal Irregulars are a service fraternity within Science Fiction Fandom. We have a ten year record of service. We have provided staff for every size convention, from small one-day events and regional cons to World S.F. Conventions and 30,000 attendee Media cons. Though we are known mostly for our security work, we actually can provide expertise in a multitude of areas. Our ranks include ten experienced convention chairmen, and a large number of department heads from regionals and World cons. We can also enrich your programming. Some of the most popular Folk Singers in the Midwest are D.I.

Our name was taken from the planet of mercenaries in Gordon R. Dickson's Childe Cycle, with full permission of the author. They are a symbol of dependability, honor, and courage under fire. These are criteria for membership in the Dorsal Irregulars.

If your convention could use some experienced manpower, our talented men and women would be happy to serve you. For more information, write to the Dorsal Irregulars, P.O. Box 235, Marion, New York 14505.

A TEN YEAR HISTORY OF SERVICE TO THE FANNISH COMMUNITY
A MEMBERSHIP CAREFULLY SELECTED FOR THEIR ABILITY TO WORK AS A TEAM
A GROUP THAT TAKES PRIDE IN WHAT THEY DO AND DOES THE BEST JOB POSSIBLE

Looking at the dedication and honor that we live by, it can be seen that: THERE'S A LOT MORE TO BEING A DORSAL IRREGULAR THAN WEARING A BLACK BERET!

Con Com

CHAIRMAN: Michele Smith-Moore

COMMITTEE

HEAD

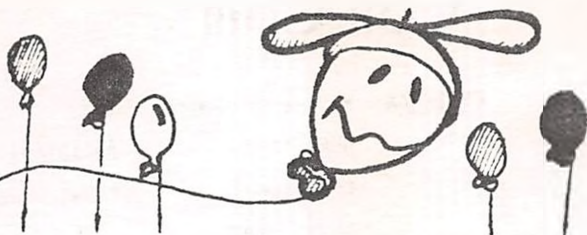
ASSISTANT

Films	Erin Stewart	Rachel Conrod
Operations	Marian Skupski John Woodstar	
Art	Randy Asplund	Dave Reinere
Treasurer	Elizabeth Huffman	
Programming	Tara Edwards	Sonia Vining
Registration	Nancy Farmer	Glenda Andre
Publications & Publicity	Tom Barber Amy Owsley	Terry Calhoun
Computer Room	Steve Andre	Garth Barbour
Hucksters Room	Howard DeVore	
Con Suite	Erik Kauppi	Sean Carroll
Masquerade	Melody Wade	Elessar Tetramariner
Gaming	Gary & Denise Stahl	
SFOHA Liaison	Lloyd Biggle	
Closed Circuit TV Coordinator	Marcus Watts	

Staff

Gail Westbrooks, Liz Young, Liz Huffman, Amy Owsley, Taren Hillger, Aline Clayton-Carroll, Margaret Bumby, Yvonne Knebel, Richard Johnson, Joe Conat, Mike Pendleton, Sandy Schreiber, Christine Brockway, Mary Walsh, Mason Jones, Lorie Rhoads, Marc Allard, Nancy Atherton, Gary Plumlee, Mark Coleman, Nancy Bennet, John Zimmer, Roger White, Peggie White, Chad White, Genevieve Zook, Wayne Cook, Mark Thogherson, Catny Thogherson, Josua Gittlen, Carl Seaver, Roberta Kennedy, Ida Fincannon, Karen Robertson, Debbie Rigdon, Ken Hughes, Mike Bernson, Gail Christopherson, Mike Gardiner, Ann Davis, James Boughten, Mary Ellen Wessels, Marcus watts, Tedward LeCouteur, Laurie Ochsner, Jim Szocik, and Jonathan Jarrard.

APRIL 19,20,21



PRO GUEST OF HONOR

**ORSON
SCOTT CARD**

FAN GUEST OF HONOR

**JULIA
ECKLAR**

**SPECIAL EVENT:
SPOCK PACIFIC**

Julia Ecklar, Frank Heyes and the Fish
and Ships Players bombast in song Star Trek
III: The Search for Spock.

**Holiday Inn
Troy, Michigan**

For Information write:
Contraction
1325 Key West
Troy, Mi 48083



CONTRACTION

Welcome

Welcome to ConFusion, the largest, oldest Michigan Science Fiction convention still going. Why is it still going? Because the committee works hard to provide a good time for everyone. If you like parties, or films, or art, or costuming, or dancing, or collecting, or gaming, or drinking, or talking and socializing, you have come to the right place. If none of that appeals to you, try it anyway. An event like this takes about a year to plan. It's been a eventful year. I think you'll enjoy the results. Read the information in this pamphlet for further details. Eat, drink, and be merry for the time of ConFusion reigns. Decadent ConFusion, the tenth ConFusion, a time of decadence and general gaiety (the ha-ha variety). Be of good cheer, party down, drink the con suite dry, for this weekend is in Camelot! Time goes by strangely, as though space were warping around this hotel. Off with you, to the merriment that awaits! Set loose the pigeons!!!



Neofans' Guide

As the old saying goes, "If you don't know what a Neofan is, you are one." Confusion, once again, welcomes newcomers to the fantastic world of science fiction fandom.

Why fandom? The word is derived from fanatic, ergo someone wildly enthusiastic about something. Fandom was coined to encompass the population of fans. Fans can be divided into a variety of categories, although there is a lot of overlap among them.

1. Readers - people who read the stuff.
2. Collectors - people who collect one or more of the varieties of collectibles of the genre, such as books, art, memorabilia, etc.
3. Media Fans - people who are fans of media other than books, such as film fans, trekkies, Whosits, etc.
4. Fanzine Fans - people who read and write fan publications.
5. Convention Fans - people who attend many of the sort of event you are at.
6. Fringe Fans - any of the above, if you ask someone from another category - people who are not interested in the genre but like to hang out with the group.

Why attend a convention? Mostly to have a good time. To talk with other people interested in the genre, to meet authors, to make new friends. There are as many reasons as there are convention attendees.

How should I behave? Be relaxed, be comfortable. T-shirts and jeans are quite adequate. Be polite, but not insincere. It may take you a few conventions to get used to everything and be accepted as one of us (it takes some people longer than others). The thing to remember is that people are here to have a good time. This does not mean that you should get disgustingly drunk. Fans admire people who can hold their liquor without getting drunk. But if you can't do that, I recommend sticking to soft drinks. There are many fans who never touch alcohol and there is no peer pressure here to make you drink. If you are going to make passes at members of the opposite sex, make sure they are receptive first, and be willing to take no for an answer. Don't be a bore, don't dominate conversations, especially those you weren't invited to join in the first place.

Reputations last a long time in fandom; it's best to start out with a good one. Many of the people here are old friends. The hugging and kissing is quite natural to us. This does not give you a license to join in, but you could be welcome in time.

Fandom is something that has to be entered gradually. The best plan is to try to make a few new friends each convention. If you like, there are various clubs in the area (Stilyagi Air Corps of Ann Arbor is a good example) which could provide you with a wider circle of friends and acquaintances before your next convention. I have found that the more people I know at a con (that's fannish for convention), the more I enjoy myself. It is hard for a person to attend a huge party and not know anyone. We all had to start sometime, though thoughtless people sometimes forget this.

Here are some fannish terms to help you get into the swing of things easier:

Mundane - a person who is not a fan. Generally used derogatorily.

Zine - a publication, usually used as a suffix.

Prozine - a professional publication.

Fanzine - a fan publication, this is divided into many sub categories.

Huckster - a dealer of merchandise, usually books, can be found behind a table in a hucksters' room.

Con Suite - the convention hospitality suite.

Filksing - a fannish community sing.

There are many more terms which will gradually enter your vocabulary. If you don't understand something, feel free to ask. Fans love to talk, and will probably answer a question if they are not too busy. Go out there, get your feet wet, have a good time and we'll look forward to seeing you next year.



We are bidding for the 1983 World Science Fiction Convention. We aim to bring the Worldcon back to Cincinnati after 31 years.

We have sufficient hotel and exhibit space to accommodate a Worldcon as large as any to date. Cincinnati's convention center has over 40 meeting rooms and 300,000 square feet of exhibit space. There are 2800 hotel rooms within three blocks of the Center. All the hotels are interconnected by an elevated walkway, and a large variety of shops and restaurants are located along that walkway as well.

Cincinnati is within easy reach of much of the country--60% of the people in the United States live within 500 miles of Cincinnati.

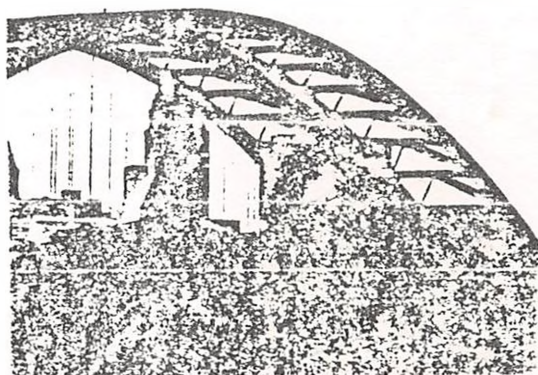
For information, write

CINCINNATI IN 1988 ©
MARK EVANS, CHAIRMAN
P.O. BOX 118738
CINCINNATI, OHIO, 45211

Cincinnati in '88 is a registered service mark of Fannish activities of Ohio, Inc.

Cincinnati
Cincinnati
Cincinnati
Cincinnati
Cincinnati
Cincinnati

(in 1988!)



JOIN US IN JUNE FOR



THE TORONTO SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

JUNE 7-9, 1985

DAVID BRIN MIKE GLYER

VONDA McINTYRE

Ad Astra is pleased to announce our guests for 1985. Hugo award winners all they include **David Brin**, author of *Sundiver*, *The Practice Effect* and *Startide Rising*; **Vonda McIntyre**, author of *Dreamsnake*; and **Mike Glycer**, editor of *File 770*.

The **Howard Johnson's Airport Hotel** is again hosting **Ad Astra**. Room rates are \$59 single, \$65 double. Take Hwy 401 to Dixon Road, then west for about a mile. It's on your left. Phone (416) 675-6100 for reservations or information.

Art Show will again be run by Elizabeth Pearse. For information, please write to her at: 218 All Saints Cres., Oakville, Ontario L6J 5M9.

Dealers tables have always been popular. Tables are 6' x 3' in size, and cost \$20 to May 1 and \$30 at the door. Tables **do not** include membership. For full information write to: Lloyd Penney, P.O. Box 186, Stn. M, Toronto, Ontario M6S 4T3.

Membership is \$15 to May 1st and \$20 at the door.

For further information write to:

Ad Astra V

P.O. Box 7276, Stn. A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 1X9

For Your Information

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to help with various aspects of the convention: gofers, projectionists, bartenders, security people, audio-visual helpers, etc. Ask about volunteering at Ops.

QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS

If you have any questions or problems during the weekend, any committee member will be happy to help you. They will be wearing a special nametag (but so will our guests). Someone will always be posted in Ops and lost and found is also located there.

NAME TAGS

In order to be admitted to ConFusion activities, programing areas or other convention function rooms (including the con suite), you must wear your Decadent Confusion nametag. If you forget your nametag, go back and get it. Don't hassle staff people checking badges at the doors, they have a job to do. Lost nametags may be replaced at Registration. If Registration is not open, go to Ops. Tape and staplers are generally available at Ops and Registration to fasten your tag inside the holder to prevent it from slipping out.

Those not producing adequate ID upon request will be designated as a minor. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

We reserve the right to remove the badge of, and bar from this convention, anyone who becomes a behavioral problem. There will not be a refund should this happen.

CHILDREN

Children who are members in their own right must be full members of the convention. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times and parents will be held responsible for any damage caused by their offspring. Children without memberships who are caught unaccompanied may be purchased from Ops for \$15.

CON SUITE

The Con Suite is in room 517 and is open to all ConFusion members. You must have your nametag to enter the Con Suite. Please do not bring refreshments from the Con Suite into the function areas as most do not allow them to be brought in. The drinking age in Michigan is 21 and no minors will be served alcohol. The bartenders may also require proof of age before serving regardless of your nametag designation.

HOTEL RESTAURANT

Dress code for the hotel restaurant is "shirt with collar, nice jeans or dress pants, and foot gear." NOTE: this is a family restaurant and certain apparel may not be acceptable even if it meets the printed code. To charge restaurant meals to your room you must present your room key.

CHECKOUT

Check-out time is 1:00 p.m. The hotel requires full payment upon departure, including all late charges, such as restaurant and phone. If you do incur these charges, check to see they have been added to your bill before you leave. The hotel accepts checks with the following provisos: imprinted name on check, ID consisting of driver's license and major credit card, and no two-party checks.

SWIMMING POOL

Pool hours will be posted at registration. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No glass allowed in the pool area. The rooms around the pool are not part of the convention block and partying and noise in that area after the pool closes will probably not be appreciated by their mundane occupants. Please try to confine your partying to the floors blocked for the convention.

SMOKING POLICY

Areas in the Con Suite and program rooms have been designated No Smoking. Please smoke only in the smoking sections. No smoking is allowed in the film room or art show.

WEAPONS POLICY

All weapons must be sheathed and peace-bonded. Weapons that cannot be sheathed, such as axes, laser rifles, howitzers, tanks, and missiles, will not be permitted in public areas, including the Con Suite and hallways. Violators, if they are lucky, will have the weapon confiscated until the end of the convention. If unlucky, they may wave a knife under the nose of the wrong person first.

IT'S FUN BUT IS IT LEGAL?

The most important thing to remember about this year's Confusion is that it is not in Ann Arbor. The Plymouth Hilton is located in Plymouth Township, which is serviced by both the Wayne County Sheriff and the Michigan State Police. State laws apply in all cases.

State of Michigan law makes possession of marijuana a 90-day misdemeanor with arrest and booking.

You must be 21 to drink alcohol in Michigan. This includes wine and beer. For those age 21 and older, liquor may be purchased in bottled form only until 11p.m. (2a.m. for beer and wine) and not until after noon on Sunday.

Gambling -- except for the Michigan State Lottery and on-track betting -- is illegal in Michigan. This includes penny ante poker in the privacy of one's own hotel room.

Right turns at red lights are legal except where posted otherwise.

While it is not the intention of anyone on the Con Committee to tell anyone else how to conduct themselves, we'd rather not see any trouble -- with the police, hotel, or anybody else. The police have had to be called, for one reason or another, at some of the previous Confusions, and we'd just as soon avoid it this year.

MISCELLANEOUS

No crashers will be allowed in the Con Suite or function areas.

Personal belongings may not be stored at Ops or Registration.

Please try to be on the lookout for mundanes crashing private parties.

Events & Activities

BANQUET

This year's Banquet includes: blissful chicken cordon bleu, mixed garden greens, blended wild rice, fresh rolls and butter, vegetable (my favorite), choice of beverage, AND...CHOCOLATE MOUSSE!!!! There will be a cash bar operated by the hotel; if you want to be served, have your ID on hand.

Banquet attendees get first choice of seats for the Guest of Honor speech, contest prizes, and other awards. A limited amount of seating will be available for non-banquet attendees during the speech. Banquet tickets are available at registration.

The banquet will be in Plymouth 5. Doors will open about a half hour before dinner is served to allow for finding seats, purchasing drinks, etc.

CONTESTS

A new contest this year! The Decadent Fantasy Contest: Tell us your most fannishly decadent fantasy, in 35 words or less. They could range all the way from having Mike Glickson tickle your feet with his beard all night long to a jacuzzi filled with lime jello. WARNING: If Bob Guccioni would be interested in it, it's too mundane for us.

Confusion Scavenger Hunt: Teams of one to three people can register at 10:00 a.m. in Plymouth 1 and pick up their list. There is a limit of seven teams for this competition. Searching is limited to the environs of the Plymouth Hilton Inn, and anybody caught a) searching outside the hotel or b) calling in outside aid will be disqualified. Anybody caught stealing any item will be rendered into their component atoms, added to a steaming cup of Jolly Miller coffee and used to water the hotel lobby plants.

Snow creature contest: should the heavens pour forth sufficient white stuff there will be a snow creature contest, the location to be announced and posted at Ops and Registration.

ART SHOW

This year the Art Show is giving awards, and everyone at Confusion is invited to vote for their favorite entries. Votes must be turned in at the Art Show desk by 5 p.m. Saturday.

There will be written bidding Friday and Saturday, and a voice auction Saturday night at 9 p.m. Please see bidding instructions posted at the Art Show. A list of all pieces going to auction and the contest winners will be posted on the Art Show door by 7 p.m. Saturday.

For the good of all, nobody will be allowed to bring food, drink, open bags (other than purses), or cameras into the Art Show.

MASQUERADE

This year's Masquerade contest and dance will begin at 10p.m. We will be awarding prizes for best interpretation of an Alan Dean Foster character -- male and female. We will also be awarding a special surprise prize.

As for the dance -- we will be aiming to please -- with a larger dance space, a wide range of music (including a special selection by Peter Toluzzi), and as a special attraction we will again have the wonderful Illuminatus light show. So come and enjoy.

GAMING

Shall we play a game? Once again, Confusion will be hosting a Cosmic Encounter Tournament as well as a new tournament. A challenging "famous fantasy game utilizing 20-siders" module designed by a local talent (torturer?) is planned to tempt hearty adventurers. Both tournaments will be held next to the computer room in conference room C. Sign-ups will be held there Friday night and Saturday morning. More information regarding game times and registering can be obtained at the gaming room.

SFOHA

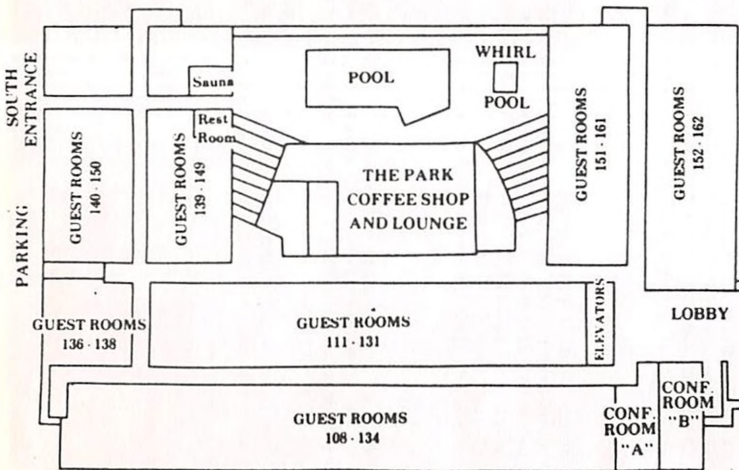
The Science Fiction Oral History Association is a non-profit organization that was established to find tape recordings of science fiction events and personalities and to maintain depositories of such recordings. They also record current events in SF oral history and arrange special interviews and events of historical interest in this area to promote interest in science fiction oral history. SFOHA will be giving presentations in conference room A during the convention. See listings on the door for schedule of events.

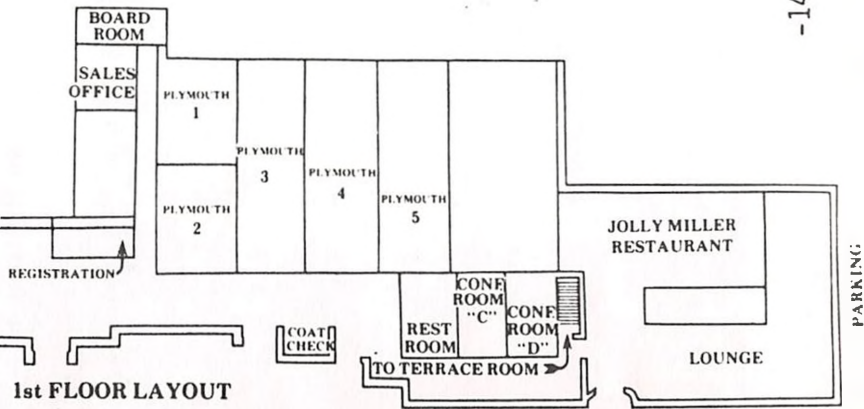
FILMS

A general schedule of films is available at Registration. See the blackboard outside the film room for changes and details. Programming begins Friday at 8:00 p.m.



Map of The Hilton





1st FLOOR LAYOUT

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY A.M.

12:00 Registration Opens (Lobby)

FRIDAY P.M.

2:00 Con Suite Opens

3:00 Hucksters Room (Ply 3) and Art Show (Ply 4) Open

4:00 Computer Room (Conf C) and Gaming Room (Conf D) Open

5:00 Science Fiction Oral History Association (SFOHA) Begins

8:00 Friday Night Live: (Ply 1 & 2 or 5) Introductions by Toastmaster, Marty Burke. Announcements by Chairman, Michele Smith-Moore. Speech by Rusty Hevelin. Brief musical performance by Marty Burke and Julia Ecklar.

Hucksters Room Closes, Movies (Ply 5) Begin

10:00 Meet The Everybody Party: (ConSuite) Mix and mingle with the pros and fans.

Filksing (Terrace Room) Begins; Registration Moves to Ops (Conf B)

11:00 Art Show Closes

SATURDAY A.M.

1:00 Registration at Ops Closes

[Movies, Computer Room, Gaming Room, Filk Singing and ConSuite Remain Open]

9:00 Registration Opens (Lobby)

10:00 Hucksters Room (Ply 3) and Art Show (Ply 4) Open

The Confusion Scavenger Hunt: (Ply 1) Contestants can register their teams and pick up their lists of items. Only 1-3 people per team, and there is a limit of 7 teams for this contest. Searching is limited to the environs of the Plymouth Hilton Inn, and anybody caught a) searching outside the hotel, or b) calling in outside aid, will be disqualified. Anybody caught stealing any item will be rendered into their component atoms! Judging will be in Plymouth 1 at 9 p.m.

Brass Bras and Steel Loincloths: (Ply 2) A discussion of the sword and sorcery genre, dealing with such questions as "Why do we like Howard better than Norman? Or do we?" - Mark Evans, Bob Brazeau (Moderator), Char Berrey, Leo Frankowski, Ann Zeddies, Pete Rogan.

11:00 The Capture: (Ply 1) Brought back to Confusion after a lapse of several years through the courtesy of Robert Asprin, this legenday slide show/dramatic presentation attempts to answer the immortal question. "Do gremlins really exist?" - Sharon Taylor, Taren Hillger, Tom Barber.

Foul-Ups, Bleeps, and Blunders: (Ply 2) Great Moments in Connish Disaster: Our panelists bring their "favorite" war/horror stories of cons gone by. Come and find out what the con committee really has to deal with, and bring your own favorite disaster. - Tara Edwards, Mark Evans, George Laskowski, Anna O'Connell, Larry Tucker.

12:00 Running Art Shows and Auctions: (Ply 1) A discussion of issues of interest to both artists, art show chiefs, and buyers. Subjects will include such things as how many bids to auction, how do you handle prints, Sunday Sales, how to handle an auction, etc. - Mark Bernstein (Moderator), Randy Asplund, Mike Glickson, Linda Leach, Steve Simmons.

Writing the 3-D Alien: (Ply 2) How do you write about aliens and their cultures and make them real to your readers? - Alan Dean Foster, Mike Resnick, Ted Reynolds, Michael Kube-McDowell.

SATURDAY P.M.

1:00 Perverting the Second Stanza: (Ply 1) A discussion of how filk singing and folk singing are interrelated. Or are they? - Marty Burke, Julia Ecklar, Clif Flynt, Mary Ellen Wessels.

Obscure Pleasures: (Ply 2) A general round-table discussion of peoples' favorite books, movies, records, etc., that nobody else has ever heard of. This is the chance for you to speak up for your secret favorites. Come prepared to take notes. - Mark Bernstein (Moderator).

2:00 Stalking the Good Contract: (Ply 1) What constitutes a good book contract, and how do you go about getting a publisher to give you one? - Alan Dean Foster, Mike Resnick, Michael Kube-McDowell, Alex Berman.

Nuclear War: Survivable or Not?: (Ply 2) This will be a semi-formal debate on the question of whether or not anybody will make it out of World War III ... and if they do, will they be glad? - Maia Cowan (Moderator). Survivable: Howard Scrimgeour, Michael Wallis. Non-Survivable: Bob Brazeau, Ph.D., Halina Harding, Steve Simmons.

3:00 FanGOH Panel: (Ply 1) Our lovable FanGOHs, present and past, meet to discuss anything that interests them, including why they took this job in the first place. Howard DeVore (A Relax Icon), Mike Glicksohn (ConFusion 13), Bill Bowers (ConFusion 12), Ro Lutz-Nagy (ConFusion 14), Jacki Causgrove (ConFusion Pi), Scott Imes (E/C₉ ConFusion), Elliot Shorter (ConFusion 6 and/or 7), David Innes (9x10⁹ Names of ConFusion), Neil Rest (ConFusion 11), Bill Cavin (ConFusion 101), Martha Beck (Genuine ConFusion), and Julia Ecklar (Decadent ConFusion) ... or reasonable facsimiles thereof.

Forward Into the Past: (Ply 2) A discussion of how well Science Fiction has served as a predictor of the course of science in the past, and how well the panelists think it will do in the future. - Lloyd Biggle, Dean McLaughlin, Ted Reynolds, Chris Clayton.

4:00 Which Comes First; Script or Novel: (Ply 1) Is it better to write the novel first, and then do the script/screen play, or the reverse. Does it really matter, or is it a question of what you're getting paid for? - Alan Dean Foster, Mike Resnick, Lloyd Biggle.

Cute Unicorns, and Other Aberrations: (Ply 2) How did all those perfectly respectable, macho, mythical creatures get Disneyized? And why? - Kathleen Conat, Andi Bennett, James Banks, Ann Zeddies, Char Berrey.

Snow Creature Contest Judging: (out . . .)

Movies Close.

- 6:00 Banquet (Ply 5)
Hucksters Room and Art Show Close.
Decadence Entries Due In
- 7:00 Speeches
- 9:00 Scavenger Hunt Ends
- 9:30 Auction (See Note)
- 10:00 Masquerade Ball Begins (Ply 1 & 2)
Filk Singing Begins (Terrace Room)
Registration Moves to Ops (Conf B)

SUNDAY A.M.

- 12:00 Movies (Ply 5) Begin Again
- 1:00 Registration Closes
- 2:00 Masquerade Ball Closes

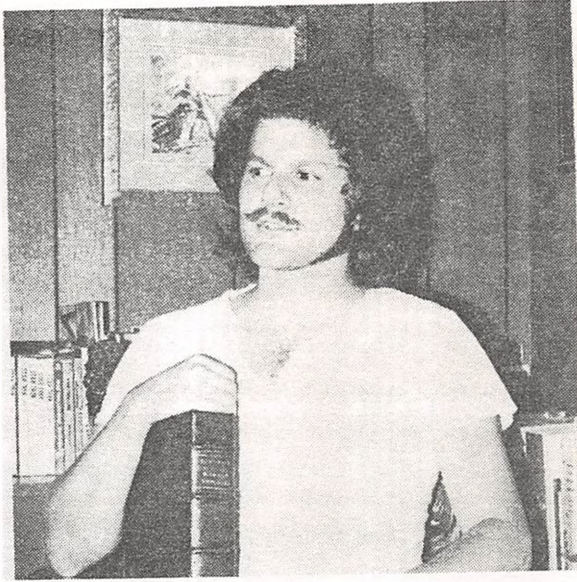
[Movies, Computer Room, Gaming Room, Filk Singing and ConSuite Remain Open]

- 9:00 Registration Opens in Ops (Conf B)
- 10:00 Hucksters Room (Ply 3) and Art Show (Ply 4) Open
- 12:00 Up From Daddy's Bathrobe and Mom's Lipstick: (Ply 2) A discussion of why costumers get caught up in the art, and how they pursue their goals. What levels of costuming are there, and what quality defines each level?
- Carol Resnick, Rusty Westfeld, Liz Young.

SUNDAY P.M.

- 2:00 Bitch Session: (Ply 2) Come and tell us how you would have done it all differently. But be warned: If you present a real good case, we may let you do the whole thing next year!
Art Show Closes
- 3:00 Hucksters Room, Computer Room, Gaming Room Close
- 4:00 Movies Close
Dead Dog Party Begins

Guest of Honor Alan Dean Foster



by Sharon Taylor

I first met Alan Dean Foster at a southern convention, Okon, in 1980. I had just recently discovered books and was pleased that I had one of his. Alan listened very quietly as I went on with my typical enthusiasm about how much I looked forward to reading Outrigger. Finally he said softly, "It's Icerigger." I stopped bubbling. "Excuse me?" He smiled gently. "The title of the book is Icerigger." And that's how my friendship with Alan began -- going on about a book of his which really had nothing to do with outboard motors.

That is what Alan is all about -- a very quiet, gentle, soft-spoken, lovely man who is very knowledgeable in a vast number of areas. In a conversation with him, you might go from Korean Karate to water sports to screenwriting (which he taught at UCLA), to old films (which would include his collection of animated Disney films -- that he's very proud of), to Uncle Walt himself, to the Grand Canyon and traveling or to Carl Barks (the creator of Uncle Scrooge). Or to music -- music of any kind (in his own words "We've been known to go to see The Who, Adam Ant or the Phoenix Symphony all in the same month -- people have a hard time figuring us out.").

His love of music is evident in much of his writing. In the Spellsinger books, for example, the main character, Jon Tom, uses music to work magic (which usually goes awry [to say the least]). And his shorter writings have included such concepts as trees who make classical music, Ye Who Would Sing, and Rock n'Roll as an instrument of mind control, Wolf-Stroker, (both stories from With Friends Like These ...).

The Spellsinger books introduce such marvelous and diverse characters as an otter with the mouth of a stevedore; a cantankerous wizardley turtle, a (non-vulgar) unicorn with unique tastes; a mouthy, Marxist dragon and a sanitation engineer, (not to mention the sloop John B. -- from the Beach Boys' song of the same name). The fact that all these oddball characters manage to survive not only each other, But also their adventures together is evidence of Alan's ability to make magic with his words.

Alan's career has an unconventional beginning when, in 1968, a long letter he had written to August Derleth was published as a short story in the Arkam Collector Magazine. His first novel, The Tar-Aiym Krang, appeared four years later and introduced his two most familiar characters, whose exploits have continued to entertain with sequels and prequels alike -- (who do I refer to -- why the infamous Pip and Flynn, of course!!).

Beginning with Dark Star, he has created well-written and entertaining novelizations of many science fiction and fantasy movies, such as the first Star Wars movie (which Alan got invited to do because one of the Lucas folks had read Icerigger -- that book does seem to have started a lot of things -- besides being a good read) and Alien, and his current project is a western for a Clint Eastwood film, Pale Rider. Still to come is a book, Into The Out Of, inspired by his trip to Africa this summer.

If space permitted I could tell you about his appreciation of art (a walk with him through a World Con art show was an unforgettable education for me), his pet snake, Sam, (to whom he dedicated a book -- by the way), or his passion of chocolate chip cookies ("I firmly believe the greatest product of modern civilization is the chocolate chip cookie.").

There is a kind of music which you hear in notes and there is the kind you read in books. Alan makes music with his words. Words like these:

Now I'm a writer, but I feel guilty. This is too much fun. It's sinful to enjoy life so much. I haven't suffered enough to be a writer. I like other human beings, I like this sad, smoggy world. I like my agents and my publishers and editors. I even like critics.

Clearly, there is something drastically wrong with me.

Or maybe it's all a dream -- yeah, tomorrow I'll wake up and have to go read law books; put on a suit and tie; smile at people I'd like to be honest with. But for now, today, this minute, I'm going to enjoy every second of that dream.

I can't give it to you. But I can share a little of it. It's in my books.

A thank you to Taren Hillger for his help with this bio.

Photo Courtesy of Sharon Taylor

WHERE DO YOU GET THOSE IDEAS?

You ask me where do I get my ideas and I tell you I don't know
But

It doesn't matter because if I could explain it I wouldn't get
them and therein lies a devastating paradox

Because

(Are you listening?)

You see in my outside self I am only a beetle making picayune

Skritch marks on the underside of a pebble

But

Inside I am a bottomless chasm of conceptualizing

and

I tell you that the thoughts on the thoughts I have are a beach

Ten Thousand miles long

But

All I ever will be able to write for you could be represented by

One grain of sand on that beach

And

That is what devastates me

Because

I want to share it all, all with you

I want you to swim in the ocean of my inside self

But

All I'll ever be able to put down on paper is to my thoughts no

more than an ant's pee is to a tsunami

(Can you understand?)

That though I'm doing my best for you I'm sick and sorry inside

Myself

Because

I know that if every man and woman and child on this earth had

An instrument to play that band would not be big enough to play

That song I want to sing to you

And

So you must excuse me if I stare blankly into space when you greet me

Because

I am not being rude or indifferent

I am only trying to do it for you, my friend(s)

So you see

If I would rather not talk about the weather with you it is

Because

I hear in my raging imagination story sounds that are the composite

To me of every thunder that ever rolled over this poor world

(Are you paying attention?)

And

Though there be no word on my lips there is

A shrieking in the blood

So please try to understand when I say that I've always known that

No man is an island

Because

All who write science fiction are pocket universes and when you
Ask that question of us we cannot answer because we cannot analyse
A bipedal cosmos

I have tried to make you see

(Do you see, you happy-poor deprived friends whom I love?)

That I cannot tell you where I get my ideas

Because

They sweep out of the vast void darkness that howls in me like the
Wind above the treeline and try to break through the smooth
Cool granite of my frail humanness and I am sorry, sorry but
There is only a very tiny crack in that wall

Please

Be patient

Try to grasp what I'm telling you

I've been as clear and polite as I can

But

To explain where I get my ideas from would be like trying to

Describe the texture of God's epidermis

So

I can only tell you they come

THEY COME, GODDAMMIT, THEY COME, AND THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT!

And

You will nod and say, "Yes, I do understand"

But

I know you don't understand and never will and never can

So all I can do is sigh and say I've tried my best to explain the

Impossible and might as well have tried to vivisect a quark

Just please don't interrupt me with the question too often

I have mountains to move.

A.D. Foster

(printed with permission of Alan Dean Foster)

Fan Guest of Honor Julia Ecklar



by David Stein

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me introduce to you your 1985 Confusion Fan Guest of Honor, Julia Ecklar (taa daa)! Impressed eh?

Julia was raised in the Dayton, Ohio area. The fact that she got into fandom from such a boring start is amazing in it's own right. She now lives in one of the many areas surrounding the University of Pittsburgh where she shares a house with a Klingonee seamstress; a boa constrictor named Khan; two female cats, one of whom is named Luke; a not too bright dog named Pavel; two guitars; an IBM selectric typewriter and a Boober Fraggles. Julia owns a beautiful old Corvair and has learned from past experiences what happens when you don't follow the jacking instructions. She is presently employed as a secretary with the University of Pittsburgh's Pathology Department where she has become an expert at sending cadavers to London, England before riggers sets in.

Her fandom history is not so convoluted as her mundane life (if you call it mundane). She began her fannish life quite near the beginning of the 1980's when she discovered the joys of filking. I first met her about four years ago, when she was a friend of a friend who was renting crash space in our room. The first thing I noticed was that she was a snappy dresser. The second thing was that she could SING! It was at this same convention that she first sang solo in front of an audience. She was part of the halftime entertainment at a very very long masquerade, and one of the things she sang was an Elfquest song (which became the inspira-

tion for the Wolfrider's Reflection tape recently out). At the finish of the song, Wendy Pini, who was the Guest of Honor leapt onstage, tears streaming from her eyes and hugged Julia on the spot. Julia's comment was that she was never going to wash her body again. Richard Pini's comment was that if she didn't, Wendy would never hug her again. Well, she didn't carry out her threat and went on to sing the con away.

Anyone who prowls the late night events of conventions knows that Julia's main claim to fannish fame is her fantastic singing. Few can dispute that she is one of the best singers in fandom today. One of the things that she has discovered about being on top of the heap is that you get parodied a great deal. It seems that she can't come up with a song without someone coming along and perverting it (but I won't mention names, Frank). As a result of her singing talents, Julia has been the featured singer on quite a few filk tapes. Just the presence of her name on the credits of a tape is guarantee of it's sale. Her credits include lead singer/song writer on Traveller, Genesis, Horse-Tamer's Daughter and A Wolfrider's Reflections and she is a featured singer on Minus Ten and Counting and a host of live convention tapes.

But singing isn't the end to her talents. Oh no, my friends! She is also an excellent writer. Her writings appear in many fan publications and she's in the process of preparing several projects for submission to major market companies. So don't be surprised to see her name in your local bookshops in the future. She was also one of the people responsible for AlterCon, a wonderful convention of a couple of years ago. Her flair for organization and her way with people make her an excellent committee-person.

Julia is a prime example of the "New Breed" of fans today. She is someone who knows where all of this came from and can see where it's going. Her interests range from media to the masters; from Elfquest to being one of the staunchest Star Trek supporters around. She can go from discussing stardrives one minute to wild tales from her D&D games the next. It's hard to tell what our plucky little fan will do.

But all in all, when you speak of Julia, you must return to music. Whether it's rousing songs of battle or tearful tales of loss or impromptu Handel in hotel lobbies, music is where her soul lies. If you haven't heard Julia sing, then trust yourself, go and listen. You'll lose yourself in the tones of her voice and the tales her words tell. She is one of the great gifts that fandom possesses.

Photo Courtesy of Cheryl Crawford

Toastmaster Marty Burke



by Tom Barber

Marty Burke is a true Renaissance man. He is an excellent musician, raconteur, comedian, and actor. He is a warm human being, loyal to his friends, a pleasure to talk to. His mischievous grin makes him resemble a giant leprechaun. He has the soul of a poet, the heart of a lion, and the talent of any five competent folksingers. He is very good with dialects, which aids his performance as a raconteur. Few can tell a story as well as he can. He has a wide variety of interests, and can talk about anything from astrology to computers to the gods of ancient Ireland with authority.

A former Marine, Marty has been to many other lands. He has delved deeply into the folk music of the British Isles. He has played in several groups, including Burke, Black, and Redmond, and The Tinker's Dam, both of which have put out records and played all over the country. His repertoire includes traditional Irish and Scottish songs, Irish rebel songs, Kingston Trio songs, coal miner songs from West Virginia, Chad Mitchel Trio songs, songs from John Stewart, Stan Rogers, Nick Kile, Shel Silverstein and a Host of others.

I have known Marty Burke since the fall of 1977. I went to an Irish pub, which had just opened in Ypsilanti, called the Fiddler's Green. Marty was the entertainer. I sat there enthralled. I have heard few people with as wide a repertoire or as good an ability at playing to an audience. I spread the word among my close friends and that was how Marty Burke met fandom. Three nights a week, he would play

to an ever increasing number of fans, as friends from out of town dropped in to hear the folksinger we had been bragging about.

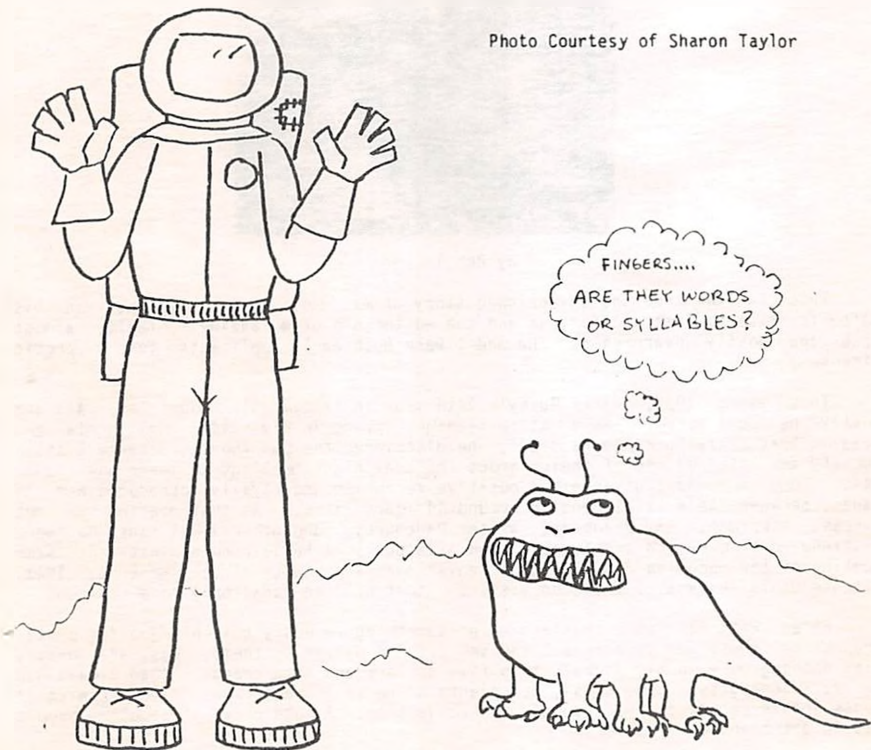
Our making him the guest of honor for Filkcon II, in Toledo, was only logical. A man of his talents is welcome anywhere that music is appreciated. He has been a guest at other conventions. His tapes are now being hucked at conventions around the country. In short, he has been recognized and appreciated by the fannish community, and I am proud of the small part I played in gaining him this recognition.

The Fiddler's Green is no more. I miss those wonderful evenings. Marty has been playing (until November) at Chaim Sweeney's Irish Pub in Dearborn. There have been many delightful evenings there, including some unofficial dead dog parties after Conclave and Confusion. He is supposed to start singing there again in February but on Friday and Saturday nights only.

I have known Marty now for almost eight years. I know he will continue to add to his collection of songs, that he will keep entertaining others to the best of his ability, and that he will be around for some time.

For those of you who have never encountered him, you are in for a real treat. He should be one of the best Toastmasters that Confusion has ever had.

Photo Courtesy of Sharon Taylor



Friday Night Speaker

Rusty Hevelin



by Bob Tucker

This is the true and unvarnished story of my dad, Rusty Hevelin, and his meteoric rise to fame and fortune and the editorship of a fanzine. (Well, almost true and mostly unvarnished. He and I were both early applicants for a poetic license.)

This year, 1985, marks Rusty's 44th year in fandom (44, count 'em, 44) and mostly he isn't sorry. As a callow teenager living in Riverside, California and reading that crazy Buck Rogers stuff, he discovered the Los Angeles Science Fiction Society and attended one of their famous Thursday night meetings to learn what fanac was. They must have given him a positive reception and royally introduced him to fanac because he's still hanging around 44 years later. At that meeting he met Forrest Ackerman, Ray Bradbury, Walter Daugherty, and other local fans who were destined to become rich and famous, and it's possible he learned at that very same meeting of the upcoming convention in Denver over the Fourth of July weekend, 1941. Someone explained what a worldcon was . . . sort of like fanac only more crowded.

Fired with fannish enthusiasm -- or something -- Rusty quit his job (as photographer and photo lab technician) and set off for Denver by thumb, bus, and boxcar, with nothing more in his pockets than five dollars and some change. (Dad always had nerve. Some gits, some brass, but plenty of nerve.) He arrived in Denver with 11 cents in his pocket and went to see the convention. A huge crowd of about 75 people was in attendance.

In 1981 the world convention was again in Denver, to mark that memorable anniversary. They chose Rusty to be the fan guest of honor, and they also gave him a free membership . . . just in case he had spent that 11 cents in the intervening 40 years. A few more than 75 people attended the Denver convention!

After the first Denver worldcon Rusty went on to Philadelphia because it seemed the thing to do at the time, and insinuated himself into the local club there. Very quickly (and probably honestly) he became president of the club. By February 1942 he was publishing Nebula, one of the earlier newspapers in fandom. Nebula continued for the following two years but a hazy memory tells me that Rusty left the paper before its demise in April, 1944. Perhaps it was that he was again struck by the wanderlust, but it is more likely that he was grabbed by the Marine Corps, there being a war on at the time.

He returned in 1946 like MacArthur, all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed to again plunge with ink-stained fingers into fandom. Nine issues of The Rider have been attributed to him, and later that same year he took over Stefnews, another newspaper, from Jack Speer.

* * * * *

My dad today. Still bright-eyed and now bushy-chinned.

He won the Down Under Fan Fund contest in 1975 and journeyed to the worldcon in Melbourne, Australia to capture fandom there. He moves from con to con, journeying from one city to the next in his famous red van, huckstering here, huckstering there to make expenses. If you have ever wondered why his table isn't open all the time like other hucksters, the answer is simple. He seeks only to earn his expenses from his huckstering, not his livelihood, and when he has sold enough rare books and magazines to cover the costs of the famous red van for another week he closes shop and skips away to the room parties.

He is a demon collector and possesses literally a houseful of rare old magazines dating back to when Hugo Gernsback was a neofan, plus rare books (Arkham House is his specialty), and a goodly number of fan magazines. He doesn't offer a sales service by mail but if there is a rarity you want and he has it, or can get it for you, he'll make a date to meet you at the next convention and deliver the treasure to you. I realize this sounds like a bald advertisement, and it is, but he is the most reasonable dealer I've yet found in fandom (except, of course, Big Hearted Howard, who has been known to give me books for free.)

Dad doesn't disappoint me with his habits, but I should warn you he is a little peculiar. He does not smoke (not anything, not even those funny cigarets) and he does not drink (except for a mild ginger ale now and then) and it is a mystery how this man can be my father (but he is).

Hail dad!

FASTER THAN A SPEEDING
COMET!!!!!!



ABLE TO LEAP TALL MINIATURES
IN A SINGLE BOUND!!!

MORE SEDUCTIVE THAN THE SIREN SONG
OF A SEXY SINGER!!!

ITS. . .ITS. . .

MARCH 30-31, 1985
NOVA TEN

PRO GOH: TED REYNOLDS

FILK GOH: CLIF FLYNT GAMING GOH: PETE ROGAN

COME TO THE NOVA PARTY
FRIDAY, AT 9:30
AND FIND OUT MORE!!

Would You Want to Spend A Week Upside-Down?

Then come
To BABELCON!



Yes, It's

BABEL CON #7

TAKING PLACE
AUGUST 23-25,
1985, AT THE
AIRPORT HILTON
4747 28th St.
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

To Join In the Excitement:

SEND JUST
\$10.00 thru February, or
\$12.00 thru June, or
\$15.00 thereafter plus
2 or 3 SASE's to:

KATHY VAN LOPIK
3040 BYRON CENTER AVE.
Apt. #3
Wyoming, Mi 49509

NO
OPTION

I would
love to
go!

FEATURING

- * ART SHOWS!
- * FILM ROOMS!
- * DEALERS!
- * MODELS + CRAFTS!
- * COSTUMES!
- * JAPANESE ANIMATION!
- * AND SPECIAL GUEST--

PHIL FOGGIO!!

HOTEL RATES
\$44 PER NIGHT
SINGLE OR
DOUBLE

THIS IS THE
BIG ONE!!

BABEL CON VII

THE ALTERNATIVE

