



...the Fifth Annual Edition of the "other" Fanzine Fans Convention:

Brought to you by:

ROGER & PAT SIMS

[34 Creekwood Square, Glendale OH 45246 : 513/771-7587]

BILL BOWERS

[P.O. Box 58174, Cincinnati OH 45258-0174 : 513/251-0806]

...and by BILL CAVIN, and such other members of the Cincinnati Fantasy Group as we can inveigle into "helping"! [This year's Ditto is being held in conjunction with the 29th Octocon...commonly known as the "other" Cincinnati relaxacon.]

The Time Frame: October 23-25, 1992.

The Cost:

Attending Membership: Prior to Sept. 10, 1992: \$15.00
Thereafter/At The Door: \$20.00
Ditto V Supporting Memberships: \$5.00
[Make Checks Payable to: PAT SIMS]

We Be At: The Harley Cincinnati

8020 Montgomery Rd., Cincinnati OH 45236-9986 : 513/793-4300

[Located at Exit #12 off I-71/the northeastern quadrant of Cincinnati; detailed directions will be provided next mailing. Y0d7d j4sY Y0s0 YN0d YN YN0 d00NYYN0E1]

Room Rates: \$59.90 - Single/Double : \$69.90 - Kingsize bed.

The kicker: Rooms must be claimed/guaranteed by FOUR [4] p.m. Reserve Early & Often: Our 4-Suite Dream Setup requires us making our room block for the Saturday night. [If you make reservations by phone, or by means other than the enclosed card, please be specific: The Harley folks tend to spell "Ditto" like so -- D*C*T*I*C*O*N Also: the convention rates are "good" for the Thursday & Sunday nites of the weekend. If you have any hassles y0YY 0Y 00YYN let us know; we'll take care of it.]

The hotel has a shuttle at your beck & call, which will truck you around within a 7-mile radius of the hotel but, since they have their own fine restaurant, Sigeo's, they specifically will not chauffeur your dinner expedition. However: we will attempt to come up with a cross-referenced list of stores adjacent to the multitude of Fine Eateries in the neighborhood.

The hotel has a shuttle ... but it's a far piece further than seven miles down the road to the hills of the Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati International Airport [or

whatever the current designation is; just say CVG and you'll get here]. So...unless you plan on a rental car (all the major players are present) well, there's Door-to-Door.... But you don't want to do that, and we don't want you to do that: we'd rather you'd save the \$20.+ for the Ditto Auction. We, the Transport Committee (comprised of as yet undetermined CFG members and vehicles of indeterminate age & condition ~~WOM~~) will gladly come and get you. And your donations for the auction. Provided: You let us know Airline/Flight #/Arrival (ha!) Time. Preferably in writing. Before 10/20/92 if at all possible.

And, if you are Fannishly Correct and spend all that money we've saved you at the Ditto auction, well, we'll even take you back to the airport. In time...!

Programming? ...well, I guess. Saturday afternoon, more than likely. Not too much. Dick & Leah Smith volunteered to put it together. (Well, Leah was "volunteered"; Dick graciously agreed to ~~be cranky~~ turn the crank.) If you have any wishes/suggestions that you'd like to see implemented, contact them [17 Kerry Lane, Wheeling IL 60090]; ...if you *don't* want to be bothered to input, don't bitch to ~~me~~ about the results!

There won't be a Banquet. However, there will be the de riguer Ditto One-shot. My personal take on all one-shots is not so much Why Ask Why? ... more along the lines of Just Say No! Nevertheless, it is a Tradition. Various and sundry implements of word generation/reproduction will be available at Ditto. (An estimated copy count for those nonattendees wishing to participate in this Fine Practice -- next mailing.)

There won't be a Banquet for the simple reason that Bill Cavin runs a mean, well-stocked consuite ... as expansive as his girth. [~~Sorry! It's trying to be good!~~] Certifiably unparalleled in your humble imbiber's thirty-year tenure of convention attendance. [However: One Don Fitch came Very Close at Corflu Nine. We sincerely hope Don will come to Cincinnati; and if he does, he has been informed he will not be allowed to "work". He says otherwise. We'll see.] Still, Mr. Cavin is not all-seeing, and cannot read your mind: If you have special dietary needs, or unique preferences in consumables, we welcome your suggestions. We don't promise to fulfill every request, but we will consider them. We admire your Excellent & Expensive Taste. We're not too proud to take contributions to attain them for you....

The Set-Up: ...the Consuite. A second suite, directly below, will be the Ditto function/programming/display room. Two Mini-Suites: One, the designated Smoking Area. The 2nd, since I firmly broke with Octocon Tradition by informing Mr. Cavin that Joe Haldeman can't seminar in the consuite *this* year, will probably be where you'll find Joe's most-hairy disciple throughout the weekend. [...I suspect we'll preempt a corner of that suite as the Video Room; fannish videos welcome.] We'll have at least one suite for Sunday night, and if enough of you let us know you're coming in early...we'll work out something for Thursday.

Yes...there will be a DITTO V (~~WYI DEXDOR~~) T-shirt. By Al Curry. It could be interesting; it will be distinctive. Price undetermined at the moment, but reasonable. Limited run. If you wish to "reserve" one, send "size" preferences. Now. (~~If we're you'll of YOUR size at the convention!!!don'ty bitch to me!~~)

Roger seems to feel that we have to "sell" the Cincinnati Area. But he's ~~young~~ new here ... and enthusiastic. I'm one of the above. There are a lot of neat touristy things to do/see/experience while you're here, and if you are into such things, we'll do our best to help you find them. King's Island will (probably) be closed, but there's the Natural History Museum at Union Terminal, Mt. Adams, Bicentennial Commons...and who knows, maybe a sternwheeler left behind from Tall Stacks.... And the Zoo ain't bad; this is the Mother Lode of the White Tigers.... (~~I don'ty mention Bengalys!!!!~~) I like Cincinnati. It is my home, and I'd love to show it to you. But I have Responsibilities...and will be in the Harley most of the weekend. Before...or after Ditto, though; well, given my employment record of late...!)

BillTalk:

I've had occasion to mention to a couple of friends in the past year my Profound Observation that, no matter what you do within the context of fandom...other fans will bitch. Sometimes they will bitch directly "to" you; oft-times you will simply "hear" about it. Such reaction "hurts", specifically when you know how honorable and well-meaning your intentions are. You consider all this, I say, grit your teeth...and go ahead and simply do what you want to do. ...and then go on. You do this because, no matter what you do in fandom...someone's gonna bitch.

I proffer this Observation not with malice...but with a combination of affection and resignation based on thirty years of playing the game. Fans bitch better than they do anything else; with the possible exception of procrastination. In the spirit of open-discussion I will admit to the remote possibility that I, mild-mannered Bill Bowers, on occasion rare, have actually bitched about the action(s)/inaction(s) of another fan.

...although, for the life of me, I can't recall when.

It was not, in the beginning, my idea to "combine" Ditto with Octocon. Indeed, seeing potential "problems", I was against it. I was eventually convinced, through reason and reality that, not only did it make sense--given the time frame and "location" of both conventions in 1992--but that the concept was "workable" and, in the end, might be to the gain of both conventions.

That said, it remains vaguely possible that not all of you have seen the Light. (I really don't know; the current under-graduate class of the Bill Bowers School of Discretion has been rather lax, as of late.) In the remote possibility someone is still having a problem with Octocon/Ditto, let me give a brief run-down of the "whys", as we see it:

It makes economic sense. In terms of dealing with an hotel: Ditto-to-date can hardly be considered a "major" convention, and I suspect presumptuously that most of "us" like it that way. Octocon, since being "brought home" has, for known reasons, been a prime example of diminishing ~~attendance~~ attendance; within the space of two weeks last October, I was witness to the fact that the 28th Octocon was smaller than the VA Beach Ditto.

There is also economic reality: It is our consensus that at least half of the Octocon "regulars" would also have been interested in attending a Ditto. Holding the two conventions separately within a week or two of each other, in the same city, might not have proved a deterrent to the Locals who commute. It would have presented the possibility that some of the out-of-towners would have had to make a Choice between one or the other. That didn't seem fair.

By combining we were not only able to negotiate a better package from the hotel than either convention could have on its own ~~if we had our room block~~ -- but will be able to simplify the stocking of the suite (which, in essence, is Octocon, if not necessarily Ditto), and also conserve the energies of the CFGer's who'll ~~try to~~ help us host you.

[And when you consider that the average age of a CFG member is even older than those attending Dittos, for the same reasons (read: recruitment) ... you'll appreciate that conservation of energies is a factor!]

Some will talk of the "purity" of Ditto. I've attended 7 Corflu's, as well as 3 Ditto's. At each and every one of those ten conventions, there have been "local" attendees that, purist I... did not consider "fanzine fans". At each and every one of those ten conventions, what minor (and I emphasize that) "problems" I've had have been with self-proclaimed fanzine fans. Any "intrusion" I might have experienced from the presence of "outsiders" was my own problem. And even more minor.

I've had a Good Time at each and every one of the ten "fanzine fans" conventions [this generation; ~~Wdy Wd Fdgdg~~ ~~Autoclave~~] I've attended. This is why, along with MidWestCon and Octocon, Ditto and Corflu comprise the totality of the conventions I will Go Out Of My Way, no matter where they are, to attend each year. [~~Wdy Wd Fdgdg~~ ~~Wdy Wd Fdgdg~~ ~~Wdy Wd Fdgdg~~ ~~Wdy Wd Fdgdg~~]

Others perhaps will talk of the "purity" of Octocon, though perhaps fewer. And not only because of the comparative attendance levels; Octocon regulars tend to be even more ~~old & tired~~ laid-back than Ditto regulars. I've been to 14 of the previous 28 Octocons. That is not nearly the record, but it does make me a "regular" and entitled to venture an opinion:

I'm old enough to recall when Worldcons "shared" hotel-space with other conventions: The Catholic Youth survived "us" in '62...and we survived the Legionnaires in '66. There have some Strange Pairings that I am not alone in recalling with fondness: The "beer-can collectors" at BYOBcon 5...the "Ethical Hypnotists" at an early Windycon. Of course there were the Baptists and Autoclave, but... Endrun: The "sharing" with the "dancers" did not, one iota (including the shared banquet) impinge on my enjoyment of Corflu Nine.

Over three decades, the number of conventions I've attended [173] have kept pace with the number of fanzines I've "published" [180]: in moments of introspection rare, I visualize myself with one foot firmly in each "camp". But I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that should the choice be forced on me, I would attend fewer conventions before cutting back on the printed output. This, despite the fact that some of my ~~Wdy Wd Fdgdg~~ those I specifically go to see at conventions are also zineheads.

And, as much as I Point With Alarm, as much as I rant and rave, as much as I bitch, moan and slander along with the others in the Eternal Quest to Motivate Cavin -- he, and the CFG (those who maintain, those who float in and out) are an integral part of my life. I have many regrets; moving to Cincinnati has never been one of them.

I think it a safe assumption that I, initially, will 'know' more of you coming in for Ditto, than will many of the Octocon regulars.

It is my considered opinion that the two "groups"--Ditto regulars/Octocon regulars--will mix/mesh/integrate more so than any previous "combination" I'm aware of.

I could be wrong. You'll have to prove it to me.

I keep saying this is "Roger's con"; it was his enthusiasm, after all. He can speak his own piece ~~Wdy Wd Fdgdg~~. This is mine!

I really could care less about the location/facilities/programming at a Ditto or a Corflu. I go, and I will continue to go because a larger percentage of the people I want to see, to be with, attend them, than any other convention(s). ...with the arguable exceptions of Octocon and MidWestCon. I enjoy them, and the only reason I'm "involved" this year is that I'd love to share that enjoyment with you.

If you get this mailing...you're Invited!

If you can't come because of economics...believe me, I'll understand.

If you chose not to come specifically because Ditto does not stand-alone.... Well, your choice/your loss. [The namebadge will be designed to allow you to express your individuality.]

If you chose not to come because you see someone's name on the attending membership list you'd rather not be sharing the planet with...your problem. We all have our likes/dislikes; but Ditto does not encompass an exclusion list.

I really do hope you'll come to Cincinnati in October.

~~Wdy Wd Fdgdg~~ ~~Wdy Wd Fdgdg~~ ~~Wdy Wd Fdgdg~~ ~~Wdy Wd Fdgdg~~ End Bitch Session.

OUTWORLDS 51 was a special issue to commemorate my 10th Anniversary here in Cincinnati: the contributors were exclusively locals (more-or-less). June 20th, 1992 will mark the 15th Anniversary of my Epic Voyage (car & cat in tow) down I-71. Never one to pass up a gimmick, I'm working on another All-Cincinnati (more-or-less) issue for (I hope!) this year's MidwestCon. As a small bribe... and as a way of letting you get-acquainted with some of the neat people who live here...I'll be sending a copy to those of you not on the regular mailing list...but who have an attending Ditto membership prior to the Orlando Worldcon. (While supplies last, as we say in the Big Time/Big Deal fanzine publishing biz....)

...not to steal Madison's thunder, but from the beginning Roger and I agreed that the concept of a "fanzine fans" convention without Bob Tucker in attendance...is our loss. Besides, he so obviously had a Good Time at Ditto Three. Bob hasn't formally (i.e., directly) committed yet, but we're working on it. We'll "arrange" transportation and membership, but the budget doesn't encompass a room. If any of you would be willing to be the Richard Brandy of 1992 put this man up/put up with this man in the privacy of your room for a weekend, please respond with your best offer. Yes.

There will be another (nameless) Ditto mailing immediately post-Worldcon. This, and the membership "break" date, are dictated by the fact that Roger & Pat will be off chaperoning the Resnicks in Africa for most of the time between Worldcon and Ditto. Since that will leave me holding the treasury, it is advisable to get your memberships into Pat before she leaves.

I won't go into here (have to save some natter for next time) the Proposal I intend to introduce at the Ditto Business Meeting [whenever] outlining my concept for a 3-year bidding cycle, combined with a Rotation Plan for upcoming Dittos/Corflus...but it suddenly occurs to me that I haven't yet heard of a consensus option for Ditto VI. In fact, I haven't heard of any ~~such~~ yet. Ah well, plenty of time....

And that's about all I have, Roger.
Roger....?

5/6/92: Exhibit A for the Defense consists of the six-page version of this I showed Roger two nights ago. "...so," I said: "Do you have any major objections?" "No," he said...jotting "It's OK with me!" after his name (above). "Would you please initial that, Roger?" I asked. ["I've worked with engineers too long," I added.] He did so, graciously; considering the fact I was a bit Testy in places.

...but that's OK, too: "Testy" ain't bad. Some times.

Comments are welcome. ...to either address, until Labor Day. [After that, all mail should be sent to the "testy one"!]
--- Bill Bowers

DITTO V MEMBERSHIP LIST [as of 5/6/92]:

s	Harry Andruschak	A	Lise Eisberg	A	Eric Lindsay	A	Pat Sims
A	Bill Bowers	A	Moshe Feder	A	Dick Lynch	A	Roger Sims
s	Jeanne Bowman	A	Don Fitch	A	Nicki Lynch	A	Dick Smith
s	Ned Brooks	s	George Flynn	s	Gary Mattingly	A	Leah Smith
s	Linda Bushyager	A	Mike Glicksohn	A	Spike Parsons	s	Taral
s	Ron Bushyager	s	Mary E. Gray	A	Patty Peters	-	Bob Tucker
A	Karen E. Cooper	s	Dan Hoey	s	Sarah Prince	A	Bob Webber
s	Catherine Crockett	s	Neil Kaden	s	Dave Rike	A	Ted White
A	Carolyn Doyle	A	Hope Leibowitz	A	Alan Rosenthal	s	Kip Williams
s	Cathy Doyle	s	Robert Lichtman	A	Dave Rowe	A	Pat Virzi
					Thomas D. Sadler	A	Joel Zakem
