

# RIVERCON IV

LOUISVILLE'S ANNUAL SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY CONVENTION - AUGUST 1-3, 1980



# RIVERCON V

August 1-3, 1980    Louisville, KY

Guest of Honor

**Roger Zelazny**

Fan Guest of Honor

**Lou Tabakow**

Toastmaster

**Vincent DiFate**

Cliff Amos, Chairman  
Bob Roehm, Vice-Chairman  
Steve Francis, Treasurer  
Sue Francis, Registration  
Ken & Donna Amos, Art Show  
B.J. Willinger, Masquerade

Keith Asay, Martha Berry, Marian Brown, Shelby Bush, Janet Caruth, Alan Dorsey, Cheryl Francis, John Harris, Lynn Harris, Kathy Howard, Teri Howard, Keith Hufford, Debra Hussey, Dori Isaacs, Larry Jewell, Lewis Kelley, Tim Lane, Bill Levy, Pat Mauk, Grant McCormic, Danny McDole, Pat Molloy, Gary Robe, Pete Robertson, Rick Shepherd, Mary Simon, Mike Sinclair, Gail Walker, Jack Young, Susan Young.

---

RiverCon V Program Book copyright ©1980 by Louisville Science Fiction Society, Inc. All rights reserved. Editor: Bob Roehm. Cover art by William Levy; cover photograph courtesy Rauch Memorial Planetarium. RiverCon, P.O. Box 8251, Louisville, KY 40208.

# WELCOME ABOARD...

For the fifth year, the captain and crew of RiverCon would like to extend their heartiest wishes for an enjoyable excursion into the realm of wonder. Please feel free to call on us at any time in order that we may make your cruise with us more comfortable.

Most convention functions are located on the third floor of the Galt House. The only exception to this is the RiverCon hospitality suite, which is located on an upper floor of the hotel overlooking the mighty Ohio River. (The exact room number of the con suite is not available at press time; please check the location in the hotel lobby or at the RiverCon registration desk.) The Sunday afternoon Belle of Louisville cruise will of course take place on a six-mile stretch of the Ohio River. Information on the Belle cruise is elsewhere in the program book and is also available at the registration desk.

The hospitality suite will remain open around the clock during the convention as a place to relax, talk, smof, and cheat at cards.

Remember that your name badge is your ticket to RiverCon, so please wear it at all times. Regular RiverCon members have plain badges; a blue dot on a badge denotes a VIP member, usually a pro author or artist; hucksters' badges will have green dots; yellow dots indicate a special membership (e.g., press, complimentary, etc.); committee members will be wearing red dots on their badges. In addition, department heads will also have red ribbons attached to their badges to make them even more identifiable. These are the people you should turn to in case of a problem.

The program schedule printed here contains only events planned in advance. Please check the posted announcements near the registration area for updates to the published program.

Remember, the committee's more important job is to make sure you are free to enjoy the convention. Don't hesitate to bring any problem, complaint or other nastiness to our attention. We'll do our best to correct it.

RiverCon V promises to be a memorable experience. We're glad you're a part of it.

The RiverCon Committee & Staff



# In Louisville Fandom is FOSFA



Falls of the Ohio  
Science Fiction  
& Fantasy Assn.

**P. O. Box 8251, Louisville, KY 40208**



# Guest of Honor

# Roger Zelazny

The second finest\* fun-week of my life was surely the one spent with Roger Zelazny's five *Amber* novels. That was a couple of years ago, about five minutes after the appearance of volume 5, *The Courts of Chaos*. My rule was to read only one per evening. After all, I had waited over eight years, since the appearance of *Nine Princes in Amber* in 1970.

Putting one down and going to bed without opening the next one was, like stopping with just one Martini, hard. (Actually it was impossible but I'm not going to admit it.) That is no proper way to read a writer's work — but my gosh was it ever fun!

I have known or "known" Roger Zelazny for a number of years, which is a phrase we use when we don't want to burden our brains with that rare process called thinking. He's been in my home, even. Drank *pop*. Lord! I am told that he was Guest of Honor at the 1974 World S.F. Convention, DISCon, and that while the MC was introducing him to some 4,000 people, there came a most incredibly rude and insensitive interruption/disruption. Ole cool Roger was mildly disturbed. Judy Zelazny was genuinely angered; the MC was talking about her husband when the rudie intervened. And about her. And about their son Devin.

I was the MC, and I remember nothing else of that night. It would be fun to try again sometime. Carrying a gun.

As I was saying before the interruption:

On this planet the combination of dark dark hair and pale pale eyes is hardly standard. Add a rather falcate nose and a hardly Celtic, end-of-the-phonebook name, and the individual is unusual. Add that he's a nice guy, even more shy than the rest of us strangelings who read *That Stuff*, and you have a truly unique individual named Roger Zelazny. Now add in fine insight and a true writing talent, and you've gone past easy believability. At least, thank the gods, we don't have to add in that he's a grrreat athlete or New Mexican trailboss or that he is immortal — I guess. (It is true that Judy and Roger are good people. That's odd.)

Zelazny is one of those writers who came among us like a comet. (It's easy: the stories have to be superb and superbly told, that's all.) His writing peers — and those of us who pretended to be his peers — soon forced him either to extend his mantelpiece or buy a display case. His

---

\*The finest was spent with Jodie Offutt — many times.

by Andrew J. Offutt

award nominations piled up. In 1965 we voted him the Nebula Award for "He Who Shapes" and for "The Doors of his Face, the Lamps of his Mouth." In 1966 we awarded him the Hugo for ". . . And Call Me Conrad"/*This Immortal*, and in 1968 for *Lord of Light*. In 1975 his novella "Home is the Hangman" received both the Nebula and the Hugo awards.

Meanwhile he did such mean things as sell stories to *Saturday Evening Post* for many monies, and stake us into the ground with *Damnation Alley*. It's one of those demons of books that won't allow itself to be put down and then won't allow you to go to sleep once you've finished it. We all knew the 1977 movie of that 1969 novel *couldn't* be anywhere near as good, and we all went anyhow.

(Some of us know that all that stuff is window dressing. That strange figure known as Dilvish the Damned is the Zelazny creation who, along with the lords and ladies of Amber, claims the highest award: huge hordes of fans are crazy about 'em.) In June (five minutes after it came out), I luxuriated in the illustrated new Zelazny, *Changeling*. Fascinating. Enthralling. Clever, even. I'll bet RZ is asked to sign that book 386 times this weekend.

If ever you read a book signed Zelazny and it doesn't say "he continued on" 30 or so times, assume it's counterfeit. If it does not soar and sweep and rush, dragging you along by the nose and your strobelit mind and never mind petty details, someone else wrote it. You get caught up in a Zelazny story or book. Surely a chunk of the reason is that *he* does. Never mind the damned sky or kind of trees or the precise tactics, or this or that other little detail: Here's What's Happening, reader, and just dare try to guess what's going to happen next! Here's what they are *doing* and saying. Here's the next application of soaring imagination — and humanity. Technology? Sure, it's nice. Use it all the time. But here's the *story*, about these *people*. If technology gets in the way, let's shift universes or just hang in with what we kids call the Wow factor.

While that rules, let's hang in with the *people*, which is what Zelazny stories are about. Corwin. Heidel. Hell Tanner! (Even Yama.) Brand. Dilvish and the wonderfully named Random, and Jack from the shadows — and now Pol and Dan, with a guitar.

Come on, let's get this over with so we can get him out of here'so he can go write another one for us fans.

AJO  
2 July 1980

# SCHEDULE

## Friday

- 2:00 P.M. — 12:00 M Registration
- 4:00 P.M. — 8:00 P.M. Huckster Room. **Cochran Room**
- 4:00 P.M. — 8:00 P.M. Art Show. **Water Poet Room**
- 7:30 P.M. — 8:30 P.M. Fandom: A Way of Life or Just a Silly Hobby? Some veteran fans take you on a guided tour of the fascinating and unique world of SF fandom. **Archibald Room.**
- 8:30 P.M. — 9:00 P.M. Opening Ceremonies, Introductions, and Announcements. **Archibald Room.**
- 9:00 P.M. — 10:00 P.M. First Impressions #1: The First 13 Years. Rusty Hevelin's slide presentation on the people and works that influenced modern science fiction. **Archibald Room**
- 10:00 P.M. — Movies. Check posted schedule for titles and times. **Archibald Room.**

## Saturday

- 10:00 A.M. — 10:00 P.M. Registration
- 10:00 A.M. — 6:00 P.M. Huckster Room. **Cochran Room.**
- 10:00 A.M. — 6:00 P.M. Art Show. **Water Poet Room.**
- 10:00 A.M. — 6:00 P.M. DiFate Art Exhibit and Zelazny Book Display. **Corn Island Room.**
- 10:00 A.M. — 11:00 A.M. Blood Donors Reception. Coffee, Doughnuts, and prizes for those who have volunteered to give blood within the last 60 days. (Please bring your donor card as proof.) **Hospitality Suite.**
- 11:00 A.M. — Movies. Check posted schedule for times and titles. **Queen Room.**

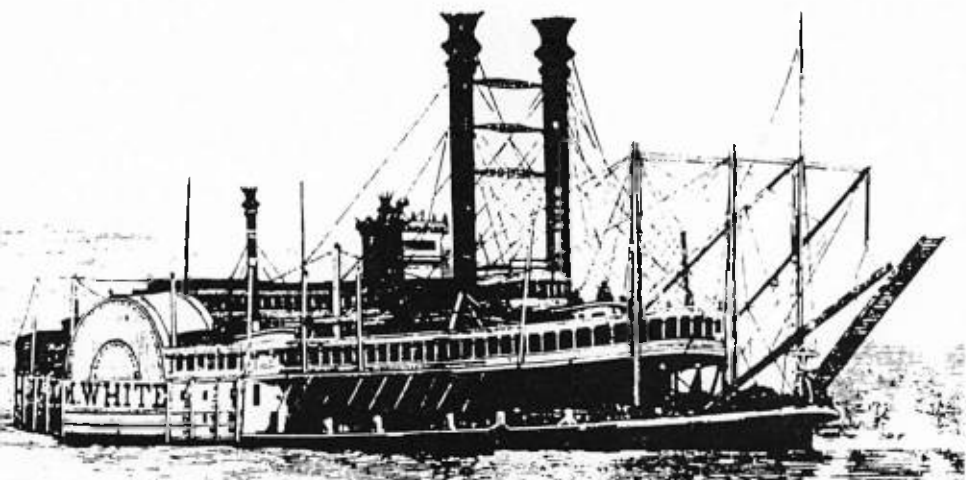


- 11:00 A.M. — 12:30 P.M. Roger Zelazny reads a new story and then answers questions from the audience about his work. **King's Head Room.**
- 12:00 N. — 1:00 P.M. *The Descendents of Sherlock Holmes.* Scott Bullard takes you on a genealogical tour. Would you believe Mr. Spock? Maybe Mick Jagger? Bullard is co-author of *Who's Who in Sherlock Holmes* (Taplinger, Fall, 1980). **Old River Room.**
- 12:00 N. — 1:00 P.M. *First Impressions #2: The Real Golden Age.* Rusty Hevelin continues his slide show on the development of modern SF. **Anchor Room.**
- 1:00 P.M. — 3:30 P.M. RiverCon Banquet, followed by the Lou Tabakow Roast. Vincent DiFate, toastmaster; Bob Tucker, roastmaster. **Archibald Room.**
- 3:00 P.M. — 4:00 P.M. *Side by Side: Buck and Juanita Coulson,* fandom's most famous husband-and-wife team, reminisce on nearly 30 years in SF and fandom, including publication of their Hugo-winning fanzine *Yandro* and their pro writing. **King's Head Room.**
- 3:00 P.M. — 4:00 P.M. *From Foundry to Finish: The Creation of an Art Object.* Paula Dale and Rex Bryant in a slide presentation. **Old River Room.**
- 4:00 P.M. — 5:00 P.M. *Evolution of an SF Painting.* Vincent DiFate takes you on a step-by-step illustrated explanation from idea to published product. **Old River Room.**
- 4:00 P.M. — 5:00 P.M. *Uncle Andy's Surprise Panel.* Andrew J. Offutt and some of his friends. Trust us. **King's Head Room.**
- 5:00 P.M. — 6:00 P.M. *A Strange Thing Happened on the Way to My Fanzine.* Or, why what you get in the mail doesn't always resemble what the editor originally intended. Jackie Causgrove, Jodie Offutt, Dave Lock, Mike Glicksohn. **Old River Room.**
- 5:00 P.M. — 6:00 P.M. *The Best of Friends . . . : Author, Artist, and Science Fiction.* Jack L. Chalker and Vincent DiFate discuss their respective roles. **King's Head Room.**
- 6:00 P.M. — 7:00 P.M. *The Way the Future's Gonna Be.* Some new faces in SF tell you what to expect. Moderator: Lawrence Watt-Evans. **Old River Room.**
- 6:00 P.M. — 7:30 P.M. **Art Auction #1. King's Head Room.**

- 7:30 P.M. — 9:00 P.M.      Guest of Honor Speech by Roger Zelazny. Introduction by Vincent DiFate. **Archibald Room.**
- 9:00 P.M. — 10:00 P.M.      Art Auction #2. **King's Head Room.**
- 9:00 P.M. — 10:00 P.M.      Masquerade Pre-judging. (Participants only.) **Archibald Room.**
- 10:00 P.M. — 12:00 M.      Masquerade Competition. **Archibald Room.**
- 12:00 M. — 1:30 A.M.      Midnight Masquerade Ball. Costumes are encouraged but not required. **Archibald Room.**
- 12:00 M. —      Filksinging. **Anchor Room.**
- 2:00 A.M. —      Movies. Check posted schedule. **Archibald Room.**

### Sunday

- 10:00 A.M. — 2:00 P.M.      Registration and Information.
- 10:00 A.M. — 2:00 P.M.      Huckster Room. **Cochran Room.**
- 11:30 A.M. — 12:30 P.M.      Kentucky Fandom Organizational Meeting. All Kentucky fans are invited to attend. **Anchor Room.**
- 1:00 P.M.      Boarding for Belle of Louisville Cruise at wharf.
- 10:00 A.M. — 4:00 P.M.      Movies. Check posted schedule. **Archibald Room.**



# BELLE OF LOUISVILLE



Sunday will see the renewal of RiverCon's most distinctive tradition — an afternoon river excursion on our own grand old steamer, the Belle of Louisville. To be sure you get aboard for this unique convention feature, please read the following information carefully.

**Tickets:** First of all, the outing will be in conjunction with a regular public cruise, rather than a private charter such as we had last year for NorthAmerican. This means we must compete with the general public for passenger space. You should purchase your ticket in advance for \$2.00 at RiverCon's registration desk. Anyone showing up at the wharf without one of our tickets will be charged the full \$4.00 regular fare. Tickets may be returned to us at any time for a refund if you are unable to take the trip, so it's best to buy early even if your plans are still uncertain.

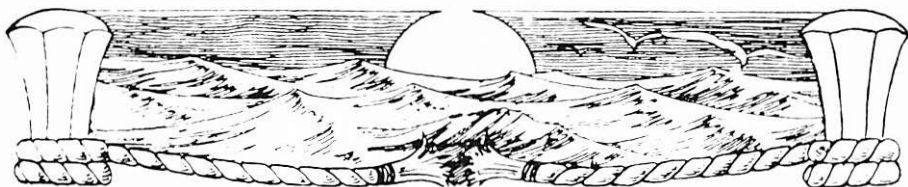
**Boarding:** The wharf is only a short walk from the front door of the Galt House — just turn left as you go out the door and follow the stairways and walkways to the river. Boarding begins at 1:00 P.M., but it is advisable to arrive early to get near the head of the line (remember that space is on a first-come-first-served basis; your ticket is not a reservation and will do you no good if the boat fills up before you get there).

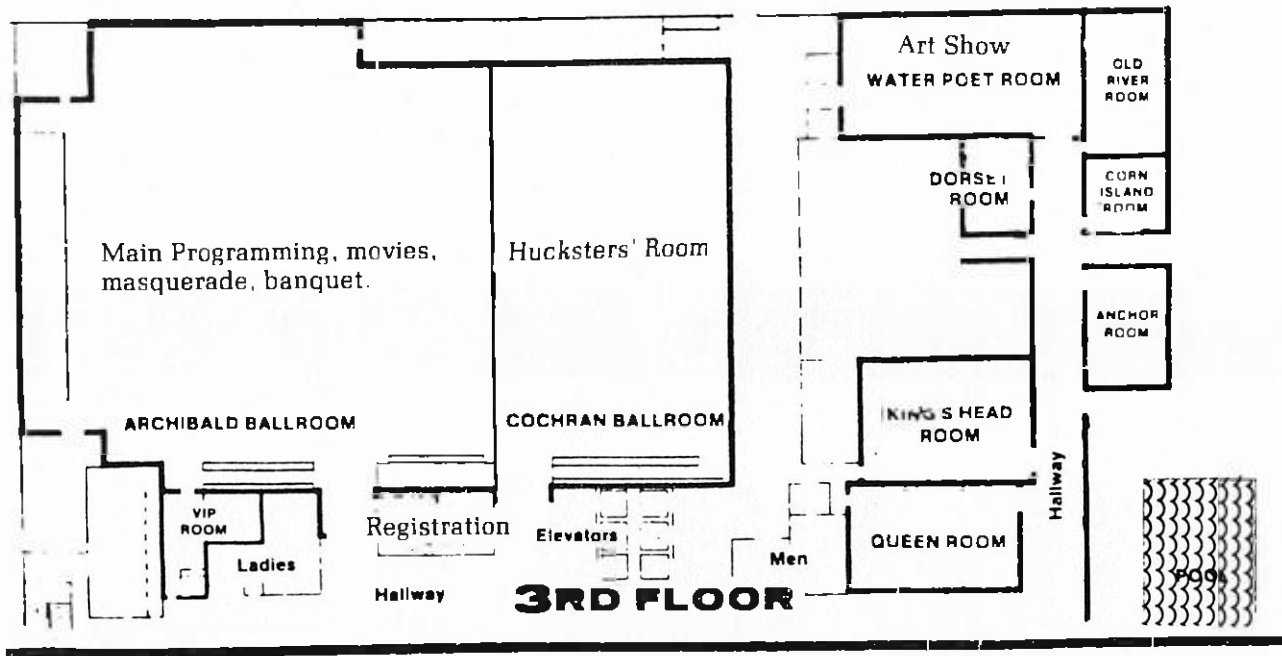
**Schedule:** Boarding is 1:00-2:00 P.M.; departure is 2:00, and return to the wharf is approximately 4:30.

**Goodies:** There is a snack bar and a souvenir stand on board. You may also bring your own picnic lunch and drinks (but coolers are **verboden**). Although no formal programming is planned, feel free to start your own filksing, poker game, or tanning contest.

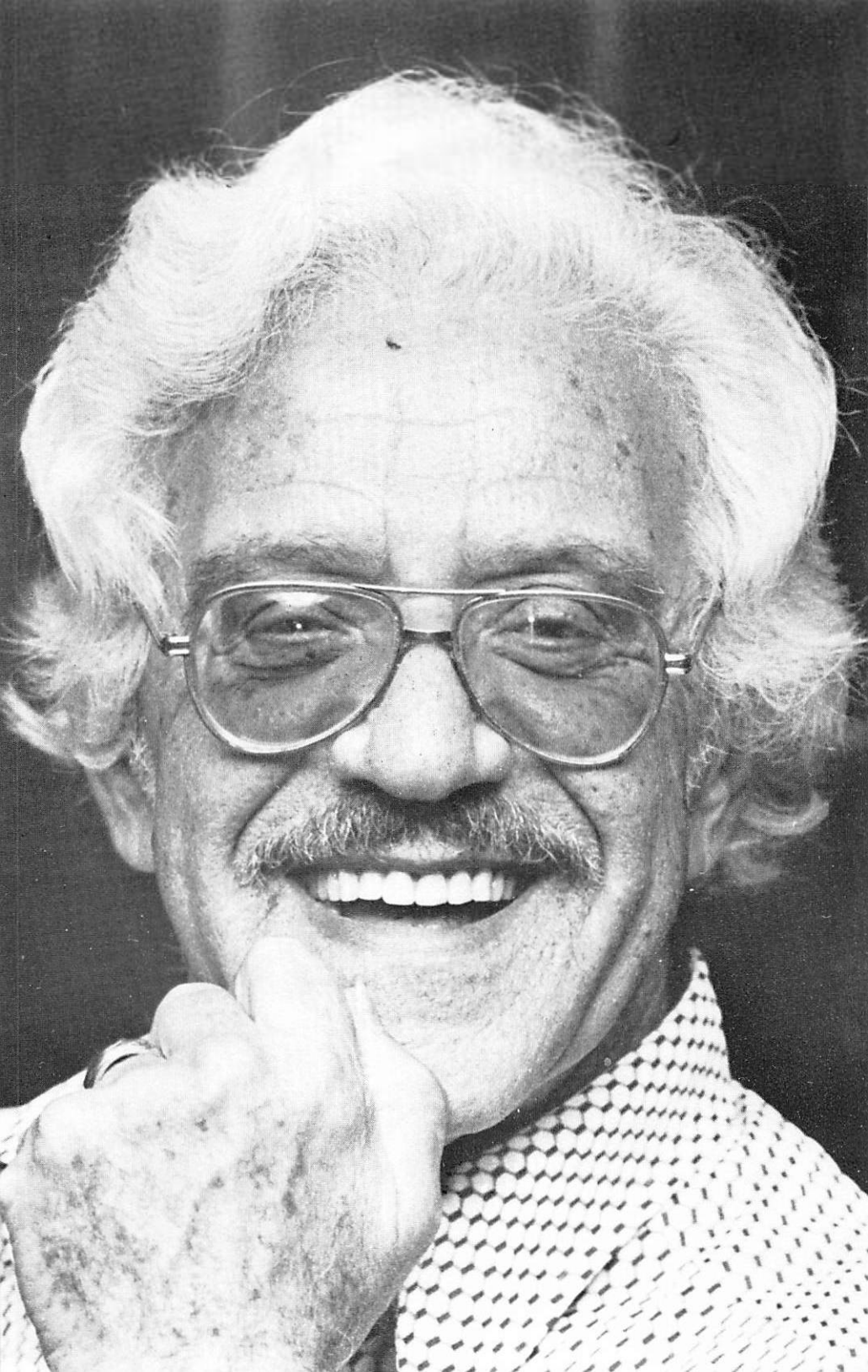
**Note:** The Belle also makes public cruises on Saturday (\$4.00 afternoon excursion, \$7.00 evening dance cruise).

Further Belle information is available at the RiverCon registration desk.





**3RD FLOOR**



# Fan Guest of Honor

# Lou Tabakow

Everybody knows Lou.

Everybody knows about Lou.

We all know he's been a fan since Fandom's Day One. First Fandom and all that.

We all know that Lou presides over not only one of the oldest regular conventions in the country, but one that draws membership from both neofans and fans of long-standing. If you can't get to but one con a year, go to Cincinnati's MidWestCon. (Lou's MidWestCon.)

We've all heard about Lou's Hugo. Some call it Lou's Hokey Hugo, but what the hell, a Hugo's a Hugo.

I've heard Lou called lots of things: A womanizer. A pussycat. A dirty old man with a sandpaper larynx. An empire builder. A Sweetheart. A dictator. A grouch. A pushover. A nice guy.

They all describe Lou, at one time or another.

I like to think of Lou as sort of a good-natured godfather. He takes care of his people, even while they're doing for him. Lou does favors for fans. Most of them I don't even know about because Lou doesn't need to talk about the nice things he does. (I know about the ones he's done for me.)

How often have you seen Lou sitting on a couch in a con suite, hotel lobby, or the CFG suite? There he sits, big smile, eyes twinkling, overseeing everything. Keeping track of everybody. New fans, veteran fans, females (*especially* females), committee members. You get the impression that the entire convention is on parade for Lou.

I wouldn't be surprised if Lou doesn't know more about the comings and going of fans than anyone would guess. Behind his smile and his slightly hooded crinkly eyes, he observes and makes mental notes. I don't think he misses much.

Every now and then you hear about some fan group having internal problems, clashes among its members. Not the Cincinnati Fan Group. Tell me, have you ever heard about any feuding in that bunch? Tabakow, the Benevolent Dictator, won't allow it!

Lou sometimes pretends that he's not running things, that he's in semi-retirement, but that's just for show. He's got his finger on everything.

He once pretended to have lost a shoe and it was presented to him at a banquet in front of a room full of people. He saw that his table ate last once, just so he could say he doesn't insist on being served first. Token democracy.

Lou Tabakow is the eternal fan. He often has books he wants signed and seems genuinely happy to talk with authors.

When you see Lou r'ared back on a couch, big smile, eyes at half-mast, white hair swept back in waves, wearing one of his slicky shirts, better watch yourself. 'Cause Uncle Lou's probably watching you.

by Jodie Offutt



Toastmaster

# Vincent DiFate

Unlike many artists who prefer to express themselves solely through their art, Vincent DiFate is equally articulate in print and on the speakers platform. In addition to covers for every major book and magazine publisher in the SF field, DiFate also writes a regular column on art and artists for Andy Porter's *Starship*, and for several years his illustrated lectures on the evolution of SF art have been popular features at numerous conventions and other gatherings.

An SF fan since childhood, DiFate grew up reading science fiction and seeing all the movies of the 50s SF boom, which no doubt accounts for his later visual orientation where SF is concerned.

After working in animated films and commercial art, DiFate turned to full-time SF illustration in 1969, with his first work being published in *Analog*.

Bold colors and sharp detail hallmark DiFate's work. Although he excels at machinery and all the other technological trappings of science fiction, he is not primarily a "gadget" artist, for people more frequently than not are dominant elements in a DiFate painting.

DiFate has won several awards for his art, among them the Frank R. Paul Award at Nashville's Kubla Khan, and the 1979 Hugo Award for best professional artist. The latter trophy was transported from Seacon and presented to DiFate here in Louisville at last year's NorthAmerican.

Born and raised in New York State, DiFate, now in his early thirties, lives near New York City with his wife Roseanne and their sons Christopher and Victor.



# ASFiCon!

Deep South Con

in

Atlanta

August 22 - 24, 1980

*Pro Guest of Honor:*

**Ted White**

*Fan Guest of Honor:*

**Mike Glycer**

*Toastmaster:*

**Michael Bishop**

Membership Rates: \$10.00

Northlake Hilton

ASFiCon

6045 Summit Wood Drive

Kennesaw, GA 30144

