

HALLEYCON / WESTERCON 39

Town & Country Hotel, San Diego, California Thursday, July 3 - Sunday, July 6, 1986

DAVID BRIN

guest of honor

Greg Bear toastmaster

Karen Turner fan guest of honor



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Welcome!

I say again, Welcome!

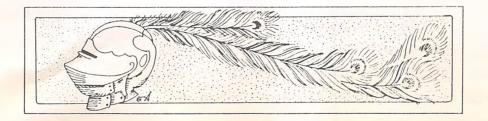
Previous Westercons have always had lots to see and do during the weekend, and this one, we believe, will be the same. We have a lot of authors, editors, artists and good of fen here for you to meet and spend some time with. Be brash and introduce yourself to that author you've always wanted to meet at the ice cream social (just say something nice about their latest work!). We have a very full program, one that should have something to interest just about everybody.

It's been a tough two years of planning, coping, and trying to get con work done while committee members change jobs, lose jobs, move (and move again!). It's been a long time since San Diego fandom has hosted a Westercon. We've made our share of mistakes, as does every Westercon committee, but all in all, I think we've done fairly well. Certainly, we did the best we could at the time, and our best has continued to get better as the con got closer!

Many people deserve your thanks for making this a good Westercon: all our hard-working committee members, especially Dave Meyers and Carol Kalescky for stepping in and picking up a couple of big jobs that needed to be done right; Greg Bear and Astrid Anderson Bear for sage advice when we needed it most; and Jamie Hanrahan, for working above and beyond the call of duty, as well as helping me to keep my sanity.

Let's get on with the con, and have a good time!

-- Gail Bayley Hanrahan Westercon 39 Chair



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Westercon

Episode XXXX

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At the Oakland Convention Center & Hyatt Regency July 2-6, 1987

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Pro - Gregory Benford
Fan - Aubrey MacDermott
Filk - Leslie Fish
Artist - Lela Dowling & Ken Macklin
Toastmaster - Jon de Cles

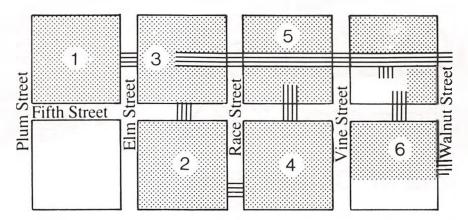
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Attending: \$30 until 7/15/86, \$35 until 12/31/86
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We have reserved the Cincinnati Convention Center for our convention activities. With 300,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space and over 40 additional meeting rooms, we've got enough space to run a World Con larger than any to date.

An elevated weather-protected skywalk leads to over 2800 luxury hotel rooms all within 3 blocks of our convention center.

The hotels are on a shuttle bus route from the airport. It leaves from the various arrival gates at the airport every half-hour and makes a circuit of the downtown hotels. There is ample parking in the downtown area hotel lots and various municipal lots.

- 1. Convention Center
- 4. Netherland
- 2. Hyatt
- Terrace Hilton
- 3. Clarion
- 6. Westin

Skywalk ===

In addition to the ample Convention Center space, the various hotels all have meeting rooms that are available for our use, (Want to have a lunch in a room lined with gold mirrors?) We will be using these rooms for various small functions that may not be convenient to hold in the Convention Center.

Convention hotel rates for 1985.

Convention moter rates for 1705.	
Hotel	Double
Clarion	\$67
Hyatt	\$77*
Netherland	\$52
Terrace	\$57
Westin	\$67
*This is an approximate rate	

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Category:

Presupporting Membership Category 1 - \$5,00 applicable to your membership if we win.

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Set upon the northern bank of the Ohio River, Cincinnati's seven hills dominate the Southwest corner of Ohio. The unique mixture of rolling hills and sweeping vistas sets Cincinnati apart as the Midwest's most picturesque city.

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Our People

We are planning a responsibly run, financially sound World Con. Our committee is composed of people from all over the Midwest with a broad range of convention experience.

Our Programming

We are planning a diversified multi-track program with your needs in mind. We are interested in your programming ideas and encourage you to write with your suggestions too:

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As an added programming innovation, all \$20 presupporting members will have I vote for their choice for World Conguest of honor.

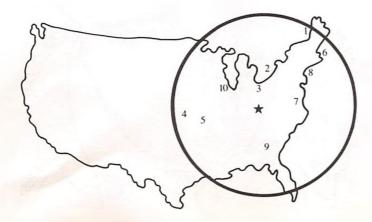
Mix together these ingredients and simmer until late summer 1988. Serve on Labor Day weekend with a flourish along with Cincinnati's Riverfest Bicentennial Celebration, topped off with the best fireworks show you've even seen.

Our Location

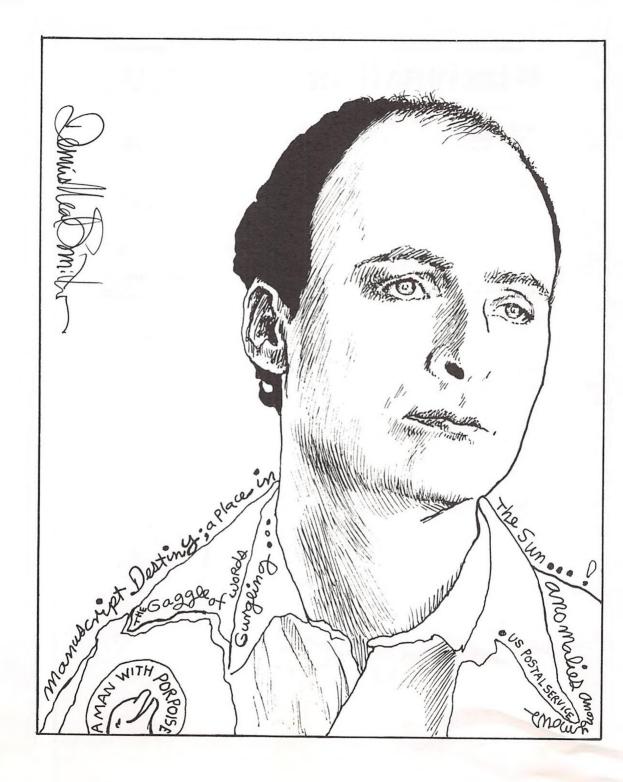
Located at the Heart of North America, more than 60% of the Nation's population lives within 600 miles of Cincinnati. Within 700 miles lives over 65% of the population of North America.

Cincinnati sits at the crossroad to three interstate highways and is easily accessible by car or by bus.

Our airport is served by at least 9 major airlines, People's Express, and several commuter airlines. Limousine and shuttle bus service can bring you downtown in minutes.



- ★ Cincinnati
- 1. Montreal
- 2. Toronto
- Toronto
 Detroit
- 4. Kansas City
- 5. St. Louis
- 6. Boston
- 7. Washington D.C.
- 8. New York
- 9. Atlanta
- 10. Chicago



David Brin - Guest of Honor

by Our Toastmaster, Greg Bear

On October 6, 1950, in Los Angeles, California, a child was born, fair of hair and with a mildly complaining disposition. Some allege the child spoke delphinese from the very beginning; others say political opinions were established in the delivery room. This infant was named Glenn David Brin, sharing, remarkably enough, the full initial set of one of his later arch-rivals, and two-thirds of the initials of his future collaborator... But more on that anon.

David Brin (Glenn Brin being too assonant) graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1968. It is alleged that he was haunted in the school corridors by the memory of a youthful Ray Bradbury, another LA High School student of thirty years before. He went on immediately to Caltech, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in astronomy. He is now less an astronomer, but he is no less a bachelor. "Eligible as hell," some of his cronies have described him.

After the Caltech experience, Brin went to work for Hughes Aircraft (he invariably describes it as "Huge Aircrash") as an "eclectic engineer." During this period --1975-1976 -- Brin began writing what would be his first published novel, Sundiver.

In 1976, Brin returned to school, this time moving south to UCSD, where he took a masters in optics in 1977. While he went on for his doctorate, <u>Sundiver</u> was published by Bantam Books in 1980, and enjoyed steady and encouraging success. David Brin was suddenly faced with the possibility that his writing career might seduce him away from the halls of science

and academe. Still, he persisted, and in 1981 received his doctorate, becoming an acknowledged expert in comets and asteroids.

Soon after, Brin was split in twain, undergoing an emotional crisis from which he has not vet completely recovered. He had obviously planned on being a scientist, perhaps teaching at a prestigious university while conducting research on the side. But with the publication of Startide Rising by Bantam in 1983, it became obvious that the sideline of writing could easily dominate his career. Startide Rising was an instant success, and went on to win both the Nebula and Hugo awards. More significantly, it sold a jillion copies, and Brin became -- not overnight, but certainly within a fortnight -- a major celebrity in the science fiction field. The book has since been translated into Uzhbeki, quaranteeing him a large audience in the Altaic Mountains of Central Asia.

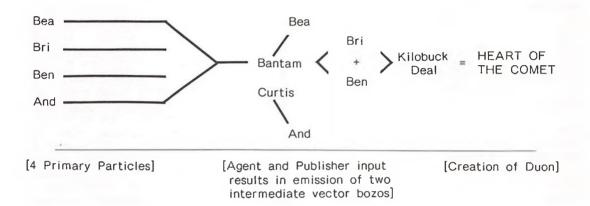
Which was it to be -- the purity and intellectual splendor of science, or the harsh spotlight and pots o' gold of the literary life? Brin came to the painful realization that he was bound to be a more successful writer than scientist, and like some before him -- Asimov, Clarke, Anderson and a few select others come to mind -- he began to neglect science and woo the muses.

To this day, Brin will shake his head and moan over the dilemma. But no matter to the rest of us; he is firmly entrenched as a writer.

Following Startide Rising, Brin published a mild jape called The Practice Effect, which also sold well, though not drawing much critical praise. What would he do to top Startide Rising?

During a Christmas holiday party at the Bear household some years ago, Brin was, as usual, revealing the secrets of his friends to a large audience, in this case, telling all and sundry about a plot devised by Gregory Benford. Both yours truly and Poul Anderson expressed an interest in

horning in on this novel and I urged Brin to call Benford and regale him with the notion of a four-headed collaboration. Brin, who had long wanted to collaborate with Benford, made the phone call. Follows a physics diagram which describes this interaction:



Heart of the Comet, published this year, is doing spectacularly well, despite the fact that neither Anderson nor Bear did anything more than add glorious and salient details to the plot before their spontaneous emission. (Publishers have the peculiar notion that a book with four authors is not a novel, but an anthology, and anthologies do not sell as well as novels. Of course, various pseudonyms were possible: G. Anderson Brinbear among them.)

Such success is both premature (for Brin) and richly deserved. Brin has a handle on the science fiction reader's deepest

dreams, and he has consistently touched them where they are most vulnerable. His books and stories are hopeful, creative, quirky and enormously entertaining.

This, then, is the man you have chosen to be Guest of Honor.

[Consumer warning label: David Brin is addictive. In his presence, do not raise the subjects of Teddy Kennedy, E.T., or Lyndon LaRoach, or you will suffer severe side-effects.]

A Brin Bibliography

NOVELS & COLLECTIONS

Sundiver, Bantam Books, 1980. (First fiction sale.)

Startide Rising, Bantam Books, 1983. Winner of 1983 Nebula Award, 1983 Hugo Award, and Locus Award.

The Practice Effect, Bantam Books, 1984. Winner of Balrog Award.

The Postman, Bantam Spectra hardcover, 1985. 1985 Hugo Award Nominee.

<u>Heart of the Comet,</u> Bantam Spectra hardcover (with Gregory Benford), 1986.

The River of Time, Dark Harvest Press, Summer 1986 (collection).

NOVELLAS & NOVELETTES

"The Tides of Kithrup", Analog, May 25, 1981.

"The Loom of Thessaly", Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine (IASFM), November 21, 1981.

"The Postman", IASFM, November 1982. 1983 Hugo Award Nominee.

"Cyclops", IASFM, March 1984. 1985 Hugo Award Nominee.



SHORT STORIES

"Just a Hint", Analog, April 27, 1980.

"Coexistence", IASFM, May 1982.

"Simulation Cut", Joystik Magazine, January 1983.

"Tank Farm Dynamo", Analog, November 1983.

"The Fourth Vocation of George Gustaf", IASFM Anthology, 1984.

"The Warm Space", Far Frontiers, Baen Books, January 1985.

"The Crystal Spheres", Analog, January 1984. Winner of the Hugo Award for Best Short Story of 1985.

"Thor Meets Captain America", printed in Hitler Victorious.

SCIENCE FACT ARTICLES

"Xenology: The New Science of Asking Who's Out There", Analog, 1983.

"The Key to Space", L-5 News, 1983.

"The Deadly Thing at 2.4 Kiloparsecs", Analog 1984.

"The Great Silence: The Controversy Concerning Extraterrestrial Life", Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society, Fall 1983.

"How Dangerous is the Galaxy?", Analog, June 1985.

Everybody's coming to...



ST LOUIS IN 88

To support the bid, send \$5 for a pre-supporting membership, which will get you a periodic bid-progress newsletter and, if you vote for site selection at the 1986 Worldcon, a matching reduction in the price of a membership when we win the bid. For a bid t-shirt (S/M/L/XL), send \$5 plus \$2 P&H. For our multi-page bid statement, send a # 10 SASE.

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· Art from "A Separate Star" by Frank Kelly Freas -

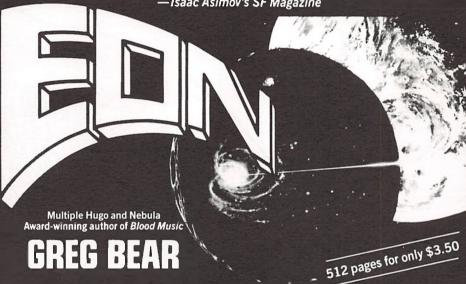
"Eon may be THE BEST CONSTRUCTED HARD SF EPIC YET." — Washington Post Book World

"The ambitiousness of Greg Bear's Eon lies more in the mainstream of science fiction, sharing aspects of Clarke's Rendezvous With Rama and Sheffield's Between the Strokes of Night...

Eon IS HIS GRANDEST WORK YET."

-Locus

"The only word for it is BLOCKBUSTER... big and breathtaking...ambitious to the point of mindboggling." —Isaac Asimov's SF Magazine



"GREG BEAR'S BIGGEST AND MOST
AMBITIOUS NOVEL TO DATE IS ALSO HIS BEST...
Thoroughly readable...This is likely to appear on the Hugo ballot."
—SF Chronicle

"The author of Blood Music moves his vision from microcosm to macrocosm in this story of four humans and their confrontation with infinity. This powerful, imaginative novel belongs in most SF collections."

—Library Journal

August 1986 * \$3.50 * 512 pages * 0-812-53170-1





Greg Bear - Toastmaster

by Astrid Anderson Bear

The problem with writing biographies of someone you are married to, is that you really know too much -- everything from favorite cereal (customized granola) to the number of unmatched, orphan socks in the drawer (7). To begin with some of the more basic stuff -- the Bear Facts, as it were:

Greg Bear was born in San Diego, and due to being a Navy brat, was raised in such diverse places as Japan, the Phillipines, and Kodiak, Alaska. There was enough time in between duty stations spent in San Diego that about half of his formative vears were within ten miles of this hotel. In fact, he is another Stardust Westercon alumnus, although he did not actually join the convention. He heard about it, got his parents to drive him down (being but a wee tad at the time), and stood around in the hall for about 20 minutes, not realizing that one could pay a small fee and join the maddened throng. He did see and recognize the inimitable Forry Ackerman, and, that being enough of a thrill, left.

He had developed a taste for science fiction at an earlier age, enjoying the modern Tom Swift novels, and later graduating to the hard stuff. Greg started actually writing SF at about age 9. Does this deathless prose still survive? If so, it's well hidden. He persisted with the aberrant behavior, and at age 15, sold a story Famous Science Fiction Magazine. Then followed a long period without selling any more stories, during which it seemed that he might have a better chance making a living as an artist than as a writer. This multi-faceted fellow had also been painting all along, and regularly sold paintings at convention art shows. One painting, inspired by the novel <u>Tau Zero</u>, sold for the then-record sum of \$325. By this time, he had been taken under the capacious wing of Bjo Trimble. Bjo was sponsoring writer's salons on a regular basis, and Greg would journey up from San Diego to LA to sit and critique ms. with Kathleen Sky, Steven Goldin, Katherine Kurtz, David Gerrold, and others.

Around this time, Greg and I met at the Santa Barbara WesterCon, having missed meeting each other at the Stardust WesterCon and Baycon (the 1968 WorldCon). My first impression from that time was of a tall, bespectacled fellow with a moustache, sketchpad, and a wonderful smile. He still has the moustache and the smile, although the sketchpad is no longer a permanent fixture.

Time passed. At long last, editors became wise enough to buy more stories, and then the odd book or two. Greg began to realize that while authors get royalties and reprint rights on books and stories, artists almost never do. So he began neglecting the illustration side of his muse and concentrated more heavily on the writing. It was a decision that paid off. stories appeared in print, and another book The stories caught the eve of James Turner, editor at Arkham House, who decided to buy a Greg Bear collection -- the first science fiction book purchased in recent times by Arkham House. picked out several stories, but wanted one final masterpiece to round out the collec-He was willing to wait a couple of years. The waiting got him "Hardfought", which won a Nebula for Best Novella. The collection. The Wind From A Burning Woman, was really a breakthrough for Greg, being his first hard-cover publica-It was well reviewed and he began

to get the serious attention of publishers and fans. The novelette "Blood Music" won both the Nebula and Hugo awards. The short fiction began to diminish as he spent more time on books such as The Infinity Concerto, Blood Music (based on the novelette), Eon, and the forthcoming The Serpent Mage (from Berkley Books, sequel to The Infinity Concerto) and The Forge of God (Tor Books).

So what's it like being under the same roof with a writer? Crowded! Greg is a packrat, collector of books (the more obscure the better), records, electronic equipment, model airplanes -- as I write I am surrounded by maps of California and Yosemite (research for The Forge of God), books on linguistics, publishing, astronomy, geology, the paperback section of the science fiction collection... People often don't understand why the two of us feel cramped in a four-bedroom house, until they look into the rooms and see what they're stuffed with.

As he works he drifts from room to room. dipping into arcane tomes the way Pooh dips into pots of honey, stopping to listen to a little music or catch part of a movie. It is the deceptive aimlessness of a mind exploring limits and possibilities. then translating them into hard prose. An important part of the creative process for Greg is a daily long soak in the tub. He fortifies himself with a foot-high stack of books and settles in for an hour or so of musing. He also takes in a telephone (since I'm usually at work during tub-time) which accounts for the hollow, echoing quality of mid-afternoon phone conversations with him.

It isn't just all this success and eclecticism that prompted the WesterCon Committee to ask Greg to serve as Toastmaster. He's a witty and erudite speaker, perpetrator of puns upon an unsuspecting universe. He always enjoys intelligent conversation and readers' attempts to pick apart the physics in his books.

To those who wish to get to know Greg (and I urge you to take the opportunity this weekend), I leave you with a few excerpts from my work in progress <u>Care and Feeding of Your Bear</u>.

Salmon are always welcome. Your Bear gets tired of flipping them out of streams all day, and appreciates the gift.

Always carry a comb to keep his fur from getting matted. A Swiss Army knife equipped with a tool for removing burrs wedged in between toes is also useful.

Your Bear does not come with pockets. He will often ask you to carry small items which he has picked up on his trundles.

Flipping salmon is thirsty work, and he always enjoys being bought a beer. If he is very happy he will dance after a few beers. In fact, sometimes the beer-bear'll polka.



[Mr. Bear protests: This is entirely too revealing a piece, and the latter part borders upon libel. If this is printed, I will sue for all the honey pots you own.]

A Bear Bibliography

NOVELS & COLLECTIONS

Hegira, Dell 1979.

Psychlone, Ace 1979.

Beyond Heaven's River, Dell 1980.

Strength of Stones, Ace 1982.

The Wind From A Burning Woman, Arkham House 1983.

Corona (A Star Trek Novel), Pocket Books 1984.

The Infinity Concerto, Berkley 1984.

Blood Music, Arbor House 1985. Hugo Award Nominee.

Eon, Bluejay 1985.

The Serpent Mage, Berkley, Nov. 1986.

SHORT FICTION

"Destroyers", Famous Science Fiction, Winter 1967.

"Webster", in Alternities, ed. David Gerrold, Dell 1974.

"The Venging", Galaxy, June 1975.

"Perihesperon", <u>Tomorrow: New Worlds</u> of <u>Science Fiction</u>, ed. Roger Elwood, M. Evans and Co. 1975.

"A Martian Ricorso", Analog, February 1976.

"Sun-Planet", Galaxy, April 1977.

*"Scattershot", in <u>Universe</u> 8, ed. Terry Carr, Doubleday 1978.

*"Mandala", New <u>Dimensions</u> 8, ed. R. Silverberg, Harper and Row 1978.

*"The Wind From A Burning Woman", Analog, October 1978.

*"The White Horse Child", in <u>Universe</u> 9, ed. Terry Carr, Doubleday 1979.

"If I Die Before I Wake", in <u>Dragons</u> of <u>Light</u>, ed. Orson Scott Card, Ace 1980.

"Richie by the Sea", in New Ramsay Campbell, Pan 1980.

"Eucharist", Fantasy and Science Fiction, June 1981.

"Strength of Stones, Flesh of Brass", Rigel, Summer 1981.

*"Petra", Omni, February 1982.

"Schrodinger's Plague", Analog, March 29, 1982.

*"Hardfought", Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine, February 1983. Nebula Award for Best Novella.

"Blood Music", Analog, June 1983. Nebula and Hugo Awards for Best Novelette.

"Through Road No Whither", Far Frontiers #1, ed. John F. Carr and Jerry Pournelle, Baen Books 1985.

"Dead Run", Omni, April 1985.

"Tangents", Omni, January 1986.

Stories marked with an asterisk appeared in the collection <u>The Wind From A Burning</u> Woman.

17

WELCOME TO WESTERCON 39 FROM THE PORTLAND IN '88 BID COMMITTEE

WHAT'S GOING ON?

The fans in Portland, Oregon, wish to let it be known that they are eager to host Westercon 41. Portland, host to Westercon 37, is ready, able and willing to have you visit us again.

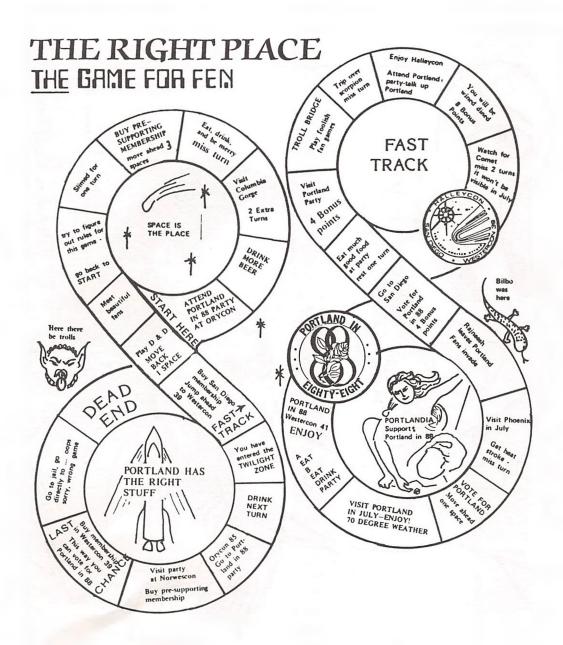
The Red Lion Lloyd Center will be the site of the convention. With easy access to and from Interstate 5, a free parking structure and a short, one block walk to a major shopping center, the Red Lion is ideal. Five hundred and twenty deluxe guest rooms are located in two towers. The hotel has three different restaurants including the Coffee Garden. There are also three bars on site.

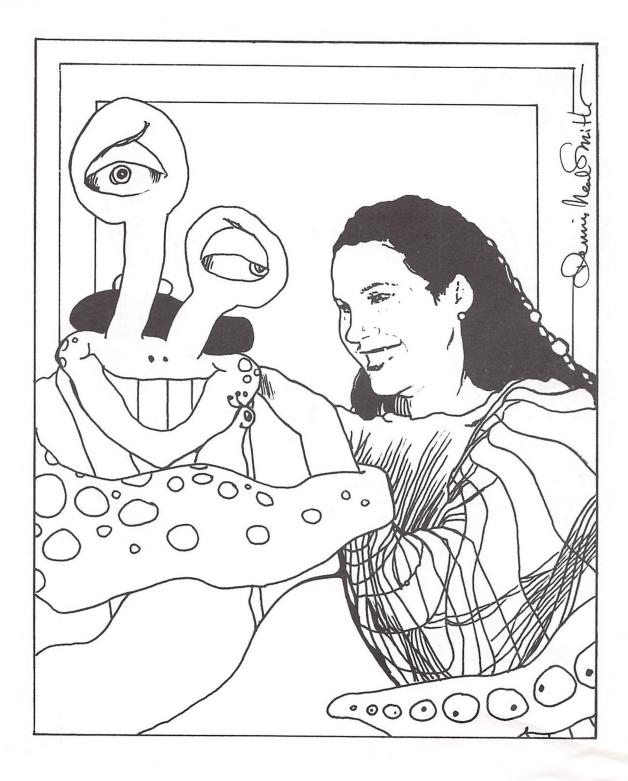
The art show and dealers room will be housed in a ground level, fully carpeted 17,000 square foot exhibit hall with windows.

The programs will spread out into 18,000 square feet, with 15 rooms available. The largest room will accommodate 1,500.

The Hospitality Suite will be in the huge Presidential Suite complete with a free-standing Jacuzzi in the bathroom.

Our committee consists of seasoned veterans with over seven years of convention experience, plus the exuberance of fresh faces with unconventional ideas.





Karen Turner - Fan Guest

By Kelly Turner

Since Karen has been in organized fandom for over 13 years (and a closet fan for a decade prior to that!), we couldn't find one individual to write her bio who had known her continuously throughout that history; hence, this interview to get the information straight from Karen herself.

Q. How did you become interested in science fiction?

A. I came in the "back door" via media. At about age 9 or 10, 1 got hooked on Japanese animation, notably Astro Boy. My dad and I used to watch "Science Fiction Theatre" on Saturday afternoons, which featured films like Forbidden Planet Them. I also watched most of the Irwin Allen SF TV series like Lost In Space and Time Tunnel. I knew they were terrible, but there was nothing else around during the 1960's. Star Trek came along about the time I entered junior high. It was definitely better than most of the other things I had been watching, and it led me to ask the school librarian if she knew of any books with similar space-She directed me to the oriented plots. works of Andre Norton and Robert Heinlein. I've been reading SF insatiably ever since, and Heinlein has remained one of my favorites.

Q. Have you ever thought of writing SF yourself?

A. (Nervous laughter.) I tried my hand at that from eighth grade clear through my undergrad period at college. Unfortunately, I'm a terrible hack and produced mass quantities of what is known to fanzine fandom as "Mary Sue stories." If anyone ever wants to read 3,000 handwrit-

ten pages of pure schlock, I still have 19 sordid Spock romances mouldering in my garage somewhere. Seriously, it was terrific therapy and improved my command of the English language 400%, which has come in handy on technical papers and my Master's thesis, but I should never be allowed to write fiction of any kind!

Q. Was any of your material ever printed in a fanzine?

Oh, one or two of the shorter and less schmaltzy pieces. However, I soon realized I would never write the Great American SF Novel and decided to try a different angle. I became associate editor of Menagerie, STAR San Diego's fanzine. I also published Intercepted, a 'zine based on the TV series UFO. Those were still the Dark Ages before the advent of word processing and cheap zerox. We had to use either mimeo or ditto to produce our 'zines, and the end result was never up to my quality expectations. The whole experience proved more frustrating than rewarding, but I never gave up the hope of doing a garage publication right someday. This is probably why I'm currently co-editing the Whole Costumer's Cataloque.

Q. When did you start to costume?

A. I made a few crude costumes in junior high for Halloween, but my sewing skills and my budget were marginal. I basically had to content myself with sketching futuristic designs on paper--usually clothing for the characters in my Mary Sue stories. Costuming didn't really gel for me until I was 18 and in my second semester of college, when I discovered organized fandom in the form of STAR San Diego. Only a month after I got involved

with STAR, I attended my first SF con-Equicon '73 in Los Angeles. Equicon had a costume contest, and I made something for the competition. I also made a second costume to wear around the hotel. I had a great time during the day, terrorizing stodgy businessmen in the elevators. And while my competition costume didn't win anything in the masquerade, it did make it as far as the callbacks. I've been hooked on costumes ever since. To date, I've made over 230 individual costumes both for myself and Needless to say, my for other people. closets are overflowing and their contents resemble the wardrobe department of a very strange play!

Q. How did you become involved with the WesterCon and WorldCon circuit since you're a self-confessed media fan?

A. First of all, I think it is terribly unfair to assume that media fen have no interest in literature and vice-versa. I don't know if it's because I grew up in the Star Trek generation of fandom or what, but I have a strong appreciation of both. The possibility of attending a World Science Fiction convention was a fantastic concept for me on a number of levels. First, it was the place where they voted on the Hugos. Second, it was rumored to have a fantastic masquerade. Third, I just liked conventions in general.

Unfortunately, I missed LACon in 1972, not being aware of organized fandom--or SF conventions!--at the time.I attended "media" SF conventions until 1978, when Worldcon was in Phoenix and therefore within striking range of Southern California. I naively went to the masquerade as Barbarella, unaware that it had been done to death in prior years. (I think it's among the top ten costumes that no one wants to see ever again!) Being backstage at a Worldcon masquerade was a real learning experience for me. I had no idea people went to such lengths and did such elaborate costumes and presentations!

I sat out two more Worldcons before I dared to compete again. Inspired by the masquerade at Noreascon II in Boston, I drew the designs for the Egyptian Gods in my sketchbook on my flight home. After the usual recruitment and attrition and a month of frantic sewing, the Gods group was finally completed for Denvention II a year later. The rest is history: the group took the masquerade by storm and I got to play in the costuming Big Leagues at long last.

I have attended three Worldcons since Denvention and competed in the masquerade at all of them with varying degrees of success. I got very burned out after LACon and am sitting out for a couple of years, but I'll be back. I still have a few good costumes left in me before I run out of ideas and determination!

Q. What's next for you?

A. I'm playing hooky from Worldcon this summer and going to the World's Fair in Canada. Then it'll be time to start work on the '87 edition of the Whole Costumer's Catalogue. I'm also handling programming for Costume-Con 6, which will be in San Jose in '88. I have ambitious hall costumes on the drawing board that And I have bigger I'm dying to make. for Costume-Con 5. the '87 NASFiC, and the '90 Worldcon. Now, if I can just get my hands on a trampoline and some antigravs...



A Turner "Bibliography"

1978 Worldcon - Barbarella (No Award) 1979 Westercon - Twilight (No Award) Westercon - The Royal Family of Amber (Judge's Choice) 1981 Westercon - Lord and Lady Valentine (Most Beautiful) 1981 Worldcon - The Egyptian Gods (Grand Master) 1982 Westercon - Mirror, Mirror (Most Beautiful, Master) 1982 Worldcon - Pyrogenesis (Best In Show) 1983 Westercon - King and Queen of Spades (Best Game-Related) 1983 Worldcon - Turn of a Friendly Card (Best Presentation, Contestants' Choice) 1984 Worldcon - Night on Bald Mountain (Best Group, Master) 1985 Westercon - The Seasons (Best In Show)





Blast Off for the Valley of the Sun WesterCon Bid

July 1-5,1988 HYATT REGENCY PHOENIX

Valley of the Sun WesterCor

committee and Supporters Bruce Forr - Tree

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Valley of the Sun WesterCon Bid supported by LepreCon, Inc and Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society, Inc.

The Hotel

The Hyatt Regency is one of the West's most beautiful hotels.

It offers the 1988 WesterCon a 600 Room Block at bargain rates. This hotel has proved itself very friendly to the 1984 & 1985 LepreCons and will be hosting the 1987 NASFiC. Several nearby hotels, including the Phoenix Hilton, are available for overflow sleeping rooms if needed. The adjacent Phoenix Civic Plaza will provide us up to 150,000 sq ft of function space at no charge, if needed.

The Committee

The Committee includes the chairs of 20 conventions, including LepreCons, CopperCons, the 1982 Westercon, 1985 World FantasyCon, and the 1987 NASFiC.

Additionally, they have served at committee and staff level at numerous conventions, including WorldCons and WesterCons.

Terry Gish, Bid Chair, has served as Chair for two LepreCons and one Coppercon In addition she has served as hotel liaison, art show director, publications, and vice chair.

Bruce Farr, Bid Treasurer, has served as Chair of one Coppercon and the 1987 NASFiC and treasurer of three LepreCons, one CopperCon, CASFS, and the 1985 World Fantasy Con. He has also served as programming director and Registrar.

Ray Gish, Art Show, has served as Art Show Director of three LepreCons.

Doreen Webbert, Programming, has served as programming director of two Leprecons and the 1987 NASFiC.

Plus many more too numerous to mention.

Join us in the Valley of the Sun

The Valley of the Sun Westercon bid is sponsored by Phoenix area fans, who are famous for enjoyable conventions (1982 Westercon, LepreCon, Coppercon) and co-operation with other fandoms.

Programming

Listed below are program topics and panelists known by the time the program book went to press. The pocket program, in addition to showing times for these and other events, will reflect any changes.

THURSDAY

Dismal SF: Economics and Science Fiction Fowler, Stoddard, Dalmas, Boyett

More Than Murder: Stealing Souls and Dining on Dreams Bryant, Claremont, Hambly, Stoddard

A Fascination with Catastrophe: Survivalism in SF Rotsler, de Cles, Sosna

The Influence of Word Processors on Writing Novels Post, Sumner, Ross, Dalmas

If Fantasy is Softening SF, Is SF Hardening Fantasy? Noel, Paxson, Feist, Salsitz

FRIDAY

Pre-Masquerade Meeting

Breaking In Is Hard To Do Boya, McCarthy, Grayson, Meacham

Distinctions Between Fantasy and Horror Bradley, de Cles, Pearce, Singer

The Mystique Of The Monarch: The Prevalence of Kings and Emperors in SF Fiscus, Paxson, Claremont, Anderson, Dalmas

In Case Of Nuclear Winter, Break Glass: Can Civilization Survive? Edmondson, Blum, Sosna, Swycaffer

Is There A "Nemesis" Star?
Brin, Robertson, Silverberg, Davis

The Future of Democracy Feist, Rotsler, Harris, Anderson

Star Wars and the Peace Shield Cooper, Blum, Stine

Artificial Intelligence Inouye, Grayson, Hartman, Benford, Melton

Is It Terrifying? Is It Horrifying?
Or Is It Just Gross?
Brizzolara, Bryant, Watson, Pearce

Saving Lincoln: What Happens When You Change History? Finch, Fiscus, Glyer, Dalmas

Prophecy and Destiny in Fantasy Salsitz, Roberson, Noel

Where To Draw the Line: When To End a Series Roberson, Swycaffer, Claypool

Reading It First vs. Watching It First Fowler, Cooper, Cassut, Claypool

Humor in SF: It's Not ALL Puns de Cles, Noel, Hogan, Gilden

Ley Lines and Monoliths
Paxson, Pearce, Hambly, Stine

Linguistic Determinism: How Language Controls Thought Finch, Miller, Sosna, Williams Like Chunky Peanut Butter:
Poetry in Mid-Novel
Post, Paxson, Zimmer, K. Anderson

Why SF Remains in the Literary Ghetto Murphy, Swofford, Zimmer, Meacham

Fannish History Patten, Pelz

Fuzzy Animal Fandom Swycaffer, Patten, Pelz

SATURDAY

Hall Costumes Tifft, Ridenour, Ellers

High-Tech Costuming Kline, Joiner

Women Warriors:
Equal Rights in Science Fiction
Barker, Carpenter, Perry, Blum

Libertarianism in Science Fiction Snodgrass, Shirley, Hartman

Mathematics in SF Inouve, Post, Melton

Genetic Engineering and SF Bear, Hartman, Post, Blum

The Future of the U.S. Space Program Robertson, Cooper, Davis, Post

Does Cover Art Sell Books?
Bova, Rotsler, Meacham, Stine

Hard Magic Niven, Feist, Paxson, Claremont

What Makes Halley's So Special? de Cles, Benford, K. Anderson, Claypool

What Makes An Interesting Alien? Snodgrass, Finch, Williams, Martine-Barnes Original Design Costumes Sanders, Ellers, Evans

The Challenger Disaster Robertson, Davis, Claremont, Swofford

Can the Human Race Outgrow War? Van Scyoc, Fiscus, Carpenter, Perry

How Practical Are Space Battlefleets? Swycaffer, Harris, Vinge

Pagan Elements in Modern Fantasy Paxson, Martine-Barnes, Carpenter, Mueller

Fantasy and Archeology
Purtill, Salsitz, Hogan, K. Anderson

Breaking In Is Hard To Do Swofford, Brizzolara, Watson, Bradley

SF for Children and Adolescents Mueller, Sosna, Gilden, Frank

Cyberpunk: Another New Wave Bryant, Silverberg, McCarthy, Shirley, Benford

Predators, Vampires, and Other Parasites Zimmer, de Cles, Hambly, Stoddard

Nightmares and Phobias: What Being Scared Means Gottlieb, Brizzolara, Singer, Loomis

SUNDAY

Masquerade Post-Mortem Turner

Does Anybody Here Understand Quantum Mechanics? Brin, Bear, Post, Benford

How To Get Away With Murder At A Science Fiction Convention Purtill, Breen, Grayson Folklore and Ghosts Bradley, Zimmer, Hartman, Hambly

The Viability of Interstellar Empires: Technical Concerns Robertson, Bova, Hartman, Blum

What's Hot, and What's Not: Fads in SF Publishing Gottlieb, McCarthy, Grayson, Bryant

How Guilty Should We Feel for Writing About FTL Travel? Robertson, Swycaffer, Claypool, Vinge

Christian Elements in Modern Fantasy Roberson, Purtill, de Cles, Loomis

Along the Final Frontier: Mercenaries, Pirates and Other Thugs Edmondson, Rotsler, Fiscus, Boyett

If A Mind Is Truly Alien, Can We Talk To It At All? Stoddard, Melton, Williams, Martine-Barnes

The Politics of Space Snodgrass, Robertson, Cooper, Shirley Sexism in Fantasy Feist, Boyett, Martine-Barnes

It Damned Well Could Happen Here: America Under A Despot Edmondson, Harris, Pearce, Dalmas

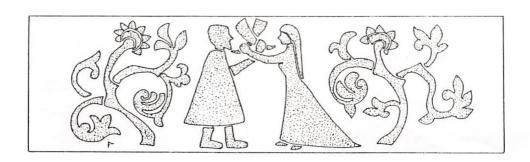
Why Do People Love Being Scared to Death? Brizzolara, Watson, Singer, Frank

The Decline and Fall of Hard SF: Why People Are Rushing To Fantasy in Droves Bradley, Sumner, Meacham

Sequels & Remakes: Can You Improve on the Original? Miller, Barker, Evans, Gilden

Favorite Critters in SF and Fantasy Van Scyoc, Barker, Evans, Sosna

Homemade Myths: Pecos Bill, Ichabod Crane, and Other American Images Brin, Zimmer, Gilden, Ross





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On Costuming as Fanac

opinion by Karen Turner

Is costuming legitimate fanac?

The answer to this question is a resounding "Ghod, yes!"

If they can't write or paint or do any of the other fannish activities that tend to win people Hugos, the only creative outlet many fans have is fantasy costuming. I've always thought there was something very exciting about making an SF author's characters come to life, or making tangible some original concept of your own. I enjoy seeing people wearing their creations in the halls or in the masquerade at conventions. It's like walking around at an interstellar United Nations; you never know what you're going to run into next. I am constantly amazed by people's ingenuity. As much as I love to read science fiction, seeing it walking around and/or living it in person makes it far more real.

In the last six years, we have seen costuming come of age in fandom. are putting more time and care into their creations, and the subsequent improvement in quality really shows. One entry in a Worldcon masquerade spent 18 recent months of meticulous work to complete her costume! Even as recently as a decade ago, competition costumes were so poorly constructed that they often did not survive through the night of the masquerade; now they are expected to survive not only close scrutiny, but several subsequent wearings and costume displays. Since 1981, the masquerade has seen the rise of both the group costume and the "Las Vegas floor show" presentation, and the only limit seems to be the personal wealth of the participant(s) and the endurance limit of the audience.

The masquerade (or costume competition) is the most well-attended event of any convention. At Worldcon, it consistently outdraws both the GoH speeches and the A Worldcon Hugo awards. competition costume reaches an audience of thousands of people; a goal many aspiring fanzines can never begin to reach. And now that the technology is available, people are colvideotapes of their favorite costumes in much the same manner would collect books, pulps, or 'zines!

Besides the masquerade, there are now other outlets where costumers can receive recognition for their work. Hall costumes, as well as competition costumes, are receiving special attention and awards. Experienced costumers are sharing their knowledge in the form of seminars and informative articles in their area of expertise. And a costuming publication (the GCFCG Newsletter) actually made it onto the Hugo ballot this year!

The rise of costume fandom has been reflected in mainstream fandom in a number of ways. First, it has been a major for participants and convention committees alike that the masquerade attain some kind of standardized format in run in a less chaotic manner. order to This would include backstage (repair table, seats, water), technical logis-(stage setup, lighting, sound), and judging standards and forms. After much trial-and-error and a lot of hard labor by a lot of different people, a working system is finally starting to fall into place.

Second, there has been a growing demand for more costume-related programming at mainstream conventions. More and more people are developing an interest in costume and want to learn refined querades, and get their costumes constructively critiqued. Costumers are beginning to act as an organized group and share a common body of knowledge.

One direct result of this organization of costume fandom has been Costume-Con. Now preparing for its fifth year, Costume-Con is a "spin-off" convention catering to science fiction, fantasy, and historical costumers. Besides the usual social events. it emphasizes educational. preferably "hands-on," programming. The quantum leap in the quality of competition costumes each year since 1983 is directly attributable to the advent of Costume-Con.

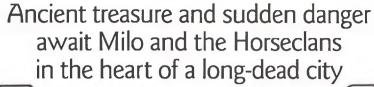
Another direct result of the organization of costume fandom has been the International Costumer's Guild. Now boasting 4 chapters (including one on the West

construction techniques, view past mas- Coast) and several hundred members, the Guild serves as a clearinghouse for information and a sponsor for costume events.

> The ranks of costume fandom increase substantially every year. We have evolved from being some kind of bastard fringe fandom into a legitimate -- and well-populated! -- special interest group. Recently, there has been a backlash by "literary" fans who believe Worldcon and other "serious" conventions should be purged of costuming in an attempt to "get back to basics." I think these people should have something unpleasant shoved up their afterburners! Costuming has with been us since Forry Ackerman showed up to the 1939 Worldcon in an all-green outfit, and it is here to stay.

Now, if they will just add a "costume" category to the Hugos...

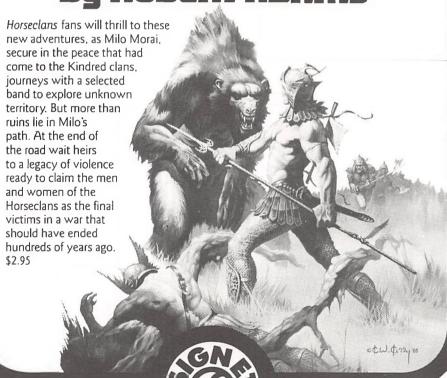




THE MEMORIES MILO MORAL

HORSECLANS #15

By ROBERT ADAMS



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Program Participants

KAREN ANDERSON helped found the Society for Creative Anachronism, and has been active in APAs. With Poul Anderson, she co-authored the book The Unicorn Trade. She is presently collaborating with Poul Anderson on a historical fantasy The King of Ys. The first volume will be published by Baen Books this winter.

POUL ANDERSON has been writing SF since about 1948 and has won seven Hugo and three Nebula awards. His books include the Polesotechnic League and Flandry series. One of his more recent books is The Game of Empire.

LYNN BARKER is a freelance screenwriter whose credits include five segments of the new TWILIGHT ZONE and two episodes of the AMAZING STORIES series.

BEN BOVA is an award-winning editor and a writer of SF and nonfiction books on high technology. His novels include <u>Privateers</u>, <u>Millenium</u>, and <u>Voyagers</u>.

MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY is probably best known for her <u>Darkover</u> novels, with nineteen currently in print and two more in the works. She edits an annual anthology, <u>Sword and Sorceress</u>, for DAW Books. Her <u>Arthurian fantasy novel</u>, <u>Mists of Avalon</u>, was on the NY Times best seller list for four months.

JOHN BREEN is the author of three mystery novels, most recently <u>Triple Crown</u>. He has contributed to IASFM and has appeared in two Asimov anthologies.

JOHN BRIZZOLARA began publishing short fiction in Lin Carter's WEIRD TALES in 1981. He's sold short fiction to several magazines. His first novel, a mainstream thriller, is due out from Doubleday in

March, 1987. A second, science fiction, novel has been sold to DAW.

EDWARD BRYANT has written a graphic horror story, "Predators", published by Epic; a TWILIGHT ZONE episode (not yet produced); and dark fantasies for several anthologies. He's writing one-third of Night Visions IV, and a collaboration with Leanne C. Harper will appear in George R.R. Martin's Wild Cards.

LEONARD CARPENTER is the author of two Conan novels, Conan the Renegade and Conan the Raider. His story "Dead Week" has been selected for Best Horror Stories, Series XIV.

MICHAEL CASSUTT has written fiction, non-fiction, and television scripts. His novel The Star Country will be published in August by Doubleday.

GAVIN CLAYPOOL is the publisher of two small press books, That Buck Rogers Stuff by Jerry Pournelle, and In A Far-away Galaxy by Robin, Vibber, and Ellwood. He was one of David Brin's early editors back when "Errol Brynne" was writing fencing team stories for the Caltech student newspaper. He'd like to be able to say that he knew that Brin would be a brilliant writer one day, but he hardly remembers a thing about it.

JOHN DALMAS had his first published story, The Yngling, serialized in John Campbell's Analog in 1969. He has since written and sold five novels, including The Varkaus Conspiracy and Homecoming. His novel The Reality Matrix is due out in August from Baen and three others await publication.

JOEL DAVIS is a freelance science writer whose articles and news reports have appeared in nearly every major popular science magazine in America. His second book, Flyby: The Inside Story of the Voyager 2 Flyby of Uranus will be released later this year. He is currently writing, with physicist/SF author Dr. Robert L. Forward, a book on advanced space propulsion systems.

G.C. EDMONDSON has recently published The Cunningham Equations with C.M. Kotlan. A sequel, The Black Magician is due out in November.

RAYMOND FEIST is the author of the Riftwar Saga (Magician, Silverthorn, and A Darkness at Sethanon. He has two books scheduled for publication in 1987: Faerie Tale, a horror fantasy, and Daughter of the Emperor, with Janny Wurts.

SHEILA FINCH has done graduate work in medieval literature and linguistics; she teaches fiction writing and the literature of science fiction. She has published science fiction and fantasy short stories in the major SF magazines, as well as many smaller magazines. Her first novel was Infinity's Web, and a second novel, Irriad, were both recently published by Bantam/-Spectra. She is currently working on a novel about the identity crises of lab rats.

JAMES FISCUS has been a photographer and a teacher of military history. His story "A Time of Martyrs" is in the recently released anthology There Will Be War Volume V.

JANRAE FRANK is the author of several fantasy short stories, including "Wolves of Nakesht" in the 1980 World Fantasy Award-winning anthology Amazons. Frank has written literary criticism for the Washington Post, Thrust, and Science Fiction Review. She is currently covering the film industry for a number of mainstream publications.

KAREN JOY FOWLER sold her first short story, "Praxis", to IASFM in 1985; it will be reprinted in Terry Carr's best of the year anthology. Fowler, a John W. Campbell award nominee, will have a collection of short fiction entitled Artificial Things published by Bantam later this year.

ASHLEY GRAYSON is a literary agent and frequent writer for computer magazines. His book <u>Computers</u> to <u>Go</u> was published in 1985.

SHERRY GOTTLIEB is the owner of A Change of Hobbit, the world's oldest and largest SF bookstore.

BARBARA HAMBLY is the author of the Darwath trilogy, <u>The Ladies of Mandrigyn</u>, and the recently released <u>Dragonsbane</u>. She has a Master's degree in medieval history and a Black Belt in karate.

NORM HARTMAN has had stories in several magazines and anthologies. He is a freelance computer programmer and technical writer.

JON INOUYE has had works appear in Rigel, IASFM, and Other Worlds. His novel The Last Zeppelin won the 1980 Small Press Writers and Artists Award for Science Fiction.

SHAWNA MCCARTHY is currently senior editor at Bantam Spectra Books. Previously, she was editor in chief at Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine, and won the 1984 Hugo for Best Professional Editor for her work there. She is a nominee for the 1985 Hugo as well.

THOMAS R. MCDONOUGH is a lecturer in Engineering at Caltech and Coordinator of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) program at Carl Sagan's Planetary Society. He has written the book Halley's Comet: A Viewer's Guide, published in 1985.

BETH MEACHAM is Editor in Chief of science fiction, fantasy, and horror for Tor Books. Before joining Tor, Meacham was an editor with Ace/Berkley.

HENRY MELTON has published stories in ANALOG, ARES, and DRAGON magazines, as well as articles for BYTE.

CRAIG MILLER is a well-known fan and a former WesterCon and WorldCon chairman. He has been working in film marketing since 1977, concentrating on SF and fantasy films, and has written film columns for IASFM and Locus.

RICHARD MUELLER is the author of a novel (Jernigan's Egg), a novelization (Ghostbusters), and a dozen or so stories that have appeared in F&SF, IASFM, and Fantasy Book, among others. He is working on a sequel to Jernigan, and writes for "Robotech" and "The Real Ghostbusters" cartoons.

PAT MURPHY is the author of short fiction published in IASFM, Year's Best Science Fiction, Universe, Amazing, and numerous other magazines and anthologies. Her second novel, The Falling Woman will be published in October by Tor.

RAY FARADAY NELSON won the Philip K. Dick Memorial Citation and the Jack London Award (both 1983). He is the author of the recently released novel Timequest.

LARRY NIVEN has been around science fiction and science fiction conventions for years. He's won several Hugo awards, and the Nebula award for best novel. His most recent publication was the novel Footfall, written with Jerry Pournelle. He's currently working on a sequel to his novel The Integral Trees.

ATANIELLE ANNYN NOEL is the author of the "science whimsy" novel The <u>Duchess</u> of <u>Kneedeep</u>, published earlier this year. Her second book, The <u>Curious Case of the Khaarn-Worlder's Corpse</u> is due out in January 1987.

DIANA PAXSON has sold nearly two dozen short stories, many of them to anthologies such as Thieve's World and Sword and Sorceress. Her first published novels were the duo Lady of Light and Lady of Darkness, beginning the chronicles of Westria. Her next novel, Silverhair the Wanderer, continues the Westria story.

GERALD PEARCE was "turned on" to SF by the Buck Rogers comic strip around 1935. He has had fiction published in IASFM, Galaxy, IF, Fantasy & Science Fiction, and other magazines.

STEVE PERRY has published about two dozen stories in magazines including Omni, IASFM, F&SF, and WEIRD TALES. He is now a full time, freelance writer, and has no fewer than six novels awaiting publication. The Machiavelli Interface is due out in August this year.

JONATHON POST is a consultant in aerospace computing and has been Mission Planning Engineer for the Voyager 2 spacecraft. He has published in a wide variety of subjects.

RICHARD PURTILL wrote Murdercon (Doubleday, 1982), set in an imaginary convention in San Diego. He has written SF, fantasy, and mystery novels and short stories. His first novel for young adults, Enchantment in Delphi, will be published in October.

JENNIFER ROBERSON published her first novel, <u>Shapechangers</u>, in 1984. Her fourth novel is <u>Sword-Dancer</u>, due out this August. Roberson describes this work as "Conan the Barbarian meets Gloria Steinem."

DONALD ROBERTSON has articles on the effect of the Challenger disaster on space science (July ASTRONOMY) and on the United State's continued failure to explore a comet (ASTRONOMY, late 1986). He is currently working with L5 Society vice president Tim Kyger on a book about the political history of the decision to use solid rocket boosters on the Space Shuttle.

RHONDI VILOTT SALSITZ began publishing fantasy in semi-prozines in the mid 70's. She attended Clarion SF work shop in 1979 and sold Damon Knight two short stories for the ORBIT 21 anthology (only one was published). Her novel Where Dragons Lie was released in December 1985. Two novels, Where Dragons Rule and The Unicorn Dancer, are due out later this year.

ROBERT SILVERBERG is the author of Lord Valentine's Castle, Dying Inside, and many other SF novels and short stories. His newest novel, Star of Gypsies will be published this fall. He has won five Nebula Awards and two Hugo Awards. Silverberg lives in the San Francisco Bay area.

MELINDA SNODGRASS has published fifteen books, including the NY TImes best-seller The Tears of the Singers, and Circuit released by Berkley Books. She is a contributor to the anthology Wild Card due out from Bantam in January 1987. She is collaborating with Victor Milan on a fantasy/intrigue novel Runespear. A sequel to Circuit is also due out in early 1987.

HANK STINE is a former editor of Starblaze Books and Galaxy magazine. He has written the books Season of the Witch, Thrill City, and A Day In The Life. He is currently editing L.A. Drive Guide, a tourist magazine written almost entirely by science fiction authors.

JEAN THERESA SUMNER is a literary agent whose clients write in a variety of genres. Sumner has conducted workshops at many cons on finding and dealing with literary agents and publishers. She is sometimes referred to as "the Lady in Purple."

AVON SWOFFORD has sold stories to IASFM and Charles Grant's anthology Shadows 5.

JEFFERSON SWYCAFFER is the author of the <u>Concordat of Archive</u> series, published by Avon Books. He has also published several short stories and articles in Fantasy Book, The Dragon, and The Journal of the Traveller's Aid Society.

MICHAEL TOMAN has published short fiction in the U.S., England, France, and Germany. He has stories slated for publication sometime in Fantasy Tales and The Last Dangerous Visions.

SYDNEY J. VAN SCYOC lives in Hayward, CA, with her husband Jim, assorted cats, and Afghan hound, a Basenji, and a Welsh pony who serves as a riding lawnmower. Ms. Van Scyoc is author of the Darkchild trilogy as well as five other novels. Her next novel, <u>Drowntide</u>, will appear in 1987 from Berkley Books.

VERNOR VINGE has sold five novels and about fifteen short stories. He is the author of two Hugo-nominated hard SF yarns: True Names and The Peace War. A sequel to the latter book, Marooned In Real Time, has been serialized in Analog and will be published by Bluejay Books. Vinge has a doctorate in math and teaches computer science at San Diego State University.

PAUL EDWIN ZIMMER is a poet and a student of ancient Japanese sword forms, as well as being the author of several fantasy novels. His next novel, <u>Gathering of Heroes</u>, is due out from Berkley Books in 1987.

ADDITIONAL GUESTS for whom no biographical information was available before press time are: Gregory Benford, Robert Blum, Sonni Cooper, Christopher Claremont, Jon de Cles, jan howard finder, Fred Harris. Ernest Hogan, Adrienne Martine-Barnes, Victor Milan. William Rotsler. John Shirley, Sharon Sosna. Somtow Sucharitkul, Christine Watson. Walter Williams.



Members

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967
     Abbott, Johnn
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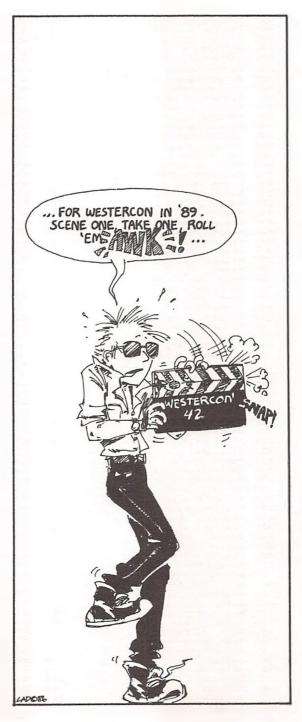
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July 1986

Comet Watch - Early Results

by Gregory Ruffa

This has been thus far a year of astonishing contrasts in humankind's efforts to reach into space. There is currently a disheartening, and sometimes tragic, sequence of rocket launch failures, from the destruction of the Shuttle orbiter Challenger and its seven crew members to the second loss of an Ariane booster in less than a year. On the other hand. these disasters have rather overshadowed a number of significant advances in human achievement: the successful placement into orbit of the Mir space station, the tremendous gain in knowledge of the Uranian system from the Voyager 2 flyby (the continuation of a mission approaching its tenth year), and the multiple encounter of Halley's Comet by four probes, three of them at very close quarters.

The first of these spacecraft was the Soviet/Intercosmos Vega 1, which passed at about 5500 miles from the Comet's nucleus at 0720 GMT on March 6th. Some instruments aboard were damaged or lost and the probe lost 45% of its power in the encounter; it is thought that the probe may have flown right through a dust jet. Three days later, Vega 2 crossed through the coma just 5000 miles from under the nucleus. Even though the suspected jet was not facing that way, the spacecraft suffered greater damage than Vega 1 and lost 80% of its power. It appears that while Vega 2 took fewer impacts, the particles that struck it may have been heavier on the average.

Project Pathfinder was quite effective in bringing the European Space Agency's Giotto probe to a desirable point of passage before the nucleus. Results

from the Vega missions were sent by data line directly from Moscow to the ESA's control center Darmstadt, West At 0003 GMT on March 14th. Giotto was only about 375 miles from the core of the Comet; it could have aimed to pass still closer but for restrictions imposed by the scanning ability of its camera. Giotto continued send pictures of the nucleus from close as 950 miles, until the camera's mirror was too eroded from dust impacts to see clearly. The closing speed was over 42 miles per second. The probe remained in continuous communication until two seconds before the moment of closest approach. A particle strike set Giotto wobbling until onboard stabilizers brought it under control after 34 Though nearly blind and missing minutes. most of its dust shield, it is still in contact with home. In fact, it has already been maneuvered to pass near Earth in 1990, where it may be retrieved by the Space Shuttle. Since it is probably impregnated with cometary this possible recovery would of enormous scientific interest.

At a somewhat greater remove, Japan's Suisei spacecraft approached the Comet at no less than 94,000 miles at 1307 GMT on March 8th. Even so, it was struck by two particles, each about a millimeter across, with sufficient force to deflect the 308-pound probe's pointing by nearly a degree.

What we have learned from this international cooperative mission is still being assessed. In mid-May, the first major conference met to present preliminary scientific results and early papers have already been published. The Comet is actually black; it reflects only about

four percent of the sunlight that falls onto it, making it among the darkest of objects known in our Solar System. Because it is so dark, it becomes quite warm when it crosses through the inner System. Vega 1 measured the temperature of the coma at 135 ±35° Fahrenheit. Further, because estimates of physical size were based on assumptions about reflectivity, the dimensions of the nucleus were grossly underestimated. believed that the core was about two to three miles in diameter: the Comet is more like 8.5 by 4.5 by 4.5 miles. It looks somewhat like two unequally sized, roughly spherical lumps stuck together, leading to its description as being or potato-shaped." [Editor's "peanutnote: this makes it especially appropriate for a San Diego WesterCon theme.] Giotto was able to resolve details down to less than fifty meters, revealing a rough, "crater-like" terrain.

During the Comet's perihelion passage in early February, Pioneer-Venus, still on duty in orbit around the Second Planet, completed ultraviolet scans of the coma while the Earth was some 140 million miles away. The coma reached proportions of up to 17 million miles in diameter and 25 million miles in length. Eighty percent of the material escaping the nucleus is water vapor, which erupts in a very erratic fashion. Water ice sublimes directly into "steam" there and was being ejected at 35 to 40 tons per second at perihelion, with variations from day to day of a factor of two; after perihelion, this release was estimated to have risen to as much as 70 tons a second. The dark surface of the nucleus retains heat well, causing the peak production of vapor to take place after the Comet passes closest to the Sun. black dust apparently overlays the ice, so that the evaporating material must force its way out explosively.

Between the Vega and Giotto missions, some few thousands of pictures were received of the coma and the nucleus.

Close in, the core seems to be surrounded by what has been called a "dust cocoon," which tends to keep the nucleus quite warm and blurs our view of it. dust itself was found to contain hydrogen. carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, and sulfur. offering possible validity to those models which suggest that comets may contain organic material. As with the experience of the American Interenational Cometary Explorer's encounter with Comet Giacobini-Zinner, Halley was not as "dusty" as was once thought. The ESA actually has no budget to continue the Giotto mission as mission planners hardly expected the probe to survive its closest approach. After the passage of the Vega probes, the estimate of Giotto's survival probability rose from negligible to ninety percent. It is estimated that the total mass of struck Giotto comes dust which two-tenths of a gram.

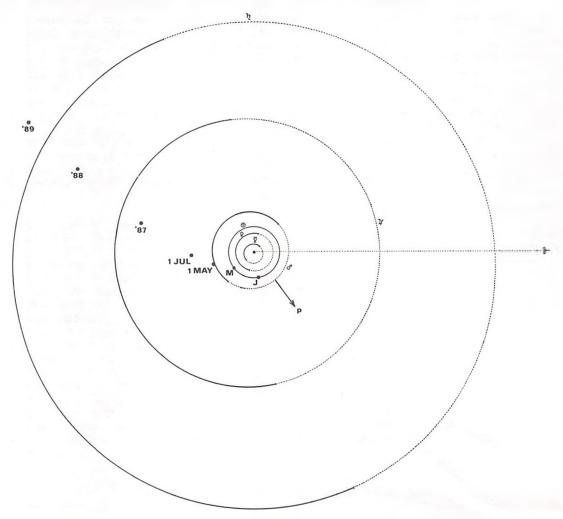
Suisei found that the hydrogen coma pulsates with a period of 52.5 hours; this serves to confirm a recent estimate of the nucleus' rotational period based on telescopic observations of the Comet's jets during this apparition and the one in 1910. Sakigake, the far more distant of the Japanese probes, detected possible long-wave radio emissions from Comet. These came in many forms, from sharp, random bursts to continuous rising and falling tones; this may be the result of the Comet's motion through the variations in the solar wind. of the various spacecraft observed a bow shock sunward of the Comet, confirming expectations that comets do not have significant magnetic fields of their own; such was also the case with Giacobini-Zinner. Vega 1 reported that the material comprising the Comet's is water, carbon dioxide, and hydrocarbons. The Vega probes found more ions than expected, including metallic ions of elements such as sodium and iron.

For most people now, the excitement of the Comet has passed. The vast bulk of the data from these missions

has yet to be analyzed, however; most of the results of these studies will not appear for several months. Moreover, while the Comet is now too dim for unaided human sight, it is expected that ground-based telescopes will be able to follow this occasional visitor until

late 1989, when it will be somewhat outside the orbit of Saturn. By that time, the Space Telescope will likely be in service and should be able to see Halley's Comet well into the 1990's.

Enjoy the Convention!



The Comet has already crossed back below the plane of the Earth's orbit and beyond the orbit of Mars. It now makes its long retreat to the remote reaches of the known Solar System, attaining is aphelion beyond the orbit of Neptune in 2024. The indicated points mark the location of the Comet on the first of May and July of this year and the start of 1987, 1988, and 1989. The arrow labelled "p" shows the direction of the Comet's perihelion. The positions of Earth on May 1st and July 1st are also marked.

Weapons Policy

We would like not to have a "weapons policy" at all. But it seems prudent to state explicitly a traditional rule of SF cons:

Don't do Dumb Stuff.

Experience suggests that we need to spell out a few of the things that are considered Dumb. Dumb Stuff includes anything that might cause injury, damage property, or cause problems with the hotel or the law. It particularly includes the carrying of prop guns, blasters, or other items that may be misconstrued as being real (and possibly illegal).

There are a few types of items that are so frequently involved in accidents that

just having them in a public area must be considered Dumb. This includes any sort of gun, bow, or other device that can fire a projectile or substance of any kind, by any means. Such items will not be permitted in the function space, the con suite, or any of the party suites booked by the convention.

Given the recent wave of terrorist scares, we suggest that you consider carefully before deciding to go armed, even with props. We will have a special display area at the con; your creation will get far more attention (and protection) there than if you're carrying it around.

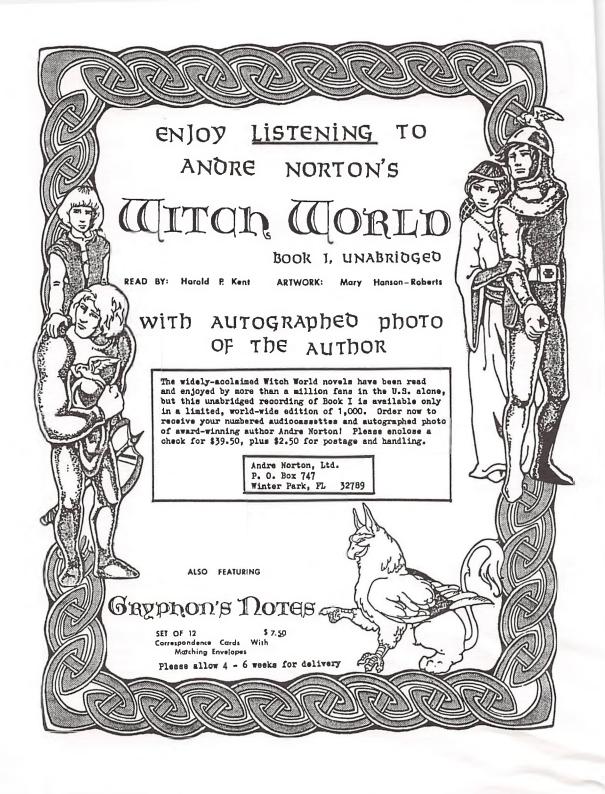
No Smoking, Please

A San Diego city ordinance prohibits smoking in certain public indoor areas. The ordinance does apply to all of our programming function areas, con suite, art show, and dealers' room, as well as to open parties. The restriction necessarily applies to all convention members and guests.

Parties held in hotel rooms with the doors closed are exempt from this ordinance.

The convention center has several pleasant, nearby outdoor areas for those who must light up. Hotel rooms can get quite stuffy during the day, and San Diego's evenings in July are generally very nice, so you may prefer to be outside anyway!

Please help to make the con fun for everyone and don't smoke in the public indoor areas.



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Westercon History

Number	Date(s)	City & Name	Hotel	Guests of Honor	Chair/Sponsor
i	9/5/48	Los Angeles	Park-View Manor		E. Everett Evans/ LASFS
Н	10/2/49	Los Angeles	Knights of Pythias Hall	_	Walter J. Daugherty/ LASFS
111	6/18/50	Los Angeles	Knights of Pythias Hall	Dr. Robert S. Richardson	Freddie Hershey/ Outlanders
IV	6/29-7/1/51	San Francisco	California Hall (etc.)	George Pal	Tom Quinn/Little Men
٧	6/28- 6/29/52	San Diego (SouwesterCon)	U.S. Grant Hotel	Ray Bradbury	Roger Nelson. William F. Nolan
VI	5/30- 5/31/53	Los Angeles	Hotel Commodore	Gerald Heard	E. Everett Evans/ LASFS
VII	9/3/542	San Francisco	Sir Francis Drake	Jack Williamson	J. Ben Stark
VIII	7/3-7/4/55	Los Angeles	Hotel Commodore	Mel Hunter	Lew Kovner/ C. Donavan Foundation
IX	6/30-7/1/56	Oakland	Hotel Leamington	Richard Matheson	Marilyn Tulley
Х	7/4-7/7/57	Hollywood	Hotel Knickerbocker	Mark Clifton	Lew Kovner/LASFS & C. Donavan Foundatio
ΧI	9/1/582	Los Angeles (SolaCon) ³	Alexandria Hotel	Richard Matheson ³	Anna Moffat ³ / Outlanders ³
XII	7/3-7/5/59	Seattle	Moore Hotel	Alan E. Nourse	F.M. Busby/ Nameless Ones
XIII	7/2-7/4/60	Boise (BoyCon)	Owyhee Hotel	Rog Phillips	Guy & Dian Terwillige
XIV	7/1-7/2/61	Oakland (BayCon)	Hotel Learnington	Fritz Leiber (Pro) Jack Speer (Fan)	Honey Wood/GGFS
XV	6/30-7/1/62	Los Angeles	Alexandria Hotel	Jack Vance (Pro) Alva Rogers (Fan)	AI Lewis/LASFS
XVI	7/4-7/7/63	Burlingame	Hyatt House Hotel	Kris Neville (Pro) F.M. & Elinor Busby (Fan)	Al haLevy/Little Men & GGFS
XVII	9/4/642	Oakland (PacifiCon II) ³	Hotel Learnington	E. Hamilton & L. Brackett (Pro) Forrest J. Ackerman ³ (Fan)	Al haLevy. J. Ben Stark ³
XVIII	7/3-7/5/65	Long Beach	Edgewater Inn	Frank Herbert (Pro) Anthony Boucher (Fan) ⁴	Steve Tolliver, John Trimble
XIX	7/1-7/4/66	San Diego	Stardust Motor Inn	Harlan Ellison (Pro) John & Bjo Trimble (Fan)	Dennis N. Smith
XX	7/1-7/4/67	Los Angeles (SherCon)	Sheraton-West Hotel	Marion Zimmer Bradley (Pro) Lon Atkins (Fan)	Brandon Lamont ⁵
XXI	9/1/682	Berkeley (BayCon II)	Hotel Claremont	Philip José Farmer ³ (Pro) Walter J. Daugherty ³ (Fan)	Bill Donaho, Alva Rogers, J. Ben Stark ³
XXII	7/3-7/6/69	Santa Monica (FUNCon II)	Hotel Miramar	Randall Garrett (Pro) Roy Tackett (Fan)	Chuck Crayne, Bruce Pelz/Con-Fusion
XXIII	7/3-7/5/70	Santa Barbara	Francisco Torres	Jack Williamson (Pro) Rick Sneary (Fan)	John & Bjo Trimble
XXIV	7/2-7/5/71	San Francisco (SFCon '71)	Hilton Inn	Avram Davidson (Pro) Don Simpson (Fan)	Jerry Jacks/ Sampo Productions

Number	Date(s)	City & Name	Hotel	Guests of Honor	Chair/Sponsor
xxv	6/30- 7/4/72 ⁶	Long Beach	Edgewater Hyatt House	Lloyd Biggle Jr. (Pro) Len Moffatt (Fan)	Dave Hulan
XXVI	6/30-7/4/73	San Francisco (SFCon '73)	St. Francis Hotel	Larry Niven (Pro) George Barr (Fan) James Nelson Coleman (Special)	Jerry Jacks/ Sampo Productions
XXVII	7/3-7/7/74	Santa Barbara	Francisco Torres	Philip K. Dick (Pro) ⁴ Charles Burbee (Fan)	Fred Patten
XXVIII	7/3-7/6/75	Oakland (OakLAcon)	The Leamington	David Gerrold (Pro) Charlie & Dena Brown (Fan) Ian & Betty Ballantine (Special)	Lois Newman, Craig Miller
XXIX	7/2-7/5/76	Los Angeles	Hyatt House Hotel	H.L. Gold (Pro) Gregg Calkins (Fan)	Bruce Pelz
XXX	7/1-7/4/77	Vancouver	Totem Park Residence. UBC Campus	Damon Knight (Pro) Frank Denton (Fan) Kate Wilhelm (Special)	Fran Skene
XXXI	7/1-7/4/78	Los Angeles (Westercon∉)	Marriott Hotel	Poul Anderson (Pro) Don C. Thompson (Fan)	Ed Finkelstein. Mike Glyer
XXXII	7/4-7/8/79	San Francisco (SFCon '79)	Sheraton Palace Hotel	Richard A. Lupoff (Pro) Bruce Pelz (Fan) Sherry Gottlieb (Special)	Jerry Jacks
XXXIII	7/4-7/6/80	Los Angeles	Hyatt House Hotel	Roger Zelazny (Pro) Bob Vardeman (Fan)	Milt Stevens
XXXIV	7/2-7/5/81	Sacramento	Red Lion Inn	C.J. Cherryh (Pro) Grant Canfield (Fan)	Michael Garrels
XXXV	7/2-7/5/82	Phoenix	The Phoenix Hilton	Gordon R. Dickson (Pro) Fran Skene (Fan) Robert Asprin (Special)	Randy Rau/CASFS
XXXVI	7/1-7/4/83	San Jose	Red Lion Inn	Phil Klass (Writer) Alicia Austin (Artist) Tom Whitmore (Fan)	Lee Forgue
XXXVII	6/29-7/3/84	Portland	Portland Marriott Hotel	Harlan Ellison (Pro) F.M. & Elinor Busby (Fan) Ed Bryant (Toastmaster) Alex Schomburg (Artist)	Steve Berry, Pam Davis Bryce Walden/OSFCI
XXXVIII	7/3-7/7/85	Sacramento	Red Lion Inn	James Hogan (Pro) Paula Crist (Fan) Katherine Kurtz (Toastmaster)	Michael Garrels
XXXIX	7/3-7/6/86	San Diego	Town & Country Hotel	David Brin (Pro) Greg Bear (Toastmaster) Karen Turner (Fan)	Gail Hanrahan/ SDCF

The WesterCon began in 1948, when E. Everett Evans of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society proposed that an annual convention be held in the Western region, for Western fans who couldn't afford to travel to another area to attend the WorldCon. This is the reason for our occasionally combining our convention with the WorldCon when it came around to this region (a practice which has been abandoned in more recent years—the last time it was done was in 1968).

¹Replaced Steward Metchette as Chairman.

²Combined with the World Science Fiction Convention that year

³Official joint WesterCon/WorldCon guests/chairmen/names, etc. (guests, etc. were only separate the first time the cons were combined)

⁴Did not attend.

⁵ Replaced Ted Johnstone as Chairman.

⁶MythCon combined with WesterCon that year.

Westercon Bylaws

- It is now traditional (but not obligatory) that the West Coast Science Fantasy Conference (Westercon) shall take place over the July 4th holiday weekend.
- II. It is now traditional (but not obligatory) that Westercon Guests of Honor and other notables be selected from SF personalities residing within the Westercon geographical area.
- III. The Westercon Committee shall have the right to limit activities of attendees, either individually or in groups, insofar as such activities endanger, physically or legally, other persons or their property. Such limitations may include, but are not limited to, closing down parties, ejecting persons from the conference, or turning offenders over to other authorities. No refund of membership money need be given in such circumstances.
- IV. All committees shall issue namebadges with the names displayed in no less than 24 point bold type.
- V. No regular session of the Westercon Business Meeting shall be scheduled to start at a time earlier than noon, nor later than 2 p.m., nor on the last day of the conference. In those cases where a site selection resolution, as defined in Section VII.C.10. below, is necessary, a special Business Meeting may be called to determine the site selection question.
- VI. For business other than site selection voting, a quorum of 25 members of the current conference shall be required. All those voting at the Business Meeting must be members of the current conference. Except as noted herein, all business requires a simple majority to pass.

- VII. Westercon Site Selection Procedures
 - A. Eligibility of Bids: Any site on the North American Continent west of the 104th meridian or in Hawaii, shall be eligible to be the location of a Westercon, subject to the following restrictions.
 - A Westercon may not be held in any district more than once in any three year period. "District" shall be defined by the first of the following restrictions which applies:
 - a. A special district.
 - (1). Los Angeles district, including Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura Counties in California.
 - (2). Bay Area district, including San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Contra Costa and Alameda Counties in California.
 - (3). Canadian district, including all sites in Canada.
 - b. The Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area containing the site, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau on April 1 of the year preceding the site selection voting.
 - c. The county containing the site.
 - 2. To be eligible, a Westercon Bid must have:
 - at least two (2) persons declaring themselves Chairman and Treasurer
 - b. a letter of intent or option from a hotel or other facility declaring specific dates for the conference

3. If no site selection bids are qualified for the mail ballot (see Section VII.B.), the provisions of Section VII. shall be suspended and all sites in Sections VII.'s introductory paragraph shall be eligible.

B. Eligibility of Voters

- Site Selection voting is limited to those who are members of the Westercon at which voting is taking place, and who have paid a voting fee toward their membership in the Conference being selected.
- 2. The amount of the voting fee shall be established by the Conference conducting the voting, after consulting the desires of the known bidders for the Conference being voted upon.
- 3. The payment of a voting fee shall make the voter at least a full supporting member of the Conference being voted upon, and may make the voter a full attending member, depending upond the policy of the winner.

C. Voting Procedures

- 1. The ballot shall be drawn by the current Westercon committee. The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc. shall prepare a prototype form for the Site Selection Ballot and provide it to the current committee for publication and distribution. This provision shall be made at the same time the Bylaws are provided to the current committee.
- The Ballot and full rules for site selection, including times, the deadline for voting and the location of voting, shall be given to all Westercon attendees upon registration at the conference.

- 3. The ballot shall include all eligible bids which have been filed in writing with the current committee by the April 15th preceding the vote. It shall also include entries for "No Preference" and "None of the Above", and have a space for a write-in bid.
- "None of the Above" shall be treated as a bid, for purposes of vote counting.
- 5. The Ballot shall be a secret ballot, specifically marked for preferential voting with an explanation of the method of tallying.
- 6. All on-site ballot sales and balloting shall be from one central location, under the supervision of the current committee.
 - Mail ballots shall be mailed on or before the May 10th preceding the voting to al members of record on the date of mailing. All mail ballots received by the committee prior to June 20 shall be counted.
 - Each bid shall have 15 minutes of scheduled conference program time, on the first full day of Westercon, to make a bidding presentation.

9. Vote Counting

- a. Each member of the current Westercon shall be entitled to cast one and only one vote.
 - (1). A "guest of" membership must have been transferred to a specific person prior to casting the vote.
 - (2). Should a member cast more than one vote, all of that member's votes shall be counted as "No Preference".

- b. Properly completed ballots shall contain:
 - (1). the member's printed name
 - (2). the member's membership ID as assigned by the current conference
 - (3). the member's dated signature
 - (4). the member's address of record with the current conference
 - (5). the member's new address if different from the address of record
 - (6). the member's votes as defined in Section VII.C.9.d. below.
- c. Verification of Ballots shall consist of matching items 1, 2, and 4 of Section VII.C.9.b. above with the current conference

- d. All ballots received by the committee prior to the opening of the business meeting shall be held until the business meeting. The count shall be by preferential ballot. The successful bid shall be the one which gains a majority of those votes which express a preference for a bid. This includes all votes for a specific bid or for "None of the Above", and excludes "No Preference" and ballots which are blank or invalid. Only properly completed ballots shall be counted.
- e. All vote totals of final results and of all intermediate counts shall be made available at or before the closing ceremony.



- 10. Should no bid gain the needed majority, or should there be no qualified bidding committee, or should "None of the Above" win, a 3/4 majority of the Conference Business Meeting may award the conference to any bid, and a simple majority may decide that they are unable to decide. Should the meeting not reach a decision, it shall be the responsibility of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc. Board of Directors to arrange for the Westercon Site Selection. This selection shall be made within six (6) weeks of the Standing Business Meeting. A Westercon site selected by this procedure shall not be restricted by any of this section, and shall not affect the selection of any subsequent Westercon. However, if "None of the Above" is voted by the membership, then none of the bids which were on the ballot shall be chosen.
- VIII. Procedure for Amendment of these Bylaws
 - A. Amendments must be ratified by the majority vote of the Westercon Business Meetings in two consecutive years, or by a 2/3 vote of one meeting.
 - The secretary of the meeting at which the proposed amendment receives primary (first year) ratification shall submit an exact copy of the amendment to the following year's Westercon Business Meeting.
 - B. Proposed amendments shall be read in full by the chair or his designate immediately before being voted upon.
 - C. The question of secondary ratification is debateable but not amendable.

- D. Unless otherwise provided, amendments shall take effect on January 1st of the year after they receive final passage. Operating rules will not be changed for the upcoming Westercon by the interim Business Meeting.
- The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Soc-IX. iety, Inc. will act as an archive to the Westercon Bylaws and Minutes. Westercon shall reimburse the LASFS for only the copying and forwarding costs of requests for copies of the Bylaws and/or Minutes, A copy of the minutes and motions passed by the Business Meeting shall be sent within 2 months to the LASFS. The LASFS shall keep the Bylaws up to date. The selected committee for each year shall be supplied by the LASFS with one (1) copy of the then current Bylaws within 2 months. The committeeshall then provide duplicate copies of the Bylaws to all current bidding committees.
- X. The Bylaws of the West Coast Science Fantasy Conference, as well as the complete text of any amendment awaiting secondary ratification, shall be published in at least one (1) Progress Report and in the Program Book of the current conference every year.
- XI. Each member of the conference, by the use of his or her membership, agrees to abide by these Bylaws.

STANDING RULES

 Rules regarding Eligibility and Voting Procedures for Site Selection are not to be considered Operating Rules.

Starry, Starry Night

by Barry Gehm

The alarm went off at 4:30. I'd only been asleep for a few hours, but I struggled out of bed and pulled on a robe. I opened by door and looked out at the sky. Still clear, and cold like most cloudless nights. Not that we'd had many cloudless nights lately. This was the first one in a month, on the first night of spring. Maybe a good sign.

My morning paper was already there. The carrier must get up before I go to bed most nights. I stepped back into my apartment and closed the door. The cold slipped in after me like an unwelcome salesman. Definitely a long underwear night, I thought.

Jeans and a wool shirt went on over the long underwear, thick socks and hiking boots over my feet. Parka, cap and gloves, and I was ready. I'd set out the binoculars and tripod by the door before sacking out. I carried them down to my car and drove off.

I already had my spot picked. South of campus, east of town. A back road between the University's fields with no streetlights and not much traffic. Wide shoulders where I could pull the car off the road as long as the ground stayed frozen. A hill would have been better, but this was the best spot I could find in such flat country.

There were already cars every hundred yards or so along my stretch of road. Some astronomer had blabbed about this spot on the radio. Didn't matter, though. Not likely to sell out of tickets. I pulled off onto the side of the road, hearing frozen grass crackling under my tires. I killed the engine and lights, slid the binoculars out of their case and got out.

I could see three or four people a short distance back up the road on the other side, looking southeast through binoculars. "See anything?" I called, walking toward them. Laughter mixed with various negatives. "Southeast, seven degrees above the horizon," someone said, "that's what they said on the radio, but I can't see anything."

Southeast, seven degrees up: right in the handle of Sagittarius's teapot. Nothing there that I could see naked-eye. I peered through my binoculars and scanned that part of the sky.

There it was! Small, fuzzy, like a star out of focus, but the other stars were sharp. Not very big or very bright, even through the binoculars. Just a smudge of chalkdust on God's blackboard. Still, it was a strangely affecting sight. I felt like a part of the cycle. Human history bound up with celestial mechanics. Swinging through the dark like a pendulum, counting the long, slow ticks of history. Swooping in towards the light once every lifetime, looking us over, troubling the dreams of imperial Chinese and ancient Saxon, then back out again for another long cold sleep. How many people had watched for this starry messenger in fields like this? How many watched tonight? Bound together...

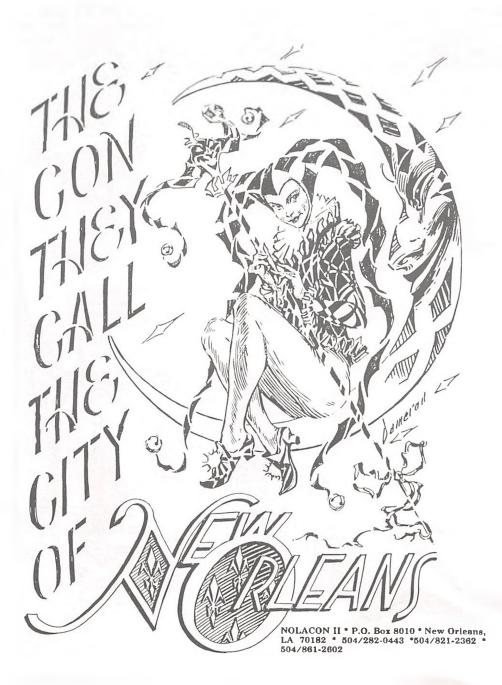
"Found it," I said.

Afterwards, after all the futile business of pointing at something in the sky when neither the pointer nor the searcher can see it, after fixing the binoculars to the tripod and letting everyone file past and look, after the slight glow of a dawn still an hour off erased that small smudge, after our fingers had gone stiff and our toes numb, we went back to our cars. We drove away, heading home through the cold and the dark.

Like the comet.



Barry Gehm is a fan and a doctoral candidate in biochemistry who lives in East Lansing, Michigan.



SO ... WHY NEW ORLEANS?

The ballots are out! It's up to you ... to decide which bid wins the 1988 World Science Fiction Convention! Why should you vote for New Orleans -- NOLACON II?

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- Nolacon's savvy -- new perspectives, deep experience. Two former worldcon co-chairs are on the New Orleans Board of Directors. Four others among us have chaired important regionals. Our consultants include some of fandom's premiere congivers. New Orleans will be ready with a great worldcon in 1988.
- 3) Nolacon -- the only show in town. Had New Orleans tried to hold a worldcon over Mardi Gras, or during Jazz Fest, we could not have done it -- there would have been no room. But Labor Day is an empty weekend in the City that Care Forgot -- our hotels, our tourist facilities, will belong to science fiction fandom during Nolacon II. Can other bids claim the same?
- 4) Nolacon is accessible. 21 airlines fly into New Orleans International Airport. Amtrak choochoos into town from the east, north and west, its depot a mile from our hotels. Three major interstates intersect practically at our front door. And fans "up the lazy river" can hop a sternwheel riverboat and disembark across the street from Nolacon II.
- 5) Nolacon is run by hometown people. This city is more to us than a collection of hotels. This is where we have made our lives. New Orleans fans brought fandom to this city 20 years back with just this dream in mind: a wonderful worldcon in our wonderful city. New Orleans is home. Nolacon is our dream. We want to share our city -- and our dream.
- 6) Nolacon is New Orleans ... the most fabulous, exotic, entertaining city in America, home of Mardi Gras, the birthplace of jazz, the culinary capital of the United States. Nolacon II will be held in and right next to the fabulous French Quarter, where sensual glories of every kind, from Cajun cooking to Preservation Hall jazz, tee-shirt emporia to America's finest antique shoppes await you. New Orleans is a 24-hour party town, with a drinking age of 18, yet is safe for tourism. No other place on any world is like it. WOULDN'T YOU RATHER SEE NEW ORLEANS?

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