

# FANAC #103

## CHICON IV COMMITTEE PULLS IT OFF!!!!

The 40th World Science Fantasy Conference was opened at sunrise services Thursday, 2 September 1982, with the benediction given by co-chairman Ross Pavlac. The other co-chairman, Lawrence W. Propp, esq., arrived late, having just argued the hotel out of charging corkage on the program books.

The average attendee, arriving at the Registration Area in the Acapulco/Hong Kong/Toronto Rooms, was efficiently passed through the triage station set up by the Division of Internal Control, and sent to the appropriate processing center, where they received the Manual of Regulations for Attendees and signed their loyalty oath. They then received their massive 144-page program book; their nametag, in one of eight decorator colors, the color apparently assigned according to gender, hair color, sexual preference, and position on the food chain; and the 12-page pocket program (complete with instructions on folding).

The Art Show and Huckster Room were of traditional Worldcon proportions, and each attendee was given five free tokens to operate the entrance and exit turnstiles. Most dealers were giving away one token with each \$10 purchase, while the New York in '86 bidders seemed to have an unending supply, which they made available at discounted rates to purchasers of pre-supporting memberships. NESFA, finding itself with a building fund to support, reached into fannish history and again stole an idea from the LASFS. Their sales, under the direction of the NESFA Cupcake Officer and the Impartial Observer from the Rules Committee, increased exponentially as the convention wore on and the other hucksters were unwilling to part with tokens to leave and get food. George Flynn pointed out that chocolate-iced chocolate cupcakes outsold other varieties by a factor of 1.37, which, he concluded, "is particularly interesting in the light of historical trends in Worldcon cupcake sales."

There were some complaints regarding the imbalance between print and non-print dealers, but Dick Spelman, Huckster Room Manager, countered with the comment that he had kept out as many as he could. Marty Massoglia, one of Spelman's assistants (and the other print dealer), assured everyone that the committee was in no way responsible.

With regard to the Art Show, the daily newszine, "The Daley Planet," pointed out that only the heroic efforts at elevator diplomacy by Bob Hillis's Internal Control Division prevented the total secession of the Art Show from the convention. As a concession to Art Show Manager Elizabeth Pearce, the committee agreed to "keep their damn security goons out" of her Art Show.

The program was the usual multiple-track extravaganza of boredom, ennui, tedium, and films. Stand-out items included innovative panels such as "Young Writers," "Sex in Science Fiction," "Women SF Writers," "The Year in Science Fiction," "The Military Mind in Science Fiction," and "Is This Your First Convention?" The Weapons Policy panel was curtailed by a small delegation from the South Side office of Godfather Enterprises (see Fanac 102), who had refused to allow their violin cases to be peace-bonded. Presentations from upcoming films "Superman III," "Krull," "Creepshow," "The Dark Crystal," "Something Wicked This Way Comes," and "Revenge of the Jedi" left the program room waist-deep in promotional giveaway green rocks, metal starfish, rubber cockroaches, broken pink glass, punched carnival tickets, and billions and billions of fan club applications. Among the special interest group events were the Burroughs Bibliophiles Dum-Dum and the JLAS Dim-Dim.

Fully one-third of those attempting to enter the Masquerade were disqualified for failing to obey Rotsler's Rules, especially rule #1, regarding a weight limit

for the purchase of leotards; and rule #12, regarding going nude or semi-nude. Prizes awarded included "Best 'ET' Costume", "Most Authentic Indiana Jones", and "Best Wings and Tits". That the same person won both of the last two awards demonstrated a salutary willingness to compromise on the part of the judges. Ben Yalow's Services Division did an outstanding job of traffic control on the two flights of escalators -- the only exit from the Masquerade -- holding casualties down to a mere seventeen, during the outpouring from the Masquerade to the parties upstairs.

Breaking with tradition, the Hugo Awards ceremony started on time, finding the seating area reserved for nominees less than one-third full. However, by the time the First Fandom Award, the Big Heart Award, the various Gandalf Awards, the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer, the Pat Terry Award for Humor, and the newly-established Philip K. Dick Award for Best Original Paperback were presented, the nominees' section was fully one-quarter full. In the one category in which No Award was the winner, several of the winners of other categories were heard to comment, "Fuck 'em if they can't take a joke." To close the ceremonies, Dr Jerry Pournelle, as has been traditional for the past decade, offered the toast, "Money will get you through times of no Hugos better than Hugos will get you through times of no money," to which the audience gave the now-traditional reply, "So there. Nyaaaah!"

Parties were generally low-key and closed-door, due to the hotel's policy on corkage fees. (The Falls Church SF Society reportedly were charged \$75 corkage on their supplies, although, they complained, the hotel was unwilling to supply recreational combustibles through Room Service). **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PARTIES:** (**Philadelphia in '86**) They demonstrated their abilities at traffic control and crowd management through the use of their radio show to 'turn over' party attendance every half hour. (**Australia in '85**) At least five new synonyms for regurgitation were invented by observation, and set to the tune of "Sun Arise." John Foyster declared the best of them was none too good, and refused to change his fanzine's title. (**New York in '86**) Mayor Jane Byrne's Attorney General's office enlivened this party by arriving with citations for violation of the 'truth in menus' ordinance regarding the serving of Egg Creams, and by leading one committee member off by his bowtie for SMOFFing without a license. (**Los Angeles in '84**) Flooded with soft drinks, with Bruce Pelz madly going about retrieving the bottle caps and can tabs from the Coke products, looking for the magic letters. The other Los Angeles fans were mostly complaining that this hotel had no hot tubs to screw in. (**Atlanta in '86**) Originally scheduled to have two different parties, for the two different bids, ended up with one party held in two different rooms on different floors. No one seemed to know anything about either. (**Jim Baen/Tor Books**) Closed prematurely, as most of the free paperbacks had disappeared early. A rumor that they showed up on the NESFA Sales Table was not substantiated. George Flynn, however, calculated that NESFA's profit margin on sales of paperbacks for this convention was 1.37 times that of previous Worldcons. (**SFWA Suite**) They closed down after Friday night, when it was discovered that Don Markstein was distributing to all and sundry the little stickers required for admittance to the suite. (**Gay Fandom**) So inundated with "liberal thinking" straights, the hosts left for a private party on the stairwell. George Flynn commented that sales at the NESFA table of lubricants and rubber sundries was upto \$99.26, increased by a factor of 1.37 over previous efforts. (**Hugo Losers**) Sponsored by Dave Hartwell and Pocket Books, it was combined with the Dead Dog Party, in view of the declining economy. The convention committee agreed to supply the room and drinks, while Hartwell agreed to supply the Dead Dog. Rumors that the Dead Dog was a sequel to the Dung Cow were denied by Hartwell, who commented, "So there. Nyaaaah!"

Even the committee seemed to be having a good time, with colorful helium-filled balloons seemingly everywhere the executive committee went. One division manager, when asked "who are you sleeping with tonight?" replied, as usual, "I don't know, ask Jim."

The last fan leaving the convention noted that, following the official close of the convention, the committee got so drunk that Ray Lafferty stepped over them.

All in all, it was an Interesting Convention.