

LAST-MINUTE NEWS

21 May ANNE MCCAFFREY has written, expressing her regret that personal considerations make it impossible for her to attend the LACon, and resigning as the Toastmistress of the Hugo Awards Banquet. We have accepted her resignation with equal regret, and hope we will be able to see her at a convention again in the near future.

We are pleased to announce, however, that the Banquet will still be in very capable hands. At this tenth hour, the inimitable ROBERT BLOCH has agreed to serve as Toastmaster, and we are delighted to have another opportunity to experience him in this capacity. We are sure there can be no dispute: as Toastmaster, too, Bloch Is Superb!

HUGO BALLOTS are included with this PR. These ballots will be tabulated on the Automatic Runoff system, which assures election by a majority without the need for runoff ballots. Please vote for your choice in each category by placing the number "1" opposite. Then vote for your next choice by placing a "2" opposite, and so on to as many places as you wish to vote. Ballots will be tabulated by counting only the 1's on the first count. In any nominee has a majority at that point, no further tabulation is necessary. If no nominee has a majority, the one with the fewest votes is dropped, and his ballots are tabulated again on their second-place votes. This process is continued until there is a majority winner. Your second-place and later votes should be made on the basis of "If my first choice is eliminated, what was the next-best?" It is not required to vote all places, but you forfeit your runoff votes when you do not do so. (If your first-place choice is not eliminated, your other votes will not be counted, and thus cannot detract in any way from your first choice.)

OVERSEAS & CANADIAN MEMBERS are cautioned that the Hugo Ballot business reply card is not mailable by itself outside the United States. We suggest you put it in an envelope and airmail it to the Rosemead address on the card. Ballots must reach Rosemead no later than 1 August, in order to give us enough time to tabulate the results and get the engraving on the awards completed by the time of the convention.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM NOTES

A series of Fan History panels, by decades, will try to give an overview of What Has Gone Before (and, in the final panel, What May Yet Be Coming) in the world of SF Fandom. Panelists will try to concentrate on general trends, important and specific influences, and the memorable occurrences of the various eras, without getting completely lost in stories like the Door Incident, the Death Hoax(es), and how so-and-so got her head caught in the elevator door... . Panelists so far include John Millard, Alva Rogers, Roy Squires, and E. Bruce Yerke (1930's and 40's), Terry Carr and Rick Snear-y (1950's), Lon Atkins, Buck Coulson, Eddie Jones, and Mike Ward (1960's), and Charlie Brown, Juanita Coulson, and Bob Yardeman (1970's...).

We will have a demonstration of the Delphi Method of predicting the future, conducted by Norman Dalkey of RAND Corp. Convention attendees will be asked to participate in the demonstration.

Two panels on special types of science fiction writing are planned. "The World Builders" will feature authors whose stories have required them to build complete worlds on which to place their characters. The panelists will discuss how, where, and why -- and even, perhaps, whether -- to build a world. Another panel will discuss the writing of stories which feature a series character -- the advantages and disadvantages of such stories, from both creative and pragmatic viewpoints.

Two more panels will concern themselves with films and the science fantasy field. The panel on SF Films will include as panelists Richard Matheson, Robert Bloch, and Jack Arnold. The other panel, on cartoon animation, will be presented in conjunction with the four-hour film retrospective on animation (see p.17 of PR 4).

Specialty Group meetings scheduled so far include the Hyborian Legion, the Burroughs Bibliophiles (who will hold their annual Dum-Dum on Saturday at 1:00), the Society for Creative Anachronism, and the Almack's Society for Heyer Criticism. (Other groups wishing to schedule meetings during the convention should contact the Committee as soon as possible, giving their requirements for the meeting.)

The Fashion Show, "Future à la Mode," will feature the technological viewpoint of the future. Directed by Dian Girard, the show will concentrate on reflecting scientific advances which might influence the clothing and dress of the future. Highlights of the show will include a transparent ball gown and an aluminum robe.

The scientific parts of the program will include a presentation on the Space Shuttle by North American Aviation Co. and a laser/holography demonstration by Hughes Aircraft.

Social/societal aspects of science and science fiction will be brought out in two panels discussions. "Patterns of the Future: Blueprints Vs. Green Prints" will concern itself with ecology. Among the panelists will be representatives of Southern California Edison Co. and the Sierra Club. "A Heard-of Relevance" will examine the roll of science fiction and fantasy in promoting social change. The panel will consider both the historical viewpoint -- when SF was first noticed as social commentary -- and the philosophical viewpoint of its effectiveness and the validity of using SF for this purpose.

In the talking stage is a panel on International SF, with some of our members from other countries describing and discussing the state of science fiction writing, publishing, and fandom in their respective countries.

On Saturday afternoon, a dance troupe under the direction of Rita Ractliffe will present a special show for convention attendees.

In addition, of course, there will be auctions, the Masquerade, and whatever else we can put together. If you have suggestions for program items that we don't seem to have thought of yet, send them in and we'll see what we can do.

HOW TO GET TO THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

AIR: If you fly into LA International, just pick up the free white phone in every airline baggage-claim area and call for the hotel's free shuttle to pick you up. A shuttle is available anytime, day or night.

TRAIN & BUS: The only direct city bus from downtown L.A. leaves from the Greyhound Main Bus Depot. If you're arriving by train, take the no.5 bus from Union Station to the Greyhound Depot at Sixth and Los Angeles Sts. From the Depot, take the no.51 bus to LA International Airport. This ride costs 62¢ and takes an hour. This bus goes directly into the airport and stops at several airlines, so get off at any one and use the white phone in the baggage-claim area. (A cab from downtown L.A. to the hotel will charge about \$12. for the trip.)

CAR: The basic access is via the San Diego Freeway (Interstate 405) to the Century Blvd. offramp, and west on Century to the hotel, at the intersection of Century and Sepulveda. (Do not take the left side of Century which leads into the airport; follow the signs on the right which lead to Sepulveda. The hotel parking lot entrance is on the east side.) If you are coming from the south, I-405 branches off from I-5 just north of El Toro, and takes you northwest through the Long Beach area. If you come from the north on either I-5 or Rte.99, I-405 turns south from the Golden State Freeway (I-5) just north of San Fernando. If you're coming in on 101, which becomes the Ventura Freeway, you will hit the San Diego Freeway interchange at Van Nuys. Turn south until you come to Century. From the east, I-10 is the San Bernardino Freeway into LA, and the Santa Monica Freeway west from LA. Take I-10 clear into West Los Angeles, then turn south on the San Diego Freeway. (If you come into California through Blythe, you're already on I-10; if you come in through Needles or from Los Vegas, I-15 from Barstow leads into I-10 at San Bernardino. Turn west and head straight through to I-405.)

In case you get lost, the hotel phone number is 213-670-9000 and committee members can (sometimes) be reached at 213-451-4180 or 383-9828 or 397-3335.

AVIS RENT-A-CAR reservation cards are included with this PR for your use. AVIS is the Official LACon Rent-A-Car agency.