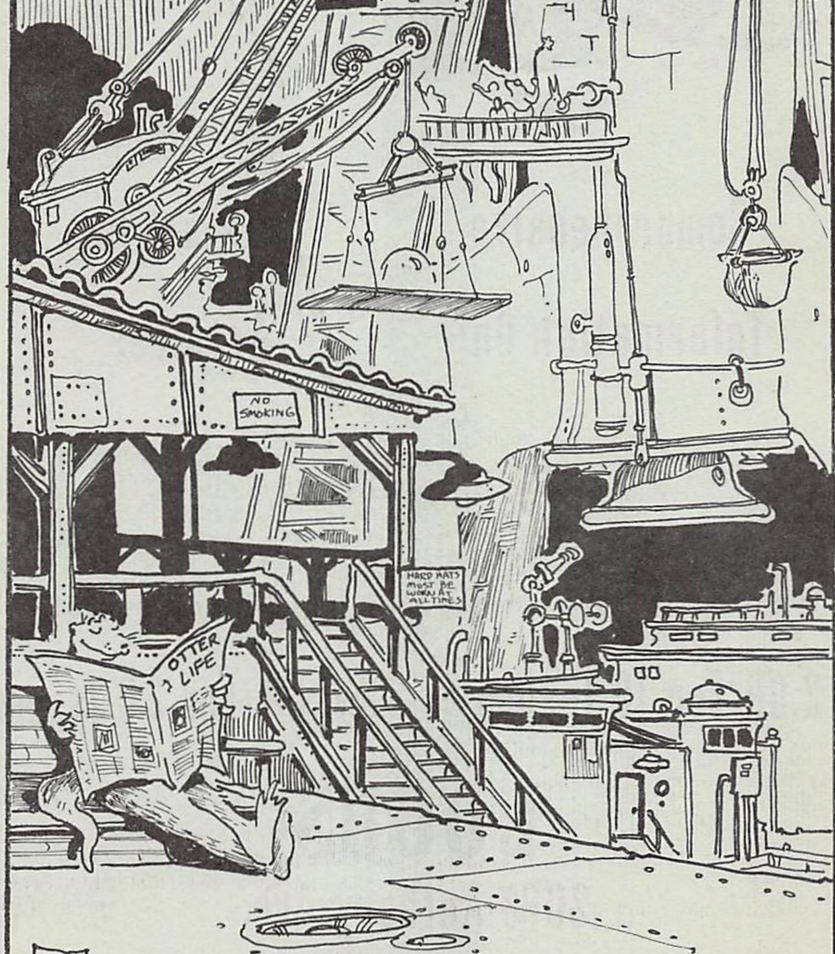
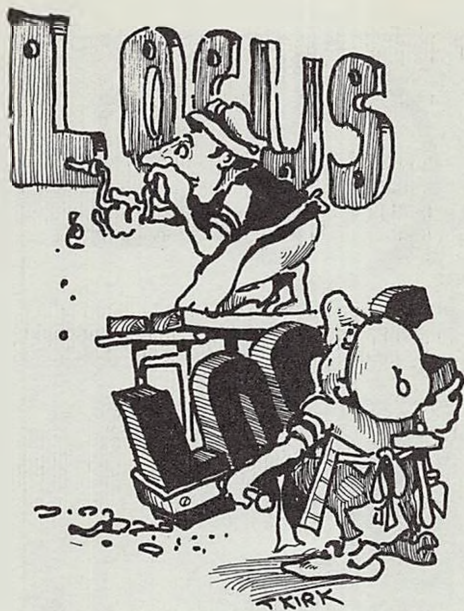


L.A.C.O.N.

PROGRESS
REPORT
#1



TIM
KIRK



THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE SCIENCE FICTION FIELD

THREE YEARS CONTINUOUS
BI-WEEKLY PUBLICATION

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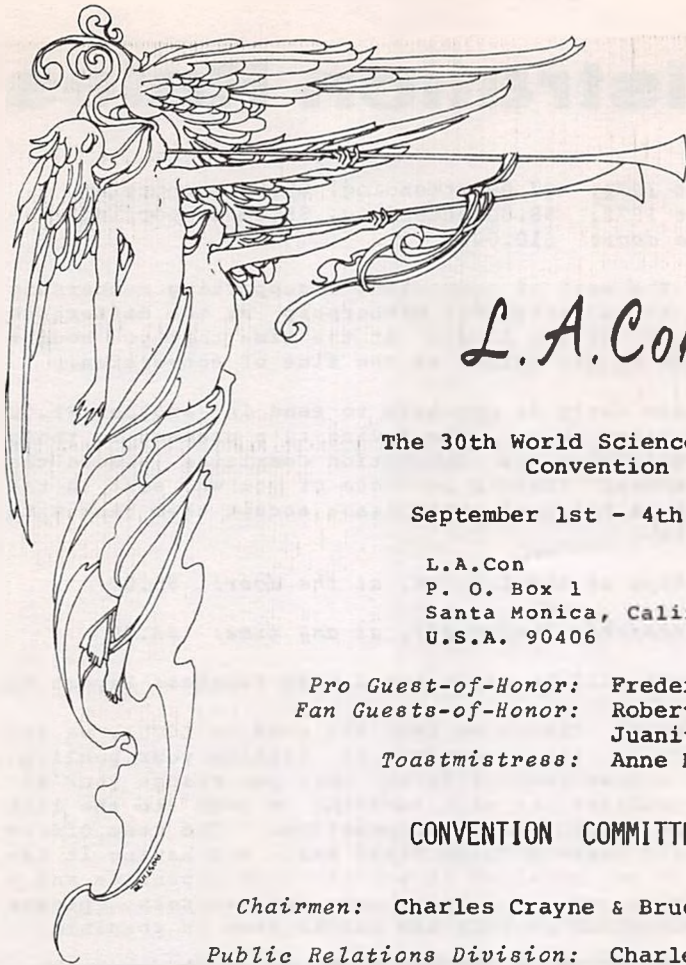
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L.A.Con

The 30th World Science Fiction
Convention

September 1st - 4th, 1972.

L.A.Con
P. O. Box 1
Santa Monica, California
U.S.A. 90406

Pro Guest-of-Honor: Frederik Pohl
Fan Guests-of-Honor: Robert &
Juanita Coulson
Toastmistress: Anne McCaffrey

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Chairmen: Charles Crayne & Bruce Pelz

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Belgium: Michel Feron, Grand-Place 7, B-4280 Hannut
Germany: Mario Bosnyak, Feldbergstrasse 26-a,
D-6272 Niedernhausen (BRD)
Netherlands: Kees van Toorn, Marinestraat 9-c,
Rotterdam 1, Zuid-Holland

Registration Rates

Until 1 August 1971: \$7.00 attending, \$5.00 supporting
Until 1 August 1972: \$8.00 attending, \$6.00 supporting
After & at the door: \$10.00.

Conversion: The cost of converting a supporting membership to an attending membership is the difference between the cost of the former at the time that you bought it and the cost of the latter at the time of conversion.

Members who join early do not have to send in another \$1.00 each time the rates go up. The saving is a present to those who joined early when the Convention Committee needed the money for expenses. (Thanks to those of you who sent in the extra \$1 bills in December, but please accept them back with our compliments.)

Daily memberships at the L.A.Con, at the door: \$5.00

Children's membership (under 12), at any time: \$3.00

Membership cards will be distributed with Progress Report #2

Change of Address: Though we read the CoAs in LOCUS, we can not be assured of getting your publications to you unless you notify us when you change your address. All publications will normally be sent to the last address on the records of the Convention. The Post Office does not usually forward Third Class mail, and having it returned to us to be remailed to you is both expensive and a needless delay to you. If you change your address, please inform the Convention of your new one as soon as possible.

The Art Show

The International Science Fantasy Art Exhibition will be set up in a modern, carpeted, glass-walled room measuring 56' x 56', directly in front of the general session room and ballroom, with an option to expand into an adjoining room if necessary. A special convention bar for drinks and snacks is planned. Convention membership badges will be required for entry. The Art Exhibition will be arranged and managed by Bjo Trimble. Anyone interested in entering artwork (including paintings, sculpture, photographs, amateur films, etc.) or in sponsoring an award trophy should send a request for information and a stamp for entry forms and the new Art Show rules to:

Bjo Trimble
869 Irolo Street
Los Angeles, California
U.S.A. 90005

Telephone: (213) 386-7945.

Aussie Fan



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RUBBITY TO SINK
A FEW.**

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YOU SHELLAS!
LET MY LEGS
GET AT AN!**

ESCAL
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COMET TO
BIG D ^{IN} **13**

Robert Bloch

Post-Conventional Tristé

A post-St.Louiscon editorial

I have just finished my Worldcon report for the prozine, IF, and translated it into English.

If all the convention reports I've written were laid end to end, it wouldn't be as dirty as it sounds. However, anyone examining them would discover one thing in common; each report, from the first right up to the present example, mentions problems between the conventioners and the convention hotel.

The Chase-Park Plaza, in St.Louis, easily measures up -- or down -- to the standards set last year by the Claremont in Berkeley. Nor is that my iconoclastic opinion; the fake-award for "Worst Fan Of The Year" was voted to the Chase-Park Plaza management.

Among the complaints I heard:

Fans who had written for and received confirmed room reservations in advance showed up and were told no rooms were available for them..

The hotel agreement provided that certain public rooms would be open to convention attendees 24 hours a day. These rooms were arbitrarily closed on occasion and attendees were ejected...

The Worldcon was to take over the hotel for Labor Day weekend -- but upon arriving, fans found that an RCA group had arrived. And fans were not told that the hotel had many permanent guests in residence who took a dim -- but extremely loud and offensive -- view of fandom and fanac...

The assurance of around-the-clock restaurant service was croggled as the hotel's eateries shut down -- honoring Labor Day, but not the hotel's promise of providing food service for the convention guests. At one time only the coffee-shop remained to "service" some 1500 conventioners, among others
...

The elevators, as usual, reduced service at night -- and later on during some daytime intervals. Inasmuch as the hotel was laid out in two sections, those unable to flag down an elevator were forced to walk downstairs to the lobby from one side of the hotel and climb upstairs on the other side to reach someone's room...

The little niceties were completely ignored. A petty item, but indicative of the quality of guest-accommodations; in the lobby area near the main convention hall was a grand

total of one (1) men's washroom, to accomodate perhaps 1,000 conventioners who didn't want to spend half an hour returning to their rooms. From Thursday morning until Monday night this washroom contained not a single, solitary paper towel. Promptly on Tuesday morning, when the convention was presumably over, the washroom blossomed forth with huge stacks of paper towels. Hooray for hotel thoughtfulness and hospitality!

I said this was a petty item, and perhaps some of the gripes cited above fall into that category. But one thing that isn't in the least bit petty is the amount of hard cash which rolled into that hotel from 1,500 convention guests staying an average of four days and four nights apiece. The money they laid out for their rooms, the money they spent for meals and liquor, etc, comes to a healthy total. Add to this the known fact that the average hotel expects to have a 25%-30% occupancy over Labor Day weekend, and we gave them a 100% occupancy -- plus an overflow crowd. I would say, at a conservative estimate, that the management -- thanks to the Worldcon -- grossed at least \$100,000 more than what would be considered normal for the holiday period.

Now that's not penny-ante, and I think it's about time the Worldcons stopped getting penny-ante treatment from management.

On many previous occasions I've stated what I state now; the fault does not lie with a Convention Committee. It is impossible to handle the thousands of details which arise in connection with running the convention itself and still cope with problems arising from broken promises on the part of hotel representatives. My solution is unchanged; the time has come for Conventions to retain professional convention-planning services, such as those which cater to business and fraternal groups. They know how to make the proper arrangements in advance, know how to lay out contractual agreements and make management live up to such stipulations. If, as some euphoric fans say, "Half the fun of a con is griping about the hotel!", then there is something drastically wrong with Worldcons per se: I, for one, don't relish putting out plane fare for two, plus four or five days' worth of room-rates and restaurant charges in return for the dubious pleasure of attending a gripe-session for 50% of my stay. Nor am I that crotchety or persnickety that I demand "red-carpet treatment". I merely expect the same ordinary service and courtesies I receive when I check into a hotel as a private guest any other time during the year. But as long as Worldcons are represented in their hotel-arrangements by amateurs they will receive the treatment accorded amateurs by management. Hotel management, by the way, is not naive; the convention business is an important source of their daily revenue, and they are accustomed to dealing with far more boisterous and demanding groups than science fiction fans. What we need in order to get proper consideration is proper professional representation, and put some clout behind a contract.

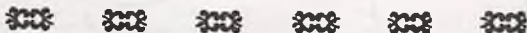
Who pays for this? Again I return to a previous proposal -- raise Worldcon membership fees to a realistic level. \$7.50 or \$10.00 is not an exorbitant amount by today's standards; not for four solid days of free programming and spec-

ial events. The old cry of "hardship" doesn't stand up in an era when teenage fans bid \$50.00 or \$75.00 for an auction item.

Speaking of which, raising the fees to cover costs will do away with one of the greatest hardships put upon present-day Convention Committees; the necessity of relying upon the auctions to break even. Apparently the eager bidders for convention-sites don't realize until too late just how vital the auction sales are to their budget requirements. Time after time I've watched the hardworking and hapless committee-members literally sweating out their auction sessions -- cutting short other program items and scheduling extra auctions and "sales stunts". Instead of enjoying the Worldcon they've worked so hard to win, they become 'round the clock worriers whose only interest is in the book-keeping figures from auction sales that will make or break them. The emphasis on auctions and "huckstering", ironically enough, thus comes not from the dirty pros but from the fen.

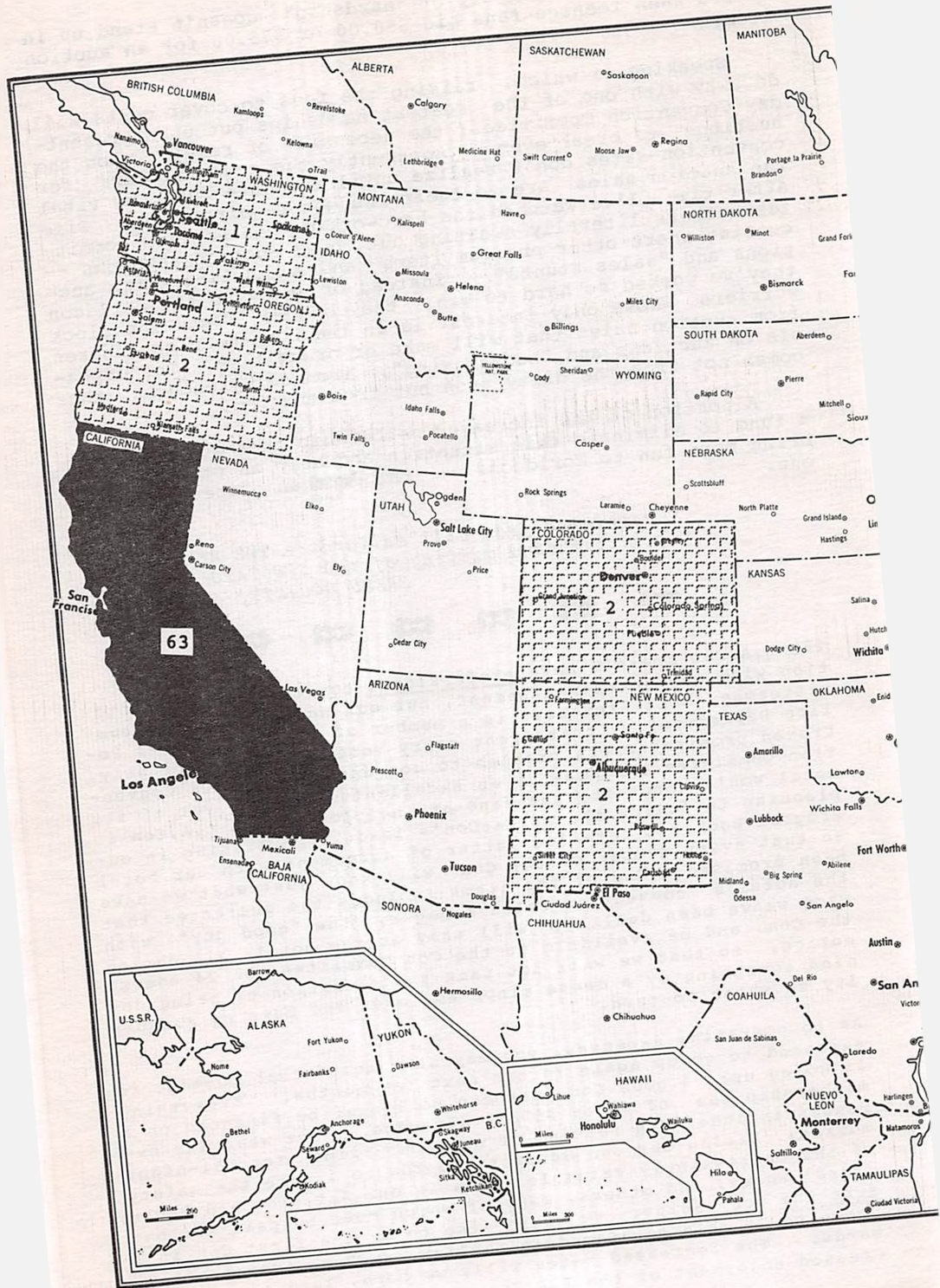
A portion of the increased membership fees would provide a fund to eliminate this situation and help in other ways to bring more fun to Worldcons -- rather than gripes like this one.

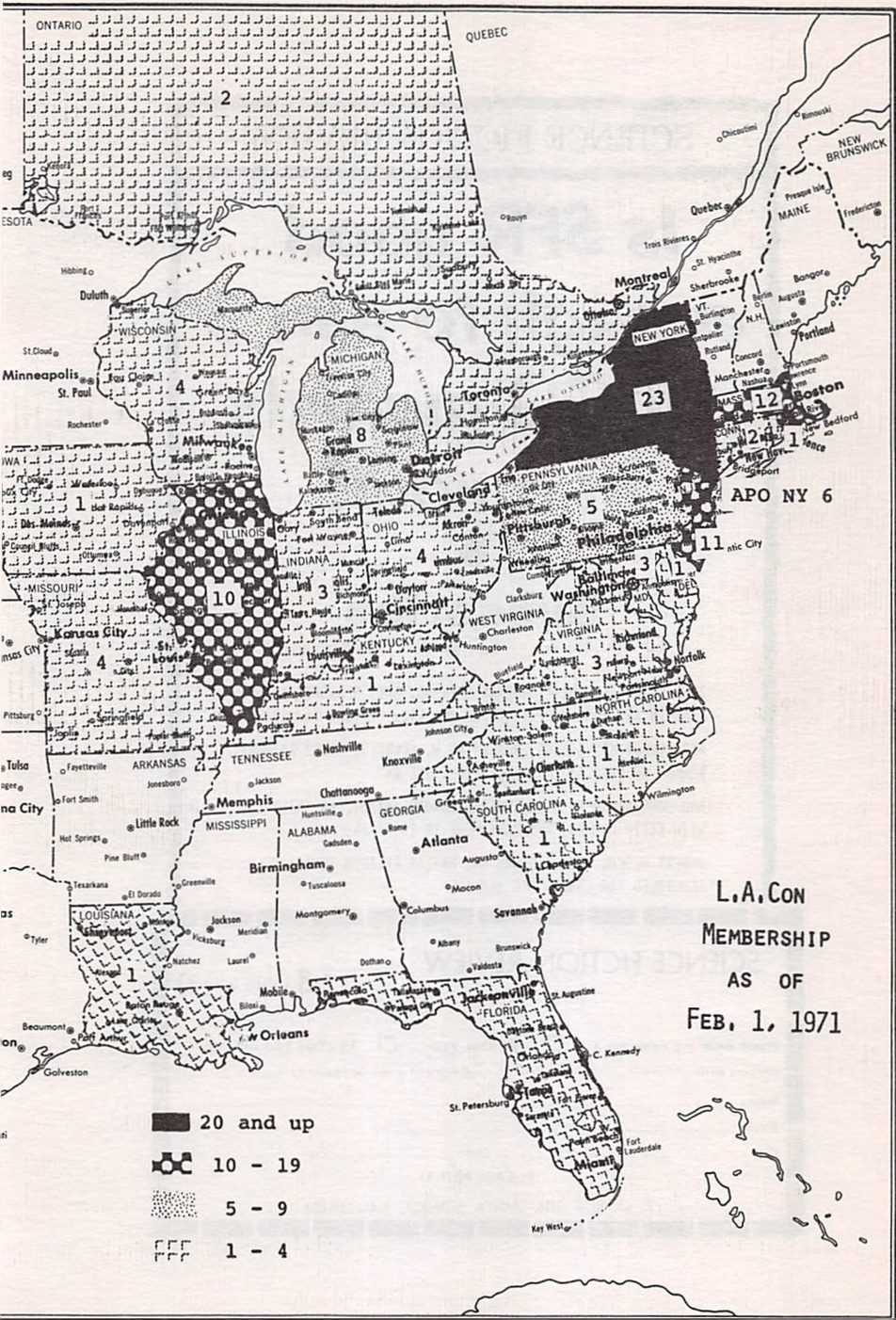
*reprinted from Bill Mallardi's THE BEM & I #2
in the 92nd mailing of the SPECTATOR AMATEUR
PRESS SOCIETY, July 1970.*



The L.A.Con doesn't have professional convention representation with our hotel management, but our Hotel Relations committee man, Milt Stevens, is a member of the Los Angeles Police Department -- that might carry some clout. Seriously, broken promises are a problem to conventioners -- a Convention Committee can draw up an excellent contract, yet if its hotel won't honor it, the fans are helpless. The L.A.Con is planning to follow the NorEasCon's lead in publishing in our Program Book our detailed letter of agreement with our hotel so that every member of the Con will know just what we have been promised. One of the items includes the guarantee that the hotel's convention sales manager, the "good guy" with whom we've been dealing, will stay at the hotel all during the Con and be available to the Con Committee on 24 hours' notice, so that we will not face the situation of being denied something by a dense minor employee and have no authority to which to turn.

As to operating expenses, you may have heard that postage is expected to go up again in the next few months. Everything is going up; a good Con just can no longer be financed on a membership fee of \$4 or \$5 per attendee. Not when its expenses include the renting of numerous films for all-night movies, hiring our own Security guards to insure the safety of the increasingly valuable items in our Art Show and Hucksters' Rooms, and others, many of which must be paid for before the Con begins. We would like to be the first Con in 9 years to be able to afford to publish its Proceedings afterwards. The increased rates will, we hope, lead to your increased enjoyment of the L.A.Con





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AS OF
FEB. 1, 1971

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- 5 - 9
- 1 - 4

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<i>Australia</i>	-	12
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OR ANY OTHER SPECIAL TOPIC?

If you are members of any special interest group, the L.A. Con has meeting facilities for you. Contact the Con Committee to make arrangements for a gathering at the Con. Please let us know the estimated size of your meeting, what time of the day would be preferable, whether you desire a food function, whether your meeting is open to the public or private, etc.

THE HOTEL

The L.A.Con will be held at the:

International Hotel
6211 West Century Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90045

The International Hotel is right next to the Los Angeles International Airport, and provides free 24-hour transportation from the Airport to the Hotel. It is a new, completely soundproofed, 14-story hotel.

There are 650 sleeping rooms. The Hotel has guaranteed that all available sleeping rooms will be booked for the Convention and will not be oversold, up until 30 days in advance of the Convention. (The Hotel gets a great amount of trade from the Airport, so there is virtually no chance of arriving at the Con without a reservation and getting a room.)

Room rates, guaranteed in writing, are:

Single rooms: \$14 per day
Double rooms: \$16 per day
Triple rooms: \$18 per day
Quadruple rooms: \$20 per day

All rooms are carpeted, with individual temperature control and TV and radios. There are also suites and poolside cabanas (also soundproofed) available. Registration cards will be provided with Progress Report #3.

The Hotel has an Olympic-sized swimming pool, which will be open 24 hours a day to us. No restrictions on use of safe (i.e., plastic) water toys. *Chaos players take note!*

The Coffee Shop is large, brightly-lit, and has seating for approximately 250 persons. It is open 21 hours a day, from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. We have a guarantee that it will be staffed for a full-occupancy hotel during the L.A.Con.

Other restaurant facilities:

The Hideaway Bar: 9:00 a.m. - midnight
The Trophy Lounge: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 a.m.
The Hunt Room (Victorian decor restaurant):
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Penthouse Lounge (circular bar, with view of city):
5:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.
Penthouse Restaurant: Wednesday to Sunday only;
6:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

A jacket is required for the Penthouse Restaurant
There are no other dress requirements.

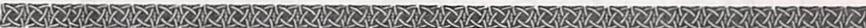
Room service is available from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m.
One-day laundry service is also available.

Parking: For registered guests of the Hotel, free. Unregistered L.A.Con attendees must pay 50¢ for self-parking, or \$1.00 for valet parking.

The Hotel has guaranteed to notify the Con Committee of any complaints or disturbances, and allow the Committee to investigate and act before the Hotel will take further action on the matter.

Convention Facilities: We have a general session room and ballroom of approximately 9,400 sq. ft., with a seating capacity for 2,200 persons. It can be divided into up to five smaller rooms, depending upon the function. The Hucksters' Room is approximately 9,000 sq. ft., and can be divided into up to six rooms. A separate film room, to which we have 24-hour access, has a seating capacity of 250-300 persons. These, plus other rooms, are all on the mezzanine floor, available to the lobby by escalator, elevators, and wide stairways. There are numerous other rooms on other floors, for seminars and meetings of special interest groups.

Elevators: There are four high-speed, automatic, 24-hour elevators in the public guest area, plus three more service and freight elevators.



A popular function at Cons nowadays is a Medieval tourney or other event performed by members of the Society for Creative Anachronism, and other Medievalists. There are no facilities for such a function at the International Hotel, but we will be within a few miles of broad parks, and the beach of the Pacific Ocean. A tourney is tentatively planned at one of these locations.

Fans visiting the Los Angeles area will doubtlessly want to see some of the other sights that Southern California has to offer -- Disneyland, the Griffith Park Planetarium (used by Hollywood as an observatory, a castle, or secret laboratory in many movies and TV shows), motion-picture studios, zoos & African preserves, visit the Mexican city of Tijuana (less than 2 hours' drive away), etc. None of these really have any connection with science-fiction, and therefore no Convention program items connected with them will be scheduled. However, since a large number of fans may want to see these anyway, and in the company of other fans, the Con Committee will try to schedule some unofficial trips during the week before &/or after the L.A.Con. If you're planning to arrive at the Con early, or stay a few days afterward, and you would like to join a fannish outing to one of these places, please contact the Committee so that we can try to arrange a schedule to the most popular attractions, at the most convenient time for the majority.

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ADVERTISING

PR:	Ad Deadline	Publication	Rates:
2	July 15, 1971	Aug. 1, 1971	<i>Fan:</i> \$10.00 - 1 page
3	Dec. 15, 1971	Jan. 1, 1972	\$ 7.50 - 1/2 page
4	May 15, 1972	June 1, 1972	\$ 4.00 - 1/2 page
PB	July 1, 1972	Aug. 1, 1972	\$ 2.00 - 1 line
FR	Nov. 15, 1972	Dec. 1, 1972	

Dimensions:	Full page - 6" x 10 1/4"	<i>Pro:</i> \$20.00 - 1 page
	Half page - 6" x 5 1/4"	\$15.00 - 1/2 page
	Quarter page - 3" x 5 1/4"	\$ 7.00 - 1/4 page

All dimensions are image area, and are exclusive of margins. They'll be shot at 2/3, creating a 1/3 reduction and making their own margins. All ads *must* be submitted in camera-ready copy. There will be a charge of \$5 for correcting incorrect material to a camera-ready state, for half-toning photographs, or for printing in any color other than black.

Program Book Rates:

<i>Fan:</i>	\$12.50 - 1 page
	\$10.00 - 1/2 page
	\$ 6.00 - 1/4 page
	\$ 2.50 - 1 line
<i>Pro:</i>	\$25.00 - 1 page
	\$20.00 - 1/2 page
	\$10.00 - 1/4 page

A special discount of 10% may be obtained for buying advertising space in full or half-page sizes in any 3 or more of our remaining Progress Reports or the Final Report, all at once. In this case, please send payment for all with your ad copy for the first Report in which you wish your advertising to appear. Ad copy may be submitted all at once, or in time for individual deadlines. If we have not received any new copy by any deadline, we will reprint the same copy used in the previous publication. This offer does *not* include Program Book advertising.

Please add a cardboard stiffener when you mail your ad copy to provide for protection while in the mail.

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One question that WorldCon Committees are being asked more and more frequently is: Are there any babysitting services at the hotel? However, up to now, not enough fans have requested this service to make it practical for a Con Committee to go to the expense of arranging it. The St. Louiscon lost a lot of money on a babysitting service, because fan-ish parents just didn't use it. The International Hotel has no such service. The L.A.Con Committee is willing to arrange a babysitting service for children who are members of the Con (see Registration Rates), but *only if sufficient demand for it is indicated in advance!* Interested parties should contact the Con Committee as soon as they are sure that they would like to take advantage of such a service.

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