

The Filking Times

September 1989

The Official Filkzine of Con-Chord V

Issue 8

NoLaCon Hugo Voting

by Mary Kay Jackson

The Filking Times published an article by Duane Elms ("Ticked Off"; Issue #3 Page 3) relating his views and knowledge of the ballots for the 1988 Hugo nominations in the "Other forms" category. Although no longer timely, this reply from Mary Kay Jackson deserves attention.

I realize that the topic I want to address here appeared a couple of issues ago, but I only recently acquired the back issues. I really feel that I have to comment on Duane's article about how he was "robbed" of a Hugo nomination. First let me say right off that I have known Susan and Jim Satterfield, the folks in charge of the Hugos for New Orleans, for over ten years. I know them to be honest and resent, on their behalf, the clear implication in Duane's article that they were not. I have talked to Susan on the phone twice since reading Duane's article and will attempt to recount to the best of my ability the gist of those conversations. (I might add that Susan knows I am writing this letter and I will be sending her a copy.)

Susan says that now, more than a year later, she does not really remember just what the postmark on the famous package of ballots was. That really was not the point. What Duane failed to make clear in his article was the circumstance regarding the receipt of those ballots. That package of ballots arrived after all the other ballots had been tallied. After the final ballot had been typeset. After the final proof had been sent to the committee for printing. After Locus had been notified. After the final nominees had been notified. See NoLaCon on Page 7.

ConChord V Update

Child Policy Revised

PR #2 Out Soon

Preliminary Program Ideas

by Rick Weiss

Things are moving ahead for Con-Chord V to be held at the LAX Quality Inn Hotel on October 6-8. The hottest topic to date has been the Child Policy presented in PR #1. After further discussion, the ConCom has responded to comments and feedback from various sources by [~~increasing their life insurance coverage~~] modifying the official policy for ConChord. The new official policy will appear in PR #2. Preliminary notes from the ConCom meeting appear in the box on Page 4. These changes are not yet finalized! The unofficial policy remains the same: you are urged not to bring small children to the Con. The same applies to pets - members should think at least twice before bringing life-forms other than *Homo sapiens* into the Convention areas. Do remember, though, that this applies only to the specific Convention function space. Your hotel room and the public hotel lobbies do not belong to ConChord.

Progress Report #2 should be on its way to all Con members Real Soon Now (mid-September). Until it arrives, here are a few tidbits to keep you interested. Concerts are being planned for Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. Neither will be a big marathon session - three to four hours max. Confirmed performers at this time include Cindy McQuillin and Dr. Jane Robinson, Kathy Mar, and of course, our guests of Honor, Bill Roper and Carol Poore. Rumor has it that the notorious Cliff Flynt and Barbara Reidel may accompany Bill and Carol to ConChord. If this happens, it is also feared that ConCom will be unable to prevent their appearance on stage.

Other things to watch out for at ConChord will include the Kazoo Awards, to be presented to various deserving people when they least expect it, and the Totally Tacky Tasteless Concert, presented by Chrys Thorsen, Ralphie Baby, and the Thor Records crew. Chrys is looking for supporting cast members, Roadies and Techies (*Groups can call me - the ed.*) to help out with this project into questionable taste. Anyone interested should contact Chrys at Thor Records (see resource listings on Page 8).

Lastly, all of this will be missed if you don't have a membership! Avoid the rush at the door, pre-register and make your hotel reservations now!

WorldCon Filking

According to our sources, filking at NorEasCon will be in the Hilton every night ~~except~~ Friday, when it will be in the Hynes Hotel. If you are attending WorldCon, remember to make some notes and write a report for *The Filking Times*.

UPCOMING EVENTS**Future Filksings****Los Angeles Area:**

- Sept 23: Lee & Barry Gold, hosts
Los Angeles, CA
- Oct 6-8: Con-Chord V
See Con listings for more info.
- Nov 4: Harry & Mara Brener, hosts
Arcadia, CA

For Info/mailling list, contact Rick Weiss, 714/530-3546.

San Diego Area:

- Sept 9, at 7 PM at Windbourne's studio. Call Karen Rogers at 619/265-0069 for info.

SF Bay Area: For Info/mailling list, contact Bob Kanefsky, 415/324-2001, Kathy Mar, 415/481-5736, or Colleen Savitzky, 408/294-6492.

To have your (or any other) filksing listed in this column, call or write Rick Weiss (see above).

UPCOMING EVENTS**Conventions**

Con-Chord V, October 6-8, 1989. Paul Willett, Chairman; 1810 14th Street #102, Santa Monica, CA 90404. Attending membership: \$20 till September 20; supporting: \$8. GOH's: Bill Roper & Carol Poore. Toastmistress: Cathy Cook McDonald. Hotel: Quality Hotel (LAX Airport), 213/645-2200; room rate: \$50.00 (sgl/dbl) per night.

OVFF V, October 1989. October 27-29, 1989. P.O. Box 211101, Columbus, OH 43221. Memberships: \$15 thru Sept 30, then \$20 at the door. GoH's: Barry & Sally Childs-Helton. Toastmaster: Joey Shoji. Hotel: University Inn, 3110 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43202. Call 800/262-7468 (800/282-3626 in Ohio only) for reservations. Annual Midwest Filkcon. Vote for the OVFF *Pegasus Awards*, non-members can vote, too!

Silicon '89, November 24-26, 1989. P.O. Box 8029, San Jose, CA 9515, 408/993-0140. GoH's: Charles de Lint, David Cherry, Nancy L. Cobb. TM: Diana Paxson. Membership: \$25 thru 11/1/89, \$30 at the door. Hotel: San Jose Red Lion Inn, 408/279-0600.

Consonance 1990, March 2-4, 1990. Bob Laurent, Chair; Wall Songs, P.O. Box 29888, Oakland, CA 94604. Membership: \$20 thru 10/09/89; \$25 thru 2/2/90; higher later. GOH's: Barry & Sally Childs-Helton. Toastmaster: Chris Weber. Hotel: San Jose Radisson Hotel 1471 N. 4th St., San Jose, CA 95112, 408/298-0100. Room rates: \$52 Sgl/DbI, \$62 Trip/Quad. Call or write the hotel for reservations.

Random Realities, The Convnetion, a.k.a. Randomcon I, April 13-15, 1990. Keith Williams, Chair. P.O. Box 2690, Bell Gardens, CA 90201, 213/927-3200 (phone 6-10 PM only). GoH's: Frederick Pohl, Bill Conlin. Membership: \$25 thru 1/1/90, higher later. Hotel: The Hacienda Hotel, 525 N. Sepulveda Blvd., El Segundo, CA, 800/262-1314 (from CA), 800/421-5900 (from outside CA). Rates: \$49 Sgl/DbI. Free Parking. The Random Realities group ran the LA bid for Westercon 40, and has/had local filkers Paul Willett, Eric Gerds, Chris Weber and more on the committee.

Westercon 43, July 5-8, 1990. P.O. Box 5794, Portland, OR 97228; 503/283-0802. Attending membership: \$25 till July 4, 1989; higher later. Supporting: \$15.

THE FILKING TIMES Editorial Policy--TAKE HEED!Rick Weiss, *Publisher*Deborah Leonard, *Contributing Editor*

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REVIEWS, ARTICLES, COMMENTARIES, LETTERS: We are looking for items on topics of general interest to filkers, be it local news, filk reviews, tips on songwriting, Convention reports, filk history, local filk customs, comments on previous articles, or whatever else you can think of. Please write!

EVENT LISTINGS: We will publish information about upcoming filk events and conventions. So send us something, gang, so we can print it!

SUBMISSIONS: Send your submissions to the above address in hardcopy OR Atari ST diskettes (3.5") with .DOC or ASCII files OR upload ASCII files to the DAG Electronic BBS (213/546-1861 at 1200 baud) via the Control Z upload to Sysop command.

CLASSIFIEDS/ADVERTISING: Classifieds will be published on a space available basis. Free classifieds up to 4 lines for subscribers; additional lines and non-subscribers: \$0.25 per line. Other advertising--call or write us and we'll negotiate.

TRIVIA: This 'zine was produced on an Atari 520ST upgraded to 1 MB using Timeworks *Word Writer ST* and *The Timeworks Desktop Publisher* and printed on a Citizen MSP-10 9-pin dot matrix printer.

Filk Publications: Just When You Thought It Was Safe...

*Reprinted from Harplings #18,
Mar/May '89*

Copr. 1989 by Margaret Middleton

I have in hand three copies (#3,4 & 5) of *The Filking Times*, edited by Rick Weiss and Deborah Leonard. This is a fine zine which arose in the LA area to fill the void left by the faliation of Paul Willett (more about that further down in this article). While it does not publish filksongs, it does cover the newsfront of West Coast filkfandom very well and picks up bits from elsewhere also. Most of the hard news items in all but the June issue are well out-of-date so I won't be quoting from them this issue.

One article I do want to comment on, though. This concerns the "Suggested Bill of Rights and Responsibilities for a Filk". Part 3 of 4 ran in issue #5 (June) and I don't have copies of earlier parts or earlier drafts of the document. What I have seen, though, looks very good indeed. Any chance of a complete reprint (possibly as a booklet for Con-chord and/or OVFF distribution)? I would love to reproduce it in APA-Filk, also, which has a mostly EastCoast membership).

((Ask and ye shall receive...))

TFT #6 just arrived, and the whole back page was taken up by a complete printout of the R&R's. I have added TFT's editorial address at the bottom and will Xerox it as an extra page in this issue of Harplings. I will also zap copies to John Boardman for inclusion in APA-Filk.)

o o o o o o

The editors wish to thank Margaret and Harplings for the kind words regarding TFT. We are also glad to see the interest in the R&R's and repeat that they may be freely reprinted so long as credit to Deborah Leonard, Rick Weiss and *The Filking Times* is given. If anyone has modifications or other comments, please send them to us.

Conosaurus: Filk Reports From Westercon 42

Walling at Westercon

by Bob Laurent

Westercon in Anaheim last weekend had relatively little filking in spite of having a committee member (Gary Anderson) responsible for filking. This was largely due to other evening activities that many of the filkers were interested in. Westercon ran Friday through Tuesday. Friday most people were tired from work and travel. Saturday the Masquerade was well attended by filkers as Gary Anderson and Janet Wilson (two well liked filkers) had a very impressive costume (which won "Best of Show") and Dr. Jane Robinson was doing the intermission entertainment. Sunday was the filk concert starting at 6 PM (i.e. no dinner break), followed by Dr. Jane and the Primordial Oohz (see the "Wackadamla" tape just released from Thor). After that, many people needed food and then it was quite late to start filking (at least that was how it felt to those of us who needed to be up for our hucksters tables in the morning). Monday evening had some reasonable filking, but many people were tiring as it was the third or fourth day of the Convention. Filking was, however, well represented in the Dealer's Room. DAG Productions, Off-Centaur/Firebird, Thor Records, Wall Songs and Quicksilver Fantasies all had tables. There were at least six new tapes out - Wackadamla (Dr. Jane Robinson/Thor), Through My Eyes (Larry Warner/Thor), Shake The Dust Off (Bill Sutton/DAG), Strangers No More (Brenda Sinclair Sutton/DAG), On Filkley Moor (British Anthology), and Wassall Test (British Anthology). Firebird had also released the re-do of Tape Worm.

A fund raising auction was conducted at Westercon for the (Con-Chord V) Cathy Cook Fan Fund at the Thor Records party (which was also serving as a going-away party for Cathy, Paul, Robyn, & Bryon). It was a great success -- we raised more than half of the air fare! Donations were received from every filk dealer at Westercon! (My thanks to the

Re: Westercon 42

by Mara Eve Brener

A little box in the August issue of TFT has asked me how I found the filking at Westercon. I'm must admit that the quick answer is "with difficulty". The Desert Springs Room could not be located without an advanced map-reading course, and Ghod help you if you were in a wheelchair.

On Saturday, I didn't find too much filking going on until 9 PM, when Tera Mitchell, Heather Rose Jones, Jane Mallander, and I staked out Salon 2 (or was it 3?). We sat, talked and held onto the room as a few others began to trickle in, up to the post-Masquerade influx. Some of us sneaked out to catch the half-time entertainment, and Dr. Jane was magnificent! Through the evening (and I hung around pretty late), we collected a respectable-sized crowd. A few were people unfamiliar with filk, which is one of the benefits of a centrally located filk room. The style was sort of a jump-in without an official moderator, although Jane, Steve Savitzky and I seemed to be doing much of the jumping. I also have it on my husband's authority that there was a fairly good-sized filksing going on simultaneously in **See Westercon on Page 7.**

donors: Gail Bailey [who was agenting for Off Centaur/Firebird], DAG Productions, Quicksilver Fantasies, Cynthia McQuillin/Unlikely Publications, Thor Records, Carolyn Hauksdottir [best known to filkers for her many tape covers on the Off Centaur, Wall Songs, and Thor Records labels], Mitch Botwin [jewelry dealer from New York], Chris Weber, Rick Weiss [The Filking Times], Larry Warner, and Paul Willett [Philk-Fee-Nom-Ee-Non] [hopefully I didn't miss anyone] and the bidders.) Donations are still needed -- monetary or rare/unusual filk items (to be auctioned off at a later date). Send them to: Bob Laurent, c/o Wall Songs, P.O. Box 29888, Oakland, CA 94604.

ConChord Child Policy - Alternate Views

RE: ConChord 5 Official Policy on Children
An Open Letter To the Members of the ConChord Committee
 by Harry and Mara Brøner

This letter has been prompted by our reading of the Official Policy on Children in Progress Report #1, and subsequent conversations with various persons. As requested in the Report, we would like to make a few comments and suggestions, in hopes of improving the situation as we see it.

First of all, it was only recently that we learned that every child attending is REQUIRED to purchase a child's membership, as well as being expected to stay clear as much as absolutely possible. Now, the idea of a child's membership would not trouble me if it appeared to entitle the child to anything; however, as it stands, this charge seems to be nothing but a penalty fine to parents for the crime of having to bring their children along. Furthermore, as it is an understood fact that one or both parents will be required to miss all of the significant events which will be declared child-free, we furthermore have to view this as an added fee for the privilege of missing these events.

Please do not misunderstand me. I agree fully that there need to be child-free zones for the concerts and such. However, since the majority of those at the con will be attending these events, it would seem fair to me if, during child-free

times, the other filk rooms were made available to the babysitting co-op. It would sit a little more comfortably with the parents to be able to feel that their children's membership fees were going toward the rental of a room for the chil-

ConChord V Noise Policy

Any member, child or adult, creating a disturbance or unnecessary noise, especially at the Concert or One-Shots, will be asked to leave the Convention area.

ConChord V Child Policy

Preliminary Revised Version 1.1

- 1) Child memberships will be sold at one-half the adult membership rate.
- 2) Parents will be held responsible for the behavior of their children.
- 3) A child member *must* be accompanied by an adult member at all times. Unaccompanied children *and their parents* will be asked to leave the convention area.
- 4) The convention staff are not babysitters, and we will not be forced to be babysitters by default.
- 5) ConChord V can not provide any kind of babysitting service at all, nor can ConChord V provide any room for a babysitting co-op.
- 6) Parents who *must* bring their children to ConChord V are encouraged to co-op babysitting on their own, in their own hotel rooms, keeping children out of convention areas.
- 7) Children's memberships will be sold only under these terms and conditions.
- 8) *Only* children's memberships will be sold to children. A child may not have an adult membership.
- 9) If there is any question of whether a person is a "child" or able to buy a full adult membership, the decision of the ConChord Committee will be final.

dren's benefit. Concerning possible insurance liability, we have spoken to an attorney who is also an SF fan, and he informs us that in his understanding, if the con is not providing the childcare, its insurance will not be liable. He further suggested that the insurance company be contacted. **See Letter on Page 5.**

Revised ConChord Policies

A Commentary and Explanation
 by Gary Anderson

New Noise Policy

Children and adults will held responsible for their behavior at all times. This especially means with respect to noise or other disturbances, with special reference to the concerts and other direct filking activity. If an adult member engages in disruptive activity (carries on loud conversations, becomes drunk and disorderly) he/she will be asked to leave. If a child member engages in disruptive activity (whines, snivels "Mommy, I wanna drink. Daddy, I wanna go"; whiz, the kid flashes past) the custodial parental entities will be expected to remove them immediately. Remember - the judgement as to disruptive is at the sole discretion of the ConChord committee.

Revised Child Policy

There were originally 9 points in the Official Policy. The only ones being modified are #1 and #3.

New #1: Children's memberships will still be sold. Children may attend all of the convention subject to their good behavior.

New #3: Children MUST be ACCOMPANIED by a custodial parental entity at ALL times. This means right near the kid, preferably. **See Comments on Page 6.**

“Quoth the FilkLord. . .”

by Quentin Long

An eccentric column from an off-centered filker

...And welcome, once again, to another edition of *Treble and Leader* -- *At The Movies!!!* I'm Larry Treble...

...And I'm Dick Leader. Tonight we're going to focus on that hot new musical horror sequel, "A Filksing on Elm Street Part 47: The Tully Drought".

Right, Dick. The clip we're going to play for you is from the beginning of the film, which takes place several months after the mysterious disappearance of the Filk Master, Gary Roper.

As the scene opens, the Caslon household has recovered enough from the events of the last film to hold another filksing. Which they do, in spite of Tabitha's warning that Gary will surely return to spoil everything.

And is Tabitha right? Let's find out. Roll 'em!

Scene: A typical Southern California living room, filled to the brim with fens, guitars and a smattering of other instruments, including the rare tape recorder. There is noise, there is singing, there are lots of munchies and potable fluids.

RANDOM FAN: Great filk, Bob!

BOB CASLON: Thanks, Gordy. Okay, Jane, you had a tape? Let's hear it.

The crowd lowers the noise level by maybe 6 decibels.

JANE: I recorded this last month at KankakeeCon, in Illinois. It's one of the best kanefs I've ever heard!

JANE fiddles with her cassette deck.

CASSETTE DECK: "I dwell in the songbook..."

Suddenly, TABITHA leaps from her seat, vainly trying to shut off the deck.

TABITHA (screaming louder than a vintage Who concert): No, you can't play that! He'll be back, I know it!

At this point, SAUL sees his GigaFilk

A Reply to The FilkLord

Being a rebuttal to Quentin Long's column in TFT Issue 5.

by Kay Shapero

I'd say Quentin is missing the point somewhat. We're not talking about professional singers for the most part, we're not even talking about an amateur singing group like the Madrigals we're talking about individual amateurs involved in a hobby. Few hobbies demand a high minimum standard to get involved. For example, look at hiking. This can be anything from a short trip on a level path to a class 6 climb up a rock face. Now there's a fairly steep minimum skill required for the latter, but almost anyone who can walk, roll a wheelchair or whatever can manage the former. But all are part of the same hobby, hiking. The guy with years of training and a special telescope making long term exposures of distant galaxies and the kid out in the backyard looking at Jupiter with Dad's binoculars are both practicing the hobby of astronomy,

collection start to shake -- but it can't be an earthquake, since nothing else is affected. TABITHA continues to spazz out, and the tape continues to play.

SAUL: What the...?

CASSETTE DECK: "I enjoy those I eat, and the songs I excrete are irreverent and rude..."

GigaFilk topples over with a crash like Satan's fall -- SPAMM!!! -- and the whole room is silent. Even JANE's cassette deck was unplugged by the jolt. Slowly, inexorably, a hand rises out of GigaFilk's pages; an evil hand, with a half-dozen guitar picks on each digit, whose owner is known, and feared, by all.

Suddenly the hand snaps up to the ceiling and the many picks embed themselves in the acoustic tile! The arm retracts to its normal length, pulling the inhumanly obese form of GARY ROPER up through GigaFilk, which explodes from the strain.

GARY (brightly, in a gravelly, off-pitch voice of no fixed range): Hi, kids! Did'ja miss me?

even though the former needs more specific knowledge to do what he is doing. And both Kathy Mar and the guy who sat next to you at the last filksing and knocked you right out of key with his impression of a walrus are practicing the same hobby, filksinging, even if Kathy sounds a lot better at it!

In short, like the class 6 climb or the galactic photography, professional (or semi-pro) filk tape performances demand a high skill, while gathering in a small group and singing all night do not, any more than you should have to be Frank Sinatra to sing "My Way" in a karaoke bar. Remember rule C-3 of the Filker's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities so admired in the article: If you don't like the song/performer/whatever, you have the right (if not the responsibility!) to leave the filkroom.

Letter on Child Policy

Continued from Page 4.

ted, and Eric Gerds has agreed to do this. As to the co-op itself, Colleen Savitzky and I would be perfectly willing to organize it and bring appropriate activities and supplies. Other people have also expressed willingness to help out in their areas of expertise. Of course, the co-op and room arrangements would need to have been planned out in advance, rather than waiting to begin until arrival at the con.

I feel that if some re-thinking on this subject is not done, fandom will ultimately suffer. Many of the parents reading the Official Policy will catch the same bad vibes that struck us, and it will probably anger some of them sufficiently to cause them to drop out. Furthermore, many children of fans are likely to grow up with similar fannish interests, but may well be turned off by what seems to a strong "we don't want you" attitude. I also think that the classification "children" needs to be **See Child Policy on Page 8.**

THE GHODMUDDER SPEAKS...

Another new tape out this year is Bill Sutton's Shake The Dust Off. Bill was GoH at Con-Chord IV last year so it only makes sense that he would do a tape with our own DAG Production and record it at the Thor Records Studio. I personally would like to see more productions from the DAG/Thor team; they seem to do it so well!

This is Bill's second tape, the first one (from Off-Centaur) is out of print but may still be available if you look real hard. The new tape has a wonderful variety of new songs: space, love, war and several funny ones like "The Electron Waltz" and "Beer Bed" (which has a back-up by Ralph Mason on waterbed (how do you tune a waterbed?)) I was pleased to note the back-ups really compliment not only Bill's voice and music but also his style, but I will admit that I do miss the vocals back-ups which I feel would have given the songs more body.

My personal favorite from this tape is Stepping Stones.

...AND EVERYONE SHOULD LISTEN (but form your own opinion!)

Comments on ConChord Policies

Continued from Page 4

within grabbing distance. If the kid wanders too far, you will be asked to corral him/her. Unattended children will have their memberships revoked.

Explanation: (Although it is usually a mistake to explain policy.) There were several cases of children left basically unattended in the lobby area outside the main room at the last ConChord. This forced the not-particularly-child-oriented registration table attendants into a babysitter role, which they did not want, heartily resented, and could have incurred considerable liability for. Likewise, there were several times when children were running through

⇒Michelle Darlene Willett, born August 1, 1989. Seven pounds, ten ounces; twenty inches. Mother fine, father in ICU (mental).

⇒Upcoming from Wall Songs are the three tapes from OVFF last year: OVFF The Record, OVFF Beat and OVFF to the Stars. The last will have a strong space theme. Future projects include a live tape from Congenial (held in March in Wisconsin) and two songbook projects. I am not sure that there was enough material to warrant a tape from Westercon this year -- I'll have to listen to decide. Wall Songs will be recording at Worldcon in Boston and OVFF later this year. *Bob Laurent*

⇒English Filk -- The British filkers seem to be doing quite well. They've produced two nice anthology songbooks (On Filkley Moor and Wassall Test), two anthology tapes (On Filkley Moor and Wassall Test) containing highlights from the books, and a solo tape -- The Oak, The Rowan and the Wild Rose (Mike Whitaker), which is rather nice. *Bob Laurent*

⇒From Thor Records; look for two new tapes at WorldCon: Robin Bailey's Never Too Old to Dream and Plus C'est la Meme Chose from Kathy Mar.

the concert area, crying, or otherwise a real pain. This is why we try to discourage children from even being there. We realize that children often will shriek suddenly, get fussy, whine and snivel, and often cannot be reasoned with. The answer we usually get is "Gee, I'm sorry, but you can't just strangle little %*#@&%\$#." Begging the obvious replies, the only solution is not to have the kid there in the first place, and thus avoid the emotional blackmail of "You're picking on the kids." I have seen kids who could be trusted not to say anything, having learned "sit down and shut up" well, and who, when communication was necessary, could tap on the parent's person to get attention and then

Quick News

⇒Cathy Cook MacDonald (Con-Chord's Toastmistress) and family have moved to the far reaches of Newfoundland, Canada. *TFT* has just received a letter from her saying they're alive and well, and will welcome any contacts from the West Coast and Fandom. Her new address is: 82 Montana Drive, Stephenville, NFLD A2N2T1, phone 709/643-3761. Remember, the Cathy Cook Fan fund is still raising money to pay for her ticket from Newfoundland to Los Angeles for ConChord. Send contributions to: Bob Laurent, c/o Wall Songs, P.O. Box 29888, Oakland, CA 94604.

⇒Mara Brener won third Place in the SoCal regionals of the "Singin' in the Shower" contest, sponsored by K-Earth radio 930 AM and Lever Brothers. The contest was held on July 23 at Santa Anita Fashion Park. Each contestant wrote an original song, or original lyrics to an existing tune, containing the names of K-Earth and one or more of five kinds of soap; and performed said song, appropriately costumed, while standing in a bathtub. Third place won \$100, Second was worth \$250, and First place \$500 and the opportunity to compete in the National Competition at Universal Studios. All (eight) contestants received a goody bag containing a shower head, a waterproof radio, lots of soap samples, and a rubber duckie. *Mara Brener*

speaking in a real whisper or even go outside. Who would actually sit through a concert with apparent enjoyment or at least minimal suffering. I haven't seen many, so this is policy is necessary.

This year, the reg desk is in the huxter's room, and the con area begins at the entrance to the mini-lobby connecting all 4 rooms. We only have 3 of them, BTW. THE CON IS NOT A SECURE AREA. Those of you who bring children, be warned.

WesterCon Report

Continued from Page 3.

the Desert Springs Room, led (I believe) by Lee and Barry Gold. I stuck around the Salon until my voice left me and my eyes would no longer stay open, but there was still a good group when I left, including John and Mary Creasey and Steve and Colleen Savitzky. (And my apologies to those I've forgotten.)

On Sunday afternoon, there were three filk panels scheduled. Panel #1 ran over into #2, #3 was cancelled, and only a small group of "core" people showed up anyway, so the whole thing was generally informal. At 6 PM, the concert was kicked off by half an hour of One-Shots. Harry and I were there to do the first two songs, but I couldn't help noticing that several of the people who signed up did not answer to their names. I thoroughly enjoyed what I caught of the concert, although I did duck out early to catch "Roger Rabbit". The performance by Dr. Jane and the Primordial Oohz after the Ice Cream Social was marvelously entertaining. Clever lyrics are greatly enhanced by good solid orchestration, and I was amazed at how some of the songs she had performed the night before, with just guitar, took on totally different characters with the band. And that is NOT to say that one treatment is inferior to the other. After the band packed up, and it became clear that the rumor of a huge filk in the Grand ballroom was only that, I drifted back down to the Desert Springs Room, where the Golds were leading what seemed to be an informal Chaos. I had intended to wander up to the foyer where Leslie Fish was holding court, but somehow kept on hanging around for one more follow-up until my husband came to collect me. We got as far as our room when I changed my mind and headed for the suite of the cryonics organization (whose name escapes me) to catch Leslie Fish alternating songs with Frank Gasperik. I have no idea how long they performed, but they were already at

it when I arrived and were still going strong when I left. Aside from the rather intense smoke, I consider this one of the musical highlights of the Con. I never did get to hear Leslie sing "The good Ship Venus", though, as I only hung on until 4 AM.

I'm not terribly clear on what was going on Monday (see the previous sentence), but whatever filking there was didn't start until 2 PM, so we and the Savitzky's (possibly known hereafter as the Kids' Liberation Front) obtained Gary's permission to use the room for some informal children's programming. This was our response to the absence of any such official programming. Not too many kids showed up, but we made the most of it. I led some songs, Colleen brought some drawing sup-

plies and games, and Jane Mailander very kindly dropped by to teach some simple origami and play a recorder duet or two. I think it was not too long after this that we dropped a bunch of money in the dealers' room and left.

I can't say that the filk activities overall were anywhere near as plentiful or as well organized as they were at the otherwise universally panned 1987 Westercon (Oakland), but then, filking is an entity which thrives on practically nothing and in the most unlikely places, so I believe that those who came there to filk were not disappointed. What was most in evidence was a loyal, robust following, gathered in small groups, which is really the best way, anyway. Bullshit aside, I had a good time.

NoLaCon Hugo Ballots

Continued from Page 1.

About, Susan says, 2-1/2 to 3 weeks after the deadline for mailing nominating ballots. What would Duane have them do at that point? If anger is valid at this point, I suggest that the anger be directed at the people who didn't get around to mailing the ballots until the very last possible moment, or at the Post Office, infamous far and wide for its screw-ups. I suggest it might be wiser for him not to go casting doubt on the veracity, honesty, and integrity of people he doesn't even know. Especially in print.

It might be noted that in addition to the consideration of their honesty and integrity, both Susan and Jim are regular attendees at filks in their part of the world. Susan has even been known to pen the occasional filksong. She told me that she would have loved to have seen a filksong on the ballot...

The other thing that bothered me in that article was his lusting after "validation" and somehow suggesting this is necessary. If my years of living have taught me anything it is

that if approval and validation for one's actions do not come from within, any amount of external approval is meaningless. Filking is something we are involved in because we love it and it gives us pleasure. To suggest that it needs some sort of external "validation" is to insult and demean both the activity and those performers he mentions so reverently.

Editor's Note: One additional point of information which I checked with Mary Kay. The mailing address for the ballots was directly to the Satterfield's P.O. box, which they emptied themselves. The ballots were not handled by other ConCom members and could not have been delayed by someone else's error.

However, it seems to me that the key points of this issue have been missed by both authors: 1) What was the deadline? Postmark or date of receipt? 2) Assuming that it was the postmark and that the rules had been met, did these ballots receive the same weight and attention that would have been given to the literary categories? If ballots affecting the results of the Best Novel category had been received in a similar situation, would the Committee have re-tallied and reprinted the results?

Child Policy

Continued from Page 5.

subdivided. Certainly toddlers have to be somewhere that they can run around and make noise; but many older children are definitely capable of sitting in a filk room and enjoying the music, and there are some who can even contribute their own performances. To this purpose, there should be an arbitrary age division, with children from, say, 8-16 being charged the full children's rate and being permitted to attend events; and a lower charge, or possibly no charge, for the younger children, who will be expected to stay away from these events. If keeping the peace at the cons is carried to such extremes as to alienate the fans and filkers of the future, we are throwing out the baby with the bath water. It goes without saying that disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, but it must be understood that this will apply to adults as well as children, and that what is not acceptable from one will also not be acceptable from the other.

Please be aware that, at this moment, it is our plan if possible NOT to bring our child to ConChord; so these suggestions are not being made simply for our own benefit, but for that of the increasing numbers of parents among fandom, a group which must be taken into consideration for the sake of the continued wellbeing of fandom and

FILKZINES AROUND THE COUNTRY

Harpings: Published by the Filk Foundation and edited by Margaret Middleton, 34 Barbara Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204; 501/666-8466; Compuserve 71525,1372.

LOOSE NOTES: A Zine for Filky-Minded Fans. Published and edited by Susan Landerman, 3327 West Luke Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85017.

MetaFilk: Published and edited by Charles Asbjornsen, 2026 East 55th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11234.

Na Mele O Na Hoku--Song of the Stars: Published and edited by Debra F. Sanders, 1415 Victoria Street #206, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822.

Philk-Fee-Non-Ee-Non: Published by Philk Press. Paul Willett, editor. P.O. Box 4128, Panorama City, CA 91412, 818/893-7397.

Philly Philk Phlash: Published and edited by Carol Kabakjian, 17 Lewis Avenue #3, East Lansdowne, Pennsylvania 19050-2614.

Xenofilkia: Published and edited by Lee Gold, 3965 Alla Road, Los Angeles, CA 90066, 213/306-7456.

filkdom as a whole. Also, we would like to remind Paul Willett that not everyone in fandom is fortunate enough to have family in the area with whom to leave the children.

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FILK SOURCES AND RESOURCES

DAG Productions, 1810 14th Street #102, Santa Monica, CA 90404. Telephone: 213/546-4935 or 213/546-1861 (BBS). Eric Gerds, owner, producer and publisher.

DAG BBS (Electronic Bulletin Board System), 213/546-1861 at 300/1200 BAUD. 24 hours/day, Tuesday thru Sunday. Filk, costuming, gaming, books/media, general fannish interest.

Firebird Arts & Music, Inc., P.O. Box 453, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Telephone: 415/528-3172. Andrea Mitchell, proprietor; Teri Lee, executive producer.

Pegasus Publishing, P.O. Box 150471, Arlington, TX 76015-6471.

Quicksilver Fantasies, P.O. Box 1660, Post Falls, ID 83854.

Thor Records, P.O. Box 40312, Downey, CA 90241. Telephone: 213/862-1722. Chrys Thorsen and Ralph Mason, music producers.

Unlikely Publications, 1741 Eighth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710; 415/525-5534. Cynthia McQuillin, filk publisher.

Wall Songs, P.O. Box 29888, Oakland, CA 94604. Telephone: 415/763-6415. Bob Laurent, proprietor, producer, and publisher.

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