

This is SHELTA THARI #3, a single-sheeter published by Dick Eney, now at 6500 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria 22307 Va. Quick, turn to the FA to see if I remembered to tell Bob Pavlat about my address change before he typed up the secretary-treasurer's report. This is Operation Crifanac CCLXXIX, and if you weren't listening I repeat

It's Eney's Fault

CHARLES WELLS, YOU SHOCK ME Dept.: Yes you do, actually and literally. Well, the metaphor is figurative but the sensation is literal, anyway. Not so much where you defend the right of Commercial Interests to sell Cheerios under the pretense that they are fit for human consumption, but where you suggest that future conventions may bar them from the breakfast table. (You just said "dining room", but the problem of barring them from the banquet is slightly different and, I believe, should be examined separately.)

I wish you'd cited your source for this rumor, because I suspect it's not well founded. Boyd Raeburn has told of the care taken with breakfast cereals at the last LonCon and I can't believe that British policy would reverse itself so abruptly ... though I grant you the development of an Colour Problem in the Commonwealth shows what unexpected things may happen in staunchly permissive milieus.

If the reference (you weren't clear about it) was to future American conventions it's a dubious story for a different reason: neither Syracuse nor Cleveland has the con so tightly sewed up that they could afford to challenge any powerful segment of fandom at this time. After the voting at London, it will be a different matter.

Either way, of course, any such action must be stringently censured by all responsible elements in fandom. Anybody who wants to start a petition against exclusion of oat cereals from the Worldcon can count on my signature for sure.

After all, if the oats weren't mature they wouldn't be there. And, as I have remarked in another connection, maturity makes a lot of difference.

"They got confused as to whether the tower was giving heights in feet or meters."

OTHERAC AND STUFF With all the duodenal ulcers happening in fandom — Ethel Lindsay, Boyd Raeburn, and Betty Kujawa are victims I can think of right off the top of my head — I wonder if the Fate who had CQ the week before Easter was aiming for me and missed? However it happened, the evenings of holiday-from-night-school which I was promising myself I'd use to get some FAPA comments on stencil were instead taken up with family commuting out to Bethesda Naval Medical Center, a 64-mile round trip which left no time for anything but urgent correspondence as far as fanac went. Hence the one-pager in this mailing. (Hm...could you say that my familyac was analogous to...naw, you couldn't. Not plausibly, at least.)

I've been getting some activity accomplished in Mundane, too, but you wouldn't be interested in that.

The only significant fanac I've accomplished in the last quarter — I almost blush to speak of such lacktivity — is producing George Scithers' CON-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S GUIDE, an abstract of which is on the flip side of this page. The whole thing is some 64 pages long, so I sort of faunched backward at the thought of putting it through FAPA, but anybody who wants to see more can find my address above.

XI. SUMMARY

11.01 The first thing you must do: get a hotel which has enough meeting space, enough bedrooms, reasonable prices, and a management that's interested in having you. If you don't have these in your town, forget it. If you do, you've got your biggest problem solved.

11.02 Set up a program, but don't try to stuff too much into the time available. For a big, high pressure con, consider a Friday thru Monday con. For a small con with few speakers available, consider doing practically nothing on Monday.

11.03 Keep track of what you've spent and expect to spend; what you've received and expect to receive; and consult the balance before spending for anything new. When in doubt, don't spend. With the \$3 membership fee (I'm talking about North American cons, now) you can expect to break comfortably ahead of even. With a \$2 fee, you'd sweat blood.

11.04 Don't depend on the auction to balance your books. It can be a comfortable source of extra money, for -- as an example -- a set of Proceedings. And don't try to sell too many items in the time available.

11.05 If you want Proceedings, ask every speaker who normally works from a written speech for his manuscript, and ask beforehand. Even if he just works from notes, try to get them; they'll at least help in spelling hard words.

11.06 If the price of the banquet is too high, too few people will come. Unfortunately, there are no really cheap banquets available. As a last resort, you can do without a banquet.

11.07 Arrange things so that costumes at the costume ball can be seen and announced; many costumes depend for their effectiveness on having their names announced. A band isn't necessary, but it helps, especially if they're set to play appropriate fanfares for the various costumes.

11.08 Publish a good set of progress reports and program book -- don't be ashamed to put out a good, legible job of mimeography if you can't afford offset printing -- but don't work yourself to death over the program book before the con begins.

11.09 If the auction material includes junk, separate out the junk and store, give, or throw it away. Program time is too valuable to waste on trying to sell an item worth one cent for two.

11.10 And, finally: if each member of the con committee feels the other members of the committee are working harder than he, and that he ought to do a bit more to catch up with his share, then you've got a successful committee working on a sure-to-be-successful con.

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