

UP FROM HEIZE

ROTSCHER'S

# CONVENTION

NEWS FOR CONVENTION PLANNERS

# CONVENTION NEWS FOR CONVENTION PLANNERS

CONVENTION: News For Convention Planners, is edited and published irregularly by Andrew I. Porter, 55 Pineapple Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, USA. Available to those involved with conventions only; 25¢ per copy or 5 issues for \$1. Entire contents copyright 1969 by Andrew Porter; all rights reserved. DP 331.

SEPTEMBER 1969 NO. 2

This second issue of CONVENTION contains several items of interest to the convention planner, within the context of fannish interests. First, we have breakdownson the hotels picked by the two opposing bids, Boston and Washington, DC, for the 1971 World Convention.

In addition, Fred Patten fills us in on several background details about the hotel picked by Los Angeles for their 1972 WorldCon bid. We believe that we have an exclusive item of interest: the name of the hotel picked by the BayCon II 1972 World-Con Bidding Committee. That hotel is the San Francisco Hilton, perhaps the largest hotel on the West Coast. Further on in this issue we will compare the facilities of the two hotels, Los Angeles and San Francisco, as well as present the text of the advertisement in the Heidelberg Progress Report number Zero, which gave us the clues as to the hotel's identity.

We do not have a breakdown of the facilities available to the Heidelberg Convention Committee, as it is the plan of the MetCon Committee to use their Municipal Hall for all convention program items. The committee notes, in their Progress Report, that meals and drinks will be available during the program items, served by the private restaurant associated with the Municipal Hall. In addition, bus service will be provided from your hotel to the meeting place. Further details, all in the Progress Report, which will be distributed at the St. LouisCon, discuss special interest groups, the art show, the banquet, the Guests of Honor, and currency regulations. Many program items are also contained within the pages of the Progress Report, plus many advertisements from fan and pro magazines from several countries, including the US, Italy, Spain and Germany.

Following are breakdowns of the two competing hotels for the 1971 World Convention:

Sheraton-Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Road, Washington, DC 20008

Largest Group Accomodated: 2,000 (1,000 rooms, 100 suites)

Air Conditioning: Entire hotel.

Convention Rates: Single - \$14.50 - 24.00;

Double - \$17.50 - 28.00; Suites - \$40.00 - 115.00

No. Meeting Rooms & Largest Capacity: 24 (25 to 5,100)

Capacity of Largest Banquet Room: 3,500

Group Meal Rates: Breakfast, \$3.00; Lunch \$3.75; Dinner \$6.75

Liquor Available: Yes Stage: Portable, built to any size Sports: Swimming

Additionally, quoting from an advertisement for the hotel: Washington's largest Ballroom; 950 Parking spaces free to room guests; our own garage; 4 restaurants and 2 cocktail lounges.

Statistics for Boston's hotel follow on the next page.

Sheraton-Boston Hotel, Prudential Center, Boston, Mass. 02199

Largest Group Accomodated: 1,500 (700 rooms, 70 suites)

Air Conditioning: Entire hotel Convention Rates: Single - \$17.00 - 22.00;

Double - \$23.00 - 28.00; Suites - \$53.00 - 84.00

No. Meeting Rooms & Capacities: 23 ( 2,500; 1,200; 550; two=400; 340; 325; 200; 185; 165; 150; 125; 110; 100; 70; seven=60)

Capacity of Largest Banquet Room: 2,000

Group Meal Rates: Breakfast, \$2.75; Lunch \$4.00; Dinner \$6.00

Liquor Available: Yes Stage: Permanent, 32 ft.-wide, 16 ft. - deep, 20 ft. - high

Sports: Swimming.

Additionally, quoting from an advertisement for the hotel: Specialty restaurants and lounges galore; lanais around a temperature-controlled swimming pool; 3 huge ballrooms; 20 function rooms; closed-circuit TV available.

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We understand that, as of 2 weeks before the St.LouisCon, over 450 rooms had been reserved. This is the largest amount of reserved rooms at any hotel prior to an sf convention. The St.LouisCon printed 3,000 Program Books, and plans an estimated total attendance of 1800 - 2500, with total registration of perhaps 3,000. In addition, the Program Book features a record amount of advertising: 50 pages of professional advertising, a new record surpassing the previous record of 27 pages for the NYCon (1967) Program Book. An additional 60 pages of fan advertising brings the total number of pages in the Program Book to (counting editorial pages) approximately 160 pages. Because of it's size, the Program Book was side-stitched, rather than saddle-stitched, as has been the tradition with previous convention Program Books. Andrew Porter was responsible for the sale of the professional advertising in the Program Book.

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Following are breakdowns of the two hotels for the 1972 World SF Convention.

International Hotel, 6211 W. Century, Los Angeles, Calif. 90045

Largest Group Accomodated: 1,800 (600 rooms, 62 suites)

Air Conditioning: Entire hotel Convention Rates: Single - \$15.00 - 23.00;

Double - \$18.00 - 26.00; Suites - \$36.00 - 70.00

No. Meeting Rooms & Capacities: 32 (2,000; 1500; 800; three=400; 325; 250; three=125; six=90; 75; 50; twelve =40)

Capacity Of Largest Banquet Room: 1,800

Group Meal Rates: Breakfast, \$2.50; Lunch \$3.50; Dinner \$5.00

Liquor Available: Yes Stage: Portable, 80-ft. wide, 60-ft. deep Sports: Swimming

Additionally, quoting from an advertisement for the hotel: Free self-parking; shops; 3 excellent restaurants; 3 unique lounges; heated pool; golf; free limousine service.

The reasons for considering the Hilton hotel in San Francisco as the BayCon II hotel are the following: the advertisement in the HeiCon Progress Report Zero, prepared by the BayCon II Committee, contains the following items. I quote directly, abbreviating to extract the most vital information.

"We plan to hold the convention in the center of San Francisco in a large modern hotel of over 1000 rooms, completely air-conditioned...with perfect convention facilities, including the largest banquet/ballroom in the West with excellent acoustics and no pillars. There are bars and restaurants and shops in the hotel, and a rooftop swimming pool bordered by cabana suites.

"The hotel's location makes it an ideal jumping off place for all extra-con activities -- sightseeing (the famed cable cars are just a couple of blocks away)...the theatre district is a mere block away. The Top of the Mark and the Fairmont Tower beckon in the near distance..."

Based on the above, careful examination of a map of downtown San Francisco places the San Francisco Hilton 2 blocks away from the cable-car turntable at Powell and Market; the theatre district a block away, at Taylor and Geary; and the Mark Hopkins and Fairmont Hotels within several blocks. In addition, key features, as advertised by the Bay-Con II committee, have been reported in the convention news press. Below are the statistics for the San Francisco Hilton, the only logical choice based on the information available.

The San Francisco Hilton, Mason & O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94102

- Largest Group Accomodated: 1,600 (700 rooms, 100 suites)
- Air Conditioning: Entire hotel                      Convention Rates: Single - \$14.00 - 21.00; Double - \$18.00 - 25.00; Suites - \$35.00 and up
- No. Meeting Rooms & Capacities: 32 (from 50 to 3,000)
- Capacity of Largest Banquet Room: 2,000
- Group Meal Rates: Breakfast, \$1.95; Lunch \$4.50; Dinner \$5.75
- Liquor Available: Yes    Stage: Portable, 4-ft. wide, 4-ft. deep, 3-ft. high
- Sports: Swimming.

With a major expansion of the hotel recently completed, adding some 400 rooms, plus free parking facilities, the San Francisco Hilton has become the largest hotel in San Francisco, and possibly the entire state.

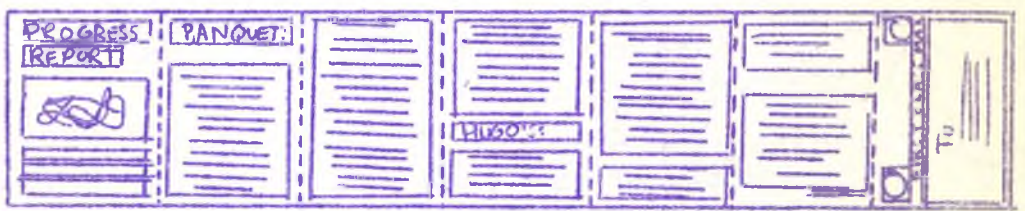
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NOTE: Convention Rates are generally suggested only, and actual rates for any convention may vary above or below rates quoted. Group Meal Rates indicate the lowest cost of any banquet, and generally do not include tax and gratuities. The statistics for the hotels, as presented in the previous pages, come from the 1969 International Convention Facilities Issue of Sales Meetings Magazine, and are copyright 1969 Sales Management, Inc.

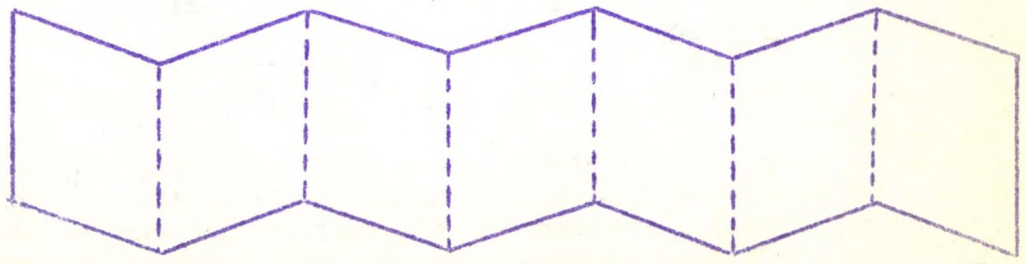
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# A NEW IDEA IN PROGRESS REPORTS

The idea of a Progress Report done up as a folder has been raised as one way to save time and effort in publishing during formation of a convention.



The idea, as displayed at the right, would have all copy done up as a pamphlet, using both front and back of the paper.



Printing the PR as, perhaps, a strip of paper 5 1/2" high x 22"

long, and then running the resultant printed strip through a folding machine, will yield a Progress Report with the same general height and width as current Progress Reports. Such a PR would consist of a total of 8 pages of 8½" high by 5½" wide. Or, PR's could be of varying height and width, according to the press and folding machine. The major innovation in the process is that you will receive from the printer a PR that needs no stapling and is already folded. By making the last page a mailer, perhaps incorporating a bulk mail permit, such a PR would be ready to go through an addressograph and into the mails. No sealing would be required. For an example of what the mailed piece would look like, dig through your files for the "New York In Summer" folder which was mailed out with the 3rd Progress Report by the NYCon. Other information folders like that described above will be distributed at St.LouisCon.

The idea is not revolutionary; direct-mail users have been using the same idea for many years. What suits it to our purposes is that it eliminates time wasted in stapling and folding, and allows more time for other details to the convention committee.

## LETTERS

Ethel Lindsay, Courage House, 6 Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey, U.K.

I was moved to write you today on receiving CONVENTION No. 1. I think this is a marvelous idea. It is so frustrating to think of convention committees all over starting from scratch practically every time. I personally have been involved in making up no less than three "permanent files" that were supposed to be useful to following committees. All sunk without trace.

I envy your rundown of hotels. Over here this is the biggest hurdle of all. Dealings with hotels is the one area where committees can do with most advice. There are all sorts of things that can be done - but of course head of the list is ... GET IT IN WRITING!

There is extremely little news coming out of Heidelberg of the sort of details we all want to know. Such as price and type of accomodation. Such as is anyone thinking of group travel. Such as how many fans are combining the con there with their annual holiday, etc. Maybe CONVENTION will stimulate some of the German fans into producing some answers. Too well I know that time is slipping by for them at a frightening rate. At least, if they are sitting thinking -- oh, it's months away yet -- someone ought to warn them!

One thing that will be of tremendous help to the organizers of Heidelberg -- would be some idea of which professional people will be attending. They are the draw-cards, after all. I remember how I used to tear my hair at our WorldCon at not being able to put out the usual WorldCon programme publicity because the American authors coming would not tell us so. In the end a large amount of them appeared...but if only we had been able to quote their names in our publicity I should have been spared at least two gray hairs.

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George Scithers, P.O. Box 9120, Chicago, Illinois 60690

It seems to me that the matter of a continuing body -- incorporated perhaps -- for World Science Fiction Conventions (meaning, like in "World" Series, a US Con). What with matters being worked out two years in advance, and what with cons getting into really big attendances, some continuity on organization seems essential -- espec-

ially when one thinks of what the Income Tax people could do to a convention committee, which, now, doesn't have non-profit status.

But then, we have con committees in the very recent past who would view such a continuing organization as an invitation to start a fight; fans haven't really gotten that much more mature since the WSFS Inc. mess.

ChiCon II formed a non-profit corporation for just this purpose; it lasted through DisCon and PacifiCon II; whereupon Donaho/Stark/Rogers and Jason managed to let the thing fall into disrepair. I suppose it could be salvaged, if anyone wanted to take the trouble and all.

⚡ The purpose of CONVENTION does not include the discussion or proposal of political groups or groupings, nor the rotation plan. Such ideas and discussions fall under the category of political maneuverings. Rather, CONVENTION hopes to confine itself simply to the mechanical aspects of running conventions.

The way I understood it the American non-profit corporation was allowed to lapse when the convention went to England in 1965. After that, Jason may have operated under non-profit status. However, the NYCon had no such provision, and events seem to indicate that we successfully escaped all Income Tax provisions. By operating as a non-existent body, the NYCon also did not have to worry about the collection of sales taxes, or state and city taxes.

However, although we escaped the Internal Revenue Service, we do not recommend that future conventions ignore the benefits of a non-profit status. One of the few benefits available from a national body would be a continuing corporation. And as conventions become increasingly larger and more complex, the need for non-profit incorporation becomes all the more important. -AP-}

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Fred Patten, 8943 East Arcadia Avenue, Apt. 14, San Gabriel, Calif. 91775

Thanks for the first issue of CONVENTION. I do want to see CON survive; it sounds like a very good idea. I suppose that this will turn out to be like the "Hugo" awards in that it'll have to concern itself mostly with American fandom. I'd like to see it cover s-f conventions on an international scale, but it may not be practical to do that for anything other than the overseas WorldCons and British cons.

I like your column of Hotel News, though (as I'm sure you know) for practical purposes some of it is too late to be of immediate use. I doubt that the additions at Disneyland will make it any more desirable a Con site than it is now, and you may've noticed that there hasn't been a Con bid for the Disneyland Hotel yet. The problem is that the peak tourist season at Disneyland runs from the end of May to the beginning of October, and during that period they couldn't care less about giving special rates and other concessions to conventioners to get room tenants. That means that unless we're willing to switch the WesterCon or WorldCon to Thanksgiving or some time similar, we'll end up paying top room rates, which are something like \$25 or \$30 for singles. (And staying at Disneyland Hotel does not get you any ticket or admission discounts to Disneyland.)

The Disneyland Hotel does host conventioners, true, and it'll soon have its own convention facilities (conventioners at the D'land Hotel now have to travel to the Anaheim Convention Center, a short drive or a looong walk away). But the conventions it hosts are the big industrial and professional conventions, the kind where registration starts at \$15 or \$20 and there are lots of commercial displays paying \*money\* for booth space and advertising. You won't find the hobby conventions, such as stamps or coins or s-f, there soon.

The Trimbles recently got an invitation from another hotel down around Disneyland to bid for a convention there. I think it was the Charterhouse. Their rates start at \$21 for singles -- those are their convention rates.

Since you're interested in hotel statistics, let me get out our literature from the L.A. in '72 Committee's hotel. "The International Hotel will block out 400 completely soundproofed, first-class sleeping accommodations and extend to you special convention rates of \$14 single, \$8 per person twin, \$6 per person triple, and \$5 per person quad occupancy... We are reserving our 6th through 12th floors to accommodate your convention guests in one section of the hotel, so that they will not be disturbed by non-convention guests."

These rates were confirmed even if the hotel raises its prices between now and 1972. Also, they're building an addition which should be ready before then, so that 400 rooms for us is a starting minimum. An exhibit hall of approx. 7,000 sq. ft. for the Art Show & other exhibits, and a Huckster room of approx. 9,000 sq. ft. A large Penthouse Suite set up to our specifications for the Hospitality Room. A movie theatre for 100 persons. A 24-hour convention office for our use. "A Telephone message center will also be set up and fully staffed." Miscellaneous meeting rooms for the Hyborean Legion & other groups... Banquet, costume ball, etc. facilities... "The International Hotel has three exquisite cocktail lounges open continuously from 11 am through 2 am, all in close proximity to the convention floor. Two of the cocktail lounges feature entertainment and dancing nightly from 8:30 pm with no special dress regulations. Special convention bars will be set up according to your requirements and liquor is sold on the basis of \$1 per drink, plus tax and gratuities." Room service... "Special convention hours for pool and lifeguard can be arranged." Three delightful restaurants are available for continued food service from 6 am each day." "I think the sales manager changed the subject when we asked if the coffee shop'd be open on Labor Day; we've got to pin him down on that. We're also working on getting it open 24 hours for the Con.

The International Hotel is right next to the Los Angeles International Airport, which'll be handy for fen from out of town. Shuttle-bus service to the hotel, and all that. We've got room service liquor price lists and suchlike available. Also menus from their fancy restaurants -- we're going to have to compile a list of the coffee shop's prices ourselves.

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Archie Mercer, 10, Lower Church Lane, St. Michael's Bristol BS2 8BA, U.K.

Many thanks for CONVENTION No. 1. The EasterCon 1970 Chairman is George Hay, 411 West Green Road, Tottenham, London N15, and the Treasurer is Bill Burns, 52A Caddington Road, London NW2. I think they'd be very interested in seeing an issue.

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⌘ In addition to the above letters, we received verbal encouragement from the Boston in '71 Committee, plus subscriptions from the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and J.B. Post, who is in charge of the PhillyCon. -AP⌘

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⌘ The letter below was uncovered after I had so neatly ended the lettercolumn. -AP⌘

Richard Labonte, 971 Walkley Road, Ottawa 8, Ontario, Canada

Mike Glicksohn passed on to me the copy of the first issue of CONVENTION you had sent to him, and I am both glad to see someone provide a forum for people who are thinking about cons, and hopeful of learning something from it.

Right now I'm chairman of the Montreal in 1974 bid; in early 1970, when we've

decided to confirm the bid and have started to do extravagant things like spend money, someone else may be elected to carry on.

One of the questions I'd like to ask, if I could, is how many people would be receptive to yet another East Coast regional...or, as a corollary to that question, can bidders for a worldcon, no matter how enthusiastic and dedicated and pre-occupied with doing the best they can, be plausible as bidders if they haven't had regional experience?

(( It seems to me that the Eastern region of the US (or North America, for that matter) has so many regional and local conferences that there is really no space left open for another one. Many convention bids have won without conducting a regional conference; notable recent examples have been the LonCon, the Pacificon, the TriCon, and the BayCon. It's frequently not the performance before the voting session, but at it that counts. For an excellent example, the voting session at the BayCon brought out several points. One, that St. Louis' hotel rates were much below those of Columbus; Two, that St. Louis' seconders were more prepared than those of Columbus; Three, the fans wanted rock music at the 1969 convention, whereas Harry Harrison, Columbus' seconder, stated that there would be no rock music at the Columbus convention; and Four, that Harlan Ellison is a powerful God, although small of stature. -AP))

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HOTEL NEWS: There is no hotel news for this issue, as the summer is a bad time for initiating hotel construction. Next issue will continue with this feature. We understand from a very reliable source (Ray Fisher) that the St.LouisCon Committee learned from the last issue of CONVENTION that the new restaurant at the Chase-Park Plaza is German. We'd like to continue to bring such things to people's attention, in effect scooping the convention committees.

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COMMENTS on the business of conventions appearing in recent fanzines include comments by Dan Goodman, Kenneth Scher, Al Snider, Dave Locke, and Fred Patten in the current issue of CROSSROADS (Available from Al Snider, Box 2319, Brown Station, Providence, Rhode Island 02912 @ \$3/year.); also a very extensive discussion sparked by my editorial in ALGOL 15, plus many letters and points of view in the english-language version of the german fanzine HECKMECK (Available from Manfred Kage, Schaesberg, Achter den Winkel 41, Netherlands).

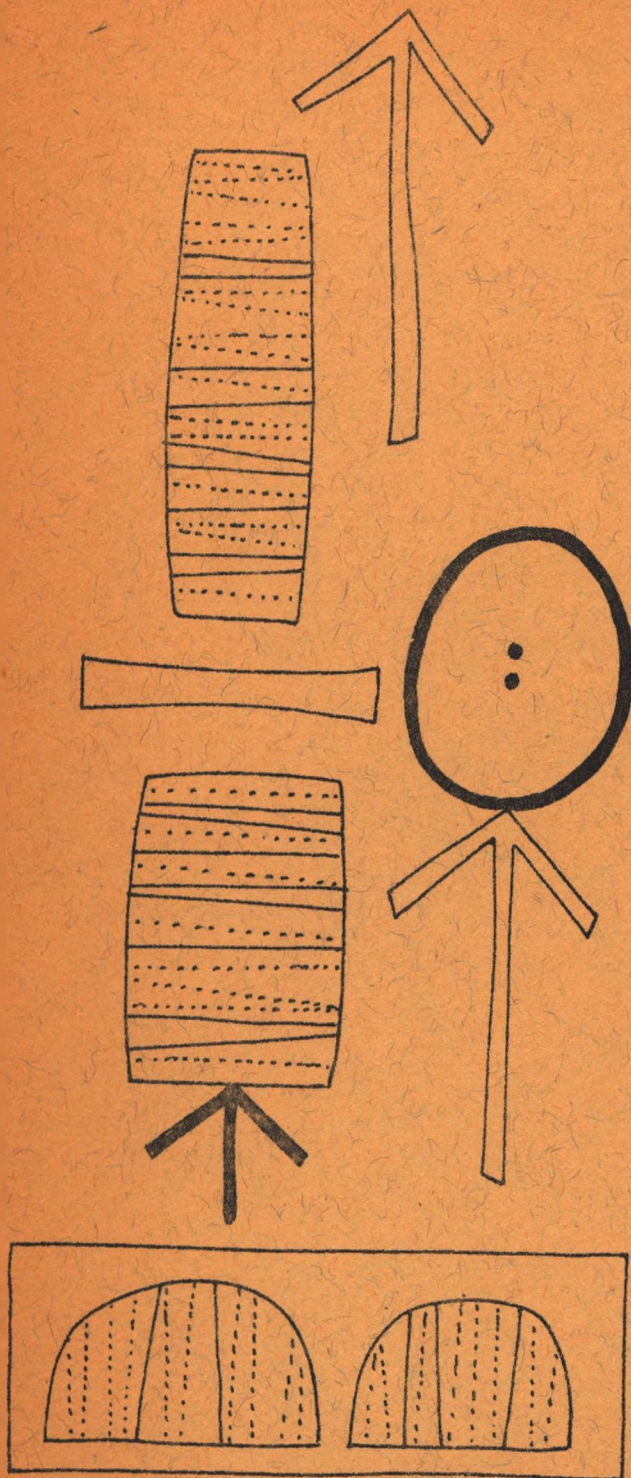
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We would have another page of statistics and things in this issue, except that we leave for the St.LouisCon tomorrow afternoon and the necessity of running this thing off is looming large on the near horizon. We ask only that you forgive our broken promises of last issue and the numerous and abominable typographical errors that abound in this issue. We do not touch type, but rather rely on a 3-finger system that seems to work much of the time, but not always.

The cover for this issue is an old illustration by Bill Rotsler. It comes our way via Bill Donaho, Andy Main and Terry Carr, none of whom thought to use it. It is, in our opinion, Very Good, and we do not understand their attitudes. Rotsler has been nominated for Best Fan Artist. If he wins, he will receive this funny-looking pointy silver thing, which will either wind up on his mantle or in one of those dirty movies he is always making. If he doesn't win he very well might next year or the year after. That's called Destiny, I guess.

The next issue of CONVENTION will appear in several months. All my energies will be taken up with publishing ALGOL, immediately following the St.LouisCon. It would be nice to receive some articles and things that I could use in this magazine; perhaps I might impose on Ray Fisher or other members of the St.LouisCon Committee for an inside report on the convention. This has been Doom Publication #331, published 25th August 1969.





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