

DEGLER! 89

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SPECIAL *NEW YORK IS A LABOR DAY WORLDCON ISSUE*

Let us, good and gentle fellow new york fans, observe the latest newsheet from Baltimore. It was distributed at the NonCon held this year in Philadelphia, and held next year in Jim Sanders' garage. Jack Chalker makes some very interesting remarks in his sheet. I'll quote some of them to you:

1. "The Balticon committee is very active in convention mechanics. I need only mention the previous highly successful Disclaves, which had on its committee 3 of the Balticon committee."
2. "The noncon idea this year was put into operation by the Balticon committee."
3. "Now, New York is a very cold, impersonal city. The city fathers don't even know you're alive. The NYCon group is alone and at the mercy of hotel managers, politics, police."
4. "New york's hotel prices need no further comment."
5. "Baltimore is a city of history, the city of Edgar Allen Poe, of Johns Hopkins, of fabled Ft. McHenry where Key wrote the national anthem."
6. "New York cannot claim a unity of fans within their city "
7. (From part of a song: "Don't you try to walk through Central Park at night!"

1.: I might mention that Banks Mebane, who arranged for the con with the hotel, and who was chairman of the Disclave, is an active supporter of Syracuse in '66 and '67. Also, from many reports I have read, we had a horrible disclave, due to absolute disregard by the hotel management of the fact that we were a Con & not a bunch of hoodlums.

2. : The Noncon was suggested by Fred Lerner, also a Syracuse supporter. He went to Philadelphia and talked it over with Harriet Kolchak, then told Mike McInerney about it. Mike announced it publicly, and then suggested to Jack Chalker that New York and Baltimore might host it together.

3. : New York is the same as any big city; to someone living in New York, it is warm and friendly, or cold and hostile, depending on what or how the person reacts to. It is no more warmer nor colder than any other Big City, including Baltimore.

4.: Within NYC there are thousands of hotels, ranging from the Pierre, the Plaza, the Waldorf, down to cheap hotels such as the Broadway Central that rent neat, clean singles for less than the YMCA.

5. New York is a city of history also. New York is the city where Edgar Allen Poe was born (His home is now a museum) -- he died in Baltimore of starvation, I might

add. New York city is the home of over 20 colleges and universities -- such names as Columbia, Fordham, New York University (the largest private University in the world, now embarked on a 200 million dollar expansion), Manhattan college, City College (part of the 100,000 student City University) and many others make NYC a University town in the boldest sense of the word. Instead of Fort McHenry, we have hundreds of Broadway and off-Broadway theatres where every night right now, not 200 years ago, there are dozens of plays and musicals going on.

6.: Except for some New Jersey fans, who by being outside New York thus are not New Yorkers, New York is united behind the NYCon III. Many members of the Fano-clasts are also members of FISTFA, the Lunarians, and ESFA, as am I, Andy Porter. I'm also a member of the N3F and a very active fanzine fan.

7.: This last is an absolute untruth. I know; I live with^m a block of Central Park and walk there almost every night. The Delacorte Theatre, with it's Shakespeare Festival, every night for three months attracts 2,500 people to the center of the Park. The Goldman memorial concerts on the mall attract thousands -- the Philharmonic concert several weeks ago attracted 70,000 people to one concert, the biggest number who have ever heard the Philharmonic at one time.

Furthermore, a talk with the precinct in charge of the park informed me that there had been not one case of forcible rape within the last year. This figure, naturally doesn't count those who gave themselves freely to their boyfriends.

I seem to have missed a point: namely, that New York has no city fathers at all! And we won't have, until we go into space (the Okie series by Blish)! Politics has no hold on conventions; there are hundreds being put on every week. I myself will be at the Traffic Service Corporation hospitality suite during the American Trucking Association meeting at the Waldorf in October. As any good con-goer knows, the police have nothing to do unless you infringe on someone else's rights, as some people did at the DisCon by tossing ice-cubes out the windows!

I hope I've cleared up some points of confusion that have been raised; you can contact myself, Dave Van Arnam, John Boardman or Ted White about anything that you question. This issue of Degler! will also circulate to apa L and any other places I can get it to. This is Andy Porter, telling you to keep your knees loose.

REMEMBER, IT'S

TRICON—
NYCON—
AND L.A. IN '66