

DEGLER! #243, the fanzine that's showing its age, is published this 13th day of September 1974 by Andy Porter, P.O.Box 4175, New York NY 10017, for Fano-clasts and a few others. Not for sale. Support & vote for Montreal in '77!!!

IT IS TO LAUGH: When I wrote last issue's interlineation, "Joe Phann Predicts: 4,500 People At DisCon," some people laughed. Ridiculous, they said. Absurd, some stated. Impossible, a few uttered. But Lo! and it came to pass in the seventyfourth year of the 20th century that the worldcon reached Critical Mass. And I think it's going to get even larger.

Two days after I got back from DC I sent off a reservation to the Hotel Muehlebach in Kansas City. They're already talking about 6,000 people at MidAmericon...

SPEAKING OF JIANT CONVENTIONS: The Queen Elizabeth hotel in Montreal honestly can't absorb 6,000+ attendees -- none of the present worldcon hotels can, really (6,000 attendees spread out over session rooms, huckster, artshow and hotel corridors isn't bad, but when they all gather together for a Guest of Honor speech or a Banquet or Costume Ball, then you've got a very sticky, and crowded, situation). The Orlando bid has, at the moment, the best facilities -- except they haven't been built yet. The Statler-Hilton here in New York simply can't accomodate the expected crowd. You know it and I know it and, I hope, fandom knows it too.

What we're doing however is checking out the Place Bonaventure, a square block sized exhibition hall only a short block (like in midtown Manhattan) from the Queen Elizabeth, and accessible to the hotel through underground connections. Place Bonaventure has 200,000 sq. ft. of exhibition space and can host general sitdown-type sessions and banquets, too (5,000 people for dinner with no trouble). With hotels spread out like at DC (my room was a five minute walk from the main program areas, the equivalent of about three blocks in Manhattan) or paired with other hotels (the Shoreham/Sheraton at DC, similar arrangements for Kansas City and Orlando) I think we're going to start approaching situations where we take over the entire city for a convention, not just a single hotel.

The days when the best situation we could ask for was to have all fans "blocked" in one floor/wing have come and rather rapidly departed. We're coming into an era when we've got to try to get all attendees in one area of a city. It's not a thought I particularly look forward to, but it's the best approach to a rapidly deteriorating situation. If this goes on...

WANDERINGS WITH WESTON: After the party last Friday night Pete and I each got 10 hours of sorely needed sleep. Saturday at noon we ate brunch with Joyce & Arnie Katz, and then Pete and I did touristy things: rode the subway to Manhattan, took the Staten Island ferry, went to the top of the Empire State building. We both had fun, and I took a roll of slides for Pete to develop when he got back to the UK. Saturday night we went over to the Katz', where the power had been turned off due to a local blackout. By midnight the power had returned and I gave a fannish slide show for Joyce & Arnie. Sunday, after another 11 hours of sleep we walked around Brooklyn Hgts during the early afternoon and Pete read while I did ALCOL stuff. Finally I put Pete into a cab around 6:30, and he disappeared into the distance, on his way to JFK airport. And that ended the Discon for me.

WE GAVE OUR READERS  
THE CHANCE TO FALL HOPELESSLY  
IN LOVE WITH A HIPPO.