

# DILEMMA 12

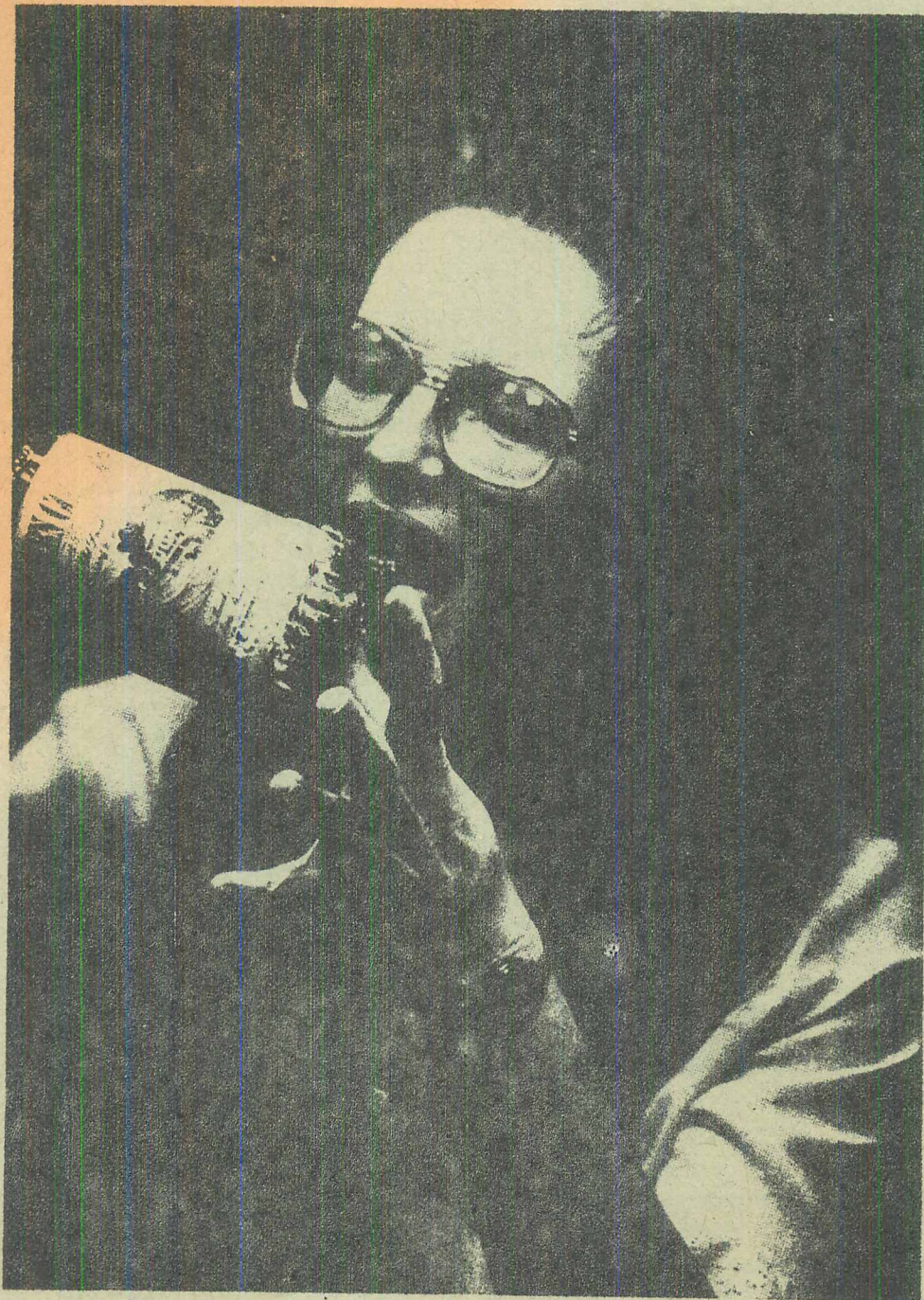


PHOTO BY JIM HANSEN



DILEMMA 12, published by Jackie Franke, Box 51-A RR 2, Beecher, IL 60401, USA. Available for contribution of material--writing or artwork--letters-of-comment, or editorial whim. (Reviewers please note: this zine is NOT available for stamps or cash!) While I smile warmly upon and bless the name of readers who send stamps, I prefer more concrete response. Not Generally Available for the asking, as of this issue, as I simply cannot expand the mailing list past this point.) 200 copies are being printed of this issue, which--luck be with me--will be out in time for MidWestCon; June 25th, 1976. Support DUFF and TAFF--and note that I endorse Terry Jeeve's candidacy for this year's TAFF race.

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Cover photo by Jim Hansen. Artwork: Page 5, Terry Jeeves (For TAFF!); Page 18, Jack Gaughan; Page 23, Ken Fletcher; Page 31, Tom Foster--all else by Yuz Truly.

These past couple of months have brought the most intense period of fanac that I've experienced to date. We drove up to Minneapolis for Minicon in mid-April, and except for a pause the following weekend, have had something fannish on the calendar every weekend since: three additional conventions (BYOBCon, Autoclave, and Kubla Quwandry), house parties, birthday parties, an SCA coronation (Congratulations, Penny and Al Tegen--oops!--I mean Selene and Albert Drekenvald!), and a reorganization meeting for a fan group. Needless to say, I won't be reporting on all these to any great detail--two-pound fanzines are frightfully expensive to mail!

I would like to express my best wishes and congratulations to the Autoclave Committee, for hosting what was one of the best conventions Wally and I have been to. From the first moment of our arrival until Wally practically literally dragged me out of the hotel, the feelings of friendship, fellowship, and sheer love made the air vibrate. It was, to my knowledge, the first convention dedicated to fanzine fen, and my only regret is that there were so many to meet that I didn't get to meet--or talk very long with--half the people I'd wanted to. The cover of this issue is a sort of memento of the weekend. My birthday fell the day before Autoclave, and Saturday night, as a surprise, Midge Reitan went out, bought a cake, cut out the center and fitted in a fifth of Southern Comfort, capped that with a candle, and--latching onto a group of fans--burst into the room where I was playing bridge and sang "Happy Birthday" to a very shocked, but happy me. In order to cut the cake, the bottle had to be removed, and since I like the frosting on the cake as much as any of my kids do, I did the natural thing. Jim Hansen caught me in the act. Can't trust photographers; even if they're friends of yours.

All sorts of ghod things occurred at that con. Bill Bowers and I put a "gotcha" on Mike Glicksohn, in honor of his 30th birthday, which happened the week before the con. We assembled a sort of "This Will Be Your Life" portfolio, with various pieces by his friends telling of all the wonderous things that will befall him after his 30th and before his 75th or 80th birthdays. Bill did a terrific job in assembling just the right people for the job, and tormented Mike unmercifully for weeks; hinting that something would be coming down at Autoclave, but not telling just what.

It was grand seeing Donn Brazier again, after a year and a half gap since the last too-brief encounter. He looked trim and fit as ever, and gave a nostalgic look backward at his spotty thirty-odd years as a convention attendee for his fan Guest of Honor speech. Six cons in 36 years--I suppose that should stand as a record of some sort!

Gene wolfe brought down the house with his pro GoH talk--a humorous mish-mash of puns, name-dropping and jokes; supposedly occurring because Rosemary, his wife, shuffled the two parts of his talk; one a speech delivered before a group of engineering publishers and the other a wrap-around specifically written for the con. It was all a spoof, of course, and has to rank as one of--if not THE--best GoH speeches ever given. The sides of everyone in the audience ached for hours afterward...



The other happenings weren't as set apart as the others, but still bring a smile to my face on thinking of them: the long, till-dawn conversation in the con suite with Lou Tabakow, Midge Reitan, Donn Brazier, and George Laskowski; the collating gathering in our room where we proved that five hardworking fen like Bowers, Glicksohn, Lynn Parks, Barb Nagey and myself were capable of assembling 25 copies of a 'zine' and only messing up 8 of them (Any idiot can collate!--Lynn Parks, 1976), the wild King Wah Con (aka as King Kon or Wah Con), a trek across the border to Windsor, Ontario, arranged by Ross Pav-lac who expected six or so fen and was faced with 23 of them for a 'small, fannish Chinese meal' (a round of applause was deserved by the crew at the small restaurant, who had no advance warning whatsoever of our coming); the surprisingly good--personal and funny, bitter and sweet--"Sex and SF" panel (with Glicksohn, Ro/<sup>Lutz</sup>Nagey, Jim Martin, Bill Fessel-meyer, and Carolyn Thompson) that almost made the lot of/late for the banquet; Wally's first 'skinny-dip' session--cajoled into by Lou Tabakow and Bill Cavin; Mark "Madman" Riley's 'skinny-walk' (so dubbed by Linda Bushyager) on the con floor--which shocked some of the tender sensibilities of the younger femme fan and made we ~~older~~ more jaded ones snicker in amusement; the Lin Lutz-Nagey, MD party; and last but not least, the warm-but-sad gathering on the mezzanine Monday afternoon as, alone or in small groups, the fans reluctantly left, calling an end to the con. Damn it, but we wanted it to last forever.

Since I had half of the Toastmaster duties at Minicon--along with Rusty Hevelin--I felt reluctant to report on that affair. I'm not an up-front person (and have decided to stay back in the audience where I'm better suited with my talents as an enthusiastic, attentive audience-person) and was so nervous that most of the con passed by as if blurred deliberately by some quirk of the mind. So I asked Lynn Parks, now that she's a weathered veteran of fanzine writing, with two (or is it three now, Lynn?) zines to her credit for MiniApa, to write up her impressions of the con instead. They now follow:

I'd been looking forward to Minicon for weeks, and finally I took off work a day early and flew in to Mpls. on Thursday night. I was picked up at the airport and immediately whizzed off to a pre-con party at Caryl Bucklin's, attended by most of Mpls. fandom and such notables from out of town as Lou Tabakow, Tucker, Joe Haldeman, and other good people.

Minicon had been built up to me as a really crazy fun con and in many ways it was, but it seemed that many people were aimlessly looking for things to do at night, which I'd never really noticed at other conventions. The hotel was satisfactory with the exception of the lack of ice machines (which was very inconvenient).

Friday night started slowly. I at last ran into Martha Beck and Jackie Franke and we went to hear speeches by Ed Hamilton, Jack Williamson, and Cliff Simak. (For music buffs, there was a kazoo rendition of "Thus Spake Zarathustra" before-hand.) Afterwards, Martha and I went to watch "Beauty and the Beast", leaving when the beast turned into a handsome prince because, in our opinion, he had lost all of his sex appeal. We went in search of a party.

We ended up in Martha's room, accompanied by Jon Stopa, Ben Solon, Cat Ocel, Margie Lessinger and her daughter, sitting on the beds and indulging in general silliness. Martha fell asleep and I excused myself and went down the hall to my room on the pretense of getting my cancer sticks. Fake fan that I am, I passed out. No stamina anymore...

As usual, I attended only the programming that I could relate to; which is why, on Saturday, I found myself listening to a panel entitled "The Effect of Alcohol on Science Fiction". The panel comprised of those who should know.

Saturday evening we went to the banquet; Martha, Midge Reitan, and I sat near the head table with Jack Williamson, JoAnn Wood, and Vale Edeiken so we could give encouraging looks to Jackie, who was toastmastering along with Rusty Hevelin. Later on we found that our good intentions to keep Jackie from being nervous were all in vain, as she wouldn't even glance at us for fear of breaking up. Sigh...

The last program item that I went to was "Mimeo Man". The highpoint of the musical was when Marion Paroo (Sue Ryan) flubbed her line to A.B. Dick (David Emerson)



and it came out as: "Silly fan, they're coming to lynch you!"

Off to party again! We started off in Tucker's room; Jackie was netted and dragged off by some aspiring fanzine editors, Martha disappeared, and I was left to my own devices. I ended up in the con-suite where I ran into those n'er-do-wells, Ro Lutz-Nagey and Larry Ward. They initiated me into Big Fandom (what chauvinists!) in a bloody ritual too gruesome to describe here. They also had the nerve to do this in front of a notable fan from Toronto. In order to join Big Fandom, you have to be six feet tall (I was wearing shoes at the time) or weigh two hundred pounds. Fortunately, I don't fit the second category. We were then joined by Lin Lutz-Nagey, and moved into the hallway to sit and wait for something to happen. We were unprepared for the blown up surgical gloves and ray guns that abounded in the area, and went to Ro and Lin's room to party. Eventually, I visited the Couch's suite and alternated between the gathering there and the group in the con suite who were listening to Reed Waller and Fred Haskell folk sing. There didn't seem to be too much more going on, so, exhausted, I turned in around seven. I got up in time to say goodbye to many nice people and visit with some more during a 5-day "vacation" in the Bozo Bus Building. Yep, those Minneapolis fans sure are crazy!

BYOBcon was notable for the presence of C.L. Moore as pro GoH. The widow of Henry Kuttner, with whom she collaborated on so many delightful stories, she has been in retirement since her marriage some years ago. She'd written almost no SF (perhaps none at all) since Kuttner's death, but had gone on to, some would say, bigger and better things by writing TV and movie scripts. MAVERICK, 77 SUNSET STRIP, and several other oldies-but-goodies are among her credits, but she is possibly better known in our circle for her character, Northwest Smith. She proved to be a most delightful guest, enchanting the entire con with her modesty, wit and enthusiasm--she seemed genuinely surprised that we even remembered her tales, and continually looked up with amazed glances as we would applaud mention of a particular favorite story or character. I do hope that she continues involving herself in fandom and begins again to write: we'd all benefit.

Kubla Kwandry was in some ways a disappointment. Many Midwest fen simply were unable to afford the trip to Nashville, and attendance suffered a sharp drop. Petty vandalism plagued the con and left a sour taste in many people's mouths. The people themselves were, as always, warm and friendly, but overall, the convention hit a low mark. GoH Don Wollheim gave a polished presentation of his publishing adventures, and Andy Offutt tickled a few funnybones--after chastizing the trouble-makers at the con. The masquerade which followed was well-received (though there were some almost violent disagreements with the judging results) and gathered a creditable number of entries--even Wally who shocked everyone who knows him by donning swim trunks and mammoth sword-sized-knife to trot onstage as "Tarzan of Too Many Fights". The con suite was relatively calm and subdued, but there were plenty of opportunities for conversation there and in JoeD Siclari and Karina Girsdansky's room. A group of us tried to liven things up in the wee hours Saturday night by installing a fannish gauntlet down which people passing into the con suite had to pass, but that was it as far as hi-jinks went. The Nashville group worked hard, but things just didn't jell properly. I suppose it can happen to any convention, but when it's a particular favorite, it's sadder than normal.

Two "news" items were quite heartening to this devotee of the small, fannish con. SF EXPO was cancelled (one rumor says it was merely postponed until Aug. 26th--don't they ever learn?) and a STrek con in Chicago went down the tubes a day early after pulling only 2000 of an expected attendance of 30,000. I find this heartening in that the failures are apt to discourage the new trend for outside commercial interests to enter the field of convention organization, though there are dangers to "our" cons as well. It may be that hotels will require stiffer deposits or other guarantees before renting their facilities. Our financial affairs may be under closer scrutiny by the various taxing bodies. But on the whole, the "outsiders" have found that we are not a viable arena for them to operate in. The Trendos--those who follow any fad that crops up--lost interest, and heaven knows, there aren't enough fans to maintain attendance rates at the level those groups were used to getting--15,000 and up. The State Attorney General's offices of both New York and Illinois are looking into the operations of two



STrek cons and Harlan Ellison, in any interview on a Chicago TV station, said words to the effect that the Trekcon phenomena was bound to peak, and had. "There was no way 20 conventions a year could be based on a defunct TV show." Amen, amen.

So what does this bode for fandom's conventions? Does that mean that the terrible influx of fans to the major cons might lessen? I can but hope so. Though Balticon and Lunacon neared the 1000 mark in attendance, most other cons showed a drop from last year--some from even previous years. 1976 may be the year of the 200 member con.

To be frank, even a con freak like myself has to admit that there simply are too many conventions cluttering up the calendar. If they are geared as a sort of super-Party for the weekend, fandom could tolerate them. But once you attempt to fit in structured panels, art shows, auctions, seminars, masquerades, etc., etc., etc., the dam has to give at one point or another. There's only so much to discuss, only so many SF films to see, only so many people interested in donning costumes, only so many authors with something to say and willing to appear for a pit tance. Even more important, there is a limit to the fannish pocketbook; with today's high hotel rates, gas prices and food bills, fans just can't afford so many conventions. The first symptoms show in the Huckster Room and Art Show, the next at the registration table. A crest was bound to hit sooner or later, and it could be that we've passed our peak too. Things like that can't be established with any certainty for awhile yet; we'll have to wait until next year to be sure if a trend is developing, but I'm willing to guess that the day of the Mammoth Convention is over, and we're returning to the smaller, more relaxed cons of a few years ago. I think I'd like it better that way..crowds always did make me nervous.

It looks like another period of frantic activity--I can only hope less than the past three months--is coming up. Midwestcon, Wilcon, a couple of fan-parties, SYMPOSIUM II (possibly), RiverCon...all are on the calendar before the big bash, MidAmeriCon. So if I seem neglectful of my correspondence, or fail to LoC your zine--even late--please think kind thoughts. Maybe fall will bring a respite--September looks good, though I can only shudder when I look at October--a con each weekend!?! I do hope that Wally's annual raise in a good'un (Copyright; Rusty Hevelin). I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Con Committees of America for showing their restraint in leaving the months before and after the Worldcon relatively con-free. My budget appreciates the rest, not to mention my brain and body. It seems I owe everyone either artwork, articles or LoCs, and I still have some pet projects of my own I'd like to work on, so for a change, I'm looking forward to the longer stretches between cons instead of the times when they come practically back-to-back. It only goes to prove that there's no pleasing everyone all the time; when I'm not griping that there's not a con coming up immediately, I'm complaining that there is...





# SUNCON FORUM

*The response to my comments on the SunCon situation last issue far outweighed that on any other single topic I've brought up in this zine. Enough wordage was expended that I felt it appropriate to segregate SunCon commentary from the rest of the lettercol, and I'm now presenting it as a sort of forum of opinion. Two matters of interest to this topic have come up since last issue: SunCon's first Progress Report (CONVENTION JOURNAL) was released, which contained a lengthy explanation of reasons behind the move to Miami Beach; and newspapers carried the reports of the impending sale for back taxes of the Fontainebleu. (\*sigh\* What else can go wrong?) Nothing definite has been heard concerning the committee's reaction to the latter bit of news...*

*The order in which to present these comments occupied my thoughts for some time. More letters were received approving of my attitude than disapproving, and five were neutral. I suppose it would be best to present an opposing view first, balanced with an approving one, and so forth, but that would leave me with a number of approving arguments/comments to lump together. Therefore, I'm going to run them in order of length, beginning with Grace Lundry's letter.*

GRACE LUNDY 18 Karen Hill Drive Cherry Hills, NJ 08003

*I have just read your write-up on Suncon and am very sorry to see how upset you are. I have talked to a number of fans just before and since we came back from Florida and have found only one couple to have been really upset by our moving the con to Miami Beach and their reason was strictly personal. Other fans were upset only by the attitude of the Orlando Hotel. Mostly the attitude has been "The Fountainbleau--WOW!" Since both Don and I had thought that many people would be upset about the move, we have been both amazed and amused by this attitude. ((One effect of the "Poll-Takers" of the fans I've consulted, only one was impressed by the hotel, the others responded in a why-on-earth-there manner.))*

*Hopefully the following information will help you feel better about the situation. First Don had a letter of agreement regarding the convention dates from the Orlando hotel prior to the vote in Australia. ((A letter of agreement--which spells things out in a more detailed fashion--or an acknowledgement of reservation? This might be where part of the Did He Or Didn't He confusion lies.)) Such a letter of agreement is as legally binding as a contract. ((Then why didn't the Information Releases say so, instead of referring to a "contract"??)) In other words, we could have gone to court to force the Orlando hotel to honor the letter of agreement as to the dates of the convention. (The letter of agreement also included room rates but the court probably would have been reluctant to enforce them in view of the bankruptcy). But, as many members of any size convention committee can tell you, there are more ways that a hotel can get at you than you can get at them. In other words, whenever you hold a hotel to an agreement they do not want to keep, they can make life very unpleasant. Remember the part of the agreement that the committee in St. Louis had with the Chase-Park Plaza, saying that there would be a lifeguard on duty until late at night? The hotel had the guard on duty, but the instructions from the hotel were to keep people out of the pool. The Orlando hotel could have made life just as unpleasant for Suncon if we tried to enforce through the courts the agreement that had been signed. We had the strong impression that the Orlando hotel felt that since our convention is a "special interest group" instead of a business group that it didn't matter when our convention was held. Therefore, if they could get us to move our convention forward two or three days, then they could fit in the other "business" convention after us with no difficulty. ((The job of the hotel liason--it would seem to me--is to clear up little misconceptions like that.))*



Second, Don had sent a copy of the contract to the hotel long before we left for Australia. Don made numerous phone calls to the hotel trying to get a signed contract from them. All he could get out of them was that some parts of the contract were unacceptable. He suggested that they change the parts that were unacceptable to them and return it to him. Since there was a signed letter of agreement, there did not seem to be any reason to be concerned about the contract until after we won the bid, if we did.

Third, it is my understanding that at least one other Worldcon Committee has had to move from the hotel for which it bid. However the convention was small enough at the time that it was possible to move to another hotel in the same city. Suncon would have been moved to another hotel in Orlando if there was another hotel with large enough facilities. Unfortunately, there isn't such a hotel in Orlando. *((To restate my objections seems redundant, but apparently I have to: I do not quarrel with the fact that you had to move, but with the fact that you moved without consulting the con-site voters, the only ones empowered to select the site--the members of SunCon. I've yet to see one word addressed to that very point!))*

Fourth, Don has kept Ken Keller appraised as much as possible on all the Suncon problems. In addition he has also been in contact with some of the past worldcon chairmen.

Fifth, Rusty Hevelin and JoAnn were not taken to task in public for soliciting ideas and suggestions. The problem was that they sent out a letter over Don's signature without ever consulting with Don about it. *((But that was the topic of the letter--and Don had asked Rusty and JoAnn not to bother him with "petty details" during that period as he was experiencing problems in his personal life. That letter could hardly be called a Major Move by any criteria.))* But Don became upset when fans began approaching him about a letter which went out over his name when he knew nothing about it. He finally found out the contents of the letter when one fan read it to him over the phone. Later Don received a copy from Rusty and JoAnn.

I am sorry you feel so disenfranchised. When Ford became President, I did not feel disenfranchised. Personally I was very, very grateful that we had a system that worked --one in which tanks and guns in the streets were not the least bit necessary. *((A Monarchy is a workable system too--but that's besides the point. Even if I, nor any other American, elected Ford or Rockefeller to the offices which they now hold, at least we did elect the representatives who approved their nominations. In the case of Miami B Beach, we weren't even tossed that little bone. We had no voice at all.))*

I am also sorry that you chose to continually use Don's name when talking about decisions that were made by all five members of SunCon's Executive Committee. While there was much discussion and some disagreement among us, there was no disagreement when it came to the decision to move SunCon to Miami Beach. THE DECISION TO MOVE SUNCON TO MIAMI BEACH WAS A DECISION MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF SUNCON. IT WAS NOT A DECISION MADE BY DON LUNDY ONLY. *((Ah, but the committee's make-up changed so often, and without notice to we peons in the wilderness, that we had no idea which fen were on it at any one time. The only bit of stability I knew of was Don Lundy. He was chairman at the time, wasn't he?))*

Jackie, during all the problems that Suncon has had, I have seen the frustration, anger, agonizing, etc. that Don has gone through. It has been a very rough time with tremendous ups and downs as he tried to find solutions to these problems. I have seen him lose sleep, become angry, become encouraged and discouraged. But at all times his main concern has been doing what was best for the fans while causing the least amount of upset to them. *((A commendable, if paternalistic, viewpoint. I would imagine that all our Worldcon Chairmen have that attitude, and that the job, indeed, is a difficult and nerve-wracking one. However, no one is appointed to the position; Don sought it.))*

Now that the hotel problem has been solved *((at least at the time this letter was written--April 17))*, Don and the rest of us on the committee are really working to put on an enjoyable con. I hope that all the fans can calm down and have faith in what the SUNCON committee is doing. I am impressed so far with some of the things I have seen. *((Unfortunately, we have not been so blessed. A serious breach of faith has taken place, and I, for one, need more than statements of "Trust us" to have that faith restored.))* In addition the Fountainebleau is certainly conducive to a very, very enjoyable con. And that is what cons, including MidAmeriCon and SunCon are for--to be enjoyed. *((Agreed. But it would be nice to know that we will have a con to enjoy--and the way things are going, it's looking gloomier and gloomier all the time. You have some very enthusiastic*

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young fen on the most recent edition of the committee, and they say that one of the biggest obstacles mentioned by previous members of the committee--the lack of communication from ~~Don Lundry~~ their chairman--has been improved. Phone calls are returned, mail is answered, and meetings are being held. I applaud these forward-looking steps, and hope that this situation can continue, to the benefit of everyone, committee and membership alike. I appreciate hearing from you--though I still wonder why Don has refused to reply to the letter I originally sent him--and you put forth your position quite well as regards relations with the Orlando hotel. You still haven't explained why it was deemed proper for Don--alone or with part of his committee-at-the-moment--to select the site without approval or authority from the only ones given the right to set the site. I could perhaps have understood it better were it only a year or less to go till the convention, but we're speaking of events which happened in November, December and January. With over 20 months to go till the Worldcon weekend! In December the "word" was out that SunCon would have to move--it wasn't until April that it was announced. There was sufficient time to send out a mailing--yet no attempt was even suggested. I still feel that things were bungled--and that further mistakes were made in order to prevent the admission of these earlier ones, all capped by a thoroughly illegal and unauthorized shifting of the con to another city. Those are my objections, those are my complaints, and that's what I'm yelling about. I hope steps can be taken later this year to set up a procedure to follow in case these circumstances occur again, and, even more hopefully, to possibly make it more difficult for them to occur in the first place.))

LAWRENCE W. PROPP 3127 North Sheridan Road Peoria, IL 61604 -----

First of all, it sounds to me that you have drawn the right conclusion; Don never had a signed memorandum of any kind with the hotel. This has been indirectly confirmed by a former member of that committee, who never saw or had knowledge of such a contract until the date of resignation. (I stand ready to publicly retract that if Don will produce a signed memorandum between himself and the hotel.) ((Grace says that there was a letter of agreement, and past committee members have said that they knew of no such instrument. This means that either Lundry is not telling the truth, or that he was being totally uncommunicative with his own people. I, too, would be curious to see this piece of paper.))

Secondly, if he had such a contract, it is doubtful that the hotel could have renegotiated the contract to the extent claimed. While it is true that certain contracts can be renegotiated under the provisions of the bankruptcy court, this is a limited power as the purpose of corporate reorganization is to keep the corporation in business, which means that the contracts get honored. Certainly, has there been a signed contract, the hotel would not have told the Worldcon unilaterally to vacate contracted-for exhibition space a full day and a half prior to the date set forth in the contract.

It strikes me that this convention has been a major boondoggle from the very beginning. Granted that many voters selected "Orlando" as a convention site because they wanted a Florida convention, most of the people I've talked to voted for the bid either because of its proximity to Disney World or they voted not for the site but for the committee--the whole committee, not just Don Lundry. Those who voted for Disney World are now better than two hundred miles from it, and the other group is left with 1/7th of the committee it started with. ((I believe Elliot Shorter has been on it all along--make that 2/7ths; still a poor showing.))

I, too, would like to know just who this group of "(v)arious well-known fans as well as many lesser known" were. I ran a sort of informal survey at Minicon. Bob Tucker wasn't asked. You weren't asked. Joni Stopa wasn't asked. But then you aren't East Coast. Andy Porter wasn't asked, which means that it never came up at a Lunarians meeting. To the best of my knowledge, no one at WSFA was asked; I just talked to several of them. It would be interesting to see the list of fans who selected the site for the '77 Worldcon.

I'll give Lundry this much. With the price of postage these days, and the fact that to date he can't have much money to have a mailing printed up, I'm not convinced that a mailing was the right answer. ((Even with 600 members--which I doubt they had at the time--a mailing could have been sent for under \$100--about .05% of the con's assets, at the minimum.)) In fact, if Lundry hadn't acted, and acted quickly, there probably



wouldn't have been a hotel at which to hold the convention. I don't really object, therefore, to the fact he acted the way he did. I object to the fact that he put himself in the position he did, and I object to the evasions and half-truths we are being told about the whole situation.

I like your first proposed amendment. In fact, I'd go so far as to require that some sort of memorandum of the agreement be signed far enough in advance to be printed in the last progress report of the then-current Worldcon--the one the site ballots go out with. That would be some sort of proof to those of us who vote that the site exists when we vote for it. It doesn't really have to be sealed (the law of Seals has been abolished in most states anyway) or notarized (all that does is affirm the genuineness of the signatures), as long as it is there. *((I think that progress reports already have to print enough dry wordage; a statement that the various bidding groups have given the then-current Worldcon officers a copy of a binding agreement with their respective hotels should be sufficient. No bid without such evidence should be allowed on the ballot.))*

As for the second amendment, I agree that some procedure should be set up, but I'll be damned if I know what. The old system looked good on paper, but it was never really put to the test. For instance, in the early part of your article, you objected to Lundry consulting a small group of unnamed fans to aid him in selecting another site, would you then be happier with a group of the five previous Worldcon chairmen? *((Yes, at least they would be known.))* It seems to me that the old provision was more designed to cover the situation where there was a site, but no one to put it on there. Would it really help here? (Although you could make the argument that the 77 Worldcon's committee has been so decimated that it should apply here too.) *((Though it's now a moot point, as the "Discon" Constitution hasn't the same set-up in its paragraphs, the "old" constitution said if the site was lost because of resignation of the committee or other cause; which would seem to indicate that, while loss of committee was the foremost thought, the possibility of something else happening was also considered.))*

I, in fact, have a violent objection to Miami as a site. I have not been there for more than ten years, but the last time I was it was one of the most expensive cities in the country, and I was there during the same off-season as the Worldcon. The fact that the hotel rates are not much more than the renegotiated Orlando rates does not fully cover the costs. What are the prices in the restaurants? What are the prices of the other restaurants in the area? How far is the hotel from cheap food? Is it available in Miami Beach, or do you have to go all the way into Miami for it? Then there's the matter of transportation costs. The whole idea of a Florida Worldcon didn't appeal to me because there are few, if any, other parts of the country further away for most fans, without an indigenous fan population.

Then there's the fact that I find Miami Beach to be a glitch city. It appeals to my prurient interests and I find it to be utterly without redeeming social importance judged by contemporary community standards.

There is little about this entire episode that I like. I don't like the way it happened, and what it implies about Lundry's ability to manage a Worldcon. I don't like the procedure used. And I don't like the site. Not a hell of a lot left to like from where I sit.

---

YALE F. EDEIKEN 6336 North Oakley Chicago, IL 60659

Frankly the whole idea of the Orlando bid, a departure from traditional practices where a local fan group bids for the Worldcon, was based on what I consider a good idea: that there is no reason that it must be a local group bidding for the con. This strengthened the Worldcon in two ways. First it allowed the formation of committees exclusively from people who were experienced in con-running even though they lived in diverse locations. Second, it opened the possibility of active participation in worldcon committees by fans living either in places without a strong enough local group to host a worldcon or with facilities too small to house one.

The Orlando bid had two major selling points with the fans that I know. First it was the competence of the committee. I doubt that there was anyone who could look at that list of seven and deny that these were a group of people who could put on a worldcon: their past record was too strong. Second there was the lure of Disney World; it



presented an almost irresistible side trip for many. In the short time since Orlando has won its bid, we have now been informed that neither of the two reasons for voting for the bid now obtain; and the information comes not from announcements by the committee but by rumor and word of mouth. And when a member of the committee does make a statement of conditions, to you, that statement raises as many questions as it answers.

As I understand Chapter XI bankruptcies, technically "reorganizations", all outstanding contracts with the subject business are automatically cancelled and the entire business put in the hands of a receiver. Contracts are not "renegotiated" but, very often, the receiver will use existing contracts as a basis for a new contract. The important point though is that the operators of the bankrupt business are no longer the ones in control of the contract-making process. Siclari's letter discussed such negotiations with the hotel which was legally unable to enter into such a contract. The first question is then: what steps did the Suncon committee actually take to secure a contract with the Orlando hotel with the proper parties?

The second question grows out of the first. I have noticed in my experience with cons that the hotel is not the only interested party in securing a con, especially a worldcon, for a city; usually the local chamber of commerce or convention bureau wants to know about the con and are very anxious to help the concom. Did the Sunconcom contact these people after it became apparent that they might lose the con if no suitable agreement could be worked out?

A little later in the letter, Siclari tells of some of the problems with Orlando and the switch to Miami Beach. One of the things he talks about is the heavy weekend Labor Day in Orlando. This prompts another question. If this is a tourist weekend for Orlando wouldn't that mean that rooms would be at a premium and prices higher? What arrangements have been made for overflow hotels (which would presumably have business of their own) for people who could not get into the con hotel? If better facilities were available at about the same price elsewhere and the concept of the bid was that the winner would not be tied to a geographic area and could seek the best site for the con, why was Orlando chosen in the first place? *((I would assume Lundry and Committee are asking that very question themselves. I also fail to see how the Labor Day weekend would effect Orlando and not Miami Beach. They are both tourist-towns, aren't they?))*

The next matter is the composition of the committee. When it started there were seven people, and of them, two are left. Siclari tells why two left the committee, but we are left to wonder what happened to three other worthies. What became of them?

And why was fandom assured that geographic separation would not hinder the work of the concom? (I find this an especially interesting point as I have worked with other fans on projects when there was an even greater separation than here and found the arrangement workable, sometimes even beneficial.) At the time we are told these problems occurred, Suncon, while an operating proposition, was hardly out of the bidding stage and, we are now told, had not even nailed down a site. What matters of concom business were there that required close and constant contact?

Next seems to come the selection of Miami Beach as the site. Traditionally this is an expensive resort and the hotel chosen one of the most expensive. Siclari's letter tells of a quick trip to Miami. What other cities were considered and why were they rejected? And who were the fans who supposedly were consulted about the move? I note here that Siclari states only that fans were consulted about the advisability of moving, which if the site is unavailable, is an absolute necessity. What I want to know is: who was consulted about where the site was moved to? I know of no one in the midwest, including those on the MAC concom, who were asked anything at all.

Now we have a new site. Since the hotel book I consulted shows that the facilities at the fountainbleau are smaller than those at the DC Sheraton, where are the facilities that Siclari boasts about? Is there a contract with the hotel? What are the provisions for overflow and what are they? What are the sidecosts to an attending fan going to be and what non-fannish attractions are going to make Miami Beach worth visiting in the middle of the summer?

Probably one of the worst ways a concom can do work is by rumor. That is what was done here. Since the bid was presented to fandom there has been almost a complete change of personell and the site is different. Not only were the voters and members of the convention not consulted, they were not even notified what was happening. Part of this



might be deliberate; I note that Siclari mentions no dates or even general time periods in his letter. If the Suncon committee was finally changed at Philcon (beginning of December) there has been over four months since that happened without a statement released to fandom. (*About the reorganization? Yes, there was. Don sent out Press releases informing fan editors of both the bankruptcy and the reshuffling in the early part of December. It was the last word sent out until just prior to the mailing of the progress reports.*) If the problems with the hotel started after Aussiecon and were resolved after Philcon there was a stretch of over five months in which fandom could have been contacted and over nine months in which to try to explain what was happening. There was ample opportunity to tell at least the voters the news. No fancy progress reports were required and some advice could have been solicited from more than some unnamed fans of uncertain qualifications. I note that in the same span of time I received a request from the concom that required an active response on my part: they asked for more money.

There is a final unanswered question: and it is a big one. According to their own statements the Suncon has been run as a sloppy and haphazard operation. Right now I feel had. The question is this: at what time will the Suncon committee begin operating in such a manner that it can regain the trust it has forfeited? I see no answer in the letter from Siclari.

MIKE GLICKSOHN 141 High Park Ave. Toronto, Ontario M6P 2S3 CANADA

I'm not quite as upset about the Suncon situation as you are, but I can understand your feelings and sympathize with them. Don told me about what had happened and what they were planning on doing, and he left me with the impression that it was an honest set of unfortunate circumstances that they were trying to resolve the best they could. Now undoubtedly he put himself into the best possible light, but such is my basic feeling about fans and fandom that I'd like to believe he wasn't up to anything funny or underhanded.

Having worked on Torcon, which never had a contract with the Royal York, I can perhaps understand that Don didn't get a formal agreement drawn up in time. One simply doesn't expect a major hotel, especially one that's part of a chain, to suddenly declare bankruptcy. (*But the bankruptcy didn't cause the hassle. It's only something that's muddling the issue. Suncon moved because part of our facilities were given to another group for the times when we were supposed to have them.*) Okay, maybe Don should have been more on the ball, but faced with this new situation, what other choice does he have? (*Certainly not to make unauthorized moves. He should have laid his cards on the table and done what he now expects us to do for him: trust fans to understand and approve of a move. He could have consulted and communicated--he did neither.*)

While I agree with you in theory that a poll of all the voters who were involved in choosing the 77 site would have been the best way of testing fannish feeling, I'm inclined to think that obtaining a representative sample was just as good. (Just like the Nielsen ratings, Gallup Polls, etc. which are famous for the consistent accuracy of their testing...coff...) (*But even that wasn't done! Asking around at room parties is hardly 'scientific', and we all know how 'accurate' fans are during parties. A voting body existed--the pre-registered members of Suncon--and only it had the right to choose.*) I'd personally expect that the majority of fans would have gone along with the suggested plan once they were faced with the fact that a solution of some sort had to be found. (*I know I would have, but I wasn't asked...*) But your proposals to insure that a real abuse of this sort (which I don't think the Suncon situation is; just an unfortunate foul-up caused by poor planning and oversight) won't take place are worth consideration. I'm not sure that all hotels would be willing to grant contracts to conventions that might come there, possibly losing other definite business by doing so, but again I approve of such a plan in theory. (*Businesses do it all the time; they use conditional contracts, contingency contracts, all sorts of contracts with escape clauses to be used in case some predetermined event does not take place--such as the winning of a bid.*) I'd like to hear from some other conchairman on this before deciding how I'd vote. I heartily agree that a definite procedure for carrying on if the original site is lost should be erected. I guess it's another of those things that there's no real provision for because it's never happened and few people could imagine it ever would. Now that



it has, we'd better prepare for it possibly happening again.

When you get right down to it, my interest in convention politics is minimal; as long as I feel the committee isn't a bunch of crooks, I'm not interested in how they get things done as long as they get them done. I voted for Orlando not because it was Orlando, but because the committee they had then was clearly the one I had the most confidence in. Admittedly, it's changed considerably since then, but I haven't developed any feeling that I'm about to get ripped off, so I'm not getting all that worked up about it. Miami Beach on Labour Day may not be ideal, but I doubt if Orlando would have been all that much less crowded. *((I certainly don't expect the Suncon committee would rip-off anyone; there are wrongs that can be done that don't involve the taking of anything but one's trust.))*

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BUCK COULSON Route 3 Hartford City, IN 47348

Frankly, I can't see why all the fuss. So they moved the con from Orlando to Miami Beach. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? *((The concom didn't have the right to select the site for us, that's the difference!))* Did you have an urge to see beautiful downtown Orlando? *((No, but I did want to take that tour of the Space Cetner...))* Maybe you're one of those who make tours of the countryside while attending a con, but I'm not one. (How much of Washington did you see at Discon II?) *((Just what we hadn't time for on our last visit there--the Smithsonian, mainly, and the kids took in the zoo.))* Do you feel that the huge Orlando club should have kept the con in its own city? *((Specious comment there, Buck. I thought better of you.))* You voted for a particular city, you say. *((No, I said I cast my ballot for a particular site--that's the only choice we were given.))* Why? Do you have any inside information to the effect that Orlando is a better community group? (You see one Florida town, you seen 'em all). What is so darned important to you about the specific city? *((Very little. However, I do dislike my vote being taken away from me and others. The city itself did matter to some people, though. I voted for Columbus in last place a few years ago, for instance, because I thought its city inadequate for the con. As I said in the article--which I have doubts that you even read--I have no quarrel with Miami as a site; I do quarrel with how it was selected.))* They can move the whole thing to Atlanta, as far as I'm concerned *((at least that city would be closer...))* as long as the convention is run the way I like it.

As for not having a firm commitment; okay, it wasn't too bright. But so what, as long as the committee comes up with some hotel capable of handling the con? The bidding was moved two years because it took that much of an advance for the committee to be able to sign a hotel--what sort of a hotel do you think you'd get if the con membership was polled by mail a year and a half before the con? *((It was a year and three-quarters, and we'd get at least as good as we got, because any "candidate hotels would have been reserved until the balloting was in.))* That would give them maybe a year to make arrangements *((nonsense))*, or half the time necessary. (What makes you think the worldcon membership can select hotels better than the hotel committee?) *((The same things that make me feel they can choose between conflicting sites to begin with--it's their right.))* The whole thing is one of those temptests in a teapot that strikes fandom now and then when nothing of any importance is going on and some sort of argument is felt necessary anyway. *((Someone has usurped authority for an action which was specifically reserved to another group, yet you say this is not 'important'. By your lights, perhaps, but by mine, it is.))*

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DAVE WIXON 343 E. 19th St. Apt 5B Minneapolis, MN 55404

Would not some of the Suncon problems you refer to be solvable if there were some sort of super-legislative administrative body to handle them? Perhaps this could be set up as an adjunct to the WSFS Constitution: a group of people with the authority to act when events such as those you chronicled occur. I suspect we would not be interested in any real congress or anything, but merely a group who have to be consulted, who have to approve, such changes as Lundry made--and perhaps with the power to determine when a con committee is defunct, etc. This would give fandom something to fall back on when an emergency occurs.

Make-up? Perhaps a small group, with three-to-five year terms (a portion of the group changing every Worldcon, much as the US Senate does: never a complete turnover.) Past Worldcon chairmen, say within the past three or five years, might be automatic members.



This may be in the end another silly idea, and I have to admit I am myself against increased bureaucratization of any sort. But with no duties except to act in case of emergency, and with properly circumscribed powers even then--it may be workable.

I'd be very happy if someone came up with better ways to handle such prospective problems, I have to admit; but at least I'm contributing to the discussion--and maybe we can get a good dialogue going... *((You seem to be suggesting a more formal version of the system the old Constitution had wherein the five previous Worldcon Chairmen were the ones empowered to step in when/if a committee folded. I see no reason why such a system couldn't be reinstated. As you said; they'd have nothing to do except in the eventuality of an extreme emergency--but then, at least, we'd have something to fall back on. As it now stands, in the Discon Constitution, the burden all falls on the committee still extant, and since they are already working on their own con, it's simply asking too much. Previous Worldcon chairmen, however, have no current duties, and a wealth of experience.))*

MIKE HARPER PO BOX 105 Bond Head, Ontario L0G 1B0 CANADA

Your "Suncon...or Glcomcon" article came as quite a surprise. The last I had heard about was the bankruptcy of the hotel, but that it would still be able to operate--now this! MIAMI?? I suppose Don Lundry et al. have done the best to their knowledge, but I would like to bring up what I think are some interesting observations.

If the concon moves to Miami without the permission of the WSF Society, they will be contravening the dictates of the WSF Constitution and thereby opening themselves up to a suit for the removal of the Worldcon franchise from (\*ahem\*) Orlando. Let me explain. Article 3.01 of the Constitution (as printed in the KC Progress Book) states that the Worldcon site is the reserved prerogative of the Society. Ergo, if they move to Miami without the authorization of the Society, they will not be performing their duties as voted by the aforementioned group at Aussiecon. Article 3.05 now comes into effect, which states: "...if one (Convention Committee) should become unable to perform its duties, the surviving Convention Committee shall determine what to do, by mail poll if there is time for one, or by decision of the Committee if there is not." The surviving committee [should Orlando fold] is KC.

An added note. Article 1.02 states: "The membership of the World Science Fiction Society consists of all people who have paid membership dues to the Convention Committee of the current convention." Thus, the Society no longer consists of those people who were members of Aussiecon: it has now been transferred to the members of the KC Worldcon since this is now the current convention. Some may disagree but then current is not clearly defined and I have interpreted it in my own way since I think that Aussiecon has, for all intent and purposes, closed its books and transferred all monies, etc.

In re your amendments: I basically agree with you, certainly in the area of signed, sealed, and notarized contracts, but I wouldn't like to see the restrictions on Conchair-people become too inhibiting else they might prevent the Committee from working at their top potential. *((According to Article 3.01, selection of a site is "limited to Society members who have also paid at least two dollars toward membership in the Convention whose site is being selected." All 3000-plus members of MidAmeriCon, therefore, do not have a voice in this--only members of SunCon. Your reasoning is quite correct as to the illegality of Suncon's relocation, but there's a large hurdle in the way--there is no legal hold upon the Worldcon Committee. Each Committee acts in its own name, and the WSFS is not incorporated. About all that can be done is removal of the right to present the Hugoes from any "illegal" committee. I am by no means suggesting that such an action be taken against SunCon--I feel that Lundry acted illegally because of haste and lack of forethought, not malice, but I also feel that with the burgeoning numbers of people coming into fandom, unknown to us and unfamiliar with our ways, less reputable people could gain control of the Worldcon and seriously damage the Society and fandom as a whole unless measures are taken to make such moves extremely difficult, if not impossible. All it takes to win a site selection bid is the votes of a few hundred people. It is not beyond the realm of possibility that someone could snow under enough neos with promises of bread and circuses and cop the Worldcon, and there isn't a thing we could do about it. What if, instead of Lundry, Suncon was headed by some of those SF EXPO people, or any who headed a host of defunct STrek cons? I shudder...))*



STEVE BEATTY 1662 College Terrace Dr. Murray, KY 42071

I can't see why your "shocked and baffled" at the idea of a con committee "asking fandom to choose them to head up a Worldcon without a signed contract with the proposed site in their pocket"? This is exactly what the Suncon committee did when they began bidding (*But that wasn't the case when we voted them in--they had settled on a specific site by then.*) It wasn't called "Orlando in '77" from the beginning, it was "7 for 77" with the proposed site to be named later. (*Precisely. And it was announced, and it was voted on. We did not select a 'floating site', Steve; we selected Orlando. As far as the "7 for 77" committee is concerned: where are those seven? Those were the people I voted for...*)

I know the change in con site isn't going to make people happy, but without further information on the dealings with the hotel, I'm not going to accuse Lundry of negligence or lying. (*I didn't accuse Lundry of lying either--except by omission. He implied from the very first announcement that he had obtained a contract with the Sheraton Towers instead of admitting that we had no legal recourse in relations with the hotel. By the very fact that he had no contract, his negligence was proved. He says he had a letter of agreement--now that a fuss has been raised--though he never informed his committee of that, even when they expressed worries about not having a contract with the hotel. At this point, I'll believe in that letter-of-agreement when and if I see it...*)

Miami Beach is about 200 miles from Orlando: there would not be all that much difference in travel costs. (*One-half to one full day's hotel room rate--it depends on what you consider as "much"*) This change in location is better than remaining at the same site but changing dates; the latter would cause more inconvenience to more convention members. (*How do you know that? The matter should have been decided by the membership, not by any one--or group of unauthorized people--person. The option of changing dates could at least have been offered.*)

Your suggestion for amendments to the WSFS Uninc. constitution are good on paper, but in practice they would be nearly worthless: future worldcon committees would pay attention to them only if they wanted to. (*If a committee was unable to present a bid without a contract, how could they win their bid? It's the ignoring of the constitution by the SunCon committee that I'm objecting to. Or perhaps you feel that it is such a worthless piece of paper already that it is a waste of time to even protest...*)

I also don't see why you seem to be surprised to hear of the change in site. The troubles with the hotel in Orlando had been covered in KARASS and the possibility of moving to a different site had been mentioned some time before the announcement had been made. (*KARASS is not an official organ for the Worldcon committee. I was well aware of talk about moving--and was awaiting word from Lundry about it. (Dilemma 10, Dec. 76) It was the announcement that the move was fact--no vote, no discussion, no nothing--that surprised me.*)

Yes, the committee may not have handled things in the best way (*understatement*) but I'll wait until I see the progress report before making any accusations that the committee has not been "entirely honest" with fandom.

HARRY WARNER, JR. 423 Summit Ave. Hagerstown, MD 21740

I feel considerable reluctance to make specific comments on the matter of transfer of the worldcon. For one thing, I've never gotten around to joining SunCon, so I have no vested interest in that event until I spring into action. For another, I don't know enough about the mechanics of worldcon bidding and hotel negotiating to risk judgements on this particular case. For instance, can you be sure that every group bidding for a Worldcon site had that signed contract with the prospective host hotel in its possession by the time voting has started on the site choice? (*I never said they all did; I said it should be made a requirement that they do, the purpose of the amendment I suggested was exactly that.*) I'm also unsure whether there is anything in the worldcon regulations to legalize the kind of referendum of the entire membership that you suggest as the right way to decide the Orlando situation. (*See article 3.05.*) There's also the question of whether such a referendum would have delayed inordinately the procedure of handling this particular emergency. All MidAmeriCon members would have to be polled, I assume (*Why? Article 3.01 says only those who are members of SunCon have the right*



to select the site.)), in addition to SunCon members, and the way the postal service operates, it might have taken two months to prepare and get out the ballots, get them to the membership including people in other nations, and wait a reasonable time for response, then count the ayes and nays. ((Since it was an emergency situation--even though it took the committee three to four months to act as it was--a close deadline could have been imposed. By first class mail--airmail in the case of overseas members (which were relatively few in number)--results could have been in in three weeks--one week out, one week to think about it, and one week return, ballots to be counted as they arrived. We aren't talking about a con that is due to take place next week, after all, but in September of 1977...)) It's not a complaint that you tackled this question that I'm making, just an elaborate excuse for not taking sides.

TIM C. MARION 614 72nd. St. Newport News, VA 23605

Gary Farber-- who is now on the SunCon committee--called me the other day and mentioned that you were in error; past worldcon chairmen have only had a 'letter of agreement' with hotel owners/managers/whatevers, and so if one or the other should fall short of their agreement, the 'letter' would be declared void. It wasn't a formal contract, but Lundry did have that, as have past Worldcon chairmen. ((The information I was given said that Lundry didn't have anything--contract or letter-of-agreement--with the hotel. I'm certainly willing to correct an error, but if nearly half of the 7-in?? Committee knew nothing of such a 'letter', then I still doubt its existence until it's proven. Some Worldcon chairmen, and bidding committees, did have contracts with their hotels, with various types of escape clauses included in case of a lost bid. So far, the only group I've heard from that had nothing at all was TorCon II's.)) Understand that I'm only trying to repeat what Gary said to me; I really have no knowledge of the field myself. ((I'm not sure that Gary is what could be called an 'expert' either.)) What I mildly object to is the fact that I don't think it's very responsible journalism to call someone a liar in so many words. I mean this only as a friendly chide, but I really wish you would put more thought into what you write. Even if you take it back later, the aspersions on his character are there still, in print. It's also dangerous; your comments bordered on the libel. ((This zine is not a newspaper, or a journal of any sort. I feel quite free to state my opinions in it, as I give the same right to others through my own letter column or in the pages of other fanzines. I said that Lundry misled us, and lied by omission in not telling us the full facts on the Orlando situation and the relocation of the site. To me, that's not libel; if Lundry sees it as such, then let him take action. Fans toss around the word 'libel' as if it were a bogeyman used to frighten children. I had thought a great deal about what I wrote regarding SunCon--you should have seen the initial draft.))

LAURINE WHITE 5408 Leader Ave. Sacramento, CA 95841

Irvin Koch wrote me a couple months ago that SunCon would probably be in Miami Beach, and with all the problems the Orlando hotel was having, it really didn't bother me. You keep close track of con reports and know committee members, so you know more than I about the machinations of committee people. For once I think I will attend the business meeting at MAC to see what is going on. That should be an interesting meeting. ((I, too, had heard from several people that SunCon would be moved--to either Miami or Atlanta. News like that should have come from the concom, not by word-of-mouth and letters. Nothing official was said about it until release of the first Progress report. Are any other important developments regarding the convention to be handled in the same way? I certainly hope not.))

STU GILSON 745 Townsend Ave. Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2V5 CANADA

Even though I'm not directly affected by the SunCon relocation, the matter still disturbs me as an incredible example of abuse of authority. The con committee was entrusted with organizing the convention by the votes of many fans who had confidence in them to live up to their promotional promises. I realize that to manage something of that magnitude demands many sacrifices and much hard work, and so any difficulties that do arise can only be handled in a manner that concom finds suitable. In the case of SunCon, the change in con site was not so terrible a thing in itself, but was clearly a



violation of the trust fandom placed in the concom and was therefore wrong in principle. Hell, all we need is for something like this to establish precedent for similar occurrences at future cons. The concom may have had no other choice than to change the con location, but the fact that the reasons for that switch were unsuccessfully concealed shows a dismaying lack of competence and outright irresponsibility. *((That pretty well covers my own feelings on the subject...))*

ED CAGLE Box 80 Star Route South Locust Grove, OK 74352

Beg your pardon, but I don't seem to be able to generate much interest in the flap about the con relocation to Miami Beach. From a remote view it sounds a little overblown, considering the only fault is a lack of a contract that even if it did exist, would be nearly impossible to use as a legal lever when things go pucky. What the hell, is the committee gonna sue a hotel for default? Fooie. Face it, a concom and all the confen are a transient bunch, as are your wants and needs. You are guilty of overemphasizing your own importance. You and your business are important only to a hotel who deems it so. Go where you are wanted and to hell with procedures. Rules and ethics for your worldcon groups are needless hinderances to what appears to be an already unweildy society. Be flexible. Get off the goddamed soapbox and get things done. *((What sort of things do you suggest? Your views and mine are leagues apart on this, obviously. I feel that the 'rules and ethics' you mention are needed, particularly with such an 'unweildly' and 'transient' group as fandom is--to maintain some semblance of continuity, if nothing else. As for contracts, a hotel is far less likely to go throwing its weight around when their agreements on down in black-and-white. I fail to see how "we" (I assume you were using the plural 'you' in that) are over-emphasizing our importance. We are a large convention, as such things go, and are actively solicited by many of the largest chains and convention centers. I, too, feel we should go where we are wanted, but I still don't feel that "we" should be told by "they", but should make the selection and/or decision ourselves. Dictatorships, benevolent or otherwise, still stink.))*

DAVE SINGER Buck 21 Box 264 R.P.I. Troy, NY 12181

Speaking of SunCon...I'm still waiting to hear anything from them. I know they have cashed my check, so I'm a member, but it seems that it would have been nice to have received a membership card by now; I joined before site-selection as an attending member, so I assume that's why I didn't receive a postcard telling me that they'd won the bid, and did I to upgrade. *((With sky-high postage costs, it's becoming more common for con-coms to send membership cards and such with the first progress report instead of separately. I do agree though, that it is a frustrating matter to pre-paid members.))*

I agree with your suggestions about requiring the bidding committees to have contracts in advance; we were lucky this time... I think there would have been a much more rabid reaction if the committee had had to go to, say, New York. Suncon in NEW YORK!! And how many cities do you know of that the con could have run to on short notice? *((The first comments I saw about moving were read in 1975--"short notice" simply doesn't apply.))*

GEORGE FLYNN 27 Sowamsett Ave. Warren, RI 02885

Mike Glicksohn's right about Dilemma seeming to be a newszine: certainly you have more of the facts about SunCon than I've heard from any other source lately. I can understand how they'd feel reluctant to send out a thousand (or whatever) ballots, especially if time was crucial or if the alternatives weren't clear; but it does seem bad P.R. --an affliction to which Worldcon committees seem chronically prone. Postcards sent out after the bid was won? I don't recall that (or at least, if I did get such a postcard, I've misfiled it.) As for what to do about a fissioning committee, damned if I know: listing names on the ballot may be the best bet, but it's clumsy. I hate to say it, but maybe it's true that the Worldcon has simply outgrown fannish capabilities. *((There are times I must reluctantly agree with that view. The rapid growth in numbers has caused more ills to the fannish body than even the gloom-and-doom-sayers imagined.))*

BEN INDICK 428 Sagamore Ave. Teaneck, NJ 07666

I do agree that when a con is set, it should require earthquakes or swarms of killer butterflies to change the site, but JoeD Siclari has chatted with me about it, and I am



certain that his motives were entirely as he wrote them. *((It's not JoeD's motives that I question.))* Indeed, he wanted me to help with a room devoted to Bok, who was a friend of mine a lifetime ago. Well, I doubt if I can get to Florida at Labor Day--and, as I told Jow, my in-laws live in Ft. Lauderdale, which is 1500 miles from NJ, and THAT'S TOO CLOSE...Anyway, I feel certain that Orlando and Disney World would cost a mint *((more than Miami Beach?))* and the big amusement park would possibly distract the con-goers more than Miami's ocean might (and there's darn little else down there in mid-southern Miami Beach-Fontainebleu territory). *((Distracting con attendees has never been a factor in site-selection that I know of--in fact, if a few hundred fen could be distracted from the program events, it would be all to the good...))*

SIDNEY ALTUS 13101 Lincoln Huntington Woods, MI 48070

I was dismayed to read about the chaos that is engulfing SunCon. In my view, people voted for a site and a certain group of people to run the Worldcon in '77. Now that a good number of the people are not on the concom any more, and the site has been changed, I think Lundry should resign. If he was any kind of gentleman, he would resign now and maybe not have some kind of special site selection at MidAmeriCon. In any event, I agree with you about making sure that this kind of thing never happens again. *((I'm not hot after Lundry's head--I see no reason, or any benefit to be derived, from his resignation. That would only reduce even further the percentage of original 7-for-77 committee members on the SunCon committee. While I do think Don owes fandom an apology and a true accounting of all the messes the con has gotten into, the people he has working with him now say that communications have improved and, though they may not be a very experienced group of fen, I think they can pull it off--unless something even worse happens that can't be foreseen.))*

TONY CVETKO 29415 Parkwood Drive Wickliffe, OH 44092

Concerning SunCon: basically, I agree with you. The most unbelievable aspect of the whole mess is the lack of a contract with the hotel. That really floored me. I mean, it's only common sense, because without a contract the hotel can do anything it damn well pleases. *((To listen to some fans, you'd think that holds true even with a contract!))* Be that as it may, I too hope that things are smoother from now on. You make some intelligent comments and I doubt if I could have said them nearly as well.

LYNN HICKMAN 413 Ottokee Street Wauseon, OH 43567

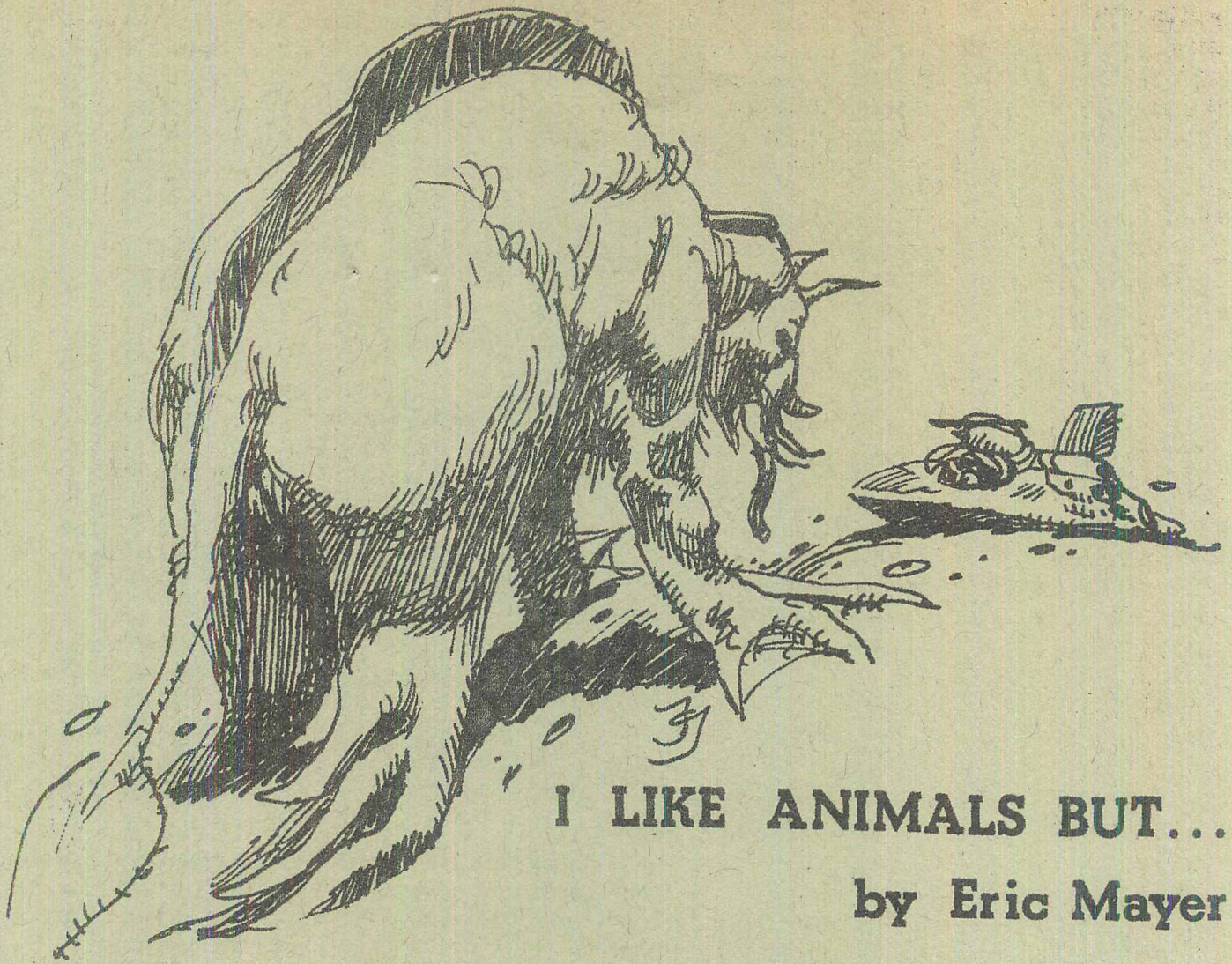
I must agree that I think the Suncon committee should have sent out cards to the fans that voted for them and asked their advice. I'm not going to let this spoil my con (I'll go to M.B.), but I much preferred Orlando as the site. I don't like it being moved without our knowledge.

JOE GREEN 1390 Holly Ave. Merritt Island, FL 32952

We both found the Suncon information useful. I've been wanting the details though the basics were known. Sure hope that Lundry & Co. can overcome their difficulties. And I strongly endorse your precautions designed to keep it from happening again.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Well, that's the response that's been received on the SunCon issue so far. I don't intend to continue this totally-open forum policy, and any further commentary on the matter will be far more brief. However, I feel this problem of enough importance to be worth a sizable amount of page-space. Right now there is no outlet for fannish opinion on the running of Worldcons, as the newszines carry no letter columns. If we can get our heads together in print, perhaps something constructive can come out of all this, and even if it doesn't, at least different viewpoints have been aired for the enlightenment of all. The amendments to the WSFS Constitution I mentioned last issue are now being worked out--the first, regarding proof of hotel commitment, is fairly easy to write, but suggestions on what to do when and if a committee exceeds its authority, or falls apart, or loses its site, or any of a dozen horrors that can befall a con, are welcome and encouraged. The Worldcon is the only fandom-wide event that we, theoretically at least, have a voice in. Use that voice and express yourself.*





## I LIKE ANIMALS BUT...

by Eric Mayer

The hounds kept me up half the night again. If I were to attempt to recreate, by means of a LARGER TYPEFACE for instance or an adequate number of explanation points !!!, the din they make, breaking into ecstasies of howling directly beneath my window at 3 am, this entire page wouldn't be large enough to hold the sound. If they were my hounds they wouldn't be under my window at 3 am, needless to say. However, it isn't too clear whose hounds they are. During the past two years they have taken up residence, uninvited, on the back porch from time to time, for extended periods--usually during a blizzard or cold spells that no one with any heart at all would turn even a loud-mouthed hound into.

After all, they may actually be barking at something other than passing cars and creaking tree limbs night after night. They may be chasing off the one-pawed raccoon who tips over the garbage can, or the skunks and possums that come nosing around the back door. Perhaps they are being chased by the fox.

Out here in Falls, the animals are never in short supply. In fact, there are usually more inside the house than outside. Mostly the result of unplanned pethood. It isn't wise to allow oneself to become beguiled by the attractions of some poor stray creature to the extent that one loses sight of the consequences. One cannot, for instance, feed stray cats one night and reasonably expect not to feed them the next; especially cats with crooked tails or Hitler moustaches.

But what do you do when you find four abandoned kittens in your tool shed? And the fact that one is male and three are female can hardly be worth considering, for a few months. Or consider another case: while cutting down a dead tree, your brother discovers a baby screech owl. Do you leave it outside to perish?



Of course not. We took it in and succored it for a day, until a wildlife illustrator and bird fancier, experienced in such matters, took the owl home with him. Kathy, who had been feeding the little bird with an eyedropper, was rather sad to see him go, so we drove to the pet store and purchased three mice to fill the gap left by his quick departure.

As we entered the house with our new guests we were surprised to see that the owl's box was still in its place in the shop. We were even more surprised to see that the owl was still in his place in the box.

"Found another one," my brother informed us. "When I was sawing up the tree. He was on the ground, half underneath a big limb.

"Oh, the poor little thing!" cried Kathy, rushing to tend to the victim; at the same time more or less throwing the mice in my face.

The owl grew and prospered, advancing from eyedroppers full of vitamin fortified slime to chunks of raw liver which it held in its sharp talons and tore at with its beak. He learned to fly in the small shop and furnace room that became his home when he outgrew his box. Certainly flapping past clotheslines and closed windows to alight on wrenches, boxes of nails, or the high eerie of the cupboard is not a typical childhood for an owl. But it was better than none at all and a few months after we found him, he flew into the night and didn't come back.

The three mice, forgotten and left to themselves, nevertheless found things to do. 16 mice later, Kathy and I made a solemn pilgrimage to the woods in back of the house. I have been told that white mice are more intelligent and capable than wild, mundane mice. Super rodents. Rather like fans. I hope this is true; for if so there must be, in the forests around Falls, the stirrings of a new rodent civilization brought about by the advent of strange, highly advanced white rodents who must appear as Gods to the lowly woodland races. On the other hand, the owl might have eaten them.

Our pet population explosion still continues, with two more recent residents coming to the house. One is a parakeet which I bought I bought as a Christmas present for Kathy, who decided it might be healthier out here than in her hot, coal-dusted house. The other is a stray white cat who Kathy picked up a day after I had given the pet store instructions to hold the parakeet for me until December 24th. It seems that Kathy and her little sister were making cat noises one night and were surprised to find themselves being answered.

The cat gets along fine with our large tiger cat and Sandy, the dog who has outlasted all the other animals. The parakeet is likeable, but he doesn't talk; just sings along with Lou Reed albums, making such a commotion that I can hardly hear the records. He also sings along with my typewriter and with every bird outside and with the radio and with the television. Sometimes he opens his door and escapes, at which time he begins singing for joy. He gets up just about the time the hounds under my window have turned in.

Originally I had him in a fancy cage that stood on the floor, but one night I woke to find mice crawling up the bars of the cage, trying to get at the parakeet's seed. Now he has a cage that hangs from the ceiling and I don't think there's anything that can bother him there. If there is, I'm sure we have it, or will by tomorrow...

\* \* \* \* \*

NOTE: According to a SunCon Information Release, sent by Don Lundry to various faneds in order to keep them posted on developments on the Worldcon front--just received today--the Fountainebleau is NOT having tax problems. "The fact is, the stories resulted from a dispute between local Florida union workers and the hotel and are not in any way true. There is simply no problem and the hotel is not closing, collapsing, being auctioned, or turned into a home for aging sharks." He goes on to say that even in the incorrect stories released over the newswires, the taxes weren't due until after SunCon; which isn't what I read--the story I saw said that the taxes were already Past Due and the property would be placed up for bids in November--this year. Irregardless, it's obvious that the national news services and the Fountainebleau have their channels screwed up somewhere.



## feedbacktalk

LEIGH EDMONDS (3-25-76) DILEMMA 10 arrived yesterday and after having devoured the lot in one or two sittings, the only thing I have to say is that you are a cruel, cruel, cruel, cruel, cruel woman. Most of the contents of your fanzine didn't disturb me, but the continuing references to conventions you'd been to and, worse yet, conventions you were going to be going to was all too much for me. Talking about conventions every weekend is not a nice thing to do to a poor fan who has to wait three months between events, so I hope that in the future you won't mind publishing a separate Overseas Edition so as not to upset me (and others of my kind) again.

This year I've got four conventions to look forward to: UNICON II at Easter, then a long wait for BOFCON in August. Then there is another drought until ROSEBUDCON III at the end of November and then it is a mere month until Q-CON III. What is even more annoying is that I'm on the committee of BOFCON and Valma and I organize ROSEBUDCON, which reduces their enjoyment value by half. Such is life.

Eric Lindsay and some others are really going on about the nasty (?) (though I guess it hasn't been decided yet) US of A. Maybe not, except that I just got to read the latest issue of Eric's GEG and he goes at it full tilt in there. I suddenly had the impression that it was an issue that was ripping all fandom apart, but I guess my sampling is not on a broad enough base.

The other discussions you've got going, about whether we should be worrying about God or not is interesting, but also one not likely to be resolved. My one position is that I hope there isn't a god for the reason that if I decide to become a true believer I'm sure to pick on the wrong one (God, that is) and find myself in a worse position than if I had ignored the whole issue. I mean, not only would I spend eternity in hell, I would have wasted a perfectly good life as well. Of course the situation, as I see it, might be a bit easier if you take the reincarnations on and on until we all get to be one with God. It means we all win in the end, a guaranteed happy ending.

As I was trying to compose the above little thought Valma came in and tried to tell me something. I said I would appreciate it if she stopped making a noise until I finished what I had to say here, so she just kept on talking, but without any sound coming out. Valma doing goldfish imitations is enough to make anyone laugh, so I apologize if I didn't make any sense up there.

*Perhaps reincarnation is the most sensible religious position to assume: who cares what "god" is like when everyone becomes one with it? Of course, most faiths built on that premise lay as many obs on the believer as fundamentalist Christian sects do, which negates any advantage they may have. We poor souls who prefer irresponsibility just can't win.//While Eric claims that he doesn't see the US as being 'nasty', enough other fen do to fill the pages of many a fanzine. I'm fairly neutral on the subject; I know my country isn't perfect and has committed many a greivous crime against all sorts of people from all around the world, but I have yet to see any nation that's better...//Why not send over some mini-reports on those cons you'll be attending. I know that I'd be interested in reading them.//Perhaps I should start up Overseas Editions. Since close to half the zine is about cons and such, I sure could save on my postage costs, not to mention paper and ink!*

Laurine White (5-19-76) I enjoy all the con reports you choose to include in your zine. It's just that the Midwest cons have proliferated so much, it's impossible to keep track of their names.

The Fan/Pro cartoons for worldcon this issue were much funnier than the ones for the ST con. The ones I really enjoyed were the two on panel discussions.



Bill Bowers' speech was hilarious. Thank you so much for letting your readers enjoy it. I remember meeting Randy Bathurst over his sketch pad at StLouisCon, he was nice enough to do a superhero sketch for me and I still have it. Somehow it didn't look as nice as some of the others he had drawn there. (the grass is always greener...)

Does Bowers look like the drawing on page 18 or the one on page 42?

*Page 18; take my word for it.//Er...the other Fan/Pro cartoons were about world-cons too--in fact I changed the original title, which was a sort of conreport on DisCon.//We Midwesterners are having problems keeping our cons straight too. I kept referring to Kubla Quandry as 'BYOBCon' so often, that no one knew what I was talking about--not an unusual situation, admittedly.*

STU GILSON (5-2-76) Dilemma is slowly becoming my favorite zine, at the moment 745 Townsend Ave. occupying top spot with Title and Mythologies. And the reason for Winnipeg, Manitoba this can be summed up in the word "atmosphere"; for your con reports R3T 2V5 CANADA are the best I've read anywhere in the effective manner in which they accurately capture the spirit and "family" atmosphere that permeates a good convention. Now that I've actually experienced first-hand the thrill of attending a con, there is a dimension to your reports I've only lately been able to fully appreciate; believe me, the satisfaction I get from reading of your experiences is magnified by the fond memories they revive. In many ways, I suppose detailed con reports can do more in communicating the goings-on at a convention than actual attendance would; for a written report can describe the events in a detailed and orderly fashion while retaining the flavour of the gathering (which proves how valuable subjective reporting can be.)

When I first resolved to attend Minicon several months ago, I had misgivings about the physical demands it would make; when living on less than nine hours' sleep, I function at less than top capacity. Quite unexpectedly, so well was the adreneline flowing, I needed less than six hours' sleep over the entire weekend, and even then had to force my eyes to shut. What I wasn't prepared for was the emotional drain the con had on me. There, assembled within a single building, were many of fandom's greatest minds (I can't say the same for their livers, though), people who I had virtually revered as larger-than-life figures. Quite frankly, I felt hesitant about walking up to them and asking a few questions (a typical response to a first con, I'm told). You can well imagine my surprise then, when I discovered that not only were both fan and pro accessible for a brief exchange of greetings, but were available for lengthy conversations as well. This I was unaccustomed to; in my experience nowhere has there been such an emphasis placed on informality, friendship, that sense of 'sharing' you described in a past issue of Dilemma. Everyone was immediately open and relaxed, nothing restrained, everybody considered as equals; it's a totally unique sensation that's somehow exhilarating.

It's difficult to express my gratitude to fandom for what it has given me; fandom is responsible for my present state of mind, a feeling of intense happiness and awareness of friendships others have to offer. I know it's a catchall phrase, but Minicon was the happiest time of my life, and I mean that sincerely; for it was, in a sense, a realization of a dream. Sure we're a microcosm, and a lot of back-slapping goes on in the ranks, but our community has a flavour and identity which makes it, in my opinion, one of the most valuable groups extant today. Certainly fandom has had for many a kind of restorative, therapeutic effect. I, for one, am happy to be a part of it.

Just finished reading The Forever War, a really tremendous work that fully deserves to take the Hugo. I must say my enjoyment upon reading the book was likely influenced by the three-hours-plus conversation Randy [Reichardt] and I had with Joe Haldeman on Saturday; one of the most fascinating talks I've ever had with anyone. What I can't get over was that here was a respected and popular professional spending his time speaking to two excited strangers on a level that is known only between friends; small wonder I get such a thrill whenever I think of the con...

*To my knowledge, only SF fandom has this rapport between 'producer' and 'consumer'. Bless all our fannish pros--we couldn't do without them!//I gather, then, that you sorta liked Minicon, eh?//Fandom is exactly what you put into it. If you look for only the bad aspects, that's what you'll find. I prefer to look for the good ones; so far I've not been disappointed. I share your enthusiasm.*



BEN INDICK

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(5-3-76) Lucky you! Your OWN electrostenciller...and a reconditioned Gestet, too. My machine, bought used, is going to need some overhauling, I fear. I do love it and will have it done when and if. A friend occasionally does e-stencils for me, but it is an imposition. They do not come out as well as offset but sometimes can be excellent too. If I have any copies of IBID left over, I'll send one, but it is an inconsequential issue and I didn't make much of an overrun. If I get to send one, the two illos in it are e-stencil and aren't bad at all. Much less costly than offset, anyway. But a whole issue...sigh...think of the corflu you'll save!

You have a most infectious con-love. It probably influenced me to the little con-going that I do. Indeed I shall have a little con of my own May 22nd for some fellow Lovecraftians, some from as far as Ohio. However, your degree of con-viviality is beyond this grumpy old redhead. I do admire, too, your faithful husband--he's not even a tru-fan, is he? Although I cannot see how by now he can have avoided it. He must know most actifans who are congoers. Alas, my spouse is uninterested in such goings-on. (Although she is preparing a repast for my guests. Since there will be a film, maybe she'll even hang around. Indeed, she'd a good girl, because that same day she'll be supervising moving some of her steel sculpture elsewhere, and will be quite busy.)

I am shocked at Glicksohn's being a quitter, but pleased you got the mss. For the \$20, I'm expecting AT LEAST the equivalent of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and heck, I didn't spend a single penny!

Showing up the men again, a little trick of yours, you have a second excellent con report, briefly, by Jodie. She is a wonderful lady; patient, warm, witty. You two are something else. (But what?)

I can't get over Good Wally; buying you all these fannish accoutrements and even going with you to all the cons. (Hm. Maybe he doesn't trust you?) I was wondering whether I'd be as good to my spouse, but then recalled: last year her steel and art supplies and lessons amounted to an HONEST \$2600!! Including \$700 to properly have our garage electrified as a studio--which left our little Mustang out in the cold all winter. So I guess I'm not too bad either...

But will Janet pay for a stenciller for me? Ha! She wouldn't even go to another Oz-Con (bored stiff, quoth she).

Speaking of which, Oz and cons, darned if you didn't sort of combine them--in your twistercon! At such a special moment, had you been caught up in the draft, I wonder... would you landed in Oz? Or in the hospital?

*I would hope that most husbands--assuming there's enough spare cash around-- "treat" their wives to all sorts of things. Janet and I are just lucky enough to have our own interests, our own lives, and that generates odder "gifts" than most home-bound wives get.//Wally doesn't go to every con that I do; he just likes them so much that every scrap of vacation time he has is allotted to con-trips. Perhaps Janet would enjoy something along the lines of ARTKANE? Though if she ever does catch the bug, you may regret it...cons are an expensive addiction to maintain!//I'm really impressed by the fact that the e-stencil cutter can handle pencil drawings--which is my preferred medium for sketching. Offset requires pen-and-ink--which I'm not as comfortable working with.*

MIKE GLICKSOHN

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(4-16-76) Convention reports are, to me, the most enjoyable of fan-zine articles when done well, as yours always are, but they generate little in the way of feedback. Of course, there's always some clown who claims that things weren't as you reported them and proceeds his own boring and stylistically impoverished version of the events. A good editor will of course consign those to a much-deserved oblivion.

I noticed, though, that in describing the TAFF auction of Bill's brilliant and moving speech you did omit one very important factor. I refer, of course, to the way in which Wally (a man known to go to seemingly any lengths to ensure his wife's happiness by buying her the toys she faunches after) sat immediately behind me as we were waiting for the auction to start, mumbling to himself about how important it was that Jackie got this speech and how unhappy she'd be if she didn't get it, etc. etc. etc., all the time playing meaningfully with those two great hunting knives of his and eyeing my beard,





hair, and the anatomy underneath them! I recognize an offer I can't refuse when it's pointedly not being made to me! (And as a matter of semantics, it's inaccurate to say Glyer and I were "standing head to head"; you realize I was standing, Glyer was sitting: that's the only way we could end up head to head.

I really enjoyed the episodic way you related your Marcon memories. I suppose at least partially because I'm in many of them and these references will be instrumental in obtaining the Big Name Fan status you were explaining to me in Columbus. I hope it works! All that fame, glory, honour, money, and groupies sounded great and if these mentions in Dilemma are typical of your program then all that money you asked for in return will have been well spent indeed. I'll have the next check for you at Minicon, and will be eagerly looking forward to the next D!

Not only did I have all the necessary requirements for a Bowers' groupie, but after sharing a bed with him for two nights at last weekend's Wondacon in Detroit, it struck me that I've slept more often with Bill in the last four months than with anyone else! This is an awesome realization for someone still on the decent side of 30. I've been adding hormones to my scotch all week in an effort to turn back this dismaying tide and will wear my Official Bill Bowers Groupie button in a very inconspicuous place in the future. Like maybe Toronto.

I missed Funnelcon, having decided that if God meant for me to be crushed to death in the ruins of a hotel basement he'd be just as content if I passed over in the first floor bar, a much more civilized place to prepare for a fate worse than virginity. Besides, if the twister had struck I could have perished with a smile on my face knowing I'd have left a large unpaid bar bill!

Probably the most evocative bit of writing in the Marcon section is your description of Barcon. Again you've caught extremely well the atmosphere of quiet good fellowship tinged with sadness that made it one of the most enjoyable times of the con. Sometimes in the bar you get joined by people you'd just as soon were carrot juice freaks or allergic to alcohol or collected match box covers instead of sf and the natural tolerance if most fans prevents us from telling such nerds to go away. In Columbus though, all the people were us and not them, and it was a very fine mellow time indeed.

The comments Eric made about friends and your remarks in answer to them touched a very responsive chord. Recent personal experiences tend to make me believe that at least in my own case it's a compromise between "loner" and "reformed loner". (A deft phrasing, by the way.) The occasional pain you endure (or, inadvertently, cause) is part of life, and the pleasure of true friends and touching other people's lives is worth it. But for many fandom gives the best of both worlds: real friendship, honest caring and sharing, but on a limited basis, with a return to being on one's own without the responsibilities that sharing one's life on a permanent basis entails. It's a cop-out, perhaps, but it has certain advantages.

As many others will have undoubtedly told you and Keith, SF EXPO is paying authors to sit and sign their books, something most of them are very happy to do for free most of the time. I can understand why an author would consider SFEXPO a gathering worth attending: he'll (or she'll) meet a great many new readers who are not "fans" as we consider the term and these people, unaware of the traditions of fandom, will be mightily impressed by the chance to meet, talk to and get autographs from the gods themselves. So an author like Gordie or Joe, who happily devote hours of their time at one of "our" cons to just those activities, has the opportunity to get paid for it, quite handsomely, to rack up a hell of a lot of very favorable personal pr which is the coin of the writer's realm in many cases, and to get all



sorts of good press coverage (wanna guess the number of reporters who'll cover Midwestcon as compared to those who'll be at SF EXPO?) I certainly can't blame them for taking that opportunity, even though I'll miss them like hell as Midwestcon.

The question of the value of an autographed book means bugger all to me. I couldn't care less if the book I happened to have signed by an author is worth more than one that isn't so augmented. As I see it, the only time such a commercial concept is ever going to be important is perhaps when my estate is liquidated after my tragic death from over-consumption of scotch and at that point, frankly Jackie, I won't give a damn. Right now I like to get autographs on books by people who are friends of mine (and very occasionally on books by people I walk in fear/awe/admiration of) because they make the book more valuable to me. The idea that a Robert Graham novel inscribed with a big X and the touching dedication "Fuck off Glicksohn" might someday be a collectors' item isn't really all that important.

At long last I received my Hugo ballot and was able to nominate. I nominated in only one of the Pro categories (and if you have to ask which, you obviously don't know me or the eligible works all that well) but in all of the fan categories. In essence I "threw away" several of my nominations. I voted for people that I honestly think were best but I know damn well will never make to ballot. How many fanzine readers, even the avid ones who read Dilemma, will have had the opportunity to realize that Leroy Kettle is probably the best writer in fandom now that John Bangsund has cut back on his output? How many people can appreciate the sheer quality of WRINKLED SHREW, an obscure English fanzine with some of the best fan material currently being published? But would it be honest to overlook these to nominate other more potentially likely candidates? Of course not. The fanzine Hugo and the Fanwriter Hugo usually go to at least competent nominees, but often the real "best" are totally ignored. That's why I've been urging UK fans to support the FAANs: here lies, as I see it, our best chance for a truly representative "Best" set of awards.

It isn't often that one finds such a frank confession, even in a Franke fanzine. "Bowers got to me first." Midge has a candour remarkable even in fandom! That man will do literally anything to get a subscription!

Dave Locke's predilections for tables is quite easily explained. When seated at the average table, his quivering elbows getting much-needed support from the surface beneath them, Davie is taller than he normally is used to being, and is able to look small children, seated dogs, and collapsed drunken fen in the eye. It isn't really surprising that he adopts this posture whenever possible.

Dave's confusion as to our relative statures is understandable. While he is Short, I freely admit to being Drunken. When we first met, at a party thrown by LASFS, I was in my typical convention attitude--crawling on my hands and knees--while Dave was being held up by the two meter sticks he uses as crutches, so naturally he was confused as to which of us was taller. Had he not been rendered almost totally blind to my certain youthful overindulgences, he'd have realized that the comparison was scarcely a fair one, but as it is, he has deluded himself to the extent that he is capable of writing the sort of letter that appears here in Dilemma. The very least I can do is allow him to preserve these delusions: he has so little else to enjoy in life...

We really ought to have the readers vote on who wins these rounds, you know, regardless of how painful such results would be to poor Davie.

Really fine letter from Randy Reichardt, and I'm sorry I never did get the chance to get to know him as well as I'd have liked. We said hello, and hi a few times as we passed, but I'll admit the fault was mine: my attentions were turned elsewhere and I missed out on really communicating with him, or the rest of the Winnipeg crew. What I did see, I really liked, and I hope that someday we'll get a chance to really get together. His perception and his sensitivity show through radiantly in this loc, so I'm doubly exasperated that we were kept apart by the pressures of my other con commitments.

The Gilliland cartoon on the backcover was B\*R\*I\*L\*L\*I\*A\*N\*T!! Also true, but we won't ruin Bill's chances by mentioning that...

There are copious other things that might be commented on in the lettercol but after two glasses of tequila and four pink squirrels my attention span is wandering. Besides this is close to seven pages of comment of one sort or another and you'll probably boil it down to three sentences anyway, so...



As you can see, I couldn't quite condense it to a mere three sentences, though I sure gave it a try! Long letters are a delight to receive, but the very devil to trim to fit column-space. One's always convinced that the best parts were left behind.//So Bill does have collatio parties, hm? I've heard that it's those quiet ones you have to look out for, but never really believed it. By the way, Sam Long says that the opposite of collatio is, of course, punningus...//I fail to see how one could be 'wasting' a nomination by naming the people/zines seen as 'best'. Isn't that what they're for? So what if they don't make the final ballot--your Hugo vote isn't devalued if none of your nominees make the last stage, after all. I've never really understood that trite expression: "I didn't nominate X because I knew he/she/it didn't stand a chance." Of course not, if every possible nominator of a low-circulation zine felt the same way. No award is given out for the fan who had the most nominees named by him/her on the final ballot, is there?//I think Keith thought there was a possibility that the writers were being paid per autograph, or would only sign books bought at the exposition, or something equally dastardly. Tucker had written about the honorariums being given, and mentioned the fee for sitting in the autograph booths, and the info was run in a previous issue of D to boot, so I was aware of the fee structure, though Keith might have misconstrued it.//Yes, there is a 'limited' nature to many fan friendships, but mostly it's due to circumstances of geography rather than intentions. I heard someone complain about fanish relationships being "too shallow" (hardly a novel complaint), but I feel that like all relationships, they can be as deep or as shallow as you make them, or as limiting, if that's what you choose. True freedom abounds, actually, to do what you prefer.//Your payments are being increased...inflation y'know.//Welcome to the 'indecent' side of 30...//Wally's no threat; he's just a mild-mannered pussycat you should realize. Just ignore those sharp claws--he generally keeps them sheathed.

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(4-25-76) Well I've finally done it. I still don't believe I'm sitting here writing a loc to a fanzine. Guess we all gotta go sometime. I hope you don't mind getting this in longhand, but I don't own a typewriter. Wouldn't know

what to do with it if I did.

The first thing I must comment on is your nice review of Confusion. It was a nice review and we all thank you for it. But it's a good thing you didn't pan it, otherwise the great ghod Con-Fuse would have haunted you into a permanent state of confusion from which you would never have escaped. Come to think of it, are you sure he isn't after you already?

The next thing that caught my attention was your account of me at Marcon. It felt good to see something about me in print--especially something good. I don't know how polite I was about it, but I was firm. I said "Leave the booze and go!" It was bad enough that they had taken over my room for several hours, but they wanted to take the booze and pop too. And it wasn't even theirs! Larry and I had bought it that evening for the room party. Ah well. Everything worked out in the end and SleazyCon was one of the best parts of the con for me.

Your letter column was very interesting, but not having read any past issues of Dilemma, I felt like I had just walked into a room and butted into somebody's conversation(s). I perked up my literary ears though, when I read about some kind of debate over religion. That's a topic that I've thought about a lot. Myself, I think it is just a lot of silly superstition that a large and powerful group hundreds of years ago used to control the masses with. I'm of the opinion that in a thousand years, people will look back at this age and make fun of us as we do the Greek and Roman gods. And they will probably make up better stories too.

Getting into a lettercolumn is much like walking into a room party. Hope you stick around awhile and meet some of the others here.//SleazyCon was a nice part of the con, mostly because it was semi-spontaneous. A lot of people were sure it was a hoax or a joke of some kind; I'm glad Midge, Bill and I decided to give it a look-see.//Con-Fuse caught up with me several decades ago--I would've thought that was quite evident.//Welcome to the loccer's club, Sid.



ED CAGLE (4-20-76) Marcon snapshots. #1 Pleasant story...#2 Too  
Star Route South Box 80 sweet...#3 Dunno Bathurst, but the intro reminds me of a  
Locust Grove, OK 74352 grammar school assembly kickoff. #4 Krikey, couldn't any-  
body come up with a good line to that incident? #5 "Toron-  
to Peters", eh? #6 A Boozeless Lunch. #7 A Lunchless Booze.

The answer to BUMBLE is: diarrhea.

Locke said he was a table-sitter, preferring to sit at a table and lean while gas-  
sing. When he was here last January, we started out sitting at the kitchen table  
(drinking scotch and soda, as I recall) but got lost somewhere along the way and kinda  
sprawled wherever we happened to be. We did tootle through the countryside in Old  
Blue a few times, though, and that's sitting down (drinking rum and cola--Dave--and  
gin and whatever the hell I happened to be chasing it down with). Then there was the  
day at my cousin's camp, when we sat around his kitchen table (drinking bourbon and  
coke, I think), and later yet when we took an extended jeep tour of the back country,  
sitting down, when possible (drinking rum and coke and gin and...). I guess he does  
sit down a lot. Talks well sitting down though. Great guest. Ten times as funny in  
person as he is in print. Imagine that.

Opening conversations with total strangers is really quite simple. One ploy is to  
say something arresting like: your ass is on fire, chum. Ask directions to where the  
rape/murder was committed. Offer to show your snapshot of Lawrence Welk bugging an  
elephant. Get their attention. Smile Evilly. Stagger. Request medical aid because  
you think one of your balls just retracted and strangulated in a square knot (even if  
you are female). Point out the shadiest-looking character around and hint broadly that  
he is a convicted felon. Recite poetry. There are endless methods of starting up con-  
versations. Calmly remove a pocketknife from your drawers and methodically cut all  
the buttons from your shirt. Snap your suspenders whether you're wearing them or not.  
Great gesture. Most of all get friendly. Get acquainted. Make friends.

Part of that cartoon on page 31 is arrestingly accurate, except that the last time  
I saw Locke his mustache curled around his mouth and extended downward to his jaw line;  
a cherubic Fu Manchu, if you will, with a gigantic tot of rum in his hand. I've since  
chunked my old cap, too, replacing it with the Geo Washington chapeau middle son Eric  
wore for the BiCentennial program.

*My guides were the snapshots Dave sent me from his trip out to see you; I didn't  
spot any crafty Orientalistic look to his moustache in them. \*oh well\* I did  
get the glass of rum, though, do I get stars for that?//Okay, now tell me how  
a sweet, shy thing like me gets the moxie to pull those outlandish "conversation  
starters"!!//I'd think that it would've been pretty hard to understand a single  
word that Dave had said--after all that "sitting"--much less tell that he was  
being funny. But then maybe he's one of those fortunate ones who don't get  
the numb-tongue syndrome when crocked...*

DAVE HULAN (4-26-76) Got Dilemma 11 today--postal vagueries; Dave got his  
PO Box 1403 over a week ago, Dean got his Friday. Since my interest in con  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626 politics and con reports in which I'm not mentioned is one tepid  
notch above yours in Donald Duck, most of my interest this time  
is in your letter column.

Sam Long is nit-picking--or rather, arguing the meaning of the word "forced". Grant-  
ed, Edward VIII wasn't told to "abdicate or die"; but one can be "forced" by something  
less than a threat of death, greivous bodily harm, or prison. And saying "abdicate or  
we'll leave England without a government, or you without your chosen wife" is certainly  
what I consider "forcing". Just as I'd consider myself forced to cancel a vacation of  
mine if told that, if I took it, I needn't come back to work.

Dave Cockfield isn't talking about what I mean by "party discipline". Sure, there's  
going to be a lot of in-fighting within the power structure--but it's confined to the  
in-group, and when it comes to voting in Parliament, the members of each party vote the  
way the party has decided to go, even if they personally disagree with the party stand.  
On the rare occasions when this doesn't happen, it's a crisis and the government often  
falls. In the US about the only thing all members of a party vote for, regardless of  
personal conviction, is the organization of their house.



He also mentions "fen drain". Surely they've been draining the fens of England since the 17th century at least?

If Mike Glicksohn thinks everything about Dave Locke is small, I question that he ever really met him. Dave's waistline is very substantial indeed. Or his capacity for cigarettes.

*So Dave and I have at least two things in common, eh? Actually, Mike and Dave haven't yet settled whether the two have met, or just reasonable facsimiles had been sent to do the onerous duties in their places--perhaps we'll never know for sure...//I'd always imagined the British to be such crusty, individualistic critters that they'd resist things like party regimentation to the death, if necessary. They must have good PR men in the Isles.//Perhaps we could say that Edward VIII wasn't "forced" to the same degree that his less-fortunate predecessors had been, and that the English draw a fine line that we Americans don't necessarily recognize as valid? How do the various History books from each country view the action? I would think that would have some bearing on the question...or am I being too naive?*

HARRY WARNER JR.

423 Summit

Hagerstown, MD 21740

(5-26-76) Congratulations on the results you achieved with your

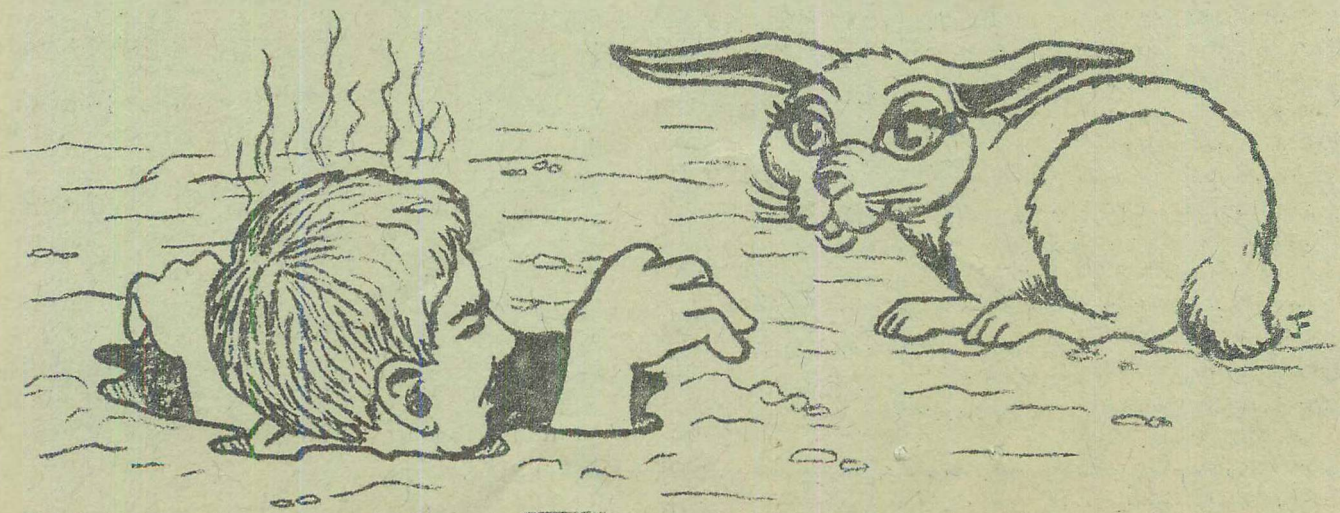
Gestefax. I've been somewhat dubious about the value of these

machines in fannish hands, because some people are getting less than ideal reproduction of typed material from them, even when

they do well with art reproduction. But you seemed to have proved that Victoria Vayne's example isn't an isolated fluke. All we need now is for some energetic fan to set up stencil-manufacturing equipment in his bathtub and start yet another do-it-yourself trend going through fandom.

I am definitely in favor of Marcon Snapshots, which I enjoyed immensely. It would be good to see more conreports take this form, which permits plenty of detail for important incidents without ballooning the manuscript to impossible size. I do confess to feeling a slight distaste for the Tale of the Bunny, not because of anything you did, but because what my real life bunny has been doing. I'm growing bigoted towards rabbits in general just because of the delinquent conduct of one isolated rabbit; hardly a dignified and civilized way for me to behave. A wild rabbit has been systematically destroying my back yard, turning it into a blighted area that would be conspicuous even if it were transplanted to Mordor. It's nice to think that I'll no longer need to pay a boy to cut the lawn which won't be there much longer, but I'm getting tired of climbing out of the burrows which I step on before the rabbit has finished shoring them up properly. The worst of it is that this rabbit has such large, liquid eyes that it reminds me of Natalie Wood, and so I can't bring myself to do more than wave my arms at it, whereupon it just hops three feet further from me and looks disinterested.

One other idle thought about this con report. I'm surprised that neither you nor any other fan writing about MarCon gave it the nickname that sprang immediately to my mind: Con with the Wind.





Thanks for the concern about my throat. It has been quite normal since around the first of the year, and I still don't know what was wrong. However, it's quite possible that the situation might change quite soon, because of the way things have been going with the history of fandom in the 1950's, I might end up with my throat cut. (I have hopes of finally concluding arrangements with a new publisher by the end of the week; if things work out properly, a moderately priced edition of it might become available in time for sale at MidAmeriCon.)

The most significant thing in the letter section this time was the LoC from Joseph Nicholas. It's noteworthy that someone who has apparently not been very active in fandom up to now should have found so much pleasure in a faanish publication like Dilemma and should have comprehended it thoroughly enough to write a good loc. My pleasure in the recent upsurge in faanish zines, like Mota and Swoon and yours, has been adulterated just a trifle by worry for fear that they were too in-groupish to appeal to people who aren't thoroughly acquainted with the people and the traditions they emphasize. If others can assimilate as readily as this English fan has done, then we should have fresh blood pumping in to reoxygenate the fannish body when some of its members grow a bit weary. I don't even want to contemplate the awful dangers of thousands of new fans demanding copies of faanish fanzines which are published in editions of 200 copies or thereabouts, but I do like to know that they aren't being too esoteric to be enjoyed by those outside their inner circle.

*When I first got into fandom, I didn't care for faanish fanzines at all--and I still gape when reading references to Dilemma being one--but genzines soon acquainted me with names and terms and my natural instincts made up the rest. My conversion is almost total. I think that a nea still could follow the same route with little difficulty--as long as hisser interests lay in the direction of people (no matter how suppressed they'd been) rather than technology.//JoeD Siclari was toting your ms at Kubla Quandry, and told me something about the woes you've been having in getting it published. My sympathies are again extended, and I hope the looked-forward-to History is published soon. I'm quite anxious to read it!//I, too, have seen poorly reproed e-stencilled pages, but thought it more due to inexperienced operators and/or poorly maintained semi-public equipment rather than any inherent flaw in the process. Once fans get more experienced, and get access to better equipment, results should be improved.*

GEORGE FLYNN (5-1-76) I appreciate your material as a fellow con freak, and I really like your con reports (but then, I always enjoy con reports).  
27 Sowamsett Ave. Wish I could make it to more cons, but travel expenses and other  
Warren, RI 02885 commitments are a problem. Thus far this year I've only gotten to Wintercon (on Cape Cod, total attendance about 30), Boskone (of which I was treasurer, and so...), and one afternoon looking over the Boston Star Trek Con (croggle). Couldn't even make it to Lunacon, mainly because my niece was making her first communion that Sunday. My minimum program for the rest of the year is Disclave and MidAmeriCon.

Then there's SF Expo. You know, until I read your point about its being an exposition rather than a convention, that just hadn't occurred to me. Oh, I realized they hadn't sent out reservation cards, but I thought that was just (more) inefficiency. But I expect to attend anyway, faute de mieux: it's a long way from here to Cincinnati, and I can't manage two trips to the Midwest this year. Whatever happens, it should at least be instructive.

The overlap of can fen with fanzine fen varies greatly. Most of NFSFA are con fen who know very little about fanzines. I do try to spread the gospel, but I'd be hard put to name five fen in the Boston area (where I live, as opposed to my R.I. mailing address) who are really into fanzine fandom.

I don't care for crowded parties either, as one who under the best of circumstances has a hard time getting into conversations. At the cons I attended in recent years my favorite was usually the Orlando party, which was seldom crowded because of its refreshments (lemonade and popcorn): now if only they'd kept bidding instead of trying to put on the con...

Harry Warner wonders how the Republicans can change cities less than a year ahead and get space. Well, it helps to have the mayor and city council faunching to have you (thinking of all the free publicity the city gets from a week's TV coverage...).



Yes, but is the publicity always favorable? Think of Chicago in '68... (I know that's facetious, but sometimes I get these uncontrollable urges...)//Could fandom stand two semi-permanent, floating, "bidding" parties? (The other being the infamous Minneapolis in '73 bid.) Of course, if one is 'dry' and the other wetter than Noah's flood, there might be no conflict at all. Too bad we'll not have the chance to give it a try. How about Highmore...?//Chicago has a mix, with most of the actifen being con-goers. I know of four or five who are 'into' fanzines as well as cons-and a few more have recently indicated interest in getting involved more deeply (Hiya Lynn and Midge!), but of the remainder, I'd say half are well-acquainted with fanzines and read them, though certainly not as many or with the same avidness that we do. I've met very few who know nothing at all about this branch of fanac.//The EXPO seems to be deteriorating with each fresh rumor. Where I would've considered attending before--were it not in conflict with Midwestcon and a bit closer than N.Y.--the move away from a nice, enclosed hotel has lessened its appeal to me. I hear it's turning more and more into a STrekCon-like affair with each ~~dytphdtydtydtyd~~ rumor.

RICHARD BRANDT (4-19-76) Haven't been to a con yet: looks like my first will be 4013 Sierra Drive the "Big Mac", which might be the wrong way of going about it, but Mobile, AL 36609 with 6000 people I should be able to run into someone who're enjoying themselves. Reading con reports like yours and Gene Wolfe's for Confusion makes me anxious to arrive; all those stories about what you weird people do at cons are starting to get under my skin...

I've never really considered Suncon, even--seemed too far in the future to make plans, I guess--but with all the news it looks like I'd better start pondering over whether it'll be worth it. Of course, some mighty good things have come out of projects that didn't get on the ball until a late date.

Doug Rice's cartoons are great, and may they run forever. This ish's didn't have quite as much class as the first string--that "Masquerade" cartoon should be delivered door-to-door throughout all of fandom, or else just blown up into a wall-sized poster for our enjoyment. I might try just that. Maybe even more of Dave's BUMBLES could be of some use; I'm the son of a genuine hardcore crossword puzzle fanatic, who for years has been slaving over "jumbles" and double-croistics with an earnestness some faneds would envy. I managed to solve the entire puzzle without even peeking, cross my heart, though CROGGLE and SMOOTH were real toughies.

I'm a reformed double-croctic fiend. I have my Mom save all her crossword books and, once a year or so, go on binges and work all the ones she's left (for some unfathomable reason, she never liked 'em). Keeps me busy for a week or so, and then the urge can be ignored for another twelve months.//It's too soon to tell just what sort of convention SunCon will be--right now they're having enough troubles simply establishing a site for it that will remain relatively stable. But with the many people on the committee, ghoud and workable ideas should flow out in streams; we'll just have to wait till things settle down to find out anything about program and such-like things. If there is any chance of you may attend, I'd advise buying an attending membership NOW--while rates are low--rather than waiting. The Day of Escalating Membership Fees is here to stay...

MILTON F. STEVENS (5-26-76) This letter is in response to Dilemma 11 and your 14535 Satlcoy St. #105 letters in the Midamericon Progress Report and in Scientifric-Van Nuys, CA 91405 tion. The basic point I am trying to make in this letter is that there is no conspiracy in Los Angeles directed against Midamericon. There is certainly a fair amount of criticism of Midamericon's policies in Los Angeles, but similar criticisms exist in most other fan centers. I don't think the Midamericon policies are really very popular. In your refernce to "unnamed West Coast fanzines", I'm not sure whether you're including Charlie Brown's comments in Locus. The registration situation he mentioned was a real and acknowledged problem. For the purposes of this letter, I'll assume you weren't talking about Locus.

The opinions which you have been expressing seem to follow what Tom Reamy said in PR #4: "LASFS feels we are inexperienced and therefore in trouble. So what do they do? They don't try to help and encourage, the first thing they do is attack, attempt to



seriously damage Worldcon."

Since the letter I wrote to Midamericon on behalf of LASFS has been printed in SFincter #9, I can now refer you to that letter. [The letter was a polite protest against some of MAC's policies, announced in PR #3, including; imposing requirements after the sale of group memberships, requiring identification at the time of pick-up of memberships at the con, and the \$50 replacement fee for convention badges] That is the only official piece of correspondence from LASFS to the Midamericon committee regarding their policies. I did not write the letter as an attack or an attempt to panic anyone. If that's the way the letter was taken, there seems to be no point in further correspondence.

As far as helping is concerned, Fred Patten is spending several hundred hours doing a history of Worldcons at Ken Keller's request. Jerry Pournelle has helped organize a couple of program items. Ron Bounds, Bruce Pelz, and I have provided information which was requested by Jim Loehr and Bill Fesselmeyer. I don't know how much help Tom Reamy reasonably expected from LASFS members. The LASFS Worldcon memberships were bought to make money and help our own members. I didn't and don't believe that the action hurt Midamericon in any way. Needing money is one of the harsh realities of life. LASFS has raised its dues this year, but we still have a major need for money. The property tax on the LASFS Clubhouse was \$1100 this year, and meetings of 80+ people a week are making expansion of the Clubhouse almost a necessity. With conditions like this, the officership of LASFS spends a lot of time thinking of ways to make money.

*And no one denies that need, or the means whereby you do it. However, you are not the only member of LASFS, and others have done more than mere creebing about what they see as mistaken policies. Some pretty vicious name-calling and idle threatening has been done--most of it by California fans, and most of those from LASFS. Yes, some people have helped--those aren't the ones who are doing the yelling, nor the ones to whom I addressed my comments toward. The name of LASFS is often used--whether in vain or in truth--in some of these statements/attacks, and the overriding impression received out here is utter contempt and dislike for everyone connected with MAC. Whether that's official or not, that's what's coming through; loud and clear. No other group has expressed as much hostility and ill-will toward the KC crew as Los Angeles fans; if you know of any other group which has, please indicate them to me--I dislike being left in the dark.//The "unnamed" zine was the one you referred to (I won't refer to it), not LOCUS. Some fans think that playing games is cute, Milt; you know that and I do too. But some "games" can cause bitter divisions in fandom. This may be an example of that very thing.//I am not Tom Reamy, nor do I agree with his views 100%. I especially do not agree with his style of writing MAC policy decisions--they way he has put certain things have angered more people than would have been if they had been phrased with more diplomacy. But some people didn't take the time to re-read his words, they just flew off the handle and ended up saying things that simply were not true (ie, gatecrashers would be arrested and prosecuted; \$50 did not make a crime a felony in Missouri; non-identified memberships would be "voided"--downgraded, yes; voided, no--etc.), and calling people fools, liars, or worse.//Why are all these defenses raised against a charge that has never been made? Who cried "Conspiracy"?*

YALE F. EDEIKEN (4-19-76) I liked Dave Locke's puzzle. Are you sure it issupposed  
6336 N. Oakley to be a puzzle? If 'chanfu' is not a fannish word, it deserves to  
Chicago, IL 60659 be. And I am sure that I ran across Gergloc the Barbarian in some  
Lin Carter novel or the other. In fact, all of them looked like  
fannish words. I immediately decided that the real trick was that they were fannish  
words, but that made the solution 'utornfon'. And this made no sense. The solution,  
obviously, is to use the letters not included in the answer, but I don't have the energy  
to make something of 'chanfomhageglocefonadamnigenze'. Why do you publish such hard  
puzzles?

I note that not much has come out of Cincinnati about the conflict between dates for Midwestcon and the expo. Could be their first thought was that it might cut atten-

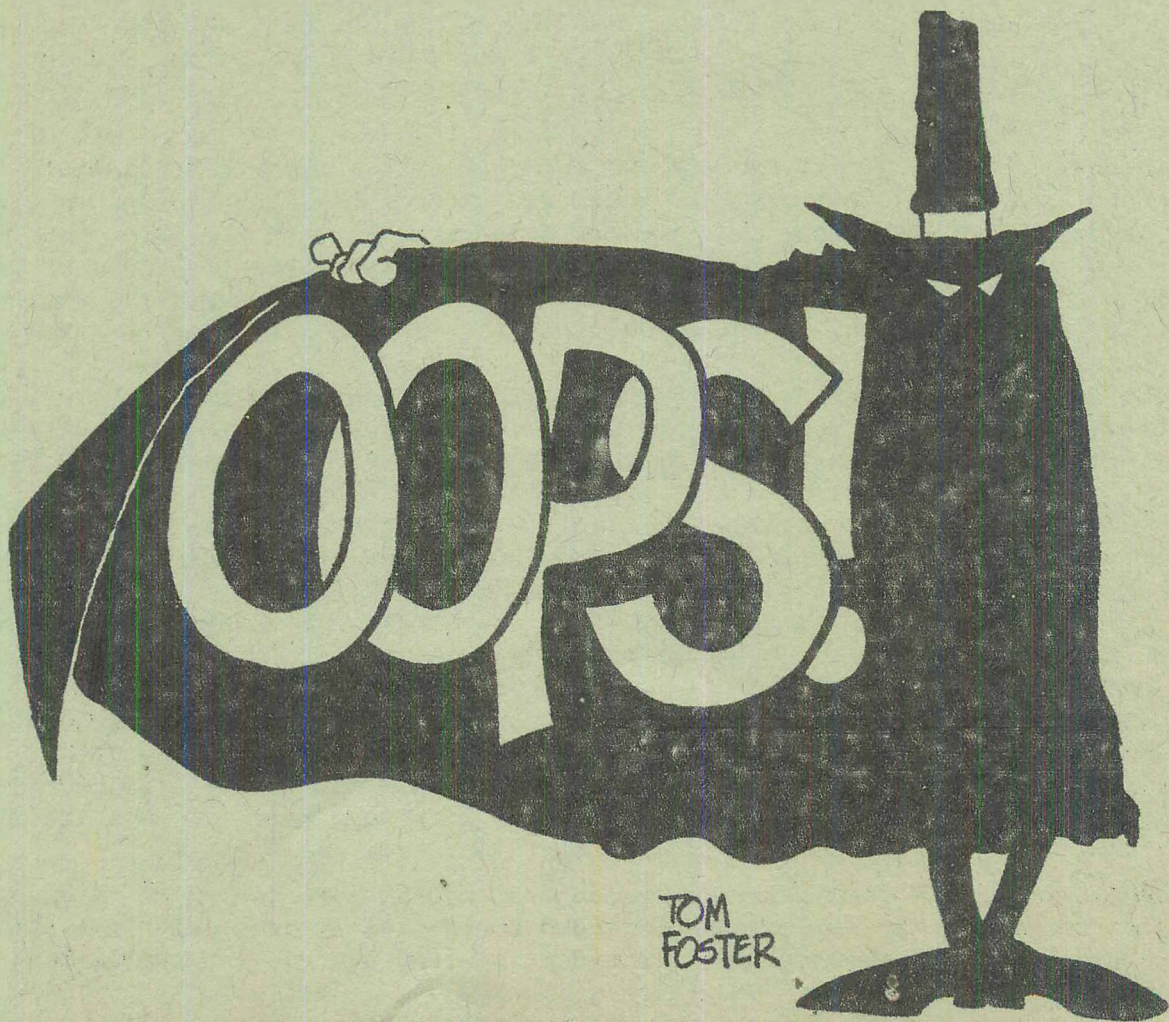


dance and then, when the criticism and fevered protestations of trufandom began, started worrying that the only way to demonstrate trufannishness might be to show up at Midwestcon, making it more crowded than normal. It doesn't really make any difference. If expo flops, in ten years everyone will distinctly remember having been at Midwestcon. Even those who weren't in fandom during it.

*With all the yarn-swapping that goes on in fandom, the feeling that one has been places where it was impossible to be is rather common. I "know" all about StLouisCon, for instance, and didn't I see you there, near the doorway, when SaM performed that Exclusion Act at the first Worldcon in '39? Sure seems like it...//That 'word' you came up with has a fannish feel to it, too. Sounds like a drunken Italian complaining when a dozen genzines hit his mailbox at once.*

LARRY CARMODY (4-26-76) SF EXPO is discussed a bit. I haven't decided whether it's a good thing or not. I'll be going to it, instead of Midwestcon. Don't think ill of me; I can't get enough days off from work. Autoclave, MidAmeriCon, and a two-week vacation in October have wiped out my vacation time for 1976. Since I live on Long Island and work in NYC (Queens, to be exact), I can easily make it to SF EXPO. I would rather go to Midwestcon, but that's the way it is.

But about SF EXPO, have you heard about the mysterious doings at Lunacon? It seems that the SF EXPO people had spotters (observers) at Lunacon. They wouldn't say who they were ("We can't reveal their names because of security reasons," according to one man in a typical business suit who purported to be from SF EXPO). Doesn't that boggle the mind? I mean, secret observers at cons, checking things out, but on the sly. Maybe 1984 is the main topic at SF EXPO. I dunno.





Also, SF EXPO supposedly gave Lunacon ten cases of beer. The only thing was, the beer was delivered to a room in the hotel taken by a person who said he was on the con committee but actually wasn't. There was a rabble-rousing party in that room (the infamous 907(?) party) which was closed down (this was Saturday night) and only four cases of the ten were allegedly recovered. Strange.

Then, also, someone released a cannister of pepper gas during the presentation of Yang's "The Capture". The room was evacuated and I know of at least two people who became quite nauseated. ~~Not that Yang thought~~ Some weird happenings...

And to Harry Warner's puzzlement about the Republicans getting their convention where and when they want, this: Harry, you're a working reporter, and you're not far from Washington. Politics, plus economics. The Republicans (or Democrats) take over the whole town, not just one hotel. You know damn well the city government is going to make sure the con comes in when it wants. The merchants, et al, would have the city leaders' heads if it was any other way. But, Harry, I just think you were playing Devil's Advocate. Right?

*I certainly wouldn't be surprised.//Fire extinguishers were taken off walls and used to spray hallways and elevators at Marcon last year: this year, at Kubla Quandry, the fire alarms were triggered in the wee hours of the morning, angering mundane and fannish guests alike: the incidents at Lunacon are only additions to the growing list of petty pranks and vandalism that is beginning to plague fandom. There always is a certain percentage of people who will do almost anything to get what they see as "attention", but I'm sad to see that kind crop up in fandom. As Andy Offutt said in his remarks at Nashville, we had a good rep among hostelryes; we're in danger of losing it because of a few cretins.//By their every action, the SF EXPO people prove their non-alliance with fandom and/or its traditions. Recently I wonder about their connection with the business world, too. Could you imagine the Shriners sending "secret observers" to a VFW convention? \*Sheesh\*//I don't think ill of any fan who chooses to attend SF EXPO--forced to by circumstances or no. A twinge of pity, perhaps, but nothing else.*

BUCK COULSON

Route 3

Hartford City, IN 47348

(4-25-76) Darrol Pardoe to the contrary, an atheist

does deny the existance of God; making up one's own definitions is a very creative act, but not terribly functional.

An agnostic is one who says there is no proof either way and it doesn't make all that much of a difference. (I'm actually an agnostic, except to people who never heard of the term and aren't capable of fine distinctions anyway. To them, I'm an atheist.)

Right, Eric Lindsay. Friends are nice, but not necessary. But in general, friends are better than enemies, so I never try to alienate anyone--or at least, not anyone who I would want for a friend. It's just that if I do happen to alienate them, I don't worry about it.

Fascinating comment from Victoria Wayne..."the feeling that you matter to someone." The advantage of a big ego; I can't recall ever having any other feeling, which is probably why I'm not very thrilled by fan awards.

Maybe if SF EXPO ends up with the Hugos, we can finally get around to dropping the fan Hugos altogether, which we should have done years ago.

Our Thai allies? Hoo, boy!

Schools never mention the interesting characters like Petroleum V. Nasby. (Or Kin Hubbard or even Will Rogers.) You have to search them out in the odd byways of history, along with General Wilkenson, Dr. Bancroft, Benjamin Thompson (maybe I'll dedicate the next YANDRO to him; he's a bicentennial figure) or Lily Langtree. Trouble is, once you start looking, you find so many of them that you never catch up.

*"Where's Buck?" "On some byway in the 1800's, trying to catch up." "Always knew he was behind the times..."//Most people who live in such a black-or-white world that they cannot even see shades of grey are rather pathetic. It's sort of like colorblindness, only worse.//By the way...just who the dickens is Benjamin Thompson (to expose my ignorance once again)?*



DICK PATTEN (4-28-76) Z is all done, finally, and Harry has it for  
2908 El Corto SW printing, so I have to keep the momentum going or it'll  
Albuquerque, NM 87105 never get mailed. Also I am on Jury Duty at the moment  
and listening to people tell the most god-awful lies for  
hours each day is depressing to say the least.

I personally don't understand the difference between confans and zinefans. Most of the people I know are both (including HORT).

About SF EXPO I'm with you. If they can make a success of it, why not? I'm sure the writers can use the extra money and I figure I spend most of my life surrounded by mundanes, so if the people at a con aren't fans, I can always find a group somewhere. What the hell, I don't even get to meet everyone I want to at little cons like B-Con, so I sure wouldn't meet anyone I didn't want to.

I take that back. At MileHighCon one of those groupies (or whatever) tried to put the make on Vardebob. It was really funny (for everyone but Bob, that is). A whole group of us followed her around to see the action. Oh, we rescued Bob periodically so he wouldn't go completely insane, but to someone like me it was not only funny, but a revelation. I grew up in a time when only females were bothered by obnoxious males. It was strange to see it the other way. I kept wondering if she had a score card.

*From what I've heard, there are some that do! I would assume that no entries were made that night under Bob's name--unless you "Bodyguards" were a bit lax in your attentions...//I would imagine that any fans at SF EXPO will find each other in relatively short order; to save their fannish sensibilities, if nothing else.//Aha! Found out at least, Tackett! I should have realized that you protested too much!*

DAVID SINGER (5-11-76) I was sure that I'd locced Dilemma 10. Either the Buck 21 - Box 264 Post Awful ate it, or I'm suffering from a case of Synthetic Fan-RPI Troy, NY 12181 nish Memory. At any rate, I know I'm loccking #11. It feels good to be defafiated, if only for a short time; I should be packing to head back to Richmond for a short break, before returning to Troy to finish my project, and then back to Richmond to pack so I can go down to Boca Raton, Florida, to work.

I wish I could make a small fraction of the cons you make. I'm hoping to get to Disclave (I'd rather go to Autoclave, but having to come back here to finish my project is going to eat a sizable hole in my wallet); the only thing that makes that possible is that it's on the way to Troy from Richmond. Then, after I start work, I won't have any vacation until 1977. But I'm hoping for Boskone! And, I sort of expect to make it to Stuncon, since I should be less than an hour from the hotel. But, from the talk of the people around here, the con looks worse and worse...I've heard that Ben Yalow quit the committee...smaller and smaller and smaller it gets...Still it's the only con we've got for 77. See you there, I hope!

I like Doug Rice's Worldcon Guide. Just one question though...in the cartoon labeled "Hugo Awards Banquet", when the fan is talking about throwing up: is he complaining about the award, the food, or both?

I generally eat on a table (well, a desk) here at school. It keeps the crumbs more-or-less in one place. But I'm perfectly comfortable eating from a plate or napkin held in my lap, my hands or whatever is convenient. The thing I really appreciate a desk for is sitting...whenever I've got company in my room, I'll sit on the desk and talk to them. Part of that is due to the lack of places to sit, and I kind of like looking down on whoever I'm talking to; but a lot of it is just that I find a desk a comfortable thing to sit on.

I like open-door parties--not having been in fandom all that long, I don't get that many invitations to closed-door parties, so... It's best when a con has an ample number of both kinds of parties; then, when the open-door parties get ridiculous, you simply accompany your group to a closed-door party, and while away the evening.

*Spontaneous parties ("Let's get outta here; I can't breathe! Grab George and Martha too!") are True Closed-door parties; they're more like gestures of self-defense.//I would assume that Doug leaves the choice up to the viewer....//I have no idea who goofed, but the last LoC I have recorded from you came 10-15-75*



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(6-6-76) I suppose I should explain how I'm now popping up with comment on DILEMMA 11--but I'm not really sure I know! While I was distractedly touring Minicon one afternoon, someone intercepted me with the message that "there's a bundle of paper at the Registration Desk that'll make you very happy!" I immediately had visions of something-anything!--which would ease my own greatly-feared chores of introducing panelists, etc.--anecdotes, news releases... I hurried on down. What I found was your fanzine, folded and wrapped in pink paper with your return address. I quickly scanned it, but found nothing which demanded my immediate attention--and nothing to help me. Puzzled, I put it among the trove I later brought home from the con--in which I recently rediscovered it (when finals come I begin housecleaning...).

Now someone--probably you--had addressed it to Minn-stf; but beneath that, in the same sort of ink, is printed "Give to Dave Wixon". I've been unable to figure out why you would do such a thing, unless it was in return for calling you "reverberated". (Which I see Randy picked up; I'd apologize if I thought you minded at all...) So I've come to the conclusion that you really meant it for the club, and that someone else put my name on it. Am I right? At any rate, I figured that out too late for David Emerson to get it into his fanzine review column, so I thought I'd LoC it (well, I would have anyway, but it's a good excuse.).

Besides, it occurs to me that I have some sort of duty to get myself onto your mailing list in view of my first name--you seem to be running a Dave-zine: letters from Cockfield and Locke, and WAHFs; Hulan, Piper, Rowe...(dare I mention that the new editor of RUNE--beginning with #49--will be David Emerson?).

I think I know the bunnies you mean: I encountered them last summer, and immediately stocked up for Xmas presents. After living with them for several months, I had to keep a big one and a small one. You are of course right; they are instantly remindful of Watership Down.

I feel at a disadvantage in locating a fanzine I've only seen the latest issue of: it's like wandering into a group conversation which has been in progress for awhile. I don't know all the references. Among other things, I don't know the details of D'Amassa's "Us-Mexican confrontation", nor what you said on the Mayaguez incident, nor the atheism arguments beginnings either. Etc. Please forgive. It was good to read your zine and then talk to you (if only on paper). That's what fandom's all about, really; talking to friends. It may not be a way of life, but it sure as hell is family--read Susan Wood's column in ALGOL (summer, '76): she says it well.

You people are each and every one precious to me.

*Thought seconded, 'amen', and "Right on, Brother"-ed!!//The hardest thing for me to do is jump into a fanzine's lettercol, too. I prefer to sit back and let an issue or two go by to get the 'feel' of things, first--except, of course, when I'm in a scrappy mood and dive in, feet first, directly into my mouth!!//What the heck--what's one more Dave, more or less (\*groan\*)?//I've been sending D ever since issue #5 to someone in Minn-stf (Bev Swanson?--whoever lives at the Elliot address), and never had it acknowledged after the first one. Where the dickens have they been disappearing to?//Odd, the pitfalls that befall a poor fanzine on its hand-delivered way...I'm not sure, but I think I handed the copy to Chuck Holst during The Mimeo Man. It was someone in the club that I knew. You know how it is at cons, who can keep track?*

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WAHF: Bill Bowers, Mike Bracken, Bill Breiding, Tony Cvetko, Don D'Amassa, Alexis Gilliland, Joe Green, Mike Harper, Lynn Hickman, Jackie Hilles, George Laskowski, Sam Long, Tim Marion, Eric Mayer, Steve Oberembt, Jodie Offutt, Dave Piper, Randy Reichardt, Bob Roehm, Dave Rowe, Ronald Saloman, Penny Tegen, Bruce Townley, Paul Walker, and Gail White. Thanks to each one of you!!! Miracles of miracles, it looks like I'm actually going to get this done in time! Of course, half the copies will be printed on two shades of paper, and there's a distinct possibility that two shades of ink may have to be used as well (anyone who can figure out a way to print 6,400 sheets of paper with 2½ tubes of ink will undoubtedly earn a fortune and fandom's gratitude. Last stencil typed, June 23rd--hopefully run off the same night.