



BALTICON DRAWS FIRE

Darrell Schweitzer begins, "Balticon 16 made a very poor impression on me at the outset (and on a lot of other people, I suspect) when the directions and maps in the progress reports turned out to be worse than useless in the labyrinthine Baltimore harbor area. For openers, the Lord Baltimore Hotel was shown to be on the wrong corner, and one was given the distinct impression that it was connected with the Hyatt Regency, the main hotel, by a single overhead walkway, when in truth one goes along several walkways, through a shopping center, across a couple plazas, up and down many flights of stairs, etc. The distance is about 3 blocks if you know exactly where you are going, but it can take the better part of an hour if you don't. This should make life very interesting at the 1983 Worldcon, particularly if problems with the Hyatt continue.

"The Hyatt Regency has apparently not been broken in to conventions at all. It was the main hotel for the convention, but it was not possible to hold a party there, since the management demanded a genuinely prohibitive corkage fee for all beverages and munchies. As a result, virtually all the parties, including the con suite (see p.10)

FILE 770#32

FILE 770:32 is edited, collated, and stamplicked by Mike Glycer at that locus of fanactivity, 5828 Woodman Ave. #2, Van Nuys CA 91401. There he chronicles science fiction fanac /enough already/ in exchange for news, by arranged trades primarily with clubzines and other newzines, in return for high dudgeon and low rumor, especially from far-flung reaches by expensive (not collect) long-distance phone calls to (213) 787-5061. If I'm not here, my plastic messenger will greet you -- kindly say hi, it sounds friendlier than a dial tone. Most welcome of all are subscriptions, which cost \$3 for 5 issues, in US bucks thankee. Overseas clients can get F770 at the same rate sent printed matter rate. Air printed matter service is available for \$1 per. Back issues are available for 50¢ each -- most of the last ten numbers, and a good many others scattered back to the dawn of ~~the dead~~ time.

HUGO SIDEBAR STORY

Occasionally a voice will be raised that claims the Hugo nominations for fiction are merely a rubber stamp of the Nebula nominees, heavily influenced by the SFWA picks. That makes the current crop of Hugo nominees an ideal comparison subject, because the Hugo nominations were effectively in before the Nebula candidates were publicized. Although the original Hugo ballot deadline was extended I presume the bulk of votes probably arrived in Chicago around the middle of March. In contrast, the issue of SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE headlining the Nebula nominations also arrived in LA about the middle of March. Because of the rate at which the Nebula data spread, a good case can be made that this year's Hugo nominees were little influenced by the pro's tastes.

At right (page 3) the Hugo nominees are listed. There are 20 contenders for pro fiction Hugos. The Nebula nominees totalled 26. Only 11 titles made both lists. They are underlined.

NEBULA NOMINEES: Novel - RADIX (Attanasio), THE VAMPIRE TAPESTRY (Charnas), LITTLE, BIG (Crowley), RIDDLEY WALKER (Hoban), THE MANY-COLORED LAND (May), CLAW OF THE CONCILIATOR (Wolfe) Novella - "The Saturn Game" (Anderson), "Swarmer, Skimmer" (Benford), "Amnesia" (Dann), "In the Western Tradition" (Eisenstein), "True Names" (Vinge) "The Winter Beach" (Wilhlem). Novelette - "The Quickening" (Bishop) "Sea Changling" (Broxon), "The Thermals of August" (Bryant), "The Fire When It Comes" (Godwin), "Mummer Kiss" (Swanwick), "Lirios: A Tale of the Quintana Roo" (Tiptree). Short Story - "Going Under" (Dann), "Disciples" (Dozois), "Johnny Mnemonic" (Gibson), "The Quiet" (Guthridge), "Venice Drowned" (Robinson), "Zeke" (Sullivan), "The Bone Flute" (Tuttle), "The Pusher" (Varley.)

Seeking a conclusion to jump to, I note that out of eight shorter works to make both lists, five appeared in F&SF, one in ANALOG, one in BINARY STARS #5 and the other in UNIVERSE 11. (Nebula voters picked three stories from UNIVERSE 11.) How interesting that F&SF seems to be the consensus pick for quality year after year.

Direct from the Chicon IV Mail Room, where Richard J. Curth did the courtesy of reading them over the phone, come the 1982 Hugo nominees, whose work in 1981 merited consideration for the latest round of science fiction achievement awards.

1982 HUGO NOMINEES

BEST NOVEL

DOWNBELOW STATION, C. J. Cherryh
LITTLE, BIG, John Crowley
THE MANY-COLORED LAND, Julian May
PROJECT POPE, Clifford Simak
CLAW OF THE CONCILIATOR,
Gene Wolfe

BEST NOVELLA

The Saturn Game, Poul Anderson
In the Western Tradition,
Phyllis Eisenstein
Emergence, David R. Palmer
Blue Champagne, John Varley
True Names, Vernor Vinge
With Thimbles, With Forks and
Hope, Kate Wilhelm

BEST NOVELETTE

"The Quickening", Michael Bishop
"The Thermals of August",
Edward Bryant
"The Fire When It Comes,"
Parke Godwin
"Guardians", George R. R. Martin
"Unicorn Variations", Roger
Zelazny

BEST SHORT STORY

"The Quiet", George Florance-
Guthridge
"Absent Thee From Felicity
Awhile", Somtow Sucharitkul
"The Pusher", John Varley
"The Woman the Unicorn Loved",
Gene Wolfe

BEST NONFICTION BOOK

ANATOMY OF WONDER, ed. Neil Barron
AFTER MAN, Dougal Dickson
DANSE MACABRE, Stephen King
THE GRAND TOUR, Ron Miller and
William K. Hartman
THE ART OF LEO AND DIANE DILLON,
ed. by Byron Preiss

BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR

Terry Carr
Edward Ferman
David Hartwell
Stanley Schmidt
George Scithers

BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

Vincent DiFate
Carl Lundgren
Don Maitz
Rowena Morrill
Michael Whelan

BEST FANZINE

FILE 770, ed. Mike Glycer
LOCUS, ed. Charles N. Brown
SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE,
ed. Andrew Porter
SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW,
ed. Richard Geis

BEST FANWRITER

Richard E. Geis
Michael Glycer
Arthur Hlavaty
Dave Langford

BEST FANARTIST

Alexis Gilliland
Joan Hanke-Woods
Victoria Poyser
William Rotsler
Stu Shiffman

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

DRAGONSLAYER
EXCALIBUR
OUTLAND
RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK
TIME BANDITS

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD

David Brin
Alexis Gilliland
Robert Stallman
Michael Swanwick
Paul O. Williams

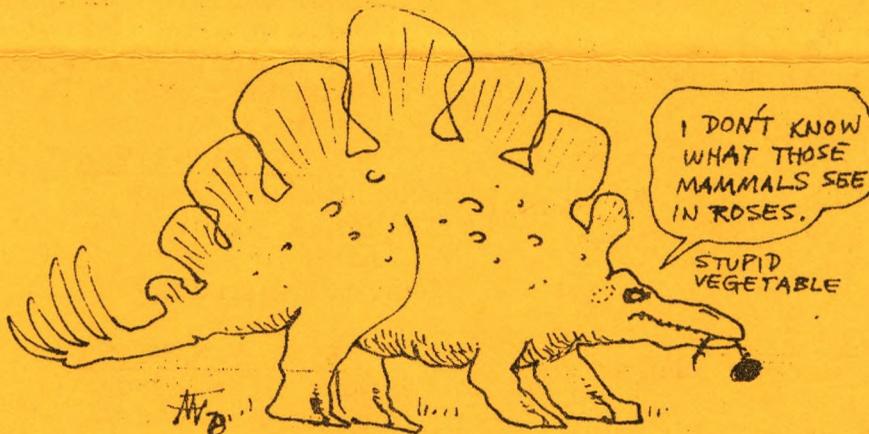
TAFF RESULTS

British fan Kev Smith has won the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund, and will highlight a visit to America by attending Chicon IV. American TAFF administrator, Stu Shiffman (Dave Langford is his British counterpart) provided the following tabulation of ballots.

	<u>EUROPE</u>	<u>N. AMERICA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Kev. Smith	42	38	80
Rog Peyton	45	18	63
Hold Over Funds	14	1	15
No Preference	1	5	6
Brian Burgess (write-in)	1	0	1
Invalid ballots	4	4	8
Total	<u>107</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>173</u>

Says Shiffman, "I allowed Dave Langford to come up with all these numbers because, after all, he's a nuclear physicist, and I'm not."

Shiffman is now looking for candidates for the US-to-UK leg of TAFF. The winner will be expected to attend Albacon 2, held Easter 1983. The TAFF delegate will be fan guest of honor at the con. Nominations will be sought through the end of June. The balloting period is expected to end December 1.



CLASSICS SCANDAL RIPS NESFA: In F770 #31, Nesfa's jocular search for a motto was reported. Ed Rom, of Bemidji, MN, challenges the data quoted from INSTANT MESSAGE. Says Ed, "There was a mistake in this issue. Frank Richards is wrong in attributing the quotation 'pecunia non olet' to Gaius (also, and more popularly, known by his nickname, Caligula, which means 'Little Boots'). This remark was made by Vespasian to his son Titus, when Titus questioned the idea of the tax on public toilets." Rom cites THE TWELVE CAESARS by Michael Grant as his authority. Can NESFA tolerate the intrusion of Philistinism? If Richards had misquoted an operational command in assembler language, he'd probably have been lynched on the spot, considering the makeup of NESFA. We may yet hear that deportation proceedings have started to ship Richards back to Philadelphia...

DEEPSOUTHCON POLITICS: Quoting ATARANTES 57: "Birmingham's recently announced DeepSouthCon bid has been postponed, according to Charlotte Proctor. Charlotte reports that some difficulties with hotel negotiations, combined with the recently announced bid for Knoxville in 1983 convinced the Birmingham club it would be better to wait.... Knoxville has definitely announced a DSC bid for 1983, making it the only definite candidate for the convention for that year. Chattanooga, the other often-mentioned candidate, has not yet confirmed its intentions, if there are any, to bid for the DSC."

FLASHBACKS ON THE THIRTY-FIRST ISSUE

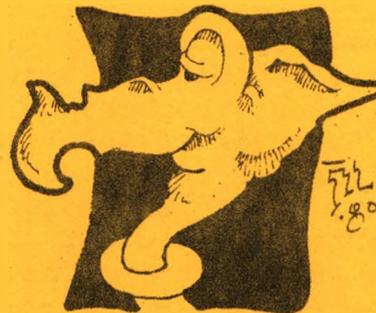
DENYS HOWARD, ala Mark Twain's famous quote about rumors of his death being premature, writes, "Andruschak has proclaimed that I am gafiated, that I am unable to publish SOUTH OF THE MOON, and that therefore he is conferring the title of SOTM editor upon Mike Raub. In support of his proclamation, he says that I have not answered letters from him, that it's been a long time (presumably, since SOTM 18 was published), and that it's nothing personal. He is a liar." According to Howard, Andruschak "has, in fact, never written a letter requiring an answer since our correspondence over the change in editorship." Howard claims half the material for his edition of SOTM is typeset and will appear this spring. (Before June 21? Really?) Howard may be reached at PO Box 2507, Seattle WA 98111.

AUSTIN NASFIC BID: Valeria Beasley, of Austin, Texas, sheds more light on this fabled creature. "The Austin Nasfic bid. This was almost new to me as well, but I have no excuse -- I'm secretary of the campus 'Science Fiction and Fantasy Society' which is behind it. (There are so few student members that all are officers for registration purposes.) The individuals promoting such a convention are the same ones who run the Armadillo con. Terry Floyd, a nice guy and RTF major, who works in a Stop 'n Go and is an apahack; Willie Siros, nonstudent and devout book collector, also believes himself to be a feminist; Robert Taylor, nice, works for a local TV station; During the past year the club has hosted Douglas Adams and Brian Aldiss....."

Yale Edeiken phoned to say that the Austin bidders intend to use a Hyatt Regency in town. (They can be expected to have a party suite at Chicon IV.) In contrast Valeria Beasley describes the facilities: "Local hotels -- none are really very large, but the University has a number of convention facilities as does the city (not close to each other). Local transit -- forget it. There are buses but nobody uses them. Long distance - Amtrak, Greyhound and several airlines. We're off in the middle of nowhere. Dallas/Ft. Worth is not fun for making connections through. Nightlife. Well, UT has 48000 students -- I doubt a major con would overwhelm all of Austin's enterprises if the attendance doesn't go en masse to 6th street where many small bars are." Naturally, NASFiC itself is academic unless Melbourne wins the '85 worldcon.

FOOTNOTES: Greg Bennett has switched jobs from Singer, where they intended to use him on non-space projects, to McDonnell-Douglas. // Jim Henson will be at Chicon IV. // The Houston Asteroid-Naming and Drinking Society still holds occasional meetings, says Edeiken.

CONVENTION LISTINGZZZ



KUBLA KHAN TENNUM: (May 7-9) Executive Inn, Nashville TN. PRO: Frederik Pohl. FAN: Jim & Doreen Webbert. TM: Andrew Offutt. Dealers room, art show, masquerade, panels, films, videotapes. Rooms: \$38/sgl, \$42/dbl. Memberships: \$15 at the door. Info: Ken Moore, 647 Devon Dr., Nashville TN 37220.

UNICON I: (May 8) The Inn at Executive Park, Kansas City MO. GoHs: Pat & Lee Killough, Robert Chilson. Masquerade, Indiana Jones look-alike contest. Rooms: \$40/sgl, \$44/dbl. Memberships: \$15 at door. To: Unicon I, 5425 N. Indiana, Kansas City MO 64119.

LEPRECON VIII: (May 14-16) Howard Johnson's Caravan Inn, Phx. AZ. PRO: George Barr. FAN: Jan Howard Finder. TM: Bill Rotsler. Art-oriented con. Memberships: \$8 advance, \$10 at door. To: Leprecon, PO Box 14590, Phoenix AZ 85063. (602) 278-1827.

TEXARKON 1982: (May 14-16) Holiday Inn Holidome, Texarkana TX. GoHs: Kelly & Polly Freas, Margaret Middleton, Gordon R. Dickson, Robert Asprin. Dealer tables, banquet, masquerade. Memberships: \$10 in advance, \$12.50 at door, \$6.50 daily. To: Texarkon-1982, PO Box 6643, Texarkana TX 75501.

SKYCON 2: (May 15-16) Asheville NC. GoH: Hal Clement. Membership: \$1 at door. To: Howard, Super Giant Books, 38 Wall St., Asheville NC 28801.

TORQUE 3: (May 21-23) Seaway Hotel, 1926 Lakeshore BL, West, Toronto ONT Canada. GoHs: Samuel Delany, Don D'Amassa. MC: Roger Reynolds. Word-oriented con; no video, films. Rooms: \$47/sgl, \$54/dbl. Memberships \$10 in advance, \$15 at door. (Canadian funds.) To: Torque 3, c/o 1812-415 Willowdale Ave., Willowdale ONT M2N 5B4 Can.

V-CON 10: (May 21-23) Best Western Kings Motor Inn, Vancouver BC. PRO: Ben Bova. FAN: Robert Runte. TM: Michael Walsh. Memberships \$10. To: V-Con 10, PO Box 48701 Bentall Stn., Vancouver BC V7X 1A6 Can.

X-CON 6: (May 21-23) Astor Conference Center and Hotel, Milwaukee WI. PRO: Marion Zimmer Bradley. FAN: George Price. Rooms: \$35-40/sgl, \$40-45/dbl. Art show, huckster room, con suite, mimeo room. Memberships \$15. To: X-Con, PO Box 7, Milwaukee WI 53201.

CHICAGO MINICON: (May 23) Americana-Congress Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Avenue (1st Floor), Chicago IL. Comic book show. Dealer tables \$25 each, in advance. Admission 75¢.

CONQUEST 3: (May 28-30) Continental Hotel, Kansas City MO. PRO: Norman Spinrad. FAN: Nancy Nutt. TM: Warren C. Norwood. Other guests: Tucker, Cherryh, Chilson, Pat & Lee Killough, etc. Dealers room, art show. Memberships \$12. To: Conquest 3, PO Box 32055, Kansas City MO 64111.

DISCLAVE: (May 28-30) Sheraton National Hotel, Arlington VA. GoH: Elizabeth Lynn. Rooms: \$40. Info: Alexis Gilliland, 4030 8th St. S., Arlington VA 22204.

SWAMPCON III: (May 29-30) Baton Rouge Garden Center, B.R. LA. Memberships: \$3 til 5/1, \$2 per day at door. Dealer tables \$6, including two-day membership. To: BRSFL Inc., PO Box 18610-A, Baton Rouge LA 70893.

DEEPSOUTHCON 20: (June 11-13) Northlake Hilton, Atlanta GA.
PRO: Karl Edward Wagner. FAN: Lon Atkins. MC: Kelly Freas. The
traditional major Southern con, replete with Hearts championship.
Memberships \$12. To: DeepSouthCon 20, 6045 Summit Wood Dr.,
Kennesaw GA 30144.

STELLAR VOYAGE 82: (June 11-13) Sheraton Hopkins Airport Hotel,
Cleveland OH. Guests: Walter Koenig, Bruce Hyde, Tom Batiuk.
FGoH: Bill Hicky. MC: Allan Asherman. Starsky & Hutch room, film
room, video room, masquerade. Memberships: \$22 and an SASE. To:
Stellar Voyage, 4107 W. 210 St., Fairview Park OH 44126.

HOUSTONCON '82: (June 18-20) SF, fantasy, nostalgia con. For info:
HoustonCon, PO Box 713, Stafford TX 77477.

ELECTRA-CON II: (June 18-20) Ramada Inn, Kearney NB.
Guests: Bob Tucker, Mike Kennedy, Steve Gray, Ed Bryant. Memberships:
\$10 advance, \$12 at door. To: ElectraCon II, PO Box 1052, Kearney NB 68847

SF CON V: (June 18-20) Syracuse University, NY. (Formerly
Conebulus) PRO: J. O. Jeppson. FAN: Pat & Peg Kennedy. TM: Isaac
Asimov. Memberships: \$10 in advance. To: SF Con V, 337 Harford Rd.,
Syracuse NY 13208. (315) 454-3020.

BRANDYCON: (June 18-20) Wilmington Hilton Inn, Claymont DE.
GoHs: Jack Chalker, Somtow Sucharitkul. Memberships: \$10.
To: Esco Productions, PO Box 82, Claymont DE 19703.

AMBERCON IV: (June 25-27) The Wichita Royale, Wichita KS.
GoHs: Roger Zelazny, Howard Waldrop, Richard Corben. Info: Ambercon,
PO Box 947, Wichita KS 67201.

MIDWESTCON 33: (June 25-27) Drawbridge Motor Inn, Ft. Mitchell KY
Relaxacon. Memberships: \$8 at the door. To: Bill Cavin, 2215
Harrison Ave. #2A, Cincinnati OH 45211 (to request hotel reg. card)

JERUCON '82: (June 27-July 2) Diplomat Hotel, Jerusalem, Israel.
Guests: Harlan Ellison, Harry Harrison. Registration and 5 nights
accomodation \$275. Gala Dinner \$30. (Both US currency). Organizing
secretariat: Jerucon '82, PO Box 394, Tel Aviv 61003 Israel.

FANTASYCON VIII: (July 2-4) Grand Hotel, Birmingham UK
GoH: Tanith Lee. Guest Artist: Eddie Jones. Membership: £1.50.
To: British Fantasy Conventions, 53 Glencoe St., Anlaby Rd.,
Hull, North Humberside HU3 6HR U.K.

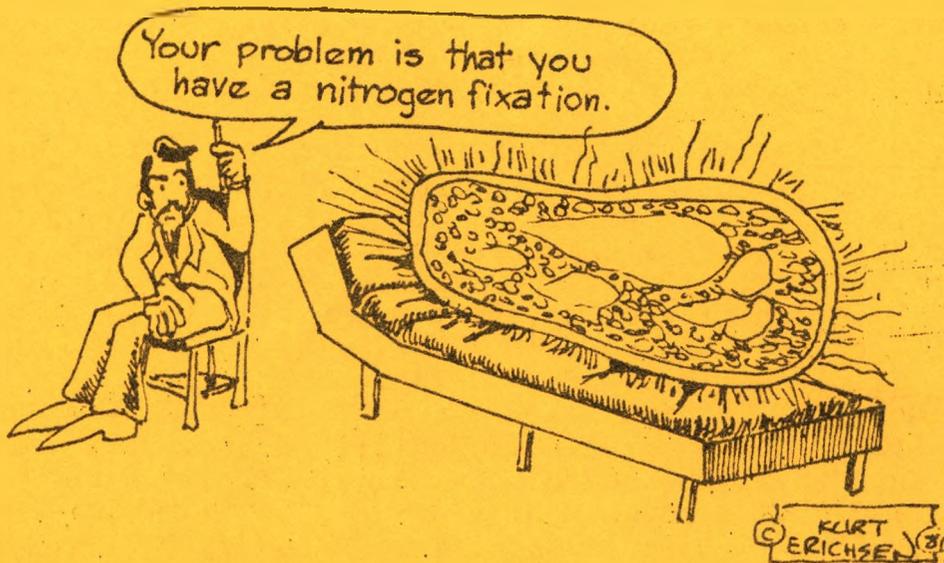
INCONJUNCTION 2: (July 2-4) Indianapolis IN, Airport Hilton Inn.
GoHs: Frank Kelly Freas, Richard & Wendy Pini, Roger Reynolds.
MC: Arlan Keith Andrews Sr. Elfquest parody play, masquerade,
panels, speeches, etc. Memberships: \$9 til 5/31, \$12 after.
Masquerade, contact Lisa Morrow 5505 Portsmouth Ave., Apt. B,
Indianapolis IN 46224. At show contact Paul McCall at con address.
Dealers tables contact Jim Yancey, PO Box 22161, Indianapolis IN
46222. Con address: PO Box 24403, Indianapolis IN 46224.

WESTERCON 35 (July 2-5) Phoenix Hilton, Phoenix AZ.
PRO: Gordon R. Dickson, FAN: Fran Skene, TM: David Gerrold.
Rooms: \$29 sgl/dbl. Memberships: \$25 attending, \$15 daily.
To: Westercon 35, PO Box 11644, Phoenix AZ 86061. (602) 249-2616.

MYSTICON II: (July 2-4) Sheraton Inn-Roanoke/Salem VA
GoH: Sam Moskowitz. Rooms: \$35.50/sgl, \$45.50/dbl. Memberships:
\$8 til 5/31, \$10 after. GoH Luncheon \$10. To: Mysticon II,
PO Box 1367, Salem VA 24153.

SUMMERCON '82: (July 2-4) Traveler's Hotel, Elmhurst NY.
Relaxacon. Memberships \$6.50 til 5/15, \$9 at door. To: TESSFA Inc.,
PO Box 682 Church St. Sta., NYC NY 10008.

BLOOMIN' STAR TREK CON: (July 2-5) Ramada Inn, Bloomington MN.
Rooms: \$30/sgl, \$35/dbl. Memberships: \$15.75. To: Joan Verba,
1910 E. 86th St., #227, Bloomington MN 55420.



CONVENTIONAL NEWS

HEXACON 4: (Jan. 8-10) The report furnished by Martin Morse Wooster, referenced in a back issue, finally surfaced: "...Hexacon attracted 175 fen, mostly from Philadelphia, Baltimore/Washington and the NYUSFS/Empiricon faction of New York fandom. Hexacon also marked a new high in concom feuding, chiefly between Hexacon founder Neil Belsky and NYC fen Spencer Pinney and Kevin Duane. Belsky, alleging that Pinney had not signed a contract with the hotel, and Duane had done nothing, kicked the two fen off the concom, only to restore them to their positions fifteen minutes after being fired. However, Duane did not run an auction scheduled to follow the Kelly Freas roast; as a result the banquet funds did not cover tax and tip. To make up the difference, K. Duane agreed to have a pie thrown in his face by the winning bidder of an auction organized by Scott Dennis. After the pie-throwing ceremony, Duane offered to be the victim of any concom willing to organize a pie-kill.

"Despite the feuds, Hexacon continued to be a mellow relaxacon, a good place to, as they say in Baltimore, 'flooze, booze and jacuzzi.' The traditional Saturday-night pigout became more formal this year, with a roast of pro GoH Kelly Freas that proved to be a disaster, with several pros and fen sticking their feet in their mouths. Only Hank Stine proved to be a successful roaster. Freas, however, did draw several caricatures of the pros on the dais. Freas also auctioned his services as a portrait painter; the winner of the portrait was Seth Breidbart, who bid \$400, topping wandering California fan Craig Miller's bid of \$375. Breidbart, clad in a three-piece suit for over three hours, attributed his ability to sit still to years of kendo training." Wooster closes, "David Whitley Chalker, born December 19, attended Hexacon. The proud mother, Eva Whitley, carried her son in a pouch and threatened to start marsupial fandom." (Calling all wombats!)

BOSKONE XIX: David Wolff sketches his con: "Moved to a different hotel this year, which just wasn't big enough. Only two major-sized rooms, which had the main programs during the day, and movies only in the evenings. (Usually Bill Carton and his most excellent crew run the movies 18 hours a day). Also, huxters were in a small, hot, and nearly oxygen-less cavern. With steps between the levels. So if you tried to walk around a box of used paperbacks you might suddenly discover that the floor had disappeared from under you. My most memorable event: about a dozen fen getting onto an elevator (MY elevator!) that was already crowded, then attempting to reach the fourth floor from the seventh. The elevator stopped at the third floor instead...or at a half-floor...or at some ptavv-spanwed thing, because the doors opened onto a most astonishing expanse of concrete, with maybe a couple pipes sticking out of it to break the monotony. I do not think that the alien from ALIEN would have surprised me more."

Fred Lerner makes an editorial comment: "I just got back from Boskone. Things have certainly changed -- events no longer start on time! Con-hotel relations weren't terribly good -- fans don't fit in with the upscale image the Boston Park Plaza likes to project. And, like most recent conventions, the scene was numerically and visually dominated by hordes of kids whose main interests seemed to be role-playing and media rather than science fiction. I gather that next year's Boskone might be held in a suburban hotel, which might help to weed out some of the noisier hangers-on. What I'm wondering is this: what motivation is there for a con committee to put a lot of unrecompensed time and effort into a convention most of whose attendees have little interest in Fandom and show little potential for becoming active, contributing members of the science fiction community? Where is the egoboo?"

LUNACON: (March 19-21) Nothing Left to the Imagination #1, edited by Alina Chu and Teresa Minambres, discusses the Lunacon fashion show. "The latest fashion in hats was seen at this year's Lunacon. The occasion was the gripe session on Sunday. It was obviously not a planned event judging by the surprise on the face of the person wearing this creation, Lise Eisenberg. There were a few noticeable drawbacks to this chapeau. First, she had a hard time keeping it on her head. And secondly, it dripped. Perhaps the major problem with it was that it was made of whipped cream and a pie tin. The original model was Stu Hellinger who sidestepped the sloppy fedora."

George Flynn agrees, "Lunacon was fun. Attendance was a little over 1100 (according to what Registration told me Saturday night). Having had time for none of the program at Boskone, I went to nearly all of it (one track or the other) at Lunacon and found it generally interesting. Noteworthy events included 'That's Disgusting' panel which ended with Charles Platt and John Shirley trashing the room; the book raffle for which Seth Breidbart bought about a third of the tickets (he says he came out ahead); the attempt at the end of the con by the rest of the committee to throw a pie in Chairman Stu Hellinger's face (but he struck first and it wound up on Lise Eisenberg's head); and of course the first public announcement of the sale of AMAZING (Scithers was in a rather gloating mood)."

(BALTICON continued from page one): "the Timescape Books party, the various bidding parties, etc., were in the Lord Baltimore, the overflow hotel. There was, rumor had it, a con suite of sorts in the Hyatt, completely dead on Friday night. On Saturday night the management closed it down. As a result, a room in the overflow hotel was far more desirable than one in the main hotel. Still, many people had to migrate between the two at all hours. There were snow flurries on Friday. Fortunately it didn't rain all weekend. Such a setup during a downpour would be disastrous.

"The Philadelphia in '86 committee rented a palatial suite in the Hyatt, but because of the Hyatt policy were unable to use it and had to rent a couple of rooms in the Lord Baltimore. (Which is a slightly shabby old place, but adequate, and its management is certainly more cooperative).

"On a more personal level; I was invited to be on the program of Balticon. Someone from the committee spoke to me about his months ago. A form passed back and forth. But when I got to the convention, no one knew anything about this and I received none of the usual courtesies extended to professionals. About this time I began to regret having supported Baltimore in '83."

Robert Whitaker confirmed some of the above: "The hotel which the programming functions were held at did not allow parties to happen, because the unions at the hotel applied pressure to the committee that if there were parties to be held, they would have to be catered by the staff."

Darrell Schweitzer continues his recitation: "I lost my name badge Saturday night trying to make my way through the press of hundreds of people lined up to see SUPERMAN II. The badges were badly designed and tended to fall off. A man had a whole box of lost badges, but not mine. He said it would cost me \$5 to get a new one. I told him to wait and see if mine turned up, and a little while later I found a badge which simply said 'Terry' and used it for the rest of the weekend. Actually, all the badges only had first names on them. This added to the overall anonymity which was the prevailing spirit of the convention. Truly this was a regional which was as fully chaotic and impersonal as a badly run worldcon.

"Attendance was apparently a little short of 3000 (I don't have any figures. The highest badge number I saw was around 2800.) However, for fans and pros it was a very small convention, since the fan and professional contingent was only a tiny fraction, greatly outnumbered by media trekkies (I use the term in its generic sense) and people in capes. There were more people sitting around various TV sets watching BATTLESTAR GALACTICA than attending many program items, including the speech by fan guest of honor D. Potter.

"Basically, Balticons have been declining seriously in quality for the last few years, ever since they became overrun with media trekkies. Many East Coast fans had hoped that the move into the city itself this year would solve these problems. It didn't. On the positive side, the convention had and enforced a strict

no-weapons policy, which I think can't be commended too highly. There was a harbor cruise, which was quite pleasant. About 100 fans and pros went (not a cape or a set of Spock ears on the boat!) ((Tom Miles will be so disappointed)) and this was the one part of the convention which actually felt like an old-time convention. Programming was fairly good. Samuel Delany's GoH speech was interesting (and will be reprinted in a book soon).... The convention area itself (which will be the site of the worldcon) is actually quite impressive, with blocks and blocks of futuristic buildings connected with walkways, just like something drawn by Frank R. Paul. There are a lot of good restaurants nearby. It is a very good place to hold a large summer convention in good weather, as long as the maps are accurate."

Steve Miller noted to me that the convention center slated for the '83 worldcon was rented for 14 weeks by the American Bowling Congress, wherein 33,000 bowlers will take turns on 40 custom-built bowling lanes. After that a worldcon should be easy, he adds.

Like Schweitzer, Robert Whitaker lodged a complaint against "the hordes of costume nerds which invaded the hotel. Some numbers of them were suspected of some minor, annoying mischief, chiefly the release of stinkbombs and smokebombs. Since the suspects in this case were juveniles, it could be suggested that convention committees, along with the banning of swords, no person under the age of 18 should be allowed at a convention unless accompanied by an adult. And as for weapons (again) it should include lengths of chain and freely bandied-about tire irons which were carried by the local group of 'Dhalgren People' who show up and get drunk and obnoxious at East Coast cons."

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MINICON AFTERMATH: At a LASFS meeting following Minicon, three fans had this exchange:

DAVID SCHLOSSER: I took K-Y jelly to Minicon instead of shaving cream...

MIKE GLYER: What were you shaving?

JANICE GELB: Matthew Tepper...

Indeed, Minicon's Shave-Off panel involved the depilation of Matthew Bruce Tepper. When it transmuted into a TAFF/DUFF auction, Schlosser paid the princely sum of 35¢ for the right to bring a plastic bag containing Tepper's beard back to LA. Schlosser offered it to the LASFS auction, but perennial auctioneer Bruce Pelz insisted David handle the transaction. Top bidder George Jumper was asked why he wanted the relic, as he harbors cool feelings towards Tepper. Simple, George explained -- he was going to mail it to Harry Andruschak... (But George, Harry already has a beard.) (He could always knit a hair shirt, I guess...)

WE GET LETTERS: Gregg T. Trend wrote a page which leads off "In the case of the Southeast Michigan-based NASFiC proposal I don't think you know what the hell you're writing about" and proceeds to offer some information. I appreciate the info, but what Brian Earl Brown had to say last issue covered the same ground. I would like to excerpt a letter received from HOWARD DE VORE: "I note a reference to the fact that I didn't attend the meetings of the Michigan NASFiC committee. If there's any doubt I believe I'm

on good terms with everyone involved, at least they invited me and no one told me not to come. I don't recall why I missed the first one, for the second one I'd been in Ohio and got back shortly before the meeting convened. My daughter was home from Texas for a couple of days and I preferred to spend the evening with her -- I can see fans most any time. There's another meeting Sunday and I'll likely be there, it's only three blocks from my home. I have no desire to be Chairman or any of the titled positions but I suppose I'll be working for it if they vote. From the late '40's through the early '70's I claimed to manage things in the Detroit area, but when I saw what I'd done I decided it was about time to let someone else manage things."

VALERIA BEASLEY: "I find it interesting that you appear to agree with Berry on the subject of attacking or denigrating fans who attract such criticisms solely because they are nerds yet gleefully print a relayed item on Ward O. Batty. Just because Wardo mistakenly finds such items to his benefit doesn't mean the rest of us would. Besides, if I wanted to hear about Wardo's inability to cope with life I could still be a member of Capa-Alpha wherein Wardo's contributions constitute such events, complete with phonetic typos."

PAUL KOCH: My issue came torn, ripped, crumpled, taped, bent and adorned with a little stamp saying 'damaged in handling in postal service.' This never happens to SFR.

LATE NEWS NOTE: Several sources inform me that Lunarians, a New York sf club, denied membership to Robert Sacks, reportedly the fifth time in the club's history that's happened, the first since 1976.

ART CREDITS: Taral, 1. Gilliland, 4. White, 6. Erichsen, 8. Kunkel, 12.

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