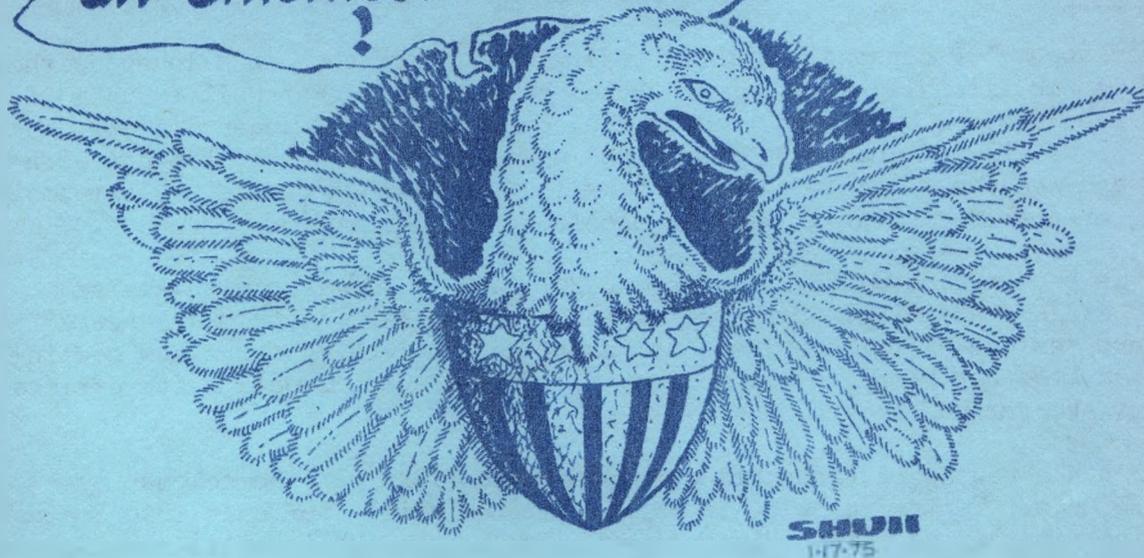


**KARASS...**  
**an AMERICAN FANZINE**



---

KARASS 15. Edited and published by Linda E. Bushyager, 1614 Evans Ave., Prospect Park, Pa. 19076. Phone: 215, LE4-4392. Assistance: Ron Bushyager. Electrostencils: Brian McCarthy. Available for articles, artwork, 1-for-1 trades, letters, news, and subs of 4/\$1.00. Copies of issue 13 and 14 are still available. Copies of GRANFALLOON 18 and 19 still available for \$1 each. Please make checks payable to Linda E, Bushyager. June 1975.

---

MIDAMERICAN NEWS

(Rates are now \$10 attending, \$5 supporting until Sept. 1, then \$15 and \$5 until Jan. 1, then \$20 and \$6 until May 1, 1976, then \$25 and \$6 until Aug. 1, then \$50 and \$6 at the door. Write: P.O. Box 221, Kansas City, Mo. 64141.)

Memberships now total about 2000. The committee has announced that it will handle hotel reservations to ensure that people who reserve rooms will be showing up, since past Worldcons have had large amounts of no-shows. The next Progress Report will announce details. Reservations will be taken if a cash deposit of around \$30 is given. The con will also limit multiple memberships to 2 per individual. Clubs can buy all the memberships wanted if Ken Keller recognizes the fan group. In any case, memberships bought for other persons will have to be assigned to a specific person by a certain date. This will eliminate the possibility of people buying several memberships and then boosting the price and selling them to others. All persons will have to show identification to pick up their membership packet. The membership will be non-transferable except in cases of emergency where the committee is familiar with the persons involved. If any person wishes to register their membership under an assumed or hoax name (say Filthy Pierre) that persons' legal name must be sent to the committee as well.

Robert Heinlein won't authorize any recording of his GoH speech, and so presumably won't allow his speech to be on closed circuit TV. The con will publish a photo memory book and mini-report of the con rather than a proceeding.

DUFF NEWS: Rusty Hevelin has won this year's DUFF race and will be going to Aussiecon. The final tally was Rusty - 110, John Berry - 72, Jan Finder - 30. About \$1600 total was collected.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS:

*Disclave* had about 500 persons. Highlights included an artshow in a lounge without lights, so people literally were using candles to see. Dave Hartwell thought his wallet had been stolen, but at the end of the con it was found under his car. *Kubla Khan Klave III* had about 200 people and was a small, fannish, fun con with good films and program. Room rates were very low, and the committee was extremely thoughtful, even to the point of meeting people at the airport.

*Jim Freund* is reading the slush pile for GALAXY. *Lou Stathis* is now an assistant editor for AMAZING/FANTASTIC. *Dan Steffan* is driving a cab. *John and Perdita Boardman* have resigned from Lunarians, so Lunarians are looking for a new meeting place. *Susan Wood* has received her doctorate. *F&SF* is consolidating its offices in Connecticut. *Vertex* has folded.

*Andy Porter* has a new Algol Press volume, "Dreams must Explain Themselves" by Ursula K. Le Guin. Tentative price is \$3. A limited edition of only 1000 copies is planned. The first Press title, "Exploring Cordwainer Smith" is still available for \$2.50. Bangsund and Foyster gave their royalties to DUFF and TAFF; and so far each fan charity has received \$14.55. Andy is selling these items and copies of ALGOL through Richard Witter's F&SF Book Company and various bookstores. I still say, this is no amateur magazine.

*Hugos.* The Torcon Hugos have been delivered to all recipients after numerous delays caused by customs mixups. The story of their travels is a long one, but suffice it to say, they finally made it. Torcon also provided the Hugos for Aussiecon, and they arrived and cleared customs at Melbourne.

---

HUGO BALLOTS/77 WORLDCON BIDDING: The Aussiecon PR 4 is now in the mail. Hugo and 1977 site selection ballots must be returned by July 17th to Fred Patten, 11863 W. Jefferson Blvd., Apt. 1, Culver City, Calif. 90230. *Don't forget to include \$3 if you are voting for the Worldcon site.* Fred Patten has mentioned that of 10 1977 site ballot returned so far, only 6 included the required payment for membership in the 1977 con. It is still not too late to join Aussiecon to vote. If you haven't joined, rates are \$4 supporting, \$12 full in North America.

---

*Zero Population Growth* has announced that Miriam Allen de Ford won the \$200 for the ZPG SF story contest. Runner up was William Black.

*NESFA's story contest*, mentioned lastish, is only for New England and NESFA fans. For information write NESFA, P.O. Box G, MIT Branch Post Office, Cambridge, Mass. 02139.

*Mexicon* will be Nov. 22-23. GoH: Mack Reynolds. David Gerrold is tentatively attending. Info: Elst Weinstein, APDO 6-869, Guadalajara 6, Jalisco, Mexico.

*Byobcon* will be July 18-20 in Kansas City. Info: Jim Loehr, 4411 Pennsylvania, Kansas City, Mo. 64111. GoHs: Bloch, Bushyagers. Toastmaster: Tucker. Special Guests: Tim Kirk and Harlan Ellison. Buffet is \$5.75, please send in \$ in advance, due to Friday deadline on reservations. Registration \$5 advance, \$7 at door.

LETTER FROM LELAND SAPIRO

"Roger Elwood did wrong in reprinting a copyrighted article without asking permission. You know this, I know it--and Roger Elwood knows it.

"Sandra Miesel's being forced to sign an indemnity clause--so she could be sued in case Elwood was sued--strikes me as just a cover-up, so Elwood can say, "See it's that S.O.B. Leland Sapiro that's causing all the trouble; I'm innocent!"

"If copyright laws had been followed, no such indemnity clause would have been necessary in the first place.

"I don't know what the probability is of any litigation actually reaching Mrs. Miesel--but now I'll have to adopt a much harder line than I would have otherwise. Before, I'd have settled out of court for a relatively modest sum; now I have to ask the maximum in order to be able to compensate Mrs. Miesel in case she actually is sued.

"Mrs. Miesel is intelligent enough to realize that she is not the one I'm aiming at. I said above that Elwood knew what he did was wrong, but as pointed out in the current NOTES FROM THE CHEMISTRY DEPT. (Editor Dennis Quane, Box CC, E. Texas State, Commerce, Tex. 65428), Elwood rationalizes his actions thus:

"I am an honorable man. What I am said to have done is not honorable. Therefore, either I didn't do it, or I did it for reasons I don't really remember but they must have been sufficient at the time. So why is this man accusing me of some terrible deed that I didn't do?"

"So I'm asking my brother--or whatever attorney he chooses to handle this matter--to take action as soon as he can. I'd appreciate your sending any future legal correspondence to him: Stanley Sapiro, 16255 Ventura Blvd., Penthouse Suite 1218, Encino, Calif. 91316."

---

MORE NEWS NOTES

*The June issue of OUI* has a snippet on the Discon II, with an extensive quote of the Asimov-Ellison insult-swapping contest; it plays up the high-exposure features of the costume ball and titles the whole thing "sci-fiasco."

*Wargamers* may be interested in Tolkien figures designed by "Der Kriegspellers: Fantastiques" based on drawings by Tim Kirk. (INFO: Ross McIntyre, 34 Paige St., Rochester, N.Y. 14611). Miniature Figurines Ltd. (Box P, Pine Plains, N.Y. 12567) has an extensive list of Tolkein figures and a brand new listing of S&S figures such as lizard men and wizards. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope to addresses for information.

*Dave Hartwell* is selling a special collector's item, a new Philip K. Dick novel (non-SF), CONFESSIONS OF A CRAP ARTIST, for \$10. Dick couldn't sell the novel to any publisher, and Hartwell felt it should be published, so Hartwell decided to publish it himself. Only 500 copies were printed. Dave Hartwell also has copies of TIME BETWEEN by Paul Williams available for \$10. (Entwhistle Books, David G. Hartwell, Bard Hall, 50 Haven Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10032.)

*Mike Hinge* (165 W. 26th St., #2, N.Y., N.Y. 10001) is in need of \$ and is selling original art at low prices (low for him - \$350-\$400 for AMAZING or FANTASTIC type art) or \$200 for original layout sketches (24x18"), or you can commission special works. Mike is willing to take deposits and installment payouts. Write him for more details.



#### HOME GROWN SPACESHIPS

by Bruce D. Arthurs, 920 N. 82nd St.,  
H-201, Scottsdale, Ariz. 85257

Since starting this column, I've begun to receive more unsolicited magazines than previously. Fanzines that I've never gotten or never heard of before are appearing in my mailbox, and I'm sure that at least some of them were sent for the purpose of my reviewing them. I'm sorry, but there's NO WAY that I can review all the fanzines I receive. My selections depend on the whim of the moment, I'm afraid, but I do enjoy and appreciate all the fanzines I receive.

The single most impressive "fanzine" I've received lately has been the MidAmerican Progress Report #2 (available for a supporting or attending membership, for info write P.O. Box 221, Kansas City, Mo. 64141). The report is 52 p. offset, with a wraparound Tim Kirk cover, impeccable layout, repro, and interior art, and some of the best use of Presstype I've ever seen. Besides the usual things one expects in PRs (business matters, membership lits, etc.), the PR also includes an article by Mike Resnick on preparing costumes for a masquerade, a hilariously complex extrapolation of Worldcon business rules by Bill Fesselmeier, and part 1 of an illustrated history of the Worldcon by Fred Patten, covering the cons up to 1941. Even if you are not planning to attend the 1976 con, it would be worth the cost of an attending membership to get this, especially for the Worldcon history. A membership would include this PR, three more, and the hardcover program book. The person behind this is Tom Reamy, whose late TRUMPET is still remembered as one of the most attractive fanzines ever published; he deserves a big hand for the work he's put into the PRs. (Since it'll have four issues published by 1976, the PR could be nominated for a Hugo as the Best Fanzine at the 77 Worldcon.)

SYNAPSE is the newsletter of the Ontario (Canada) SF club, OSFIC, edited by Wayne MacDonald, 1284 York Mills Rd., Apt. 410, Don Mills, Ontario, M3A 1Z2, available for an OSFIC membership (\$6/yr) or maybe a nice request. One doesn't often see a 36-page club newsletter with a George Barr cover, but this issue (#8) is a special "Historical" publication of Osfic. A large section in the middle of the zine features some reminiscences by founding members Peter Gill and Mike Glicksohn,

another reminiscence from Osfic's middle period by Bob Wilson, and an overall history of the club by Wayne MacDonald. Also included is a bibliography of Osfic publications since its formation. The rest of the zine is a bit more normal, with editorial, book reviews, meeting minutes, treasury report, news, and letters. MacDonald's personality is strongly evident in SYNAPSE, and he's an entertaining writer. Recommended.

One of those recent Osfic publications is THE VATI-CON III PROGRESS REPORT, a 1-shot edited by Victoria Vayne, P.O.B. 156, Station D, Toronto, Ont. M6P3J8, available for 75¢ or the usual. This is a "theme" one-shot, and its theme is religion. It is not the least stolid, though, and its tone is mostly the usual fannish one of mild irreverence. One serious piece sneaks in, excerpts from a conversation between Judith Merril, Fred Pohl, and One Father Gibson. Also included is an article about saucer freaks, an "Interview With God," and more. Appearance and repro are generally excellent. 40p. + covers.

This fanzine is strange. It looks like a genzine, but it contains some of the most "personal" writing in fandom, from regular columnists Dale Donaldson and Roger Sween, and even from the editor's father and brother. "This" happens to be STARFIRE #5, 84p. of mimeo and offset for 75¢ or the usual, put out by Bill Breiding, 151 Arkansas, San Francisco, Calif. 94107 (this is also a new address for Bill). In appearance, STARFIRE has become more art-oriented in the last few issues, and this issue includes a 6-page art folio by Vic Kostrikin, as well as a plentitude of interior art. A well-done job, though I suspect that some of the writing may be too personal for some people to relate to.

GORBETT #11, "The Typewritten Fanzine," comes from Dave Gorman, 8729 South Saint Peter #6, Indianapolis, Ind. 46227, for the usual or 75¢, 3/\$2. The subtitle explains it. The emphasis of GORBETT is on words. Besides a "heavy" lettercol (both in word count and thinking content), Dave also regularly features some of the most serious and intellectual writers in fandom -- the mainstay of this issue is a 23-page study of Joanna Russ's PICNIC ON PARADISE and AS CHAOS DIED. The zine isn't totally highbrow, though; more light-hearted writings by Mike Gorra, Jodie Offutt, and others are also included. Highly recommended.

Bruce Pelz is spouting profanity and I like it. PROFANITY #9 is Pelz's revived genzine, produced mainly for purposes of trade, but also available for contribution, comment, or 25¢. Most of this issue is taken up with "Tower Trivia: 1975" - a diary of Pelz's activities in fandom. It managed to be not only entertaining, but also informative. I think it gave me a better view of day-to-day life with LASFS ("Life with LASFS" sounds like a soap opera) than anything else I've come across. Also included is an editorial on having fanzines bound in permanent volumes, a hoax Progress Report on a "Necronomi-Con" by Meade Frierson III, and a lively locolumn. The address is -- Bruce Pelz, 15931 Kalisher St., Granada Hills, Calif. 91344.

---

#### COAs

John Bentz, 6406 Darlington Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217

Don Pauley, 2204 Castlerock Square #1, Reston, Va. 22091

Dan Steffan, 1210 N. Kenilworth St., Arlington, Va. 22205

Elst Weinstein, APDO 6-869, Guadalajara 6, Jalisco, Mexico (for everything except dictionary orders)

Mike Bracken, 3918 North 30th, Tacoma, Wash. 98407

Ro Nagey & Lin Lutz, 1115 Granger, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104 (note correction)

Dave Romm, 17 Highland Ave., Middletown, N.Y. 10940

Frank Balazs, 19 High St., Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y. 10520

David Singer, 5501 Old Richmond Ave., Richmond, Va. 23226



**OMPHALLOPSYCHITE!**

BULL! CUT THE CRAP BUSHYAGER,  
IF YOU WANT IT CALLED BELLY-  
BUTTON CALL IT BELLY-BUTTON!

---

*Alan Bostick, c/o Hawaii Prep. Academy, Kamuela, Hi., 96743*

---

Almost all of the proposed solutions to destroy the Giant Worldcon that Devoured Des Moines have a nasty shortcoming: they discriminate against neofen. The poor neo who has no advance knowledge of Midamericon, then finds out at the last minute that he has to shell out \$50 to see what's what is going to be pretty mad. Limiting attendance would have the same effect. Banning publicity won't even give the guy a chance to find out about the con. In effect, some of those who would otherwise have discovered fandom would be passed by, or worse. An alternative might be to make the World SF Society a real literary society instead of a legal fiction designed to hold the Worldcon. Then WSFS puts on the Worldcon, but only for members. Here's the catch: make the WSFS public all over so that afficionados have the opportunity to join at any time, by paying to have ads inserted into SF pbs and magazines, a la Kent cigarettes. Those who are interested in literary SF would join, pay their dues, attend the Worldcon if they wish, and also take part in other WSFS activities. Fringe fandoms would probably ignore the con then; concons would have a better idea of how many people would attend; and by making WSFS known to the SF public, neofen would be able to know in advance that a con is coming to town. *(Wouldn't neos still be able to find fandom through regional conventions? With the Worldcon as large as it now is, it is a bad place for a neo to learn about fandom, because he is likely to feel left out of things, and is unlikely to meet knowledgeable fans. Regionals are now the best place for neos to learn about fandom.-LeB)*

---

*Paula Smith, 127 Catherine St., Apt. #1, Kalamazoo, Mich., 49007*

---

SF goes through cycles of boom and bust, with a Golden Age of Fandom about every 20 years. We are right now in a peak time, and we should see the numbers recede in 5 yrs or so, although they may not get all the way back down to the early 60's level. Star Trek is still packing fandom with fringe fans--and quite a number of worthy new fans--and will probably continue to do so, what with its anticipated Second Coming on the movie screen, but there are other sources of tangential fans that crowd the Worldcon.

There are several hundred college and high school SF courses taught around the country and these students are many of the walk-in registrations when the Worldcon is held in their vicinity. The press--ah, yes, the kindly gentlefolk of the F&E, who attend panels on laser technology, see Ellison's new flick, meet our scientist-authors, then go home to write headlines like "Weirdos Examine Space in Heads"--the press is evidently anyone with an editor, up to and including high school yearbook staff members. They could stay home and save the con committee the money for the free memberships. And there are, of course, the Apes, and comixfen, and the SCA people who care for only their own particular aberration. *(I agree with you 100% about the press. One thing Worldcons don't need is extra publicity, so why do con committees continue to cater to the press? The committee could save its time and energy and stop setting up press rooms, running off press releases, spending time showing the press around and setting up interviews for them, and of course stop giving out free memberships to the press -- let them pay like all the fans. We couldn't possibly get worse news stories from disgruntled reporters than we now get.-LeB)*

I think it is obvious to everyone that there should be a limit on registration for the Worldcons. Subject to facilities, of course, the maximum should be about 3000, and optimally, 2000. DisCon II was too damn big. Torcon was nice. But there are things such as physical limitations, and we have to recognize this. We all know our ecology--or should. It is patent that the Worldcon cannot grow indefinitely; it'll overload its carrying capacity and all that. Any SF con simply cannot be as big as 5000 people, else it stops being a convention and becomes a mob.

As you said, splitting the Worldcon is no answer. Who gets whom for the guests? Which gets to do the Hugos (which actually makes the winner the real, for-true Worldcon), or do the awards get split too -- Fan at #1, Pro at #2? They'd have to held simultaneously, else there'd be those who'd go to them both. And what's to keep these daughter amoebae from growing to 5000 attendees themselves, forcing another split, etc., unless they are limited in registration, as well?

The N.Y. Star Trek Con, which did limit registration, didn't go too well, because, a) 7200 was still too many, and b) there was counterfeiting, 500 to 1500 fakes, they say. A more realistic limit should have been set, and better policing of badges would have eliminated counterfeits. The badges should not have been mailed out beforehand; they were asking for someone to xerox them.

Another side point, would it really be necessary to split the costume show if total attendance could be kept down? At Torcon, there was a manageable number of costumes, and only a few presentations. Also, the East and West Coasts tend to dress up more than the Midwest; next year may have only a relatively few presentations. There should be a time limit 1-2 min, enforced.

The "pool of volunteers" you mentioned already does exist, particularly in Trek fandom. They are called "gofers" in the Midwest, and helpers in the East. In Michigan there is a semi-organized roving band of gofers, the Hole in the Deck Gang, who have worked on several small and medium-sized ST and SF cons. They help with much of the dirty work, like registration, art show set-ups, etc., and get egoboo, a party, or possibly refund of part of their registration in payment. There are also the Dorsai Irregulars, who hire out as security guards. Because they are fans themselves, they are far cooler and more aware of typical con behavior than your average rent-a-cop who gets nervous at the nekkid ladies, the weird 11-year-olds, and SCA people with weapons. It would be lovely to have a national team of gofers, but an organized group of sufficient size and experience to handle a Worldcon would be hard to assemble, and harder to keep together. There is some loose goferism at the Worldcon already. Organization of such people would help verify the sincerity of the volunteer, and make sure such people wouldn't be more interested in removing artwork and money than in helping.

ST cons have a problem with over-subscription of gofers. Anybody who says he wants to help gets some sort of identification mark, a ribbon, a stamp, whatever, and he is turned loose with the expectation that he will respond instantly to the cry "Gofer!" (or "helper!" or "Mayday", etc.). However, because the gofer I.D. gets one into such interesting places, many dildocks volunteer, get one, and then slough off. The committee figures they have the 250 gofers that signed up and have more than enough help, then they find out, usually at the worst possible time, that only 50 of the volunteers are dedicated types who will actually do some work.

*(Many of your reasons are why I think it would be good to organize the gofers at the Worldcon. I don't envision any permanent type of committee, but rather that the con committee ask for volunteers in advance in the program book, and ask friends to help. These persons would be asked to arrive on Thursday and would attend a special orientation meeting where they would learn about the layout of the hotel, the program, and any essential facts. They would be assigned times to help out, and duties. This would make the "gofers" really able to help out, because they would have essential knowledge necessary to help. They could be used for registration, errand-running, and as extra badge-checkers or guards if necessary. A second orientation for helpers might be held on Friday. By having persons attend an orientation session, you would ensure that only really dedicated people were designated as helpers. Times could be scheduled so that no one would have to work for more than a few hours; and with some training, the gofers would really be of help to the committee.-LeB)*

Discon was a circus. One thing that discourages purely fan hucksters is the price of the table. At Discon they cost \$25. I realize the committee counts on the table fees to help pay for the con, but one still has to deal a lot of zines to cough up that kind of dough. Only dealers, or fen who resort to pushing high profit items like pens and jewelry and comics can afford the fees. So fan editors push their zines in the hallways or from their room.

Everything leads to the question, why is the Worldcon? Who is it for? Who is to be allowed at the Worldcon? I hate to say it, but it looks like admission will either be "first come, first served" or else "trufen only." The former is fair, sort of, but doesn't solve the basic problem of the circus atmosphere. Dealers will still register early; fans won't register until they have a pretty good chance of attending. Fans often register at the door. My heart objects to "trufen only," but my head says it's only logical. This must be an unofficial policy--and even then there is the risk of some over-zealous dummy saying, "get out, you fringe fan" to someone like Ruth Berman. How do you tell that someone is a fringe fan? By the fact the he doesn't show the year after you cut out his programming? Or the fact that the con is being held in South America and he doesn't come? We don't want to label people; it only leads to hard feeling, and besides, it doesn't work anyway. *(By limiting attendance to 3000, you are in effect limiting the con to the trufen, who hear about the con early, and are the first to join. Some people have suggested requiring Worldcon members to have attended at least 1 regional con before being admitted. Other people have suggested a test. I still think the best way to limit attendance is to limit publicity and limit the programming to deal only with literary SF.-LeB)*

Besides, part of the fun at Torcon was the diverse (but unemphasized--perhaps that's the key) opportunities (not programs) for other forms of SF. I mean, the Count Dracula Society may have had a boring exhibit, but at least people learned about the society. Computer games are fun, even if they are not for everybody. I like the opportunity to find some comics I don't have, but I don't go to comic cons because I'm not a strict comics fan. Well, yes, something for everyone, but in moderation. The panels should be kept to literary SF, but let Apes and trekkers, and comicfen sit in the halls and unused rooms and talk about their subjects, as long as they don't block traffic. It would be nice

if the masquerade could be pre-screened. Let the emphasis be on reading and writing and fanning, but don't ban other possibilities. I don't want Ringling Bros., no, but I don't want the Kalamazoo Trufen Reading Circle, Book Review, and Worldcon society, either. There has to be a middle course. Don't program the mass media tripe, but let their leaders contact the concom and arrange for a little area of their own to mismanage by themselves.

Other ways to cut down attendance include just staying at home or sending one person to represent the group (what fan is that?). Anybody who goes this year can't go next year, or hold the Worldcon in Highmore or some other Podunk where inaccessibility will keep people away. Don't hold the Worldcon at all for one year. Writing this letter makes me depressed. I'm sure I haven't any answers, just a lot more questions.

---

*Wayne MacDonald, 1284 York Mills Rd., Apt. 410, Don Mills, Ont., Canada M3A1Z2.)*

---

Perhaps three articles need to be read to understand the Worldcon problem: yours, Harry Warner's in LOCUS, and Jacqueline Lichtenberg's "Critical Mass" article in SELDON'S PLAN (6/4/74). The differences in each writer's approach are interesting. You tend toward various restrictions placed on Worldcon activities -- limiting attendance, barring non-SF dealers, discouraging fringe-fans, and cutting back on nonessentials like film programs. The key word is "limiting."

Harry Warner works at the problem differently. He proposes that a sort of "pre-con" be instituted. The actual Worldcon would be preceded by a hard-core fannish get-together. When that was over, the Labor day weekend would be given over to the flood of fringe fans and dealers. This sounded good, but how many hard-core fans would really be able to attend a con for a week? The extra costs would be large. Harry's proposal is not practical. But let's tag it as an "extending" Worldcon proposal. *(More importantly, if convention committees are having difficulties in running a 4-day Worldcon, how could they run one that lasted a week or more? No amateur group is going to be willing to do this.-LeB)*

Jacqueline Lichtdnberg is primarily a Trekker. Her view is that of a fan who has attended major ST cons, with more than 10,000 attendees. Trekkers are also feeling the pinch. They too feel that a limit is being approached in numbers; they too are being crowded out by the Trekkies. The similarities are great. Jacqueline complains about the masses who demand the same pap over and over again; who require round the clock planned entertainment; who have nothing to add to the con from their own personalities and abilities. Her idea is that this sort of thing is not only to be expected, but is also unavoidable. In a way she is right. Supposing Worldcons are "extended" per Harry Warner's suggestion; if it succeeds, soon the early part of the con will attract the fringe fans and become a circus. Indeed, Jacqueline thinks that cons will fission from the old universal purpose con into specialized kinds. Mass entertainment cons for the fringes, in-groupish cons for actifans, and various mixed types. Let's call this proposal "segregating" since it segregates different groups from one another.

Thus, we can "segregate," "extend," or "limit." "Segregating" asks us to define the purpose of the Worldcon so we can decide what we should do. "Extending" merely asks to do what "segregating" would have us to, to split the Worldcon into different functions. In a way, both of these lead us to doing nothing at all. While we can "segreaate" purposefully, we can "segregate" unconsciously as well. The Worldcon can degenerate into a Roman Holiday very quickly if nothing is done -- and it is likely that nothing effective will be done before the first Worldcon flops. Afterwards it will become a well-managed circus for whoever wants to come. At the same time, there will be an actifan con or cons, described by Jackie. We have them already --

regionals, and local cons. This chain of thought leads me to think that we will "segregate" whether we do anything or nothing at all.

"Extending" the Worldcon only puts off the problem for a while or will not work. If it doesn't work, then we follow the path of unconscious "segregation." If it works, then sooner or later the fringe will catch up with us and we will face the choice again. And, in effect, "extending" is only a form of segregation, since the actfan con is separated from the mass entertainment con.

If to "segregate" or "extend" is to do nothing, that leaves only change, and the only change I have seen is "limit." Ugh.

I know I could have easily missed fandom entirely. I heard about fandom from a small ad in FANTASTIC advertising OSFic. If I'd missed that ad I would have had two other chances -- I could have attended Torcon or found the new SF bookstore in Toronto. I did attend a comic con in Toronto, that I heard about in school, and might have paid attention to the dealer who was incidentally the proprietor of the SF book store. But again I might not have. Chances of finding fandom are low, but with deliberate camouflaging of the Worldcon, I despair to think of the potential fans we will be turning away.

The Grand Old Days are Over. What comes now is evolutionary compromise. We undoubtedly will segregate, since we will mostly do nothing, and to some extent we will limit. I really have no idea what should be done, because I find almost all proposals either ineffective or objectionable.

---

*Victoria Vayne, P.O. Box 156 Stn. D, Toronto, Ont., Canada, MSP3JB*

---

I hope they won't have to limit registration at Worldcons. If they'd done this at Torcon, I would never have gotten to go, since I registered at the door at that con. If I hadn't gone to Torcon, I wouldn't have found out about OSFIC, and I would have missed out on the fun I'm having now. I'm not the only neofan who has been initiated into fandom through a worldcon he or she heard about by accident. "Walk-ins" swell the ranks, to be sure, and one way to limit Worldcon size might be to limit these, but I still remember that I was one at Torcon.

I find myself in agreement with the discouragement of fringe fans; possibly the best way to de-emphasize fringe fan programming would be to reduce ST, comics, etc., which would discourage the fringe fans.

*(I too learned of fandom through the Worldcon, but still I feel that reduced publicity about the Worldcon will not keep the potential fan from discovering fandom sooner or later -- after all, there are numerous regional conventions which do advertise, local clubs, mentions of fandom in prozines and books, word-of-mouth, and some leaking publicity about the Worldcon. With the Worldcon in its present state, and with the prospect of cons of 10,000 persons, I still wonder if neos who attend such cons as their first contact with fandom wouldn't be turned off, rather than turned on.-LeB)*

---

*Erwin S. Strauss, 11700 Columbia Pike, Suite 809, Silver Spring, Md. 20904*

---

It soon may be necessary to have the function rooms spread over more than one hotel. This isn't really a problem -- the main limiting factor is the size of the main room. With a con in position to guarantee a sleeping room sellout over along weekend, I don't think the hotel would really insist on a banquet. But it has become enough of a tradition that lots of people wouldn't think it was a Worldcon without one.

Limiting the length of presentations at the masquerade would do the trick. Most people at Discon weren't bothered by the overall length of the parade as much as by the pacing -- for example, the guy who did 20 min of magician shtic, in the middle. As long as a new costume or group is coming every couple of minutes, even a 3 or 4 hour show would be bearable. The thought of prejudging scares me. After all, someone who spends a good part of a year preparing something deserves more than to be told he isn't going to be allowed on stage. *(Couldn't prejudging be used to determine if presentations would be too long and if costumes were SFictional or not? Ineligible costumes would be allowed on stage for a quick walk through, followed by costumes which were eligible but judged to be of poor quality. Then costumes which were under consideration would go through a slow walk-through with announcements.-LeB)*

As for the amateur night, the best thing might be to have it immediately following or preceding the masquerade. In other words, group all of the longer presentations so that people can choose to see the masquerade, the amateur night, or both. TV for the masquerade doesn't make it.

Something like the use of convention centers for big events seems to be coming. We might rent a theater for the banquet and masquerade. A tent could be set up on the hotel grounds (if they're big enough), or in a near-by park. But having parallel Worldcons would defeat the whole Worldcon idea -- you'd just have two more big regionals -- the whole idea of a Worldcon is to have one big gathering of the clans.

The fans that put me off are "fetish fans" -- that is, those who are more concerned with objects (buying, selling, trading, etc.) and minutiae ("Who's your favorite character in....?"). My idea is to in effect sponsor a separate con in a nearby hotel aimed at the fetish fans. Admission to this con would be much less to the main con, although membership in the fetish con would be included with a membership in the main con, and its chief attraction would be a huckster room with large table fees. An art show and perhaps a few Trek/comics/film/etc. oriented events could be thrown in. At Discon, I found that large numbers of walk-ins and fringe fans were mainly interested in the huckster room and art show. You could possibly also have a separate art show and huckster room only for members of the main con. A special wing of the main hotel could be reserved for people interested in hosting parties.

You talk about literary vs. non-literary SF. I don't think that's the real division. It seems to me that most of the literary-SF people fall into the non-fetish category-- but what about people like the Perry Rhodan fans? However bad it may be, I think you have to call the Rodent "literary SF" and yet Rhofans behave much the way one tends to think of people like Trekkies and film fans. On the other hand, films from "Metropolis" to "2001" have much to say analogous to what most literary SF is about, and are not at all out of place at an SF con.

Turning people away at the door or posting ridiculous prices like \$50 is no solution -- there are a large number of gate-crashers as it is, and it's only practical to exclude them from a few key places like the art show and huckster rooms. Those turned away would simply roam the halls anyway. *(But if they couldn't get into program, films, hucksters, art show, or parties, and if committee members kept buttonholing persons without badges asking them to register, what could these people do except register or leave? Why would they want to stay? Also, peer pressure would be pretty high for them to register, and not to be freeloaders.-LeB)*

Restricting the material that may be shown in the art show or huckster room sounds like an administrative nightmare for whoever is running them, sure to start feuds, encourage bribery, etc. Administration of a secondary fetish con shouldn't be too much of a problem -- the fetish-fan hucksters will probably be glad to do most of the work.



---

Rick Sneary, 2962 Santa Ana St.,  
South Gate, Calif. 90280

---

I am in general agreement with your views on Worldcon size; I am pleased to see other voices raised in protest to the trend. I am particularly pleased that you stress as one of your main objections the loss of the feeling of "family" that used to prevail. This is my view also. I feel cons are family reunions for a band of orphans -- this was truer in the 40's and 50's when it was truly a proud and lonely thing to be a fan. The present trend is turning off some trufans, I know of at least one who says he will not attend another Worldcon.

It is the actifans who hold fandom together. They are the organizers, worriers, doers... There will never be a viable central organization. It is the actifans who keep things moving. If the cons get too large, not only will it be hard to find able actifans to control them, but they will become so profitable that outsiders will attempt to take over.

Growth into municipal auditoriums would also increase the cost of cons greatly.

I agree that publicity should be limited. No promotional coverage of the Worldcon in advance, except in the SF market itself, where we are likely to draw better new blood. News reporting could be controlled by cutting free press passes to a bare minimum. (*Freedom of the press means that the press would be allowed to report the event, but there is nothing which says free press passes are required. I say, make the press pay the going rate to the con like everyone else, even if it is \$50 at the door. -LeB*)

We agree about the elimination of fringe fandom programming, but I had not thought about limiting the hucksters as well, and a very good point. It is apt to cause screaming and complaining, but I do think it would help. A semi-answer is that if the con is big enough to spread to two hotels, the hucksters and films could be in one hotel, with the main programming in the other. (*This would require twice as large a con committee to police goings on in two hotels, however -LeB*)

Rather than having a high door fee, I suggest limiting at-the-door memberships to persons who were members of either of the previous two year's cons. This would allow the con to advertise that attendance is strictly limited to members of the WSFS. This would allow new memberships, but they would be cut off some weeks before the con date.

---

*Morning G'Zell, Box 2953, St. Louis, Mo. 63130*

---

I want to explain a misconception that is prevalent in some fan circles. It appears that you and many other fans don't really understand too well what the Church of All Worlds (CAW) is about. On the charge of commercialism, we plead "not guilty!" The CAW is a non-prophet religion. We make no money on our trip, and Green Egg is paid for by subs. We are non-commercial, non-authoritarian, and anti-ascetic. We are a bunch of fans, anarchists, & what-have-you who are trying to show that there exists an alternative to monotheistic religious theology and culture. We are not, strictly speaking "Pagans" but Neo-Pagans. We were founded in an attempt to actualize the ideal "Nest" of Heinlein's STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND and we have succeeded in the largest part. The concept that we want to "sweep the con" with, is that SF is the Mythology of the Aquarian Age. SF can be the dominant shaping mythic structure of the New Age. We see SF as truly religious writings, in accordance with our only religious doctrine, which is "Thou are God(dess)." Since we have no great teacher, guru, prophet, or Holy Book, we feel that SF comes on like an anarchistic set of scriptures for every godling to learn from and hopefully contribute to. We understand that people are gun-shy of the word "religion" because they have been badly burnt for the past 3500 years, but the word "religion" just means "re-linking." We want people to renew their links to other people and other animals, to plants, and to the whole of Nature throughout the Universe. This is what is meant when we say we are Pantheists.

Most of our people are fans. If you went to LACon or Discon you may remember Tim and Julie and I and our costumes for the masquerade ball. Those costumes are also used as ceremonial robes for our regular religious festivals. We are a true grass roots movement, and our roots are buried in fandom. Why should we be considered fringe fans when we take our SF seriously enough to want to put it into practice in everyday lives? Surely this should be a sign of our dedication to SF, rather than the other way around! Accuse us of too much dedication or of being overzealous, but not of being fringies or commercializers.

We want to put on programs at the con dealing with SF as religious mythology, with an alternative environmentally oriented technology, and perhaps a panel discussion on "SF into Reality" which would include a discussion of CAW in fiction and actualized. We hope that Heinlein will be able to participate in this one, as he has been subscribing to GE for the past 5 years. We also have movies and slide shows planned, and two suites of rooms available for people to drop in and visit us, if you don't mind naked people and snakes too much.

We just want people to understand us. We aren't out to get converts, and I'm sorry if our GE editorial somehow gave you that impression. We just want space to put all the fans who are already part of us and a chance to show people that we are truly part of the great SF conspiracy to change and revolutionize human consciousness.

*(I'm sure that you and Tim and some of the other CAW people are indeed true fans, but I think the Church itself is a fringe fan group - since it is definitely on the fringes of mainstream literary SF fandom, just as ST, Burroughs, and other fandoms are pretty much separate fringe fandoms, with some overlap. GE goes to many persons who are not true fans, to various pagan groups which have no real interest in SF, but which are interested in CAW as a religion. The vast majority of SF fans have no real interest in CAW-LeB.*

---

Brian Earl Brown, 55521 Elder Rd., Mishawaka, Ind. 46544

---

It does seem like the only two viable alternatives are to go all out and have a supercon (rent a fairgrounds, plan general-audience events, and turn the thing into an annual "Woodstockian" event) or to limit the con. Limiting the huckstering sounds like the single most effective act here -- but think of all that lost revenue, and how do you tell comics fans that the Worldcon won't have anything to offer them? Limiting membership seems to go against the grain of what fandom is all about, though it will probably prove necessary. The big problem is not keeping away fringe fans that are also SF fans, but that many SF fans are also fans of other things, comics, S&S, etc. The problem is not how to keep the undedicated away, but how to keep the dedicated on the straight and narrow.

---

Don Lundry, 18 Karen Dr., Cherry Hill, N. J. 08003

---

It is good to see someone discussing the possible futures of the Worldcon. In some areas I agree, in some I disagree. But the point of this sort of open discussion is to come up with solutions to the various problems facing the Worldcon. Only by setting forth an approach and listening to the counter arguments can any sort of intelligent decision be reached.

As one of the Worldcon bidders for 1977, let me set forth our position. Essentially, it amounts to being receptive to any workable concept that may come up. We have no preconceived ideas. The rapid growth in the size of the Worldcon has obsoleted many of the ideas and approaches that worked in the past. So we will listen most carefully to anything that seems to be particularly viable. We have no intention of forcing the Worldcon into any preset format, as some others seem intent on doing. Keep the discussion going, and all of us on the Orlando committee will be listening for those approaches which sound worthy of implementation.

---

John Robinson, 1-1-1st St., Troy, N.Y. 12180

---

I'd like to offer my suggestions for the Worldcon:

- 1) No new memberships will be sold at the door except to the press.
- 2) Supporting memberships may be converted to attending memberships at the door.
- 3) All memberships must be received no later than July 31.
- 4) The committee and special interest groups should purchase and hold blocks of supporting memberships to cover last-minute guests.
- 5) The Worldcon committee shall be required to announce its full membership policy in the first progress report, and all succeeding reports should display membership rates.

I drew this list up following news of the experiences of members of various Star Trek cons. My referendum covers only Worldcons in North America.

---

George Fergus, 3341 W. Cullom Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60618

---

That was a really excellent editorial, and I generally agree with your suggestions. I feel that even though some relief can be achieved by rearranging things like the banquet and costume show, there are just too many people coming to the Worldcon for it to be fully enjoyable to the attendees or workable for the committee. Talking of closed circuit TV makes me wonder what kind of monster we are creating. It's time to evaluate what we, the actifans, want of our convention.

I heartily endorse your proposal to discourage attendance by fringe fans who have their own cons to go to, such as comics, film, ST, and SCA fans. Banning these from the huckster room, or at least mentioning in all publicity that the SF Worldcon does not welcome them should help considerably. (Now if only someone would come up with a way to prohibit belly dancers and bagpipe players.) I think we can put up with groups like the Georgette Heyer Society, as they are small and have nowhere else to go. *(Just don't program belly dancers or bagpipes into the con, seems to be the solution. I agree the GHS is a small group, but I don't see how you can ban fringe groups with much closer ties to SF and still allow this group to have a place in the con. If GHS people want to meet, they can always throw a party, but I don't think they should have an official meeting listed in the program book and given a place as part of the official con.-LeB)*

But I don't think the problem will yet be fully solved. The largest single category of attendees, it seems to me, is that of local fans. I don't mean merely those in the general locality of the con city, but all those in neighboring states who wouldn't go halfway across the country to attend a worldcon as we do. These people are apparently drawn mainly by the number of pros in attendance. Yet I am strongly opposed to trying to keep them away by reducing publicity and eliminating at-the-door memberships. Even if this were effective, it does not seem right to run away the very people who are most likely to be SF readers worth bringing into fandom. Many of us, myself included, were essentially walk-ins ourselves at one time.

A possible answer is to try to get them to attend regional cons instead of saving up their energy and money over a 3-year span to descend en masse on the next Worldcon in their area. Yet regionals have proliferated to such an extent that few of them have enough celebrities in attendance or publicity to lure those people who eventually turn up at a Worldcon. No one seems seriously to have considered that since attendance appears to increase when Worldcons are less frequent, it might very well decrease if Worldcons or their equivalent occurred more often in each division. The Worldcon itself obviously can't be increased in frequency because of the Hugos, but perhaps an extension of the NASFIC concept to an annual Worldcon-substitute held in each of the other rotation zones on a different date might reduce the pressure on the Worldcon itself.

The only other method of spreading the crowd -- by going to simultaneous cons at different locations -- would, as you say, frustrate the main reason for the Worldcon -- that of periodically getting everybody together in one place. But many pros and ~~hard~~core fans would probably be willing to attend 3 major cons at different times of the year. The Westercon could almost be said to serve this function already for the Western Division, but I don't know if it has any effectiveness in reducing the number of people who show up at Worldcons there. Attendance at recent Calif. Worldcons has either dropped or shown a less-than-expected increase from the previous year, but this may simply be because there are fewer fans there.

It seems combining the Hugo presentations and speeches with a banquet has lost its charm. The amount of room required for the tables just makes the seating situation worse for the rest of the attendees. Meet-the-authors lunches and other small food functions sound infinitely better as a means of appeasing the banquet-mania of the hotel. Some of the popularity of the banquet and masquerade may be due to the fact that such activities are the only ones available. I would give serious consideration to either increasing the number of concurrent evening activities, or eliminating the evening programming altogether, or re-scheduling the most popular items for the morning and the least popular for the evening. The costume entrants could parade from one end to the other of the concourse which would allow the greatest exposure at minimum distance and might make things cooler and more comfortable for all. *(How about having the huckster room and movies going while the Hugo banquet and masquerade were on?-LeB)*

---

*Rich Bartucci, Box 369, KCCOM, 2105 Independence Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64124*

---

I know why I like Worldcons -- people -- the various and sundry flavors of folk involved in fandom and all its fringes appeal to me. When I attended my first Worldcon, I saw people whose existence I'd only been able to dream of and read about -- not just the pros and BNFs, but the creative anachronists, the Trekkies, the art nuts, and the movie-poster buffs. Now you say there are too many people coming to the Worldcon, that the fringe must be curbed. But I don't like that thought -- not one little bit. The idea of limiting attendance strikes me as sounder than limiting the tastes of congoers. Policing of badges might be the end to the customized and beautifully individual identification tags that delight the eye at every con. And how do you determine who is a fringe fan? I am a literary SF fan, but I'm also a wargamer. To ostracize the fringe fandoms might make them militant. And groups such as the Burroughs Bibliophiles are part of the backbone of fandom, and it wouldn't make sense to alienate them. Restricting the Worldcon might result in the loss of vitally needed fresh blood.

Possible solutions might be to let the fringe groups run their own huckster rooms and other items. Let the Con Committee sublet rooms for them, obtaining costs for security, rental, etc. Increase the number of volunteers. Separate the banquet from the awards, perhaps give fringe groups their own banquets. Emphasize solidarity. Limit the size of the masquerade. Concentrate on finding a con hotel that has room for the main events. *(I don't think any fringe group should be forbidden from attending, but merely suggest that fringe programming be eliminated completely.-LeB)*

---

*George Flynn, 27 Sowamsett Ave., Warren, R.I. 02885*

---

There seems little doubt that the Worldcon will continue to grow -- barring economic disaster, which is hardly inconceivable, and maybe even then. Any scheme to prune the membership will probably only postpone the problem. Fandom proper has been growing steadily, so we will continue to need overflow hotels, and that should be taken into account in site selection. But splitting the program is out -- it's bad enough getting around in one hotel. I like your ideas on eliminating the banquet -- and after the Discon banquet there should be a receptive mood for it. As for the masquerade, the main problem is the delays, which shouldn't be beyond human ingenuity to eliminate. There is no easy solution to the management problem, but it may solve itself. As attendance grows, so will surplus funds, so there'll be no obstacle to concoms' either hiring or becoming professionals.

Is the size of the Worldcon that much of a problem yet? I didn't find Discon all that bad. There were several things at once I'd have liked to have seen, but would it have been better to eliminate all but one? I met most of the people I wanted to see, and most of the open parties I visited didn't seem particularly crowded. I didn't mind the crowds as long as they weren't so thick as to impede movement, which was seldom. Entertainment at the con is necessary for persons who don't socialize as rapidly as others. Drastic change seems unlikely until we have a real disaster.

All the ideas advanced along the line of limiting attendance sound bad, and usually when one analyzes how the practical details would work out, they seem even worse. The major problems seem obvious -- policing and the associated authoritarianism and gate-crashing, each feeding on the other. It seems likely that the people who would be excluded would be the wrong ones. Fringe fans, hucksters, etc., will know about the con in advance and take steps accordingly, because their interests are commercial. Whereas, many "real fans" are strongly inclined to procrastination. This problem is especially acute when the fan doesn't have much money and the

attendance fee is high. I'm appalled at the idea of scaring off new fans. If one has never been to a con, the obvious course is to wait till one gets there to register, in case one doesn't like it.

The "literary SF" definition doesn't seem to work. Can you really say that fanzines are "in imitation of" prozines? And films/TV certainly have a legitimate place as long as the dramatic category is on the Hugo ballot; besides, SF drama is to some extent a literary form. (*Actually, should we have a Dramatic Hugo?--LeB*) Frankly, I like the variety of elements that form part of the Worldcon. Fans do have dual interests, as fans. So what do we do? We can make the banquet and masquerade adjustments, try to shift the emphasis by persuasion (this may be futile, but the compulsory route is repugnant and might not work either). The key question is who the Worldcon is for. You say it shouldn't be an omni-SF con. Well, if it isn't then one should be invented. If a small fannish con and a large omni-SF con coexist, which would be more deserving of the name Worldcon? Maybe we should let the Worldcon go its own way and proceed to develop a separate con for us of the elite. I'm afraid though that the basic problem is simply that too many people want to be fans.

---

#### CREDITS

Thanks go to all of you who wrote in reply to my Worldcon editorial. I'm sure there will be lots of continued discussion in this area, though not in Karass at the present. Also thanks to Bruce Arthurs and Bruce Townley who wrote fanzine reviews -- Townley's will appear in the next KARASS. Artwork this issue is by Terry Austin (p. 12), Randy Bathurst (p. 6), Dan Steffan (p. 4), Jim Shull (p. 1), Mike Gilbert (p. 18)

---

#### CONVENTION NEWS

CONFUSION 12 will be held Jan. 23-25 in Ann Arbor. Pro GoH: Lloyd Biggle; Fan GoH: Bill Bowers. Seminars, art show, etc. Profits go to DUFF and such (last year Confusion gave \$200 to the Tucker fund and \$200 to DUFF). Write: Ro Nagey, 240 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104.

STAR TREK CONVENTION. Feb. 12-16, 1975. Commodore Hotel, N.Y. Attendance limited to 6000 persons. Tickets start at \$10.80 (includes sales tax) until 8/15/75, then go to \$16.20, then \$21.60. Write Star Trek Associates, G.P.O. Box 951, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.

L.A.2000: A SCIENCE FANTASY CONFERENCE. Dec. 5-7, 1975. International Hotel. Celebrating the 2000 meeting of LASFS. Write: LASFS, 11360 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, Calif., 91604.

RHOCON I. Perry Rhodan Convention. Washington, D.C., Jan. 2-4, 1976. Write: Tim Whalen, 9324 Tovito Dr., Fairfax, Va. 22030.

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL STAR TREK CON. Aug. 8-11. Bellevue Stratford Hotel. (This is Al Shuster's con) Write: P.I.S.T.C., 280 Kipp St., Hackensack, N.J. 07601.

ICON - Iowa City, Iowa, Oct. 31. GoH: Roger Zelazny. Write: Greg Frost, P.O. Box 510, Iowa City, Iowa 52240

---

SCIENCE FICTION CLUB ADDRESS LIST. A must if you need addresses of correspondence or local clubs. 10¢ + stamped, self-addressed envelope, or 25¢. From: LASFS, 11360 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, Calif. 91604.

---



If this is checked, your sub or trade credit has run out. Please subscribe.

Linda Bushyager  
1614 Evans Ave.  
Prospect Park, Pa. 19076

KARASS 15. June 1975



THIRD CLASS  
Printed Matter Only  
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Mark Olson S16  
Dept. of Chem. P.S. Bldg.  
SUNY/Binghamton  
Binghamton, N.Y. 13901