

# S.F. WEEKLY 209

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formerly DEGLER!

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SPECIAL LETTER ISSUE: This issue contains letters writtten to us concerning the editorial in SFW several issues ago on the rotation plan, the continental convention, and other matters to do with convention site selection.

Waldemar Kumming      This is in reply to some of the questions raised in SFW 202  
8 Muenchen 2              and ED188. The convention language will be English. This de-  
Herzogspitalstrasse 5      cision was reached very early during the conception of the  
Germany                      Worldcon-in-Germany idea. Actually, this will present fewer  
                                    difficulties than holding it in German. Many of the speakers  
will come from England or the U.S. There is also no shortage of German fans ble to  
take part in a discussion or deliver a talk in passable English. Something of course  
will have to be done for the German fans unable to follow the proceedings in English.

The matter of selecting the U.S. consite following a worldcon elsewhere certainly deserves some thought. I quite agree that following the normal procedure of voting at the previous worldcon would not be very practival in that case, at least not without some modifications. Actually, a committee to study that very question was set up at the NYCon business meeting, and one of the proposals before that committee is to include the consite selection on the Hugo ballot.

Changing the present rotation plan from 4 to 5 years would solve some difficulties, but I still think it would not be a good move. Holding the con outside the U.S. every 4th year represents a fair compromise between the demands that go with the title of world convention and the fact that the U.S. still holds the biggest slice of fandom within its borders. I'm sure you know there is a good deal of ppposition to the present rotation plan. ... The present plan could still be overthrown at next year's meeting; it is quite likely that some such attempt will be made. Throwing in further modifications might confuse the issue sufficiently to defeat the whole idea.

For various reasons, major conventions in Germany are usually held somewhat before Labor Day, which is not a holiday here anyway. It would therefore be possible to visit both the worldcon and the american convention which certainly would be necessary in that case. If there is interest enough, tape recordings of some speeches at the worldcon could be played at the American con; all proceedings would be tape recorded in any case. As to the selection of the site, it should not be too difficult to set up some sort of ratotaimon plan and move to a different area every time this problem comes up.

Rick Sneary              Regarding Con rotation, I agree...that I don't much like the  
2962 Santa Ana Street      new system, mainly because at present no one can be sure that  
South Gate, California      there will be an over-seas area strong enough to make a solid  
                                    bid, every four or every five years. At present, when a  
strong bid has been made, U.S. Fandom has been more than willing to back it up. But

if it was fixed at four or five years, overseas fans would feel that they had to make a showing, even if no strong group is ready. I don't think there is much danger of this, but it is a possibility. ...the present, informal, t king of turns is working. As long as regular fans and convention fans can still hold control of conventions, it would seem safe enough. The danger would come from too many professional convention-eers and fringe fans not interested in fan public opinion.

If there must be a rotation, I agree that every 5th year might be fairer all around.

As to the ConCon question, no, I don't think it's fair. It would detract in glory, attendance, and financial support. Consider how many fans in the New York area, if faced with a WorldCon in Germany and a ConCon in California, might feel they could afford only one and pick the west coast as the least expensive. ... The big argument for a national ConCon, as I see it, would be the old friends you want to see there.. . that is at least the main reason I go to Conventions...a national ConCon is going to look like an American rump-convention, at least to some...

Bjo Trimble            Don & Maggie Thompson suggest...voting for next year's con site  
243 Santa Rosa Ave.    ...be allowed on something like (or actually on) the Hugo Ballot.  
Oakland, California    This would keep overseas fans, who won't be going to a con in the  
                                 U.S., from "throwing" a really good bid over for one which happ-  
ened to have a US representative at the said overseas con. This, obviously, was a  
worry to the TRICon people, since the con before that was in London, and most of the  
voters could have cared less where the next con in the US would be. This might also  
make more money for a con anywhere by lots of stay-at-home members signing up; more  
than usual.

Many fans who cannot attend a convention will join it to at least be a part and lend support; it might be an idea to let them have a say in where the next con is to be. Mainly I see this as a problem in too much bookwork...but lets see if it might not, perhaps in conjunction with other ideas, be worked into something much more satisfactory than we have now.

Jay Kay Klein        The worldcon should obviously take place around the world, now that  
302 Sandra Drive    fandoms have appeared in number outside the United States and Can-  
N. Syracuse, NY     ada. Still, we are entitled to an American convention.

I propose that the present rotation be continued, with the American convention taking place during the year the worldcon is outside North America. Thus, we will have a large convention every year, rotating as it always did. The area having the American convention would hold it in place of a worldcon, and the worldcon would be in the next area the following year.

{{A valid point to remember is that, starting in 1970 and each 4 years thereafter, the East Coast would be the site of the American convention, thus withholding the chance of th East Coast ever being the site of a WorldCon -- should the present plan, as adopted at the NYCon, continue. --Andrew Porter}}

We also heard from Sandy Meschkow, Edward Smith, and others. Their basic arguments were either like those appearing here, or too idiotic to bother printing...

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MUST RENEW WITH THIS ISSUE: Bruce MacPhee, Bob Tucker. NEXT ISSUE: Laris Bullock, John Bush, David Chute, Edward Dong, Charles Eckhaus, Seth Johnson, Nicjolas Lordi, The Lupoff's, J.L. Robinson, Robert Toomey, Jr., The Trimbles, and Mike Ward.

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Next Issue: Special Science Fiction Markets Issue; complete current sf markets.