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Jane's Fighting Smoof's

The Magazine of SF CONVENTION BIDDING

WORLDCON '91

The race for the right to hold the 1991 World Science Fiction Convention, scheduled for the North American Central zone, has been between Sominex and Sleeppez. Few fans have gotten excited about an election almost sure to go to Chicago, Illinois.

Nevertheless, Chicago fans cannot rest easy in the knowledge that they, like Los Angeles in 1982 and Boston in 1986, have no competition on the ballot whatsoever. Fans from Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, have filed for the race.

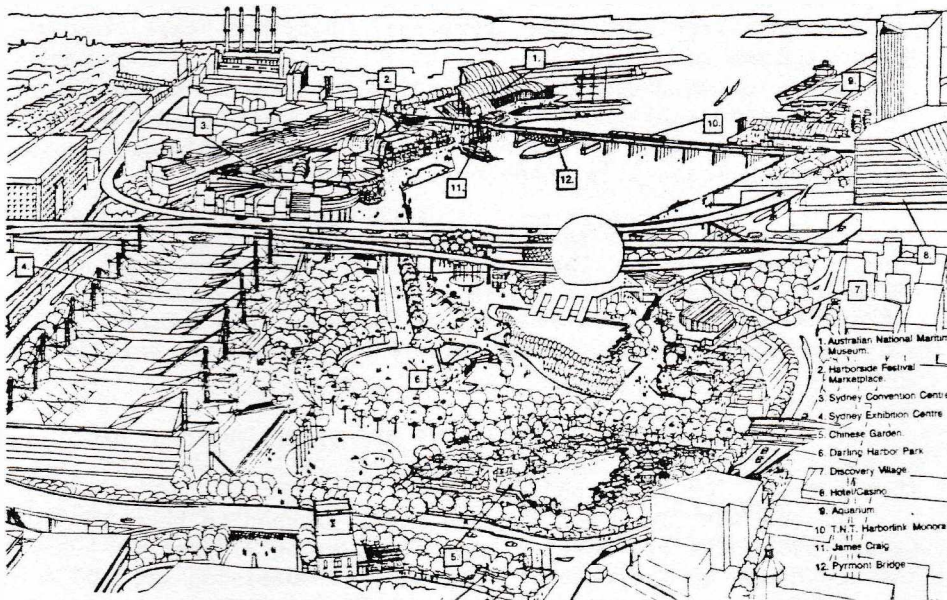
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Artist's depiction of new Darling Harbour Development, proposed site of 1991 Worldcon in Sydney, Australia

NOREASCON THREE PROPOSES PASS-ALONG FUNDS

Recognized Worldcon bidders have in recent weeks received a proposal from the 1989 Worldcon, Noreascon 3 in Boston, Massachusetts, that Noreascon will pass along surplus funds from its operation to their Worldcons if they will make a similar public commitment.

The committee's bidding for Washington in '92 (Discon III), Orlando in '92 (Magicon) and Chicago in '91 (Chicon V), and presumably other bidders, have received such proposals.

In essence, the Noreascon proposal is that 50 % of the "money left over after we have paid our obligations and made the traditional reimbursements" will be passed on to

the "next three eligible and participating Worldcons ... in as unrestricted a way as possible." Complete text of the Noreascon proposal is on page 17.

Many years ago, pass-along funds were traditionally given by successful Worldcons to their successors, but rarely for more than several hundred dollars. Often, however, this amounted to a substantial portion or all of a Worldcon's financial surplus.

In more recent years, as Worldcons have come more and more to be organized by large continuing local fan groups, with local club treasuries and continuing expenses, including

Continued on page 17

W.H.I.F.

We do not expect to run a true letter column in JFS, but we do welcome information, amplifications, and corrections from our readers. News and gossip appropriate for our "BIDBITS" column is especially solicited. We will also be excerpting from letters we receive in a We Heard It From (WHIF) column where we will identify correspondents and print corrections of or amplifications and observations on previous articles.

Zagreb bidder Krsto Mazuranic wrote us to announce his bid's move: "I'm writing on behalf of the /Perpetual?/ Worldcon in Yugoslavia Bid. We feel it's high time to become impatient, drop the 'perpetual' bit, and start for real at last.

"Well, the deciding reason why Europeans don't bid for a Worldcon more often is that most of the Bidding is done in N.A. which means the Atlantic has to be crossed many times which means it's murderously expensive."

Most of the bidding is in North America since most of the voters are in North America. There is no evidence yet that enough non-N.American fans are interested in voting to win a European, or other, Worldcon, without substantial North American support. This may change over the years as more conventions are held in Europe.

"N.A. Bidcons attend N.A. cons anyway so they can Bid in their stride spending money on a room party or two and that's that. Or thereabouts.

"There was big furor on when LASFS planned to take twenty kilobucks off their inordinate L.A.Con II profits and use those to Bid again. Promptly, at Aussiecon II, it was moved to amend Article I of the WSFS Constitution by adding the following to Section 7:

"The net income from running a Worldcon and earnings derived from such income shall not be used to bid for a different Worldcon except that equal grants may be given to all of the bidders etc.

"It seems the Motion was dropped at ConFederation."


The motion was defeated for ratification at ConFederation. There was substantial feeling that fans could enforce such sentiments better by voting down bids which try them -- which they then did do -- rather than set up another rule. It might have passed anyway except that the Atlanta Business Meeting was heavily attended by members interested in other votes which were expected to have the effect of limiting constraints on bidding and convention committees, including defeat of rotation change proposals then being discussed.

"Well, we've decided to go for 1993, for obvious reasons, and against L.A., it seems."

LA fandom decided last November not to run for 1993. Current opposition is San Francisco and Phoenix.

"So I suggest let L.A. have their twenty kilobucks. Let us also have the money. And I suggest, let the winner of the 1993 race pay back all forty kilobucks after the audit!

"We intend to file our Bid at Nolacon II."

The 1993 vote will be held in Holland at ConFiction; you should file with them no later than the end of Noreascon 3, next year. They will probably be willing to accept a filing now. See you at Nolacon? 

EDITORIAL

With Nolacon II fast approaching, we have tried to focus this issue on stories which will be important at that con. We didn't do a Focus On touring in the competing cities because, frankly, we think anybody with the time and sense to go touring in Sydney in the next few years won't be going to a Worldcon.... so, instead, we have given you an update on the site rotation proposals which may be made at the Business Meeting.

We've also written about the Noreascon pass-along funds proposal for bidders because we think this kind of suggestion is going to get a lot of attention in fandom in the near future.

The 1991 race, while not a close and exciting battle, still has some interesting angles.

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FOCUS ON ROTATION REDUX

The 1988 World Science Fiction Convention Business Meeting to be held this Labor Day weekend at Nolacon II in New Orleans looks likely to entertain several different proposals for change in the Worldcon Site Selection rotation plan, as did the two years' previous meeting at ConFederation in Atlanta in 1986.

Business meeting attendees, granted a (welcome?) respite from rotation change proposals at the 1987 meeting in Brighton, England, may once again have to decide among numerous options for a site selection system.

One fan has even suggested that the Constitution be

amended so that a special, separate Business Meeting solely for consideration of rotation change proposals be established in the late hours of the evening to produce a single proposal for the regular Business Meeting to Object to the Consideration of on Friday.

Northern Virginia fan Erwin Strauss (aka Filthy Pierre), publisher of the SF Convention Register, circulated proposals for a change in the rotation system last January. Strauss cited problems with the site selection procedures at ConSpiracy last year in Brighton, England, and fannish displeasure with ConSpiracy's administration of the vote.

Conversations at the Brighton convention had convinced him that support for reform was in the air. He and New York fan Robert Sacks discussed versions of a four-year rotation plan.

These discussions percolated over the months into Strauss's January proposal.

Strauss suggested that fandom "would best be served if there were a 'clean,' technically sound resolution available in New Orleans to be voted up or down" while adding that it wouldn't "be worthwhile to get into the sort of detailed tinkering that doomed the committee-produced resolution in Atlanta."

Strauss identified what he sees as several problems with the current four-zone, three year rotation system, with the

THE BACKGROUND

The World Science Fiction Society's annual convention, known as the Worldcon, was first held in 1939 and has been held every year since 1946. Originally the Worldcon moved from city to city as fan groups decided they had the wherewithal to organize it, but after annual conventions resumed in 1946 a bidding procedure soon emerged. By the early 1950's, the current system of 3 North American zones rotation the Worldcon among them in the sequence Eastern - Western - Central was in place, with bidding taking place for the following year's convention and voting being held in person at a business meeting of the current Worldcon. At first strictly a North American affair, Worldcon went to London in 1956 and has gone to Europe or Australia roughly every five years since. With one-year-in-advance voting, the selection of a site outside the North American zones resulted in postponing the rotation to allow the skipped zone the next Worldcon. After the late 1960's, several changes were made. A fourth, non-North American zone was added, then dropped, from the rotation, with Heicon in West Germany being the only convention to (sort of) operate from the fourth rotation zone. Also, the voting was extended to two years before the convention chosen, a mail ballot was added, and voting at the business meeting was dropped in favor of all written ballots. The existence of a North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC) was regularized, so that a North American region was fully skipped by the Worldcon if it went outside the three rotating zones, and rewarded with a NASFiC (which must be in the skipped zone). Selection was extended to three years in advance and, with sites now being voted on in their own zone, the hosting site and others within 100 kilometers are not allowed to run. This is the current system, with four defined zones (3 in North America, one everywhere else), and a 3-zone rotation with the fourth zone eligible to bid any year.

non-North American zone eligible to bid in any year.

First, he suggests that in recent years stronger bids have been coming from Europe and Australia, which he calls "rogue factors", since they are not constrained to bid in any particular year. Since the purpose of the rotation system is seen to be to establish some order to the process (although the original purpose was just to make sure the Worldcon moved around), these rogues disrupt the purpose.

Second, he complains of "wimpy zones", suggesting that the Western North American Zone is weaker than the others.

Third, he objects to the fact that the three rotating zones now choose the subsequent sites for their own zones, a situation which came about after the site selection was changed from two to three years in advance. This was the major objection that led to the formation of the committee reporting at Atlanta.

Fourth, Strauss suggests that the current zone system can result in adjacent but zone-separated sites having successive Worldcons.

And fifth, he asks that a decision be made at New Orleans, which could be ratified at Noreascon in Boston next year, to avoid the possibility of an "acute crisis" in the site selection at The Hague in 1990.

"Establishing a universal, objective rotation scheme is one of the easiest steps that can be taken to promote the

continuity of the WorldCon as an institution into the 21st Century," he says.

Strauss's solution to these problems was a five-zone system, which he proposed in a letter sent out to a selection of fans who have been interested in the rotation before.

The plan would split the current Eastern and Central North American Zones into three new zones, with the southern portions of the those two zones becoming a new Southern Zone, which would include Australia and South America. The current Western Zone would keep its North American boundaries, but have Japan and most of the rest of Asia added to it. Europe and Africa would form a new, fifth zone. This is Strauss proposal # 1.

In this proposal, northeastern North America would be the rump Eastern Zone. Several fans immediately noticed that its result was to create a zone which would primarily be a playground for Boston and Washington, with a possibility for bids from New York or Philadelphia whenever those cities get available or reasonably priced facilities. One wag dubbed it the Boston-Washington Worldcon-every-decade club.

Strauss got mostly negative feedback to the five zones, but more positive response to the idea of reform.

In a second letter, circulated at the end of February, he expanded his proposals to respond to the range of opinions, producing two additional proposals, Strauss

2 and Strauss # 3.

Strauss # 2 was a four zone plan. It would establish a four-year rotation for the current four zones. It "has the virtue of being close to the status quo, and easy to understand at a glance," he says.

Strauss # 3 was a three zone plan "for the hard-core troglodytes" which accomplishes the minimal goal of putting each site in a specific zone. This proposal adds Britain to the Eastern North American zone; Australia and Asia to the North American Western Zone; and the rest of the world to the North American Central Zone.

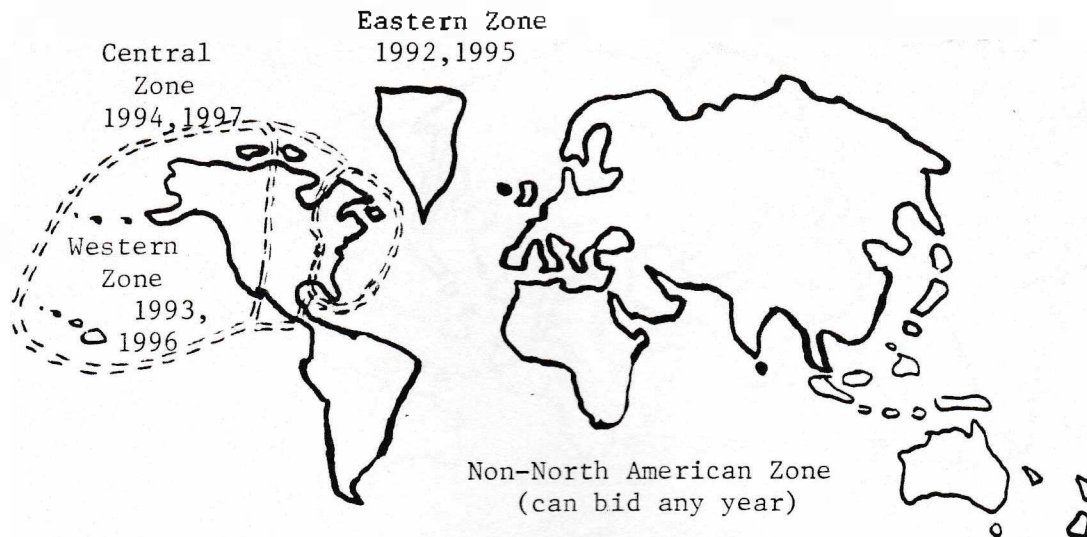
These also were submitted to interested fans.

A minor complicating element of all the Strauss proposals was an additional provision allowing any site to bid any year if there had not been a Worldcon within 5000 kilometers of it in the previous ten years. This would have the effect of creating a variably-sized extra zone equivalent to the current Non North American zone.

During the subsequent six weeks he discussed these plans with numerous smofs.

In further conversations with Sacks, a refinement of their earlier four-zone discussions produced what has become known as the "S&S" proposal. This was released in mid-April.

The S&S plan would add Australia and Asia to the current Western Zone; would add the southern part of the



CURRENT WORLDCON ROTATION PLAN

current Eastern Zone and South America to the current Central Zone; and would leave the rumps of the other two zones, Eastern and rest-of-world, as independent zones.

Once again, the proposal faced criticism that too few sites in the Northeast were unchallenged for too many Worldcons (one in four, this time).

To meet these criticisms, Strauss came up with what he called the "PE" plan (because it includes a Pacific and an Eastern Zone). The four rotating zone PE plan would essentially follow the Strauss # 2 proposal -- what he called the "4" proposal because it contains four rotating zones -- with Australia detached from the "rest of world" zone and added to the current Western Zone as a newly defined Pacific Zone.

He suggests in a letter at the end of May sent to interested fans that this plan is less well-balanced than the original Strauss # 2 proposal, but that "I hear that Australians prefer to be in with other Pacific Basin

areas, rather than Europe (though I haven't heard back from them...)."

This is the latest Strauss proposal.

Sacks, meanwhile, has proposed a constitutional amendment to create a fourth rotation zone in Europe, and to add Japan, Australia and New Zealand to the current Western Zone, with a residual rest of the world zone presumably able to bid any time. He is looking for a second.

Sacks's proposal also has the added provisions that in the event a Pacific Zone Worldcon is not in North America, a NASFiC will be held in the North American portion of the Pacific Zone; and that a NASFiC will be held in North America (with no zone restrictions) each year the European Zone would be scheduled to have a Worldcon.

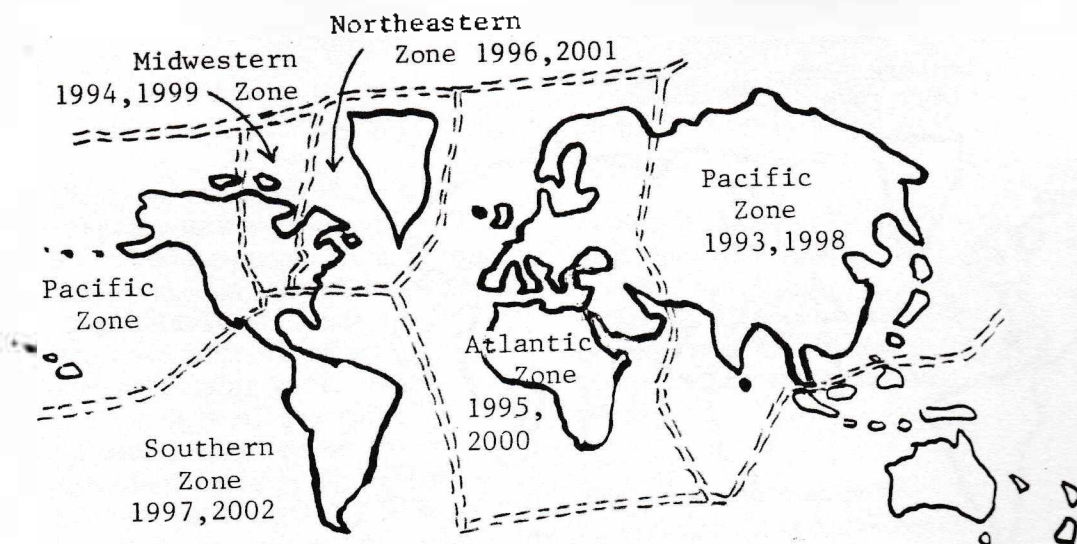
The rotation issue, which seemed dormant after all proposals made to the ConFederation meeting were defeated, was resurrected after Strauss, Sacks and many others were disturbed by

ConSpiracy's mishandling of the mail ballot for the 1990 Worldcon. Especially Western Zone fans worried about the effect that two European victories in their rotation in a row would have.

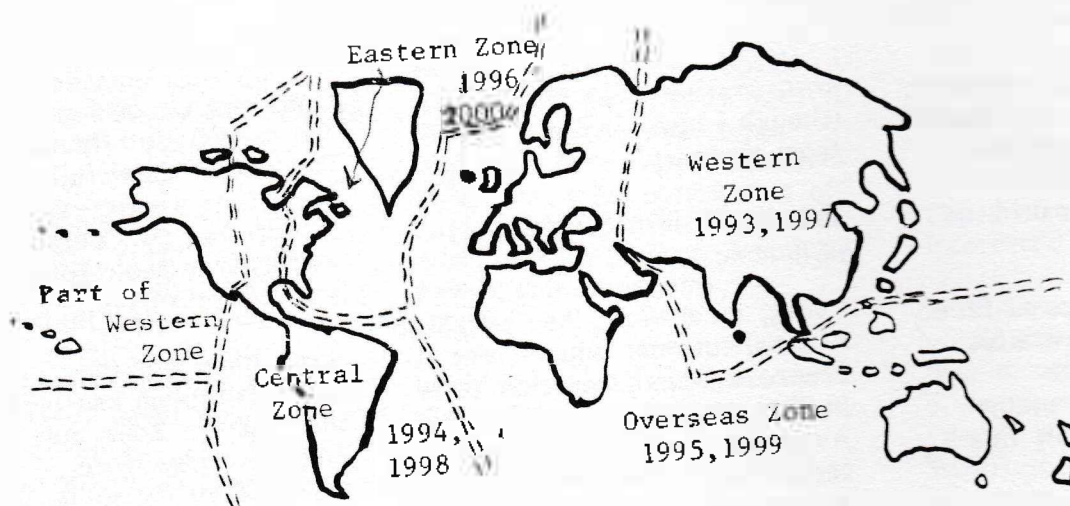
Some have worried that a de facto European usurpation of the Western Zone may occur. These worries were crystallized for some North Americans, including Strauss, by a manifesto circulated at ConSpiracy declaring the "seiz(ure)" of the Western Zone.

Some have suggested that the ConSpiracy problems were deliberate to favor the Dutch bid for 1990.

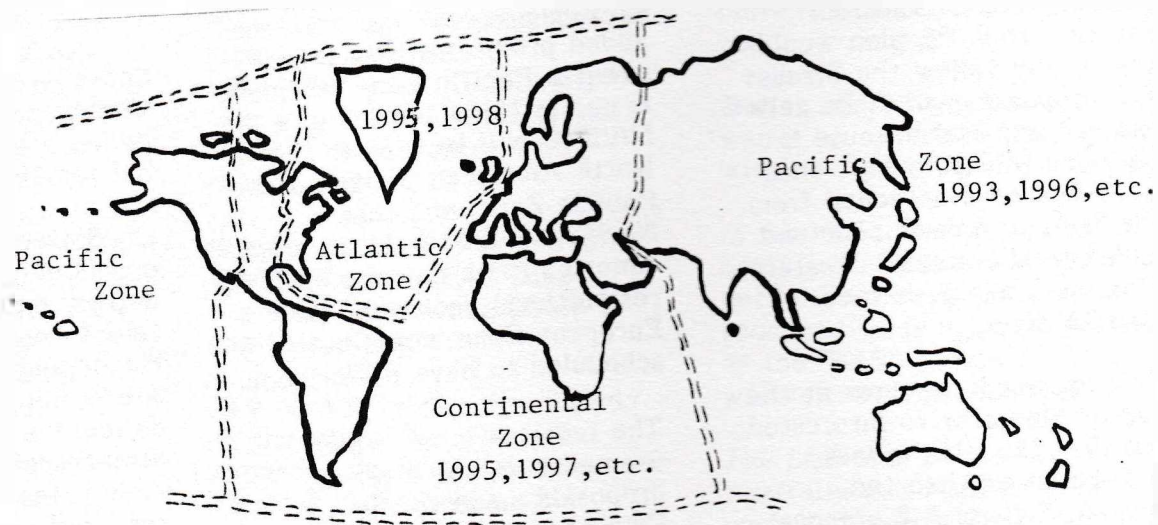
ConSpiracy's major failing, in consistently being unable to deliver mailings on time for fans to nominate and vote on Hugos and site selection, seems not to have been a deliberate attempt to disenfranchise North Americans; Australian fans reported the same problems. It is doubtful that such lack of performance is addressable by mere changes in the rotation system.



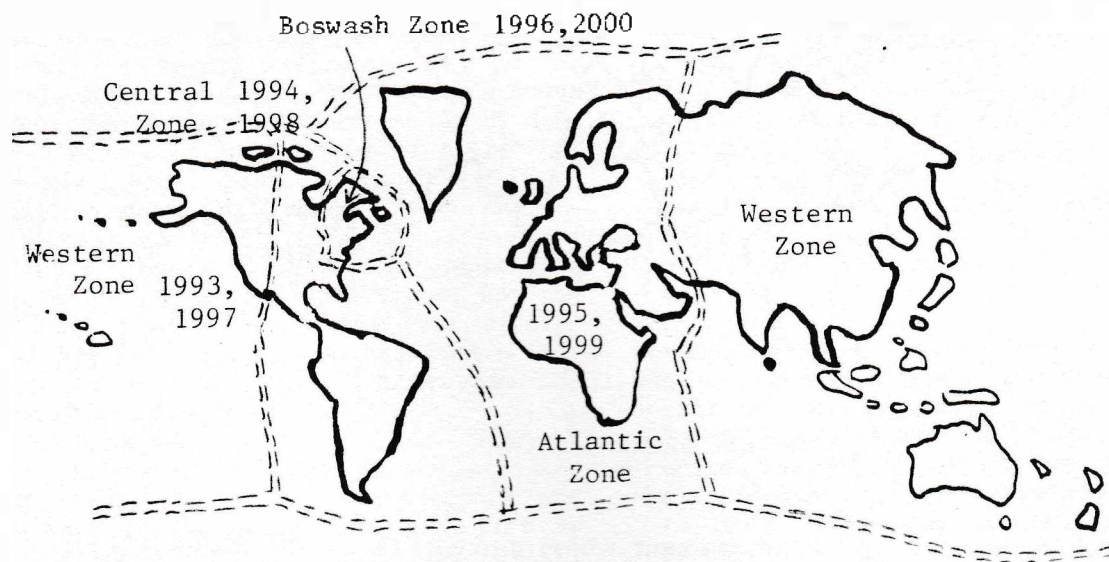
5 ZONE PLAN
STRAUSS # 1



4 ZONE PLAN
STRAUSS # 2

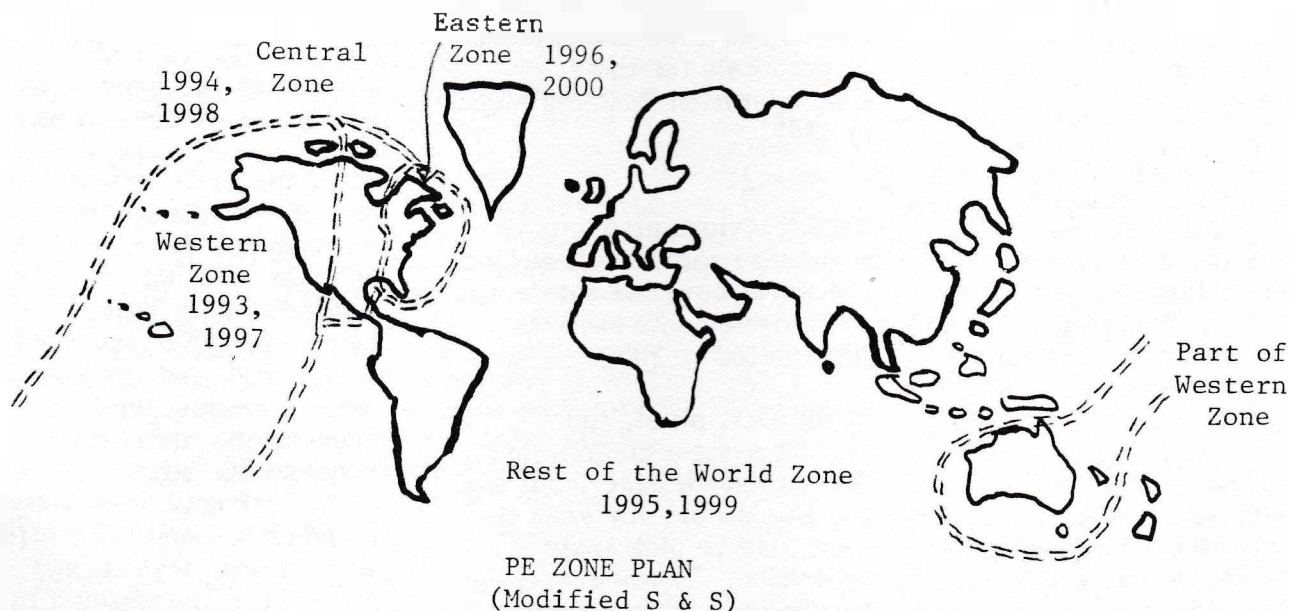


3 ZONE (TROGLODYTE) PLAN
Strauss # 3

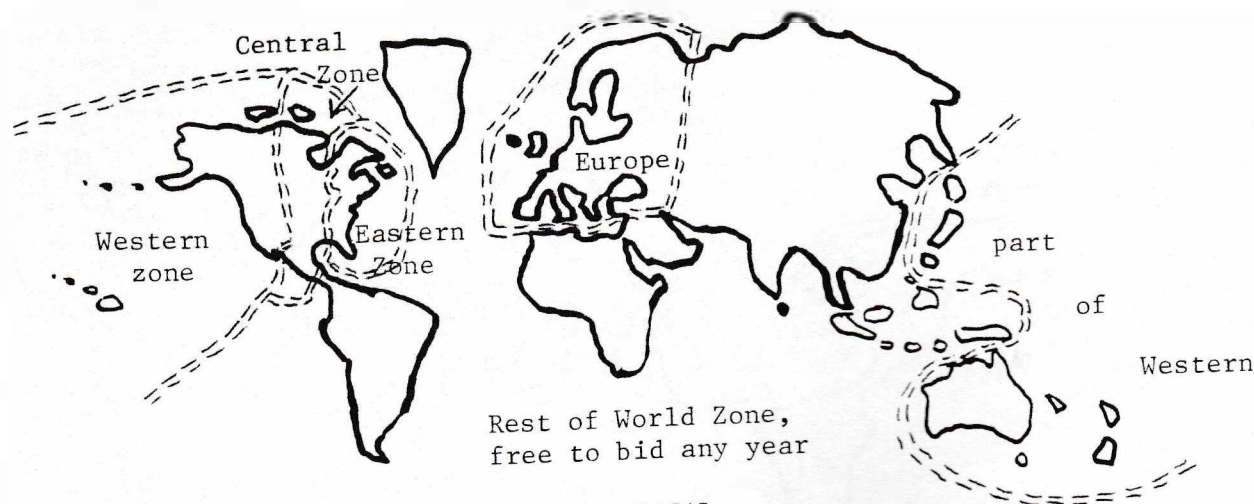


S & S ZONE PLAN
(Strauss & Sacks)

Use these maps to compare the various flavors of Erwin Strauss's site rotation proposals. You may also compare on page 5 the current system and Robert Sacks's proposed amendment on page 8. Strauss's current suggestion is the PE Zone Plan. Other fans have suggested using the current zones but fixing a four-year rotation among them, with non North American sites eligible to bid every fourth year.



PE ZONE PLAN
(Modified S & S)



ROBERT SACKS PROPOSAL

The primary displeasure addressed by the change proposals, however, is not over procedures so much as the fact that a European bid was able to triumph in a vote in Europe. This is seen as unfair while the system allows Europeans, and other non-North Americans, to bid in any year.

All the newly mooted change proposals, therefore, have in common that they induct the entire world into the rotation system. In this they are truly a change. And in this, Strauss's "troglodytic" proposal #3 is as revolutionary as any.

An earlier proposal to accomplish this, through a simple adaptation of the rotation to the current four zones, was attempted in Phoenix at the Iguanacon Business Meeting in 1978, and in Brighton at the Seacon '79 Business Meeting, as a way for Washington DC to be allowed to bid for 1984. Opposition by Los Angeles fandom, also intent on bidding 1984, and European fans at Brighton, doomed this proposal.

The more recent rotation change proposals date from the

amendment which moved site selection from two to three years in advance. Worried that problems would arise with sites being selected in their own zones, a committee was formed by the ConStellation Business Meeting in Baltimore in 1983 to propose a new rotation system.

Committee members Ben Yalow and Craig Miller submitted a proposal to the LACon II Business Meeting in Anaheim in 1984. It was referred to a reconstituted committee which produced a preliminary report for the Aussiecon II Business Meeting in 1985 and a series of proposals for the ConFederation Business Meeting in 1986.

Thus, previous attempts to regularize rotation throughout the world have been defeated. Several elements have contributed to this.

In the first place, the current system clearly favors the non-North Americans who are able to bid any year they want, and to pick their opposition. The non-NAmericans who generally attend Business Meetings have repeatedly argued that this favoritism is to the advantage

of fandom, in allowing them the maximum latitude in organizing what are considered to be more difficult bids.

In return, the non-NAmericans face the problems of competing with North American bids.

Many North American fans have been (some would say paternalistically) happy to extend this privilege to the non-NAmericans, both out of fannish solidarity and because they are truly interested in attending non-NAmerican conventions.

Particularly, fanzine subfandom has been active in supporting overseas bids.

Also, the existence of already announced bids for the future has crimped the ability of the business meeting to approve changes. With bids campaigning for several years in advance, and the vote now held three years before a convention, any change which respects the squatter's rights of bidders may take ten years or more to come into effect, with various transitional eligibilities determined by prior claims.

Continued on page 13

Bids-At-A-Glance

Bids-At-A-Glance is intended to provide our readers with a handy reference of factual information about every announced convention bid, except for recognized hoaxes. It is not primarily intended to be a means of comparison between bidders in a given race, though it no doubt will be used that way to some extent. Readers should bear in mind that very often unquantifiable criteria such as the people on a committee, their abilities, experience, and the way they work together, are the most crucial aspects of a given race. If we can find a fair measurement of some of these factors, we may include them in future versions.

With this disclaimer, we think Bids-At-A-Glance is useful. Suggestions for improvements are welcome. We hope bid committees will give us feedback on our listings, and, especially, provide us with information on new bids. A "reference of ... every announced convention bid" is our goal, but new bids are always appearing; we'll do our best to keep up.

While much of the chart is self-explanatory, a few comments are in order:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: names are listed based on the bid's own publications wherever possible, our personal acquaintance otherwise; where space does not permit all published names to be listed, we have chosen, first, clearly identified officers of the bid, and second, fans whose names we think might be widely recognized, or who are especially active with the bid, or both.

MEETING FACILITIES BEING BID/HOTEL ROOMS: in the case of Westercons and Deepsouthcons, "facilities bid" are usually the same as the hotel. Worldcons are now generally bidding a convention center of some sort with a group of hotels in more or less proximity.

Under meeting facilities, we generally list the number of breakout rooms that can be used in a facility, although the actual combination of rooms a convention might want to use would result in fewer but individually larger rooms; we list the seating capacity of the largest theater-style room, or an arena or exhibit hall seating arrangement if that would be necessary; and the total amount of large hall exhibit space available. In some cases, to save space, we do not list everything once a bid clearly is bidding more than adequate facilities.

We have set some arbitrary categories to indicate how many hotel rooms are available at a given distance from the main facility. Category A includes hotel rooms within 1/8th of a mile; Category B rooms are over 1/8th of a mile but within 1/4 mile; Category C rooms are

over 1/4 mile but less than 1/2 mile, and "D" rooms are over 1/2 mile from the main facility. For consistency, we measure from the center of a convention facility, so that hotel rooms within 1/8 of a mile are generally immediately adjacent to the facility. (For metric readers, these distances translate approximately to less than .2 km.; between .2 and .4 km.; between .4 and .8 km.; and over .8 km.)

When assigning hotels rooms to categories, we have tried to apply a practical rule: how far will the fans actually have to walk to get from Point A to Point B? This involves some estimation of distances on actual, walkable city blocks. We feel that these estimates are reliable because we have actually "walked the walk": we have in the last two years personally visited most cities listed for multiple hotels and walked around from hotels to convention center and back, and plan in the next year to visit all but a handful more. We know that fan are not birds, and city buildings must be walked around, not over. A half mile is a long way to walk at a Worldcon.

When comparing facilities and hotel rooms among bidders, keep in mind the requirements of a particular race. Though the more usual problem in Worldcon bidding is inadequate facilities, this is not always the case. And certainly in other bidded races, just because one bid claims 1000 hotel rooms and 50,000 square feet of function space, it is not automatically superior to the bid with 600 hotel rooms and 25,000 square feet of space -- if they are both bidding for a convention expected to draw 1200 attendees which needs 22,000 feet of exhibit space.

FINALLY, we have usually taken hotel room figures from the annual issues of Meetings and Conventions and Meeting News, or from the Official Meeting Facilities Guide. Sharp readers will notice that these figures don't always agree with bids' published claims of hotel rooms available. This is because bids very often cite the total number of rooms in a given hotel, while hotels rarely are willing to commit all their rooms to a particular convention. The percentage is usually from 2/3rds to 3/4ths of the total rooms; the rest are held for recurring business (such as airline personnel) and for individual walk-in business. The meeting reference books usually list total rooms and committable rooms, and almost always these figures are different. If a bid has been able to get a commitment for a higher number of rooms than our sources list, we will list that higher figure, provided the bid shows us a written commitment from the hotel.

Bids-t

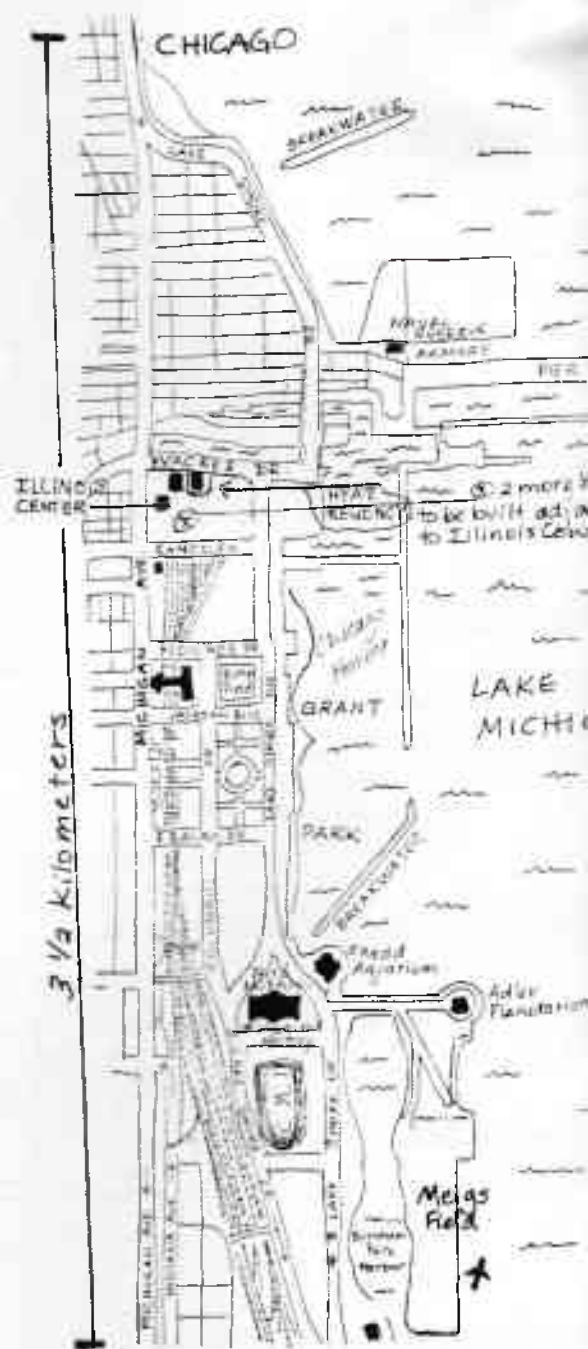
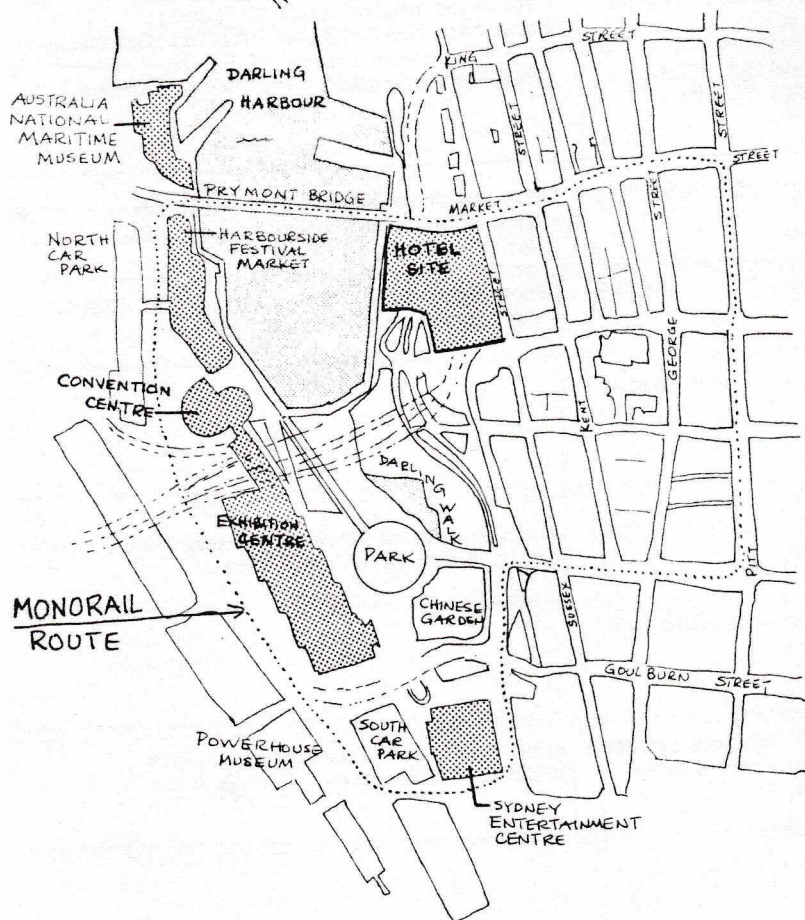
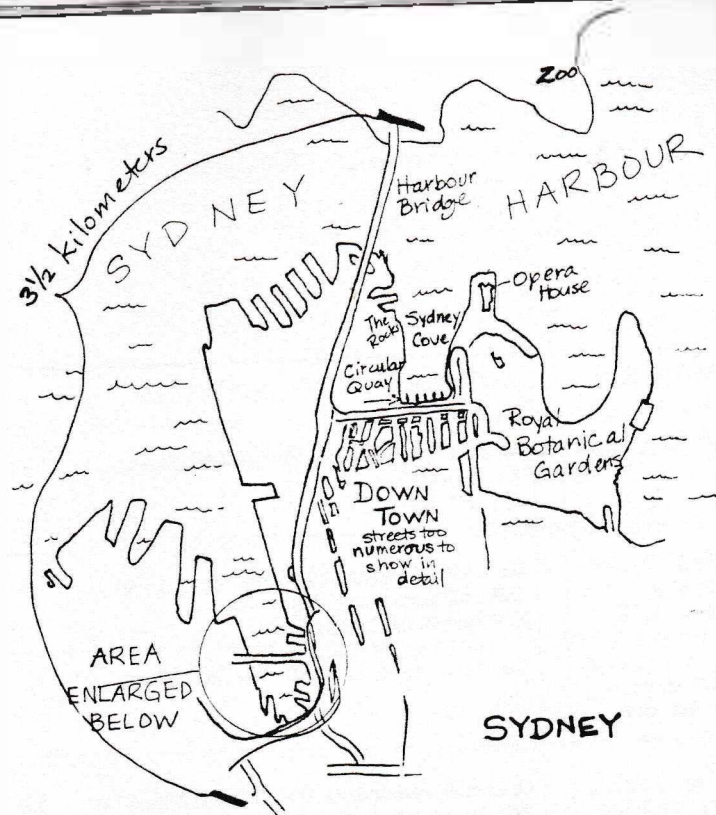
YEAR	CONVENTION	WHERE & WHEN VOTED	CITIES BIDDING	CONTACT ADDRESS	COMMITTEE MEMBERS
1991	DeepSouthCon	Memphis DSC 1229 Fallwood Memphis TN 38122	NASHVILLE TN	Ken Moore 647 Devon Drive Nashville TN 37220	Ken Moore, Debbie Hussey, the Nashville SF Society
1991	Worldcon 49	Nolacon II 1-5 September '88 921 Canal St. #831 New Orleans LA 70112	SYDNEY NSW AUS	Sydney in '91 GPO Box 4435 / Sydney NSW 2001 AUSTRALIA	Alan Grieve, chair, Kevin Maclean, Gary Makin, M. Hall, G. Armstrong, Bridget Mullane
			CHICAGO IL	Chicago in '91 PO Box A3120 Chicago IL 60690	Kathleen Meyer, Chair; Dick Spelman, Ross Pavlac, Larry Smith, many other Chicagoans
1992	Worldcon 50	Noreascon 3 31 Aug-4 Sept '89 Box 46 MIT Branch PO Cambridge MA 02139	ORLANDO FL	Orlando in '92 /Magicon PO Box 621992 Orlando FL 32862	Becky Thompson, Tom Veal, Joe Siclari, Co-chairs
			WASHINGTON DC	Washington in '92 PO Box 2745 College Park MD 20740	Kent Bloom, Chair; Jack Henegh Mike Walsh, Tom Schaad, Marty Peggy Rae Pavlat, Alan Huff
1993	Worldcon 51	ConFiction PO Box 95370-2509 CJ The Hague HOLLAND	SAN FRANCISCO CA	ConFrancisco 3317-A Juillard Dr. #179 Sacramento CA 95826	Mary Mason, Chair; Susan Stone, Lynx Crowe, Kitty Crowe Diane Paxson, Gail Saunders
			PHOENIX AZ	Phoenix in '93 P.O. Box 26665 Tempe AZ 85282	Terry Gish, Chair; Randy Ray Treasurer; Bruce Farr, Admin
			ZAGREB YUGO	Yugoslavia in '93 SABOR c/o SFera Ivaniogradska 41A 41000 Zagreb YUGOSLAVIA	Krsto Majuranic
1994	Worldcon 52	'91 Worldcon	PERTH W AUST	Perth in '94 Woon Bid PO Box 287 Nedlands WA 6009 AUST	Cindy Evans, Greg Turkish, Caroline Strong, Jay Plester
			WINNIPEG MB	Canadian-A c/o 333 Lipton St. Winnipeg MB R3G-2H2 CANADA	Doug Crighton, Ch., Don Stern Secy., Linda Ross-Mansfield Treas., Debbie Stern, Donald Bindas, John Mansfield
	NASFiC or Worldcon	'91 Worldcon (or NASFiC, if one)	MILWAUKEE WI	Brew-con 1 PO Box 669 Cudahy WI 53110	Glen Boettcher, Mike Vande Bunt, Giovanni Fregni, Nan Mildebrandt, Jim Rittenhou

Late news item: Vancouver,
for the 1991 Westercon. The
Affleck-Asch-Lowe, Con Hiebn
Gage Towers on the Universit
has "more function space tha
member, and more than 1000 s

-A-Glance

MTG FACILITY BID	HOTEL ROOMS	PRE-SUPPORTING INFO	REMARKS
None announced yet.			Nashville has never hosted DSC.
<u>Sydney Conv. & Exhib.Center</u> 20 mtg rms;3500 largest 269,000 sq ft exhibit	A: monorail stn B: 500 rooms C: 1200 rooms	Presup: Aus\$ 7 US \$ 5 UK L 3.50	US agent: Joyce Scrivner 3212-C Portland Ave. So. Minneapolis MN 55407
<u>Hyatt Regency Chicago</u> 61 mtg rms;3500 largest 70,000 sq ft exhibit	A: 1800 rooms B: many more rms C: many more rms	Presup: \$3 \$20/\$50/\$100 give memb, perks at con	Chicago last hosted '82 Worldcon
<u>Orlando Convention Center</u> 22 mtg rms;2500 largest 350,000 sq ft exhibit	A: 750 rooms B: 750 rooms C&D: more rooms	Presup: \$5 for button, bidzine	Orlando, winning for 1977, saw its Worldcon transferred to Miami; numerous hotels line Intl Dr. for miles
<u>Sheraton Washington Hotel</u> 33 mtg rms;4700 largest 95,000 sq ft exhibit	A: 1850 rooms B: few rooms D: 1000 rooms	Presup: \$5 Preopp: \$19.92	Washington hosted '74, '63 Worldcons
<u>Moscone Convention Center</u> 34 mtg rms;16490 largest 283,000 sq ft exhibit	A: 1200 rooms B: few rooms C: 1000 rooms	Presup: \$5	The Bay Area hosted '68 Worldcon more hotels may be added to plans
<u>Phoenix Convention Center</u> 40 mtg rms in hotels;2500 223,000 sq ft exhibit	A: 1000 rooms B: few rooms D: more rooms	Presup: \$5	Phoenix hosted '78 Worldcon, '87 NASFiC new hotel planned
None announced yet			
<u>Burswood Hotel & Conv.Center</u> 5 mtg rms;2100 in theatre 17,000 sq ft exhibit			Former home of America's cup, Perth is in midst of a hotel boom
<u>Winnipeg Convention Centre</u> 21 mtg rms;7000 largest 78,000 sq ft exhibit	A: 350 rooms B: 500 rooms C: 600 rooms D: 250 rooms	Presups available	
<u>Milwaukee Expo Conv Ctr</u> 44 mtg rms;12,200 largest 200,000 sq ft exhibit	A: 400 rooms B: 925 rooms D: more rooms	Presup: \$3 gets membshp discount, newsletter preopp: \$7	more hotel rooms under constr shuttle bus service planned

Columbia has announced that it is bidding
committee includes Fran Skene, William
Lisa Smedman. The proposed site is
British Columbia campus. The facility
use," according to a committee
rooms and suites.



Maps of Sydney, New South Wales, and Chicago, Illinois showing comparable areas of both cities, and a detailed enlargement of the proposed Australian site.

Continued from page 8

This year, changes in these elements may make the Business Meeting more receptive to rotation proposals.

The memory of ConSpiracy is recent enough so that more Americans may be motivated to vote for change.

European fans new to Business Meetings and the site selection merry-go-round, not conversant perhaps with the subtle value the current system has for them, voiced the first substantive non-NAmerican support for a fixed rotation at Brighton.

Also, there is still a large contingent of Americans who think that non-NAmerican bids are minimized by not fixing a rotation zone for them, and oppose non-NAmerican Worldcons in general as too costly or remote.

Contradictorally, some other North Americans believe "restricting" non-NAmerican bids to every four years will stop the naturally developing tendency to more of them, perhaps every three years or so in the near future.

Finally, there are currently no announced, actively campaigning bids for any year after 1994. This may be a golden opportunity to change the rules with a minimum of disruption.

A variant of the Strauss # 2 plan has been discussed on the convention circuit which would institute a fixed rotation for the non-NAmerican zone starting in 1998.

Mike Glyer in File 770 reports that "PE" (which he refers to

as the revised "S&S" plan), has been endorsed by the directors of SCIFI (Southern California Institute for Fannish Interests, the corporate umbrella behind the LA in '90 bid). It probably has a pretty good chance for passage anyway.

Why Los Angeles fans would prefer "PE" -- revised S&S -- to Strauss # 2 -- the current four zones with a four year fixed rotation -- is not clear. In either case, the "rogue" bids are eliminated, except from cities in the back of beyond. But in "PE", the number and activity of sites they would have to compete with is increased materially with the addition of Australia and Japan.

Perhaps they worried that a simple adaptation of the current zones would be less politically plausible, and might be seen as overly favorable to the Western Zone, widely thought to be the weakest, and its two powerhouse fan groups, in southern California and Arizona.

Perhaps the most glaring weakness of "PE" is the weight Europe would carry. Of the 30 Worldcons chosen since 1960, there have been five European Worldcons and only one actively pursued losing bid (Scandinavia for 1983). To carry an every-four-year zone would have required seven or eight conventions and many more bids. The current European bidder, Zagreb, does not yet seem to be a serious player.

Despite the plethora of romantic and unrealistic bidding proposals to sprout at ConSpiracy, there is no evidence at all that European

fans have either the desire or facilities to organize a Worldcon more than every six or seven years, if that.

It may be that Business Meeting attendees will decide to spur growth of European bids by providing a quadrennial temptation: a guaranteed Worldcon. Convention fandom and bidders abhor a vacuum. Given the opportunity, bids will be formed. Whether or not the committees are competent is another matter.

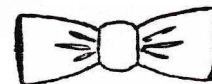
As fandom gradually ages and the many Worldcon fans who are staying in the subculture become more affluent, they have a motivation to want the Worldcon to go outside North America. Many fans consider desirability as a vacation spot a top criterion in voting on site selection.

If Cactuscon Chair Bruce Farr's proposal that the NASFiC be spun off from the Worldcon, and perhaps become an annual convention in its own right, is adopted, incentives will be limited for the North American fans who have objected to regularizing overseas conventions.

So, perhaps the time has come to force Europe to carry more of the burden.

Or, perhaps the time has come to fix a rotation for all four geographic zones currently defined.

Or, perhaps the time has come to spend three hours Saturday morning making silly arguments. It's fandom's move.



BIDBITS

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, honcho Khen Moore has decided that the time has come to bid that mid-Tennessee metropolis for the DeepSouthCon. Nashville, which has never hosted a DSC, held the World Fantasy Convention last year under the leadership of Maureen Dorris. Nashville's three separate and not-quite-feuding fan groups might be brought together for a DSC bid, or at least to attend the convention. Khen plans to hold his DSC -- should he win -- at the same time as the Nashville regional convention, Kubla Khan, which is traditionally held in May. There is no hotel chosen yet. If Nashville wins, it will mean three DSC's in a row in Tennessee (Memphis in 1989, Chattanooga in 1990, and Nashville's Neat in 100 degree heat).

One of Moore's first parties for the NASHVILLE juggernaut (well, at least there's always a jug and usually -- er -- a naught) was at MidWestcon in Cincinnati this June. Khen set up his famous swill-making machine, the Whining Blender, in a room adjacent and open-doored to the DC in '92 party (DSC in '91, DC in '92, does that mean D in '93?). Swill, an infamous gray concoction of fruit juices and alcohols, requires careful attention and just the right je ne sais quoi. Khen, discovering too late he was out of sugar, fell back on plan B, and produced for the assembled multitudes an entirely new beverage, Swill Light (or is that Lite?). A pleasant time was had. And don't forget to ask Khen about his Mercedes....

A not-quite-an-ATLANTA in 1995 party was hosted at Disclave outside Washington, DC, in May by Mike Weber, Atlanta fan and fanzine raconteur. Weber, who was not a high-up muckety muck at ConFederation, wouldn't plan to be one at the hoped-for ConFeddie II, either. While others on the Worldcon Atlanta, Inc., committee (a hydra-headed monster of 40 or so fans) have bickered about ConFeddie's fallout, Weber went ahead to publicize the proposed return to Atlanta. Gone With the Wind, Part II, will presumably have been filmed by then. Washington fans are themselves looking to 1995 if their current battle with Orlando, Florida, turns into the rout some expect.

WASHINGTON in '92 hopes to turn its fortunes around with a smash party suite at Nolacon this Labor Day. Modelled partly on the Baltimore blow-out at Noreascon Two in Boston in 1980, the DC bidders plan a five-day, 24 hour a day non-stop do worthy of the city of Mardi Gras. Current budget for all their Nolacon festivities: around \$4500, including, however, an accounting provision from Sheraton on their suite and a cash contribution ("several hundred dollars") from Hilton (Washington is bidding a combination of Sheraton, Omni, and Hilton hotels). Orlando expects to organize a similar fiasco.

CANVENTION

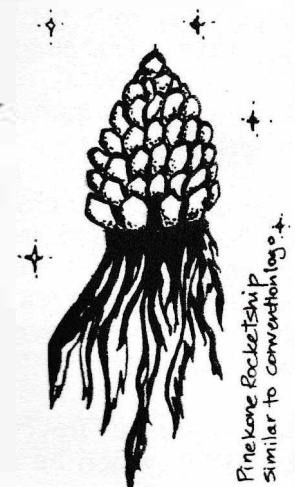
The 1989 Canadian National Convention will be held over the weekend of 15-17 October 1989, in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, as part of the regional convention Pinecone 2.

Ottawa was chosen to host the convention at this year's Canadian National Convention held with Keycon in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in May.

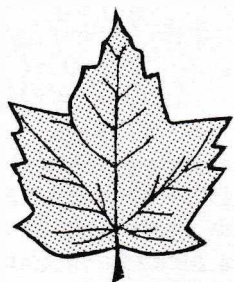
The Canadian National, also known as the Convention, is a rotating convention, held in conjunction with an established Canadian regional convention each year. In 1987, it was held in Toronto, Ontario, in conjunction with Ad Astra, the annual Toronto sf and media convention.

The Convention provides an opportunity for fans from across Canada and North America to meet while also creating a forum for the announcement of the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Awards, known as the Caspers.

The Caspers are awarded, much like the Hugos at the World Science Fiction Convention, for



TO OTTAWA



achievement in sf, fantasy and fannish activity. Awards are given for fanzines as well as both English and French language sf.

Until two years ago, the Convention site was chosen by decision of an informal meeting of interested Canadian smofs, generally being awarded to whichever city expressed an interest.

A more formal system of voting on the Convention site was instituted in the middle 1980's, and a Convention constitution has been approved. Canada is divided into eastern and western regions for the purposes of choosing the site, which alternates between the regions. 1989 is an eastern zone year.

The Ottawa bid for Pinecone was the only eastern zone bid. Context, the Edmonton, Alberta, regional, submitted a tentative bid in the event that there were no bid from the eastern zone. Ottawa was chosen unanimously.

Chair of Pinecone will be Joseph Casey, with Andrew Farmer and Paul Valcour on the committee. Pinecone can be reached at: P.O. Box 5368 / Stn. F / Ottawa / Ontario CANADA K2H 3J1.



BIDBITS

Fandom hasn't seen a really good low-down hard-fought rolling-in-the-gutter race for the Worldcon since the 1980 race for 1982, but may be about to witness another as PHOENIX, ARIZONA and SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA square off for the 1993 choice. Dueling parties at the Westercon in Phoenix this summer featured good-natured ribbing of the competition at first, with Phoenix quoting Mark Twain on its walls that the coldest winter of his life was "a summer I spent in San Francisco." The ConFrancisco bidders (yep, that's their name alright) retaliated with a sign each night advertising the high temperature that day in the city by the bay -- usually about 73 or so, compared to Phoenix's 112-odd. But, of course, there's no humidity. Phoenix responded with a conspicuous bowl of "San Francisco Salad" with -- oh, you've heard the joke already. The consolation for fans is that both bids are seriously into the Way-to-A-Fan's-Vote-is-Through-Their-Stomach theory of bidding, so chow down.

ConFRANCISCO's chair, Mary Mason, meanwhile, had available for smof perusal her letter of agreement with the San Francisco Marriott. San Francisco in '93 plans to use the Moscone convention center with the Marriott and several other hotels. The Marriott agreement was comprehensive and included numerous provisions dear to the Worldconner's heart -- elevator repairmen to be on duty, no corkage to parties, ice to be available, and so on. Not so endearing was the price -- \$95 singles in current dollarini. But this is San Francisco, after all, and there will be less expensive hotels available. And by 1993 \$100 for a hotel room may seem, well, er, good for lots of points.

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia has moved its self-described "/Perpetual?/" Worldcon bid from 1994 to 1993 -- thinking that the chances are better running in Europe and running -- as bid organizer Krsto Mazuranic expects but will not get -- against Los Angeles. The Zagreb bid, which has been around in one form or another longer than most fans have these days, has moved from year to year, generally in competition with the central North American zone. Majuranic has decided that the opportunity to bid in Europe (the vote will be at the 1990 Worldcon, ConFiction, in the Hague, Holland) is a greater temptation than the chance to run against the Wimpy Zone (and the Aussies). Whether this will convince the voters, who are, after all, mostly North Americans even when the vote is counted elsewhere, to go for Zagreb, is doubtful. Be sure to tune in next week....

1990 WESTERCON TO BE IN PORTLAND

In voting at the Valley of the Sun Westercon over July 4th weekend in Phoenix, Arizona, attendees ratified the choice of Portland, Oregon, as site for the 1990 Westercon, which will be the 43rd Westercon.

Portland was running with no opposition.

The 1990 Westercon race was the second in a row without competition. Last year, the Los Angeles Science Fiction Society won the right to hold the 1989 Westercon in Anaheim, California, as a sole candidate.

West coast Westercon observers could not immediately recall any previous two-year period without an effective race for the Westercon site.

Portland, site of the 1984 Westercon, ran a spirited if late-blooming campaign which began about a year ago. Portland fans had been defeated by Phoenix at San Diego for the right to organize this year's Westercon. Portland was also defeated in a race for the 1983 Westercon won by San Jose, California.

The 1990 Portland Westercon will be held at a pair of Red Lion Inns adjacent to each other north of downtown in semi-suburban Portland. The Red Lion Jantzen Beach Complex is comprised of the Red Lion Jantzen Beach and the Red Lion Columbia River, connected by a shared parking lot. The Jantzen Beach hotel was site for the the 1987 Orycon, Portland's regional convention.

Guests of Honor will be Ursula K. LeGuin, Vonda N. McIntyre,

and Kate Wilhelm. No fan guest of honor was announced.

Westercon 43 will be held from Thursday, 5 July, to Sunday, 8 July, 1990. Committee members were not sure if convention functions would be continued over to Monday or begun on Wednesday. If these dates define the convention, it will continue the trend of recent Westercons to fewer days. For many years, Westercon has covered five days, but several recent Westercons have held their functions to four days.

Of 255 total votes, Portland received 205 (177 cast at site, 28 received by mail). There were 17 votes for None of the Above, 13 for No Preference, 4 for Saskatoon, 2 for Redding, California, and one each for Bloom County, Both (Portland & Phoenix), Both (no specifics), Fort Bragg, Los Angeles, Maui, Portland (Maine), Santa Clara (California), and Spuzzum (British Columbia). There were four invalidated ballots.

Rumors of cities running for the 1991 Westercon were few. Sacramento was mentioned by several Bay Area fans, which led to an effort by others to convince folks from Vancouver, British Columbia, to bid. As of the end of the 1988 Westercon, no official bids for the vote next year had been announced.

Some West coast observers suggested that this was a result of increased convention activity in many cities in the Western region eligible for Westercon bidding (roughly all sites in North America west of a line extending northward from near El Paso, Texas).

With more local conventions scheduled on an annual basis, there is less incentive for a fan group to try to organize a Westercon. With the increase in expenses associated with bidding, more groups will postpone their bids if another city has already announced.

The result has been a decrease in Westercon bidding.

Hostility toward a potential Sacramento, California, bid, however, may help provide a race for 1991. The Westercon held in Sacramento in 1981 and 1985 have soured some fans on a repeat performance.

Changes in the rules for Westercon site selection, approved at the Phoenix Westercon's Business Meeting this year, restrict sites for the 1991 Westercon to Northern California and states and provinces north of a line running east and west through central California (yes, Virginia, that really makes sense).

The original proposal, which would have made 1991 a southern site year, was modified at the Phoenix business meeting because of the desire expressed by some fans to bid for Sacramento.

The 1991 Westercon site will be chosen next year at the 42nd Westercon, to be held in Anaheim, California.

Westercon 43: \$20 thru 31 Dec.1988; then \$25:
P.O. Box 5794
Portland OR 97228
(503)283-0802



Continued from page 1

mortgage or rent payments, surpluses left after running a Worldcon have been kept for a variety of local and general fannish disbursements by the organizing committee.

Such surpluses have increased in the past few years and have been cause for special criticism of the committees holding on to them, particularly in Los Angeles

(from 1984) and Atlanta (from 1986). Other recent Worldcons with surpluses have included Chicon IV (1982) and Noreascon Two (1980). Some of these surpluses were used to pay expenses of the 1983 Worldcon, ConStellation.

NOREASCON'S PROPOSAL

Noreascon Three is prepared to commit to transferring the bulk (at least 50% -- we may decide to do more) of any profit it may make to future Worldcons if they will commit to doing likewise.

We propose the following scheme:

When we say "profit" we mean the money (including interest) left over after we have paid our obligations and made the traditional reimbursements (returning the membership fees of program participants and of gophers and staff who work more than some minimum number of hours (probably 8-12) and possibly repaying some extraordinary expenses of the staff).

We will pass on at least 50% of that profit, divided evenly among the next three eligible and participating Worldcons and in as unrestricted a way as possible.

The only criterion of eligibility which we will use is that a transfer of funds be possible under the US tax code without substantial penalty to us or to the recipient Worldcon. Under no circumstances will perceived need or the possible use to which the money may be put affect eligibility.

To participate, a future Worldcon must make essentially this same commitment as we are making before there is a certainty of receiving funds. To receive any distribution from Noreascon Three, future Worldcons must sign on before Noreascon Three. In the case of 1992 (and 1993 if we can't include Holland) the potential Worldcons would have to agree to participate while there are still bidding.

Fannish public opinion is the best enforcer of this plan. We do not foresee any need or advantage to enshrining it in the WSFS constitution. (Besides, it would never pass.)

In the event that a Worldcon suffers a significant loss, all bets are off and participating Worldcons are free to divert some or all of the pass-on funds to cover the deficit.

A "Worldcon Emergency Fund", set up after St.LouisCon in 1969 and containing a little over one thousand dollars, was also liquidated to help pay for the ConStellation deficit.

This year, the Noreascon 3 committee has been carefully examining its budget after previously unanticipated expenses resulted from its successful negotiations with the Sheraton Boston to honor the contract for the 1989 Worldcon. Noreascon, expecting that extra legal and security expenses will crimp its funding for convention activities, asked both the LAcon II and the ConFederation committees (1984 and 1986 Worldcons) for advance pass-along money from their surpluses, in the form of grants, for about \$38,000.

Noreascon also promised, in its request, to pass on the same amount to future Worldcon committees, should they generate a sufficient surplus.

Both committees denied the request.

While their refusals were basically general, they both implied that support from Worldcon surpluses was most legitimately extended to conventions which, having been held, were left with unpaid debts.

Noreascon committee members, therefore, are acutely aware of the value pass-along funds »

BIDBITS

VANCOUVER for Westercon in your future? Possible support from southern Californians distressed at the prospect of another Sacramento bid may give us a race for Westercon next year. The new Westercon rotation (basically a reversion to the old one) means every other Westercon has to be in the Bay Area or farther north. Sacramento fans are talking about bidding, which has scared some other westerners into looking for any alternative. Vancouver, the beautiful British Columbia city with several possible sites for a Westercon, drew the short straw as Seattle and Portland (1990's site) finked out. Maybe everybody involved should know better....Why is that little voice whispering "Think Hawaii. Think Hawaii." ??

Yes, folks, there will be a Nasfic in SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA over Labor Day weekend in 1990. The committee, having finally decided WHEN there will be a con, has also graciously condescended to tell us that Samuel (Chip) Delany will be the Guest of Honor, and Ben (Bowtie) Yalow the Fan Guest of Honor. So what took you so long?

Just to show you that sometimes nothing goes right, WASHINGTON had to battle stories earlier this year that a disgruntled Joe Mayhew had closed their PO Box. Not true, everyone involved has said; a Disclave Box was closed which had been used very early on for a few Discon flyers (Discon soon and several years ago had its own P.O. Box). Then, DC in '92 mail was mistakenly returned by the P.O. a few times from their real box, feeding the fannish rumor mills. Everyone is generally getting along fine today these days in the fannish city on the Potomac, Disconners tell us. Inviting trouble, perhaps, Orlando in '92 recently changed its P.O. Box number.

HONG KONG IN 1997 proclaims the brilliant gold flyer with a Chinese dragon on it. Advertising the "first Asian Worldcon" and the "biggest 'WE LOST OUR LEASE SALE' in HISTORY" (the British Crown Colony will revert to mainland - - communist -- Chinese control after a lease of 99 years), Hong Kong in 97'ers promise a "truly alien blending of two wildly different cultures". Hoax or real bid? Maybe your responses will decide.... Write Lex Nakashima / 11846 Balboa Blvd. # 123 / Granada Hills CA 91344 or Chi Karimari / 5-18-9 Chuo Nakano-ku / Tokyo Japan 164. Try it, you'll like it....

might have to a Worldcon committee. As their statement of "rationale" puts it: "Developing Noreascon Three's budget has brought home to us just how difficult it is to budget a Worldcon. A large fraction of the con's total income isn't certain and arrives only after all of the planning is done. Since it isn't certain a prudent planner prefers not to count on all of it. To make the likelihood of a loss small, our long-range plans must be based on the money that we know we have."

Noreascon's proposal might have gotten a better hearing if it had been for money to fund a specific proposal rather than just general funds. Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc., the corporation operating Noreascon 3 (which also ran Noreascon Two), granted money from the Noreascon Two surplus to ConStellation in advance to help fund a boat excursion in Baltimore harbor, and Iguanacon provided ConStellation with half the money for a reception.

Worldcon committees with surplus funds generally are very careful about how they spend it, and have been burned by fannish disapproval of their spending.

Part of the explanation for Los Angeles's sound defeat by The Hague's Worldcon bid for 1990 is fans' resentment of the way the Los Angeles fans handled disbursement of their surplus, particularly in proposing that a portion of it be used to help fund the Los Angeles in 1990 campaign.

Spending of ConFederation's surplus has also been greeted

Attendees at Nolacon II will have the opportunity to hear a discussion of these issues, among others, at a panel on the Fan Programming Track scheduled for Saturday at 1 in the afternoon. The panel, entitled "But What Do We Do With the Profits (and How Do We Defray the Losses)?: The Fiscal Side of Worldcons" will have Pat Gibbs (ConFederation Committee) as moderator, and will include John Guidry (Chair of Nolacon II); Craig Miller (Co-chair of LAcon II); Mike Walsh (Chair of ConStellation); Linda Pickersgill (Conspiracy bail-out coordinator); and Mark Olson (Chair of Noreascon 3). Almost surely the Noreascon proposal will be discussed by the panelists.

by criticism from many fans.

Sometimes it must seem that being left with a big surplus is almost as much a problem as ending up with a deficit (but not for very long).

In fact, one of the basic dividing lines of recent Worldcon fan politics has been over the question of who interprets how Worldcon surpluses can best be spent for the benefit of fandom. Committees, naturally, tend to want to keep that power for themselves. Repeated attempts at business meetings in the last several years to restrict how funds may be spent have been watered down or defeated, most recently when the ConFederation Business Meeting declined to ratify an amendment that would have restricted committees from using Worldcon surpluses for new bids.

The argument that fannish opinion rather than unenforceable regulation is the best discipline for committees would seem to be borne out by Los Angeles's defeat for 1990, even though the committee, in response to general disapproval, didn't spend any of the allocated 1984 surplus on 1990 bid expenses.

While it would be easy to see the Noreascon proposal as simply a reaction to that convention's difficulties, it also represents a current of fannish ideas which have been expressed before.

A proposal which would have mandated that a large portion of the surplus funds of any Worldcon be transferred to the (then) World Science Fiction Society Standing Committee, was in an amendment moved and defeated at the WSFS business meeting at Aussiecon II in Melbourne, Australia, in 1985.

The Emergency Fund was an adaptation of the older pass-along funds to the larger budgets, surpluses and potential problems of committees twenty years ago.

Before the ConStellation debt problem, some fannish discussion of institutionalizing the Emergency Fund used the approach of coordination among Worldcon committees.

Such discussions have been resurrected with the Noreascon budget inflation. At Boskone in January, members of the Discon III (1992 bid) committee discussed the possibility of pass-along arrangements with Noreascon

committee members. The subject also was mentioned in bid presentations by the 1992 bidders at Disclave in May.

While it is easy to advocate passing on surplus funds in the abstract, in this time of substantial (in fannish terms) surpluses it is much more difficult to design a widely acceptable mechanism. Thus, the Noreascon proposal has been hedged with many qualifications.

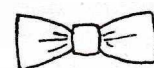
In order to get it off the ground, it is unilateral and mostly definitive.

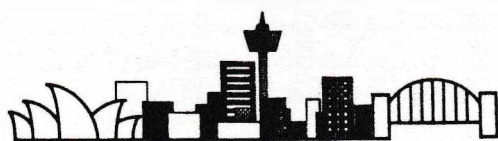
Response so far has been mixed.

One committee chairman reportedly has not even circulated the proposal among the bidding committee. Others have sent it to board members or more widely among committee members. Washington in '92 committee members, doubly sensitive to budgeting problems after ConStellation, and publicly committed to quickly disbursing any surplus from their possible Worldcon back to fandom, are likely to accept the proposal.

In any event, a subject which causes great difficulty and hedging in mundanity does the same in fandom: money. There is no getting around this problem, and the human emotions which accompany it. Worldcon committees, like people, tend to want others to be generous, while they must be prudent. Noreascon, having been stung, is groping for a longer term, voluntary solution.

Fandom might be well advised to grope with it.





Sydney is eligible as a site outside the defined North American zones.

But, Sydney has done nothing to promote its selection. Even in Australia, the Sydney bid has been conspicuous in its absence from conventions.

The Chicago bid, running on a "party animal" theme combining fannish silliness, the Picasso Afghan statue downtown, and references to Chicago's mundane political chicanery, has paid its dues in parties and flyers around North America. Nothing short of a major natural disaster could upset its plans to host the 1991 Worldcon.

The Chicagoans are led by Kathleen Meyer as Chair, with a committee including active convention organizers from the Chicago area, as well as several organizers of Chicon IV, the 1982 Worldcon in Chicago (including Ross Pavlac, Larry Smith, and Dick Spelman, the latter two in Ohio).

The Sydney bid is chaired by Alan Grieve, and includes Kevin MacLean, Gary Makin, Gary Armstrong, Bridget Mullane, and Mark Hall. None are well known in North American fandom. MacLean has worked on Syncons and others have been active in Australian gaming conventions.

A Sydney bid was first publicly announced at Aussiecon II, the 1985 Worldcon in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Many Australian fans, heady with Worldcon euphoria, gossiped about possible future

Australian Worldcons. Sydney's announcement for 1991 and Perth, Western Australia's, announcement for 1992 were the result of this giddiness (Perth's bid quickly changed to 1994 under suggestion from East Coast North Americans, whose zone is scheduled for the Worldcon in 1992).

Chicago fans bid 1991 with the conscious intention of inserting Chicago into the elite group of North American cities which bid (and sometimes win) every nine years or so. Los Angeles, Boston, and Washington are currently such cities, with Atlanta hoping to join with a 1995 bid; New York has bid frequently but not hosted a Worldcon since 1967.

Sydney fans expressed doubts at the 1987 World Science Fiction Convention, Conspiracy, held in Brighton, England, about bidding in what seemed then to be a hopeless situation. North American fans advised them to file anyway, on the theory that it cost them nothing, that the bid could be used to build local connections in Sydney, that with Perth's 1994 bid looking strong they could help create a sympathetic attitude to Perth if they lost, and, finally, that they would be on the ballot if anything happened to the Chicago bid.

The Sydney bidders have received criticism from fellow Australians for doing little publicity in Australia.

Sydney bidding, in fact, has been minimal almost from the beginning of their bid. With little hope of winning, Sydney bidders have accepted that they can use the bid to build experience for their group without spending a fortune on a losing bid.

Chicago is bidding the facilities used for the 1982 convention, primarily the Chicago Hyatt Regency with nearby hotels used for additional sleeping rooms.

Sydney is bidding the new Sydney Convention Center, with an attached convention hotel, connected to downtown Sydney and other hotels by a short monorail. The Sydney facility is built on harbor land reclaimed from port use and includes meeting rooms, a theater, and other facilities ideal for the Worldcon. Sydney may have one of the best combinations of function space and nearby hotel rooms currently available for the Worldcon outside North America.

Sydney previously ran for the Worldcon for 1983 and was defeated by Baltimore, Maryland. Both Australian Worldcons, in 1975 and 1985, were in Melbourne. The next Australian Worldcon may be in Perth. Sydney currently seems fated to being the also-ran rather than the choice for Australian Worldcons.

If fans do choose Chicago as the site of the 1991 Worldcon, it will be the first time the convention has been held in the North American Central Zone for two rotations in a row since Toronto, Ontario, hosted the 1973 convention (following St. Louiscon in 1969), and the first time ever for two successive central zone rotations since the World Science Fiction Society constitution was changed to provide that a zone was skipped if the Worldcon goes outside the defined North American zones.

