



ALL RIGHT,
GLYER. WHERE
YOU GET YOUR
INFORMATION
FROM?

FILE DCCLXX:XXX

The Triple-Cross Issue of File 770 is continuously edited by Mike Glycer, who will commit no typo before its time, at the convenient location of 5828 Woodman Ave. #2, Van Nuys CA 91401. Those buying their fanhistory on the installment plan can get 5 issues for \$3 (US greenies, please). Overseas seaimail same rate. Air printed matter overseas for \$1 a copy. Also available for trades with clubzines, other newzines, and proffered in exchange for hot news, rumors of news, art, and expensive long distance phone calls (nyet collect) to the editor at (213) 787-5061.

FLASHBACKS TO 29

BRITAIN IN EIGHTY-FOUR EIGHTY-SIXED: The December 3 issue of ANSIBLE, Dave Langford's British newzine, says "Announcement from the Britain in '84 Worldcon Bidding Committee: 'When we formulated our contingency bid for the 1984 Worldcon we were naturally unaware that similar ideas were being mooted in Melbourne, and the announcement of Melbourne in '85 has put us in a quandary. After much deliberation we have decided to withdraw, and would urge all our supporters to vote instead for Australia in '85...and Britain in ___?'" Since any number of American con bidders from LA to Baltimore have been huffing and puffing to bring such an Aussie bid into existence, the idea of it taking anyone by surprise may at first seem incredible. However, news travels many indirect routes in fandom; for example, I find a valuable source of info on British worldcon bids to be Australia's THYME (edited by Irwin Hirsch.) In THYME 9, Irwin says "Joseph Nicholas reports that 'Ansible 21 contains a note from Malcolm Edwards to the effect that in the face of the Melbourne in '85 bid they've decided to retire altogether, leaving 1987 to someone else entirely.' However, a letter from Dave Langford, that arrived on the same day as Joseph's, seems to contradict this; Dave says that the 1987 bid is just not a definite thing."

Con Artists In Production Bid; Vidpic On Sked

L.A. publicity firm Con Artists has formed a production company and obtained rights to a Larry Niven science-fiction tale, "Inconstant Moon" as the basis of its first project.

Con Artists Prods. will prep "Inconstant Moon" as a web vidpic, though no network deal has been made, according to company prexy Craig F. Miller.

Before forming Con Artists, Miller worked in the publicity department at Lucasfilm Ltd.

His company had previously concentrated on advertising, publicity and promotion, often packaging projects for indie production companies and studios. Con Artists has repped "Superman II," "Altered States," "Excalibur" and "Heavy Metal." Films currently being repped are "The Dark Crystal" and "The Thing."

West coast v.p. is Mark W. Nelson, former story editor for Filmcorp Entertainment Finances. East coast v.p. is Genny Dazzo, a special-projects publicity vet.

THE SPICE OF LIFE: Those among us who have craved to stand closer to the movers and shakers, the fellows who sell tix to hix for boffo b.o. in stix, now need only step nearer to fandom's resident prexy, Craig Miller. His press release plugging a proposal for "Inconstant Moon" to air as a tv movie was condensed and translated out of the original English to the graphs reproed at left, which appeared in the December 18 issue of VARIETY. Miller, who was at Windycon that day, had a copy Federal Expressed to him for display at the con.

COLUMBUS IN '85: At last it can be told! (By me. In print. To the two of you who haven't heard it...) See elsewhere this issue.

DUFF IN '85: Latest in the fan fund queue to announce his candidacy years in advance is Marty Cantor, who -- in THYME -- says he's "seriously considering" standing for DUFF in 1985. THAT'S INCREDIBLE Harry Warner Jr. is on the verge of retiring the typer he's used for forty years, in favor of a new, electric one. Stay tuned...

KEAN

WITH
ESMERALDA TRUFAN

CAUSGRAVE & Locke

THIS IS ESMERALDA TRUFAN, CONDUCTING
A MUNDANE-ON-THE-STREET INTERVIEW.
THE SUBJECT IS WHAT TODAY'S MUNDANE
THINKS ABOUT SCIENCE FICTION.



YOUR NAME, SIR, AND TELL
US WHAT SCIENCE FICTION
MEANS TO YOU!



I SUPPOSE...



OK. I LIKED THE
FUNNY ROBOTS
IN "STAR WARS".

ANYTHING ELSE...



WELL, "SUPERMAN"
WAS KINDA NEAT!

CHILDE CHALKER MAKES DEBUT

Said Harry Warner Jr., "In case you haven't heard, the new Chalker you confidently predicted in #29 did indeed arrive on December 19 (my own birthday, come to think of it) at 4:14 pm in Carroll County Hospital, Westminster Md., 21 inches long, nine pounds four ounces heavy, and named David Whitley Chalker. The birth announcement includes a sketch of the new arrival, revealing that he already wears a helicopter beanie, is about halfway through reading 'Well of Souls' and has a bottle of unidentified liquid in his right hand." New mother Eva C. Whitley postscripted my copy of the announcement, "Details: 11½ hours of labor. Finally used a saddle block & low forceps. Apgar score of 9,10. Jack obviously was my coach. Faanish baptism at Hexacon, maybe. David is ConStellation member 9.... Does this mean I'll get billing over Joan Vinge & her daughter?" Yes. In fact, you get billing instead of Joan Vinge and her daughter. Please pay your billing promptly.

In fact I have a note from Martin Wooster about David's appearance at Hexacon. If it surfaces before I finish typing, I'll add it.

COLUMBUS IN '85 -- A MYTH IS AS GOOD AS A MILE



Craig Miller, probably persuaded by my display of high journalistic ethics (not easy to display when pounding one's tiny fists on the floor, and turning blue in the face) has given permission to run his inside account of the classic Columbus in '85 hoax.

The concept was inspired at Midwestcon when 10 random fans, including Craig, decided to go to a Chinese restaurant -- then within ten minutes had been seated and ordered. They agreed that any group of fans who worked that well together ought to run a worldcon. But where? They answered -- "Columbus, of course!"

Miller did not let the seed fall on fallow ground. From LA he phoned the Columbus convention and visitors bureau. He explained what a worldcon was, and its space and room requirements. Two weeks later a large package arrived in the mail -- besides having reserved every hotel room, convention center, and

Elks club in the city, the mayor of Columbus and the governor of Ohio sent their regards.

The idea remained dormant until three days before Octocon -- a con in Sandusky, Ohio, with a reputation as a smof session -- when a certain unnamed New York fan phoned Craig to tell him there were two large suites at the con hotel. The con suite was booked into one, and the NY fan had reserved the other, perhaps for a card game, perhaps for a Columbus in '85 bid party.

By the time the Unnamed New York Fan, and Genny Dazzo, met Craig at the airport with party supplies, Craig had produced a bid flyer with the assistance of artist Linda Miller. (Her theme illo appears on the opposite page). They proceeded to the Octocon motel, entering through the side door so no one saw them. They distributed the bid flyers. They set the bid proposal book on a table in their suite. They left the door open and departed. Fans being fans, they soon smelled the food and began devouring. When they came up for air, they saw the Columbus in '85 propaganda.

Cincinnati fan Mike Layler (sp?) was let in on the gag ahead of anyone else. So when the party opened, he phoned Larry Smith's room to ask, "Why didn't you guys tell me about the bid -- I've worked with you before." Smith, sounding like he just woke up, said, "What bid?" Mike replied, "Columbus in '85." Smith insisted, "That's supposed to be a secret." Mike told him, "What do you mean a secret -- you're having a party down here." Before Mike could hang up, Smith was in the room reading the brochure, and trying to figure out who did it. Mike gave Bob Hillis the same treatment. Somewhere along the line, Smith was overheard saying "No wonder the hotels gave us the bum's rush" when he proposed his Nasfic bid to them.

Howard DeVore and Rusty Hevelin accepted custodianship of the bidding materials at the end of Octocon -- and are rumored to be going around the midwest signing up presupporters for Columbus in '85. Craig promises bid T-shirts in the near future...

Whether the DeVore/Hevelin rumor is valid appears to be called into question by the following item in Leah Zeldes' TANSTAFL: "It looks as if we're going to have to make the Tactlessness Award a monthly event... This month's Award goes to the perpetrators of the Detroit in '85 Nasfic bid, who invited one half of a couple to their organizational meeting, while making it clear the other half was not welcome. Tacky, tacky. And why not a full-fledged worldcon bid, kiddies? Afraid to bid against Columbus?" DeVore and Hevelin having made themselves synonymous with Detroit bids for major conventions, one wonders whether a Nasfic bid would go forward without them. Unless it did, the duo don't strike me as the type to get roped into an extended practical joke.

NESFA CAT CENSUS COMES TO PURRFECT CONCLUSION

Though much of the final installment of the Cat Census was actually devoted to cats, INSTANT MESSAGE 304 also listed the long-awaited roll of Honorary and Dishonrrary Cats. The former included a 15-hand-high gelding, a Bernese mountain dog, two brown gerbils and a 55-lb. short-hair German Shepolli. The latter consisted of a catamaran, and a digital virtual cat. Not responding to the census was Harry Warner Jr., who says, "I wondered if I should have responded to the NESFA cat census, because my auto license plate is CAT 955 and it will remain that way for four more years unless someone steals it between now and then. The rat in the toilet also seemed familiar to me in a way: I've never had one (a rat, not a toilet) but one of my regular chores in this house is to pour water into the basement toilet which broke down so completely that the (contd)

plumber recommended cutting it off rather than attempting to make repairs. After he'd performed the necessary operation on its interior, he warned me to keep water in its bottom part, because if it evaporated dry, sewer rats would begin regular excursions to my basement. Just another reason why I don't go to distant cons."

.....

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Kennedy & Victoria Poyser 42-77 Crommelin St., Flushing NY 11355
Jo-Anne McBride 796 Carlaw Ave. #47, Toronto ONT M4K 3L1 Canada
Mark R. Sharpe 5544 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cartwright Ave., North Hollywood CA
Arthur Hlavaty 819 Markham Ave., Durham NC 27701
Perry Middlemiss & Helen Swift PO Box 1308, Canberra City,
ACT 2601 Australia.
Timothy B. Kyger 180 Waverly, Sunnyvale CA 94086
Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Chuck Spear:
4714 36th Ave. NE, Seattle WA 98105.
Mike Farinelli 637 Peashway, South Bend IN 46617
John & Becky Thomson 10271 Sandy Hollow Lane SE, Bonita Spr. FL 33923
Lea M. Day NOPF Box 1395, Pearl Harbor HI 96860
Maryanne Mueller 629 E. 8th St., Brooklyn NY 11218
Dave Locke & Jackie Causgrove 2109 Harrison Ave. #9, Cincy OH 45214
.....

SURGERY SUCCESSFUL: John Millard, Toronto fan and past Worldcon chairman, underwent a Retro-Pubic Prostatectomy this past October 23 at St. Michael's Hospital, in Toronto. He had an uneventful recovery from this major operation, and has since returned to work.

MINNEAPOLIS MISCELLANY: Per Denny Lien, "Mpls news: two more weddings -- Karen Schaeffer and Steve Glennon; Carol Anndy and a nonfan. // Just got in this morning /Jan 10/ from a 'coldest night of the year party' at Karen Johnson's. Was thirty-plus below with a wind chill factor approximating eighty below. True to the name of the party, two out of the last three cars remaining refused to start even with battery jumps, so Karen wound up with some unexpected overnight visitors."

ONE BRIEF SHINING MOMENT FLICKERS OUT: In an open letter Bjo Trimble reports some business plans have fallen through. Last Thanksgiving Hal Schuster of New Media Irjax approached John Trimble to become Cadmus Distribution, the Southern California branch of the magazine and comics distribution division of the New Media business. Bjo was to edit three new magazines. The magazines were to be bi-monthly based on Bjo's STARLOG #51 "The Ultimate Fanzine" article, a quarterly COSTUME magazine, and a quarterly based on groups who recreate life styles, such as Civil War buffs, Mountain Men, and Society for Creative Anachronism. Bjo had solicited material from various fans, and now is alerting them that due to differences between the Trimbles and Schuster, the plan has been called off. Bjo retains rights to her ideas for "The Ultimate Fanzine" and COSTUME magazine, and would happily launch them if someone would front the \$5000 required to get the idea into production. Meanwhile, anyone interested in Schuster's idea about alternate life styles publications can reach him at 12345 Starkey Rd., Largo FL 33540.

ISAAC ASIMOV'S SCIENCE FICTION UNEMPLOYMENT LINE

George Scithers, founding editor of ISAAC ASIMOV'S SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE (IASFM), ended his association with the prozine last December 31. Says Darrell Schweitzer, "The new editor is Karen Malloney, a former senior editor at Bantam. George will continue to run Owlswick Press and AMRA. The whole Philadelphia end of ASIMOV's is being shut down, which will mean I will no longer be associated with it, nor will John Ashmead, John Sevcik, John M. Ford, Meg Phillips, Alan Lankin or Lee Weinstein. (These last two had virtually no involvement of late anyway, since they have full time jobs.) Shawna McCarthy, who works in the New York office, will remain as managing editor for both IASFM and ANALOG. I regret to say that the art director will remain, so the covers will continue to be awful and inappropriate, but this will be no more Malloney's fault than it was Scithers', or for that matter, Stanley Schmidt's. I don't know Ms. Malloney, and at this stage no one seems to know much about her, but I hope readers will give her a chance. The only thing I'm fairly sure about is that in the future comments on rejected manuscripts will be less detailed, and more likely just to be a printed form."

SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE (ed. Andrew Porter) quotes Scithers, "Basically, I've been at it for five and a half years and I'd sure like to stop before I run out of steam." A reliable rumor-monger attributes the shakeup to declining sales (somebody should compare the January-to-January circulation figures to be pubbed in IASFM under postal regs). That source was not Darrell, who offers as an epitaph for his IASFM career, "One of the things I'm most proud of in my association with the magazine is that it never became what its detractors claimed, and always had room for writers as widely varied as Longyear, Lafferty, Mack Reynolds, Kate Wilhelm, Gene Wolfe and E. Hoffman Price, to pick a fairly random spread." (I guess that was a telegram for Dave Langford...)

Schweitzer concludes, "IASFM probably introduced more new writers to the field than any magazine of recent years, including UNEARTH. The record is still held by the March 1978 issue, which contains seven first-time authors (in addition to big names like Brian Aldiss and Richard Wilson). The last story George Scithers bought was 'The Last Thrilling Wonder Story' by Gene Wolfe. Of course, the things he bought will continue to appear for months." Darrell mentions upcoming fiction by Sucharitkul, Sladek, Damon Knight, John M. Ford, Robert F. Young. Darrell will be back later with a Philcon report.

Mighod, you look
half dead! Did you
tangle with
somebody's husband?

No, I
tangled
with his
wife.



LOCS

JOHN MILLARD (18-86 Broadway Ave.,
Toronto ONT M4P 1T4 Canada)

Mike Ward's contribution to #28 is another good reason why the Worldcon and large Regionals should be organized and run using proper business methods. I think it is the responsibility of the organizing Committee to gather the necessary information regarding taxation and make it available, in writing, to all those interested in Huckstering, Art Show, etc. The Committee should also require all those interested in these fields to sign an agreement to the effect that they have seen the taxation information, and understand their obligations and responsibilities to collect and pay the taxes. It's not

something we like, but it's a fact of life, so we have to put up with it. Let us face it, the Worldcon and most large Regionals are big business today, so the Government and the Taxing authorities want their cut. So it's far easier to gather the necessary information and pass it on to those who require it than to run into a nasty situation that Mike has described. It not only makes for a rough situation but it could also give Fandom a bad reputation, particularly those in the mundane field, that we have to do business with. (Also, incidentally, Columnist Wayne Gree is more than a columnist. He is the Owner/Publisher of 73 Magazine, Kilobaud Microporcessing, and a number of other publications in the field.)

((Very true, that the larger conventions get, the more susceptible they are to bureaucratic scrutiny. To offer an example I know well, dealers are not only liable for sales tax (though a raid by the Franchise Tax Board is unlikely), they must have LA city business licenses (based on one percent of gross receipts), and convention operators have twice been docked for possible Workmens' Compensation obligations, and miscellaneous labor law violations (though the latter were both caused by phone tips from enemies of Doug Wright, and Wright himself in retaliation.)))

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

Don't feel too bad about the way the complete Hugo voting results were released. I've been down that road so many times myself in all these years as a journalist. Sometimes it happens

because of favoritism and sometimes it's the result of forgetfulness and on other occasions it may result from stupidity or accident. During my first years in newspaper work, I fretted and fumed for days after something of that sort happened to me, half the time blaming myself and the rest of the time accusing the source of the information. But later I realized that such things even out in the long run and anyway, journalists rather than readers get excited about who has the news first.

CHARLES BURBEE: File 770 tells me more than I need to know about fandom.

FRANZ ZRILICH: (1811 Bellus Rd., Hinckley OH 44233)

Tim Marion should do what I do about bicycle security: Buy a well-built clunker. What I did was this: I went to my local Raleigh dealer and bought a British bobbie's bike. It weights fifty pounds with all of the junk I've added to it: rear newspaper baskets, huge bell, lighting system(s), seatpost extension, ten-pound St. Bernard chain with USAF tubular high-security lock, etc. The bike is a three-speed cruiser with 28" tires -- not thin 27" or your standard 26" diameters -- but big mother fudgers that need a brake system that uses rods and levers rather than cables for brakes. It comes in any color you want as long as it's black. If you spray a bit of exterior-grade paints in spotted patterns on the bike, touch it up with dust blown onto gluespots, let it sit in a few rains, and over oil it so that it gets grimy black, no one will want it. But to be sure, do use the St. Bernard-Mastiff necklace with its brick-like lock...

((Where is Tim supposed to put this chain when he's riding -- as that was the very thing he was doing last time he was stopped and robbed...))

ALEXIS GILLILAND: (4030 8th St., South, Arlington VA 22204)

:: A short note to thank you for the very nice review of REVOLUTION and LONG SHOT /originally published in The Speed of Dark 30/. By and large you applaud all the right things, which is most gratifying.

You will be interested to know that the third book, PIRATES OF ROSINANTE, THE, is at Ballantine. It deals with the undeclared war between Rosinante and Japan, and is about 10% longer than LONG SHOT. If we can agree on a price, it could be out next Fall.

THINK OF THE ARMS
RACE AS THE LONG
SOUGHT AFTER
LIBERAL
ALTERNATIVE
TO WAR.

NUKES ARE SO
GREAT TO HAVE
AROUND BECAUSE
EVERYBODY IS
SCARED TO USE
THEM.



AT LEAST,
EVERYBODY
I KNOW IS
SCARED TO
USE THEM.

AF
7/9/81

JIM MEADOWS III: (PO Box 1227, Fekin IL 61554

!! You may be aware that Frederic Wertham died in November, but I wanted to make sure. His obit appeared in a recent TIME as a "death revealed." The TIME obit focuses on Wertham as a critic of media violence, and there's an indirect fannish reference there; Wertham got a lot of bad notice in fandom for his activity in the 50s against violence in comics. Some of it was, I think, unfair, as I think the two viewpoints are different, but not opposing.

But Wertham's more direct connection is with his book THE WORLD OF FANZINES (mid or late 1970s, Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press). It is, to my knowledge, the only "mundane" book on fandom. It's brief, not terribly incisive, but favorable. That came as a surprise to some people. I remember that when Ted White heard the announcement of the book's preparation, he remembered Wertham's SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT and wrote a long tirade in AMAZING or FANTASTIC, relating his fears that the book would look down upon fanzines as a corruptor of youth. He corrected himself when the book came out, although his reaction was rather condescending.

Wertham was apparently fascinated by fanzines. I can't be sure without my back issues at hand but I believe you were a reader of Donn Brazier's TITLE at the same time Wertham was contributing to it with occasional letters. ((Yes indeed.))

WILLIAM J. DENHOLM III: (184 Centre St. Apt. #5, Mountain View CA)

1: I like Marjii Ellers' JUDGES GUIDE and your own review of the Gilliland books (both of which I read and enjoyed when they were published). I have...reviews FUZZY BONES. John F. Carr tells me that Tuning's 'novel' was too long to be published in one book. A major effort on Tuning's part, apparently.

VITAL STATS: From ANSIBLE, "Jim Frenkel and Joan Vinge contrived a Jessica on December 19/." Indirect again, see? // Mike and Beth Finkbeiner, Northwest fans and prominent PESFA members, are now the proud parents of John Allen, born Oct. 20 1981. (source: Jon Gustafson) // Victoria Estelle Mitchell will wed Jon Gustafson on February 7 in Moscow, Idaho. Not many couples can boast a wedding invitation drawn by Alex Schomburg. // Wally Wood died in Los Angeles, November 3, 1981, at the age of 54. "The premier artist of EC comics in the 50s, and of MAD magazine until the early 60s, Wood also did book covers and illustrations for sf magazines including GALAXY. He helped make WITZEND a top 'pro-fan' zine." (Source: Al Sirois in REALITY RAG. I knew if I traded with you guys enough years, sooner or later there'd be something in there I could ~~steal~~ reprint.)

CHICON IV: Hugo nominations ballots will be mailed with PR 3, announces NEWS RELEASE #2. The due date for their return is March 15, 1982. Yeah. // Membership was 3433 as of January 8. // Melissa Keck has replaced Linda Hanson as Membership Coordinator. Greg Rihn is moving up to Film Program Director following the resignation of Bill Hainley. New staff appointments include -- ACADEMICS PROGRAMMING Donald Hassler, MASQUERADE Joni Stopa, HOTEL LIAISON Tom Veal, GOPHER CHIEF Jim Green. (And an unnamed newzine editor seems to have volunteered to do their daily newzine.)

NEW YORK IN '86: Long, long ago in a city far, far... Well, not that long or far, the New York in '86 Bidding Committee experienced an upheaval in the form of its annual elections. Ben Yalow suffered defeat in his reelection bid as Coordinator, and disappeared from the Executive Committee altogether when voters denied him a Member At Large berth. Speaking for the record, Yalow sounded well satisfied with Devra Langsam's qualifications to be the new Coordinator of the worldcon bid. He termed her a consensus figure, who was well liked by everybody. The bid executive now consists of: Coordinator, Devra Langsam. Secretary, Teresa Minambres. Members at Large of the Executive Committee, Moshe Feder, Genny Dazzo, Steve Rosenstein.

CONVENTIONAL REPORTAGE 1981 FINAL

LOSCON 8: At the last Board of Directors Meeting George Jumper, LASFS member whose many hats included chairing Loscon 8, offered to provide a conreport. I encouraged him. George promptly scribbled one out, beginning, "Loscon 8 was the one in which the convention finally jelled. Held at the Huntington Sheraton in Pasadena, the first week of November, about 1000 fans attended and had fun. Loscon proved itself to be on the way to becoming a major regional..." Now I know what George Flynn had in mind when he asked me about the tendency of F770 to run so many conreports written by committee members. Mightn't they have the slightest bias? Actually Loscon 8 was a terrific convention, but I need a report on it, not an ad soliciting time travelers to go back and attend it...

PHILCON '81: Recounted By Darrell Schweitzer. "Attendance was about 1500. The convention had some difficulty (the hotel had more) because every hotel in town was filled with drunken soldiers and sailors from the Army-Navy game. As a rule the fans were far better behaved than the servicemen. The convention did what it could to discourage weapon-bearing by fans, and this no doubt helped. However there was a nasty note. One person, probably a fan(though he did not have a name badge) was seen wearing what looked like a fully functional automatic pistol. This person claimed to have gotten into a fight with a Navy lieutenant, drawn his gun and pistol-whipped the fellow. This may have just been bravado, but that's how the pistol-wearer told it, and it is surely further handwriting on the wall so far as these things go. When you consider how many borderline psychotics can be found at any convention, all conventions must go to a no-weapons stage.

"Philcon had a very good art show, with a lot of major professional artists participating. There were also good artist workshops in which various big name artists would demonstrate techniques and the like. Before the convention, PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE ran a fairly intelligent, in-depth article on the local SF scene and on the convention.

"The Meaning of Life was auctioned off for \$1.50 at a panel on the same topic. While it seemed that Cosmic Enlightenment was achieved by all, the winner of the auction (John Prentiss) would not share the contents of the sealed envelope with anyone. I guess it is like the Fatima letters, which were also not revealed, as you'll recall. But if anyone wants to know what Life is all about, it is comforting to remember that there's a fan out there who knows."

ROUNDFILINGS

MIKE GLYER



1. Trial Run

Although I was born in Chicago, I remember little about it except snow. In that, the city is willing to provide an abundant homecoming for anyone, and I will never forget the airport shuttle dropping me two blocks from the Hyatt, on the wrong side of the Chicago River, an hour after dawn in seven degree weather, (with a wind chill factor of "Holy Shit!"). I sincerely mean that it was little adventures like these that made my fan goh-ship at Windycon highly amusing. Likewise the Sunday trek Elst, his friend from St. Louis, and I made to the Field Museum (called by some "the stuffed animal museum") and trying to find parking next to Soldier Field in the middle of a Bears game. Or hearing that Jim Young is now working for the State Department processing claims against the Iranian government. And being told by Jan Howard Finder that if FINDERS GUIDE TO AUSTRALTERRESTRIALS was nominated for the Best Nonfiction Book Hugo, he'd go formal dress at the ceremony. Or watching Bob Passovoy, supine, getting his neck wrung by Ann Cass. Not to mention hearing that Alex Eisenstein, trying to watch the Masquerade despite a fan with a flash camera bobbing in front of him, brushed the fan aside and was bitten on his arm. (Remember -- when teeth are outlawed, only outlaws will have teeth.) In between I considered the Hyatt as a worldcon site -- remember ChiCon IV -- and found it quite promising, setting aside the usual chronic shortage of elevators in worldcon hotels.

2. No Frills, No Fuss

In search of parties at Windycon, Elst Weinstein and I entered the room where Windyapans held forth. Dick Smith may have been responsible for the feasting table's content: generic corn puffs, generic potato chips, and most anything else in a white bag with a bold black stripe that would lend itself to generic obesity. The scene inspired a thought (which owed not a whit to Loompanicon) and I asked Elst, "This is obviously what the generic room party looks like -- what does the rest of the Generic Convention look like?" This sizzling topic spread to involve not only myself and Elst, but Larry Niven, Dick Smith and George Fergus, who contributed proportionally in the order listed.

*** GENERICON ONE ***

GENERIC PRO GUEST OF HONOR: Wilson Tucker
GENERIC FAN GUEST OF HONOR: Bob Tucker
GENERIC TOASTMASTER: Andrew J. Offutt

FEATURING THEIR GENERIC SPEECHES ENTITLED:

PRO: "What I've Written Lately."
FAN: "What fandom was like when I got into it."
TM: "Where I saw the guest of honor drunk."

AND OTHER PRINCIPAL PROGRAMMING:

Speech: "Why I am Getting Out of the Science Fiction
Ghetto" by Harlan Ellison

Panels: FEMINISM OR SF
SELLING BOOKS
ADVICE TO NEOFANS
NEW SCIENCE FACTS
DUMB SEX PANEL WITH BAD JOKES
CAT PANEL: ARE THEY ALIVE OR DEAD -- IT DOESN'T MATTER

Films:

Hardware Wars	Invaders From Mars
THX 1138	Bambi Meets Godzilla
Star Trek Bloopers	Plan 9 From Outer Space
The Nth Voyage of Sinbad	

Preview of soon-to-be-released film named:

SMALL, CUTE ROBOTS

Each person's membership badge will consist of a bar code. Although the code looks just like the one on a bag of cheese twits, those trying to sneak in with a bag of twits pinned to their chest will discover that the twits get in, and their chests do not! Members will be entitled to a generic banquet of plan-wrap rubber chicken. At the banquet there will be presented the Generic Fan Awards -- one chrome bar, to All Lengths. Presiding will be the Generic Conchair, identifiable by his briefcase, and by the probability that he is from Ohio. He will caution against the usual room stuffing, and remind attendees that each sleeping room has a sign posted warning "This Room is Limited to 10 over 5 Person Maximum." He will invite everyone to the (immediately following) Meet the

Authors party. The authors will be distinguished by their plastic skimmers left over from a political convention, while the members of First Fandom will be compelled to wear plastic Spock ears. Writers will sign their generic autograph with a rubber stamped "X".

Of course, Genericon I will have a huckster room, where fans can buy coverless books, wargames, movie stills and other generic bootleg items, recycled copies of SEEDS OF CHANGE, white T-shirts and 12-sided dice without pips. The artshow will be large but simple -- all Unicorns. In the Masquerade, all the men will be BS Galactic Colonial Warriors, and all the women will dress as Princess Leia, with the exception of one who will go entirely nude.

In the Computer Game Room, the same fan will sit in front of the game all weekend (not unlike real life). There will be rooms full of D&C players. Generic rumors will float between parties, such as "Harlan is here -- but he's in his room." Or, "Tucker went off with an underaged girl!" Also: "The convention committee is losing money." "Armed SWAT squads are shutting down all the parties." And: "Someone has a disease." The committee will confront one or more Generic Crises -- "They've unlocked the door from the garage to the art show!" "Airline personnel are complaining about the noise in the Con Suite!"

At the Generic Filksing, "The Green Hills of Earth" will be sung to 25,000 different tunes. Skinny dipping in the pool will be 47 guys and 2 girls. Fans heading out to dinner will discover that the Generic Coffee Shop, which has promised the con committee to stay open 24 hours a day, closed for the weekend on Friday at 7 p.m. Those fans who got in before hand report there was only one waitress who said the special of the day was grease, but when anybody tried to order from the menu, she just laughed.

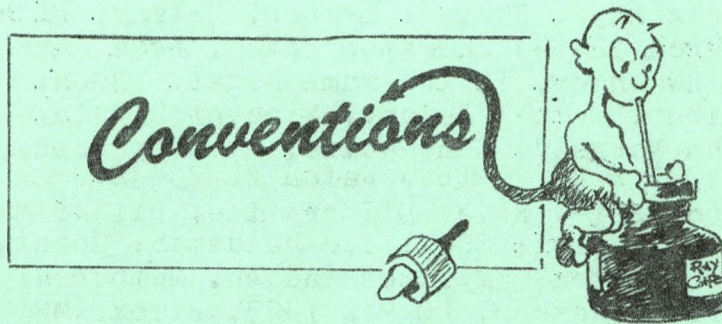
On the Generic Bulletin Board, schedule changes are posted -- "The STAR WARS showing has been postponed to 4...5...7...9..." "The Art Show will be open in half an hour." "There will be a room party." At that room party, the furniture is arranged so that nobody can get out. The jostling crowd reads the clever buttons on each other's shirts, which say -- "Idealistic Sentiment", "Convention Bid -- Location in 2 Years", "Cynical Crack", "Non-Sequitur", and "Wanna Fuck?"

The convention closing ceremony, logically enough, consists of an anthem played by Filthy Pierre. And at the Dead Dog Party, there is generic whining and bitching. "Sucks", or "This year's con is even worse than last year's con." And Monday morning's paper will have a second-section feature about "Crazy Buck Rogers Freaks in Town!" /finis/

((Allan Beatty also merits recognition for several ideas above.))

/Last issue's reference to retitling this zine "The Best of Instant Message" led Dave Klaus to recommend I graze in my own pasture. So with a dedication to Brian Earl Brown I present:/

THE BEST OF FILE 770



CAPRICON 2: (February 26-28) Radisson Chicago Hotel, Chicago IL
PRO: Gene Wolfe. FAN: Mike Stein. Rooms: \$45/sgl \$50/dbl + room tax. Free room raffle! Moebius Theater play, trivia contest, D&D room, computer game room, panels, ultip media event titled "This is your Life: Godzilla." Membership \$14. Brunch \$10. Info: c/o Charles Bestler, 101 W. Harrison, Oak Park IL 60304.

RAIN FORE: (Feb. 26-28) Sands Best Western, 1755 Davie St., Vancouver BC. GoHs: Steve Fahnestalk, Elinor Busby. Rooms: \$33(C) Memberships: \$10(C) until 2/25, \$12(C) at door. Info and checks: Gay Maddin, c/o PO Box 48478 Bentall Stn., Vancouver BC Canada.

CREATION: (Feb. 27-28) Sheraton, Columbus OH.
SF/Fantasy/Film/Comics. Info: Creation Conventions, 421 7th Ave., #908, NY NY 10001. (212) 594-7850

EATON CON 4: (Feb. 27-28) University of California at Riverside.
"Science Fiction and Fantasy in Film," the J. Lloyd Eaton conference on sf and fantasy literature. Academic conference.
info - George Slusser, Univ. Library, Box 5900, UC Riverside, Riverside CA 92517.

BAYFILK I: (March 5-7) London Lodge, Oakland CA.
GoH: Margaret Middleton. Rooms: \$42/sgl \$46/dbl. A musical relaxacon. Membership: \$6 supporting, \$15 attending til 1/15, then \$20 -- includes midnight supper. Info: Terri Lee, 5213 Colusa, Richmond Annex CA 94804.

UPPERSOUTHCLAVE XII: (March 5-7) Park Mammoth Resort, Park City KY. GoH: Irvin Koch. Rooms: \$27.30/sgl, \$33.60/dbl. Relaxacon. Memberships \$8. Info: UpperSouthClave XII, PO Box U-122, College Heights Station, Bowling Green KY 42101. (Cks to ConCave)

WISCON 6: (March 5-7) Inn On The Park (Best Western), Madison WI
Writer GoH: Suzette Haden Elgin; Editor GoH: Terry Carr.
Feminist programming, fiction and criticism, writing contets, other con functions. Memberships \$10 til 2/28, \$15 at door, \$5 supporting. To: WisCon, PO Box 1624, Madison WI 53701.

ART CREDITS: Jeanne Gomoll, cover; Causgrove & Locke, 3; Linda Miller, 4; Kurt Erichsen, 8; Alexis Gilliland, 9; Linda Leach, 12; Ray Capella, 15; Bill Kunkel, 16.

CHICAGO MINICON: (March 7) Americana-Congress Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave., 1st Floor, Chicago IL. Comic book show. Dealer tables \$25 each in advance. Adm ssion 75¢ Info: (312)274-1832

SWANNCON 3: 3rd Int'l Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts Florida State University, Boca Raton FL (March 10-13). Academic conference. Info: Timothy Sullivan, Conf. on the Fantastic, College of Humanities, Florida Atlantic Univ., Boca Raton FL 33431. (305) 395-5100, ext 2538. Guests: Leiber, Delany, Richard Ellman.

TROPICON I. (March 12-14) Sheraton Hotel, Boca Raton FL. Held in conjunction with Swanncon, in the same hotel. SGoH: Lee Hoffman. Guests: Fritz Leiber, Samuel Delany, Vincent DiFate, James Gunn, Brian Aldiss, John Morrissey, Gene Wolfe. Memberships \$10. To: Tropicon I, PO Box 2811, Boca Raton FL 33432.

COASTCON: (March 12-14) Royal D'Iberville, Biloxi MS. GoHs: Wendy & Richard Pini; SGoH: Joe Haldeman; Guests: George Alec Effinger, Jo Clayton; TM James Madden. Memberships \$10 til 2/28, \$12.50 after. Info: Coastcon, PO Box 1423, Biloxi MS 39531.

LUNACON 25: (March 19-21) Sheraton Heights Hotel, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ. Rooms: \$43/sgl, \$48/dbl, \$52 trpl. PRO: Fred Saberhagen. ARTIST: John Schoenherr. FAN: Steve Stiles. Memberships: \$11 til 2/28, \$15 at the door. Art show info: Wilma Fisher, 25 Old Lancaster Rd Apt. C6, Bala Cynwyd PA 19004. Dealer and other info: Lunacon 25, PO Box 338, New York NY 10150.

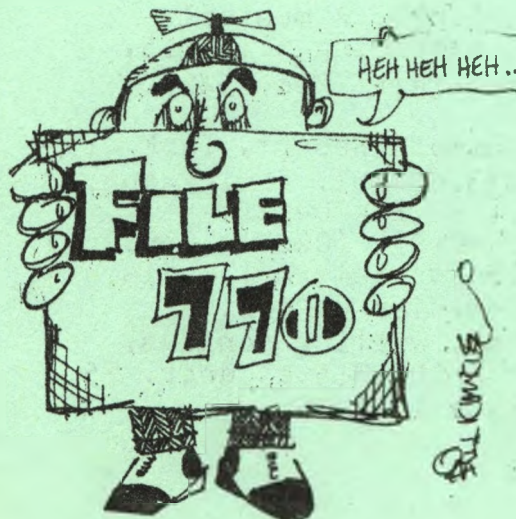
NORWESCON 5: (March 19-21) Airport Hyatt, Seattle WA. GoH: Thomas Disch; AGoH: Michael Whelan; FAN: Bob Shaw; TM: Richard Lupoff. Memberships: \$20 til 3/1, \$25 after. To: Norwescon 5, PO Box 24207, Seattle WA 98124.

FILE 770:30

Mike Glycer

5828 Woodman Ave. #2

Van Nuys CA 91401



Mark L. Olson (M1)
1000 Lexington St. #22
Waltham MA 02154

FIRST CLASS

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