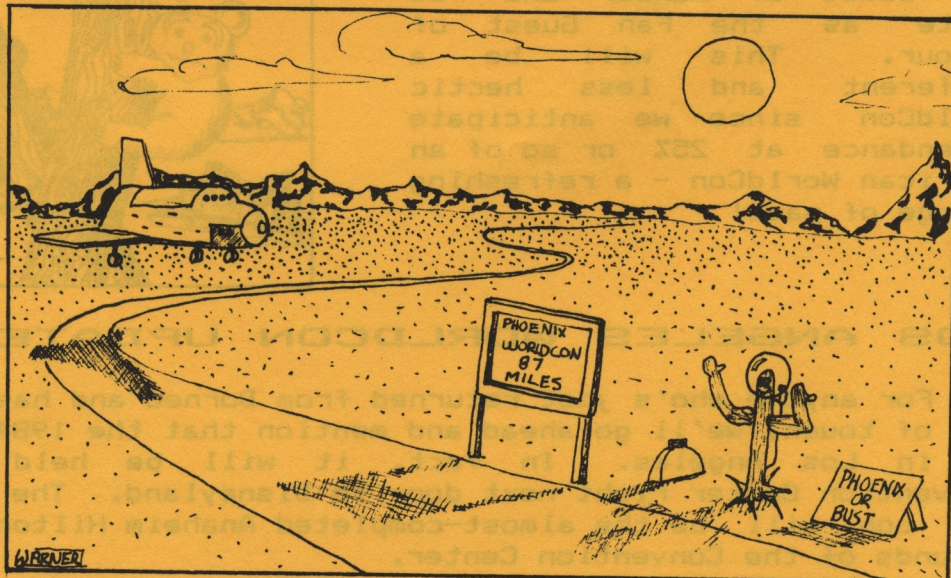


From the Cactus Patch or Things Are Going Our Way! From Phoenix in '87

Phoenix in '87
World Science Fiction Convention Bid
P. O. Box 27201
Tempe, AZ 85282



PROGRESS REPORTS

As we mentioned in PR's 9 and 10, we are numbering these publications in descending order because we want everyone to keep in mind the 1985 WorldCon. THAT'S WHEN TO CAST YOUR VOTES FOR PHOENIX! The last PR, number 1, will be out just prior to the 1985 convention in Australia.

If you haven't already received PR 9 or 10, please drop us a line and we'll send one out. We're enclosing PR10 and 9 if we think you might not have gotten a copy.

Remember, you'll be able to cast your vote as a Supporting Member of Australia or as an Attending Member by mail several months prior to the convention. People who attend the Con have the option to vote in person in Australia instead.

AUSTRALIA SITE FOR '85 WORLDCON!

The dates for the 1985 WorldCon will be August 22-26, rather than the Labor Day weekend. This will allow American fan to attend the NASFiC in Austin, Texas (which will be on the Labor Day weekend) AND the WorldCon. The Attending membership rate is \$40 until December 31, 1983 and Supporting (which will allow you to vote and nominate for the Hugos and to receive all publications—at least as far as is confirmed right now) is \$25. Of course, we encourage everyone to get at least a Supporting. Many on our Committee plan to attend, seeing the rest of Australia while we're at it (and, of course, doing last-second campaigning). You can also write Fred Patten, 11863 W. Jefferson Blvd. #1, Culver City, CA 90230 for memberships - from what we heard from Jan Howard Finder (another authorized rep for Australia), Fred's the primary rep for the AussieCon Two WorldCon.

Their guests will be Gene Wolfe for Guest of Honour and Ted White as the Fan Guest of Honour. This will be a different and less hectic WorldCon since we anticipate attendance at 25% or so of an American WorldCon - a refreshing change of pace!



LOS ANGELES WORLDCON UPDATE

For anyone who's just returned from Borneo and has been a little out of touch, we'll go ahead and mention that the 1984 WorldCon will be in Los Angeles. In fact, it will be held at the Anaheim Convention Center right next door to Disneyland. The main hotel for the con will be the almost-completed Anaheim Hilton, right on the grounds of the Convention Center.

The following information is taken from the L. A. Con II Progress Report 1 of March, 1983. Further information is due out soon - we will include information from L. A. Con's PR2 in our next Progress Report.

Membership rates, and their mailing address (in case you aren't

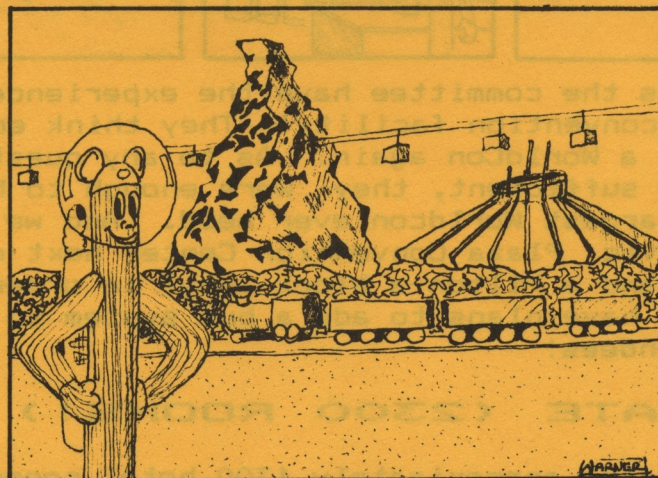
already a member), are: \$40.00 until December 31, 1983 and send to P. O. Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409. Supporting \$20 (non-convertible) at all times. The rates after December 31 haven't been published (at least that I can find), but they will undoubtedly be \$10.00 or so higher than the December 31 ending rates. As a matter of balancing your own budget and living up to your fiscal responsibilities, get yours soon and get it often! Offer void where prohibited or in bad taste.

Announced Program includes Gordon R. Dickson as the Guest of Honour, Dick Eney as the Fan Guest of Honor, Robert Bloch as Toastmaster, and Jerry Pournelle as the Master of Ceremonies. The "main program" is announced as consisting of three (read six as it's actually two sections of two hours each) tracks with each half of the three tracks beginning on staggered hours.

This will amount to "approximately 100 (main) program items". The allocation of program time will be: 50% SF and Fantasy in Print, 15% Film, 10% Art, 5% Futurism, 5% Space, 5% Fan, 5% LASFS (the unofficial sponsoring organization) History, and 5% Miscellaneous. This doesn't include film program, game demonstrations, autograph sessions, readings, and Q&A sessions.

It's hard to compare the sheer bulk of the planned Program with other conventions, but you'll have at least six times more than you could possibly do happening just in the Program. For comparison, the Baltimore WorldCon (September, 1983) had as many as twelve simultaneous tracks, most of which would come under the Program description. We've heard a number of people comment that this was in fact too many. It sometimes resulted in too few people in the audience and Program resources being spread too thin by having guests do too many panels. The main film program will be in a room seating 1600 and will feature superb sound (special consultant is Gary Kurtz) and a professional-quality projection booth. There will also be an amateur film contest for sf&f films. Entries should be under 31 minutes and either 16mm or Super-8 with soundtrack on film, not tape. Write the Con P. O. Box for details (attention: Amateur Film Contest).

Disneyland will be open throughout the convention. They couldn't arrange a special day just for fen during the con, but they are working out having one day designated World Science Fiction Convention Day with a special "passport" for unlimited use (almost) at a special (probably 33%) discount.



Most important to many of us who regularly attend WorldCons is that they are looking for a few hundred good fans as volunteers to help run the Con! The Phoenix in '87 WorldCon Bid Committee will be working the con (except for those doing our bid parties exclusively). To volunteer, write attention: Personnel, to the aforementioned P. O. Box. Let them know what you've done, would like to do, what you're good at, etc. Oh...and when you get to the Con, put in some good words for Phoenix in '87 - we'll appreciate it!

EXPERIENCE, YOU SAY?

A WorldCon is a bad place to learn how to put on a convention! That may be a little obvious to most fans, but we want to make a point here about the fact that this is by no means a small, inexperienced group standing out here amongst the cacti.

Arizona has hosted quite a few fan conventions. Three are continuing MAIN-STREAM sf cons - two in Phoenix and one in Tucson. Our committee includes the Chair for Tucson's 1983 (tenth annual) TusCon, Phoenix's upcoming (1984) LepreCon 10, and 1983's CopperCon III. This has generated a large number of experienced people who have worked on a variety of sizes of con over a number of years.

We also hosted a WesterCon in 1982, one that was widely viewed as one of the best conventions in its 35 years. Our Committee includes the former Chair for that WesterCon. At 1600 attendance, it wasn't the largest con Phoenix has hosted.

In 1978, a WorldCon was held in Phoenix. Our Committee is not the same one that put on that convention, though most of us worked prior to/during the con. That convention still stands as the third largest ever held, after Baltimore and Boston.

Phoenix and Tucson have hosted many other non-mainstream sf-related cons too numerous to list - and our committee includes past chairs of several of those, too!



Not only does the committee have the experience, but so do the hotels and the convention facility! They think enough of us that they want to host a WorldCon again. As to any questions of whether the facilities are sufficient, they were enough to hold what was at that time the largest Worldcon ever held. And we are adding more space at the Civic Plaza Convention Center next door to our main hotels (a Hyatt and a Hilton-a block away) in order to cut down on walking. We also have plans to add a bus system to open up another 1000 rooms to attendees!

HOTEL UPDATE (2300 ROOMS!)

In addition to the approximately 1300 hotel rooms being held for

our bid in downtown Phoenix (within two blocks of the Convention Center), we have now added a total of almost 1000 rooms nearby. These rooms are all located east of the convention center along one major street, anywhere from three blocks to three miles from the Center. This will help make the convention more affordable to many as this will open up hotels in a variety of price ranges. All hotels are of good quality, recommended by our Convention Bureau.

When comparing our facilities with other bids, either for 1987 or for other years, please remember that even at 2,300 rooms, we have many more rooms than will actually be needed. Phoenix alone (excluding our many suburbs) has over 20,000 first-class rooms. For example, San Diego has only 11,600 and San Francisco has 23,000 (per the GAVEL 1983 Annual International Directory).

To guarantee everyone staying in these hotels easy access to the convention, we will be running a free bus service at about 10-minute intervals along the major street. An advantage from running these buses is that it will also enable those who don't want to drive to go to many restaurants along the route. We will add establishments that give a discount as a stop on our route.

Again, we want to emphasize one BIG advantage we have over any other committee that would bid for the 1987 convention...we will be able to offer low off-season rates! This will save everyone a LOT of money!

"NO (OR AT LEAST LESS) SWEAT"

About 6,000 of us noticed that it was quite warm walking around the Baltimore WorldCon. The beginning of September is still summer - and while Phoenix usually has dry heat, most everywhere it is hot and HUMID.

We are planning to alleviate this two ways; reducing your walking and increasing your shade. First, we plan to have most daytime activities at the Civic Plaza, which is all under ONE air-conditioned roof. Our Civic Plaza is being doubled in size (this very moment) from its size in 1978. Second, we will have an awning (or some other "shade structure" as the City of Phoenix's Streetscape Committee calls it) running between the main hotel (the Hyatt) and the entrance to the Civic Plaza. There will be NO "Anvil of God" to cross! We are also thinking of asking to make a pedestrian walkway out of the streets separating the Hyatt, Hilton, and Civic Plaza for the 3-day weekend. We've been assured by the Redevelopment District Director that it can be done for us.

Don't be fooled...it's quite a lot of walking around ANY WorldCon site - we are planning now to make ours the most comfortable possible!

BALTIMORE WORLDCON

We enjoyed the 1983 Baltimore WorldCon, "ConStellation", immensely. We also were glad to have the chance to meet many of you (and adding several more Pre-Supporters) at our parties. Their committee should be commended for doing a generally fine job, especially for all of the outside activities they arranged.

On the sad side, however, it appears that they may be the first

WorldCon in recent years to go broke. LOCUS and FILE 770 mentioned that though it wasn't a big loss considering the scale on which WorldCon operate, it still will probably amount to \$10,000-\$30,000. In a nutshell, they expected 7,500 people and (depending on your source) got only 6,100-6,500.

The reasons why it happened are many (as a professional Cost Accountant, our Chairman is following this quite closely). Let it suffice to say that we are bringing the expertise of an experienced WorldCon Accountant into play with our bid!

CLARIFICATION

We want to clarify a point made in the fannish bio of Bruce Farr, the Bid Chairman. He, in fact, was not the Chair at the time of a 1000+ person media con, but was Chair up until about three months prior.

PRE-SUPPORTERS SINCE PR9

Aleta Ara Tucson AZ	Michael Lindow Plant City FL	Susan Schubnell Phoenix AZ
Linda Lee Bennett Zephyr Hills FL	Ellen Lindow Plant City FL	Lois Schwope Phoenix AZ
David Bennett Zephyr Hills FL	Sharon Maples Orlando FL	Suzie Skelton Gatlinburg TN
Gareth Bloodwing Tucson AZ	Casceil Medlin Phoenix AZ	Fran Skene Vancouver BC
David Elder Pittsburgh PA	Real Musgrave Dallas TX	Sharolyn Slaker Phoenix AZ
Charles Englestead Tucson AZ	Muff Musgrave Dallas TX	Monica Taylor Louisville KY
Eric Hanson Tucson AZ	Wayne Nielson Tampa FL	Vernor Vinge San Diego CA
Frank Hayes Chicago IL	Cindy Nielson Tampa FL	Terry Wadsworth Casa Grande AZ
Kirk Hill Phoenix AZ	Jane Orient Tucson AZ	Charles D. Ward Alexandria VA
Ray Kobe West Bloomfield MI	Jennifer Roberson Phoenix AZ	Elliott Werner Elmhurst NY
Mike Lampe Greenland?!	Frank Robertia Ft. Lauderdale FL	Perry M. Williams San Angelo TX
Denise Lewis Okemos MI	Michael Schubnell Phoenix AZ	Rondi Williams San Angelo TX