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Philcon News is published periodically at 1366 E. Columbia Ave. for distribution to members of The Philcon Society. There will be one more issue, which will appear approximately July 30th.

= REMEMBER =

◦ THE DATES ◦

⌘ AUG. 30, 31 & SEPT. 1 ⌘

PHILCON POLICY

BY MILTON A. ROTHMAN

• CHAIRMAN •

Response to our request for ideas and for speakers has not been particularly heavy, but that was to be expected. So our system in the future will be to draft speakers for the program. You may expect a call to arms any day now.

We are grateful to those who did write and let us know their thoughts concerning the convention. Our policy towards ideas which involve a great deal of work has been to make the person who thought up the idea do the work. (That'll teach them.) For example, Ackerman, who originated the Big Pond Fund, was promptly made boss of the project. K. Martin Carlson asked us why we weren't putting out a Combazine, and I said how about you putting the thing together? So mayhaps you will be hearing from him about it.

L. Jerome Stanton, Associate Editor of Astounding Science Fiction, in an unguarded moment remarked that he was formerly a showman and band leader. Whereupon he found himself master of ceremonies at the entertainment evening of the convention.

So you see, Gentlemen; if you open your yap around these parts, you are going to be put to work. Let's see a few yaps opened.

Three individuals have remarked about the disposition of the convention profits. One was in favor of letting the PSFS have some of the money, and two were against. We expect to receive a flock of mail from PSFS members.

A voice or two has been raised complaining about the clause in the Big Pond Fund advertisements which leaves the money to the Fantasy Foundation in case the BPF fails to achieve its purpose. The Convention Chairman accepts full responsibility for that, on these grounds: since this fund is being collected as a raffle, and since advertisements for the fund have plainly announced its purpose with all qualifications, nobody is sending in his money without knowing what he is getting. If Ackerman had come to me and asked for permission to run a raffle at the convention solely for the benefit of the Fantasy Foundation, I would have said yes, and I would not have thought it necessary to call a vote of the Philcon membership in order to make that decision. This appears to be the same sort of decision.

I am not at all familiar with the manner in which conventions are organized in conventional organizations, but it seems to me that a person elected or appointed chairman of a convention need not be required to take a vote of the membership every time there is a decision to be made. In the most democratic government there are executive positions which carry with them decision-making powers.

Well, the purpose of this philosophical digression has merely been to justify my action on the Big Pond Fund to those who have questioned it. Now let us not jump to extreme conclusions, and decide that the convention chairman is a dirty dictator, etc etc. The convention is going to be as democratic as you please, ~~and all those who disagreed with us will be instantly purged~~ and there will be resolutions, discussions and voting enough to please the most critical, within limits of time, of course. You people will have to decide whether you want to spend the time on political arguments, or in taking part in discussions on various phases of fantasy interest.

For, when you sit down to plan the details of the convention program, you discover that time is your greatest enemy. You have a number of things you would like to have on the program, and when you add up an hour for this talk, an hour for that discussion, and a half hour for this, you find that it is becoming a tough job to fit things together, and still include everything that is important.

How much can an audience absorb? How long can we allow the sessions to run? The Philcon will consist of heavy doses. Sessions will run from 1 PM to 5 PM, with an intermission or two thrown in. The parts of the program of interest mainly to the more active fans (the resolutions and voting) will be placed towards the end of the afternoon, so that the less interested can flee before the fireworks begin.

Resolutions will be handled in two sections: presentation and preliminary debate will be done on the first day. Final debate and voting will take place on the last day. This will allow time for more judicious decisions, and will also provide fuel for smoke-filled-room sessions which actually can be the most enjoyable parts of the convention.

The details of the program are still quite tentative, altho the general plan is shaping up quite nicely. In the next Philcon News we should be able to tell you exactly what the program will consist of. We had hoped to be in a position to announce the guest of honor at this time, but unfortunately our man is not quite certain that he will be able to come so early in the game. Perhaps by the time of the next Philcon News he will be more definite, and we will be able to divulge what, until then, must be kept a deep, dark, dank, and dismal secret.

So, boys and girls, tune in next time to hear the answers to these stirring questions. And until then, make a note of the various announcements scattered through this sterling publication, and dutifully send in your money to the several caucuses which are herewith announced. One thing we do promise; though we may ask for dollars before the convention, we are not going to nickle-and-dime you to death during the convention. All we want are those ten dollar bills at the auction. Yak yak yak.



BIG POND FUND



PHILCON EXPRESS

Most of you know the story behind The Big Pond Fund. It was formed at the instigation of Forrie Ackerman, with the express purpose of importing a British fan, thus making the Philcon a world convention. Well, the plan is meeting with fair success — but we must have your support immediately. You probably know also that this is not a donation — for every dollar you contribute, you will be entitled to a chance in the raffle. And the fan who takes the jackpot away will really have something. He will have the first four offerings of The Fantasy Press, the two Merritt-Bek collaborations, A. R. Long's "Away from the Here and Now", the original Finlay cover illustration for "The Star Rover", and innumerable other items, all of which would take too long to mention.

You can get your chance at all this, and also help bring Ted Carnell to The Philcon, by merely sending anything from one dollar on up to Forrest J Ackerman, 236+ N. New Hampshire, Hollywood, Cal.



PROGRAM ADS



Advertisements for the Program Booklet are now being solicited. As a matter of fact, they are being requested. You can buy yourself (if you're a non-profit fan) a page in the booklet for a mere five bucks. Or a half-page for two-fifty, etc. If you wish, you can purchase a booster ad for 25¢. You see, we're trying to take care of everyone.

We want to hear from dealers, editors, etc. Of course, we can't print advertisements of this sort for the same price as fan congratulatory ads, but we'll be very reasonable. If you wish to help boost the fifth World Science Fiction Convention, please get in touch with us at the earliest opportunity.

Advertisements must be in our hands by the first of August. So let's have those ads rolling in as soon as possible. All advertisements should be sent to Robert A. Madle, Program Booklet Editor, 1366 E. Columbia Ave., Phila., 25, Pa.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Yes, we have someone working on this, too. If you desire a room or rooms, send \$5 deposit to A. E. Waldo, 4048 Lancaster Ave., Phila., Pa. Rates for rooms will be \$6 and \$8 a day for a double room. Indicate what day you intend to arrive and leave. Don't put it off 'til the last moment; the sooner you send in your deposit, the better off you'll be.

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 124 Raymond Sowers
 125 Edward E. Smith, Ph.D.

Note: Number 56 was skipped by mistake. Therefore, everyone beginning with Nr.57, move up one. Instead of having 125 members, we have 124.

PHILCON NEWS
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