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## Editorial Matters

The January Issue is our most confusing in terms of timing. Although it has a 1986 date, it appears Christmas week and is actually written the first week in December. This issue is going to come out later than usual because our printer is closed the week before Christmas. We plan to mail on December 27th. It's also the worst time during the year to mail, so expect delays in delivery.

This is our 300th regular issue. (Nitpickers will of course remember there were two trial issues before #1, and a special unnumbered Markets issue for SFWA members.) I had originally planned a look back at the beginning of LOCUS, a summing up, and a look to the future. Unfortunately, it didn't get written. The magazine takes five weeks to produce now, and I find myself with less and less time to actually write. I could wax nostalgic about the old mimeographed magazine from 1968 to 1974, where it was written on Friday night and Saturday morning, stenciled on Saturday afternoon, mimeographed on Saturday evening, collated on Sunday afternoon, and mailed that evening. Whenever the nostalgia gets to be overwhelming, I go back and actually read some of them. That cures me. I think LOCUS has improved every year and will continue to do so. Ten years from now, I expect to look back on these issues, which I find completely satisfactory right now, and wince.

### PRINTING PROBLEMS

I can wince a bit just looking back on last issue. The printing was certainly not up to par. The half tone reproductions were just awful. We complained, but got very little satisfaction. We're currently negotiating for a new printing contract. Apparently, we've proven to be unprofitable for our printer and have been relegated to the back burner and poorer work even though there are three issues to go on our present contract. We can't do anything about moving this issue, but will probably have to figure something out for February. Consequently, the issue may be delayed. We have to juggle cost, delivery time, and quality. One is easy, two more difficult, and three nearly impossible.

### NEXT ISSUE

February is our month for looking back on last year. It will have our recommended reading lists, our year-end summaries, our statistical analyses, and the LOCUS Poll and Survey form. We would appreciate any comments on changing the categories or questions. Remember though, most people won't answer questions which are too personal or take more than a few moments to answer. For ease of counting, we need check-off type answers.

### A LOCUS BOOK

We plan to produce a reference book in the next few months and could use some help from any nitpickers out there. The book will be THE LOCUS SCIENCE FICTION YEARBOOK: 1985. It will include the complete listings of books for the year in one alphabetical list, plus breakdowns of 1985 original books by category -- novel, collection, anthology, etc. It will also have a complete list of the magazines and anthologies with their contents, an alphabetical list of all short fiction published during 1985, our statistical analyses and recommendations for the year, and anything else we can fit in. All the book material is from our computer disks of the "Books Received" column, and we need any corrections or additions you can think of. The book will be hardcover, 8 1/2" x 11", about 200 pages, two column, and run out on a laser printer. It will sell for about \$20.00. It will be proofread as soon as the February issue (which comes out in January and lists material from December) is finished, and will be printed in March. I'll be editing the novel sections, and Bill Contento (who wrote the programs which made it possible) will be editing the short fiction sections. Again, please help us with any corrections or suggestions.

### WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION

The World Fantasy Convention in Tucson was, as usual, an enjoyable affair, with a lot of serious professional work accomplished. Also as usual, there were more professional writers, editors, agents, etc., there than anywhere outside an East Coast world convention.

(Continued on page 51)