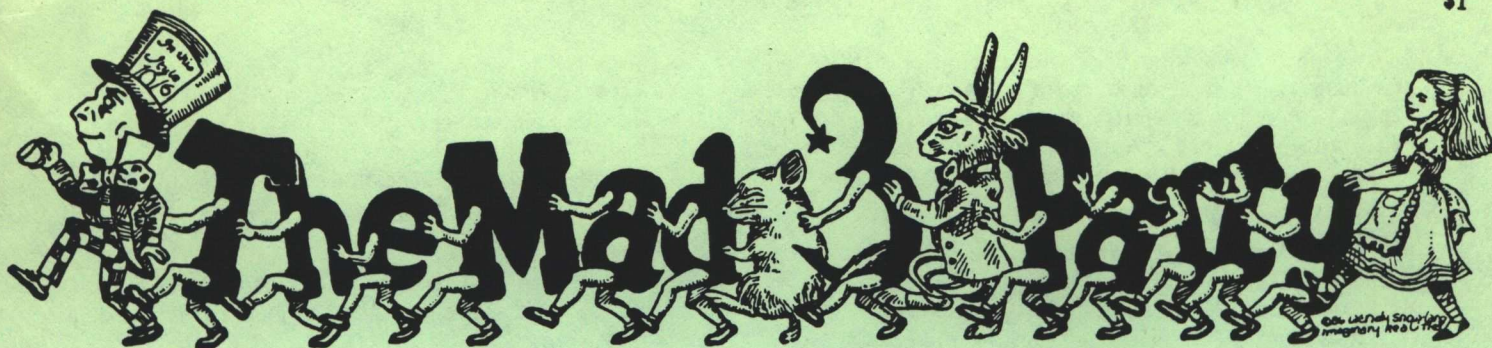




Number 28

August 1988

— Special Hugo Nomination Issue —

ARTICLES

- 3 Grant Proposal Responses
- 4 Smofcon 5 Information

COMMITTEE CHRONICLE

- 4 Nameless Division Meeting / May 28, 1988
- 5 GULP Meeting / June 2, 1988
Fundraising Ideas
- 6 Division Heads Meeting / June 3, 1988
- 9 APA:89 / June 12, 1988
Membership Rates, Lead Areas, Sales, Badges
- 11 MCFI Meeting / June 22, 1988
- 14 Division Heads Meeting / July 30, 1988

LETTERS

- 16 *Masquerade*
- 18 *Program*
- 18 *Filking*
- 19 *Reader's Room*
- 19 *TAFF/DUFF*
- 19 *Hugo Categories*
- 20 *WSFS Business and Site Rotation*
- 22 *Mad 3 Party*

The Mad 3 Party — more than you ever wanted to know about running a Worldcon — is published by Noreascon 3, Box 46, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge MA 02139. Editor and source of all uncredited writing: Leslie Turek. Copying by Al Kent. Logo by Wendy Snow-Lang.

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Fanzine Hugo Nomination

As most of you probably know, *The Mad 3 Party* has been nominated for a fanzine Hugo. In spite of Ted White's comments at the award ceremonies last year, I do consider this an honor. Considering *M3P's* narrow focus, I'm thrilled to know that so many readers find it interesting enough to be worthy of nomination. (Or maybe this nomination is for frequency of publication . . . ?) Thanks to everyone who nominated!

The Nolacon Committee tried an interesting innovation this year and listed fanzine addresses on the Hugo ballot. (Actually, they listed the editor's address on the ballot, which, in some cases, wasn't exactly the fanzine address, but it was a good try.) This was a bit of a surprise, but I quickly put together a packet to go out to people who requested information and/or sample copies. M.C.F.I. felt, and I agree, that since the nomination is for work done in 1987 (something most voters probably lose sight of), we should send out sample copies from 1987 in answer to these requests. Since this group was clearly interested enough to actually try to read the nominees before voting, I also sent them copies of the YA Hugo proposal from the last issue.

By the voting deadline date, we had received 9 requests for sample copies. Hardly a flood of interest, although about what we expected.

I've also received a letter from George Alec Effinger (Pro Liaison for Nolacon) forewarning Hugo nominees that the Hugos to be awarded by Nolacon may be the "most striking and dramatic Hugos ever awarded. The top part of the Hugo, the rocket, is the standard design. The base, however, is larger than usual. The rocket measures 13" and the base is 14", making a 27" item that may well be difficult to get on an airplane unless you bring a suitcase large enough to pack it." Gak!

Grant Proposal Responses

Both Worldcon Atlanta and S.C.I.F.I. have turned down our request for a grant from the profits of their respective Worldcons. Their rejection letters and some editorial comment are printed beginning on page 3.

N3 Committee Activities at Nolacon

The N3 Committee has reserved a suite in the Marriott for Nolacon, and has begun to schedule the division and other meetings that will be held there. We list below the meetings which have been set so far; an up-to-date schedule and the location of the suite will be available at the N3 membership sales table. Those of you who are N3 area heads and staff should be sure to check and see if and when your division will be meeting. (This will be our

best chance to hold meetings with the major part of our far-flung staff before Noreascon 3, so we encourage those of you who will be at Nolacon to try to attend.) There will also probably be one or more open evening parties; these will be announced at the convention.

Tentative Meeting Schedule:

Facility Operations — Friday lunchtime
 Services Division — Friday afternoon
 Second Floor Division — Saturday lunchtime
 Extravaganzas Division — Saturday afternoon
 Facilities Division — Saturday during Masquerade
 Program Division — Sunday afternoon
 Division Heads — Sunday afternoon and dinnertime

We also plan to have available the program item comment forms that we discussed in a past issue. We encourage anyone who will be attending any part of the program and who would like to help us collect data to pick up blank forms at our table.

Area heads should also check out the note on Progress Report 5 on page 15!

Progress Report 4

Noreascon 3's PR 4 was sent out via bulk mail in mid-July. It is a 16-page newsletter with information about the questionnaire results and reports from each of the divisions, including a description of how we plan to handle housing affinity groups.

New Committee Appointments

Treasurer:

Sales to Members — Steve Whitmore

Program Division:

Andre Norton Liaison — Joe Siclari
 Technical — Lee Orlando

Extravaganzas Division:

Ushering and Area-Level Planning Staff — Bob Hillis

Nameless Division:

Staff — Wilho Suominen
 Registration Assistant — Alice M. Massoglia
 Message Center and Freebie Rack — Erwin S. Strauss
 History of Worldcons Exhibit — Bruce Pelz
 History of Costuming Exhibit — Janet Wilson Anderson
 Fanzine Exhibit — Mike Glyer
 Exhibits Staff — Dan Hoey, Ray Hoover

Facilities Division:

Back Bay Hilton Liaison — Deborah Snyder
 Busing — Candy LaRue
 Staff Lounge Staff — Naomi Ronis

Services Division:

People Mover — Beth MacLellan
 Computer Consultant — Kip Lange

Index to Selected Topics Under Discussion

Subject	Pages
Filking	8, 18-19
Masquerade	16-17
Weapons policy	12
Special Hugo category	12, 19-20
Hugo nominee reception	5
Hucksters' Room	6-7, 12-13
Mixing area and Exhibits	4-5
Souvenir sales	8, 10

Book raffle	6
Reader's Room	19
Handicapped services	14
Badges	10-11
Facilities and space allocation	8, 14, 15, 16
Budget and fundraising	5-6, 9, 15-16

Back Issues

Mad 3 Party back issues are available for \$1 each. Here are the past year's issues; a complete list is available on request.

#21 (Oct 87) *Division Structure Issue*. N3 division structure and appointments; Proposed security plan; Conspiracy business meeting and gripe session; Smofcon 4 tentative program; ConFiction statement; Apa excerpts on sponsorship, weird ideas, program themes, etc.; Aug meeting; Letters on Worldcon management, program division, children at conventions, etc.

#22 (Nov 87) *Masquerade Issue*. Ideas for the masquerade; Area structure and appointments; Brainstorming on Extravaganzas and Second Floor Divisions; Sep and Oct meetings; Apa excerpts on sponsorship, Second Floor, Hynes, budgets, etc.; Letters on Worldcon management, sponsorships, program, Conspiracy, Con-Federation finances, etc.

#23 (Dec 87) *Smofcon 4 Issue*. Smofcon 4 review; New appointments; Brainstorming on Program Division; Dec meeting; Apa excerpts on budgeting, program registration, sponsorships, special Hugo, etc.; Letters on Masquerade, other extravaganzas, Second Floor division, Art Show, etc.

#24 (Feb 88) *Hugo Administration Issue*. Article on Hugo ballot administration; Brainstorming on Facilities Division; Apa excerpts on GoH event and Masquerade; Letters on Masquerade (many), Whither the Worldcon, etc.

#25 (Apr 88) *Art Show Issue*. N3 Art Show ideas; Con-Federation Financial report; Apa excerpts on Club Degler, registration, operations, Hynes, budgeting, etc.; Feb meeting; Grant application text; Letters on programming, information, masquerade, Worldcon rotation, etc.

#26 (May 88) *Hotel Agreement Issue*. Sheraton-Boston agreement; Brainstorming on Services Division and WSFS and Art Show Division; Apa excerpts on films, program, Art Showcase, etc.; Mar meeting; Committee list; Letters on Hugo administration, Art Show, hotel assignment, videotaping the Masquerade, distribution of profits, etc.

#27 (Jun 88) *Hugo Experiment Issue*. Young Adult Fiction Hugo proposal; Use of computers for Boskone program; Reader's Room discussion; Meetings, Apa excerpts and letters. Topics included program ideas, space allocation, art show, masquerade, Worldcon rotation, etc.

Grant Proposal Responses

In February, MCFI submitted a grant application to Worldcon Atlanta Inc. (sponsors of ConFederation) and S.C.I.F.I. (Southern California Institute for Fan Interests — sponsors of L.A.con II). The application was in response to a news release from Worldcon Atlanta indicating that the profits from ConFederation would be disseminated via grants to "projects to promote the appreciation of science fiction and fantasy art and literature." Because S.C.I.F.I. had previously indicated that they would also be willing to make such grants, the proposal was submitted to both organizations. (Published figures have indicated that L.A.con II had about a \$120,000 surplus and ConFederation had about a \$70,000 surplus.)

The full text of the proposal was given in M3P #25. Briefly, we applied for \$38,297 to cover the extraordinary expenses caused by our troubles with the Sheraton-Boston Hotel (approximately \$22,000 in legal fees and \$16,297 for increased security expenses). We pointed out that these expenses will have to come from funds that would otherwise be used to fund other convention activities. Financial assistance from the previous Worldcons would allow the Noreascon 3 program to provide a richer and more interesting assortment of activities without having to start off with a financial burden other Worldcons have not had to deal with.

Furthermore, we made the point that we have frequently made in these pages: that because of the difficulty of predicting at-the-door income, a prudent committee can not count on this income in making its plans. This fact makes a large financial surplus almost inevitable, even when the convention budget has been strictly limited. Because of this, we promised that if Noreascon 3 did result in a surplus, we would undertake to redistribute the amount of the grant to future Worldcon committees (and request them to do the same). Thus, these funds could continue to provide seed money to future Worldcons, and would benefit the members of the World Science Fiction Society many times over.

Below are the responses we received.

2 June 1988

Dear M.C.F.I.:

This letter is in response to the material you sent to us earlier this year regarding a grant request to prevent your projected economic short fall for the 1989 World Science Fiction Convention.

The Board of Directors of S.C.I.F.I. looked [it] over at its meeting on 23 April. After a lengthy discussion, the Board voted against granting M.C.F.I. and Noreascon III any funds.

S.C.I.F.I. does have a policy of providing funds to conventions and convention committees who have experienced losses. Among the conventions which have benefited from the surplus of revenues from L.A.con II were an annual convention in Canada that suffered a severe drop in attendance due primarily to a transit strike and a convention in the south-central part of the United States that suffered a hurricane the week of the convention.

As you can readily see from those two examples, the conventions we have added [aided?] experienced their short falls through conditions that were no fault of their own. That is the primary guideline the directors of S.C.I.F.I. use in determining which grant requests to accept.

It was the feeling of the S.C.I.F.I. directors that the problems incurred by M.C.F.I. and Noreascon III are not entirely outside of their making. Further, it is the belief of the S.C.I.F.I. Board that with more than a year left prior to the convention, the convention committee should not be looking for a handout, but, instead, they should be fiscally responsible enough to plan a convention that will break even.

Craig Miller
for S.C.I.F.I.

July 16, 1988

Dear Mark:

We read with interest MCFI's proposal for a grant from WAI to help MCFI with expenses associated with 1) the legal defense of your contract with the Boston Sheraton and 2) the security services agreement resulting from your subsequent out-of-court settlement.

After considering your application, WAI regrets it will be unable to fund your grant as submitted. The Board of Directors of WAI did not feel it should be spending the monies entrusted to its care to protect MCFI from hypothetical situations that might but have not yet, occurred. We do recognize the risk you are facing, and want to mention some alternatives that we might find acceptable, should you choose to submit a new application at a future time.

First, WAI would consider covering all or part of Noreascon Three's deficit if you close the books on the convention having lost money on it. As was shown during the Constellation debt crisis in 1983-84, a bail-out of a money-losing Worldcon committee is considered by most members of the WSFS to be a legitimate purpose for which surplus funds from earlier years' Worldcons may be spent.

Second, WAI would be willing to consider a loan to MCFI now, at an interest rate (if any) to be determined, if NESFA was willing to co-sign the note.

WAI stands ready at any time to give personal assistance in Noreascon III's financial matters.

Sincerely,

Jim Gilpatrick
Project Administrator

I find the responses from both groups to be disappointing and entirely missing the point. S.C.I.F.I. advises us to "plan a convention that will break even." This is not the problem. Certainly we can plan a convention that will break even, whatever our expected income, and we fully intend to do so. The question is about the *quality* of that convention. Additional funding from previous Worldcon profits would have helped the convention to be a better one for everyone attending. With funds limited, as they are, we will have to make compromises, such as giving up our reservation for Hynes Hall B and cutting back from two and a half floors to just two floors in the convention center.

Worldcon Atlanta offers us a loan, but as we've tried to make clear, the problem is not one of cash flow. The problem is that we cannot assume obligations that we would not be able to pay for if our at-the-door membership income turned out to be low. Worldcon Atlanta also seems to be implying that a direct grant to a future Worldcon is not a "legitimate purpose" for the "monies entrusted to its care." I cannot imagine what would be a more legitimate disposal of Worldcon profits than to fund activities of a subsequent Worldcon.

We took the trouble to submit the grant request to these two groups because we feel that at least a portion of Worldcon profits should be passed on to future Worldcons, and we felt that we owed it to our members to make a reasonable effort to secure those funds for Noreascon 3. We regret that our efforts were not successful. — LT

Smofcon 5 Information

Smofcon is an annual convention for convention runners that rotates informally around the country. Smofcon 3 was in Massachusetts in 1987, number 4 was in Ohio in 1988, and now Smofcon 5 will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, December 9–11, 1988. It will be sponsored by C.A.S.F.S. and chaired by Bruce Farr. The information presented here was taken from Smofcon 5's first Progress Report.

The location will be the Hyatt Regency Phoenix, 122 N. 2nd St., Phoenix AZ 85004-2379. The hotel's phone number is (602) 252-1234. Room rates are \$60/night for singles through quads, and the con rate will be honored two days before and after the convention.

The theme of Smofcon 5 will be "Convention Communications." Two more Progress Reports will be published; #2 at the end of August and #3 in October. A tentative program was given in PR 1; it ran from 8 pm on Friday, December 9, through 5 pm on Sunday, December 11. The plans are for two program tracks: a main track consisting of traditional panels, and a second track of informal discussion groups. The tentative program ran through lunch on both days and included program items on Saturday evening.

Memberships are \$35 to October 15 and \$50 thereafter. Members will receive pre-con meeting notes, three Progress Reports, use of the hospitality suite at the convention, and a Proceedings publication post-con. To join, write to Phoenix 1988 Smofcon Five, c/o Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society, Inc., P.O. Box 11743, Phoenix AZ 85061.

[A number of us from Boston are planning to be there. The tentative program looks interesting, but somewhat exhausting. My experience at the previous Smofcons I've been to is that much of the value of the con is the personal interactions between people from various parts of the country. When the programming is non-stop, it's harder for that to happen. I would prefer to see a little less formal programming, with longer breaks, to encourage more informal discussion. — LT]

Nameless Division Meeting

Date: May 28, 1988

Notes by: Fred Isaacs

The meeting was held at Disclave on Saturday at 1 pm in Peggy Rae Pavlat's room. Present were: Don Eastlake, Donny Eastlake, Jill Eastlake, Dan Hoey, Ray Hoover, Fred Isaacs, Bill Lehrman, Sue Lichauco, Kathleen Murray Meyer, Lenny [last name unintelligible on tape; also from Chicago], Mark Olson, Peggy Rae Pavlat, Dick Roepke, Ruth Sachter, John Sapienza, Carolyn Sayre, Sharon Sbarsky, Leslie Turek [the Hugo nominee], and Chris Valada [the photographer].

Chris Valada passed some prints around — they were *beautiful*. [They are definitely far superior to any other pictures of SF authors that I have ever seen.] We need another name for the Rogue's Gallery, since the name does not match the quality of the photos. *[We later came up with "Portrait Gallery." — LT]* All of the subjects whom Chris has contacted so far have been most gracious. She has her own release form, but allows the subjects to change it if they wish to; with the exception of one subject who is a lawyer, none have done so. Each subject receives one free print with no reproduction rights as a courtesy and may purchase more if they wish. The release allows her to market the photos as well. Chris will probably do some color shots of the GoH's.

Chris needs a place to take photos at Nolacon. Peggy Rae will write to the Nolacon committee and try to get this; if there is a Noreascon 3 suite we can use it as a backup if the Nolacon committee does not provide a specific space for this.

Someone [Program?] should provide a checklist of subjects for Chris. She has told the subjects that she has done so far that she does not know whether they are guests or not. We want notables represented whether they will be at Noreascon 3 or not.

Chris may be able to get some film supplied by Kodak. She would certainly not object to any other corporate sponsorships if they could be arranged and if they would not change the character of the project.

Leslie had done an extremely rough layout of Hynes Exhibit Hall C, which assumed that the mixing area/con suite and the reader's room were in second floor Hynes function rooms. Mark is trying to do a space budget and make sure that we have enough function rooms; the draft layout was done as a partial response to that. It does show that we really do seem to need all of Hall C for things like exhibits, SIG tables, a performance area, etc. It was pointed out that Press Relations would also need a small function room somewhere. We will also need a room to exhibit the spoils for a book raffle if we do one.

Peggy Rae circulated a revised version of the division timeline. We are actually on track.

There was some discussion of the "Name the Mixing Area" contest. We will reach a decision towards the end of the year and put it in that PR.

There was general discussion of the Mixing Area itself. Much admiration was expressed at the Disclave con suite. (They had transformed part of a parking-garage-type exhibit hall into a fairly cozy nook through the use of paper

walls and rented sofas and chairs.) Peggy Rae will try to convince some of them that Hynes Hall C would be an interesting challenge for them. However, we will almost certainly not be able to use paper walls. They also had a "star field" consisting of white Christmas tree lights stuck through paper. It's not clear that we could get away with that, either. Their use of publishers' publicity posters for cheap wall covering was admired; we could probably do that.

Don Eastlake said that he had found some flexibility in the fire people. For example, ordinary sheets may be okay for covering up huckster's merchandise, even though the table covers and skirting have to be fire-retardant. [This makes sense, since the merchandise is not fire-retardant either. Plus the stock is generally covered only when the room is not in use.]

There was discussion of having publishers do exhibits by using their ABA booths. We could make all or part of the exhibit fee be carpeting a seating area around their booths. We would not want them to sell books from their booths, since this would compete with the hucksters, but they could refer people to hucksters who do sell their books. We could let them do book raffles. We could let them run autograph sessions out of their booths, though we would still need to provide some sort of facility for "orphan authors" who didn't have publishers with booths. We might suggest to the publishers that they could take Polaroids of fans with their favorite authors, providing the fans with nice souvenirs of N3.

Film exhibits were discussed. These tend to be a problem because the studios don't know what they want until the last minute, at which time they want absolutely everything. Jill Eastlake said that the Extravanzas Division film crew is eager and willing to contact the studios. We all thought that this was a wonderful idea and that they should be encouraged to do this. It was felt that it would be nice if the studio exhibits were more interactive. There will also need to be "noise pollution" restrictions given the acoustics of Hall C.

Performer screening was mentioned. Sue Lichauco has already been doing some of this by visiting The Nameless Coffeehouse and listening to the filkers there.

Jill Eastlake gave a summary of Extravanzas' tentative schedule for evening events. They intend to have the costumers walk through the mixing area after appearing on stage at the Masquerade so that people can get close looks at the costumes. Extravanzas may also need to use part of the mixing area for a Masquerade photo area.

We ended with some more discussion of possible exhibits. A thank-you exhibit with pictures of staff members (in place of the thank-you's at the closing ceremonies) seems to be a good idea.

We would like to have one on the Future of SF. What will publishing be? How will it be affected by e-mail or CD-ROM? What about non-linear novels? The first hypertext novel is now out. Various people were suggested who might put together such an exhibit.

Computer companies were also mentioned as prospective exhibitors. They would probably have unusual security requirements. It was agreed that exhibitors should pay for any special security that they needed. It was also agreed that there should be different rates for different types of exhibits.

GULP Meeting

Date: June 2, 1988
Topic: Fundraising Ideas
Notes by: Leslie Turek

This GULP meeting topic was suggested by Fred Isaacs. He felt that in addition to trying to cut our budgets down to match our projected income, it would be worthwhile to devote some time to trying to think of ways to raise our projected income.

Banquet. Rick Katze suggested that we could hold a banquet and charge about \$5 over our costs for the tickets. We don't yet have banquet menus from ARA (the Hynes required caterer), but many people speculated that the cost for banquets these days is already pretty high. Would people really be willing to pay \$50 for a catered meal? We would have to give them a good reason to be there. Jill Eastlake felt that we shouldn't honor people other than our GoHs. In general, most people felt the cost would be too high to make a banquet viable, although we should take a look at what ARA has to offer.

Hugo Nominee Reception (Black Tie Optional). This was discussed in some detail, and Extravanzas agreed to write a detailed proposal. The basic idea is to hold a reception for up to 500 people before the Hugo Award Ceremonies. Hugo Nominees would get in free, all others would have to pay. We would charge about \$25, and provide an open bar or wine and cheese, along with hors d'oeuvres. This would *not* be a press reception; the press would be invited to meet with the winners after the ceremonies. We could encourage publishers to buy blocks of tickets and give them out to whoever they wanted to. We would encourage people to dress up, but not make anyone feel obligated to. The location could be Ballroom A or C. Doing something like this would improve our relations with ARA, especially if we didn't have a banquet. Some estimated costs for hors d'oeuvres were \$20/dozen for dim sum; veggies and dip for \$3 per person.

There was some discussion of past events of this kind. Will the Hugo nominees come? Will it be labeled "elitist"? Will the publishers buy it? Rick suggested we write about it in a PR and see what people think. Tim Szczesuil asked if the goal was to make a profit or hold the event. Mark Olson said that it was a little of both. It could be a nice way to honor the Hugo nominees.

Jill pointed out that we don't need to decide for certain until as late as 6 months before the convention.

Other Possibilities. At this point we ran quickly through a list of other possibilities, with the intention of going back and exploring some of them in detail later.

- Book Raffle. (See M3P #27.)
- Grants.
- Sponsorships.
- Sales of souvenir items.
- Hold a gate show or charge separately for films only.
- Just ask for donations. (Many people felt we weren't *that* desperate.)

- Set up small dinner groups. (There was a universal feeling that this was a *lot* of work for little chance of profit.)
- Auctions. (This was felt to compete with what TAFF and DUFF already do.)
- Official airline. (By designating one, we might at least get a free flight for our GoHs.)
- Charge higher fees for non-sf merchandise in the hucksters' room. (This was not favored, because hucksters' room space is expected to be tight.)
- Separate admission charge for films only.

Gate Show. This idea was to set up a separate area of the convention as a hucksters' room that would be open to the general public for a fee. We could also charge an extra fee for the hucksters that wanted to be in that area.

Should we provide anything else? Perhaps movie exhibits? Could we charge, say, \$10 for admission? Given the Hynes rental costs, would the profit we might make justify the risk we would be taking (and the extra work)?

There was lengthy discussion as to how much effort this would take from the committee. There was concern that it would attract too many non-fannish people to the area of the convention, possibly leading to trouble at the hotels at night. We also discussed the possibility of having the gate show the weekend after the convention, but that really seemed to expect too much of the committee's stamina.

More Memberships. It was pointed out that all the methods we had discussed so far involved doing a fair amount of extra work for just a few thousand dollars. However, getting, say, 100 extra at-the-door memberships would bring in another \$10,000! Perhaps this is the way to go. We should find ways to target advertising to the right sort of people (libraries, SF Book Club, etc.). We believe that Lone Star Con got a reasonable (but not spectacular) response from an SFBC mailing to about 14,000 people.

We considered other appropriate ways to get publicity, such as con listings, ads, or letters to the editor in SF magazines, flyers to other zines and clubs, etc.

We also considered when we need to decide on this. Mark felt that we could wait and see how our membership is going before pushing to get more. We currently have about 2600 members, but it's hard to predict a trend because we are the first Worldcon with a 3-year lead time. We can probably wait until the spring of '89. Jim Hudson thought we could go ahead and check out Book Club list cost now.

Book Raffle. This idea has been described in *M3P*. It involves getting book donations from publishers, having a book exhibit, selling raffle tickets for parcels of books, and staging drawings at various times during the convention. It could be fun as well as profitable. Rick felt that we should not start soliciting contributions until about 4 months before the convention, so we could be sure to get some of the latest items. We will definitely consider doing this one.

Grants. We should continue pursuing grants where appropriate.

Sponsorships. One idea was to give publishers, film studios, computer companies, etc. space for an exhibit if they would pay to carpet a seating area around the exhibit.

We have come up with a lot of things publishers could do for us; we need to be careful not to ask for too much. Still, for those that do have money to spend, we can provide ways for them to get visibility without upsetting people unduly. For example, having someone with big bucks help decorate our mixing area would be more likely to be gratefully received than viewed as trying to sell off Worldcon traditions. We need to put together a list of items appropriate for sponsorships and their cost.

Souvenir Sales. We mentioned some of the things being considered, from the standard (t-shirts, tote bags, mugs, books, etc.) to the more exotic (propeller beanies, chocolate Hugos, etc.). Steve Whitmore is working on a proposal for sales items.

Division Heads Meeting

Date: June 2, 1988

Notes by: Leslie Turek

The meeting was held at the Hudson/Franklin residence and began at 7:30, after a shared meal of pizza and salad. Present were Fred, Leslie, Priscilla, Ellen, Peggy Rae, Jim H., Laurie, Dave C., Ann, Mark, Don, and Jill.

Nameless Division. The division timeline has been updated. Marie Bartlett-Sloan of Chicago has been recruited to do the at-con daily newsletter. Once again we discussed the importance of the newsletter as the major communications channel for the committee to the attendees at con. Each issue will be reviewed by the division heads and Mark or his designee before being distributed.

Joe Siclari has agreed to put together an exhibit on the history of Worldcon bidding, and we are talking to someone about doing an exhibit on the history of Worldcons. There is also a potential candidate to run the mixing area.

Fred mentioned that Disclave did some creative things to make their exhibit hall con suite interesting. They were able to rent "living room groups" from furniture rental companies for a small fee. Ellen said that she had a source for fire-treated felt in various colors. Facilities agreed to check price and availability of these. Don wondered if any swimming pool companies could be induced to install a demonstration model in the middle of our mixing area?

Hucksters' Room. Mark brought up the question of a mailing to hucksters, which PR 3 said would happen this summer. Peggy Rae had prepared a draft huckster questionnaire and was asking for comments on content, whether we should send it at all, etc. Mark felt that it would be hard to keep to our advertised schedule if we waited for the questionnaire results before setting rates. Peggy Rae and Fred felt that we couldn't set rates yet because we didn't have enough information about our costs. Mark felt that we would probably have to set rates anyway based on what was charged by Nolacon and our best guess on costs.

Some discussion of the known factors gave a cost to us of at least \$127/table, when we considered Hynes rental, cleaning, and cost of tables, but not security or other costs. Nolacon is charging \$100/table. It was pointed out that many past Worldcons have been in hotels, so they got the space used for hucksters for free. Our costs are clearly going to be higher. In spite of this, Mark felt that we

might not be able to charge enough to cover our actual costs because we would be perceived as gouging. *[Please note that this was just our initial discussion on huckster room fees. More information has subsequently been collected, and a decision on fees will probably be made at the August MCFI meeting. — LT]*

Getting back to the questionnaire, we have the same decision to make as we have in other areas. Should we re-examine all our assumptions (thereby running the risk of scaring people into thinking that we're going to do something radical), or should we just run the area more-or-less as it's been run in the past? Some of the problems with a questionnaire are that 1) it might give rise to rumors, 2) some questions are hard to answer without further information, 3) some questions might be answered whatever way is most advantageous for the particular huckster, 4) some questions are things we want to decide for ourselves. In any case, we don't seem to have time for an extensive re-planning, since people seem to feel that we need to have rates set before Nolacon.

After some discussion, Mark asked the division to figure out what Hucksters' Room policy issues still needed to be resolved and to bring a proposal to the June 22 MCFI meeting. This might include such questions as 1) Do we want to impose a limit to the number of tables a single huckster can have? 2) What sort of priority system will we use to assign tables? 3) What should our pricing policy be? 4) Should we go ahead with our idea for a lower-priced area for people who are not professional dealers to sell their used books part-time?

We should send out a mailing giving the rates and basic information by August 1. *[In fact, it looks like this mailing will go out in late August. — LT]* In this mailing, we could also request huckster input on some additional questions, for example, what hours the room should be open.

A later mailing would give final details, such as any rules concerning what types of setups are allowed, open hours, etc.

We went on to discuss some of the issues. Jim H. pointed out that one way to reduce the cost per table is to fit more tables in the room (still keeping the 10-foot aisles required by the fire laws). He volunteered to do a sample layout and try to come up with an estimate. (Don pointed out that one of the decorators we are considering would be willing to draw up floor plans for us and get them approved by the fire department.)

Currently we guess that Exhibit Hall D can hold only somewhere between 200 and 250 tables, whereas the convention membership could probably support more like 300 tables. *[When we later did a detailed layout, we found we could fit more like 280-290 tables, although this plan still needs to be approved by the fire marshal before we can be sure. — LT]* But we want to try to avoid having a second huckster room, because the hucksters generally don't like a split room. (Whichever half they're in, they assume that the other half is doing better.) Also, since we will probably lose money on a per-table basis, it really wouldn't make any sense to pay additional rental for more space.

It was generally felt that combining convention memberships with the table rates was not a good idea. It was hard to keep track of, some people might have already

purchased their memberships, etc.

The discussion at the GULP meeting last night concluded we probably don't want to set up a portion of the hucksters' room as a gate show. We also probably don't want to sell hucksters floor space rather than tables. One reason is that it will not allow us to use the space as effectively. For another, we might get along better with the unions if we stay a pure "table-top" show rather than looking like a "booth" show.

Fred suggested charging hucksters a fee for preferred placement.

Extravaganzas Division. The division will be having a cookout and meeting at 6:30 on Monday, June 6. They will be reviewing masquerade plans with a goal of publishing something by Nolacon.

Mike Symes has put together a sample tape showing what he had in mind to show at Club Degler. Some people who were previously unsure about it said that the tape convinced them that Club Degler will have a significant sf and fantasy content. Mike would like to present the tape to a committee meeting at some point, but it's not urgent to decide this month.

The Buxboro plans are firming up, but we need some more information about the Hynes caterers. The idea for a GoH show seems to be well-received.

The proposal for a Hugo Nominees Reception was discussed at the GULP meeting last night. At this point the division will write it up and present the idea to a committee meeting. They will also be presenting their ideas for accepting the gavel at Nolacon.

Facilities. Don reported that the division had collected some figures on bus rentals. They are lower than we thought. School buses are available for about \$20/hour and fancy touring buses for about \$40/hour (including driver). This means that our minimal busing plan will cost more like \$5000 than \$20,000. Hooray!

There are two decorator companies that are still possibilities: Champion and Freeman. Freeman is bigger and has given us a reasonable proposal. Champion seems to have connections with the Hynes, but their first attempt at a proposal wasn't quite what we were looking for. Don will try to explain things to them again and see what they come up with.

People asked when we could start getting information from ARA (the Hynes catering service). Don thought that we could get some preliminary information now. He will also try to arrange another tour when the Hynes is completed.

WSFS and Art Show Division. George is in the hospital today with what appears to be anemia. *[George has since gotten well. — LT]* Dave Anderson is trying to work out art show layouts for all three areas the art show might end up in. There will be a test of the Young Adult (or Juvenile) Hugo Category in *Mad 3 Party* (issue #27).

Program. Michael Gilbert will be doing the Author Showcase (readings) and other individualized items. Lee Orlando will be working on Program technical.

Priscilla met with Todd and Joni Dashoff, who will be handling special interest groups, at Disclave. They will have a note in PR 4 asking groups to contact them. Jim H. suggested that they coordinate with the Facilities affinity group solicitation. Priscilla said that Joni was also

planning to do a mailing to the list of clubs given on the Discon 3 bid calendar. Mark reminded everyone that the division heads should always be given a chance to review general mailings before they go out.

Priscilla said that Program would schedule groups into rooms pre-con, but would like to hand this off to Information at the con. They would provide Information with a list of available rooms and times, and let Information accept sign-ups for the rooms.

There was a discussion of whether filking was to be considered part of special interest groups. At one point, the Nameless division thought that they would be handling filking, since they would be contacting filksingers to perform as part of Passing Fancies (hall entertainment). On the other hand, Program will also be scheduling program items relating to filking, and it wasn't clear where the boundary was. It was decided that Program would handle evening filking, workshops, related programming, and could schedule filk concerts if they wished. Nameless would continue to handle Passing Fancies, which would also schedule filk performances. These performances could include multiple performers and therefore resemble filk concerts. Either division could ask to borrow performance space from the other if necessary. Both divisions agreed to inform the other of their plans.

The Nameless Division will include tables, bulletin boards, and exhibit space for special interest groups in their mixing area plans. However, Program (specifically Special Interest Groups) will actually contact the groups.

Services. We discussed possible people to run People Mover and Handicapped Services, but no definite appointments have been made.

Treasurer. Steve Whitmore sent a long letter listing ideas for souvenir items. He suggested locating sales near registration for the first few days, then upstairs in a central area later. There was some philosophical discussion of what should be near registration. Some people think that nothing should be near registration (which may be the only convention area on the Hynes first floor); that people should just be registered and sent upstairs to where everything else is happening. Others have proposed that such things as information, sales, handicapped services, etc., have outposts at registration. It remains to be seen if we have enough space (and personpower) to do this.

In regard to the souvenirs, Mark requested that costs and prices be estimated, and that a proposal be put in the apa.

Space Layout. Mark has worked out a database to keep track of the layout alternatives that have been proposed. He distributed the status of that database so far. There are currently 5 alternative plans.

Plan	Hall B	Hall D	Ballroom	Grand
A	(not used)	Hucksters	AS/Program	Films
B	(not used)	Hucksters	Films	Art Show
C	Hucksters	AS/Exhibits	(not used)	Films
D	Hucksters	Exhibits	Films	Art Show
E	Hucksters	Exhibits	AS/Program	Films

(In plans A and B, Exhibits are merged with the mixing area in Hall C. "AS" is an abbreviation for "Art Show.")

Mark listed the following issues which bear on this choice:

- We may incur large union costs to set up the Art Show in the Hynes, while we expect no union problems in the Sheraton.
- Hall B will cost on the rough order of \$20K to use.
- The cost for the Ballroom is unknown, but probably somewhat less than Hall B.
- If we do not use the Ballroom for anything, we will probably have to pay for the 3rd floor small rooms. Estimated cost about \$10K. [This also exposes us to the possibility that another group will rent the Ballroom for an unrelated event.]
- It is possible that the Hynes will not allow exhibits in the Ballroom and that they will class the Art Show as an exhibit.
- Putting Art Show in the Ballroom frees up 1/3 of it for Program.

It will take time to get answers to all of these questions, so we won't be able to converge on a single plan right now.

If we have either Films or the Art Show in the Hynes Ballroom, we can also hold the Hugo reception there. The reception only needs 1/3 of the room, so we would either temporarily strike the smaller film program or use the area allocated for Art Show auction and sales.

The major part of the program will be on the Hynes 3rd floor, with a few rooms on the 2nd floor and additional rooms for special interest meetings in the Sheraton.

The used book sales area could be in 210. Rooms 207, 208, and 209 could be used for part of the mixing area. 209 or 205 might make a good reading room.

One idea has been to take over a series of connecting rooms in the Sheraton (Liberty or Beacon complex), for the various children's functions such as babysitting and DragonsLair.

If we get a Ballantine exhibit, we will probably put it in art show space for security reasons.

Commonwealth, Jefferson, and Kent are in a good location near the Hynes. Should we use them for offices, or for program? Commonwealth might be a place for secure exhibits if we can find a way to lock it.

Room 200 will be used as a Masquerade staging area, but will be empty the rest of the time. We could consider making it available to groups for banquets or receptions.

Leslie asked what Program's needs would be for overflow or continuation rooms. This hasn't been decided, but precipitated a discussion of how many program rooms would be needed at one time.

The Hilton hasn't been assigned to anything yet. This would be good space for things running late at night, such as filking and gaming.

There was disagreement as to whether press relations needed to be near registration. Peggy Rae pointed out that a second small room for interviews would be nice.

It hasn't yet been decided whether People Mover should be in the mixing area or in a separate room. Being out in the mixing area might make it more visible — signs could be posted and people could be recruited more easily.

We might also want to have a gathering place in the mixing area for those needing handicapped services.

As a side point, we need to figure out which areas will need to have phones installed.

Budget. Mark asked the divisions to start developing option packages for their money budgets, so that when we identify surplus money (like that resulting from the reduced buying estimates) we can start to decide how to allocate it.

Lead Areas. We seem to be developing a concept of lead areas that will be coordinating the use of certain resources. (Mark will be writing this up in more detail.) Examples are Program, which schedules the use of program participants; Extravaganzas, which coordinates the use of the Hynes auditorium; Facilities, which handles requests to contractors; Nameless, which handles space in the mixing area; Services, which will be dealing with printers; Films, which will handle interactions with film studios, etc. The lead area does *not* have veto power over other areas' use of the resource, but is responsible for making sure that requests are coordinated, etc.

Upcoming questions. Mark concluded the meeting by listing a number of upcoming questions to work on.

- By what mechanism will the mixing area provide tables for the other divisions?
- Does information want to have an outpost at the Park Plaza (no rush on this)?
- Don is working on an insignia proposal. [See Don's report in the apa excerpts which follow.]
- Art Show and Hucksters need to work on layouts.
- What do we want to do about special area registration?
- What fire marshal rules will we be subject to?
- What should our weapons policy be?
- What will our Program Book costs be?
- We need to get better Hynes costs estimates.

Excerpts from APA:89

June 12, 1988

(Please understand that these pieces were originally written for an internal committee publication and may not be as polished as work intended for broader circulation. They are the personal opinions of the individual contributors, not official committee policy.)

Membership Rates (by Mark Olson)

The accompanying tables show raw and inflation-adjusted membership rates for Worldcons from Constellation on (except for Aussiecon and Conspiracy). The tables are indexed by the number of months before the convention. The first table is raw rates, while the second table is crudely corrected for inflation (each calendar year is corrected separately). The inflators are taken from the U.S. statistical tables up through 1986, and run at an assumed rate of 4% thereafter. They are adjusted for 1989=1.00.

The key point to notice is that inflation brings the rates a lot closer together (no surprise). The source of many of Baltimore's financial problems is immediately obvious. Probably the biggest surprise is LA's relatively low rates. Note also that Atlanta, New Orleans, and Noreascon 3 have comparable rates.

Months Before	Worldcon Membership Rates					
	1990 ConFic	1989 N3	1988 N.O.	1986 ConFed	1984 L.A.	1983 Balt.
0 Aug		100	100	75	75	
1 Jul		100	100	75	75	
2 Jun		80	70	65	50	40
3 May		80	70	65	50	40
4 Apr		80	70	65	50	40
5 Mar		80	70	65	50	40
6 Feb		70	70	55	50	40
7 Jan		70	70	55	50	40
8 Dec		70	60	55	40	30
9 Nov		70	60	55	40	30
10 Oct		70	60	55	40	30
11 Sep		70	60	55	40	30
12 Aug		60	60	55	40	30
13 Jul		60	60	45	40	30
14 Jun		60	50	45	40	20
15 May		60	50	45	40	20
16 Apr		60	50	45	40	20
17 Mar		60	50	45	30	20
18 Feb		60	50	45	30	20
19 Jan		60	50	45	30	20
20 Dec	65	50	40	45	30	20
21 Nov	65	50	40	45	30	20
22 Oct	65	50	40	45	30	20
23 Sep	65	50				
24 Aug	65	50				
25 Jul	65	50				
26 Jun	65	50				
27 May	65	50				
28 Apr	65	50				
29 Mar	65	50				
30 Feb	65	50				
31 Jan	65	40				
32 Dec	65	40				
33 Nov	65	40				
34 Oct	65	40				
35 Sep		35				

Months Before	Worldcon Membership Rates (Adjusted for Inflation)					
	1990 ConFic	1989 N3	1988 N.O.	1986 ConFed	1984 L.A.	1983 Balt.
0 Aug		100	105	86	93	
1 Jul		100	105	86	93	
2 Jun		80	73	74	62	52
3 May		80	73	74	62	52
4 Apr		80	73	74	62	52
5 Mar		80	73	74	62	52
6 Feb		70	73	63	62	52
7 Jan		70	73	63	62	52
8 Dec		73	63	65	52	41
9 Nov		73	63	65	52	41
10 Oct		73	63	65	52	41
11 Sep		73	63	65	52	41
12 Aug		63	63	65	52	41
13 Jul		63	63	54	52	41
14 Jun		63	55	54	52	27
15 May		63	55	54	52	27
16 Apr		63	55	54	52	27
17 Mar		63	55	54	39	27
18 Feb		63	55	54	39	27
19 Jan		63	55	54	39	27
20 Dec	68	55	46	56	41	29
21 Nov	68	55	46	56	41	29
22 Oct	68	55	46	56	41	29
23 Sep	68	55				
24 Aug	68	55				
25 Jul	68	55				
26 Jun	68	55				
27 May	68	55				
28 Apr	68	55				
29 Mar	68	55				
30 Feb	68	55				
31 Jan	68	44				
32 Dec	71	46				
33 Nov	71	46				

34 Oct 71 46
35 Sep 40

Lead Areas (by Mark Olson)

There is an inevitable communications problem which comes from the need of many areas to deal with specific outside parties. For example, the GoH's are dealt with by Main Program, GoH Liaison, Extravaganzas, Book Production, Program Book, Press Relations, Autographs, Hotel, and probably three other areas I've not thought of. We don't want to have each area dealing independently with the GoH's (at best, it would make us look foolish and disorganized — at worst, different areas would wind up working at cross-purposes), but equally we don't want to funnel all contact through a single area — that's much too difficult.

I believe that assigning each type of external liaison to a "lead area" will do the trick. The concept of Lead Area is still not completely clear in detail, so I think it's worth getting it into general discussion. I'm very much interested in comments on it.

The basic idea is that every area which deals with a particular third party is responsible for consulting the Lead Area for that third party *in advance*, and for keeping the Lead Area informed.

That's not to say that the Lead Area has a veto. The most the Lead Area can require is that the issue be reviewed by a division head (or by me, if they are in different divisions). The purpose of having a lead area is to coordinate, not to dictate. I would hope that the areas involved start talking early enough that this never comes up.

Here's my tentative list of Lead Areas:

Hotel/Hynes/Contractors:	Facilities division
Program participants:	Program
GoH's:	Program
Artists:	Art Show
Gophers:	People Mover
Masqueraders:	Extravaganzas
Hugo Nominees:	WSFS
Bidders:	WSFS
Publishers (except advertising):	Second Floor (?)
Hucksters:	Hucksters
Film Studios:	Films
Printers:	Services

Sales (by Rick Katze)

Having been directly or indirectly involved with Worldcon Sales Operations since 1980, I have learned hard lessons through the years. I intend to briefly state what has happened historically and then make certain recommendations for Noreascon 3.

In 1980, I ran Noreascon II sales. We were located in the coat check area just outside registration in the Sheraton. Everyone who wanted to register had to pass us both going into and leaving registration. It also turned out that we were close to the flow of people wandering the Sheraton. Book sales could have been better. Everything else sold wonderfully.

In 1982, Chicago had their sales operation just past registration and had brisk sales through Friday. Sales died on Saturday and we were forced to badger them until they let us sell the Chicon Book at the NESFA sales table. Book sales then improved.

In 1983, at Baltimore Constellation, T-shirt and Book were sold at the NESFA sales table and sales were better than expected. Constellation had wanted to place the sales operation in the convention facility in a general mix area. I refused. They also refused to have a table next to registration.

In 1984 L.A. finally decided not to have a sales operation at registration. Their sales area in the huckster room was not in the best location.

In 1985 at Austin the sales operation was solely in the Hucksters room. Willie Siros had an excellent location and NESFA had an acceptable location. Sales were good.

In 1986 at Atlanta there were sales in the Hucksters' room (NESFA) and an area near Registration in the hotel. Because of the various ways to get to and from Registration, I believe that too many potential customers did not see the sales operation.

Comments and Conclusions: The best sales operation involves selling the Book and other items at a table at Registration where you catch the impulse buyers before they have spent any money, and in the Hucksters' Room in a prime location where they are going specifically to buy books, etc. The Registration sales operation should open just ahead of Registration and should be open for at least those hours Registration is open. After Friday this operation can be scaled down or closed since few people will be registering. Running an operation in another area where heavy traffic is expected should work to generate sales, but hasn't in the past. Whether people are too busy to go someplace, don't want to buy things that they will have to carry, or some other reason cannot be determined. I would hope that Registration and Sales can develop a plan to maximize sales. We may need the money. In the Hucksters' Room, the NESFA sales table may have to be used, since we apparently do not have enough space to locate the tables and still leave reasonably spaced aisles.

Badges (by Donald Eastlake)

As one might guess, it seems like we will need a number of different badges at N3. We want to keep these to a minimum to avoid confusion, both for ourselves and for guards, and to minimize cost. The following are my suggestions in this regard.

Why Badges. There are at least three reasons for badges:

(1) General Admission control — we only want to let people in who have paid or whom we have decided to admit. (Besides, our contract with the Sheraton requires that we have "color coded" badges indicating Convention Participants, which probably just means that they can't be plain white paper.) Examples: Attending Member, Day Member, or invited speaker.

(2) Area Admission control — there are different groups of people that need to get into Areas when/if general members are not allowed in. Examples: Huckster (Hucksters' Room during set-up) or Staff/Committee (Hotel/Hynes Back House Areas).

(3) Special Badges — Badges to indicate some sort of special status, authority, or award. Examples: Hugo Nominee, Contest Winner, or Area Head.

Desirable Characteristics. To make it as easy as we reasonably can for guards or others to tell if someone is authorized to get into an area, we want to use distinct

colors or other easily-spotted clues for different types and we want to minimize the number of different badges.

Looking at the three categories on the multiple badges issue, there is no reason for anyone to have more than one basic badge. There is also no way of stopping someone from qualifying for lots of Area Admission badges and Special Badges. Since the Area Admission badges and some of the Special Badges are for our benefit, we could conceivably encode them somehow. For example, as colored thingies that dangled off the basic badge and each other, but this is probably too complicated. I don't think it is so bad to just let someone wear three ribbons if they are a Huckster and an Artist and a Program Participant.

The Special Badges seem like the worst problem area. They really are supposed to indicate something special about the person, so trying to homogenize them into some sort of encoded badge scheme defeats their purpose.

Since this memo is mainly concerned with the organizational and security aspects of badges, I won't go much into the artistic aspects, but it would be nice to have artistically compatible designs for the different types of badge.

Beyond that, we want reasonably large badges with names on the individualized ones that are readable at a distance.

The Basic Badge. There needs to be a basic badge given at registration to each person admitted to the convention. This should be the only badge most members need to worry about. I would guess that we are currently heading toward using the laminated card with bulldog-clip technology. This needs to be non-white for security, and I would think that using our color, green, would be reasonable.

Is there a reason for multiple colors/varieties of this badge? I think we need a couple of distinctions.

First there are members versus non-members. Members are the Attending Members. They get Program Books, can vote in the site selection, can attend the Business Meeting, etc. Non-members include "Children's Admissions," freebies such as Press or an invited science speaker who would not otherwise attend, and day members, if we have them. There does not seem to be any particular reason to distinguish between different non-members except that, of course, day admissions have to be labeled as to what day they are. If the non-member color were yellow, the day badges could either be completely different from the regular badge or be yellow with a different colored strip and three-letter abbreviation for each day.

Finally, I believe that the large number of staff/committee members we will have (in the hundreds) and the desire to minimize the insignia people have to wear warrants having a third main color of basic badge. This would indicate that the person has a reason to be in the back house areas of the Sheraton and the Hynes. It would be given to everyone of those running the convention from staff member on up and we could even give this type to the Guests of Honor if we wanted so they would not get hassled if they want to take a short cut.

Guard Instructions. The way to make instructions for our guards be crystal clear would be to make up small posters for every policy that will actually be in effect at a security checkpoint. The appropriate one can then be posted while in effect. No matter how much they didn't

read their instructions or got shuffled in the middle of a shift and never got instructions, etc., a guard would need only to glance at the poster to determine if someone was admissible.

It has been suggested that these could be laser-printed and perhaps colored in so they can easily change in real time, but I think having real sample badges of different types would have the most impact and be most effective.

Summary

Basic Badge

1. Members — plastic laminated
 - a. Regular Attending Members — Green
 - b. Committee/Staff/GoHs — Lavender
2. Non-Members — Yellow
 - a. Admissions (Children, Freebies, Invited Speakers, Press, etc.) — plastic laminated
 - b. Day Admission — peel-back stick-on, not individualized

Area Admission Badge — Ribbons

1. Hucksters — Hucksters Area for set up and move out, and before and after open to the public.
2. Artists — Art Show for set up and at other special times.
3. Program Participants — Green Room.
4. Gophers — Gopher hole. (Usually gophers can wear their gopher badge only when on duty or on call, but this policy needs to be confirmed or a decision made to change it.)

(Staff admission to back house areas, staff lounge, den, handled via variation to the basic badge, see above.)

Special Badges

1. Area Head — Ribbons with metal title holder at top.
2. Division Head — Special laminated photo ID.
3. Others — generally ribbons. There are unfortunately a large number of possible badges of this sort: contest winners, Hugo Nominees (maybe small Hugo lapel pins), etc.

MCFI Meeting

Date: June 22, 1988

Notes by: Jim Mann

The meeting was called to order at 7:32. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 10.

Treasurer: Ann Broomhead reported that we had to pay out yet another \$1703 to the lawyers, bringing the total to \$22,000.

Preregistration: Sharon Sbarsky said that the current count is 2624.

Grants: SCIFI turned down our request for a grant.

Progress Report : Greg Thokar said that it is getting ready to go to press. It will be back right after the 4th of July. Greg, in discussion with the committee and Sharon (who has to produce labels), arranged a work session.

Mad 3 Party: Leslie said that the Hugo Ballots are out, and she and *Mad 3 Party* are on it. They printed her home address, however. She asked whether she should send out '87 *M3Ps* or the latest issue when people wrote in asking for samples. People thought the '87 issues would be better.

Nolacon: Mark heard from someone (he doesn't remember who) that Nolacon has said that they have plenty of small meeting rooms which we could use to hold meetings (this in response to Jim M.'s letter, asking for a comp or partial comp of our suite). Mark said that we may still want to get a suite, even if we get the function room, and asked for comments.

Tony Lewis said that NESFA has discussed, and will vote on at the next Business Meeting, renting the suite for one night to throw a NESFA/New England regional party. This will help pay for the suite. Paula Lieberman said she doesn't like meeting in function space, and voted in favor of the suite.

Mark said that last time we discussed the possibility of renting the suite out to those looking for crash space (who don't mind not having it during the day and going to sleep at 3 am). Tim Szczesuil worried about us being responsible for people's things during a party. Pam Fremon was in favor of renting the suite. Mark said he'd find out if anyone was interested in renting it.

Tony asked if we'll be having a question and answer session. Mark said he's assuming Nolacon will ask us to do so, but they haven't yet.

Mark said that Nolacon has asked for a copy of the Boskone Program database software.

Jim M. asked if we wanted to take an ad out in the Nolacon program book. He thought it wasn't worth the effort. Mark and Greg, however, noted that it was traditional, and in fact they had already done so.

Weapons Policy: Mark said that, although we haven't come up with a formal policy, just about everyone is assuming that we will use one of the two Boskone policies:

Boskone 24 policy — no real weapons, facsimile weapons only at and immediately before and after the costume party.

Boskone 25 policy — no real weapons, no facsimile weapons, period.

Dave Cantor said that he'd prefer not to have any kind of rule against weapons. However, if we have to have a rule, he'd prefer the stricter Boskone 25 rule as easier to administer. Joe Rico said that we should follow the Boskone 24 policy, allowing weapons at the Masquerade. Lynx said that Worldcons, unlike Boskones, have Masquerades, and that therefore the Boskone 24 rule is better. Suford Lewis noted that we do have state laws to contend with, and that anything we do has to fit in with state law. Jim M. said that he had heard that there was a Boston law against replica weapons. Sue Hammond said that the law only applied to their sale, not possession.

Sharon asked about the impact on the Mixing area, since we had talked about displaying costumes there. Pam said that we are going to be spread out over several hotels, and that people are going to be using the T. We might want to warn them that it is not a good idea to carry a sword onto the T. Chip Hitchcock said that we don't have to worry about weapons in the masquerade in terms of laws and regulations. Usually, the law distinguishes between random use and use for public display/on-stage/etc. However, we have to tell them to pack them away when going to/from the Hynes. Joe suggested we discuss the issue in the *Mad 3 Party*.

Mark asked what our policy should be concerning weapons in the Huckster room. Chip said we can just say no.

Jill noted that she'd rather we didn't make a decision until Extravaganzas discussed this (which they plan to do at their next meeting) and make their recommendations. Mark agreed. He noted however, that only one person seemed to want to see weapons anywhere other than the Masquerade. Thus the consensus was for one or the other of the Boskone policies. Jill and Ellen Franklin will present their recommendations at the August meeting. Rick also requested that it be brought up in the apa.

Grants: Mark said that, in talking with Priscilla's sister, the possibility had been raised of our getting real grants (i.e., not just from another fannish organization, but from the government or from a foundation). Priscilla's sister thought there would be no problem in our doing so. Priscilla elaborated. Lots of small cultural agencies are trying to promote literary things. Her sister thinks it would be a "piece of cake" to get funding for academic programming or in getting honorariums for speakers. Her sister will be doing a computer search for us, to identify likely places.

Mark noted that sometimes strings are attached. He isn't looking for a blank check to go out and get all possible grants. Each would be looked at carefully. He asked the committee to comment on this idea. Tony said that he was only appalled that we hadn't thought of this before. Andi thought it was a great idea, but was afraid that it wouldn't work. Priscilla said that her sister had indicated that there are some groups out there looking for places to give money to. Sharon noted that Ruth Sachter's real-world job involved looking for grants; she could also give us some help here. Paula said that it occurred to her that a fair number of attendees are starving artists, who could benefit from such a grant.

Special Hugo: Jim Hudson said that he hasn't seen any more info coming in regarding the "Best YA" special Hugo. [See the last M3P for more details.] Gay Ellen Dennett said that she has been monitoring the trade publications and Forthcoming Books in Print. There are already at least 10 books by big-name authors that could be worth considering next year.

Nameless Division Report: Fred Isaacs said that one problem with scheduling a meeting at a Chinese Restaurant that is usually pretty empty at noon is that the restaurant may fold. This happened to them. They left a note on the door of the restaurant saying where the meeting had moved to, and some unnamed person later rang Fred's doorbell the next day, seemingly directed there by the note. This raises the awesome possibility that there is more than one organization which has a second floor division.

Fred said that the division discussed options packages. Since they don't yet know Exhibits and Mixing Area costs, they will not be able to present option packages for a little while yet. Fred then turned the floor over to Cindy Gold, for a discussion of Huckster Room policy.

Huckster Room Policy: Cindy noted that there was a handout in the front of the room on proposed Huckster Room policies.

The first point in the handout stated that all hucksters must be members, and that the table cost does *not* include a membership. Rick asked how this fit in with Noreascon 2. Leslie said that at N2 they had hucksters passes; however, she advised Cindy against this for N3, saying that requiring everyone to be a member simplified things greatly. Andi asked about the policies of recent Worldcons. Jim H. said that this is it.

The second policy involves emphasizing books. Jim M. said that it fit right in with one of the policies that we'd passed a while back: that the primary emphasis of the convention would be written SF.

The third policy was a pricing scheme, whereby tables for new books, collectors' books, etc. would be priced at N, cheap used books would be priced at N minus 20 percent, and media and other material would be priced at N plus 20 percent. Cindy did not think that we had to specify N at this point.

Jim H. asked Cindy about the used books. Weren't we discussing a separate room, with smaller tables, for those who wanted to sell off their duplicates and such? Cindy said yes, but that was aimed at non-hucksters and would be discussed later. Paula said that she was thinking that, in general, hucksters have to make money at cons. We'll have lots of money-spending people, so we can charge more per table. Tony said we can charge higher prices due to the law of supply and demand. The Huckster Room is the most purely profit-related item at the convention. Bill Lehrman said that the cost of their tables was only a small part of a huckster's expenses, though Mark disagreed. Deborah Snyder said that, yes, we have a sellers' market. But those who can afford it aren't necessarily those we most want in the room. We have to pick and choose. Jim M. said we could charge 2N for media and others. Leslie and others thought this would be going too far, and would be perceived as gouging the media hucksters. Sharon said we could ask for a deposit on tables now, even if we don't set rates.

Mark said that, based on our current estimates of Huckster Room size and Hynes costs, breakeven would be at more than \$100 per table. Tony said that, given that, if we have a small huckster room, we should go with Cindy's three-tier plan. If we can somehow manage a larger room (thus bringing down cost per table), let's go with a two-tier plan: used books and everything else. Mark said that we have to set rates this summer. Jim H. asked if we're likely to have better cost estimates in six months that we have now. Don Eastlake said somewhat. He also said, however, that costs depend upon how many square feet we take up. If more than a set percentage of the hall is taken up by tables, our price goes up. Jim H. said we can do some plotting now, but until we map out the room, we're uncertain. We should do this by the next meeting. Tony said that since hucksters make money, we should at least break even. Debbie King said that we have to know by Nolacon. Rick asked if we can take reservations at Nolacon. Susan H. said that this would be unfair to those who weren't there. Rick suggested setting up a window: any requests received within that time frame are treated as if they were received at the same time. Mark said that in any case we shouldn't assume that we'd somehow fill up with requests at Nolacon. Historically, this has not been the case.

Suford said that all of our planning, both for cost and space, seems to assume 8-foot tables. Can we use 6-foot tables? We could fit up to perhaps 300 tables in the room that way. Chip said that converting our worst case estimate of 230 tables to 6-footers could indeed give us 300. We could bring this down to perhaps 275, reducing the square footage of the hall we take up and thus reducing our price. Mark noted that other Worldcons have used 8-foot tables.

Andi said that she agreed with Sue H.'s point (and Rick's) about our need for a window. She also thought we should set our rates before Nolacon. George Flynn said that another issue is that our membership price goes up on 9/16. It would be good to have Huckster rates settled by then.

Cindy's next point involved selling special locations at a premium. Dave Anderson said that we'd have to consider how much we'd like having all the garish media people buying up the prime spots. Rick said that we should not try to sell specific locations other than selling tangible things like wall space or electricity. Chip, in response to Dave's point, said that we don't have to worry about the appearance of the room since we're not a gate show. He reminded us that we can't allow water or gas at all. Finally, he agreed we should just try to sell things like wall space. Priscilla agreed. If we try to sell a location, what would then happen if we had to reorganize the whole room late in the game? Debbie said we should talk to the Atlanta people about their method of assigning locations; they did a good job of it. Leslie said that the room has so many entrances that *she* can't even figure out what a good location in the room would be. It would be unfair to expect the Hucksters to pay extra for such an uncertain benefit.

Priscilla asked how we handle tables with mixed merchandise. Cindy said that it's a value judgment. Prices and priorities are set based on percentages of stuff at the table. Jim H. asked about implementation. Cindy reviewed her procedures, stating that there would be guidelines within the categories. Chip thought we were opening a can of worms. Several other people worried about cheating: selling something different during the con than what they said they would. Cindy said we could monitor this. Both Jim M. and Cindy emphasized that this had worked very well at Boskone. Cindy said that the few times she found hucksters doing something wrong, she simply talked to them about it and this worked. George said not to assume that everything that works at Boskone will work at a Worldcon.

We talked about table limits and priorities. Mark said that several hucksters told him that if they could get more tables they'd bring a more interesting variety of material. When they can only get one or two tables, they tend to opt for the items they know are "safe." Jill noted that the IRS likes juried shows.

We then talked about the special room for used books. Joe asked if people would be restricted as to what they could sell there. Cindy said yes — used books and fannish items only. She said the table would be for part of the con. Several people thought there was no reason *not* to allow them to have the table for the whole convention. Leslie said that this idea had started when Peggy Rae said she had some books she would have sold but she didn't

want to spend all of Disclave doing so.

At this point, a violent thunderstorm got under way. Mark proclaimed that God was angry at how long we were debating this. After a few more joking comments, we ended the Huckster discussion and went on to the next division.

Extravaganzas Division: Jill said that they discussed Masquerade at their last meeting. She gave the dates for subsequent meetings.

Facilities Division: Don said that Deborah Snyder had been appointed as liaison to the Back Bay Hilton and Bob Lidral had been appointed liaison to the Sheraton.

The division met at Disclave and will meet again. On the agenda are which hotel rooms we really need. Don estimates that we need 2800 rooms based on 7000 attendees; we currently have over 3000 rooms. For some of the outlying hotels, we have to release the rooms a year out to avoid fees.

Don said that they'd reduced the division budget. The busing estimate dropped from \$20,000 to \$5,000. Also, Joe found out that we may not have to hire firemen. We may also not have to have police. This would result in a savings of another \$5,000.

We need to decide on a decorator. Freeman is cheaper; Champion is tied in more closely with the Hynes. Don said he thought we should go with Freeman. Paula was wondering why prices were different. Don said that prices for these services can vary widely. Chip noted that for N2 we got a good deal from Exhibit Aids, who were trying to be competitive. Freeman may be similar.

WSFS and Art Show Division: George said that there was nothing new to report on the Art Show. On the WSFS side of things, we offered mailing lists to the 1992 bids, at cost. The division has also looked into the costs of Hugo rockets. From the place in England that makes the ones we liked, it would cost 40 pounds (plus shipping), or 65 pounds (plus shipping) if we wanted them gold plated. Jim H. asked if this totalled about \$1000 for the cheaper model. George said more like \$1200.

Programming: Priscilla said that it has been a quiet month. They will be emphasizing special interest group (SIG) programming. They can get other people to put together parts of the program for them.

Program will be sending out a letter after Nolacon. Paula said that she is not thrilled with this.

Services Division: Jim M. said that letters have gone out to the Strangers (asking if they want to do a commemorative book) and to Norton (sending her sample books).

He said that Laurie Mann will be writing to several people who have used handicapped services at past Worldcons, asking them what worked and what didn't. We still have people who want to do it. They want to be appointed before Nolacon. Laurie, however, wants to talk with them at Nolacon, to get a feel for how well they'd work with us.

Leslie asked that Laurie write up something on the philosophy of handicapped services. Andi said she wasn't sure if writing it down will help. She is willing to work on handicapped awareness training for us.

Rick asked who decides policy. He was worried that handicapped policy would be decided without bringing it to the committee. Mark assured him this wasn't the case. Jim M. agreed, and also noted that some discussion of this had occurred at a GULP meeting and in the apa.

Suford said that she had talked with two handicapped persons in Atlanta who *didn't* like the way it was handled there. There was too much of "these are the exact steps you must follow" rather than "we're here to help you do what you want to do."

Budget Update: Mark said that some of the bigger numbers are going down. The figures will be refined more at the next Division Heads meeting.

Rick said that we should ask NESFA for a grant. Leslie said that we'd asked other Worldcons for grants not just because we needed money but because we felt it was reasonable to expect Worldcons to use some of their profits to help other Worldcons. Mark said that it was hard to tell NESFA that we can't give them money, then expect them to give us money. Rick said it could be treated as a loan. Jim H. concurred: it could be considered a high-risk, high-return investment. There was some thought that there might be tax issues involved.

Space Review: Mark said that there had been a summary of our space in the Sheraton and Hynes in the last apa. It covers the major uses of things, with our current best guesses. Jim H. asked about square feet per member. Mark wasn't sure about the total figure, but noted that Hall B adds about 10 sq. ft. per member. Jim H. said we have to investigate our real capacity without Hall B.

Mark discussed the placing of DragonsLair and Babysitting. The default has been Babysitting in one or more upstairs suites with DragonsLair elsewhere, in function space. This has several drawbacks, in that it is hard for kids to get easily from one to the other. A better option would be to take a group of function rooms that include a bathroom and turn it into a kids' area. The Liberty Complex could work for this. If the Art Show is in the Sheraton, that corridor doesn't get used at all. Paula liked this idea, since those rooms are hard to get to anyway.

On other issues, Paula doesn't like evening filk in the Hynes.

We adjourned at 10:05.

Division Heads Meeting

Date: July 30, 1988

Notes by: Leslie Turek

The meeting was held in the Board Room of the Back Bay Hilton Hotel from 9:30 am to about noon. Present were Mark and Priscilla Olson, Jim Hudson, Leslie Turek, Don and Jill Eastlake, Jim and Laurie Mann, George Flynn, Ann Broomhead, Fred Isaacs, Peggy Rae Pavlat, Ben Yalow, and Andi Shechter.

Services Division: The first full Services division meeting was held this past week.

The division considered whether to have an official travel agent. Ben pointed out that they could assume some of the burden of interfacing with our official airline and handling our comp tickets, in addition to assisting

members with their travel plans. Laurie felt that we should go with a local company, since they would have better information about local tours, B&B's, etc. She has been talking to Garber Travel, which has an 800 phone number.

The division sent out a small survey to about 8 people who have used handicapped services at past Worldcons. Andi mentioned that the Electrical Eggs manual has been revised and simplified. It was mentioned that we might discuss our plans for handicapped services at a Gulp meeting. Leslie felt that it might be better to wait until our over-all convention plans are more firmed up, so that we could discuss specific details.

Questions to be decided include: Do we want reserved seating for all events or just big ones? Do we want a large-print program book? Andi suggested we give mobility-impaired fans priority access to elevators and tell them about shortcuts. We should try to have a battery charger available. Don reiterated the fact that Facilities is planning to give handicapped fans preference for rooms in the Sheraton.

In the Art Show, we might try to provide some seating, and allow handicapped access a little before the regular opening. We should make clear that people can ask for help if they can't reach the bid sheets.

We can't count on volunteers for signing, since most people capable of doing it do it professionally. Someone suggested we should have a signing panel (perhaps with spoken translation).

Andi volunteered again to do training for staff in how to be sensitive to people who need extra help. There should be written instructions also.

Progress Report 5: Mark pointed out that the deadline for Progress Report 5 will be mid-November. This will be a large-format PR that needs to be full of information and exceptionally well-written. We need to start working on text for it well ahead of the deadline so that drafts can be circulated and edited. (Area heads please note!)

Nolacon: Don started a signup sheet for committee meetings in the suite we are reserving at Nolacon. [See pages 1-2 for the most current schedule.] There will probably be committee gatherings Thursday and Monday nights, and perhaps an open party on Saturday or Sunday. On Friday night, NESFA will be holding a party in the suite.

We discussed various rumors about Nolacon hotel problems and committee resignations.

Facilities: Don reported that Hynes space rental rates have been negotiated; details are in the July 31 APA:89. [See next issue.] On the whole, we're getting a good deal. Setting up the modular stage will cost \$1500, but this is offset by other savings. We have not yet signed a contract. They currently feel that the first-floor registration can not be used when a group doesn't have the whole convention center; we are hoping that we will be taking enough space to be able to get it, but we won't know for sure until closer to the convention.

Part of the reason for the low rates is that we have committed to holding a food function in the ballroom. Extravaganzas is working on this; they are thinking of holding a 50-year-retrospective brunch on Sunday morning. (Jim H. requested ice sculptures of a Hugo rocket, a gryphon, and a propeller beanie.)

Mark asked if anyone had any urgent needs concerning the Hynes. Extravaganzas needs to know the size of the stage. Many divisions need to know about food issues. (The current answer is that all food must be supplied by ARA Services.) Currently we are being told that we don't need to use union projectionists and stagehands. We probably can't hang things on the walls.

Andi has been trying to find places that will rent comfy chairs for less than 3 months, with no progress yet. She will get the 3-month prices anyway. Mark suggested that we look into buying and then reselling padded chairs. Don invited Fred to go with him to see what's available in the Freeman warehouse. Fred asked Don to find out what the Hynes rules are concerning which materials can be used. Don felt the decorator might actually know better than the sales reps he's been dealing with.

George asked Don to verify whether the Art Show could go in the ballroom (although this is not our current plan). Also, we should verify with the Sheraton that we can block off the Republic corridor for the Art Show and take over the Liberty complex as a children's area.

Budget: The latest version of the budget will be in the next apa. Due to the Hynes savings, and a cheaper estimate for the program book, we currently have \$22,000 unallocated. We need to consider how to do this. Mark felt that we should now consider things that need a long lead time, since he feels that additional monies, currently allocated to contingency, might become free later. So what things are urgent over the next month or so?

Priscilla said that Program would like to have a small amount allocated for honoraria for speakers from outside of the SF community. She estimated \$500-\$1000 per person for 3 or 4 people. Ben pointed out that many of these people get booked up well in advance, so that we need to work on this now. Mark felt that the question of honoraria would need to be decided by MCFI.

Program also mentioned the possibility of having an off-site meet-the-VIPs party, but that wouldn't have to be decided now.

Extravaganzas had many items, but none of them were time-critical for this month. They include additional lighting and sound, film upgrade, the food function and Hugo reception (which are expected to be break-even), a Box-boro party subsidy, a printed program for Hugos, Masquerade, and films, Club Degler, and video equipment.

Second Floor noted that Monty Wells was free to build the display standards for the portrait gallery this summer, so we need to decide on that soon. Most people felt this was worth doing, but the question arose as to whether the proposed design would be allowed by the Hynes, as it involves the use of wood. (This could also be a problem with the Balticon hangings if the Art Show were in the Hynes.) The materials cost has been estimated at \$600, but the actual cost may be less, as the materials may have some resale value.

Facilities had some small suggested adjustments to their budget. Mark pointed out that division contingency could be used for this, but shouldn't just be used to add entirely new items to the budget.

Jim M. said that Publications could use a laser printer in time to produce PR 5, so we would have to decide on this just after Nolacon. This item would cost about \$4000 and would have some resale value.

For the August meeting, we will present the three urgent items, plus a wish list for the other division needs. The wish list will not be voted on until September or October.

Nameless Division: Peggy Rae asked Services and/or Facilities to think about how to do volume copying during the convention (for the newsletter, say). Someone mentioned a high-volume Minolta copier that rents for \$2000 per month.

She has two candidates for press relations, and should have an appointment soon. She is planning to do a write-up on press relations for the next apa.

Bruce Pelz will do an exhibit on the History of Worldcons. We are thinking of posting old photographs and providing space for fans to identify the people by writing in names. We are considering ways to pass these exhibits on to future Worldcons. We will be asking for exhibit contributions in PR 5.

Next Meeting: Various people had conflicts in September, so we decided to meet in the late afternoon on Monday at Nolacon (after the gripe session, if there is one).

Miscellaneous Announcements:

Joe Siclari will assist with VIP liaison in the Program division.

Jim H. has entered most of the questionnaires into his computer system and is ready to start generating statistics.

We have received two responses to the *M3P* Young Adult Hugo questionnaire so far; both were negative.

Mark reiterated that the apa was expensive to produce (about \$150 per issue), and asked people to try to reduce reference material to take up less space.

Bob Hillis will head ushering, and will also join the Extravaganzas planning team. The Extravaganzas division will have an open meeting at 10 am at Lexicon (a local relaxacon). The Program division also announced a Sunday meeting at Lexicon.

We are trying to get a function room at Nolacon for Chris Valada to use for taking Portrait Gallery pictures.

Hynes Tour: After lunch, a larger group gathered for a tour of the Hynes Convention Center, which was hosting a candy manufacturer's trade show at the time. (We did not make much of a dent in the 300,000 pounds of candy in the Hynes.) The third floor was much nearer completion than the last time we visited. People brought cameras and took pictures of various items of interest. The tech crew focused [literally] on the electrical outlets in the projection booth. Suford measured door sizes for the Masquerade. Cindy Gold checked out the loading docks. Second Floor observed the exhibit hall layout and registration setups. I discovered a couple of exit doors that I hadn't known about when I did a tentative hucksters' room layout, and other members of the committee undoubtedly made other significant and meaningful observations.

Letters

[We try to print as many of the letters we receive as we can. The opinions expressed in this column are the opinions of the letter-writers and of the editor, not necessarily those of MCFI or Noreascon 3. — LT]

Masquerade

• Allan D. Burrows, Mississauga Ontario:

I have a point or two to make about your reply to mine on the masquerade. First let me review the plan I proposed and then I'll deal with your objections. My thought was to have the masquerade participants judged throughout a day or two of the convention (there are five of them after all), and videotaped for later showing to a medium-sized "studio audience" and throughout the convention facilities over local feeds. A cable company could be sweet-talked, bribed, or whatever into providing the equipment and expertise. Tapes of the show could be sold as souvenirs.

The problems you foresaw with my plan were: 1) time and space allocation; 2) funds allocation; 3) the costumers want a humunguous audience to watch them; 4) the judges might not want to spend all that time judging; 5) video might not do justice to the costumes; and 6) hassles incurred from using cable companies. I'll deal with these in non-sequential order.

2) Well, yes, allocating money for television equipment would be a problem, especially after all those legal hassles. Okay, this could be a killer.

6) Sweet-talking a cable company was only one way to get hold of expertise and good equipment; surely there would be other ways if the idea itself is good.

4) Naturally, you'd need to find some utter gems of masquerade judges who would be willing and able to sit around judging costumes for hours at a time. People like that are worth assigning personal gofers and stuff like that.

3) I have no sympathy for the costumers at all, however. I'm sure they like getting applause from thousands of fans at a time; me, I wouldn't mind getting thunderous applause for letterhacking. I wouldn't want to expose the crowds that generate it to the terrible, awful crowding that a masquerade-goer experiences to get it, though. I remember the line-up at Chicon III because I was a gofer on duty doing crowd control with that line. I followed it at one point when the hordes queueing up had thinned out. It stretched from outside the door to the auditorium, up the hall, around the corner, back down the hall to the door again, past the door, further down the hall, out the door to the sidewalk (where I was stationed), down the sidewalk to the steps, up the steps, around the court, through the court, out to the sidewalk on the other side, and ended at the corner with fans still getting on at the end. I couldn't stop laughing; it was ludicrous! They let us gofers in first so I had a decent seat, but even at that the crowding was almost claustrophobic!

When just the same kind of line-up started at Con-Federation, I had another giggle fit and retired gratefully back to my room at the Hilton to watch it on the tube.

I can understand the costumers' desire for a big, big crowd of admirers to watch the masquerade, but surely they can understand the other fans' desire to avoid the terrible, awful crowding and those queues-that-ate-Philadelphia (or Boston in this case). I'd rather just about anything than face the queue for the masquerade!

1) So how about this: let's hold the masquerade judging and taping prior to the actual show *in the second floor halls*. You've been wondering what to do with all that space, right? The huge crowds for the costumers would be passing by all the time; they could stop and watch for a while, then move on, knowing they'll see it on the tube later, while other fans take their place. The judges could say hello to fans and friends while the next costume got set up, which would make life easier on them. It would also make a terrific living display!

5) The quality of video is not strained to the average viewer, who doesn't know what s/he is looking at, anyway; a nice costume is a nice costume is a nice costume to the average con-goer. Those who can appreciate nice costumes would want to be at the actual showing, with all the winning costumes on stage for them; if a fan really likes costumes, they'll stick around the taping sessions (if they're *really* into costumes, dragoon them into gofering at the sessions!).

2 (again)) And remember, if the whole Worldcon isn't trying to fit into one room, you'll need a much smaller auditorium, thus saving money. (It probably wouldn't make up the difference, but it'd sure help!)

So what do you think, is my plan maybe workable after all?

[By pointing out problems, I didn't mean to say the plan wasn't workable. But it does mean that to do it involves taking risks and putting in a lot of work. There's a lot of inertia in fandom — it's very hard to make major changes in Worldcon "institutions" without upsetting a lot of people. It's easier to make incremental changes than to shake things up all at once.]

One way to bring about what you suggest in a gradual manner is to have several years of success at closed-circuit viewing of the masquerade. As the audience gains confidence in the idea, those that hate the crowding will be more likely to watch from their rooms or other locations.

We also believe there are ways to alleviate the crowding and lineups. You can open the auditorium early so that those who feel they must have good seats can at least sit down instead of standing in line. You can schedule some sort of entertainment in the auditorium to follow the masquerade, so that not everyone will want to leave at the same time. We're hoping to try having the costumes walk through the mixing area after they appear on stage so that more people can see them close-up in a more informal setting. — LTJ

• Elizabeth Osborne, Inverness FL:

Many of the questions dealing with the masquerade, other than how long it should be, seem to deal with the question of how it is to be best viewed. All seem to have the view that there will be an audience of nearly 5,000 people trying to see this event from seats in one huge room. This is how past Worldcons have turned out, especially in the U.S. One suggestion is to get away from that viewpoint. Put the costumers on stage in front of the

judges, some staff, guests, and 500 of their nearest and dearest (mothers, sisters, spouses, best friends, etc.) and show the rest of the convention the masquerade by closed-circuit TV. This is a radical step indeed but it does let every person, in theory, have a front row seat instead of one 100 rows or more back. This ends the need of people to rush the masquerade area two hours ahead of time searching for a good seat. It can cut down on audience noise and work on solving the problems of entering and leaving the stage, moving the program along faster. Other points include greater freedom and comfort for the audience and easier set-up for the staff. Smaller numbers also mean easier crowd control and you wouldn't end up with 5,000 people suddenly exiting a room at one time and the problems that causes all over the convention. Of course you will have to pay a fair amount of money for the equipment and a trained crew which has had lots of rehearsals and knows what they need to do and when. So, costumers may complain about not having a huge audience to applaud them, but the number of people in the audience can be adjusted for different sizes. My experience at Confederation led me to this idea. I am so glad that I did not end up in that huge costume hall but in a smaller viewing room with about 200 people where I had a wonderful time and as good a view of the event as anybody.

Talking about the masquerade, I was surprised to read that there is some question on how the voting is done. Might I add a suggestion? This method was developed by a non-costumer judge at a media con who had been roped into one too many costume calls. It used 3 by 5 cards and each judge rated the costume on a scale of one to five. The cards were collected after each costume left the stage and the score was added up. This method pulled out most of the costumes which were not in the running for an award, leaving the judges to decide which was to get which award. This method is better described in Bjo Trimble's book *On the Good Ship Enterprise* on page 119.

[I have seen this method used, but it does require that the judges be willing to accept the results of the tally. In the situation where I tried to use a scoring system to narrow down the group to be considered for awards, the judges didn't want to be so "mechanical" and insisted on considering all of the costumes anyway. Sigh. — LTJ]

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Re letter from Kelly and Karen Turner on Pacing and Limits: I'd even say that 100 entries in the masquerade is too many... the Atlanta masquerade was a manageable size, and one that was easy to watch without overdosing, or having your eyelids droop uncontrollably. The dead time between entries is necessary so that the entire audience can see the particular entry making their way through the centre aisle without getting confused with the intro to the next entry. Let everyone see who it is they heard intro'd, and then move on to the next entry. Give the people in the back a break! One thing that can speed things along is to place a limit of numbers of people who participate in each group (perhaps a maximum of five), and to restrict the props used in many presentations. How can masquerade compete with small theatre?

Program

• Elizabeth Osborne, Inverness FL:

Another radical idea for Noreascon to think over is to develop a fannish educational program for neofans. Fandom has been growing very rapidly the last few years. Many of these neos are often accused, with justification, of being the ones causing trouble and vandalism. One way to solve this problem is a system where neofans are taken in hand and told or educated in fandom's history and traditions. Fandom is no longer a small group where everyone knows each other, but many older fans seem to expect neos to know the way to behave. Neos should have particular programming to show them the ways of behavior at cons. This should be more than "This is your first Con" common to many cons, but a series of programs that could be copied by smaller cons. Other ways to tone wildness at cons are to have more late-night programming and even to consider the idea of reducing the amount of drinking at the Worldcon. Shutting down the con suite bar for certain hours or charging (a small fee) for bheer rather than serving it for free in the con suite.

[Because of corkage requirements in both the Sheraton Hotel and Hynes Convention Center, it currently appears that all liquor and beer may have to be provided by the Sheraton and/or the Hynes caterers. At this point, it seems unlikely that free or cheap beer will be available at many of the open parties. As you point out, this does have its bright side. — LT]

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Re Boskone [Program's] use of Computers: A very good idea is the file to create tent cards for panel tables . . . I remember in past years a scramble to find the proper tent cards for the proper panelist, and finding that the person who calligned the cards is away at a panel, or is somewhere in any of the hotels or con centre. Having a computer available with that file will make such little but important incidentals much easier to deal with. You didn't bring the computer to Boskone, which is fine, but I think you'll definitely need it at N3.

Filking

• Allan D. Burrows, Mississauga Ontario:

Can I make a request? I've been to many a con in my time, at which I've spent hours and hours filking. It seems to me that Worldcons have a problem balancing the filks: I'd guess that the people in charge of the filk also have a lot of other stuff on their plates and don't have time to pay proper attention to (fondly) those nuts who sing all night. After all, what does a filksing need? A place for it to happen and some well-known filkers to do the singing. Worldcon should have more than one filk room because they don't all do it the same.

I'm sorry to tell you, but it's a bit more complex than that.

There are a number of different types of filk, almost as many as there are cons to hold them. I have noted six different basic patterns, however, each of which really ought to be paid attention to at Worldcon. First is the Concert; that's the type where one or more filkers sit at the front of an audience and sing. In the Midwest they've started having them as panel tracks; they usually feature two good filkers at a time per hour doing songs alternately.

(I hope you don't do that as a panel track: I'd lose days at a time to it! Save it for the night.) It's popular and makes a good feature; the songs that get sung are the singers' latest and best, which makes them quite good!

Second is the Freeform style. This is the easiest to hold, as all you need is a sign or announcement saying it's there and a place to put it. Freeforms are utterly unsupervised, the floor is held on the honor system, and "Big Name" filkers seem to prefer it. The problem with it is that you find the occasional "floor hog" (no names mentioned), who sit there and sing all night without giving anybody else a turn. If you're nervous about that, try the Moderated Freeform version; somebody sits there and picks whoever wants to go next, so that the honor system doesn't get abused. The problem here is that the moderator must be even-handed, or somebody might get left out.

Third is the Bardic Circle. This is also basically unsupervised. The singers sit in a circle and sing in turn, either clockwise or counterclockwise as chance may have it. "Big Name" filkers don't like Bardics because it takes forever to get around the circle and makes it hard to "establish a mood" (whatever that means). They allow everybody in the circle to have a turn. This is good and it's bad: it's good because it's democratic, with all that implies; it's bad because it allows some really lousy filkers to play regardless of their merit and it really can take a long time to complete a pass. Bardic Circles often degenerate into Freeforms.

Fourth is a cousin of the Bardic, the Modified Bardic Circle (MBC), or Pick/Pass/Play. This style requires somebody to moderate it. In this style, everybody in the room gets a turn as the moderator passes the turn around the room. Everybody gets to pick a song for somebody else to play (player willing), pass for a turn, or play something themselves. This type seems to be popular in Britain, as the filk at Conspiracy was MBC every night (except the last, which was straight Bardic). The problem with this is that it takes much longer than a Bardic Circle to complete a pass, and of course they really should be moderated.

Fifth is the Singalong Style; you know about this, it's the type you have at Boskones. Singalongs are fine if you have enough people with filk hymnals and somebody to play piano or something. You won't hear any new songs, though.

And sixth is the Pick-Up. This is the style where Erwin Strauss finds a vacant piano and plays whatever seems to be getting sung at the time, unless he chooses them. Nobody needs to organize anything for a Pick-Up Filk; they happen wherever they happen, usually in the halls, and make filk unpopular with people who like listening to music more than they do singing it. It's fun, though, and I'm guessing it's probably inevitable.

So my request to you is, could you keep in mind that filk is a growing and dynamic sort of thing, and pay proper attention to it. Please leave room for a freeform if you can; if you can't, have a Bardic in preference and let the filkers "break the circle" if they'd rather. Filk is not organized right now and it's prone to being ruled by "gangs," so designating rooms for various styles might not hurt. (After all, they're not being used for anything else after the panels shut down for the night.)

[We have plans to accommodate most of these types of filking. Program is planning to have one or more filk concerts, and the Nameless Division will also be scheduling some informal filk performances as part of Passing Fancies (hall entertainment). There should be plenty of opportunities for pick-up filking in the lobbies and 30-foot-wide corridors of the Hynes. And we also intend to make several rooms available in the evening for the various styles of Bardic Circle and Singalong filking. The only uncertainty is whether those rooms should be in the Hynes, or across the street in the Back Bay Hilton (where it will be possible to run later at night and should be easier to get a piano for the Singalong room). — LT]

Reader's Room

• Chuq Von Rospach, Newark CA:

Nice! Other sources for possible donations: the folks who review books for magazines. They get lots of review copies of stuff, and would love a good, faanish outlet for the extras. At least I would. If I have advance warning, I would have no trouble shipping you a box of books before the con (No, I won't travel with them. They're heavy! hee-hee).

One thing you might do is put up a donation box at the exit to the reading room. Folks can walk out with the books, but suggest they leave a donation, to go to (choose a favorite) TAFF, DUFF, books for the blind, or the Boston City Library.

Any books left over? Well, donate them to the library. Except for hardcovers, I doubt you'll find you could auction them for much. What I think you want to avoid is things like (1) putting any proceeds into the general fund, or (2) putting the proceeds into MITSFS or NESFA or anyone directly attached to the con — I think it'd be too likely to generate bad feelings. Find a good outside organization for the stuff, and folks will respond (I'm particularly fond of the organizations that put books on tape for the blind, especially if we can target it towards genre-specific books).

[Why not put proceeds into the general fund? Obviously, this would be silly if the con runs a big surplus. But if money is short we're going to need every source of income we can find. — LT]

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

The Reading Room sounds great . . . would it consist of comfortable overstuffed couches and chairs, or just a place to sit and read a book? The room should also contain copies of magazines with the nominated short stories and novellas in them, as well as the nominated books in the novel category.

[The Reading Room is only one of a number of places we would like to have comfy chairs available. We are having a problem, though, in locating a supplier for such chairs at a reasonable cost. If we can find them and afford them, we will have them. — LT]

TAFF/DUFF

• Chuq Von Rospach, Newark CA:

If you're going to have TAFF/DUFF/etc. auctions, or charity auctions of any kind, try to give folks advance notice as much as possible. I/*OtherRealms*, for instance, get galleys and advance proofs, and I've been looking for a way to make them useful once I'm done reviewing them

(I'm not terribly interested in re-selling them to collectors, although that's a legitimate market). I was thinking the other day it'd be a nice thing to donate to things like the TAFF/DUFF auctions. The only problem is I need to know ahead of time to either bring them or pre-ship them, since I don't tend to carry galleys around with me in my pocket (joke, there). So advance warning is critical.

[The TAFF/DUFF auction is usually organized by the administrators of those organizations, with the con providing space and a listing in the program/daily newsletter. We'll try to work with these groups, but you might also let them know of your interest in contributing to the auction. — LT]

Another thing I've been thinking about is donating both a galley and the opportunity to review it as a guest reviewer in *OtherRealms*, for an upcoming book. I think that'd be a neat auction prize for someone, although I need to check with the editors and see what they think of the idea before I commit. Interesting possibilities . . .

Hugo Categories

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

I don't know offhand the titles of any appropriate juveniles, unless the Vonda McIntyre juvenile *Barbary* counts . . . probably too old. *[George Flynn says that Barbary is not eligible, having been published in 1986. — LT]* There might be some controversy over what is nominated as a juvenile, especially if the author never intended it as such. Otherwise, if enough interest can be generated in the category, by all means, go ahead. I think many of the nominations will come from fannish librarians. There's plenty of material out there to look at. Canadian publishers produce a large amount of children's literature, and because the interest is there, a good portion of it is fantastic. Unfortunately, the distribution of many of these books is within Canada only.

• Monty Wells, Bedford MA:

Here's an alternate suggestion for a new Hugo, after reading some *TMTF* and E-mail discussion. It may not be a great idea, not fully worked out, but I'm sure there can be some great discussions about it!

How about an "Oversight," "Second Chance," or "Upon further consideration . . ." Hugo? When we look through lists of old Hugo awards, especially for novels, I know that many of us ask "why that?", and, perhaps even more often, "Why not . . ." I was triggered on this idea by reading a Heinlein obituary and seeing a list of his major works that did *not* win Hugos.

Suppose we have a list, as automatic nominees, of those Hugo-nominated novels that did *not* win Hugos, over a limited past time period — perhaps 20 years to 10 years ago — i.e., 1969–1979. This gives us some temporal perspective, while still staying current enough that style changes, print runs, etc. won't make the vast majority of them unfamiliar to current fandom. Now we have a chance to reward a novel that (a) has stood the test of time better, or (b) was up against an unusual blockbuster year of competition. I remember years when it seemed like Anderson, Asimov, Clarke, Heinlein, and Niven all had major novels — and only one Hugo. Now we could posthumously — not quite the right word, but you know what I mean — acknowledge major well-liked, long-running works that are still in print and still being read. (If they

aren't still in print and being read, then they pretty much are out of the running as not so many will be familiar with them — so it's self-selecting and the Committee wouldn't have to concern itself with availability, etc.)

George Flynn has said that fans have no sense of history, but I suspect that in such a list of about 40 Hugo non-winners there would be a few titles that most fans will recognize and feel were deserving of an award. I suspect that it would draw more interest than most of the fan awards — maybe more than some of the current shorter fiction work awards.

Some such attempts to honor past efforts have been made before — career achievement awards, best all-time series, etc., but that's for a different direction and emphasis than what I'm suggesting.

The Baseball Hall of Fame Oversight Committee is somewhat similar, as are some special Oscar awards, except that in both cases the awards have been to individuals rather than to works. The Baseball Old Timers committee recognizes players from before the institution of the Hall of Fame, and that too could be an idea for a Hugo — Hugos for the '39 Worldcon voted on at the '89? But I'm afraid George's comment becomes too valid here — few would recognize the candidates except by author's name — Asimov vs. Heinlein again!

"No award" is always an option. If it became a regular award, the time period might be gerrymandered for convenience, or might just progress one year per year. 10 years — 40 to 50 titles at a guess — might be too cumbersome. Perhaps restrict it to the 2nd through 4th Hugo finalists — ten years then means only 30 nominees max. Or stretch it back further — 15 to 25 years, or whatever. And of course the winner of this Hugo is no longer eligible for future years.

Not having all the data at hand, I can't supply such a list. (I'm sure that several people are already digging in their *Locus* files!) But it'd be fun to ponder what we might now do differently even if we don't actually give such a Hugo.

WSFS Business and Site Rotation

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Re letter from Tom Schaad on bidding: enforcing spending limits on *anything* is almost impossible. Every possible aspect of bidding would have to be taken into account, like food, drink, promotional items of a multitude of kinds, advertising, etc. Enforcement would mean a body for doing that . . . who would be on it, who could be impartial, etc. No one wants to see a Worldcon bought with expensive ad campaigns and parties, but neither can regulations to see that this doesn't happen be enforced. Gentleman's agreements? I dunno, any other ideas?

• Kees van Toorn, The Hague, Holland:

Thank you for publishing parts of our correspondence with Donald Eastlake in a previous issue of *The Mad 3 Party* [#24]. I waited with a response to the comment you added in brackets to see if the next paper had any comments, but as there were none I will add that I personally — and with me the ConFiction crew — think it is time to end the chaos into which the Worldcon seems to have slipped.

The proposed guide book, of which I am in great favour, would basically contain a rough setup for possible organizers of a world convention. Although most bids originate in the U.S., there are some that do not, and for those bids this book would be meant in the first place. It would contain the basic things that *must* be done in order to be viable as a bid. In the U.S., bids get more feedback because of the interaction in fandom. When a "foreign" bid comes onto the scene, there are a great number of things one has to rediscover or find out. And it would help a lot if there would be a guide, not a blueprint of how to do a convention, without a strong imprint of how to run an American-style Worldcon. If the Worldcon has to travel around the world, each country or group that wants to bid should be allowed its own ideas, but should also be aware of the things that have to be done.

For that reason I am strongly in favour of such a book or guide. I think it would help for future conventions, as the Constitution sometimes can be read in more than one way and leaves a lot to be desired as it is. The Constitution is also legal under U.S. law, not so under the law of a great many other countries. I do not state we need a strong overall body to rule and govern things, but a central point with helpful hints and information would be a great help and asset!

As for Conspiracy, we have in the meantime cleared all the funds and have finally been able to contact everybody, so this chapter can be closed, even though a lot of things remain open as far as Conspiracy is concerned.

• Erwin S. "Filthy Pierre" Strauss, Alexandria VA:

(Letter directed to Krsto A. Mazuranic)

Thank you for your comments about my proposed Worldcon site rotation change. I'm sorry you got the impression it was directed against European bids. Admittedly, since most of the people at the business meeting this year (when my resolution would be first voted on) and next (when it would have to be ratified) will be North American, I have been stressing the attractions of the plan for North American bids. Namely, by waiting an extra year between Worldcons in a given zone (four years instead of three), sites in North America would be guaranteed not to be pre-empted by European bids (much less twice in a row).

But a corresponding advantage applies to European bids: they would be guaranteed a Worldcon every four years. As you point out, North Americans dominate the site-selection voting. And I fear that Jan Finder may be right when he says that the events of the recent past have so turned North Americans against European cons that any European bid in this millennium would face a bloc vote by North Americans against it. Indeed, if there were a bid for 1993 from Glasgow (as is reported under consideration) or Yugoslavia (as you hint at), I'm sure there would be such a reaction. Against such sentiment, the advantage of having voting take place at a European Worldcon would be wiped out.

However, the purpose of my proposal is not to confer advantage on either side, but to avoid continued warfare in which Europeans try to exploit the advantage of a voting site close to them (close geographically, and close in the sentiments of the administering committee), and North Americans try to defeat such bids by voting as a bloc. This can only lead to the demise of the Worldcon as we

know it in intercontinental bitterness. The interests of all fans are best served by placing the movement of the Worldcon between North America and Europe on a regular schedule. In this way, voting will always take place at a neutral site, more or less equally removed from all the bidding sites.

(Letter directed to *Mad 3 Party*)

Thanks for running the Worldcon site selection discussion in the lettercol of *Mad 3 Party*. You said "the problem is *not* that there are too many foreign Worldcons, but that one of our geographic areas is getting locked out. North American sites do not currently have the freedom of being able to bid in any year, as the non-North-American sites do. On the other hand, Filthy's proposed plan doesn't seem to solve this problem."

To be sure, if the "problem" were North American sites not being free to bid in any year, then indeed none of my proposals would "solve" it. But since the problem is instead one zone getting locked out, any of my proposals would solve it.

[What you say is true when talking about U.S. zones getting locked out by European bids, since your plan puts Europe in a zone to itself. But other parts of the world are combined with parts of the U.S., so in the future, there could be a problem with, say, the Western U.S. zone being locked out by Australia. Of course, the system could always be adjusted if something like this should occur. — LT]

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Re letters on future Worldcons: Bitching about bids is pointless until you get to know not only the bid platform, but some of the people involved. DC has some experience, Orlando doesn't, but only when it comes to Worldcons. Both groups have a lot of experience when it comes to conventions, period. Fans love to carp when it comes to people not having experience, saying that they should have the experience before they bid. It's Catch-22 . . . you've got to have the experience before you can bid to get the experience . . . fannish double-talk based on bitterness and negativity. Both cities have good people with good bids, and Boston will host one of the toughest site-selections we've had in years.

In Krsto Mazuranic's letter, the figures reflect the fact that American fans dominate the Worldcon selection and attendance not only through superior disposable income, but through sheer numbers. American fans attend, take part, and affect the way things are done. If fans from another country had the money and numbers, things would be done their way. I can travel to American Worldcons, but my income does not yet allow me to travel to foreign Worldcons. I wish it did. Until I can afford it, I'll buy supporting memberships. I do plan to attend Holland, but I'll have to save like Scrooge to do it. I suspect there'd be support for a Yugoslavian bid if they could just decide on a single year in which to bid instead of moving about so much.

• Krsto A. Mazuranic, Samobor Yugoslavia:

[I had to cut a few paragraphs from this letter to be able to fit it into this issue. — LT]

TM3P No. 27 arrived with my morning mail a few hours ago. Of course I searched it first to see what does my letter look like in print and . . . ohboy! didn't I get car-

ried away and write a bitter and nasty letter!

It surely is ironic that I complained about having been ripped off by N.A. Worldcons to none other but you Boston people who run absolutely impeccable Worldcons in every respect! (Which in itself is proof enough: you're the only ones who gave me the chance to complain.)

About castigating: it seems that in the process of writing the letter I managed to avoid naming the real bogeyman. I surely don't claim it's the Amerifen in their hundreds and thousands! At the end I explained, very carefully, that it was exactly none other but hundreds of Amerifen who voted Worldcon away from N.A. into GB and Oz (there simply weren't non-N.A. voting members in Toronto, Miami Beach, Baltimore . . .).

No, it is the fannish politicians and busybodies who wish to avoid the "acute crisis" and keep Worldcons on sacred US soil by means of a piece of bureaucratic legislation. You see, the five-year plan (or four-year, or any-year) is not aimed against Worldcons out of N.A.; those plans are aimed against hundreds of American voters who keep voting in favor of Melbourne and Brighton *whenever those two bid*.

Hundreds of Americans voted in favor of going to The Netherlands in 1990; new rotation plans are aimed at denying Amerifen even a chance to so vote again.

Come on, Leslie, take the wool off your eyes. As long as it was the Wimpy Zone that kept losing Worldcons (in '79 and '85) all was well. Only when L.A. felt threatened all this furor rose. (And they did raise an ugly scandal at Conspiracy, as anyone who was there can tell you.) Which was to be expected as soon as the three-year voting term coincided with the three-year rotation plan. Seriously, now: would anyone be able to outvote L.A. once they got the Worldcon now?

The funny side of it all is that there's really no danger of a multitude of European bids in the next ten or more years! If Europe were pronounced a Zone, the real danger is there'd be a serious No-Bid situation soon!

The only fangroups capable and willing to bid for a Worldcon in Europe are the Brits, the Dutch (and they're going to have theirs in 1990), and the Yugoslavs. *Maybe* Scandinavians . . . but they've been badly shaken by the Flop of 1983. Besides, Swedish fandom is split right down the middle into two warring factions, Finns only discovered Worldcons last year, Danes are too few.

Look: the Berlin "Bid" is a ridiculous misunderstanding: they really don't know what it's all about. The French don't even have their own home cons; so don't Italians. (Their "conventions" are in fact Writers Conferences with fans locked out.) On Iberia there is no fandom at all; there are individual fans, yes, but no fandom. In Germany they do cons in business suits, with briefcases, everybody present studiously denying the slightest possibility of being a fan (and this is a fact: I'm not joking). In Eastern Europe cons are Government-sponsored Cultural Festivals with everyone present a "delegate" of something or the other.

So, lay off, you people. Stop wasting brainpower and time on inventing ridiculous legislation that'll destroy the chance of Worldcons becoming, at last, "Worldly." To repeat: Zone Plan or no Zone Plan, when Amerifen liked a non-N.A. Bid, they voted in favor; when they didn't like it (as in 1983), they voted it out of existence. It's *democra-*

cy, isn't it?

[According to File 770:75, the Strauss and Sacks 4-zone site-selection proposal "was recently endorsed by the directors of SCIFI (the former LA in '90 bidders) on the condition that its proposed North-Eastern zone be modified to include the southeastern U.S. . . Strauss has agreed and will incorporate the change."

Under the revised plan, the three U.S. zones are much the same as they are under the current rules, but they are allowed to bid only every 4th year rather than every third year. They are "protected" from European competition, with Europe being given a fourth zone of its own (rather than being allowed to bid in any year). The remainder of the world is divided up between the four zones, with Australia, for instance, being in the same zone as the U.S. west coast. — LT]

Mad 3 Party

- Moshe Feder, New York NY:

Received *Mad 3 Party* #26 yesterday, which I immediately devoured as usual. Since I've once again been in touch with the Hugo subcommittee — for book club reasons — to get early word of the nominations, I'm writing to offer my congratulations to you on *M3P*'s nomination for best fanzine and your own for fanwriter. The regularity and quality you've maintained make these both very well-deserved nominations. I'm also pleased by the way the nominations symbolically rejoin fanzine fandom and convention fandom. Best of luck in the final balloting.

- Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Congratulations on your Hugo nominations. When many of us expressed our thanks for producing something as useful and as interactive as *TM3P*, many said something about Hugos. Looks like our voices were loud

enough for the final ballot. I hope fandom in general shares the esteem your readers have for you and your efforts.

- Carl C. Fields, Farmer Circle IL:

I enjoy *TMTP* a lot and have learned a great deal. I came on board about 10 or so issues ago, so I missed some early stuff. Perhaps you could go over some of the abbreviations (or whatever). Good candidates for explanations are SMOF, Apa, and the Second Floor (or is it Third Floor) Division.

[I'm sorry if we sometimes forget to explain ourselves, and I'd like to encourage anyone with basic questions to write in and remind us to define our terms now and then.

SMOF stands for "Secret Master of Fandom." This is a (somewhat) tongue-in-cheek characterization of those people who get involved in fan politics. The term is now also used as a verb: "to smof" is to talk endlessly about fan politics, usually to the boredom of those around you.

Apa stands for "Amateur Press Association." It's a method of distributing written material in which each writer contributes a set number of copies, the contributions are collated together, and the resulting collection is distributed to all of the contributors. There are many apas in fandom. Some are organized around particular themes, some are open to members of a club, etc. Noreascon 3 uses apas as a means of communication within the various divisions of the committee.

The Second Floor Division is a (possibly temporary) name for one of the six divisions of Noreascon 3. The division is responsible for Registration, the Hucksters' Room, Exhibits, Information, and the Mixing Area, among other things. The name refers to the fact that most of these items will be located on the Hynes second floor. We are currently running a contest to try to officially name that division. — LT]

The Mad 3 Party #28

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