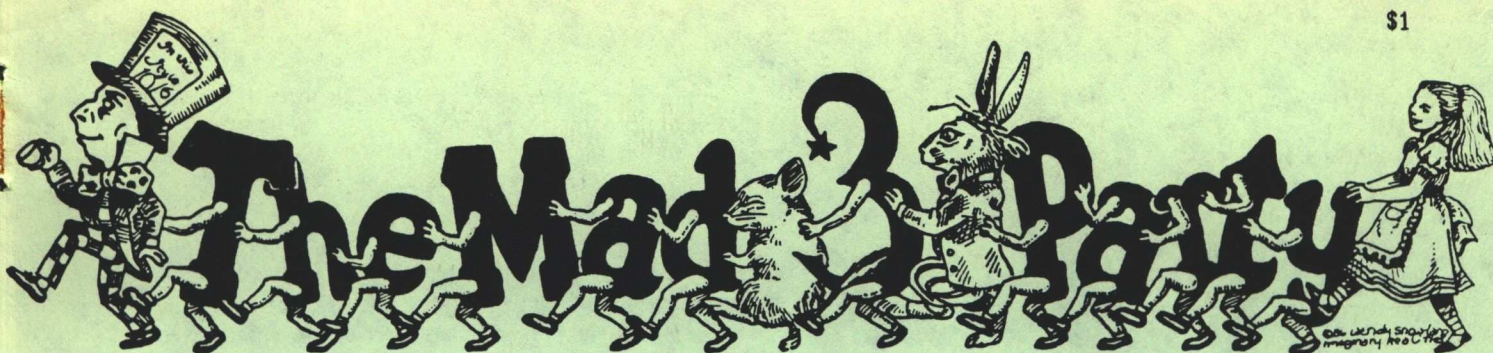




Number 29

September 1988

— Special Nolacon Issue —

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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.

The subscription price is \$1 per issue for up to 8 issues. The regular subscription price covers surface shipment outside North America; please add \$1 per issue for air mail. Free copies go to newszines, Worldcon bids and committees, the committee and staff of Noreascon 3, and significant contributors.

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As expected, Nolacon was fun, although perhaps more fun for the attendees than for the committee. Once again, a Worldcon called on the services of the "permanent floating Worldcon committee" to supplement the resources of the local group. Some of the volunteers had been recruited years ago, but others were tapped in the last few weeks before the convention.

The Sunday newsletter reported a total attendance of 5100, consisting of 4078 (out of a total of 4721) pre-registered members, and 1022 new at-the-door members. (It wasn't clear how many of the latter were day admissions and how many were full members.)

The con's location, at the edge of the French Quarter, was a big plus. New Orleans restaurants are justly famous, and I estimate that the average weight gain per fan was about 4.7 pounds over the duration of the convention. Bourbon Street became an overflow con suite, and you could always count on finding fans enjoying the beignets at Cafe du Monde — especially at 3 in the morning.

Chicago won the 1991 site-selection voting, and in this issue we give excerpts from their Progress Report 0. ConFiction (the 1990 Worldcon) presented a written report to the WSFS business meeting printed in its entirety on page 4.

We also have the Hugo results and a report on the WSFS Business Meeting.

The Noreascon 3 Hucksters' Room informational letter, which appears on page 14, has been sent to all those who requested information and was distributed to the dealers at Nolacon. We have already received a tremendous response, so if you intend to apply for a table, we urge you to do so soon.

Because of the timeliness of the Nolacon news, we have deferred until the next issue Jim Hudson's analysis of the Noreascon 3 questionnaire results. We also expect to have an article by George Flynn analyzing Hugo voting figures.

— LT

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1988 Hugo Awards

Best Novel: *The Uplift War*, David Brin
Best Novella: "Eye for Eye," Orson Scott Card
Best Novelette: "Buffalo Gals Won't You Come Out Tonight," Ursula K. Le Guin
Best Short Story: "Why I Left Harry's All-Night Hamburgers," Lawrence Watt-Evans
Best Non-Fiction: *Worlds of Wonder*, Michael Whelan
Best Other Form: *Watchmen*, Alan Moore and David Gibbons, DC comics and Warner Books
Best Dramatic Presentation: *The Princess Bride*, produced by Rob Reiner and 20th Century-Fox
Best Professional Editor: Gardner Dozois
Best Professional Artist: Michael Whelan
Best Semi-Prozine: *Locus*, Charles N. Brown, editor
Best Fanzine: *Texas SF Inquirer*, Pat Mueller, editor
Best Fan Artist: Brad Foster
Best Fan Writer: Mike Glyer

Other awards announced at the Hugo presentation included:

Special Award: SF Oral History Association
John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer: Judith Moffitt
The First Fandom Hall of Fame Award: Lloyd Arthur Eshbach, David Kyle, Charles Hornig, Neal R. Jones (posthumous)
Big Heart Award: Andre Norton

Sei-Un Awards:

Best Foreign Novel Translated to Japanese in 1987:
Norstrilia, by Cordwainer Smith (posthumous)
Best Foreign Short Story Translated to Japanese in 1987:
 "The Only Neat Thing to Do," by James Tiptree, Jr. (posthumous)

WSFS Business Meeting Report

Notes by: Leslie Turek

At the preliminary Business Meeting on Friday morning, the first order of business was the passage of a motion introduced by Robert Sacks and others to censure Conspiracy for their conduct of the 1990 site-selection voting. The text of the motion after minor amendment was:

Whereas Conspiracy '87 did not conduct the site selection for the 1990 Worldcon in a manner consistent with the Constitution in that the mail ballot option was not universally available to voters outside of Britain,

Resolved: That they be censured.

Robert Sacks then suggested that the business meeting establish a committee to look into ways of preventing this from happening again. Presiding Officer Bruce Pelz appointed Mr. Sacks a committee of one to do so.

The presiding officer then called for financial reports of the existing and recently past Worldcon committees, as provided for in the WSFS Constitution. ConFiction and Noreascon 3 presented reports at this session; the rest were deferred until the next day.

The meeting then set debate limits for the motions passed on from Conspiracy, which would be voted on during the Saturday morning session.

Donald Eastlake presented a report of the WSFS Mark Registration and Protection Committee. The committee is in the process of pursuing registration in the United Kingdom. "World Science Fiction Convention" has been registered in the Benelux countries. Contributions to the committee have been received from Nolacon II, ConFiction, and ConFederation. (ConFederation's contribution was over and above the traditional amount of \$1 per site-selection voter.)

The committee proposed three motions. The first, an amendment to the WSFS Constitution, would define when newly elected members take their seats on the committee. The second, an amendment to the Standing Rules, specified election procedures. The procedures were quite complicated because of the Constitutional requirement relating to the maximum number of members that can be elected from each North American zone, so there was much discussion. Both motions were accepted to be voted on the following day, and the podium staff announced their intention to propose a simplified version of the Standing Rule. Finally, the committee proposed a resolution to request each Worldcon to publish the notice that we aren't related to "World SF, the International Association of Science Fiction Professionals." This resolution was passed.

Donald Eastlake also presented a report of the Special Committee to Codify Business Meeting Resolutions. The committee had produced a preliminary report last year, and had expanded its report to include additional business meetings. Scott Dennis moved that resolution BM-78-01 be stricken from the record before accepting the report. This was a resolution made in 1978 (at IguanaCon) which put the business meeting on record as favoring incorporation of the World Science Fiction Society. Since many attendees had not yet had time to read the report, the motion was deferred until the next day's session. The committee was continued for another year.

The chair then called for nominations for positions on the Mark Registration and Protection Committee. Ben Yalow, Jim Gilpatrick, Scott Dennis, Donald Eastlake, Rick Katze, and Kees van Toorn were nominated.

The meeting then took up the new amendments to the WSFS Constitution that were being proposed for the first time at Nolacon. The function of the preliminary business meeting session was to perfect the wording and to set time limits for debate: as with business passed on from Conspiracy, the actual voting would be at the Saturday morning session.

The first motion, proposed by Donald Eastlake and seconded by Rick Katze, was a housekeeping motion to regularize the definition of WSFS membership.

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

(1) substitute the following for Article I, Section 4:

The Membership of WSFS shall consist of all persons for whom timely payment of membership dues has been made to any Worldcon. Membership under this section may be resigned. Only natural persons who hold attending memberships in the current Worldcon have the right to attend or vote at the Business Meeting at said Worldcon.

(2) substitute "member of the administering Worldcon" and "members of the administering Worldcon" for "WSFS member" and "WSFS members" in Articles II and III.

The next motion was a motion to separate the NASFiC from the WSFS Constitution.

The remaining four motions all concerned site-selection rotation. The procedure used was for the preliminary business meeting to select one of the four motions by a process of successive amendment, and then to vote on the surviving motion at the Saturday morning business meeting. The four proposals were as follows:

1. No Double Skipping of Regions, moved by Bill Trojan and seconded by Kij Johnson.

Move to add the following to Article III, Section 6. Sentence 1:

unless the North American region which would be skipped was skipped in its last turn in the rotation.

2. World-Wide Four-Zone Rotation Plan, moved by Erwin S. Strauss and seconded by Lloyd Penney.

The text of this motion was long, but this is the plan that has been previously discussed in *The Mad 3 Party*, to divide the world into four regions, one of which would be Europe, and to rotate through these four fixed regions.

3. Modified Four-Zone Rotation Plan.

The text of this motion was not distributed, but it was presented as an alternate form of motion 2. In motion 2, the entire world was assigned to one of the four zones. In this modified plan, Europe would become a fourth zone, but the rest of the world outside North America could still bid in any year.

4. Equitable Displacement Plan.

This plan provided that, starting in 1995, every 4 years the North American zone would be pre-empted for a non-North American zone, but that would be the only time non-North American sites could bid.

After much parliamentary discussion, and some discussion of the merits of each plan, proposal #1 was selected to go on to the next day's session. One of the interesting arguments in favor of #1 was that it was not as limiting for non-North American bids as the other proposals. Although the other proposals guaranteed non-North American (or European) bids a Worldcon every fourth year, it also limited them to a maximum of one every four years. Under the Trojan proposal, non-North American sites could, in theory, be selected as frequently as 50% of the time. There was an attempt to amend proposal 1 to provide that non-North American sites would be excluded only if the NA region they were bidding against had been skipped *twice*, but that amendment was defeated.

That closed the business of the preliminary session of the WSFS business meeting.

On Saturday, the chair once again requested representatives of Worldcon committees to submit financial reports. Nolacon II and Conspiracy produced brief reports at this time. Jim Gilpatrick, as a member of the ConFederation committee, pointed out that the ConFederation financial report had been distributed and published in *The Mad 3 Party*, but he didn't have a copy of it on hand. Your editor could not resist digging out a copy of issue #25 and presenting it to the chair.

None of the financial reports were made available to the business meeting attendees, although the chair noted that the Conspiracy report showed a deficit of about 5000 pounds as of August 20. (Kees van Toorn did give me a copy of the ConFiction report, and I will try to include a summary of it in the next issue.)

All the items passed on from Conspiracy were ratified. This included

- a motion defining the business meeting quorum,
- a motion requesting existing Worldcon committees to send representatives to answer questions at the business meeting ("Question Time"),
- a motion to extend the right to make Hugo nominations (but not final voting) to members of the previous Worldcon,
- a motion to clarify some of the details of the NASFiC selection process, and
- a motion to ensure the availability of supporting memberships at a limited price increase over the basic voting fee.

All of these are now officially a part of the WSFS Constitution.

Next, the assembly took up the motion made Friday, to rescind the 1978 resolution that called for the incorporation of WSFS. Interestingly enough, the vote was a perfect tie, and chair Bruce Pelz cast the deciding vote in favor of retaining the resolution.

Ballots for the election of new members to the Mark Registration and Protection Committee were distributed and collected. [It was later announced that Kees van Toorn, Scott Dennis, and Donald Eastlake were elected. Kees is the first non-North American resident elected to the committee. Since Don and Scott had already been on the committee as appointed representatives of Noreascon 3 and Nolacon 2, respectively, those conventions now have the opportunity to appoint a new representative. Noreascon 3 has appointed Ben Yalow.]

The motion defining WSFS membership, as shown above, was passed. Since this was its first passage, it will need to be ratified at Noreascon 3 before it will go into effect.

The motion to separate NASFiC from the WSFS Constitution failed, 57-29.

The new site-selection proposal ("no double skipping of NA regions") passed, 46-40. It will now go up for ratification at Noreascon 3.

The two motions presented by the Mark Registration and Protection Committee, defining the term of office and election procedures (the latter as simplified by Bruce Pelz), both passed.

Robert Sacks presented the report of the "Ad Hoc Committee on Solving the Problem," which had been ap-

pointed on Friday. He suggested that the Business Meeting endorse the proposal for a Worldcon Runners' Guide, "as discussed in *The Mad 3 Party*." The motion was passed.

The next order of business was Question Time, followed by the 1992 bidders' presentations. ConFiction had a written handout as their contribution to Question Time; it is reproduced in full on page 4. In addition, Kees van Toorn and Mark Olson were present to answer questions concerning ConFiction and Noreascon 3. For the '92 bidders' presentation, the Discon III bid was represented by Kent Bloom and Peggy Rae Pavlat, and the Orlando bid was represented by Becky Thompson and Joe Siclari.

Since all business was completed by the end of the Saturday meeting, the Sunday meeting was a pro forma one to announce the results of the site-selection voting. Chicon V was selected as the 1991 Worldcon, and representatives from Chicon V passed out copies of their Progress Report 0 (see page 5).

The Mark Registration and Protection Committee met after the business meeting. Bob Hillis was elected Chairman, Donald Eastlake was elected Secretary, and Scott Dennis continued as Treasurer. The committee affirmed that the priority for obtaining and retaining marks would be US, UK, Canada, and Australia, in that order, as funds and energies permit.

ConFiction Report to the WSFS

Conspiracy

Despite what the Constitution of the WSFS states, it took us till late November last year to collect all the checks due to us from the treasurer of Conspiracy. This led to some chaos, but we have been able to sort things out. All voters — either by mail or in person — have now been registered and processed.

We also mailed out the conversion letter in three languages to all presupposing members and voters on time. In mid December, Progress Report One appeared which was mailed in the USA with the kind help of NESFA [actually MCFI]. On request of the Business Meeting last year, we not only extended the period where we would honour late votes cast by mail, but we also extended the conversion period until January 31st, 1988.

Hotel Business

In order to offer optimal services to the North American and Canadian visitors we had associated ourselves for the American and Canadian market with an US travel agent. This was Ask Mr. Foster/Group Events in Stamford, Conn. However, due to unforeseen circumstances this branch had to close down. It forced us in an early stage to look for a new and reliable travel agent. This agent will handle air and ground transportation as well as hotel registration for our members. This agent is Holland Approach, run by a Dutchman with an office in New Jersey. A special toll-free number will be made available next year. Also, we have negotiated special fares for air and hotel accommodation with him. Although it is not necessary to book with him, we strongly advise members to do so as this can mean substantial savings.

For the rest of the world we have associated ourselves with Convention Travel International.

At this stage we have block-booked 2,400 rooms in the Hague and vicinity. Prices range from as low as 35 to 350 guilders per night. [Conversion factor is roughly 2 guilders = 1 dollar.]

Congress Building

We have rented the entire building without the large exhibition hall. This is a separate hall with its own entrance. We have an option on the hall and may decide to rent if we outgrow space in the current function rooms which are designated to be used for the art show and dealers room.

We would like to concentrate all events — including the larger parties — in the Congress building. This is because we use a number of hotels and as we have the building to ourselves it would be foolish not to utilize this. We have negotiated very fair prices on food and beverages. For parties we will make space available and we have negotiated extremely good prices for larger quantities of beverages. We want to control this and offer the same prices to bidding parties and other groups who wish to throw parties. We do need to know in advance. We should also warn that there will be a substantial corkage charged if people decide not to use the offer we will make — but with the prices offered, which are in some cases lower than paid in supermarkets, we can not imagine people wishing to do that.

Art Show and Dealers Room

In a recent issue of *File 770*, Mr. N. Taylor Blanchard writes about his experience with both Confederation and Conspiracy. We are aware of these facts and are currently negotiating with the Customs Department, the Tax Department, and the Department of Justice on the art show, the dealers room, and the masquerade. It is our firm intention to make all possible information available to artists, dealers, and participants in the masquerade, and we will offer assistance in filling out the paperwork in advance and helping with the tax forms (if needed). At this stage, we know VAT is only to be paid on paintings if sold — if you have filled out all the paperwork in advance. We are negotiating with the Customs and Tax Department on a toll-free zone in the Congress building which would mean no tax would apply unless items have been sold.

Membership

As of August 1st we had 3 baby admissions, 10 child admissions, 674 supporting members, and 1291 attending members.

Financial Statement

This information is available for inspection for the fiscal year 1987. Dutch law forces us to file our books and financial figures at the end of the fiscal year, which is December 31st to close the books and March 31st to fill out all the forms. The Stichting Worldcon 1990 has an external accountant, not associated with the Worldcon or the science fiction scene, who will audit our books.

Final Statement

Science Fiction Fandom in general has to face the burden of a rather odd paradox. On one hand, fans like to have a perfectly-run Worldcon, on the other hand, the overall body of the business meeting has little or no power

to act if an organizing committee heads towards disaster. We are aware that there are traditions — such as the traditional donation of \$1 for every vote cast in the site selection. After the problems we faced collecting the voting money, we were reluctant to make this donation. We did in the end hand a check of \$1375 to the treasurer of the Mark Registration and Protection Committee. Still, we are not happy about it. We think it is high time fans on an international level begin to think about how to prevent an administrative and organisational chaos like at some previous Worldcons — and we are not talking about Brighton alone! — from happening again. This can only be achieved if international fans cooperate and if help is offered as well as asked by all parties.

Changing the bidding and site-selection rotation systems do not solve the problem — in our view they make it more complicated. And let's face it, the fact that non-North American Worldcons are happening more often does not mean that this is a trend. Berlin in 1994 folded before it became a reality. So will other NNA-conventions when they are left in the dark and have to re-invent the wheel. Help is needed. Guidance is needed. Good examples of the kind of help we mean is the offer of members of the floating Worldcon committee to assist us in the Hague, the handling and mailing of our Progress Report One by NESFA, and not to forget the input by fans with knowledge on a great many fields. It is our belief that this should be stimulated to a greater extent. We urge the members of WSFS present here to consider the publication of a simple guide with guidelines and suggestions for future Worldcons that can be used as the bare bones of a blue book. If this can be achieved then the paradox of the demand for a perfectly-run Worldcon by amateurs may be eliminated in the future.

Chicon V Progress Report 0 (Excerpts)

Chicon V

August 29 – September 2, 1991
The Hyatt Regency Chicago

Guests of Honor

Author: Hal Clement
Artist: Richard Powers
Editor: Martin Harry Greenberg
Fan: Jon and Joni Stopa
Marta Randall, Toastmaster

For Information: P.O. Box A3120, Chicago, Illinois 60690
Registration: P.O. Box 218121, Upper Arlington, Ohio 43221

Committee

Chairbeing: Kathleen Meyer
Directors: Marie Bartlett-Sloan, Bob Beese,
Mike Jencevice, Ross Pavlac, Larry Smith,
Dick Spelman, Leonard Wenshe, Debra Wright
Secretary: Sally Kobe
Treasurer: Allan Batton
Counsel: Katherine Fitzsimmons

Membership Information

If you:

Presupported at \$20 and voted, you are an attending member, and will receive a \$5 rebate.

Presupported at \$20 but didn't vote, you are not a member, but an attending membership will only cost you \$30 [until 12/31].

Didn't presupport but voted, you are a supporting member. Your conversion to attending membership will cost \$20 [until 12/31].

Didn't presupport and didn't vote, you ain't a member. Attending membership is \$50 through 31 December 1988, and \$75 for all of calendar '89.

Supporting Memberships are available for \$20 until 12/31, but will be higher later.

[In answer to audience questions at a Nolacon presentation, Kathleen Meyer stated that presupporters who paid less than \$20 would not receive discounted membership rates. She also said that the Chicon committee had not yet established a price or policy for children's memberships. — LT]

Publications Information

PR1 will be a standard glossy one. Copy deadline for camera-ready ads is 1 Feb. 1989, with an April publication date. Ad rates are:

	Fan	Pro
Full Page:	\$80	\$250
1/2 Page:	\$60	\$175
1/4 Page:	\$40	\$125

Art Show

The art show will be run by Elizabeth Pearse and THE TEAM, EH? Information and mailing list membership can be had by writing THE TEAM, EH? c/o Elizabeth Pearse, 218 All Saints Crescent, Oakville, Ontario L6J 5M9, Canada.

Dealer's Room

The dealer's room will have about 230 tables and around 10 booths. More information is available from Steve Francis, 5503 Matterhorn Dr., Louisville, KY 40216. Deposits for both tables and booths will be accepted beginning 1 October 1989.

Extravaganzas Division Meeting

Date: May 9, 1988
Notes by: Pam Fremon

[These minutes have been excerpted for M3P]

New People: Since we had at the meeting four new people, Jill Eastlake led a round of introductions. Scott Robinson and Sally Martin will be working with Technical. They are experienced in creating slide shows. Richard Hill is a long-time costumer and has directed masquerades. Steve Carter, also a costumer, was the founder of the New England Costumers' Guild. Jill said she and Suford Lewis had recently joined the Guild and attended a meeting.

The Hynes: Jill mentioned that a number of people have recently been into the Hynes. This division's main concern will be the auditorium and adjacent rooms that

can be used for dressing rooms, etc.

Don Eastlake said he had been told that the auditorium stage will be modular with a maximum size of 40' x 60'. Since the stage won't be fixed, the Hynes says the Stagehands union will not be involved. The Hynes doesn't own risers, so we'll have to acquire material to make a runway. The sightlines in the auditorium are excellent. We can use Room 200 and the service area beside it that connects into the auditorium, and also the hallway outside 200. What is shown in the brochure as a "dressing room" is far too small to be used as the sole dressing area for the Masquerade. We may want to put drapes around the end of that corridor and the escalators to block off the area.

Scott, who had been to the Hynes, said the projection booth has been put in and looks good. Don says the Hynes has said the booth will be fully equipped and we will be allowed to use anything in there, though the Hynes may want one of their people present in the booth. Don has received conflicting answers from the Hynes as to whether a screen will be built in. We guess that the lighting panel will be in the booth.

Club Degler: Georgine Symes played a demo videotape that she and Mike Symes had put together. The tape was about 20 minutes long; we watched about 10-12 minutes of it and scanned through the rest. It consisted of a variety of material, including animation and graphics, mood pieces and humor, and different kinds and intensities of music. Some types of music will be more conducive to dancing than others. Some people felt there should be a number of chairs for people who'd rather watch the show on the monitors than dance. The item of *Degler* will be brought up at an MCFI meeting in the future.

Slides: Ellen Franklin said we're planning on heavy use of slides for the Hugo ceremony and the Opening and Closing ceremonies. For example, the Closing ceremony will probably have random slides going as people come in. When the ceremony begins, there will be a more focused show that is synchronized to music.

Scott recommended that a preliminary script be written for a guessed number of slides. The type of music chosen will determine how many slides can be used. His experience suggests that about 10% of the slides shot will ultimately be used. A good pro might have a slightly higher proportion.

This led into a discussion of Jim Hudson's Hugo Ceremony plan. Each Hugo nominee would have a slide. The actual "slide show" portion of the ceremony, an item separate from the presentation of the awards, would run 10-15 minutes. Scott and Sally said they'd done slide shows in this time range, and it seems to work well. We should start looking for "historical" slides now.

We also touched again on having readings as part of the ceremony. While we didn't discuss live vs. taped readings, the consensus was that the readings would be done for only a few of the categories, and perhaps only for the *Best Novel*. We need still to iron out when in the program the readings would come — one right after the other, or interspersed with the awards.

The Masquerade: We agreed that check-in and info should run through Sunday afternoon. [We're still planning to hold the Masquerade on Sunday evening.] Richard said requiring advance registration has become accepted by costumers, and works well. We should apply it with judg-

ment, however, and not be completely rigid if the situation warrants an exception.

Paula Lieberman likes the idea of a printed program listing the tech credits for each costume so the emcee doesn't have to read this. Richard said a printed program was done at ConFederation, and saved about 90 minutes of announcement time.

Chip suggested we separate the tech rehearsal from the measured space rehearsal. It'll save us time, and the two rehearsals serve different needs, anyway. Richard agreed, adding that *seeing* the stage space is so important to costumers that they would visit the stage at 3 am to walk their space, if no other time were available.

We basically like the idea of "staging," in which costumers need only report to the prestaging area in batches of about 10 only 15 minutes before scheduled to go on. We will allow costumers to come earlier if they wish to. We discussed the arrangement of chairs in the prestaging room, since costumers often can't sit down in tight rows of chairs. We nixed the idea of suggesting the costumers watch the entrants before them from the balcony, since we have no easy way of getting them up there and back.

There was lengthy discussion on judging, and a consensus still has not been reached.

Richard suggested we start putting info on our Masquerade in *CostumApa*. Jill added that we might want to do a costumers' newsletter later if it seemed necessary.

Richard thinks a video link would be great. We agreed, but don't know yet if we can afford it. He said that whether we mention video or not, we should expect to be contacted by 5 or so people he knows of who will want to get space rights to set up their own video equipment. If we can get them working together, we should be able to create a single feed for duping. He added that these people have produced good quality videotapes, and can work with the available lighting.

We discussed separating the stage manager position into two separate jobs: a stage manager for the things going on backstage, and a production stage manager, for the things happening onstage. We will probably do this.

Excerpts from APA:89

July 31, 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 Report (by Sharon Sbarsky)

	Tot.	Att.	Supp.	Child
Jan 88	2479	2213	222	44
Mar 88	2540	2270	224	46
Apr 88	2572	2307	218	47
Jun 88	2608	2340	221	47
Jul 88	2748	2469	227	52

US members that need PR 1 & 4: 40
(95 needed for bulk mailing)

Huckster Table Fees (by Ben Yalow)

In this issue, I'd like to add yet another opinion into the discussion of huckster room pricing. As a meta-comment, I'd also like to indicate that I suspect this is one of those religious discussions where each person has his own model of what the "right" way to analyze the situation is, and that may make it harder to reach consensus.

Leslie and Mark have already presented a fairly good basis on which to estimate average cost. [These analyses did not appear in *M3P*.] Of course, as Mark pointed out, most of the costs are fixed costs (space rental, cleaning, etc.), so that the marginal cost (cost to add one more table) is substantially smaller than the fully allocated costs (marginal cost plus fixed costs for the activity, including "correct" share of overhead). In fact, this means that the problem of deciding fully allocated cost is dominated by the problem of allocating fixed costs. The allocation of fixed costs is right now the largest unsolved problem faced by business accountants worldwide — nobody has any answers. I'm not even going to try, except to say that Mark's numbers are probably good to within 50% (i.e., I'll believe numbers in the \$65–225 range by playing with the costs, and who gets charged for what.)

In the end, however, I think the whole exercise is mostly meaningless. We need to charge at least our marginal cost — otherwise we lose money for every table we add. However, beyond that, we should charge the amount that maximizes the benefit to N3. The benefit comes in several forms, only one of which is cash. The others include happy attendees and happy hucksters. The money part is easy to maximize — it is certainly no less than the most that still fills the tables, and could be even more (if we double the prices, and 10% of the tables are empty, we've made more money). However, this hurts N3 in other areas. High prices would drive out hucksters selling things we want to see sold, like a variety of cheap used books, and would leave us with a room full of only high-margin items (buttons, movie posters, cheap jewelry, etc.). Furthermore, both the attendees and the hucksters would view this as a ripoff by the N3 monopoly — and they would be right.

To maximize goodwill, we can't be analyzing this from a pure money method. Especially when the money numbers are so unclear on costs, I would suggest that we look at the problem mostly from a goodwill viewpoint, and see what would seem to be a "fair" price.

The currently established standard for US Worldcons is a rate of \$100 for the first table. However, as most people will recognize, our costs are higher, since we're using a convention center rather than a hotel. Therefore, we need to charge a bit more, and that would still be fair. Furthermore, something like \$120 or so would still be low enough so that we can have the variety of hucksters that will give the attendees a room they can find what they want. Following tradition, we would then charge increasing amounts for later tables, giving rates like \$140/2nd table, \$170/3rd, and maybe \$200–225 for a 4th, unless we stick to a 3-table limit. If we further want to encourage things like cheap used books, we could give a discount of 20% or so for things we want to encourage.

I think rates like this would be viewed as fair, and give us the variety and quality we want to see in the room to make things best for the attendees. It's also the right

ballpark for our "cost" to the extent that's meaningful.

[Note: See MCFI meeting of August 10, and the *Hucksters' Room information on page 14*, for the final decision on *Hucksters' Room fees*.]

Hynes Rental and Facilities Information

(by Donald Eastlake)

On Friday, 15 July, I met with our Hynes Marketing contact. We settled on the space rental charges. They have sent us their standard contract with the blanks filled in and now we get to start negotiating contract terms. These rental charges are described below. The only non-rental charge that came up was a \$1,500 fee for setting up their stage. However, this is not too bad considering that the cost of the Auditorium went down from our initial expectations by more than \$1,500.

Starting with the Plaza Level and working up, the other group which has Hall A and wants Hall B is the International Society of Optical Engineers. They want to be open Wednesday, 6 September, which means setting up on the 5th, the day we expect to be tearing down after being open through Monday, the 4th. I did not try to get Hall B into our contract, but we are pencilled in so that if someone tries to rent Hall B during our show dates, we will be notified and should have a few days to decide if we are willing to add it to our contract and pay for it. It is considered unlikely that anyone will want it, given that we are taking most of the hotel rooms in the vicinity, and that it is not a particularly convenient Hall if it's all you have in the Hynes. (It is convenient for us due to the west escalators connecting it with Hall D, etc.)

A surprise on the Plaza Level was that the Hynes has found that there are problems in using the current "Registration" area when multiple groups are registering. Even though it is a big area, it tends to get congested. Thus, building management has directed marketing not to contract for that area as a registration area. In its present state, our contract lists the Hall C Pre-Function area as our registration area. This would be possible, I guess, but strikes me as pretty messy. It was indicated that if we really want registration in their main entry hall, we should probably, especially if nothing else is going on in the Hynes, be able to negotiate this with building management.

On the Second Level, we are getting the Exhibit rate of 85 cents per net square foot for the Hucksters Room, Hall D, and 70 cents per net square foot for Hall C. This is a good deal as (1) their current rate for Non-Exhibit space is 75 cents and (2) these are rates for 4 days, but we are actually getting the space for 5 days. The contract lists the minimum guarantee areas for these halls, 14,000 sq. ft. for Hall D and 13,000 sq. ft. for Hall C, giving contract minimums of \$11,900 and \$9,100, respectively. This represents a net sq. ft. of about 36% of gross. We should probably assume that the final charges will be based on a net of more like 60% in the Hucksters Room (Hall D) and 50% in Hall C, which would give final charges of \$19,380 for Hall D and \$12,600 for Hall C. Renting Halls C&D would get us at least rooms 201–210 for free, and since we are also taking the Auditorium, we are getting 200–210 "free."

The Auditorium price for our convention ended up at a flat fee of \$10,000. This was arrived at more or less by taking the minimum sq. ft. guarantee for the Auditorium

treated as an Exhibit Hall, multiplying by the appropriate rate, and rounding down.

On the Third Level, based on the assumption that we will have at least one big food function in the Ballroom, we are getting it free for the convention. On the other hand, we end up paying for the function rooms on the Third Level. (I had previously been assuming we would pay for the Ballroom and get the function rooms free.) The function room charge was arrived at by taking the Full Day Convention rate for rooms 301-313, which is \$2,950, multiplying by two for five days (interesting arithmetic, eh?) giving \$5,900, throwing in Suite 300, and rounding up to a \$6,000 flat fee.

All the function rooms include one set-up (except Suite 300, which is supposed to be permanently set with plush furniture) and daily refresh. The fee for the Auditorium includes one set-up with chairs and the use of all installed A/V equipment and use of the stage (although as mentioned above, there is a \$1,500 fee for setting up the stage).

Overall, this saves us \$13,555!

We have decided to go with Freeman as our Decorator/Service Contractor (see below).

At the June 29th meeting of the Facilities Division, we went over all our sleeping room commitments and found that we have about 3,800 rooms while a more reasonable estimate of our requirements is 2,800. We decided to cancel the Hyatt Regency and Howard Johnson's in Cambridge and the Inn at Children's; however, Mark has vetoed the last of these pending getting room rates. So we have gone ahead and cancelled the Hyatt and the Cambridge HoJo's but will wait until August, when we get rates for all the hotels, to do the final cut.

We have the 1988 rates for ARA catering services in the Hynes. It looks like they will be pretty strict about the provisions in their contract with the Hynes whereby they are the exclusive providers of food and drink in the building. They probably don't have any authority to waive this, as I think a good fraction of the money you pay them goes to the Convention Center Authority, which views the arrangement as a significant source of revenue. (I believe that at the old Hynes, 30% of the gross income at the concessions went to the Auditorium Commission.)

For example, when we brought up the subject of possible kitchen facilities associated with Suite 300 and asked about being able to prepare our own stuff for our staff only, ARA's initial response was that we could probably prepare it ourselves but would have to obtain all supplies through them.

Decorator Selection (by Donald Eastlake)

We have two real candidates for Decorator: Freeman and Champion. The Decorator will be used as the source of tables, 8' drapes, chairs, bulletin boards, etc., for the Hynes and also to supplement the Sheraton's supplies. We will probably have less decorator requirements than we did in 1980 because the Hynes will be supplying chairs, head tables, etc., for the Auditorium and function rooms.

The dominant Decorator cost is the cost of draped tables for the Hucksters Room. This was just about 50% of the Decorator cost in 1980. I have compiled a table showing estimated uses of the most important items based on our actual 1980 rate, and the quotes we have re-

ceived from Freeman and Champion. The Freeman quote was fancier and more complete. The Champion quote was not packaged as well and not as complete, so we solicited a supplemental proposal covering more items. We have not yet received this supplemental quote, but I got the numbers from them verbally.

Both quotes include various stuff "free." This is presumably a big attraction for the usual convention where exhibitor costs are borne by the exhibitors and this "free" stuff for convention management ends up effectively transferring costs from convention management to exhibitors. We are mostly just interested in the overall cost. Both quotes include 1,000 pounds of free freight, 100 feet of free 8' drape from Freeman or 200 free feet from Champion, 2 free registration counters from Freeman (+ \$50 for additional) versus all free registration counters from Champion, 50% off regular advance furniture rates for both, some free signs, etc. Champion is a bit better on these freebies but it seems like they will only amount to a few \$100. In coming up with the estimated quantities in the table below, I deducted a bit to take into account this free allowance.

In the comparison table, freight is in pounds. I believe the Champion rate claims to be firm. The Freeman rate through March 31, 1989, when their union contract is up for negotiation, is \$31.75 per hundredweight shipped to their warehouse in advance or \$29.25 per hundredweight shipped to the hall. They are willing to give convention management 50% off so I rounded up from half their advance rate. The rate for drapes is per lineal foot. Champion has also quoted \$3.25 for 14' drape. I suspect Freeman would be in line with that. For the booth rate, I combined in the cost of carpeting, though both quotes are for an uncarpeted booth. The carpet rate is per square foot, although I believe it applies to 9' wide strips in both cases. The carpet rate would drop if we used a lot of carpet (like carpeting an entire exhibit hall).

I have not given either bidder's rates to the other. Champion has indicated a willingness to negotiate. Our basic choice is between going with Freeman, the obvious choice, or deciding that Champion's special relationship with the Hynes is worth trying to negotiate them down the 30% they are currently above Freeman, and hoping that, if we succeed in getting them down, they will still give good service at the lower rates.

1980 Usage and Costs

	<i>Est.qty.</i>	<i>Each</i>	<i>Total</i>
Draped 8' tables	350	\$15.00	\$5250
Chairs	1000	\$1.00	\$1000
Freight	5000	\$0.19	\$950
8' drapes	800	\$1.00	\$800
3' drapes	600	\$0.60	\$360
Bulletin boards	35	\$15.00	\$525
10x10 carp. booths	10	\$37.50	\$375
Carpet	1000	\$0.28	\$280
Total			\$9540

Champion Quote

	<i>Est.qty.</i>	<i>Each</i>	<i>Total</i>
Draped 8' tables	350	\$21.00	\$7350
Chairs	1000	\$1.00	\$1000
Freight	5000	\$0.27	\$1350
8' drapes	800	\$1.25	\$1000

3' drapes	600	\$0.75	\$450
Bulletin boards	35	\$29.00	\$1015
10x10 carp. booths	10	\$38.00	\$380
Carpet	1000	\$0.28	\$280
Total			\$12,825

Freeman Quote

	<i>Est. qty.</i>	<i>Each</i>	<i>Total</i>
Draped 8' tables	350	\$15.00	\$5250
Chairs	1000	\$1.00	\$1000
Freight	5000	\$0.16	\$800
8' drapes	800	\$1.00	\$800
3' drapes	600	\$0.75	\$450
Bulletin boards	35	\$20.00	\$700
10x10 carp. booths	10	\$39.50	\$395
Carpet	1000	\$0.30	\$300
Total			\$9695

Based on the above, I recommend we go with Freeman unless something strange comes up.

PS: Since the quantities given above are adjusted down to reflect freebies, the effective 1980 rates were higher than shown here. In fact, for the same total usage, Freeman's current rates are, on the average, lower than Exhibit Aids was in 1980!

Program Book Contents (by Greg Thokar)

This apa contribution will present some initial thoughts on the contents of Noreascon 3's program book. I hope to generate some discussion as to what we'd like to see in it.

I'd like to do two write-ups on each guest: one by the guest, one tribute. I'd like input on who to have do the tributes.

Below is a list of things to include in the PB. Those that are tentative are indicated with a question mark (?). I am particularly looking for input on these areas. Please add any other topics you think appropriate.

- Guest writeups (Norton, Ballantines, Stranger Club)
- Norton Bibliography (Kurt Baty and Mark Owings have agreed to do this)
- 50 years of Worldcons article (need an author for this)
- WSFS stuff: Constitution, motions, Hugo nominees, Past Hugo winners, Worldcon info
- In Memoriam
- Committee list
- Division (Events) write-ups?
- Treasurer's report?
- For N2, we had Hotel and Hynes contracts
- Membership list (small type) and membership maps
- Write-ups on special interest groups
- Chairman's welcome to N3?
- Weapons policy
- VIP photos and bios
- Maps of Boston, Hynes, Sheraton, other venues?
- Noreascon One and Noreascon Two retrospectives

Film Program (by Jim Hudson)

So far, we've talked about films being a two-track show in either Sheraton ballrooms or Hynes ballrooms. I've got a variation which I like a lot better: use the Hynes Ballroom A/B/C as a *three-track* film theater.

Here are the advantages.

1. We have a single AV room connecting all three projection areas, separated from the audience, connected to the Ballroom sound systems. Operation and security would both be much easier than any other available layout.
2. We can turn off any of the rooms easily for theater-style programming, if programming needs a room of that capacity for a while. This would be especially good for big-draw slide shows, for example.
3. All films would be in one place, with similar chair layouts in each (e.g., one entry at the rear, feeding into two central and two outside aisles). This makes life easy for our members.
4. The rooms are nice for films, and would be used in their natural direction; the general feel would be plush.
5. We're close to program, which is where films should be.
6. Sound insulation seems good between ballroom rooms, based on a conference I went to there.

The disadvantages are:

1. We have to program three tracks, though some of this could be done by extra showings, particularly of the Hugo nominees and other big draws.
2. We need extra equipment — at least an extra screen and some extra projectors. Of course, if the sound system is good, we might save some money there. We'll need to check that.
3. Our largest film room would be smaller, with about 1000 capacity rather than 1600 in the Sheraton or using two Ballroom rooms. Total film capacity stays at about 2200, since the Ballroom will give us one room at 1000 and two at about 600. Of course, it may also be possible to use the Auditorium with capacity of roughly 4500 for special showings.
4. We won't be able to use the ballroom for receptions, banquets, etc., without interrupting the film program and significant resetting hassle.

Art Show Update (by Dave and Claire Anderson)

Since we've heard and thought of many more reasons against than for the Showcase proposal, it's dead.

In addition to the judged and voted awards, we expect to have some awards given by special individuals or groups (e.g., any of the Guests of Honor who want to, the Chairman, the Art Show staff, etc.).

We got a phone call from David Cherry (the current ASFA President) in mid-July. ASFA has appointed Bob Eggleton to be its liaison with Noreascon Three, he will be a focal point for any communication with ASFA and will attend any meetings where it would be useful to have ASFA represented. David also expressed concern about the bad PR recent Worldcon Art Shows have gotten about their fees, and suggested that to combat this we publish in the ASFA bulletin an explanation of how we derive our fees. We also discussed the Print Shop; he was very pleased with the way it worked at Boskone 25 and thought that it would be a good idea for us to do one in much the same way.

At this time it seems extremely likely that the Art Show will be held in the Sheraton-Boston, with the hangings occupying the large room formed by opening the walls

between the Grand and Republic Ballrooms, sales in the Constitution Room, and the auction(s) in the Independence Room. Storage and the office will be on the Grand Ballroom stage, with the Art Show and Print Shop desk area in front of the stage. Space will be adequate for an approximately 300-panel Art Show plus a Print Shop and some space for special exhibits, but it will be fairly tight and we have some ideas for also using the Republic Foyer unless some other area has a greater need for it. Better plans of these rooms are needed before we can do a proper layout, so we will be doing some measuring soon.

If the show is sited in the Sheraton we plan to not require artists or their agents to be members of Noreascon Three and to allow them into the Art Show to hang their work before they register for the convention. One very nice feature of being in the Sheraton is that we get RUGS: anyone who was involved with the Noreascon Two Art Show will remember the problems caused by tramping around on concrete floors for six days!

We plan to offer ASFA a "special interest group" table within the Art Show but clearly separate from the Art Show desk. We are considering having artist demonstrations inside the Art Show in the Republic Foyer area (this will probably be tried at Boskone 26; we'll see how it works), but the potential for crowding may militate against this; in any case it would be coordinated with the Program division. We are also considering selling "artist tables" as was done at the Austin NASFiC; these would be tables in the Republic Foyer where the artists can sit and do sketches or whatever else they want. We plan to have a mixing area with chairs and small tables in the Republic Foyer within the Art Show; this was very well received at Boskone 25. During the reception, the comestibles would be set out here.

We intend to do something special for the Hugo nominees in the Best Professional Artist and Best Fan Artist categories; we are still considering what to do about any art-related nominees in other categories. There will be a special area within the main art show for their work, which will be highlighted on the Art Show map and will have signs directing people to it. We are considering giving the nominees their first panel free and allowing them more than the usual number of panels per artist.

Current estimates show only about 30 panels available for special exhibits, but I hope that the final layout will increase this number.

We intend to put out a mailing to our staff before Nolacon detailing our current plans and expectations for the show and asking them for recommendations both for artists from other areas of the country whom we should actively try to bring to the show and for additional staff members. We know that there are many good art show people whom we don't know.

We plan to run a Print Shop in much the same way that Boskone 25 did. The display area will be part of the main Art Show hangings, and the Print Shop desk will be in front of the Grand Ballroom stage (next to the Art Show desk). Racks for storing the additional copies of prints will be on the front of the stage for easy access and to avoid wasting floor space. Especially since this will be a much larger convention we are considering expanding the range of the number of copies of each print allowed, from 5 to 10 at Boskone to perhaps 3 to 20 at Noreascon 3.

The information we've come up with so far on previous U.S. Worldcon and 1985 NASFiC Art Show costs per panel is:

Year	Fee	Size	Comm.	Sales	Norm. Fee
1980	\$30	4'x6'	—	\$78K	\$30
1982	\$25	4'x6'?	—	?	\$25
1984	\$30	4'x6'	—	\$97K	\$30
1985	\$40	4'x6'	—	\$48K	\$40
1986	\$28	4'x4'	10%	\$125K	\$80
1987	\$32	4'x8'	10%	?	\$62

The normalized panel fee ("Norm. Fee") is the one-panel fee adjusted to a 4' x 6' panel size and, for Con- federation and Nolacon, with the addition of the 10% fee on \$125K sales divided among an assumed 300 panels and 30 tables.

Based on our current budget estimate (including a pro-rated share of the total function space cost), the break-even average panel fee for the Noreascon 3 Art Show appears to be in the range from \$45 to \$50. The fee estimate will be updated as we refine our budget and other plans for the show. We plan to have a graduated fee structure where small amounts of space cost somewhat less per panel than large amounts. Given our greater costs and the wider range of number of copies of prints we expect to allow in the Print Shop, we are considering charging perhaps \$1 per copy entered, rather than the flat \$5 per different print charged at Boskone 25.

Permission to mail art to the show for handling by the staff will be very restricted because of the severe burden entailed. In those cases where it is permitted, the artist will probably be limited to a maximum of one panel of space and will be required to pay an additional fee.

Art Show Computerization (by Gary Feldbaum)

This year's Westercon made a much more successful attempt at computerizing the art show. The primary difference between this year's moderately successful effort and last year's tragedy is that there was no attempt to computerize the bid sheets and that only one machine was used instead of a network. The control sheets and bid sheets were still filled out manually. Information had been entered for mail-in art in advance, and a clerk did data entry whenever art was checked in.

Data as to sales was entered continuously through the show. When a piece was sold through quicksale, copies of the bid sheet were immediately made, and a three-piece form was simulated by having interleaved colored paper in the feed tray. On a regular basis, these sales were entered into the computer record for that artist. The computer was physically taken into the auctions. The piece's record would be brought up when a piece was announced by the auctioneer, and the bidder name and price entered when the piece was knocked down. Data concerning pieces won by the highest bid on the bidsheet was entered Sunday night and Monday morning after bidding closed. By the time pickup started, a summary sheet listing all pieces won at auction or otherwise purchased had been printed. A clerk stood by to print corrected buyer summaries if there were errors or additional last-minute purchases after auction. This system eliminated the need for tally clerks or checking of financial calculations, and did not appear to cause any significant delays in the operation of the show.

Other Items

This edition of the apa was just under 100 pages long, and contained a number of other items that I don't have space to include here:

- Additional discussion of how to set hucksters' room fees.
- A draft hucksters' room layout.
- The Hynes catering menu.
- A draft of the masquerade information to be handed out at Nolacon. (See page 15 for the final version.)
- The current state of the complete convention budget (19 pages).
- A draft of the initial Program mailing and questionnaire for potential program participants.

Excerpts from Program Division Apa

August, 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.)

Topics Being Discussed (by Priscilla Olson)

Some specifics that we've been playing with . . .

- Superstars of science on Friday afternoon
- Can we give non-fannish types honoraria, travel expenses, whatever?
- Overlaps with the Second Floor Division — how are special interest groups, discussion groups, etc., going to fit (we're actively recruiting these groups — pre-con . . .)?
- Also — how about filking, informal workshops, storytelling and suchlike other things that might best fit in the mixing area and not really in program rooms — who arranges them, contacts people, runs the things? This is complicated (or, as Ben would say? non-trivial) and has not been solved, because people and ideas are not yet in place re. many of these issues. (Which are near and dear to my heart . . .)
- How do people feel about a "Meet-the-VIPs" event: Paula [Lieberman] wants one. Extravanzas doesn't — could it be in the Mixing Area? Where should Program fit?

Etc., etc. I hope our Nolacon meetings (social and otherwise) will help get some answers (at least, the process of answering) started; and also "socialize" us (party and society-bonding!) more. See some of you there . . . no more excuses after Nolacon. Work-work-work . . . (and death to the laggard . . .).

Would someone also please remind me why we're doing this?

Planning and Coordination (by Ben Yalow)

In this issue, I'd like to address a few issues about planning and organization. The key to avoiding problems is ensuring good communication among the team, for both the division team and the N3 team levels. The primary vehicle for this is the division apa. Unlike many of the other divisions, we aren't located primarily in Boston, and

therefore can't meet face to face. The closest we'll come is probably Nolacon, and even there we'll be missing a number of area head (department head) level staff. Our next chances will probably be Boskone (where it will be difficult to meet since a lot of people will be working) or at the spring meeting where the program is put together for the first time. (Note that for that weekend, the current plan is to spend a weekend with a wall full of grid and lots of program items on post-its, and emerge with a program. As many of the program staff as can attend are encouraged to come to Boston for the weekend and help put the mess together into a program. As we work them out, there will be more details in the apa.)

This again brings up the current state of the timetable. As of now, there will be two meetings at Nolacon. We will be putting together the mailing list for the program questionnaire, and will have it for comments at the meeting. The mailing will go out by Sept. 15. The response to that will provide input in deriving program ideas (along with anything else anyone comes up with). The first-cut program will be generated at the meeting weekend in early spring as mentioned above. In between, everybody will be working on generating program items.

One way in which N3 differs somewhat from the organizational structure used at other Worldcons is the extent of overlapping duties in the area head level staff. The extent of this varies from division to division. For example, at this time Extravanzas area head level staff are working jointly, whereas there is greater specialization in divisions such as Facilities or Nameless. However, in general, area head level staff have a broad responsibility to N3 in general, not merely to a specific assignment. Within Program, this means that those people who have primary tasks in specific areas (SF&F, fan, YA, etc.) are not isolated in their areas, but are parts of an overall team who are specializing in a particular subset. However, we must all be thinking about the bigger picture, and must avoid letting any specific person or area become isolated. Anyone with an idea for improving anything in the division should pass it on to whoever can best execute it, and whose main task it most closely resembles. In short, area heads worry about everything.

Fan Program

(by Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden)

We'd like to steal an idea from Jeanne Gomoll. At Wiscon in 1987, she arranged something called "Fanorama," two hours of live readings from classic (and mostly funny) bits of fanwriting. In spite of a largely anonymous audience and an early-Sunday slot it gradually filled a room out to the walls. I think part of what helped was precisely its unstructured nature: all Jeanne did was get a commitment from a few good readers to show up, and bring a stack of likely material to the event. Some of the readings had been previously rehearsed, some hadn't; there was no prearranged order. We essentially paced it to what the audience seemed to like. Naturally, such exercises depend on choosing the right people in the first place, and maintaining a certain level of ongoing control (as Jeanne did). Still, we think it's worth trying. It's also an improvement on having a bunch of writers (who are not necessarily talkers) awkwardly discussing Why Fanwriting Is A Good Thing. Better to simply demonstrate. *[The same idea also worked well at this year's Corflu. — George Flynn]*

To a very great extent we're both kind of bored with the Fan Program as it's evolved in recent years: too many boring old farts garrulously telling recycled anecdotes to fill space on panels about oh-so-cute Fannish Mythologies, and the like. If no one objects, what we'd most like to do is a bit of bailiwick-redefinition: that is, take our purview to be programmed discussions of the SF community *as a community*, as opposed to the SF&F track which will be devoted to the literature itself. Of course there's a large gray area in between. Fortunately, we've been introduced to Tom Whitmore of the SF&F track, and we think we can coordinate.

SF&F Program (by Tom Whitmore)

I've talked at great length with Ben Yalow, and a little bit with Priscilla, and so far my view of my charter is that I have to design 150 items, most of which are intended for the person whose first convention this is. Well, I hope to design a lot for them; they need to learn what our little society is about. I'm hoping to design things for them that go beyond the standard "five goons at a table" panel, and try to get some interaction going between them and the program participants. One way to do this is to make the smaller items more intimate: where possible, remove the table and have a round-robin discussion. Another, which I really think we should do, is to have training sessions for panel moderators. A good moderator keeps the panel flowing, brings out ideas that the audience responds to, and generally is worth more to the program item than three big names; and moderating is a trainable skill. I also hope to identify good moderators at various conventions I attend over the next few months and try to drag them in. We'll see how well that goes as we go along.

Meet The VIPs Event (by Paula Lieberman)

So far N3 doesn't have a large introductory mixing-type event scheduled (the traditional "Meet the Pros Party," which is a hideous title). It is canon that such an event hasn't worked well for at least a decade, due primarily to the size of Worldcons. Atlanta's wasn't that bad, held up in the open consuite area (the 10th floor of the Marriott Hotel, which was a mezzanine-type area surrounding the atrium core). Program participants were allocated to specific areas in the consuite. The squeeze came in trying to get from one section to another. There were various munchies and free soft drinks dispensed. The consuite got a lot of use the rest of the convention, also — having the party in the consuite provided an initial draw to it.

Last year, at Brighton, there was no official Meet-the-Pros-type event, with absolutely disastrous results. Since there was no official event, a Thursday night open party being thrown by a publisher in the consuite got turned into the Meet the Pros event. The word spread that there was a meet the pros party in the consuite; most of the several thousand people at the convention tried to go cram into the consuite. I heard that it was hot, humid, and incredibly crowded. Then the fire alarm went off . . .

Brighton demonstrates that omitting the Meet the Pros Party from the program only results in the event occurring anyway, at major costs to the committee of more trouble.

The Meet the Pros Party is a service to both ordinary attendees and visible members of the sf community. For the ordinary attendee, it is a specific place and time set aside for socializing with the rest of the convention, from rawest neo to the biggest-name writers. For the little-name pro, it is a place to show the sf community he or she is eager to talk with even the newest sf reader. For the people with big reputations harassed incessantly by autograph seekers and reporters when in the open, it's doing one's duty of being available to one's public before disappearing to business commitments, private parties, and old friends for the rest of the convention. For everyone who attends, it's an opportunity to arrange business and social meetings and gatherings for later in the convention.

Using the Second Floor area and single-author programming as a substitute for the Meet the Pros Party won't work. Few people are bold enough to break into a circle of Big Name Pros and introduce themselves, even if the conversation is open to newcomers. With the single-author events, the author often has commitments following the program item. The restriction in time and space that's inherent in a two- or three-hour event can't be met by smaller, more amorphous bits and pieces spread out over an entire long weekend. The gestalt, weak though it is, of a Meet the Program Participants event wouldn't be there.

MCFI Meeting

Date: August 10, 1988
Notes by: Laurie Mann

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm.

Chairman: Mark Olson reported that he had distributed our proposal for pass-on funding to all Worldcon committees from L.A. through the '94 bidders.

Laurie Mann had lost her right to vote due to staying home for child care in order to allow Jim Mann to fulfill his duties as secretary. The membership voted unanimously to restore it. (This required a 3/5ths vote, but secret ballot was waived with no objections.)

Mark raised the issue of staff members who can't afford a membership. Mark proposed that we establish a procedure to defer payment for a limited number of such members, on recommendation of the division head. Lynx wanted to know why they couldn't just join later. Mark replied that memberships keep getting more expensive; also, it would be nice for our staff to receive Progress Reports, etc., in the meantime. This proposal was passed with no objection. Sharon Sbarsky will track this.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 27th. There will also be a meeting at Nolacon just before the Thursday night N3 party.

Treasurer: Ann Broomhead reported that we took in \$6000 in memberships this quarter. The Sheraton-Boston hasn't yet cashed our \$5000 deposit check.

Preregistration: Sharon Sbarsky announced that we have 2774 memberships. [The meeting was interrupted for a few minutes due to a crisis involving spilled ink.]

Grant Request: Both L.A. and Atlanta have turned down our grant request. Their letters will be printed in *M3P* #28.

Mad 3 Party: Issue #28 will be mailed out before Nolacon. Leslie Turek asked people working our sales tables not to give out free copies; all issues, including back issues, cost \$1.

Progress Reports: Another batch of PR 4's has been mailed. We had the usual quota of bad addresses. Alex suggested that we put COA cards in the PRs.

Greg Thokar reported that PR 5 will contain lots of required WSFS stuff and Hugo nomination info. It will contain hotel information and a hotel reservation form. Deadline for text is November 1, and it will go into the mail just after Christmas. Greg can accept Macintosh disks directly; IBM disks can be given to Jim or Laurie Mann for conversion.

Jim Hudson pointed out that any decisions that need to get into PR 5 need to be made at the September meeting, to allow enough time to write and review the text. We should have drafts in the September apa. Mark also emphasized that we should get draft text out early so there will be time to refine it.

We need to get a commercial bulk-rate permit for the next ConFiction PR. Mark and/or Don Eastlake will handle this.

Nolacon: Don passed around the suite meeting schedule and had people fill in times they wanted to meet. The suite will be open at all times for the committee; a key will be at the NESFA or Noreascon table.

We are loaning the suite to NESFA on Friday night for a party. We will have small Noreascon parties on Thursday and Monday.

Mark passed out green notebooks. Pam Fremon and Laurie volunteered to help coordinate our room block.

Sharon urged people to work on the Noreascon membership table, which will open on either Thursday afternoon or Friday morning. Club tables will be either near Registration or near the Hucksters' Room. Sharon and Ann will get a safe-deposit box. Suite schedule and program evaluation forms should be at the table.

Mark asked Don what would be coming up at the Nolacon WSFS business meeting. In addition to old business passed on from Conspiracy, he expected to see Filthy Pierre's rotation plan. Don will be submitting a technical adjustment to the definition of WSFS membership, and Nolacon might submit the "Best Other" Hugo category. George Flynn will be reporting on the business meeting for *SF Chronicle*.

Mark is planning to make up some Noreascon 3 committee badges to identify us at Nolacon. They will give the wearer's name and position. Tony Lewis pointed out that they will be useful to help members of the committee get to know each other.

Weapons Policy: Mark reminded people that we had discussed this briefly at the last meeting and decided to wait and see what Extravaganzas would recommend. Suford Lewis said that the current Masquerade policy is that people should talk to us if they think a weapon is necessary for their costume. Weapons will be allowed at the Masquerade only. Mark mentioned that we had previously decided that no weapons should be sold in the Hucksters' Room.

Phone Calls at Work: Priscilla mentioned that it is not good for her to receive Noreascon-related phone calls at work. Mark asked people to be courteous and not call people at work unless you know they don't mind. The con is still far enough away that very little should be that time-critical.

Facilities: Don reported that Kim Pazera seems to have been appointed our convention coordinator at the Sheraton. We are familiar with her, as she was coordinator for the last two Boskones that were held at the Sheraton. Don Lawrence of the Sheraton will probably be contacting the New Orleans Sheraton to verify Nolacon's room pickup.

The Hynes is currently working on room rates; they should be settled by August 15. Don has found out their current weekend special rates, for comparison purposes.

We have decided to use Freeman as our decorator. Rick Katze will review our contract with them.

The Park Plaza has completed our detailed information form. We are negotiating room rates with them. We have cancelled the Hyatt Regency as planned. We have reasonable rates from the Copley Square. We have passed the cancellation date for the Holiday Inn. Royal Sonesta doesn't need to be cancelled until 6 months out.

Art Show: Dave Anderson reported that he had measured the Sheraton ballrooms to within an inch or two, so that he can begin planning layouts.

WSFS: We sold a copy of our mailing list to DC in '92. (It has been offered to both '92 bids.)

We have to decide a Hugo eligibility issue. Greg Benford said that *Great Sky River* almost made it on the ballot for 1987, but it came out so late many people thought it was a 1988 book. However, publicity all indicated it came out in 1987, and it is George's opinion that it was published in 1987. It is up to the committee to determine eligibility, although a WSFS Business Meeting could extend eligibility. The committee voted to rule that the book had been eligible for 1987, not 1988.

So far we have only received two responses to our test ballot for a "Best Juvenile/YA" category. Both of these said they didn't know enough to nominate. [*Since the meeting, a few more ballots have come in with actual nominations.*] The committee discussed the category a bit; we'll need to decide this at the next meeting. We also discussed Monty Wells's suggestion for a "Upon Further Consideration" category for older works that have not won a Hugo.

Program: We've drafted an initial letter and questionnaire to find out what potential program participants might want to do. It'll go out to about 500 people. We will extend the current membership rate to October 15 for recipients of this mailing. We've been thinking of having a Friday afternoon series of science talks. Next month we need to discuss the idea of honoraria for science speakers.

Second Floor: With Cindy Gold unable to attend due to illness, Fred Isaacs presented Cindy's list of Hucksters' Room policies that need to be decided by the group.

The following policies were approved without much discussion:

- No booth space will be sold in the Hucksters' Room. (Some booth space may be available in the exhibits area.)
- Table assignments will be done on a "priority bundle" basis, with dealers choosing their preferred locations from maps of the room.
- No weapons will be sold.
- Any dealer found violating the rules may be ejected without refund of fees.
- Hucksters are required to purchase convention memberships.

The points that did cause a lot of discussion were the rate schedule and table limits.

Cindy's proposed rate schedule included two sliding scales: one by number of tables and one by type of merchandise. People were generally in agreement with charging more for additional tables, but there was much discussion about the concept of charging by type of merchandise. Arguments against included how to determine what category each dealer falls in, the chances for bad feeling, and the complication it would cause to the rate structure. Arguments in favor were that we want to encourage books, that such a system has been used successfully at Boskones, and that used book dealers don't have much of a profit margin. Others pointed out that crafts dealers don't have a high profit margin either. Finally, we voted to replace the sliding scale by type of merchandise with a simple discount for non-profit organizations.

There was also some discussion of a preset table quota for each type of merchandise. Jill pointed out that the IRS likes to see a juried hucksters' room. However, the final decision was made to use basically a first-come, first-served system, with some discretionary juggling when the room is near to being full.

The table limit per dealer was set at three, with four tables allowed in special cases at Cindy's discretion.

We still didn't have really good estimates of the cost to us for tables. Mark's figures showed a range of anywhere from \$75 to \$120 per table. Leslie's figures showed about \$107 per table. Leslie moved to set the rates at \$100, \$115, \$130, and \$145 for each successive table. This was approved.

Services: Laurie presented a proposal for Garber Travel to be our official travel agent, and American and Delta to be our official airlines. Delta would offer 5% off the lowest applicable fare, and 40% off regular economy tickets. American would offer 5% off the lowest applicable fare, and 45% off regular economy. Andi Shechter felt that having a local agent with an 800 number was a plus, because they could help people with local tourist information, side trips, etc. This doesn't cost us anything. Jim H. pointed out that in their questionnaire responses, people felt that the travel agency hasn't been done too well in the past. It was decided to go with Laurie's proposal.

Budgets: The division heads are recommending that two additional allocations be made at this time.

The program division has requested \$1500 for honoraria for science speakers. We need to know this now, since many popular speakers get booked up early. These are people who would not normally attend a science fiction convention. Jim H. said that science talks rated fairly high in the questionnaire results.

Services has requested \$4000 for a laser printer to use in producing the progress reports and other publications. We estimate that it can be resold for about \$2500 after the convention. Paula Lieberman and Ann got into a technical discussion of printer types and costs. Leslie pointed out that we could do some cost-sharing with the NESFA press. Someone asked about leasing, but it turns out that leasing for a year costs nearly as much as buying.

Both expenditures were approved.

Miscellaneous: Mark pointed out that Nolacon plans to provide a "Question Time" period at the business meeting, as proposed in Leslie's amendment. Since it was her idea, Mark thought it was only fair that Leslie be given a chance to participate in the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 pm.

N3 Hucksters' Room Information

by Cindy Gold

[The following letter has been distributed to all hucksters who have requested information, and to all hucksters at Nolacon.]

Dear Dealer,

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to participate in the Hucksters' Room for Noreascon 3, the 1989 World Science Fiction Convention in Boston, MA. The Hucksters' Room will contain approximately 275 tables, and this will be located in Exhibit Hall D of the newly-expanded Hynes Convention Center. Hall D is centrally located, with access from other convention activities on three sides. With this number of tables, we will be able to provide a comfortable layout with ample aisle room. In order to facilitate having as successful and enjoyable a Hucksters' Room as possible for everyone involved, we have established the policies listed below. These policies are still subject to change, and if any necessary changes present a problem for you, a full refund will be supplied.

Table rates are as follows:

\$100.00	1st table
\$115.00	2nd table
\$130.00	3rd table

There is a limit of three tables per dealer. We may choose to sell some dealers a fourth table if we are convinced that this will materially improve the mix of merchandise sold. Please contact us and describe what change in merchandise a fourth table will allow you.

Fan-related groups may purchase tables for \$75.00 each. If you believe that you qualify for this, please write us and tell us about your organization.

A "table" consists of an 8' x 2' draped table, two chairs, and exclusive use of an appropriate portion of the space behind it. We realize that these rates are a little higher than you had to pay at other recent Worldcons, but since we have had to use a Convention Center rather than depending on straight hotel function space, our facilities costs are quite high. These prices are not intended to return a profit.

Table assignments will be done on a "priority bundle" basis. Applications will be bundled at periodic intervals. Maps of the Hucksters' Room with available tables clearly

indicated will be sent to each of the dealers in that bundle. Each dealer is responsible for returning this map with preferred table locations clearly indicated by the cutoff date for that bundle. The committee will base table assignments on these maps, and it will inform the dealers of their actual table assignments shortly after the corresponding bundle cutoff date. There will be a detailed mailing about the overall show layout, participants, unloading, check-in, registration, etc., at the end of June 1989.

Your table fee does not include a convention membership. Convention memberships are mandatory. Nobody, including dealers, will be allowed into the Hucksters' Room without a valid membership badge. Convention rates are currently at \$60.00. On Sept. 16th they will go up to \$70.00, and on March 16th they will go up to \$80.00. On July 15th 1989 preregistration will end.

There will be a Hucksters' Room Directory in which all Dealers' locations and merchandise will be listed. You will receive a form with your location mailing in which we ask you to supply us with the description of your table/merchandise as you would like it to appear in this directory. Your prompt response will ensure that you are listed correctly. This directory will be available at the Hucksters' Room entrances and in the mixing areas.

Reservations can be cancelled with a full refund minus a \$20.00 processing fee up until 6/1/89. Later cancellations will receive refunds only if we are able to resell the table(s).

No weapons of any sort may be sold in the Hucksters' Room.

Dealers may not resell all or portions of their tables to others. However, dealers may "share" a single table subject to our approval.

Any additional services such as electricity or water will be provided by the Hynes Convention Center at their standard rates. We will supply contact information on request. Carpeting will be available from our decorator as will drayage at their standard rates.

The Hynes is currently a non-smoking building. If this prohibition is lifted by the time the location assignments begin after Oct. 1st, then a smoking area of the Hucksters' Room will be available for you to choose from. Smoking will be permitted only behind the tables and only in this area. Burning of incense or similar substances will only be permitted in this area.

Audio products may only be demonstrated with the use of headphones. Any lighting setups other than internally lit display cases must be approved by us, and they will probably need to be installed by a Hynes electrician.

All food must be kept behind the tables. It is very unlikely that the Hynes Convention Center will allow food to be brought into the auditorium. They may restrict you to food that is purchased from their concession stands. More information will be available on this subject later.

As space approaches room capacity we reserve the right to choose dealers in an attempt to get a balanced mix. We will allocate these final tables in the best interests of the convention with an emphasis on the uniqueness of the merchandise.

There will be a "Collectors Corner" available in a separate room for fans who may wish to sell off small quantities of inexpensive books, such as duplicates from their collections. This space is available at the following

rates:

1/2 table for 1/2 day	\$10.00
1/2 table for 1 day	\$15.00
1 table for 1/2 day	\$15.00
1 table for 1 day	\$20.00

Space is not available for more than 1 day as this is not meant to be a replacement for the Hucksters' Room.

Hours and reservation policies for this space will be announced later.

Tentative Hucksters' Room Hours are as follows:

Wednesday	Aug 30	noon-9pm	Setup
Thursday	Aug 31	10am-noon	Setup
Thursday	Aug 31	noon-6pm	Open
Friday	Sept 1	noon-8pm	Open
Saturday	Sept 2	10am-6pm	Open
Sunday	Sept 3	10am-6pm	Open
Monday	Sept 4	10am-4pm	Open
Monday	Sept 4	4pm-8pm	Teardown

Since the Hynes has been recently rebuilt and its renewed operations are just getting underway, we don't know exactly what union rules will be in effect. Many other convention centers have rules that require the use of union labor for any display set-up unless it is so simple that one person can put it together in less than an hour with absolutely *no tools*. We will tell you what the actual policy will be as soon as we know. However, it seems clear that we will have fewer union problems if we are a simple "table top" show, as opposed to a fancy booth-type show. For this reason, and also to avoid inconveniencing other dealers, we ask that you inform us if you wish to have any type of set-up other than simply placing items for sale on top of the tables that you are assigned. We cannot allow any shifting or removal of tables unless these plans have been approved by us in advance.

The Hynes does not allow the hanging of anything on walls or pillars. However, dealers with wall tables can order 8-foot draperies at the decorator's standard rates.

The Hynes Convention Center is under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA), an agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We are negotiating our contract with MCCA but we anticipate that it will (1) require us to inform you of the obligations that will be imposed on us, (2) require us to require you to conform to any restrictions placed on our use of the Hynes, and (3) require us to secure your agreement to abide by rules and regulations promulgated by MCCA. We will be doing this later, when we learn more details, probably by sending you a document to sign. If you find that you can't accept it, you may cancel at that time and get a full refund.

Massachusetts has a 5% sales tax. With your next mailing we will include a sales tax registration form. This is between the Commonwealth and you, we are only supplying the forms for your convenience.

I will be looking forward to speaking with you and working with you more closely at the convention. If you have any questions please feel free to write c/o Noreascon 3. Remember that the convention is still a year away however, and please don't try to call at this time.

Noreascon 3 Masquerade Information

August, 1988

The Masquerade will take place on Sunday evening beginning at 8 pm.

Advance registration is required for both costumers and photographers.

The Masquerade Assembly Area will be Room 200 in the Hynes. Each entry will have a scheduled time by which they should arrive. The first run-through is planned to last about two hours.

The tech run-throughs will be Sunday during the day, at times scheduled in advance for each entry. The Masquerade Wrap-Up Session will be on Monday at noon.

Costume registration will be in advance only. The forms must be received by the committee no later than August 1, 1989. This will allow us to schedule the masquerade and the run-throughs, get back to you if we have any questions, and print a program.

Confirmations of registration will be mailed out within two weeks of our receipt of your forms. If the masquerade fills up, you will be put on a waiting list. You can decline to be on the waiting list if you wish. We will have a limit of 100 entries. Obviously, this means you should get your forms in sooner rather than later.

Your scheduled tech run-through time and Assembly Area on-deck time will be mailed out in batches as the Masquerade is scheduled. There is space on your registration form for preferred tech run-through time. You will get a length of time based on the complexity of your costume and the number of people in your group. You can run through your presentation once and talk to one or more members of the stage crew. If you need more rehearsal time, other space will be available, marked out to the dimensions of the stage.

If it is necessary to change any of your times, or you wish to change them, this can be done and confirmed by mail before August 1, or by phone after that date.

Photographer registration will also be in advance only. This form must be received by the committee no later than August 1, 1989. This will allow us to allocate space appropriate for your equipment, send you a confirmation and allow plenty of time if any questions require further communications.

Photographers are expected to be in their area and set up before 8:00 pm and to remain there for the duration of the first run-through.

There will be a **Masquerade check-in/Information desk** Thursday through Saturday to recruit gophers: check in costumers, photographers, judges, and staff; and answer everybody's questions. Costumers and photographers should check in at this desk: it will provide a duplicate copy of your schedule (location if you are a photographer), and we will be glad to know that you have arrived and are still "in." This is also the place to come before Sunday if you know of a problem. On Sunday morning, this desk and function will move to the Boylston Street Corridor, Hynes second floor just outside the entrance to the Assembly Area.

We will provide the usual costume repair, ice chips, Gatorade, etc. However, if you need anything unusual, you should probably bring it yourself. We will have chairs and stools to sit on. If you will be unable to sit, but could use a leaning board, please so indicate on your entry form. We will provide a few, but a rough count will ensure that we have enough. We will provide Helpers, also, but if you need a lot of help, again, we encourage you to bring one or two of your own.

Our Assembly Area is 65' x 39', has a 15' ceiling, and connects to the stage area. Unfortunately, the **doorway** to the stage is only 6'9" tall by 6'4" wide, even though the hallways and rooms are much roomier. The doorways from the Sheraton are the smallest, 6'7" by 5'. All the other doorways are 7' to 12' high by 6' wide. If this will be awkward for your costume, you will need to be able to partially collapse or disassemble it. You will be able to reassemble it out of view of the audience in the final queueing area before you go onstage. Be prepared!

The traditional rules will apply for sound (only via pre-recorded tape supplied by the entrant), lights (limited effects available by advance request — e.g., blackout, colored light, fadeup, fadeout), materials, weapons, and effects:

- **No peanut butter, no jelly, no food** or perishables of any kind!!! Nothing that drips or rubs off on walls, rugs, furniture, or other costumes can be allowed. Body paint or other heavy make-up must be protected from being rubbed off before and after your presentation.
- **No weapons or dangerous devices**, not even fake ones! See also Mass. state law. If you feel that a weapon forms an integral part of your costume, you **must** discuss it with us first.
- **Nothing gets left** on the stage or runway: anything dropped must be picked up by your group.

Costumes must be the original work of the entering group, not rented or commissioned from a professional for pay, nor entered in any previous Worldcon masquerade.

No flash photography is allowed during the Masquerade.

The Master of Ceremonies will announce each costume by title and class, and can also read a brief narrative supplied by the entrant. Participants, costume source, construction assistants, etc., will all be credited in the masquerade program.

Presentations will be limited to 60 seconds. This includes what the m.c. reads from your form, and all action from your first entry until your last group member is off the raised runway. Groups larger than 5 will be allowed additional time calculated on a sliding scale up to a limit of 2 minutes. You must convince us before August 1, 1989, if you want more time.

Breaking these rules will disqualify you from any awards, may result in the termination of your presentation, and possibly will prevent you from going on stage at all.

The classes are based on awards won at previous Worldcons and Costume Cons and are: Young Fan, Novice, Journeyman, and Master. Awards will be given in each class to at most 20% of the entries for various qualities of the costume and its presentation. Categories cited in the past have been: most humorous, most beautiful,

best alien, best SF, best fantasy, and best presentation, among others. Instead of a separate Re-creation Division, we will add best re-creation to this list. If you have a re-creation costume, it is still mandatory to bring source documentation: pictures, front and back, are best, if possible.

There will be a separate set of awards for workmanship.

We would like to hear your questions, recommendations, comments, and reactions. We also welcome volunteers.

MCFI Meeting

Date: September 1, 1988

Notes by: Pam Fremon

Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 9:31 pm in the MCFI suite at Nolacon, saying we had a number of short items to get through before people arrived for our quiet party at 10.

First, he said Peggy Rae Pavlat has proposed that we pass on our exhibits to future Worldcons, as they can then be built on. Kees van Toorn was in favor of ConFiction doing this. We agreed.

Some people have asked if we have appointed a Toastmaster. We do not plan to have a single Toastmaster. We will have people speak at specific events. People with ideas on this, or volunteers, should be directed to Ellen Franklin or Jill Eastlake.

The Noreascon committee badges have been distributed. People are requested to wear them.

We'll have one or two presentations to make here. At the Business Meeting on Sunday there will be time allotted for us, as an upcoming Worldcon. The division heads will be asked to get up and talk. Also, there appears to be a program item on upcoming Worldcons at 11:30 am on Sunday.

There are lots of meetings scheduled for this suite. We'd like to keep it a drop-in center. Meetings are requested to use the bedrooms, if possible. Various people have keys to the suite. [Don Eastlake read the list of key-holders.]

Please help Sharon Sbarsky with the Membership table. It will be open from 1 to 6 every day. Also help Kelly Persons with the NESFA sales table.

We originally decided we'd give priority to the hucksters who turned in their forms by November 1. We see now that we'll probably be sold out by then. Jim Hudson suggested we do a random-number draw of the early requests. Leslie Turek said that since the letter to dealers did not state a cutoff date, we were free to use an earlier date. We should just be sure that people who were not at Nolacon have a fair chance to get their forms in. It was moved that Cindy Gold be directed to set an earlier cutoff date for the first table allocations, probably some time in September.

Kees wants to have a joint ConFiction/Noreascon party in our suite Saturday night. ConFiction will supply 8-10 cases of Heineken, munchies, decorations, etc. We agreed to do this.

Jill said that Suford Lewis has information sheets on our masquerade plans. Copies have also been placed in the Nolacon costumers' suite.

Priscilla Olson has program participant evaluation forms.

DC and Orlando are official bidders for '92 — they've filed with us, as is required.

Those of us working at companies with fax machines should consider using them for committee communications. We should collect usable committee fax numbers.

Someone has been putting up notices at this con accusing us of providing space to "right-wing Bible-thumpers." We have no idea who's been doing this, or why.

We decided there wasn't a need for a second Nolacon meeting, and adjourned at 9:59.

Division Heads Meeting

Date: September 5, 1988

Notes by: Leslie Turek

The meeting was held in the MCFI suite at Nolacon on Monday afternoon from about 4:15 to about 5:05 pm. While people were gathering, Mark Olson briefly reviewed the Nolacon gripe session.

Ellen Franklin and Jill Eastlake reported that they had made contact with several good candidates for various extravaganzas MC positions.

Mark felt that we need to have an open brainstorming session in a few weeks to discuss what we want to do in the technical area at N3. Various large numbers were offered as estimates of what ConFederation spent on video coverage. Do we want to expend such a large percentage of our resources on this area?

Mark suggested that we need to start having monthly committee and division heads meetings. We settled on the dates of Sept 18th and Oct. 29th for the next two division heads meetings. It was suggested that at the October meeting we should allow some free time for inter-divisional meetings to take place.

We are maintaining several versions of our committee list and they are starting to diverge because it's hard to keep track of staff appointments that are not formally announced. Mark suggested that we design a form for division heads to use to transmit news of staff appointments to the people who need to know about them. We will just use these forms internally; we don't want to build up a lot of bureaucracy.

Tony Lewis has been appointed to look into the question of sponsorships, talk to potential sponsors, etc. This function is not within any particular division. Ben Yalow has made contact with Bridge Publications. They are aware of the problems they had at Conspiracy and want to do better.

One point that came up at the gripe session is that people get angry when they volunteer to help and don't get a response. How are we handling our volunteers? Jim Mann is sending out a postcard acknowledging their letter and saying that they will hear from us later. Their names get circulated to the area(s) they volunteered for. (In some cases, areas heads have not yet been appointed.) It

was suggested that it's time to re-circulate the whole list of volunteers to all of the areas. We also need a clear statement of what our policy for crash space and membership refunds to volunteers will be. Debbie Notkin suggested that we send volunteers Christmas/New Year's cards.

It was suggested that we send the videotape that Paula Lieberman made on our last visit to the Hynes to the area heads that haven't been able to visit the facility.

Laurie Mann and Jim Hudson met with Electrical Eggs to discuss the possibility of their handling handicapped access at Noreascon 3. We need to discuss this in more detail and try to make a definite decision by the end of September.

We've gotten a lot of questions from people who want to throw open parties at N3, and should plan to have detailed information for them in PR 5.

Extravaganzas announced that, due to Paula's urging, they have changed their minds and now are planning to have a Meet the Pros event, probably on Friday night. It may take the form of a 50th anniversary party for the Worldcon. They have also assigned primary responsibility for each event to a member of the division staff, as follows:

Opening Ceremonies (Thurs):	Paula Lieberman
Interviews/Party (Fri):	Pam Fremon
Hugo Ceremonies (Sat):	Jill Eastlake
Masquerade (Sun):	Suford Lewis
Closing Ceremonies (Mon):	Jill Eastlake
Food functions:	Ellen Franklin
Boxboro Party:	Steve Boheim and Ann Norton
Degler Suite (if done):	Mike Symes

Priscilla Olson reported that Mike Glycer, Rick Foss, and Janice Gelb have been recruited by the N3 Program Division.

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]

Seed Money

- Bob Hillis, Worthington OH 43085:

Some socially acceptable method of recycling excess funds from successful Worldcons has got to be found. Actually your proposal had considerable merit, but was rejected as I expected. Some comments as to why follow.

No matter what the text of the WSFS Constitution reads (and the legislative history of Article I clearly shows that the intent was to prevent the "profits" from being used as an endowment fund for local fandom), after the final bills have been paid, the members of the policy-making body definitely regard the funds remaining as "our" (i.e., the corporation's) money. In general, the feeling is that individual fans attended the convention and got value received. In fact, some individuals have flatly stated that their pro rata share was "my" money. Since there is no body in fandom that can enforce whatever dubious "contract" exists in the WSFS Constitution, the only

resort of fans outside the group is moral pressure and the individual feelings of the policy makers that a specific case is a worthy cause. Thus there is a built-in bias against distributing the money. This was borne out in the Constellation bailout efforts. A percentage of the bills remained unpaid although money remained available from at least two corporations.

Thus your request had to qualify emotionally as a worthy cause. When some elements of Chicon IV tried to get a loan from MCFI, MCFI gave them an unsympathetic response with good reason. When MCFI tried to get a grant/loan it got the same response from L.A.con II and ConFederation. Whatever chance MCFI had died when NESFA disowned the problem. The legal problems with the Sheraton originated in the behavior of Boston fandom at a NESFA activity (Boskone). If it was morally impermissible for NESFA to assume some responsibility, it is not surprising that fans in other cities that were emotionally predisposed to do nothing leaped at the excuse.

[Your analysis of the political climate may well be correct. That doesn't change the fact that the situation has several built-in "Catch22's." One catch is the relationship between the Worldcon and local fandom. Look, we have tried to be "good guys" and have followed the rules that say that Worldcon profits shouldn't go to the benefit of the local club (in spite of the fact that NESFA was very much in need of funding to acquire their clubhouse). Why should the local group now feel any obligation to help out Noreascon when they are not allowed to share in the potential profits? The Worldcon is not a local function: it is attended mostly by fans from out of the area. It is attended by basically the same set of fans that contributed to those profits that are now sitting in private coffers.

I don't buy the argument that "we earned it, so it's ours." This opens the door to all sorts of potential abuses. There is a wide range of activities that can make up an acceptable Worldcon, and when there are profits to be made (and kept), there is a huge temptation to cut corners and do the minimum, in order to maximize the profit

Noreascon Two did have a surplus of about \$20,000 (at the time an unprecedentedly high amount) and used it to fund various small activities at Denvention and ConStellation. The remainder went to pay for the "Memory Book" (which was distributed free to all members) and a contribution of \$10,000 towards the ConStellation bailout.

Both George Flynn and I reviewed our copies of the minutes from that time period, and neither of us has found any reference to MCFI turning down a financial request received from Chicon IV. Here are the references to Chicon IV that I did find: On January 20, 1982, we were discussing ways of using up the remaining funds. "People haven't flocked to us with ideas. Chicon hasn't come up with anything." Later, on April 28: "Moved to appropriate a sum, currently set at \$4000, to cover the expenses that Chicon is not able to cover in the course of publishing up to 2000 copies of the Chicon book." Apparently Chicon was able to contribute the first \$2500 of publication costs, and we were to cover the rest. This was a loan, as we were to be repaid from the book sales. — LT]

• Marlene Willauer and Brian K. Lowe, Reseda CA:

After reading the responses to your grant proposals, we spent some time discussing the various uses to which the large surpluses held by some conventions might be put. By way of introduction, we would like to comment briefly on the responses you received.

The letter from SCIFI spoke volumes on the mindset of the fannish "haves" who would rather look down their noses at conventions that do not enjoy their resources, than provide money intended to ensure the continuation of the very series of conventions that brought them that money in the first place. How dare SCIFI imply that MCFI is not able to run a "break-even" convention? Simply because LASFS has been around longer even than NESFA does not excuse such a paternalistic attitude. We submit that if SCIFI had been able to budget so close to a "break-even" point, it would not have needed to charge such egregious prices for a convention that lacked even the faintest flavor of experimentation.

The WAI response was more understanding in that it did offer some alternative solutions to the MCFI's dilemma. However, WAI does appear to imply that Worldcon surpluses should not go to provide money to Worldcons that have not yet proven a need for bail-out funds. How long does WAI intend to hold these funds waiting for a "hypothetical situation" to become reality? MCFI's legal fees are not hypothetical. This money is already lost to more creative uses. In any case, isn't the "bail-out" concept merely an invitation to mismanagement and waste rather than an incentive to providing new and innovative programming?

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Certainly, the \$38K+ in legal fees wouldn't blow your budget, but it does disrupt it. While the wording of the letters does sound as if two of your "rivals" are having a laugh at your expense, they are exercising their own version of fiscal responsibility, a point hammered home for several years after ConStellation. They seem to be crossing the line between being thrifty and being miserly . . . I have to wonder when the last dollar will be meted out by these two groups, and how many occasions will take place that merit their money. I agree with you, though, that from a marketing point of view, the finances must be kept in mind, but the convention should be foremost in order to satisfy several thousand people who have already put their money down. You've made promises to your members, and you would certainly be able to keep them if it weren't for the legal hassles and \$38K+. While L.A. and Atlanta have missed your point, it might be an idea to take Atlanta up on their loan suggestion, borrow the \$38K+ from them, and carry on with your original plans for the 2 1/2 floors of the Hynes, and pay Atlanta back from your surplus. Their attitudes do not present the ideal situation, but you may have to work with what they are willing to provide.

[Taking a loan will not help us. If the money is given to us as a loan that must be paid back, we need to enter that obligation into our budget. Thus there is no net gain in what we are able to plan to spend on the convention. — LT]

Finances

• Bob Hillis, Worthington OH:

Budgeting the at-the-door receipts is okay only if such things as staff and program participant refunds and division and corporate contingency funds are in the same budget.

[Yup. That's what we're doing. — LT]

• Marlene Willauer and Brian K. Lowe, Reseda CA:

You have mentioned the possibility of raising money through private foundation grants. We strongly support that idea. Worldcons are no longer private parties for a small coterie of hobbyists — they are six-figure extravaganzas demanding funds from both fannish and real-world resources. Now that SF has become a more accepted form of literature, there must be foundations interested in patronizing young writers and artists in the field.

As for your other fund-raising ideas, allowing non-convention members into the hucksters' room for a small fee is a good one if you can manage the logistics. Many other types of conventions have this sort of setup, e.g., travel agent industry shows.

Selling souvenirs of the convention can also raise cash, perhaps something besides the traditional T-shirts, such as a small cloisonne pin. (If future Worldcons also sold pins, they could become collector's items, much like Olympic pins.) We also hope you will publish another souvenir book, like Noreascon Two's.

Hucksters' Fees

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

On the possible huckster policy of \$N for books, \$N-20 for used books and \$N+20 for media and other items, please don't penalize media hucksters for promoting sf in a different form. Many people will see this as being blatantly discriminatory. If you feel you need to, place the media dealers in their own corner of the dealer room so book fans won't have to walk past a table full of K/S zines or Trek jewelry. Whether you like it or not, the book dealers and media dealers will be catering to what a substantial percentage of your membership likes. In the category "media and other material," what constitutes the "other"? Costuming books and actual costumes, filk tapes, fantasy sculpture, anime books and tapes, art prints, T-shirts? As much as I like a room full of books, new and used, having that as most of the selection is not much selection at all. At most Worldcons, I will bring home a stack of books, but I might bring home an art print, a T-shirt, or something three-dimensional to place on the shelf. While 35-40% of the dealers' room should be books and other related printed material, I would encourage the greatest possible selection of merchandise in the remaining percentage. Charging more to media and other dealers would be a sign of snobbishness, and would give many people with varying interests the feeling that they weren't wanted. This is a science fiction convention, and it really isn't up to the organizers to dictate what form that science fiction takes, be it book, tape or TV show. Could some input from BSTA and other Boston area clubs be brought into this discussion? (I'm not angry, I just want to see all possible interests catered to, to varying degrees, at the most all-encompassing convention of the year.)

[As you can see in the minutes of the August 10 meeting, we ultimately decided against category pricing for the hucksters' room. Just a word in defense of those who proposed the concept, however. I believe they were thinking of it more in terms of a subsidy to book dealers than a penalty for non-book dealers. Although we do not have accurate figures, some of us had the perception that book dealers, especially used book dealers, have a smaller profit margin than those handling other types of merchandise, so might have a harder time covering the cost of a table. — LT]

• Marlene Okonske, Laconia NH:

I wish to comment on the attitude voiced towards hucksters in #28. Granted, there are many out there that are profit-minded, but there are also many small crafts-persons like myself who huckster to offset the costs of the conventions. It's either that or stay home.

I have only once turned a profit and that, ironically, was Archon some years ago selling out of my room. A year later I had less success with a table and lost money.

I have purchased my membership for next year and I am designing a line of head-pieces and jewelry specials. But if tables are priced much higher than \$100-\$125 you could price me and others like myself right out of the game.

Please consider this.

[We were considering higher hucksters' table prices only when we thought the cost to us would be in that range. Since we found that our costs are somewhat lower than we had feared, we have been able to set table rates to correspond. As we've stated before, we are not trying to turn a profit from our huckster room rates; we just want to cover our costs. — LT]

Functions

• Marlene Willauer and Brian K. Lowe, Reseda CA:

We would like to see programs that facilitate communication between pros and fans. Small discussion groups made up of one pro and twelve or so fans who sign up in advance are ideal. The bigger functions like Meet the Pros Parties rarely result in much pro meeting... at least we've never met anyone who had any kind of meaningful conversation with any pro to whom he or she hadn't been previously introduced. Also, since this is the *Worldcon*, how about some function that pairs U.S.A. fans with similar-interested fans from across the sea, sort of a fan-ish pen-pal in person?

In PR 4 you mentioned that you had not received many strong responses to the idea of a dance in your poll of possible one-shot events. Let us register our strong approval! Dances at most West Coast conventions are very well attended if they are well-planned. That is, if they are in a large, not-too-dark room with tables for sitting one out, are close to a libation source, and most important, play a large selection of music of various types, including 60's rock, current hits, slow dances, and SF favorites.

Special Hugo Category

• Marlene Willauer and Brian K. Lowe, Reseda CA:

We were sorry to hear that you didn't get much response to your YA Hugo. We did not respond as we were not familiar with much current YA fiction, but after several discussions with friends, we think a YA award for best YA book of all time is long overdue (nominations to include books by Andre Norton, Robert Heinlein, Isaac Asimov, and Jane Yolen, to name a few).

• Dave Langford, Reading, Berkshire, England:

The Young Adult Hugo category is sort of interesting — Diana Wynne Jones's *A Tale of Time City* (Methuen hardback, UK) would have been a good choice for 1987 publication, but it's harder to think of a full slate. As a reviewer (monthly column for the last 6 years or so) I've also found that publishers downplay their YA books, even those by authors I've reviewed with enthusiasm: the publicity department always seems much keener to send a few tons of boring old SF reprints. As a lapsed newszine editor, mind you, I'm a bit alarmed at the thought of even more Hugo categories. Typing out the existing ones is enough of a chore.

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

I like the idea of a Hugo Award similar to the Grand Master Nebula. There's plenty of authors who have made their mark on sf and on us, but have never won themselves a Hugo or other type of award. Perhaps even two or three Grand Master Hugos or Lifetime Achievement Hugos could be awarded each year.

• Donya Hazard White, Palo Alto CA:

I am excited by the suggestion of a special Hugo for YA literature and think that a fair number of my friends would be also. 1988 already looks like a good year for Y.A. books, which I take it you mean by "juvenile" until research is concluded.

[These comments were accompanied by a filled-out ballot — one of the few that we received. — LT]

Insignia

• Bob Hillis, Worthington OH:

Security passes. Make sure that whatever you use to secure entry to truly secure areas such as the treasury and film storage can not be openly worn. A security pass is not rank insignia. Normally the only person with any need to see it is the on-duty policeman. Keep in mind that a pass is used for normal access. An emergency situation is best handled by special instructions to the guards (e.g., Mr./Ms. Muckymuck will be coming down in 15 minutes with an escort). Most Division managers will never need to get into the film library; some gophers will.

Thanks to the use of the three grades of Hynes access passes as supplementary rank insignia, Noreascon Two had the most complicated Rank structure in the last twenty years. Others had elaborate grades but they could be read in one place.

[Yes, it always amazes me how con workers tend to take otherwise functional items and turn them into rank and status symbols. Take radios, for instance... — LT]

Other Insignia. There will be need for staff and security guards to quickly identify program participants, artists, hucksters, handicapped fans, helpers of handicapped fans.

press, Hugo Nominees, guests of the convention, and staff. The staff needs to differentiate between Art Show staff, ushers, elevator hosts, Masquerade staff, Handicapped access personnel, photographers, Huckster room staff, Masquerade helpers (for the contestants), etc. This is not an exhaustive list. All these categories of attendees and workers have at times the right of entry to certain areas at times when even an area head has no right of access. None of these designations as such denote any specific "rank." It is best that one category of recognizable insignia whether it be ribbons, or buttons, or badge holder colors or anything else be used for all these categories. Remember that this list or the appropriate parts will have to be remembered by a non-fannish security guard.

On the other hand, whatever system is used to denote categories of attendees and workers should not be used to denote rank among the staff. (i.e., if ribbons are used to denote program participants, artists, hucksters, etc., do not use ribbon color to distinguish between staff and area heads.)

Gofers

- Thomas A. Endry, Flushing NY:

Based on my few years experience in gofering, they can be a useful and vital part of Con management. As a gofer I found myself many times acting as instant communication link between Concom and Staff, as auxiliary mobile information crew, as instant logistic help or security back-up, even if I was not on duty. I seem to recall that Confederation '86 had the practical idea to mark their gofers with bright red ribbons, giving them high visibility. Do you have such plans?

Your People Mover can be an important operation center, not just a Gopher Hole. You can have a few gofers on standby duty to handle odd jobs, which do not require a full department shift. Gofers can pick up their registration there, sign release forms, and hand in their work-control sheets. You may want to consider the practicality of having soup and salad/sandwich type light meals available for gofers during lunch-time break.

[Yes, we do plan to identify gofers with some type of badge or ribbon, although the details have not been decided. Similarly, details of how the gofer hole will operate are yet to be discussed. We will probably not be able to provide meals to gofers because of the Hynes concession situation which has been discussed elsewhere, but the gopher hole will probably be in the vicinity of one of the Hynes refreshment stands, giving people a chance to get quick food on their breaks. — LT]

Site Rotation

- Thomas A. Endry, Flushing NY:

I would like to mention a certain personal problem: I would like to presupport and vote for my favorite 1993 Worldcon bid, but since I am neither a supporter, nor member, of Confiction '90, I am unable to do so. I am certain many other North American fans find themselves in a similar predicament. I feel that one of these days a WSFS Business Meeting should address the question, that a North American fan who has no desire to support a present overseas Worldcon still should be able to vote for a future site.

Maybe extending site-selection voting rights to NASFiC members and/or prior Worldcon members would not be such a bad idea. It would solve the foreign Worldcons voting for foreign Worldcons problem and would help to preserve the present rotation system. I wrote to Filthy Pierre about this and got a very encouraging answer.

I know there can be administration problems, but we already have one with the back-and-forth repatriation of voting funds. By the way, how has the London bankruptcy affected the Holland voting funds?

I also may have that very chauvinistic argument, that since Worldcons basically run on American money and muscle, we should defend our site-selection voting rights.

[The system as it is presently constituted is set up to give voting rights and lower membership rates to those fans who are willing to support the Worldcon as a concept, and who are willing to join, at least as supporting members, every Worldcon, even when it is in a site where they will be unable to attend. I don't think this is such a bad thing. I do feel, as I have stated before, that supporting membership rates should be kept low to allow all fans with an interest to participate, and a WSFS amendment to ensure this was ratified at Nolacon.]

The Confiction committee has stated that they have received all outstanding voting fees from Conspiracy (see page 4). Even if they hadn't, the bankruptcy theoretically should not have affected the 1990 voting fees. They were never Conspiracy's property, as Conspiracy was simply holding them in trust for the 1990 Worldcon. — LT]

- Bob Hillis, Worthington OH:

Unless considerably more European fans join Worldcons, the site of future conventions will continue to be decided by fans from North America. A short-term solution would be to place the entire world in the existing three zones. This would eliminate the current advantage of non-NA cities in being able to pick their opponents. A specific foreign zone has three disadvantages: (1) it is patronizing; (2) it attempts to tie the hands of future fandom by limiting out-of-North-America bids; (3) in the near future it probably would lead to no choice or unappealing ones.

The eventual solution probably will be to eliminate the zones and replace them with an exclusion zone of 800 kilometers from the current site or one already chosen for the future. I realize that this will cause howls of real pain in the Boston-Washington corridor and in much of Europe which is equally densely populated, but anything less leaves open the possibility of local prejudice.

- Marlene Willauer and Brian K. Lowe, Reseda CA.

We favor a four-year rotation with the fourth year being for non-North American bids. Krsto A. Mazuranic claims in *M3P* #28 that this would lead to a no-bid situation as there are only a few countries that would be willing to try putting on a Worldcon. We wonder, however, if being assured a slot every four years might not encourage bids from countries that have been afraid until now to compete with "stronger" bids in the U.S. We also think that the site selection voting should *not* coincide with the four-year rotation plan, as it might give one site an advantage (voting at a British Worldcon with a large European membership might give a French bid an advantage over a Japanese bid, for example).

Miscellaneous

- Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

A 27-inch Hugo award . . . do you think they'd let it on the plane as the winners trundle home with their ill-booten gotty? Would it be considered a dangerous object? Look for a fuse on the end. It could be the fanciest firework in history.

[After the Hugo ceremonies, one of my friends revealed that she had tried to have the following button made up for me as a Hugo loser's gift: "That's okay — I didn't have room in my suitcase anyway." I do wonder how people got the suckers home, though. Pat Mueller let me hold her "Best Fanzine" Hugo at the Hugo losers' party, and it was pretty hefty. — LT]

Yvonne and I won't be at Smofcon 5 . . . simply too far away, and too close to Christmas. However, we will be bidding to host the 1989 Smofcon, and we will have a representative there to present our bid.

With all the important things to keep in mind for a Worldcon, fandom harps on the little things, which, I guess, are important, too. I heard people complain bitterly when Nolacon announced that they would be using clip-style badges, rather than the usual pin-style. I think sentiment is with the pin-style, although I can see the advantages of the clip style with costumes. Could a choice be given as to which kind of badge the member would like? I think that if a 75-25 distribution of pin and clip styles were available, and the two styles could both accept the computer-generated insert, having that choice would make a lot of people happy.

[We're looking into this. — LT]

- Sarah Prince, Northborough MA:

On the Reading Room: A simple substitute for bookplates to mark donated books would be sticky-notes (Post-Its, etc.) which do not deface the book. People could prepare their own in advance, using their own rubber stamps or handwriting, and the convention could also provide the notepads on site and, for a few dollars, have a rubber stamp made with suitable artwork and a "donated by" write-in line.

The Mad 3 Party

- Thomas A. Endry, Flushing NY:

I sent you a \$10 check recently and I just found out from PR 4 that you plan only 9 more issues. Do you plan to make refunds, or maybe there is a chance to continue

TM3P as a regular fanzine devoted to convention running? I feel there is really a need for such a fanzine . . .

[First, the number of issues planned is really just an estimate. It's hard to predict exactly what will happen as convention planning gets more intense. We may want to try to put out more frequent issues, or we may find that we just don't have the time. If we run short, we will certainly send refunds to anyone who has paid for more issues than we published.]

As to continuing, again, I just can't say right now. Publishing M3P has been a lot of fun, but in a year from now I'll probably be ready to take a break. Also, so much of my material comes directly from Noreascon 3 records. Without that sort of access to the day-to-day activities of a working committee, I doubt that I could produce something that would be worth the effort. — LT]

- Bob Hillis, Worthington OH:

Are you aware of just how much gloom and doom there has been in this year's *Mad 3 Party*. Noreascon Two was a successful convention. I expect Noreascon Three to be the same.

[It seems to me that one of the ways to ensure a successful convention is to spend some time thinking about and planning for potential problems. I guess that might come across to some as "gloom and doom," but that's not how we feel. We certainly are expecting Noreascon Three to be a successful convention. — LT]

- Marlene Willauer and Brian K. Lowe, Reseda CA:

Perhaps the popularity of the *M3P* format will inspire others to do the same. (You wouldn't be interested in continuing it after your con? We didn't think so.)

- Dave Langford, Reading, Berkshire, England:

The usual guilt went through me on receipt of another thrilling *TM3P*, which as usual boggled me with its vista of Work Being Done and infused me with profound gratitude that I'm not one of those Doing It.

[I know what you mean. At Nolacon, I bought the following button: "If only you could get that wonderful feeling of accomplishment without having to do anything." — LT]

Sorry I won't be seeing you in New Orleans — no money, no time. Holland, maybe. (I forget where the Worldcon in between is being held.)

[Some days I do, too. — LT]

The Mad 3 Party #29

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