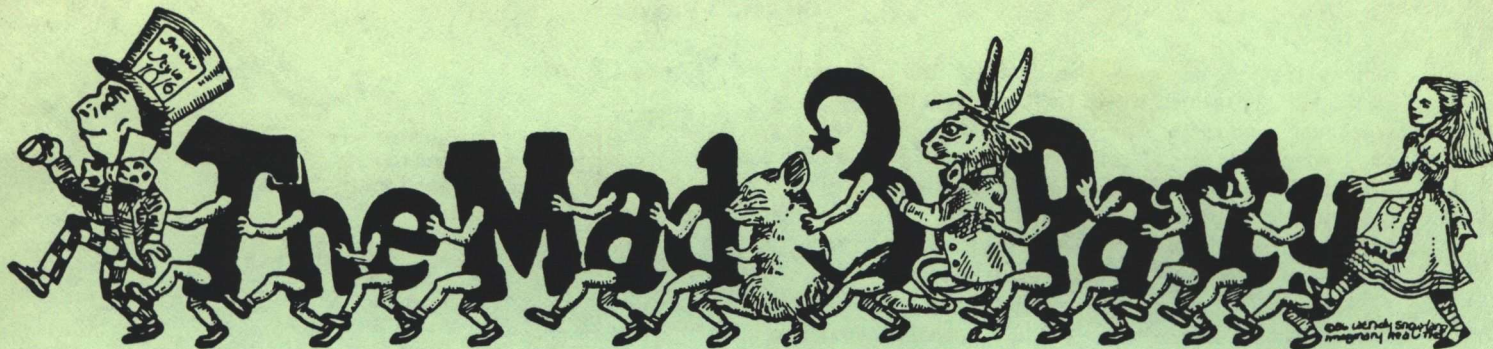




Number 32

February 1989

— Special First 1989 Issue —

CONVENTION NEWS

- 3 Smofcon 5, Smofcon 6, ConFederation Grants

COMMITTEE CHRONICLE

- 4 Timeline
 5 Division Heads Meeting / December 3, 1988
Space Allocation, Meeting with ARA, Labor Advisor, Timeline
 7 Gulp Meeting / December 14, 1988
Souvenir Book
 9 APA:89 / December 19, 1988
Access Services, Publications, Yearbook Proposal
 10 MCFI Meeting / January 4, 1989
 13 Division Heads Meeting / January 7, 1989

LETTERS

- 15 *Registration and Badges, Publications,*
 16 *Program, Film Program,*
Masquerade and Weapons Policy,
 17 *Hucksters' Room, Art Show,*
 18 *Hugo Awards,*
 19 *Ombudsman/Gripe Session,*
 20 *Worldcon Dates, Miscellaneous*

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 last issue by Chip Hitchcock. Logo by Wendy Snow-Lang.

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Welcome to 1989! And may it be an enjoyable and successful year for all of us.

Membership-Guessing Contest

We received 41 entries to our contest, with guesses of the number of pre-registered attending members ranging from 4058 to 8929. The median was 6500, the mean was 6546, and defending champion George Flynn's prediction was 7452. (See page 2 for a chart that shows the wide scattering of the guesses received.) We'll print the actual results and the contest winner in the first issue after the close of advance registration on July 15.

For those people who think it should be easy to budget a Worldcon to come out even, I'd like to point out that even if you throw out the extreme outliers, the difference between the high and low estimates, multiplied by the \$80 advance registration fee, amounts to more than \$250,000. Add to this the additional uncertainty of at-the-door income, and you get some idea of why Worldcons have been coming in all over the map in terms of profits and losses in recent years.

Publications

One of the questions that we've been thinking about recently is what sort of publications the con should produce. In this issue, you'll see a lot of ideas about this in the apa excerpts and in the report of the December 14 Gulp meeting. In the apa, Pam Fremon also reports on a Smofcon panel that discussed this same subject. Our ideas are not fully baked yet, but I think we are beginning to arrive at a consensus.

Upcoming Deadlines

Mar 1	PR 6 first-draft deadline
Mar 15	Hugo nomination ballots due
Mar 15	Attending membership goes to \$80
Mar 20	PR 6 frozen

Handicapped Services

Noreascon 3 and Electrical Eggs have mutually decided that Electrical Eggs will not be running Handicapped Services at Noreascon 3. Since Electrical Eggs is well known for its work at ConFederation and Nolacon, among other conventions, we feel that a few words of explanation are in order.

We had been discussing the possibility of working together with representatives of Electrical Eggs for several months — by mail, by phone, and in person. These extensive discussions made it clear that we had some basic philosophical disagreements. We wanted Electrical Eggs to function as a Noreascon 3 Area Head. This means that we wanted to work *with* them to develop policies and pro-

cedures that would work the best for *our* convention. Electrical Eggs seemed to see themselves as more of an independent contractor providing handicapped services. They wanted us to accept their complete organizational structure and operational procedures, exactly as detailed in their policy manual, without modification. We felt that this attitude would cause considerable friction and make it impossible for us to work together productively.

For example, we had a request from a blind member that we supply him with a computer-readable version of our progress reports. (This member had access to a text-synthesizing word processor which would be able to "read" the progress report to him.) This was an easy request for us to fill, since our PR text is already computerized and it would take only a few seconds to copy the files to a disk. Electrical Eggs stated that they didn't want their name associated with this service because it was not one of the services listed in their manual. (Some of those services, such as large-print or audio cassette versions of the PR, would have cost us considerably more time and effort to prepare.)

Part of the reason that Electrical Eggs doesn't want additional services to be provided is that it doesn't want to encourage people to think of the handicapped as people who demand lots of special attention beyond what they absolutely need to gain equal access to events. We are sensitive to this issue. But strict adherence to this policy should be tempered with enough flexibility to do the reasonable thing when it's staring you in the face.

We have a great deal of respect for the work Electrical Eggs has done, and the amount they have accomplished. We're sorry that Noreascon 3 and Electrical Eggs couldn't develop a mutually acceptable working relationship.

We want to make it very clear that we are highly committed to providing access to Noreascon 3 to *all* of our members, including handicapped members. We are currently considering other candidates for heading Handicapped Services, and we expect to make an appointment soon. All those who write in for the handicapped services questionnaire mentioned in PR 6 will receive full details of our access services and policies as soon as they are completed. And volunteers to help in this area are enthusiastically solicited. — LT

New Appointments

Program Division

Program Operations — Fred Duarte
Green Room — Debbie Hodgkinson
Academic Staff Consultant — Tom Claeson

Extravaganzas Division

Masquerade MC — Patrick Kennedy
Masquerade Production Manager — Lori Meltzer

WSFS and Art Show Division

Business Meeting Secretary — Kent Bloom
Business Meeting Timekeeper — Rick Katze
Art Show Auction(s) — Joe Mayhew
Art Show Hugo Nominee Liaison — Tom Schaad
Art Show Staff — Franz Cahoon, Ruth Cahoon,
Alice Lewis, Winton Matthews
Art Show ASFS Liaison — Bob Eggleton

Contest Entries

9000	8929 Sue Hammond	8888 Bill Lehrman
	8900 Fred Isaacs	
	8645 John Lorentz	
8000	7944 Pam Fremon	
	7777 Sarah Prince	
	7560 Donald Eastlake	
	7452 George Flynn	
	7373 Jim Hudson	7289 Mike DiGenio
	7200 Mary Maulucci	7182 Gloria Albasi
7000	7152 Ellen Franklin	7144 Carl Fields
	7052 Leslie Turek	6999 Dale Farmer
	6953 Paula Lieberman	6919 Sharon Sbarsky
	6674 Priscilla Olson	6666 Andy Cowan
Mean	6500 Al Kent	6400 Ben Yalow
6546	6347 Claire Anderson	6233 Chip Hitchcock
6000	6161 Tony Lewis	6118 Jill Eastlake
	6074 Yvonne Penney	5998 Dave Cantor
	5856 Greg Thokar	5672 Charles Seelig
	5648 Peggy Wajert	5601 Mark Olson
	5555 Tim Szczesuil	5437 Alexis Layton
	5335 Gay Ellen Dennett	5280 Andi Shechter
5000	5000 Jim Mann	4964 Rick Katze
	4795 Stu Shiffman	
	4638 Lloyd Penney	
4000	4058 Pat Vandenberg	

Back Issues

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

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

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

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

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

#28 (Aug 88) *Hugo Nomination Issue*. Grant proposal responses; Smofcon 5 information; Gulp meeting on fundraising ideas; Meetings, Apa excerpts, and letters. Topics included hucksters' room, weapons policy, badges, filking facilities and space allocation, etc.

#29 (Sep 88) *Nolacon Issue*. Hugo winners: WSFS Business Meeting; ConFiction and Chicon V reports; N3 Huckster and Masquerade information; Meetings, Apa excerpts, and letters. Topics included facilities, art show, program, extravaganzas, Worldcon seed money proposal.

#30 (Nov 88) *All-Number Issue*. Questionnaire Results; Hugo and Site-Selection Voting Statistics; Meetings, Apa excerpts, and letters. Topics included Nolacon, registration and badges, pending facilities questions, progress reports and program book, childcare, and Worldcon seed money proposal.

#31 (Dec 88) *Winter Solstice Issue*. Article on space allocation; Timeline; Meetings, Apa excerpts, and letters. Topics included technical brainstorming, Hugo ceremony, banquet, masquerade, Hugo voting, communications, logistics, program, registration, at-con publications, hotel room allocation, etc.

Convention News

Smofcon 5

Smofcon 5 was held at the Hyatt Regency in Phoenix, Arizona, on the weekend of December 10–11. The theme of the convention was Convention Communications. Although I attended, I don't have a full-scale con report because I was seduced by the warm sun and spent most of my time smoffing on the patio rather than attending the planned program. But as far as I can tell, Smofcon 5 was a success.

It was ably organized by Bruce Farr (Chair, Publications and Program), Eileen Phillips (Membership and Registration), Terry Gish (Con Suite), Margaret Grady (Treasurer), Jim and Doreen Webbert, Sue Potter, Karen Boehler, and Dave Berry. Fans from all over the country attended, including contingents from Texas, Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Tucson, San Francisco, the Northeast, Florida, and Baltimore/Washington. Advance registration was about 75, with approximately another 20 joining at the door.

All attendees were provided with a looseleaf notebook containing written materials. Most of the panels were videotaped, and the committee expects to transcribe them and distribute the text to the members at some later date. Some sample panels were "How to Make a Good Impression With the Con Attendees," "Publications," "Outrageous Behavior (and what to do about it)," and "Radios, Telephones, and Pagers, Oh My!" There was a presentation of upcoming Worldcon, Westercon, and Smofcon bids, and a Noreascon 3 question-and-answer session. As is traditional with Smofcons, the con suite was generously stocked, especially with chocolate in many varied forms.

Easterners who hadn't been in Phoenix for Westercon enjoyed visiting the city. Some trekked out to the desert botanical garden, others found an Indian crafts sale, and yet others discovered the nearby Christmas street fair (complete with quickly-melting ice sculptures).

Phoenix suffers the problem that it shuts down over the weekend and restaurants in the downtown area are hard to find. There is one cheap Tex-Mex place across

the street from the hotel, but not much else. One group of us lucked out by asking the Hyatt concierge for a recommendation and got sent to a nice place called The 1895 House, which was within longish walking distance of the hotel. Their "walnut cloud" dessert was a dream.

In the usual informal way, Toronto was selected as the site of Smofcon 6, and Orlando made known its interest in hosting Smofcon 7. More information about Smofcon 6 is given below.

— LT

Smofcon 6

Smofcon 6, the Convention Runners' Convention, will be held in Toronto on December 8–10, 1989. Memberships are available at C\$35 or US\$28 until May 31, 1989; C\$40 or US\$32 through October 30, 1989; and C\$50 or US\$40 at the door. The location will be the Howard Johnson Airport Hotel, with rates of C\$72/night single or double. The following is taken from a flyer handed out at Smofcon 5. For more information, write to Smofcon 6, PO Box 186, Station M, Toronto Ontario, Canada M6S 4T3, or call (416) 232-0294 between 7 and 10 pm EST.

Theme: Convention Planning. This is one of the most important, yet one of the most difficult parts of the convention. We'll explore how to plan beforehand to help you stage the best possible convention. Examples: bid presentations, recruiting, targeting advertising markets, and budgeting.

Progress Reports: PR1 will be mailed out by the end of March 1989. PR2 should be mailed out around the end of August 1989, but seeing that's Worldcon time, we'll try our best to hand out PR2s at Noreascon 3. If we don't find you, we'll mail the remainder from Boston.

Pre-Con Package: We'll have a tentative programme in this package, in addition to the essays and papers that have appeared in past pre-con packages. We want your two cents' worth on paper! Submission deadline for papers and essays is October 23, 1989 to the address above. We plan to mail out the packages November 8, 1989.

Convention Format and Material: We plan to follow the same format Smofcon 3 in Lowell, MA followed, signing up for discussion groups to be held in private rooms, where discussion can be more comfortable, and less inhibited. We need people to offer their rooms, and their services as recording secretaries for the postcon notebook.

Hospitality Suite: We're planning a cosy, yet spacious set of rooms with lots of good food, drink and company. The drink will include some potent homemade bheer, and the food will include continental breakfasts Saturday and Sunday.

Post-Con Notebook: The Smofcon 6 Record deadline is the end of February, 1990, and mailout is planned for March 1990.

All dates stated above are tentative!

Smofcon 6 committee includes Lloyd Penney (Chairman/Publications), Yvonne Penney (Treasurer/Registration/Hotel Liaison), Paul Valcour (Programming), and Heather Ashby (Hospitality Suite).

ConFederation Grants

[Noreascon 3 received the following Press Release, dated December 31, 1988, from WorldCon Atlanta, Inc.]

WorldCon Atlanta, Inc. has approved grants for over \$30,000 from the operating surplus remaining after ConFederation, the 1986 World Science Fiction Convention.

In a steady process since the Fall of 1987, the Board of Directors of WorldCon Atlanta, Inc. has approved grants and donations for the benefit of the science fiction community and to advance science fiction and fantasy literature. The recipients have included small press publishers, a program for handicapped fans, and the World Science Fiction Society.

Electrical Eggs, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to the increase of handicapped access to science fiction conventions, received a grant in 1987 for \$2430 for its organizational costs and its work, which included the publication of a manual for convention committees.

Unnameable Press, a small press publisher located in Atlanta, received a \$5000 grant to support the 1989 publication of *Where the Black Lotus Blooms*, an anthology of dark fantasy. Centauri Express, a science fiction radio drama on tape, was given a grant of \$5000 to subsidize the cost of its initial releases.

The World Science Fiction Society Mark Registration and Protection Committee was given \$1000 to support its activities.

The fan funds to support travel of fans to and from Australia and Europe were each given \$500. These were DUFF, TAFF, and GUFF.

The Eastern Connecticut Library Association was given \$5000 to support a program to promote science fiction literature in the public schools. The Orlando Science Center received a grant of \$1000 for its show of SF art and artifacts called "Outer Limits."

Neil Barron, the editor/publisher of the Critical Guide to Fantasy and Horror Literature, was given \$5000 to support its publication. Ed Meskys, the publisher of the fanzine *Niekas*, was given a grant that permitted the publication of a fanzine for the visually impaired in time for Nolacon II.

The publication of two issues of the Bulletin of the Southern Fan Confederation was subsidized by grants and other assistance totalling about \$4500. The Confederation is an unincorporated society dedicated to publicizing science fiction and SF fan activities throughout the South.

The Board of Directors is still accepting grant applications. For guidelines please write: WorldCon Atlanta, Inc., Attn: Projects Committee, Suite 1986, 3277 Roswell Rd., Atlanta, GA 30305.

Timeline

[This timeline is a working document and is subject to change and growth. Please send any additions, corrections, or comments to Mark Olson. Updated versions of the Timeline will probably be a regular feature of M3P from now on.]

- Jan 1 Deadline for registration-guessing contest
<contest closed — see page 1>
- Jan 1 Mail Program Division apa
<done on Jan 7>
- Jan 1 Hugo rockets ordered
<letter sent Jan 5>
- Jan 4 MCFI meeting and PR 5 mailing
Set Art Show rates
Decide on hotel room allocation policy
<PR late from printer; mailed on 1/13 — 1/17>
<see meeting minutes on page 10>
- Jan 10 Initial Art Show mailing to artists
<Distribution started on 1/27>
- Jan 10 Go/No-Go decision on Ballantine book
- Jan 20 Beginning of onslaught of hotel forms
- Jan 20 Need proposal and budget for souvenir items
- Jan 26 Start of Boskone 26
- Jan 26 MLO et al. supply PR 6 outline
- Jan 28 Art Show meeting at Boskone
- Jan 28 Program division meeting at Boskone
- Jan 29 Hynes 89 division meeting at Boskone
- Feb 5 Go/No-Go decision on Strangers book
- Feb 7 Facilities division meeting
- Feb 8 MCFI meeting — Decide on at-con publications
- Feb 8 Pick and confirm newsletter name
- Feb 8 Deadline for deciding on "Yearbook"
- Feb 8 Probable PR 1&5 mailing
- Feb 10 Norton and Ballantine book contents fixed
- Feb 10 Get updated Hodges ribbon catalog
- Feb 13 Toy Fair opens; Ellen goes insane
- Feb 15 Start sending out Art Show confirmations
- Feb 15 Hotel room assignment work session
- Feb 15 Settle on official logo for souvenirs
- Feb 15 PR 6 ad copy deadline
- Feb 15 MCFI income tax deadline
- Feb 15 Norton and Ballantine contract drafts ready
- Feb 17 Codclave weekend
- Feb 17 Review attendance projections for budget
- Feb 18 Division heads meeting at Codclave
- Feb 25 Deadline for completing first hotel assignments
- Feb 25 First draft PR 6 text to Greg
- Feb 28 Extravanzas division meeting
- Mar 1 Norton book data entry complete
- Mar 1 Finish entering Program questionnaires
- Mar 1 Write artists asking for newsletter illos
- Mar 1 Draft souvenir book outline
- Mar 2 Deadline for selection of PB cover artist
- Mar 4 PR 6 text entry complete/Review text
- Mar 8 Hotel room assignment work session
- Mar 10 Start of Lunacon
- Mar 10 Set gopher crash space policy
- Mar 12 Badge physical design decided
- Mar 15 Postmark deadline for Hugo nomination ballots

The Mad 3 Party

February 1989

Mar 15 Attending membership goes up to \$80
 Mar 15 Start constructing strawman program
 Mar 15 Choose T-shirt artist
 Mar 15 Fix content of Strangers book
 Mar 15 Deadline for PR 6 text revisions
 Mar 18 Division heads meeting
 Mar 20 PR 6 frozen
 Mar 23 Hugo nominations final counting begins
 Apr 1 Notify Hugo nominees
 Apr 1 PR 6 to printer
 Apr 1 Decide on Hugo base design
 Apr 1 Ballantine book data entry complete
 Apr 1 Decide on ribbon colors and designs
 Apr 5 CD maturity
 Apr 9 Deadline for Program Book draft text
 Apr 9 Division heads meeting
 Apr 15 Restaurant Guide first draft done
 Apr 15 Review rough design for T-shirt
 Apr 15 Hugo base design and quotes approved
 Apr 15 Complete Strangers book data entry
 Apr 20 Hugo ballot to printer; withdrawal deadline
 Apr 20 Complete preliminary mixing area layout
 Apr 23 Draft SB text ready for review
 Apr 30 Ribbon logo artwork to Hodges
 May 1 Final Hugo and Site-Selection ballots mailed
 May 1 Badge materials ordered
 May 1 Norton and Ballantine books to printer
 May 1 First PR 6 mailing
 May 1 Approve ribbon colors and designs
 May 7 Division heads meeting
 May 12 Tentative beginning of spring Program meeting
 May 15 Artwork complete; place T-shirt order
 May 15 Settle on badge design (artwork and layout)
 May 21 Demonstrate that badge-production software works
 May 22 Schedules mailed to all program participants
 May 25 Strangers book mimeo complete
 May 25 Deadline for areas for ribbon order
 May 26 Start of Disclave
 Jun 1 Complete layout of Mixing Area
 Jun 1 Complete layout of Registration area
 Jun 1 Deadline for Souvenir Book ad reservations
 Jun 10 Send out ribbon order
 Jun 14 Final Program Book text deadline
 Jun 15 Restaurant Guide final draft done
 Jun 15 Norton book arrives from printer
 Jun 20 Absolute Program Book ad deadline
 Jun 20 Deadline for PR 7 initial text
 Jun 22 Program Book goes to printer
 Jul 1 Complete Hucksters location assignments
 Jul 1 T-shirts arrive
 Jul 10 Final draft of PR 7 to div. hds. review
 Jul 15 Art Show bid sheet mailing to artists
 Jul 15 Final Hucksters mailing goes out
 Jul 15 Postmark deadline for Hugo ballots
 Jul 15 Pre-registration cut-off
 Jul 15 Draft of press kit ready
 Jul 15 Have plan for at-con money handling
 Jul 15 NESFA contribution to reading room packed
 Jul 20 PR 7 goes to printer
 Jul 21 Actual end of pre-registration
 Jul 22 Actual deadline for receipt of Hugo ballots
 Jul 22 Badge production starts for pre-registrants
 Aug 1 Order Hugo base engraving

Aug 1 Hucksters' table free-cancellation deadline
 Aug 1 Release of hotel blocks to direct reservations
 Aug 1 Deadline for Masquerade costume and photo area entries
 Aug 1 Deadline for decision on inclusion of precis in "pocket program"
 Aug 1 PR 7 mailing
 Aug 1 Possible second mailing to program participants
 Aug 9 Treasurer departs for Rio
 Aug 10 Committee gaffiates
 Aug 10 Press release and packets sent to local press
 Aug 15 Nominal deadline for Site-Selection mail ballots
 Aug 15 All pre-registrant badges completed
 Aug 15 Receive ribbons from manufacturer
 Aug 15 Badge alphabetization worksession
 Aug 24 Huckster Room guide to printer
 Aug 24 Restaurant Guide to printer
 Aug 24 Masquerade program to printer
 Aug 24 Pocket Program to printer
 Aug 24 Program signs done
 Aug 26 Logistics picks up first truck(s)
 Aug 28 Bulk of Committee moves into hotel
 Aug 29 We get Hynes for setup

Division Heads Meeting

Date: December 3, 1988
 Notes by: Leslie Turek

The division heads met at 1 pm after a potluck brunch at the Eastlakes'. Attending were Mark and Priscilla Olson, Fred Isaacs, Jim and Laurie Mann, Leslie Turek, Ann Broomhead, Jim Hudson, Ellen Franklin, Don and Jill Eastlake, Ben Yalow, George Flynn, and Dave Cantor.

Area Transfers: Two area transfers have been arranged, based on general agreement among all of the parties concerned. The Tech Services area will be moved from Facilities to Extravanzas, and Hugo Base Procurement will be moved from WSFS to Extravanzas. (The latter transfer is to make it easier to take advantage of Ellen Franklin's professional contacts.)

Someone accused Extravanzas of being too power-hungry, and predicted they'd be taking over Babysitting next. Someone else responded that there'd been no pregnancies in Extravanzas, while there'd been three so far in Program. . . .

Volunteers: Jim Mann brought the most recent volunteer forms and passed them around. He is still trying to locate the older forms we received before we had appointed a People Mover.

Space Allocation: Mark Olson asked us to spend some time brainstorming about possible uses for Hall B. in case we find that we will be able to afford it. If our membership runs high, we'll not only have the money to rent it, but we'll probably need the space. But we won't know for sure until later next year.

To commit to Hall B, we'd have to commit to the minimum rental of \$11,400. Later, if we actually used it, there would be additional charges for cleaning, security, etc. Mark asked Don to try to find out if the Hynes has anyone else interested in renting it. We would like to delay the decision as much as possible, but we don't want to see it go to someone else without at least having the chance to

get it.

Leslie Turek and Jim Hudson suggested that we look into just renting the meeting rooms on the first floor. They would be good for parties, program, and general lounging spaces.

Ideally, we would like to move Hucksters to Hall B, so the mixing/exhibit area could expand from Hall C into Halls C and D. We need to see how similar the two rooms are and whether we could retain the same Hucksters' layout. On the other hand, since the entrances would be different, hucksters would probably want to make different table selections if we moved them to Hall B.

Someone asked if we really need that much space for mixing and exhibits. Mark pointed out that there were a number of other things that had large space needs, such as the Masquerade photo area. If we had more exhibit-hall space, we could also enlarge the area set up with tables near the concession stands.

Without Hall B, how large a convention could we support? Jim H. thought that we'd be okay up to 9,000 people; Mark was less certain. Leslie pointed out that the space we've definitely reserved in the Hynes is significantly bigger than in 1980, when we had plenty of room for a 6,000-person convention.

Meeting with ARA: Ellen and Don met with ARA, the Hynes food concessionaire. Ellen's impression was that there was very little room for price negotiation. It isn't even clear if they will be willing to sell food in bulk quantities; they seem to be taking the position that union workers must "distribute" food. We definitely can't bring in our own stuff. They definitely must serve all alcohol. It appears that some percentage of their revenue goes directly to the Hynes (Ellen guessed 30%). Essentially, these inflated prices are a way of hiding the true rental cost of the Hynes.

If hucksters want to sell food items, they need to send a sample to ARA and get advance approval. They also need to have a sign stating "Not for consumption on the premises."

We spent some time trying to get a feel of what it would cost to put a typical bid party in the Hynes. In general, it seems that ARA prices are about 4 times the wholesale cost of most items. For example, a cheese platter to serve 50 costs \$250, a vegetable platter for 50 is \$100, soda is \$1.50/can, etc. These are their list prices; certainly if we buy a lot of stuff from them, we could expect to get perhaps a 10-20% discount. An open bar costs \$7/person for the first hour and \$3/person for additional hours. Liquor and imported beers cost \$3.75 by the drink; soft drinks are \$1.25.

A bid party that does not serve alcohol would probably cost about \$1000/night in the Hynes, for a party that might have cost \$400 in a hotel room (\$250 for refreshments and \$150 for the suite). If we want to subsidize the difference, 20 party-nights would cost us about \$12,000 ($20 \times \$600/\text{night}$).

We considered our other refreshments needs. The Green Room will need to supply at least soda and coffee. The Staff Lounge in the Hynes may not be able to supply any food; perhaps we can have a second location in the Sheraton. The banquet will be break-even; Ellen didn't see any problem with getting a reasonable brunch banquet for \$25/ticket (including service and taxes).

Ellen agreed to draw up a list of all possible areas that might need refreshments in the Hynes, with their minimum and maximum needs. She will then sit down with ARA and negotiate. If their prices remain high, we can go with the minimums. If they are willing to give us a better deal, and/or if we get additional members, we can add the options.

Ellen requested the division heads to provide her with this information within a week. We should re-evaluate our expected membership and refine our budget early next year.

As far as individual members are concerned, the ARA concession stands might be reasonable in terms of the convenience. The Sheraton will also probably run fast-food stands, and there are a lot of reasonably-priced food outlets nearby. We don't see any problem with our members finding food, but we will probably have to limit how much free food and drink the convention can provide.

Labor Advisor: Ellen and Don also met with Bob Dobinski, a labor consultant Ellen recommended, to get his opinion on what our labor costs will be and find out how he might be able to help us.

He felt that we would probably need to hire 2-4 Teamsters to assist with moving in and moving out, plus an elevator operator. Assuming 4 days, 12 hours per day, with holiday and overtime, this comes to about \$15,000. He gave us a lot of information about how things like drayage are priced and how to avoid getting hit for extras.

Freeman can put together an exhibitors kit which we should send out to our hucksters and organizations putting up large displays. This will allow them to order extra furniture, draperies, electricity, phones, etc., directly from Freeman. If they order in advance, the rates will be lower than if they ask for it when they arrive at the con. Typical rates were \$60-\$70 for electricity, and \$5.75/ft. of 8' drape.

Members of the convention-running group are technically able to work at the convention as volunteer labor. We need to provide our staff with some sort of easily-identifiable identification.

Bob has been collecting data on other conventions at the Hynes and how they have worked with the unions. For example, there is a craft show there this weekend that his people will be observing. The data he has so far indicates that the Teamsters don't insist on moving everything; they just want to be there as helpers, and to handle any large commercial shipments.

Bob normally charges \$50/hour for his services, and estimates that it would take 40-60 hours of his time to work with us on coordinating labor for N3. The opinion of the division heads was that this seemed good insurance to avoid potential large problems later.

Timeline: Mark passed around the latest version of the Timeline, and we went over it item by item. Some of the items led to discussion.

We should add to the Timeline the dates on which we need to make go/no-go budget decisions.

Mark discussed our ideas for making the PR production process go more smoothly. For PR 6, Mark, Leslie, and Jim will first develop an outline giving details of what we would like to see included. This will be handed out to the division heads, who will be expected to give out assignments to fill in the pieces. We plan to have a draft outline

for PR 6 ready to discuss at the next division heads meeting in early January.

The original deadline for PR 6 text was February 1, to get the PR mailed in April. Several people felt that this was too soon: that there wouldn't be a whole lot of new material ready by then, and it was too close to Boskone to allow people to work on it carefully. Mark agreed, so we have moved the deadline and mailing dates back one month, to March 1 and May 1, respectively.

Fred asked about setting up Hynes visits for area heads who haven't seen it yet. Don said that formal visits were difficult to arrange, and we shouldn't overuse them. It's often possible to visit the Hynes when public events are there. Many people get access to free passes for various trade shows. It was suggested that we designate a place in the clubhouse for posting free passes, and encourage people who want to see the Hynes to try to use this method first.

Paula Lieberman has offered to make a videotape of the Hynes, but Ellen felt that it would be hard to really get a sense of a place through a videotape. She didn't feel it would be worth the effort.

Mark mentioned that he had set up the Timeline so that things which are not time-critical are done a bit earlier than they absolutely have to be. For example, we will aim for August 1 delivery of all printed material, such as souvenir books, that do not contain time-critical material.

We have some articles from the Strangers, but not enough to fill a book. Everyone chimed in at once, "Well, let's do it as a fanzine!"

We talked about how hotel allocation forms should be handled. We should look into improving the software that's being used to do hotel allocation for Boskone this year. We should have something working well by January 20, at the latest.

Steve Whitmore has prepared a proposal for which souvenir items to provide, and is looking into getting price estimates. They include a mug, tote bag, and pin, along with the usual t-shirts. We need a logo and t-shirt design to go on these items.

Various people gave Mark their personal travel schedules. Jim and Ellen will be out of town April 14-30; Ellen will be in New York working on Toy Fair from Jan 23 to Feb 23. (Mark suggested that Ellen should drive up to meetings in Boston with Ben during that period; he could entertain her by playing his Meeting Planner tapes on his car stereo system.) Fred will be away Dec. 22 - Jan. 5, and the Eastlakes from Dec. 22 to Jan. 1. Ben will be away Feb. 25 - Mar. 6. Mark will be away Mar. 6-10.

Note that Mark had originally put in the Timeline that Ann would skip town with the cash on July 25. But Ann asked him to move it later so that the last-minute membership checks would all clear first. [joke]

We need to decide when to start mailing nominating ballots to new joiners via first-class mail instead of as part of PR 5. We hope to collect some data about how long it takes PR 5 to reach various parts of the country.

It was mentioned that Boston recently came close to having a hotel workers' strike, but they settled with a 3-year contract. So N3 should be safe.

The deadline for ordering Hugo rockets was moved up to Jan. 1, as there's no reason why we can't do it now.

It was noted that the ribbon order should be placed earlier than July 10, since summer is the high season for horse shows.

The meeting adjourned somewhere around 5 pm.

GULP Meeting

Date: December 14, 1988
Topic: Souvenir Book
Notes by: Jim Hudson

I didn't take an attendance list, but the people who were there included Mark Olson, Pam Fremon, Mike Di-Genio, George Flynn, Jim Mann, Laurie Mann, Rick Katze, Dale Farmer, Paula Lieberman, Greg Thokar, Sharon Sbar-sky, and others, I'm sure.

I will state at the start that (at the meeting) we all believed there is no way to put the Program in the ~~PR 6/PR 7~~ Souvenir Book because it can't be done in time, the Souvenir Book is too big to carry, and for all the other reasons that have been stated.

Cover and Overall Design

Our working plan is for a 100-300-page, 8 1/2" x 11", perfect-bound book with a color wraparound cover. We very much want the title of the book on the cover and on the spine.

The working idea for the cover is a Bob Eggleton suggestion. Greg will be talking to Bob about going from sketch to rough to final.

Ad and Editorial Space

I did an analysis before the meeting of 8 out of the last 9 program books:

	<i>Pro Ads</i>	<i>Fan Ads</i>	<i>Total Pages</i>	<i>News Pages</i>
1988, Nolacon	52.5	17.5	178	101
1987, Brighton	34	11	198	146
1986, Atlanta	54	24	152	74
1984, L.A.	56.5	25	196	115
1983, Baltimore	49	24.5	156	84
1982, Chicago	44.5	11.5	148	94
1981, Denver	20	15	148	106
1980, Boston	37	24	164	102

The "News Pages" counts above don't include blank pages for "Autographs" or whatever. Some of what I called "pro" ads might have paid the fan rate.

But one implication is that 40 pro and 15 fan ad pages look pretty secure, which is income of \$13K (compared to the \$8K currently in the budget). Another implication is that the natural size for editorial matter is on the order of 100 pages, and we used that as our working target in the rest of the discussion.

The Normal Material

There is a certain set of material which is typically put in the "news" side of the Souvenir Book. I did page counts of Nolacon, LA, and N2 to get some idea of how long these pieces tend to be. And the meeting agreed, in general, that these are a reasonable part of the book. They include:

Front Matter (ToC, committee list, etc.)	6
WSFS Constitution, rules, business	6
In Memoriam	1
Past-Worldcon table	2
Past-Hugo table and current nominees	8
List of members and maps	10
Guest of Honor writeups and bibliographies	15-20

That totals about 50 pages, which is roughly half of the space we have for book content. More on that later. I should note that the front matter should probably not include a Chairman's welcome or a welcome from the Mayor, since the group considered those to be largely wasted space.

The New Ideas

We discussed Pam's proposal for a Yearbook (see Apa:89 excerpt on page 9) in some detail. Overall, it sounded like a very good idea — but not as a *replacement* for the at-con Souvenir Book, which many of us like. Some read the Souvenir book at the con, some (new at-the-doors) get their only information about the GoH's from it, some use it for autographs, etc.

On the other hand, we like the idea of a memory book *planned in advance* for preparation after the con, and potential distribution within a year. It's a surplus item, but one that takes some advance consideration. We should do some work on this, perhaps along with the plans for the Closing Extravaganza, and see if we can make it happen.

The basic caution is battle fatigue. One of Leslie's 1980 letters to SFWA (which I read recently) quoted a film producer who started out trying to make the best film ever (stage 1), then wanted to just make an acceptably good film (stage 2), and finally just wanted to get the film done (stage 3). The proposal for a Yearbook clearly shows us to still be in stage 1, and there's nothing wrong with that.

The Rest of the "News"

There is precedent in the Souvenir Book for reviews, critiques, and historical discussions. As we played with these ideas, some other thoughts came out for the discretionary 50 pages.

1. *Program precis.* We thought about putting these in the Souvenir Book, but decided that they — and other things directly related to what people see at the convention — belong in the current notions of the Program Booklet.

2. *Picture Gallery.* This would use Chris Valada's work. We had questions about how much will be done in time, and how the people have been selected. It's a possibility, but might fit the Memory Book better.

3. *Program Participant Bios/Photos.* The parts we put in the N2 program book averaged about 13 names per page, with the bios provided by the program participants and pictures of about 25% of them. Again, this is a possibility, but might be better in a small at-con publication.

4. *Art Portfolio.* We didn't see a lot of value in a random art portfolio, or even in the "showcase" of art in honor of our guests. The quality in past attempts has been too varied. But see below.

5. *Noreascon I and II history.* This seems like a good idea, especially if we can get some of our better writers (for example, we might randomly select Tony and Leslie) to write them. The statistics and analyses Don's been doing would also be useful. Perhaps 5-10 pages.

6. *SF and Fandom around the world.* Several of us liked the material that Conspiracy put in their report, written by people in various countries. We've called in PR 5 for submissions of such material. Seems like a good idea, in the 5-10-page range.

7. *Past Worldcons.* In honor of the 50 years, material on all Worldcons. One thought was a picture of the Program Book cover and excerpts from con reports/reviews published in the fanzines. At 4/page, this would be about 15 pages.

8. *Past Hugo Nominees.* Similarly, a table showing all the Hugo nominees for all years. In a tabular format, this would take about 15 pages vs. the 6 or so for just the winners. Many of us would like to have this easily available, though it might compete with a new edition of the Franson and DeVore book.

9. *Direct convention material.* How to bid at the art show, etc. Put this material in the Program Booklet.

10. *Material related to this year's Hugos.* This could include critical reviews of the fiction, non-fiction book, and dramatics. It could also include selected art from the fan and pro artists, excerpts from the work of the fan writers, and so forth. If we do reviews, we can either wimp out (I can say that — I suggested it) by republishing existing reviews or commission our own. In any case, a section on the Hugo nominees could take 10-20 pages.

11. *Expanded In Memoriam.* We probably don't want to get in the business of major obituaries. But we may want to classify the people (fan, author of x, etc.). And we could decide to put in a few pictures, particularly if we have losses like Heinlein and Simak last year. Perhaps 2-3 pages instead of 1.

12. *Pictures of Nolacon.* This is probably too much of a pain since we didn't plan for it beforehand. We don't want to be just the *Locus* postcon issue.

13. *Articles on our history, the fan year, trends in the field, etc.* I think we all thought there is potential there, but don't have a clear view of what these would really include.

14. *Other 50-year visuals.* Book covers, movie posters, fanzine covers, etc. Again, we need good ideas.

15. *Retrospectives.* A list of, and perhaps articles by, people who've been to all (or maybe 40 or more) of the 47 Worldcons. These people are also a potential resource for the brunch, and we need to try to find out who they are. Somebody (Greg?) will be talking with First Fandom about possible names.

Personally, I'd select the following of these (with incremental page counts):

All Hugo nominees	8 pages
N1 and N2 history, by the chairs	8 pages
SF and Fandom, worldwide	8 pages
Expanded In Memoriam	1 page
50 Worldcon covers and reviews	15 pages
Our Hugo nominees: reviews, art, samples	15 pages

That would nicely fill up our "news" section and be a very impressive book.

Concluding Comments

Since we appear to be doing something different than the traditional Program Book, we should probably have a page that tells people that, perhaps as a message from the editor.

We did not directly discuss book design, though we know that we need a consistent and clean one, and that the people currently working on the book don't have much experience with that. We need to address this.

There was a strange idea at the end, of including a pocket where people can, if they wish, put their daily newsletters and the Program booklet, for their historical records. It was my idea, so I can say that it's probably a loser, but is probably worth pricing.

Excerpts from APA:89

Issue 103 / December 19, 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.)

Access Services (by Andi Shechter)

I know "Access Services" isn't the best name; I just hate "Handicapped Services."

I don't like the idea of medical registration. Since we are not providing medical assistance, it seems pointless. Having stickers on the back of badges on which to write anything relevant (name of child's parents and room numbers, room numbers for parties, medical conditions) is a useful catch-all. When we provide the stickers, we should have a sign listing suggestions for what to put on the back. Anyone with a medical condition needing attention should either always carry ID with that information or use a Medic-Alert bracelet. We are not in loco parentis. It would be useful for Facilities (yes, I'll check) to determine the nature of the First Aid Station in the Hynes — how it's staffed and what hours, etc.

It sure wouldn't hurt to provide some electric carts, etc. The Hynes is big, many of our guests are not only disabled, but may be elderly, pregnant, etc.

If we have people volunteering to do ASL interpreting, *let's be sure to take advantage of this offer!* (I'm bothered that people actually volunteered at Nolacon and these offers were not accepted. Sigh.)

I will try to find some time to do walk-throughs of our major hotels with access in mind. It might not hurt if we could provide info regarding access to a particular hotel (the best door, best route to the Hynes [that is, if they aren't staying at the Sheraton], restaurant access, etc.).

Publications (by Pam Fremon)

A particularly lively panel at Smofcon earlier this month dealt with publications, and turned some of the accepted notions of usefulness upside down. (Of course, this topic surfaces every so often, but little change is ever made. The feeling of some of the panelists and a lot of the audience seemed to be now that they're so tired of the limitations and problems in the current set that they were willing to try changes.) Here are some thumbnail descriptions of a revised publications list that would be suitable for most cons in the medium- to Worldcon-size range. Some of these will be described in more detail below, and in the case of the Survival Guide, are largely offline developments:

- **Souvenir Book.** Glossy thing issued at con containing GoH bios, con history, in memoriam list, etc.
- **Yearbook.** Issued after the con, telling what went on.
- **Program Book.** Just about everything relating to the program — precis, etc.
- **Pocket Program.** The bare facts of the program schedule.
- **The Pink Sheet.** The corrected, up-to-date listing of the program schedule. Perhaps issued daily.
- **Daily Zine.** The at-con newsletter.
- **Survival Guide.** What every fan needs to know to function at the con.

The Pink Sheet assumes that the con adopts Nolacon's idea of reprinting daily the entire program for that day (though with change bars or boldface to highlight the changes). Mike Glycer suggested that this always be printed on the same color paper, which would not be used for any other publication, and (randomly) suggested pink paper. If this were to become more-or-less standard usage among the cons, the term "Pink Sheet" would signify for everyone the program update. A singular color would also make it easier to find. The first newsletter of the day could say (perhaps in large letters), "Have you got your pink sheet?"

The Survival Guide pulls the operating con rules and what-every-attendee-should-know information out of the Souvenir Book (or "Program Book," in old terminology) and puts them in one condensed-but-friendly booklet of 2 to 16 pages. On the front, in large letters, it says, *Read Me First*. It contains the weapons policy (again), babysitting hours and rules, unacceptable-behavior list, restaurant guide, etc. The hope here is that by making this a separate, shorter publication, and putting in something fans are really going to look at (the restaurant guide), we can get them to actually read the publication.

A Yearbook Proposal (by Pam Fremon)

This was an idea that came up at a panel at Smofcon last weekend, and was fleshed out by myself and others over the weekend.

Program Book vs. Yearbook

Many of us felt that the traditional big, glossy "Program Book" (usually the con's largest, most expensive publication) handed out at cons has become very dull. Most Program Books carry things like con rules, area opening hours, GoH bios and bibliographies, and lots of ads. It is possible to vary the contents somewhat and still meet the appropriate page length and printing deadlines, but unless a topnotch writer can do some great feature articles for it, the Program Book will probably be opened only once at con, and at home be relegated to the shelf of others never-read Program Books.

Enter the new, improved Program Book and the Yearbook. In fact, let's give away the title of "Program Book" (as has been previously suggested) and let that be a separate publication dealing with the con's Program, which we won't address here. Let's rename the old Program Book the "Souvenir Book," as it will be a non-utilitarian but attractive publication that the attendee will take away from the con. This book could have, still, articles like the GoH bios and bibliographies, Worldcon history, what's happened in the world of sf in the last year, 50th anniversary stuff — various things that can be done far in ad-

vance of the con.

New concept

Now here's the idea: If we have a sufficient surplus, we publish something like N2's Memory Book 6 to 9 months after N3. We call it the "yearbook." It is the record of what actually happened at N3 and becomes the large, glossy keepsake. With ad space sold (going to a guaranteed audience, we'd have no trouble selling space) to cover a large portion of the costs, some of the likely subjects for inclusion would be:

- Award winner lists (from Hugos to Art Show)
- Masquerade photos
- Reviews of N3 from fanzines and other sources
- Postcon comments from the GoHs
- Synopses and quotes from some program items
- Final committee/staff/helper list
- Writeups of how things went by the Divisions
- Lists (e.g., who exhibited in the Art Show) and interesting numbers
- Lots and lots of photos
- Bind in the complete set of the daily newsletter

With this book, the attendee can say, "I was there!" and "Oh, I remember that" (as well as see the things they didn't get to). It definitely has the possibility of being something read and enjoyed over and over. It especially would be enjoyed by the supporting members.

Paying for the Yearbook

As stated above, the Yearbook need be done only if we have a significant surplus. Much of the cost could be offset by selling ad space. With such a targeted audience and a book that seems likely to be read thoroughly, I think we could easily sell all the ad space we want to. It's possible that we might get a grant of some sort that would also pay for part of it.

There will be some expenses that are unique, or magnified, for this yearbook. Certainly one of the largest will be postage, since except for the small number we can hand-deliver, everyone's will be mailed. Going bulk rate, the best off-the-top-of-the-head number we could guess was about \$.50/book [this is the per-piece rate, not the total weight rate, which is separate]. Other expenses will include a protective wrap for mailing (padded envelope or a shrink-type wrap) and \$60 to keep our bulk mailing permit through 1990.

If desired, we could further offset some of the costs by selling extra copies before we do the mailing. For example, about 3 months before the mailing we send all attendees a flyer announcing the publication of the Yearbook and inviting them to buy extra copies if they wish. (This flyer also serves as an address check, since we needn't mail the book to any proven bad addresses.)

People expenses

I won't deny that this book will take more work than the traditional "program book." While I was not around during the production of N2's Memory Book, it seems that the Yearbook would be sort of a fun thing for the N3 recoverees to work on, gradually, after the con. Certainly it could be split up into different areas easily.

Much of the planning for this, in fact, could be done pre-con or at-con as we decide what sorts of things would be good subjects for the book. We could that way ensure

that someone covers these items at-con.

Theme

This could be our final place to use the Alice theme, as Alice really does do a walkthrough of the con. What would she see? What about a show of people in the fanciest of dress (the Masquerade); a gallery of art; a room with wondrous wares for sale (the hucksters' room); a luncheon, much larger than a tea party, where people got up and said interesting things (the Sunday Brunch); singing on into the night; people orating, etc.

In sum

I have always wished I could have someone with good camera sense go around a con with me and take all the pictures I've wanted to take. I've also wanted a long report on what happened at the con. Assuming that there are many attendees who feel the same way, the Yearbook may be one of the best ways of fulfilling these dreams. Again, it is one way of benefiting the attendees if we have a surplus.

MCFI Meeting

Date: January 4, 1989

Notes by: Jim Mann

The meeting was called to order at 7:42 pm.

Chairman: Mark Olson took a poll to see when people had received their apas (which were mailed right after Christmas). Many hadn't received theirs until the beginning of January. Dave Cantor hadn't received his at all yet.

Future Meetings: The next meetings were scheduled for February 8, March 15, and April 12.

APA deadlines are as follows:

March 5	Distributed March 8 and 10
April 2	Distributed April 5

Division heads meetings are scheduled for March 15 and April 12.

Treasurer: Ann Broomhead said that she and the new computer are still fighting it out. She did prepare a budget for the last quarter, which shows expenses of about \$8500 and income greater than \$17,000.

Preregistration: Sharon Sbarsky said that she and her new computer also fought. The computer won. It's not working now. The total count is 3772, with 3452 attending, 250 supporting, and 70 children's admissions.

N3 Table at Boskone: Sharon said that there will be a table in the info area at the Marriott. Jim Hudson will help. Pat Vandenberg said that Ann Norton has also volunteered. Mark suggested that we ask Boskone for a table in the Tara, and that we ask NESFA if they will sell memberships at the NESFA sales table in the Marriott. Jim H. said that division heads should push area heads to work at the table. Sharon said that we intend to accept Hugo nominating ballots and hotel forms at the table.

GULP: Jim H. said that we had a good meeting on the "souvenir book." (See report on page 7.) Who knows, we may have another GULP meeting some day.

Mad 3 Party: Leslie Turek said that there will be no M3P in January. [Gasps of shock.] She has lots of guesses for the membership prediction contest, evenly

spread from 4058 to 8900. This works out to an income uncertainty of \$450,000. George Flynn guessed 7452. The mean was 6405, which was about what Ben Yalow guessed. [Someone in the audience asks if this means that Ben is mean-spirited.]

She also read a few lines from a letter from Donald Franson:

I wish to change my status from supporting to attending. . . . Though I am not sure I will attend, I think Mad 3 Party convinced me that this World-con will not be like the last two.

Progress Report 5: Greg Thokar said that the printer did not finish when promised. The latest estimated date of arrival is Friday, meaning that the work session would be Sunday after the NESFA business meeting. [This date also slipped.] Mark said things would be mailed in two lumps because his car can't carry them all at once.

PR 6 is coming up. See the timeline for deadlines.

Extravaganzas Division: Ellen Franklin and Jill Eastlake reported that Lynx is now servicing them as part of their division: that is, technical has moved from Facilities to Extravaganzas. Technical will continue to service all divisions, however.

Ellen said that a letter has gone to ARA, showing them our possible food needs.

Ellen said that they are looking into how to get a script and prototype for closing ceremonies. As an experiment, Ellen would like to collect slides taken at Boskone to see what can be done, even though we won't actually do the slideshow in real time. They're looking for "slice-of-life"-type photographs, so please contribute if you can.

Facilities Division: Mark said that the issue of hotel room allocation had been left to us from the last meeting. He said that there are two basic issues:

1. *How will the first batch be processed?* If we're lucky, it will be smaller than the available space. If not, some people won't get their first choice. Possible algorithms include Leslie's 1a and 1b (priority by membership number or random) or innkeeper's whim. Committee and staff will be given special consideration in any case. Jim H. said that he hopes committee and staff are smart enough to have their hotel card in the first batch. Jill requested rooms with padded walls. Paula Lieberman said that she's aware of requests from writers to be near writers' parties. [Of course, we don't know where those will be yet.]

2. *On what date do we cut off the first batch?* We're going to be including a return card in some random PRs to see how soon people get them. Also, 3% of the rooms will be held back a bit longer for foreigners. Sharon said we should extend overseas deadlines an extra two months. This would put the deadline at the same time we were reallocating other room blocks. Mark said he didn't think this was an issue, given the way we were mailing the PRs to them via the agents. George said he's used the term "several months" in what he's written, so we're not committed to any set number of months here. Don Eastlake said that he didn't see that an extra month would hurt anything. Mark said that he didn't want too many blocks held too late. After a few minutes of back and forth debate here, Bill Lehrman suggested putting off the decision for four months, since we'll know more then. This was

agreed to.

To save time, Leslie summarized the previous debate on both sides of issue 1. She said that membership number order was not fair, since we didn't tell people in advance. Some people simply can't afford to join early. On the other side, it's not fair to give people who just joined preference over someone who joined a long time ago. In any case, anyone who becomes a member after the first block has been allocated will effectively be given preference based on when they join.

Ann said that, regardless of which method we choose, we have to choose randomly among those who joined at ConFederation. Mark said this isn't an issue, since there aren't enough of them to fill up any of the most desired hotels. Jill moved that we buy the innkeeper a dartboard. Mark asked for a show of hands. Everyone showed him both hands. Jim H. welcomed Mark to 1989. Mark then asked for a voice vote (carefully phrasing the request this time). Membership-number order won by a significant margin.

Don said they have two scheduled work sessions for allocating people to the hotels. There may be a data-entry session at Codclave. Sharon is working on the software.

On other Facilities business, Don reported that Dennis Miller will be unable to attend N3 for personal reasons, so has resigned from Facilities Operations.

Draft Security Plan 1.9 was in the last apa. He hopes they will soon have a solid version 2.

Don then reviewed his writeup on Hynes space status. He said that RSN [Real Soon Now] we should have a contract: maybe even before the convention. We are still awaiting the Hynes response to our comments.

The Hynes, despite what we thought was the understanding, seems to have rented Hall B. Sytek Graphic Arts has it, and will be moving out on August 31.

Lynx asked about a tour of the Hynes for non-local fans during Boskone. There was some hemming and hawing here, before we agreed that the division heads would see if anyone in their divisions needed to see the Hynes then. If so, they could talk to Don.

George held up a rave review of the Hynes that appeared in *The Boston Globe*.

Party Situation: Don said that they have been trying to improve the situation regarding parties. Parties can be in hotels, but this may not be convenient: the hotels are wary about noise, and corkage is an issue. There are two possible solutions that deserve investigation:

1. Arrange with the Hynes for the first-floor function rooms. If we can get any kind of reasonable corkage agreement, we and the bidders can break even. We might be able to reduce our security costs in the hotels if many of the large parties are in the Hynes.

2. The cavern below the Sheraton is probably corkage-free. (This is an exhibit hall that was originally part of the parking garage.) We can probably get the Sheraton to agree that they'd much rather have parties down there.

WSFS: George said that Chip Hitchcock just sent out the '92 bidders' survey. The bidders are still negotiating among themselves regarding the voting fee. Should it be \$20 or \$30? Mark said that if they both agree on \$30, we have to vote on approval.

We've had a second request, this one from Jon Gustafson, for a special award to be given at the convention.

George will be sending Hugo nomination ballots to all current members via air mail within the next two days. At the next meeting, we will need to decide whether to do a first-class mailing of ballots to people who join too late to get theirs via the normal bulk-rate mailings.

Art Show: Dave Anderson said that they are a bit less organized than he'd intended. [This may have something to do with the fact that Dave and Claire are chairing Boskone this year.] However, there was a write-up in the last apa giving estimated cost figures for the Art Show.

We estimate about 300 panels in the main Art Show, about 10 in the print shop, and about 20 to 30 panels for exhibits. The latter should be funded by the convention, not by the artists.

Dave proposed the following panel fees:

1 panel	\$ 51
2 panels	\$117
3 panels	\$203
Table	\$ 64

He asked that the committee vote to allow Mark, George, Claire, and him to do some final tweaking of these numbers.

Chip said that he thought Boskone had decided that 1 table was equal to 2 panels. Dave said that for Noreascon, we have more table space relative to panel space.

Leslie asked Dave how these rates compared with other Worldcons' rates. Dave said that the last two Worldcons had very high rates. They charged a flat rate plus commission. He believes that Nolacon's rates worked out to \$60 plus for a panel. ConFederation's rates were about \$80 per panel. Jim H. asked for the current Boskone rates. Mark said they were \$42 and \$105.

Leslie asked how these numbers compared to those in the budget. Dave said they were very close: perhaps 2% higher. Leslie suggested rounding the rates downward. Dave said he'd rather round up. For one thing, Don's latest security proposal adds more guards.

[The final rates actually set were \$55, \$125, and \$215 for one, two, and three panels, respectively, and \$75 per table.]

Mark asked if there were any objections to these being the approximate final numbers, with him, George, and the Andersons doing some final tweaking. [No objections.]

George said that the mailing would be going out Real Soon Now. He also said that there would be an Art Show meeting at Boskone, provided that the Noreascon Art Show Heads and the Boskone Chairs can agree on a time. [Since both positions are held by Dave and Claire Anderson, it was felt this might be possible.]

Jill asked if we had distributed Hugo ballots to the fan-nish newsletters. George said we made the offer in the PR but nobody took us up on it. Rick Katze said that we should send them to *Locus*, *SFC*, and so forth anyway. Mark agreed: at least send them to those zines with high impact. [Ballots have since been sent to a couple of dozen zines.]

Program Division: Priscilla Olson handed out more program-participant surveys for committee members to fill out. She also said that she is still trying to get more pro addresses.

Forms are coming in at a reasonable rate. Program would like to use the Prereg XT when it's no longer needed by Prereg. Aron will use it for data entry.

Alan Bostick had to drop off the staff. He isn't pregnant, just busy with work. Pat Mueller and Dennis Virzi are pregnant. Ann suggested program ops distribute birth control pills.

Mark brought everyone up to date on the SFWA situation. He said that we'd discuss it for about 15 minutes today, and that the division heads would discuss it more on Saturday.

Mark said that he senses that there have been substantial changes in some parts of the pro community. One group thinks that pros have been exploited by conventions. Nolacon made the situation worse. So did the large profits made by some cons.

Pat asked what Nolacon did. Mark suggested she read *File 770*. Jim H. said that Jane Yolen told him that people were calling her while she was on sabbatical, to complain about Nolacon.

Second Floor: Peggy Rae was in Maryland, and Fred Isaacs was just arriving at the airport after being away for Christmas, so there was no report.

More Facilities: Don said that several of the hotels seem to be giving his old work number (CCA) to people looking for info on the con. CCA is getting lots of calls. We have to clarify this to the hotels.

Mark raised the issue of an MCFI phone. This would fix the problem. A volunteer to arrange for installation was solicited.

Services Division: Mark noted that both Jim and Laurie were here at the same time, proving once and for all that they were not the same person. Alexis Layton suggested that Jim drink a glass of water while Laurie gave the report to prove this was the case.

Laurie said we're still talking with Electrical Eggs. [However, see the note on page 1.]

New Year's postcards are going out to the staff, thanks to Beth MacLellan, Stu Shiffman (art), and Claire (mimeo).

Jim M. reported on the books. Chip is going to call several people regarding the Ballantine book. We'll know in a week whether it is worth bringing up at the next meeting. We have Tor's permission to go ahead with the Norton book. Finally, we're thinking of doing the Strangers book as a fanzine, and perhaps sending the material to Harry Warner to get a loc. Leslie suggested using twilltone. Tony asked if we'd use 2 or 3 staples.

Miscellaneous: Mark said that he had one minor policy item he wanted to raise. Future bids by this committee are a committee issue. Nobody will do anything, real or joking, without prior approval. This extends through the end of the year. He trusts there will be a hoax ad in the Program Book. He also trusts that there will be nothing else. [No one disagreed.] Laurie asked about Brighton on the Green Line. Mark advised her to raise it to the committee if she wants to hold a party. George asked about organizations against a '98 bid. Again, Mark suggested getting committee approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Division Heads Meeting

Date: January 7, 1988

Notes by: Leslie Turek

The division heads met at noon after a potluck brunch at the Olsons' featuring surplus scones from the Sherlock Holmes birthday party the previous night. Attending were Mark and Priscilla Olson, Fred Isaacs, Jim and Laurie Mann, Leslie Turek, Ann Broomhead, Jim Hudson, Ellen Franklin, Don and Jill Eastlake, Ben Yalow, George Flynn, and Dave Cantor.

Computer Report: Sharon Sbarsky is having trouble with the new registration computer. A board has been sent to California for repairs via UPS second-day air. Sharon is using the XT as a backup; the database appears to be intact. After Boskone, the XT will be used by Program so that Aron can do item entry while Priscilla does people entries on her personal machine.

Function Space: Don wondered if we could give Independence and Constitution back to the Sheraton for Wednesday pre-con, since he didn't know of anything scheduled there. The art show will be in Grand and Republic; we get Republic at 8 am on Wednesday and Grand at 11 am. The plan is to start setting up in Republic and then move on to Grand. However, it was pointed out that we won't have access to the freight elevator, which is attached to Grand. We should ask the Sheraton if we could have staging space in which to store the hangings on Tuesday night. Perhaps we should keep Independence on Wednesday as a space to build partial setups before we can move them into Grand. It was decided to wait until the hotel asks for the space, and in the meantime give some more thought to art show setup logistics.

Jill asked Don to get more detailed Hynes stage info, since it will be needed for the Masquerade information letter.

Don and Joe Rico will be visiting the Hynes on January 18. Don plans to discuss our security plan. Priscilla asked for information about controlling the electronic signs. We would rather not use them at all than have incorrect information on them. Perhaps they should be reserved for general messages rather than detailed schedules. Rob Spence has made some good technical contacts with the contractor installing the Hynes AV systems, so perhaps we should go through him to get this information. Program also needs to know exactly what facilities are in each room. We need someone to go through and note things like screens, telephones, electrical outlets, etc. Perhaps someone from the tech crew can do this.

Fred mentioned that we'd recently received an ad from a furniture rental place that will supply sofas, bookcases, etc. on a 7-day rental basis. The list price is \$180/sofa, but that is probably to individual exhibitors; we should be able to get perhaps a factor of two reduction for a bulk order. Don will look into this. Another suggestion was to try a furniture liquidator. We need to find a hotel that is going out of business.

The Hynes auditorium schedule was reviewed. It will belong to Program during the day Friday and Saturday; the rest of the time, including Friday after 5 pm, it belongs to Extravaganzas. It may be needed for special film

presentations during the Program time; this will be worked out between Program and Films.

We have received an approved Hall D hucksters' layout from the fire marshal. Only 2 tables were deleted, leaving us with 291 tables. Don recently heard from the Hynes that neither of the downstairs halls is available for the full run of our convention. So it is now about 95% certain that the hucksters will stay in Hall D. However, as in all communications, we should not make absolute promises and should leave open the possibility that things might change. Don is still expecting to get a cleaned-up, labeled floor plan from Freeman. But now Cindy Gold has enough information to prepare the initial mailing.

Security: Mark asked Don about the revised guard plan; what has changed? He has added two guards to the party floor at the Park Plaza. He has set up the Hynes security perimeter (the previous plan had just a guess). The Hynes perimeter requires 16 guards, as opposed to the 25 he estimated before. We expect to be required to have one guard in each closed exhibit hall. Don also added a guard to the Club SF area. The number of guards on the 5th floor of the Sheraton was reduced because we will no longer be concentrating parties there. Three guards specifically requested by the Sheraton have been added.

The Hynes keeps saying that we won't need any fire fighters, but Don is assuming that we will need one per floor when open, as did Noreascon Two.

The art show is also a problem, since the Sheraton space has a lot of entrances. Don's plan listed eight guard positions, which is probably too many, but he felt that only one or two guards won't do it. The art show rates approved at the last MCFI meeting did not include specific guard costs, other than a pro-rated share of general convention overhead. Mark felt we should use gofers for badge-checking when the show is open. The art show office will probably be backstage, which will help protect that exit. Someone suggested that a guard placed on the balcony would have a good over-all view of the show and could shoot people tampering with the art. Someone else pointed out that we could use poisoned darts to avoid getting blood spattered on the artwork.

The art show rates set by the MCFI meeting were meant to be guidelines; there would be no problem with rounding them up to help cover additional guards. We would still come out lower than the last few N.A. Worldcons when you figure in their commissions (we are not charging any percentage fee; just a flat rate).

The bottom line is that all guards, fire, and police now total \$56K, rather than the \$62K in the previous plan. However, Mark pointed out that the budget currently has only \$42K for these positions.

Mark wanted to know what the deadline was for deciding on the security plan. Don would like to find out what the Hynes thinks, and can't do that without proposing some sort of plan. We should make it clear to them that we may need to cut back. Don should avoid making commitments, and we should discuss this again next month.

Future Meetings: The next division heads' meeting will be on Saturday morning from 10 am to noon at Codclave (Bedford MA on Feb. 18). We will try to have it be an open meeting. The March meeting will be Saturday, March 18, at Jim Hudson and Ellen Franklin's. Food will be at 10 am and the meeting will start at 11 am and must

end by 3 pm. The April meeting will be on April 9 at the Olson's. Thereafter, division heads' meetings will be held prior to NESFA business meetings at the NESFA clubhouse. This will make it easier for Ben to attend, and will concentrate fannish activities, leaving people with occasional free weekends (we hope). The May meeting will be on May 7.

Hynes Tour: The question of holding a Hynes tour during Boskone has come up. It's a long way from Springfield, but might be needed if there's anyone who absolutely needs to see the Hynes and can't come another time. Most of the program people will be here for the big program weekend in May; we probably also want to arrange for a tech-only tour at some point. But no one could come up with a specific person who would need a tour during Boskone. If one comes up later, we'll see what we can do.

Food and Parties: Ellen has prepared a memo for ARA, giving the various functions that might need food or drink. She is hoping to set up a meeting in January, because she must be out of town on business from late January to late February. Leslie pointed out that we need a banquet menu and prices by the PR 6 deadline, and a number of other decisions depend heavily on what sort of accommodation we can get from ARA. Others pointed out that we could do the banquet info as a flyer that gets stuffed into PR 6.

For the brunch, we will need a minimum guarantee on Wednesday and an exact count on Thursday noon. So most of the tickets will have to be sold in advance. If we're feeling flush, we can guarantee a few hundred additional tickets to be sold at the con, but if the budget is tight, we won't want to take the risk. We need to know how many people the room can accommodate, and how many seats there will be per table. (The Hynes floor plan shows a capacity of 2170 banquet-style, but that doesn't allow for the space taken up by buffet tables.)

We reviewed in detail each of the areas in Ellen's chart, and came up with rough numbers for what we might be willing to spend in each area, if we can get reasonable prices from ARA. Ellen felt that knowing a rough total budget would help her in the negotiations. Ellen kept detailed notes of this part of the meeting; the areas covered included:

- Boxboro Party
- Club SF
- Green Room
- Staff Lounge
- Mixing Area and Con Suite
- Privately-Sponsored Hospitality Parties
- Gala Anniversary Party
- Hugo Ceremony and Press Reception
- 50 Years of Worldcons Brunch
- Masquerade (refreshments for contestants)

George asked Don to get information about Sheraton catering for the Art Show reception.

We discussed again the possibility of using the Hynes first-floor rooms for parties. The sponsor of the party would pay us what they would have to pay for suite and refreshments for a party in a hotel; we could subsidize the incremental cost over that.

Hugo Responsibilities: Mark reviewed who has responsibility for what concerning the Hugo Awards. George will handle counting the votes and ordering the plaques engraved. George or someone he designates will produce the list of award winners to be handed out at the ceremony. George will also have custody of the Hugos themselves up until the ceremony. At the ceremony, the plaques will be covered until the awards are presented.

We are agreed that the film studio that wins the drama award should be notified confidentially in advance so they can send a representative. Bill Carton has volunteered to handle this. Extravaganzas will handle the actual award ceremony, and Press Relations will handle the post-ceremony press briefing.

Continuing the "tradition" that we started at Nolacon, ConFiction has agreed to sponsor the Hugo losers' party.

Ellen would like to have a sample Hugo for the base designer to see. She may call Peter Weston when she is in England on business.

Innkeeper Plans: The hotel form is being sent out in PR 5. We are inserting a special return card in some of the PRs so that we can get an idea of when the PRs actually reach various parts of the country. We will wait two weeks after they have been received everywhere before closing out the first hotel allocation batch.

The processing steps will be as follows:

1. If the form includes payment for membership, the membership will go to Sharon to get processed.
2. We will check the form against a membership list to make sure the person is a member, verify or fill in the membership number, and see if they belong to any special groups, such as committee or program participant.
3. If the form is improperly filled out in a way we can't deal with, we will return it with a form letter saying what the problem is. We will wait until we start receiving forms before we design this letter, so we can see what sorts of problems actually do crop up. Examples might be if the arrival/departure dates are missing, the form is illegible, the person is not a member, etc.
4. When the first batch is closed out, we will sort them in membership-number order and assign hotels. Everyone will get their first choice until the hotel fills up; some blocks will be reserved as outlined in *M3P #31*.
5. The forms will be entered in the hotel assignment database (probably an upgrade of the system used for Boskone this year.)
6. From this database, we will produce two things: a) Lists for the hotels showing everyone who has been assigned to that hotel, and b) Labels to be used in sending people notices of what hotel they have been assigned to.

Once people have been assigned to a hotel, they should deal directly with that hotel. We will not attempt to have them tell us about cancellations or changes. Periodically, we will ask the hotels to provide us with their lists, and revised counts of how many rooms are available in our block.

How many copies of the incoming forms do we need to make? We don't need to send a copy to the hotel, since they will be getting the printouts (the printouts have space

for special requests that might be on the forms). We probably should make one backup copy, to avoid losses.

There was a detailed discussion of database software; specifically the question of whether and how roommates should be tracked. It would be useful to be able to produce rough counts of things like how many of our members don't have rooms yet, how many committee and program participants still need rooms, etc. But it can be hard to track roommates, since they may be unknown at the time the reservation is made, they may not be members yet, etc. There are also problems due to multiple forms with a person's name, and multiple people with the same name. We concluded that we would try to track these statistically, with the understanding that we won't be able to manage complete accuracy on an individual basis.

SFWA: There was additional detailed discussion of the SFWA issues that have arisen. We had been talking to our SFWA liaison, Craig Shaw Gardner, but Greg Bear wrote again asking for a specific response to his letter. Mark or Jim Hudson will call him in the near future to discuss the matter.

Timeline: Mark passed around the latest versions of the Timeline — one in chronological order and one sorted by area. It has been growing. Peggy Rae sent him ten pages of stuff which has not been integrated yet. Mark asked people to review it and to return marked-up copies to him. We want to get things like meeting dates, deadlines, and when we get and drop function space. When things are to be done, we should say who or what area is responsible for doing them. Mark will devise a way to mark items as completed. It was suggested that he divide the Timeline into separate sections for pre-con, at-con, and post-con activities. People felt that the at-con section was very useful, in terms of sharing information between divisions. Don has factored the various opening and closing times into the security plan.

After the next round of division head inputs, the Timeline will be distributed in full to all area heads. We will continue running pieces of it in *M3P*.

Budget: Mark felt that we still needed to go over the budget carefully. The current budget is still based on a total of 6000 members; this may be conservative. We should consider revising our membership estimate in late February, after we see the reaction to our hotel rates, etc. Jim H. has been reworking some of the technical costs. It's okay to make small corrections to the costs of things which are already in the budget as we get more information. Anything new, or major changes, will have to be allocated from division contingency.

After Boskone, Ann will have procedures in place to allow her to give reports on where we stand on spending compared to the budget line items.

Miscellaneous: Mark reiterated the convention policy that individual areas should not give out special freebies to their workers without approval of the division heads. We don't want to foster any sort of envy between parts of the committee. Ellen mentioned the labor advisor's suggestion that people working on the Hynes move-in/setup/tear-down/move-out be identified with t-shirts. If that is felt to be necessary, it most likely will be approved.

At the next MCFI meeting, we should discuss the "Yearbook" idea. At some upcoming meeting, Ellen and Jill should present their proposal for using video as part of Club SF.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

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]

Registration and Badges

• Allyson Dyar, Montgomery AL:

Early Registration: Here, here! Dafydd and I plan to arrive in Boston on Wednesday and it would be nice to have our name tags and pocket programs so we can plan our events.

Badges: Fer ghod's sake, how about badges we can read and not have to stick one's nose too-damned-close just to see who we are talking to!

• Toni Lay, Bronx NY:

I prefer the clip-on badges to the pin-on type. Clip-ons are easier on clothing and costumes.

Publications

• Allyson Dyar, Montgomery AL:

Progress Reports: I like the idea of doing PR 5 as a "fan's trip to Worldcon." Ghod knows that if I had something like that at both ConFederation and Nolacon, I wouldn't have been as surprised. For instance, at ConFederation, it couldn't have taken that much time if the committee just took a look at the most travelled routes and mentioned the pitfalls. I recall that when we drove from Montgomery to Atlanta, that our exit was on the *left* side of the road rather than on the right. Perhaps you can offer up-to-the-minute travel information either by phone or by SASE to those folks that might need them. For Nolacon, the travel directions were excellent, but the committee really should have warned folks about the high sales tax. If they did, they didn't emphasize it enough.

[Glad you liked the idea of a "fan's trip to the Worldcon." Unfortunately, as you will see if you've received your PR 5, it didn't quite work out. One reason was that we just didn't have the time to put in the writing effort it would take to do it well. Another reason was that we were just plain tight of space in PR 5 because of all the hotel information, etc., and had to eliminate everything unessential. We plan to include complete travel directions in our final progress report, which will come out just before the convention. The sales tax in Massachusetts is 5%. — LT]

Dealers' Room: I don't know if this is a practical suggestion but it might be nice if a Dealer's Directory couldn't be provided. I found myself in the position after Nolacon of wishing I had gotten the name and address of a dealer in British stuff that was going to be at N3. I really want to write her and let her know what I'm interested in.

[We definitely plan to have a hucksters' room directory. — LT]

• Carl C. Fields, Farmer City IL:

The most annoying thing (to me) about the Nolacon II pocket program was that the *big* events weren't prominently listed (i.e., Hugo, Masquerade, etc.).

[This is the kind of thing that happens when the con is run by independent divisions that don't talk to each other. The program division does the pocket program, and includes only the events scheduled by their division, either because they don't have the information from the other divisions, or because it doesn't occur to them that it's important. We don't plan to let this happen at Noreascon 3. — LT]

• Guy H. Lillian III, New Orleans LA:

Ah. My department. Mark Olson's ideas about the newsletter and program book are quite wise. I especially like the idea of changing the traditional program book concept. Bored with the usual construction of the Worldcon souvenir book, I wanted to do something different. Peggy Randon designed, and I edited, a tome with as much light and personality as we could. One boring staple, the membership list, we chopped it — and I would certainly suggest that you let it rest in pieces. Be creative.

La Lieberman's idea of a yearbook is nifty; your editors might explore it; it could be done with wit. Turning the book into a reference manual, a "Book of SF Lists"? A challenging idea, as done in the wrong way, the book could bore. And how would such a work do homage proper to your Guests of Honor? Whatever you decide, it's good that you're taking a fresh look at an SF tradition; be brave with it and give SF a souvenir of Noreascon it'll treasure.

As for the pocket program, fans use it to plan their convention. It needs a list of program items, with times and place. I know you will not have the problem with an oft-changing program that gave Nolacon's pocket program such fits. If changes do occur, the daily newsletter is obviously the place for them — and I hope your membership will be more generous than Nolacon's, and not heap complaints on the publication's editor for problems not in his department and over which he had no control.

One last item, regarding advertising in the souvenir book. Budget your ad changes to pay the cost of publishing the volume. Both my book, for Nolacon, and Charlotte Proctor's, for ConFederation, paid for themselves. You can do this without gouging any advertiser, fan or pro . . . and I would urge those advertisers, particularly bids, to plan their ad layouts *now*.

Program

• Taras Wolansky, Jersey City NJ:

Another pet peeve is the blandness of convention programming. I want to see blood in the aisles. Here are a few inflammatory suggestions:

Can people with degrees in English be real SF writers?
Horror fans/writers: a bunch of perverted sicko degenerates?

Nuclear winter: horror or hoax?

Strategic Defense pro & con

Media SF: for illiterates only?

Why do most women like fantasy more than SF?

Why do most men like SF more than fantasy?

Who will own the future: Karl Marx or Adam Smith?

Is fantasy "playing with the net down"? (Greg Benford vs. the Women's Fantasy Collective)

Perhaps even more important than the subjects of the panels is making sure the panelists don't all agree with each other!

[These are good ideas! Thanks for sharing them with us. — LT]

• Guy H. Lillian III, New Orleans LA:

Every consideration should be given to professional writers and artists attending Noreascon 3. However, those pros who object to paying for their memberships like ordinary shlubs should be invited to, in a phrase, piss up a rope. One of the problems with Worldcon in recent years has been the switch in emphasis from fans to professionals. Noreascon need not perpetuate this. Offer program participants compensation — return of some or all of their membership costs. But only the announced guests of the convention should walk in totally free.

Anyone who thinks he's such a big deal that he shouldn't have to pay to attend should be asked to prove that it was he, and not Alice Mary Norton, who wrote all those wonderful novels. Otherwise, tell him to climb his thumb.

[It's interesting that you should say this so vehemently, since one of the things that gave many pros the impression that providing free memberships to program participants was Worldcon tradition was the fact that so many free memberships were given out by Nolacon. Of course, this may not have been your area . . . Care to comment? — LT]

Film Program

• Toni Lay, Bronx NY:

I think it would be fun if you could show two or three of the worst SF movies made, other than "Plan 9 From Outer Space." Or perhaps, one night, say from 11:00 pm to 3:00 am you could show three in a row. I understand one con had a "Turkey Buffet" where they showed dreadful SF movies for a few hours and sold turkey sandwiches. Possible contenders: "The Giant Claw," "Hercules Goes Bananas" (starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Arnold Stang), and "Queen of Outer Space" (starring Zsa Zsa Gabor).

Masquerade and Weapons Policy

• Toni Lay, Bronx NY:

After reading some of the letters in issues #25 through #30, I had no idea Masquerades/costumers were so disliked and misunderstood by some fans. These people have the misconception that costumers *require* a "humunguous" audience. Is it the costumers' fault that so many fans like attending the Masquerade? Getting a response from a live audience (other than the judges) is terrific, but no one, including costumers, wants a "huge" audience if it cannot be properly accommodated. If it is possible to have a video link-up to the hotel rooms (in the Sheraton at least), this will certainly cut down the crowd size in the ballroom. Those who are very interested in the

masquerade and like watching it live will be in the ballroom, those with only mild interest can watch it on television, and those who hate the whole idea can go out to dinner. I usually watch the Hugo Awards Ceremony on closed-circuit TV if it is available. There will probably be fans at the con who will want to videotape the masquerade. Perhaps a video can be made through their equipment. Have you decided on a Masquerade emcee yet? Will there be any costume panels at the con?

[The Masquerade emcee will be Pat Kennedy. There will almost certainly be costume panels of some sort, but the details have not yet been worked out. Closed-circuit TV of the Masquerade will probably not be available, due to budget constraints. However, we do plan to videotape the Masquerade. — LT]

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Bravo on Suford's proposals . . . in the three Worldcon masquerades I participated in, presenting a costume alone was easily defeated by a costume with scenery or a prop as described in Suford's idea. Local fans could easily bring many large props or pieces of scenery with them to the Worldcon, or people who drove to Worldcon would shift their props/scenery in a trailer, placing them at an advantage to those who had to fly in with a small amount of luggage, plus maybe a large piece of luggage containing a costume only. If indeed we are to be judged on our costumes, let the costumes be the only items judged, and make the props and scenery unnecessary.

• Mary K. Maulucci, Pleasant Valley NY:

Previously, I wrote about my feelings concerning the current no-weapons policy. I now have a suggestion for a compromise which I think might work. My idea is as follows: weapons will be allowed, but must be peace-bonded except by dealers who are not wearing any. Violators will be expelled from the convention without refunds of any kind and banned from any and all future Worldcons unless they forgo weapons. As lists of Worldcon members are computerized, I believe this is feasible. As I said before, I understand that there are state laws regarding weapons which must be obeyed. If a suitable compromise is found, perhaps this can be gotten around. As I enjoy wearing a costume but do not compete in convention masquerades, I resent not being able to wear facsimile weapons simply because other people have abused the privilege. At the few conventions I've been to where it was allowed, I've never caused any problems. A compromise may require more paperwork, but I believe that advantages due to member satisfaction will outweigh the disadvantages. Please take this in the spirit I intend.

[Thanks for sending us your comments. We certainly did consider peace-bonding as a way around this problem, but we concluded that it wouldn't work for us. Here are some of the reasons. First, under Massachusetts law, carrying weapons in public is illegal; the law does not make an exception for peace-bonded weapons. In addition, Noreascon 3 is going to be a very large convention and what might work at a smaller convention might not work for us. Even a sword in a scabbard can be a dangerous item in a crowd, especially when worn by the careless. Peace-bonding is not immediately apparent at a glance, so enforcing this rule would be a significant burden on the security people. Finally, it really is not legally possible to enforce this rule by banning a person from all future Worldcons.

For one thing, we have no control over future Worldcons, and for another, there may be legal problems in transmitting negative information about our members to another organization. — LT]

Hucksters' Room_____

• Toni Lay, Bronx NY:

I'm pleased to see you've decided not to give certain dealers discounts on tables. This would have been very discriminatory and unfair. A World SF Con should be for all aspects of Fandom and the dealers' room should reflect this. I buy jewelry, calendars, fanzines, and books. Contrary to what some fans think, costumers read SF too.

Art Show_____

• Toni Lay, Bronx NY:

I would like to see young artists encouraged to participate. Perhaps you could set aside a tiny portion of the Art Show, say two or three panels and one or two tables, for a Young Artists Exhibit where fans 13 and younger could display their work. Advance registration would be on a first-come, first-served basis, with little or no hanging fees. Each young artist would be allowed to display no more than two items, not larger than 8-12" by 11" for hanging artwork and 12" square for 3-dimensional objects. Whether or not the items in this section would be for sale is up to you, but I think it would be good to see what budding new talent may be on the horizon.

[Another way to handle this is to do it as part of the children's programming, such as DragonsLair. At past Boskones, DragonsLair has conducted art workshops and then has displayed the results for the general membership to view. — LT]

I was wondering if it would be possible to rehang some of the artwork after the Saturday auction. This would give attendees three days to view most of the Art Show. With all the panels, films, and programs going on at a Worldcon, sometimes it's not possible to get to the Art Show immediately and there's nothing more disappointing than finally getting there and finding lots of empty spaces. Saturday art buyers could be given the option of taking their purchases with them or letting them be put back in the Art Show. If rehangs presents a problem, perhaps you could have a small room set aside for viewing of purchased work.

[We agree that one of the goals of the art show should be to have art on view for as long as possible. Therefore, we don't plan to have the first auction until late Sunday. — LT]

• Taras Wolansky, Jersey City, NJ:

David Axler's comments [in M3P #30] on convention art shows underline an important fact about science fiction and fantasy art: most of it is created to illustrate a story. And that leads me to one of my pet peeves: only rarely do we get the title *and* author of the work being illustrated. (Forget about getting a synopsis of the scene the artist had in mind!) I don't know if the convention can do anything about this, other than to suggest to artists that they will make more money if they include authors and titles.

Hugo Awards

• Toni Lay, Bronx NY:

I think awarding a Hugo for Young Adult SF is a great idea, although I am personally unfamiliar with any recent books in that category. However, if you find that you have not gotten enough positive response to have a Young Adult category, may I suggest you have an Other Forms category as was done at Nolacon. I nominated and voted in this category, and I would like to see it made a permanent listing on the Hugo ballot.

[It's now too late for Noreascon 3 to add a category, since the ballots have already been sent out. However, some members of the NolaCon committee have indicated their intent to propose the "Other Forms" category as a permanent addition to the WSFS Constitution. This would have to be voted on by a majority at two successive Worldcon business meetings to take effect. — LT]

• Taras Wolansky, Jersey City NJ:

In the November M3P Richard Brandt comments favorably on a plan to provide reading copies of Hugo nominees but adds, "of course, it will be too late to help anyone decide what to vote for by then." Which instantly put the thought into my head, "Why should it be too late?" Obviously supporting members have to vote by mail, but why couldn't attending members vote at the convention? (How much can it cost to rent a voting machine for a couple of days?) I have a vision of rival campaigns hiring bands, running ads on the hotels' closed circuits, bribing voters, spreading scurrilous rumors about their adversaries, et cetera.

[Sounds to me like a pretty good argument against doing it. More seriously, I don't know if voting machines are capable of handling the Hugo preferential-voting method. And given the manpower drain of running a Worldcon, anything that can be done ahead of time should be. — George Flynn]

A lot of people have said the Hugo voting is unfair — and they're right. The way the winners are computed, big-name authors (and big-name publications like Asimov's) have an unfair advantage. To take a hypothetical example, even if the vast majority of voters who read *both* the Effinger and the Brin prefer the Effinger, the vaster majority of voters that didn't read the Effinger will put the Brin somewhere on their ballots and it will eventually percolate to the top.

I don't know if this actually happened in this year's voting. It did seem that *When Gravity Fails* got the loudest applause when the novel Hugo nominees were read at Nolacon. But something much like that may have happened in what I think was the strongest category, the novelette, where three magnificent stories — "Rachel in Love," "Dinosaurs," and "Flowers of Edo" — were overcome by a merely good story by Ursula Le Guin. The winner had the advantage a) of being written by a big name; and b) of having been published in a collection of Le Guin's work in addition to its magazine publication, so Le Guin fans who don't read the magazines could get their hands on it.

[I think When Gravity Fails got the loudest applause in New Orleans because Effinger is a local author. For what it's worth, Brin got more first-place votes than Effinger (322 to 267). The Le Guin story also had a good solid

lead on the first ballot (239–185) but wound up beating "Rachel in Love" by only 3 votes (344–341). Which doesn't really respond to your arguments; but I suspect "the vast majority of voters" simply have tastes that differ from yours (and usually from mine). — George Flynn]

I think it would be interesting to analyze the Hugo voting in a way which would not be biased by the numbers of people that read the different nominees. Pair off the nominees and pick the winner of each possible pair according to the opinion *only* of the people that read *both* nominees in the pair. You wouldn't always get a clear winner this way, but sometimes you would, and it wouldn't always be the official winner. In any case, the results would be thought-provoking, especially in those instances where we find a majority of those who read both the winner and one of the losers preferring the loser.

This can be done with old Hugo votes as well as new ones. It involves *no* change in the voting procedure itself; just a little software.

[The assumption you're making is presumably that people who vote on a particular nominee have read it. Not true. I'm afraid: many people will vote for a given work on the basis of reviews, because they like the author's other work, to help defeat someone else, etc. Be that as it may, for "old Hugo votes" the procedure you suggest could be done only with the actual ballots (which in most cases no longer exist); the published counts don't contain enough information. — George Flynn]

• Guy H. Lillian III, New Orleans LA:

George Flynn's notes on the Hugo Awards balloting and ceremony prod my lifelong fascination with the awards — a fascination I couldn't work with at Nolacon, due to my status as a nominee. Insofar as distribution of ballots is concerned, I second Flynn's understanding that a separate, first-class mailing of nomination ballots need not be burdened with the WSFS Constitution, as long as both are distributed in a progress report. (Time to eliminate that expensive and meaningless requirement.) If possible, you might want to look into pre-sorted first-class mailing, which we found was a great saver in postage with little or no loss in time. Your early mailing of ballots, coupled with a generous deadline, will negate a criticism we earned: a suffocatingly tight window through which members can send their nominations.

The WSFS amendment which will allow Nolacon-but-not-Noreascon members has not been publicized enough. I would suspect that the vast majority of fans in that category haven't heard of their new right. Who has the responsibility to alert fandom to such changes in the Worldcon rules? The two committees, Nolacon's and Noreascon's, should have been in contact about this matter, but as far as I know no such contact has been made. It will be a very serious breach of members' rights if they are neglected.

[We discussed this point last year in Mad 3 Party, and announced both there and in PR 4 our conclusion that the new rule would not require us to do a mailing to Nolacon members; no one challenged this interpretation when the amendment was ratified, and as far as I can recall yours is the first comment on the point. (And a good thing we made that decision, too: as you know, we're on a tight budget, and would be hard put to justify an additional mailing to 6000 people or so.)]

Some steps have been taken:

- *My Business Meeting report in SF Chronicle reported on the new rule, and spelled out that Nolacon members would have to write to us for ballots. Don Eastlake's report in Locus was less explicit, but did convey the gist of the situation.*

- *A couple of weeks ago I sent copies of the nomination ballot to a bunch of fanzines (basically, the ones I could think of that come out fairly frequently and had some likelihood of being interested in this sort of thing, with some emphasis on Southern zines). Of course, there's no guarantee that they'll print it, but this might help. I'm sending you a copy of the mailing and the list of zines; if you can think of any other likely zines that might publish it, by all means send them copies.*

The most effective way to get the word to Nolacon members would obviously be for Nolacon itself to do a mailing to them. I don't know if you have either the money or the energy left for something like this, but the idea at least seems worth mentioning. You'd certainly have our blessing (and our sympathy) if you could manage it. — George Flynn]

As for printing the results, I suggest that this be handled by the Hugo counters themselves. Easy enough to prepare a special 1-sheet issue of the daily conzine with all pertinent information and have it ready for fans right after the ceremony. No one outside the tallying crew need be involved. You could go into as much detail in this issue as you want — even into complicated voting breakdowns if you wanted.

Displaying the Hugos on stage — well, as you know, Nolacon made a big deal about its base, milking the mystery as far as it would go. Having harlequins carry the trophies forward one by one added to the theatrics of the occasion — and also eliminated the problem of fans counting the remaining awards and trying to figure out ties and/or dual winners. Will Noreascon III be doing anything artsy with its Hugo base? Please do! Some people flinched at Nolacon's outre Hugo base, but don't let that keep you from having fun with the trophy. (And if you decide to sculpt the base, I do recommend resin as the material. A somewhat waxy feel, but versatile and inexpensive.)

[We don't have our base design set yet, but we do expect it to be considerably more restrained than the Nolacon design. It seems to me that the guiding principle should be to come up with something that most winners would be pleased to display in their homes, and can transport back to them. — LT]

One last thing about the awards — may I suggest scheduling a seating period for the nominees 15 minutes or so prior to opening the auditorium to the great unwashed. Late-arriving nominees could be shunted in through a special entrance. Getting the audience seated quickly and efficiently is a major challenge and I encourage thought along those lines be undertaken ASAP. And try to do something about getting all of us out of the Hynes. After the Noreascon II Hugos, so crowded was the exit that one idiot almost broke his fool neck clambering up the down escalator — and had he done so, who could have written you this letter?

[We agree with you about the importance of these areas, and have given them considerable thought. First, as we discuss in Progress Report 5, the way we are planning

to deal with getting the audience seated easily is to simply leave the auditorium doors open during the hours before the evening events begin. People who come early can simply come in and sit down, rather than having to stand out in the hallways for hours. Yes, we may still be doing set-up during those hours, and early arrivals can either watch us do it or help out.

We have two ways of dealing with exiting. First, the layout of the new Hynes helps us here. There are many more exit paths, and rather than all heading back to the Sheraton (as most people did at Noreascon II), there will be various evening events in the Hynes itself to disperse people to several locations. After some of the events, we will have additional entertainment in the Auditorium, to encourage some of the audience to hang around and not leave all at once. — LT]

And finally — if one of your committee gets a Hugo nomination: follow the example of both ConFeddies and Nolacon, and let him keep his job. Why put your group through turmoil? Simply segregate the nominee from any contact with Hugo procedure. No reasonable fan would protest.

[Although most of the Hugo work will be done by George Flynn, he has specifically requested not to be designated as a Hugo sub-committee because he would like the ability to bring policy questions for a vote before the entire MCFI membership. In fact, such a vote on one issue has already been taken, so it would be hard to change our policy at this point.

In regard to Mad 3 Party, it's not just a question of my being a member of the committee. M3P is specifically about Noreascon 3, is published and financed by the Noreascon 3 committee, and is advertised in its official publications. It seems pretty clear to me that this type of exposure would give M3P an unfair advantage among the members of Noreascon who vote on the Hugos. People who might never see another fanzine might see M3P and think about voting for it. Aside from the ethical and (WSFS) constitutional issues involved, I wouldn't get much personal satisfaction from being nominated for an award under such circumstances. So I have no intention of trying to set things up so that I or M3P could be eligible in 1989. — LT]

Ombudsman/Gripe Sessions

- **Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:**

Re Division Heads meeting of October 29: If an ombudsman is needed, he should also be the head of Information. He has the power to make the solution to the problem stick, seeing he's in charge of information, and knows (presumably) what's going on. The Town Meeting sounds good . . . I hope fans will tell you what's wrong, but also what's right. It might also be a good idea to have a representative of both ConFiction and Chicon V on hand to take notes. I presume that there will be a general bitch/praise panel at the end of N3, and reps of those two Worldcons should be there, too.

[There was some feeling that the head of Information might be too involved in the details of gathering and dispensing information to be able to step back and help solve general problems. But we haven't really worked on this area since that Division Heads meeting. Having representatives of ConFiction and Chicon V attend the

gripe sessions is entirely up to them; we certainly found the gripe sessions at Conspiracy and Nolacon interesting. Note that both Kathleen Meyer and Kees Van Toorn will be serving as Chairman's Aides during the convention, which should make them pretty well aware of what's happening. — LT]

Worldcon Dates

- Steve Jackson, Fandom Association of Central Texas:

The FACT Board of Directors has unanimously voted to ask WSFS to *consider* moving Worldcon to a date earlier in the year. Note, please. We are asking WSFS to *consider* this; we are not (at this time, anyway) advocating the move. There are enough obvious arguments in favor of a date change that it should be discussed seriously, but it would be an important decision and not one to be undertaken lightly.

The fact is that the Labor Day weekend is not as convenient as it once was. Once it was clearly a "summer" weekend. This is no longer true. For the past several years, schools at all levels have been starting earlier. For many universities and school systems, classes have already started by Labor Day.

This means that a Labor Day date involves great inconvenience, to the point of exclusion, for two significant groups: fans who are still students, and the rapidly growing cadre of fans with children of elementary-school age. It is an *outright* exclusion of teachers and professors — not a large group, but a valued one.

None of this is the "fault" of WSFS or Worldcon. But it's a serious problem, and one that will get worse as a large part of fandom moves into middle age!

The question that must be asked, then: Do the Labor Day "tradition," and the several advantages of the Labor Day date, justify *de facto* discrimination against a large part of fandom?

We would suggest that some form of opinion-sampling among potential Worldcon attendees would be an appropriate first step to answering this question. Please give it your consideration.

[Both Don Eastlake and George Flynn point out that there is nothing in the WSFS Constitution about the dates of the Worldcon, and currently a bid committee could run for whatever dates it wanted. In fact, most overseas bids have been for the weekend before Labor Day weekend.

(The Monday before Labor Day is the "August Bank Holiday" in at least the UK and Australia.)

On the other hand, as a practical matter, it's a big risk for a bid committee to announce an alternate date, since debate on the merits of their bid might be overshadowed by debate on the proposed date. Since facilities need to be contracted for so far in advance, a date is not something that could be easily changed once public opinion becomes clear.

This is a question that we would have been happy to have included in our members' questionnaire, but since that's already gone out, I can't think of another good forum that would be guaranteed such a widespread response. Perhaps you could contact some of the upcoming Worldcons and bids to determine if any of them plan to publish a similar questionnaire for their members. — LT]

Miscellaneous

- Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

On page 15, in the summary of the Program Division apa, under At-Con Operations . . . "Program will have (at least) one table there to give out ribbons, *bennies*, schedules, and tender loving care." Bennies? Hey, just say no! I think this should have been *beanies*?

[Actually, this was supposed to be "bennies," short for "benefits." George Flynn warned me that I would need to explain this, but I thought the term was more widely known. We haven't yet decided what, if any, bennies we will be giving to the program participants, but this could include things like free drink chits, invitations to receptions and/or parties, and so on. — LT]

- Guy H. Lillian III, New Orleans LA:

With the dawn of 1989, I sense a new excitement and energy in the 31st issue of *Mad 3 Party*. Why not? '89 is your year, and your entire convention committee seems in fine symphonic tune. This impression is enviable and heartening. I look forward to my August journey north. I hope you won't mind responses to some of the business you discuss, informed by my Nolacon experience or simply inspired by my interest.

[We're very pleased to have your comments, Guy. It's nice to know that we give the impression of being in tune — sometimes when you're in the middle of the orchestra it sounds like the kettle drums are beating up on the French horns. . . — LT]

The Mad 3 Party #32

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