



Number 33

March 1989

— Special Hotel Room Rush Issue —

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Hotel Room Status

As of February 24, we had received approximately 850 room requests and processed 789 of them. Everyone in the first batch got their first-choice hotel. Acknowledgment cards for this batch were sent out on March 3.

Over 60 forms were sent back for various reasons, the most common being no arrival/departure dates given. Most were given a date to return the form to retain their priority on hotel selection. We also had 30 suite requests, which have not yet been processed.

At this point, if we include the blocks we are holding for committee, staff, handicapped, and foreign members, the Sheraton and Hilton are essentially full. We plan to review the block size and compare it to how many committee and staff have already made reservations before we turn anyone away from the Sheraton. We encourage any committee or staff members who have not already sent in their hotel forms to *please do so now!* We can hold a small block for a while, but we can't guarantee that committee people who turn in their forms at the last minute will get a room in the Sheraton.

When filling out your hotel form, remember the following things:

- 1) Check the form carefully, making sure that you have filled it out completely. Don't forget your arrival/departure dates; you can always change them later.
- 2) If you are a committee or staff member, you should put on your form which area and person you are working with.
- 3) Rank as many of the hotels as you are willing to stay in. If there are some you do not want at all, indicate that also. Remember to give at least 6–8 choices, as it is unlikely that we will be able to give you your first few choices as the hotels start filling up.
- 4) If you want a room adjacent to someone else, you should send in your forms together. If they are sent at different times, you may get into different hotels.

Exhibits, Exhibits, We Have Exhibits

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first Worldcon, exhibits which draw from our past and our present are being created for display at Noreascon 3. These exhibits range from the History of Worldcons and the History of Fanzines to The Portrait Gallery, a photographic exhibit of some of the prominent professionals in the science fiction community, and to exhibits created by science fiction and fantasy clubs.

Other exhibits include an Alice in Wonderland display, the History of Costuming, a display of sample Hugos from each year they were awarded (we hope), and a Contem-

porary Fanzine exhibit (perhaps with a lounging area).

The ConCourse, an area for socializing, for viewing exhibits, and for participating in some silliness (e.g., bubble contests and judging the scavenger hunt) and some seriousness (a Reading Room and the autographs), will also have living exhibits, such as demonstrations of computer bulletin boards, photographs of the convention, computer games, and conversations with your favorite writer or artist.

The Exhibits Sub-division has charted each exhibit and determined the amount of space each exhibit will take. The guesses (every one of which will probably be wrong individually) add up to approximately the amount of space which we want to use on the Second Floor of the Hynes. Even though we willingly concede that each figure is a pure guess, we have a reasonably high expectation that the aggregate total is reasonably accurate.

We still have some flexibility to accommodate additional exhibits. If anyone has wonderful ideas (and particularly if they are willing to work to make these ideas into realities), they should contact Carolyn Sayre, at the Noreascon 3 box.
— *Peggy Rae Pavlat, Hynes 89 Division*

New Appointments

Program Division

Science Program — Liz Gross

Media Program — Lee Orlando

Hynes 89 Division

Information — Robert Taylor

Readers Room — L. Fred Ramsey

Scavenger Hunt — Seth Breidbart

Facilities Division

Sheraton Liaison Staff — Rich Ferree
and Charles Seelig

Services Division

Logistics — LuAnn Vitalis

Missing Members

The following list gives the members and staff for whom we don't have a working address. If you know of a current address for any of these people, please send it to us. Thanks.

David Allen

David Chaplin, Ottawa Ontario Canada

Donald D. Combs, Aquebogue NY

Gay Corrick

John DeTreville, San Francisco CA

Roberta Drew

Lisa Evans and Bob Traynor, Malden MA

Edward F. Fausel, Tallahassee FL

Kimberly Fillmore, Ottawa Ontario Canada

Corlis Finley, Bowling Green KY

Mike Fisher

Laurie Ann Guernic, Midland Park NJ

Asenath Hammond, Tarzana CA

Mike Howard

Sherry Katz, Highland Park IL

Haviva Adina Kushner, Columbus OH

Kip Lange

Becky Look

Ricia Mainhardt, Chicago IL

Barry C. Marin, East Orange NJ

Christina McDonald, East Hartford CT

Rembert N. Parker, Austin TX

Bill Paul, London Ontario Canada

Nick Pollatta, Columbus OH

Flora and Merlin D. Schwegman, Isla Vista CA

Robert Stephenson

Rick Sternbach, Tarzana CA

Kimm Travis, Durham NC

Lanny Waitsman, Chicago IL

S.E. Woodward-Kadyka

Membership Predictions

One late entry has been received, from Garth Spencer, who pleads for an extension due to mail delays to Canada. His guess is 8000 advance attending memberships. Memberships have been coming in quickly due to the March 15 rate hike. Here's how all the entries compare to the actual figures so far:

8929	Sue Hammond	8888	Bill Lehrman
8900	Fred Isaacs		
8645	John Lorentz		
8000	Garth Spencer		
7944	Pam Fremon		
7777	Sarah Prince		
7560	Donald Eastlake		
7452	George Flynn		
7373	Jim Hudson	7289	Mike DiGenio
7200	Mary Maulucci	7182	Gloria Albasi
7152	Ellen Franklin	7144	Carl Fields
7052	Leslie Turek	6999	Dale Farmer
6953	Paula Lieberman	6919	Sharon Sbarsky
6674	Priscilla Olson	6666	Andy Cowan
6500	Al Kent	6400	Ben Yalow
6347	Claire Anderson	6233	Chip Hitchcock
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	Jim Mann	4964	Rick Katze
4795	Stu Shiffman		
4638	Lloyd Penney		

4300 (approx.) as of March 15 _____

4058 Pat Vandenberg

3964 as of March 5 _____

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.]

There will be Noreascon 3 work sessions at the NESFA Clubhouse just about every Wednesday from now until the convention. Call 617-776-3243 for a recorded message giving work session and general Noreascon 3 information.

Jan 10 Go/No-Go decision on Ballantine book
<decided not to do it>

Jan 20 Beginning of onslaught of hotel forms
<for sure — see counts on page 1>

- Jan 20 Need proposal and budget for souvenir items
<to be discussed at April meeting>
- Jan 26 MLO et al. supply PR 6 outline
<done — discussed at Feb. 8 meeting>
- Feb 1 Draft letter to Masquerade participants and
photographers (NEW)
<drafted, not yet sent>
- Feb 1 Develop pre-con and at-con membership transfer
procedures (NEW)
- Feb 5 Go/No-Go decision on Strangers book
<will do: collecting material>
- Feb 8 MCFI meeting — Decide on at-con publications
<see minutes on page 6>
- Feb 8 Pick and confirm newsletter name
<*The Looking Glass* was selected>
- Feb 10 Norton book contents fixed
<done>
- Feb 10 Get updated Hodges ribbon catalog
- Feb 13 Toy Fair opens: Ellen goes insane
- Feb 15 First-class mailing of Hugo nom. ballots to
members joining after Feb. 8 (NEW)
<done>
- Feb 15 Start sending out Art Show confirmations
<planned for late March>
- Feb 15 Hotel room assignment work session
<as planned>
- Feb 15 Settle on official logo for souvenirs
- Feb 15 PR 6 ad copy deadline
- Feb 15 MCFI income tax deadline
- Feb 15 Norton contract drafts ready
- Feb 15 Select Club SF area head (NEW)
- Feb 15 Get stage specs (NEW)
- Feb 17 Codclave weekend
- Feb 17 Review attendance projections for budget
<see division heads meeting on page 10>
- Feb 18 Division heads meeting at Codclave
<see minutes on page 10>
- Feb 19 Program database design frozen (NEW)
<done>
- Feb 25 Deadline for completing first hotel assignments
<done>
- Feb 25 First draft PR 6 text to Greg
- Feb 28 Extravaganzas division meeting
- Feb 28 Review draft handicapped-access survey (NEW)
- Mar 1 Norton book data entry complete
<to be provided by Tor>
- Mar 1 Write artists asking for newsletter illos
- Mar 1 Draft souvenir book outline
- Mar 1 GULP meeting on policy issues (NEW)
- Mar 1 Decide on banquet menu (NEW)
- Mar 1 Preliminary registration layout (NEW)
- Mar 1 Select sound, video, film, communications vendors
(NEW)
- Mar 2 Deadline for selection of Souvenir Book cover artist
- Mar 2 Hotel room assignment work session (CHANGED)
- Mar 2 PR 6 text entry complete/Review text
- Mar 4 Stop sending out Hugo nom. ballots (NEW)
- Mar 5 Send out handicapped-access survey (NEW)
- Mar 5 APA:89 deadline (NEW)
- Mar 7 Facilities Division meeting (NEW)
- Mar 8 Technical meeting (NEW)
- Mar 10 Start of Lunacon (Program Ops & Hynes 89 to meet)
- Mar 10 Set gopher crash space policy
- Mar 10 Finish entering Program questionnaires
(CHANGED)
- Mar 12 Badge physical design decided
- Mar 15 MCFI Meeting (NEW)
- Mar 15 Postmark deadline for Hugo nomination ballots
- Mar 15 Attending membership goes up to \$80
- Mar 15 Choose T-shirt artist
- Mar 15 Fix content of Strangers book
- Mar 15 Deadline for PR 6 text revisions
- Mar 15 Preliminary list of events for Club SF (NEW)
- Mar 15 Prepare exhibitors' packet (NEW)
- Mar 18 Division heads meeting
- Mar 20 PR 6 frozen
- Mar 23 Hugo nominations final counting begins
- Mar 24 Balticon/Minicon/Norwescon weekend (NEW)
- Mar 25 Decide Den location (NEW)
- Mar 25 Initial program items data entered (NEW)
- Mar 25 Hugo ballot-counting meeting (NEW)
- Mar 25 Hynes 89 meets at Balticon (NEW)
- Mar 26 Begin informing Hugo nominees (CHANGED)
- Mar 28 Extravaganzas meeting (NEW)
- Mar 30 People Mover mailing (NEW)
- Apr 1 PR 6 to printer
- Apr 1 Decide on Hugo base design
- Apr 1 Decide on ribbon colors and designs
- Apr 1 Deadline for academic program proposals (NEW)
- Apr 1 Start constructing strawman program
(CHANGED)
- Apr 1 SF Tonight has most participants set (NEW)
- Apr 1 Pencil in initial equipment orders (NEW)
- Apr 2 Extravaganzas Division meeting (NEW)
- Apr 4 Facilities Division meeting (NEW)
- Apr 5 CD maturity
- Apr 5 Boskone photography experiment demonstrated
(NEW)
- Apr 9 Deadline for Souvenir Book draft text
- Apr 9 Division heads meeting
- Apr 10 Order registration badge materials (NEW)
- Apr 12 MCFI Meeting (NEW)
- Apr 12 Hugo ballot to printer; withdrawal deadline (NEW)
- 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 Complete preliminary mixing area layout
- Apr 20 Logistics questionnaire to areas (NEW)
- Apr 23 Draft Souvenir Book text ready for review
- Apr 26 Mail Hugo and Site-Selection ballots (CHANGED)
- Apr 30 Ribbon logo artwork to Hodges
- May 1 Badge materials ordered
- May 1 Norton book to printer
- May 1 Approve ribbon colors and designs
- May 1 Masquerade stage plans complete (NEW)
- May 1 Office-supplies questionnaire to areas (NEW)
- May 1 Draft SF Tonight script (NEW)
- May 3 MCFI meeting (NEW)
- May 3 Decide on special committee awards (NEW)
- May 3 First PR 6 mailing (CHANGED)
- May 7 Division heads meeting
- May 10 Draft PR 7 outline (NEW)
- May 12 Spring Program Frenzy Weekend
- May 13 Possible Hynes tour (NEW)
- May 15 Artwork complete; place T-shirt order
- May 15 Settle on badge design (artwork and layout)

May 15 Send out children's questionnaire (NEW)
 May 21 Demonstrate that badge-production software works
 May 22 Schedules mailed to all program participants
 May 24 Deadline for comments on PR 7 outline (NEW)
 May 25 Strangers book mimeo complete
 May 25 Deadline for areas for ribbon order
 May 26 Start of Disclave (Hynes 89 and Art Show meet)
 May 30 Final PR 7 outline (NEW)

Jun 1 Complete layout of Mixing Area
 Jun 1 Complete layout of Registration area
 Jun 1 Deadline for Souvenir Book ad reservations
 Jun 1 Anniversary Event budget and plan (NEW)
 Jun 1 Send invitations to Art Show Reception (NEW)
 Jun 1 Draft Closing Ceremony script (NEW)
 Jun 1 Club SF equipment ordered (NEW)
 Jun 1 Select Masquerade judges (NEW)
 Jun 1 Program revision cycle starts (NEW)
 Jun 1 Second-draft SF Tonight script (NEW)
 Jun 1 Ask areas what signs needed (NEW)
 Jun 1 Update technical equipment orders (NEW)
 Jun 10 Send out ribbon order
 Jun 14 Final Souvenir Book text deadline
 Jun 15 Restaurant Guide final draft done
 Jun 20 Absolute Souvenir Book ad deadline
 Jun 20 Deadline for PR 7 initial text
 Jun 22 Souvenir Book goes to printer
 Jun 30 Areas give treasury on-site cash needs (NEW)
 Jun 30 Westercon weekend (NEW)

Jul 1 Complete Hucksters location assignments
 Jul 1 T-shirts arrive
 Jul 1 Norton book arrives from printer (CHANGED)
 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 15 Final script for Closing Ceremony (NEW)
 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
 Jul 26 Office purchase supplies (NEW)
 Jul 26 Logistics inventory work session (NEW)
 Jul 28 Complete Hugo-ballot data entry (NEW)
 Jul 30 Pre-reg data entry complete (NEW)

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 1 Souvenir Book arrives from printer (NEW)
 Aug 1 Technical places final equipment order (NEW)
 Aug 2 Logistics inventory work session (NEW)
 Aug 9 Treasurer departs for Rio
 Aug 9 Logistics packing work session (NEW)
 Aug 10 Committee gaffiates

Aug 10 Press release and packets sent to local press
 Aug 10 Send engraved Hugo invitations (NEW)
 Aug 15 Nominal deadline for Site-Selection mail ballots
 Aug 15 All pre-registrant badges completed
 Aug 15 Receive ribbons from manufacturer
 Aug 20 Badge alphabetization work session (CHANGED)
 Aug 21 Pocket Program copy deadline (NEW)
 Aug 22 Copy deadline for hucksters' guide, restaurant guide, and masquerade program (NEW)
 Aug 23 Pocket Program to printer (NEW)
 Aug 24 Program signs done
 Aug 26 Logistics picks up first truck(s)
 Aug 28 Bulk of Committee moves into hotel
 Aug 28 Prepare program participants' handouts (NEW)
 Aug 28 Office opens (NEW)
 Aug 28 Pocket Program delivered to Hynes (NEW)
 Aug 29 We get Hynes for setup

Excerpts from APA:89

Issue 104 / January 28, 1989

(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.)

MCFI Phone Line (by Pam Fremon)

(This is from recent conversations with Mark and others, and unsolicited experience from being at the Clubhouse just before Boskone this year and last.)

Presented for your consideration. A phone rings in a lonely Clubhouse. The person calling hopes (or probably assumes) that a "real person" will answer it. When the phone is answered, the person will say, "Uh, hi, I'd like to get some information about the Worldcon in Boston. . . ."

This is similar to how most of the Boskone info calls start out. What kinds of information are they looking for? This is what I've heard most often:

- When is it?
- Where is it? [oddly enough, no one ever asks how to get there — maybe they assume it'll be revealed to them later somehow]
- Can I still get tickets? / What is the cost? / Are you *sure* I can get a membership at the door (i.e., you won't sell out)?
- Can you send me a registration form?
- What authors will be there, so I know what books to pack for autographs?
- How do I get a hotel room?
- What big events are planned?
- [Occasionally] Who do I contact about getting a huckster's table / Art show space?

I believe that the calls we will get for N3 info will run pretty much along the same lines. In fact, I know this to be true because I've already answered a few of these! [on the NESFA phone line in the clubhouse] (Not many — perhaps a dozen over the last 6 months). For people requesting a "registration form," I've taken down their name and address and passed the request on to Jim Mann.

All of these requests are valid concerns and we should therefore try to prepare phone information to address as many of these needs as we can. Especially as time goes on, more phone calls will come in to the Clubhouse during the day than in the evening hours (when someone is likely to be at the Clubhouse) and therefore should be answered by an answering machine. While for Boskone (especially for the extant downsized model) we have not been highlighting the "big events," this doesn't appear to be an unreasonable thing to do for N3. We can tell people there will be a Hugo Ceremony and a Masquerade and a brunch or whatever, but I'd caution to just mention these in passing lest it seem like we're focusing on these in the manner of a Creation con.

I don't have a good answer for the "what authors will be there" question. I feel this is a loaded question anyway since pros' schedules change up to the last minute (as we know), resulting in cancellations or, simply, no-shows. We might mention those who have committed for major things (like Asimov) because they are more certain; naturally, we should mention our GoHs; but on an answering machine tape, I wouldn't go any farther than that.

Probably we should not record incoming calls (e.g., "This is Joe Phan. Please call me at 914-555-8263 about Noreascon") for a while. The last line of the taped message should tell people to *write* us if they want more information or to send us payment for a membership. Along about June we could start recording incoming calls, but this gets to be very tricky (based on last year's Boskone, when we had an answering machine that we couldn't prevent from recording calls). Expect many messages to be of the information request variety from people who can't bring themselves to send us a postcard request; expect several to be complaints or problems. I think we should have the recording capability at least in the last month before the con simply because it will also be in our own best interests to solve hotel and membership snafus as quickly as we can.

[The problem with recording incoming messages is the tremendous amount of time it requires from a committee member who would have to listen to and write down all of the phone messages, plus the expense involved in returning long-distance calls. The problem with not recording incoming messages is the possibility of missing important messages, or the hassle of frustrated people calling committee members at their home numbers. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be any reasonable way to simply record messages and respond only to the significant ones; by recording a message, we are implicitly telling people that we will get back to them. — LT]

PR Mailings (by Sharon Shbarsky)

Thanks to everyone who helped mail PR 5. I especially want to thank Monty, Don, Kelly, and Pam (who happened to be at the wrong place at the right time) for getting the boxes off my porch and into the clubhouse. Some people arrived at six and some stayed to 11:30. But all the USA Progress Reports got stuffed, labeled, and sacked. I spent the previous two evenings and the following one with Paula on Thursday night, generating the labels and working on the foreigners.

Upcoming full mailings are PR 6, Hugo/Site Selection, and PR 7. The mailing last week had 3471 USA supporting or attending. This number is only going to increase.

Currently, memberships are coming in at the rate of 6 per day. With the weight of PR 1 and PR 5 and envelope, we only need 60 new members for an interim mailing. This means about every other week.

Yesterday I received a disk with Chicon's membership list as of 1/9/89. Next apa. I will give more details, but they currently have 2049 records, some of which aren't members.

Program Participant Memberships

By Ben Yalow:

MCFI has set up a policy concerning reimbursement for program participants. In general terms, it can be stated as: program participants from within the SF community should be reimbursed after the con, and those from outside should be given admissions in those cases where their participation is mostly for our benefit, not theirs. In this article, I would like to explain how the Program Division plans to implement this. The method will be to give examples, and show how the thinking goes.

Let's first consider the easy ones. Program comes up with an idea for a panel, and asks some people to participate. They're all program participants, and get reimbursed. Similarly, someone not on staff comes up with an idea. Program likes it, and we schedule it for the program. Again it counts, and the participants are reimbursed. On the other hand, assume that Friends of Fred, a special interest group, asks to hold a meeting. Whether the meeting is closed, or listed in the pocket program as open to everybody, it's still not a program item, and the participants are not reimbursed.

The more complicated cases come when, for example, Friends of Fred comes up with a discussion that we think will be of general interest. (For example, their members include the world's experts on preserving pulp magazines, and they want to give a talk on preserving collections.) If so, then even if they control it, it still counts as a program item, and the participants are reimbursed. The reasoning is based on the idea that N3 decided this was a general interest item, and it is therefore part of the program.

We also have problems with non-members of the community. The most common case of this is with movie studios, where someone comes to make a presentation. To the extent that we want them, they're program participants, and we need to decide if they get admissions or buy reimbursable memberships. The difficulties lie in deciding which category they fall in. It's easy at the extremes, but the middle cases will need to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

The final areas of potential problems are pseudo-program items such as readings, autograph sessions, 3-minute banquet speakers, etc. Program believes that the best way for most of these is to avoid creating the situation, since it's under N3 control. Therefore, Program will not assign anyone to a reading or an autograph session unless this involves only an already-qualified program participant (or presumably a staff member, since it wouldn't be an extra reimbursement, either). It might also seem reasonable to use the avoidance strategy in all other cases where a stated policy doesn't exist to remove the questions.

In the end, it is impossible to come up with a set of rules that can be applied without judgment in all cases. By giving examples of how the calls will be made, I hope to clarify our beliefs as to how MCFI intends the rules to be interpreted.

By Priscilla Olson:

Let me start off by noting I agree with virtually everything put forth [in Ben's article], but want to clarify *my* way of thinking about some of the issues raised. Specifically — if a "special interest group" (or more usually, a "special interest person") really wants to present some kind of program item that we would just-as-soon *not* have (like the guy who wrote to us wanting to show his films about the UFOs he has seen), which *may* be of "general interest" (to someone), I really don't think we should have to reimburse this. Part of the question is — who is doing who(m?) a favor? If someone is doing us a favor (e.g., Isaac Asimov moderates a panel), we reimburse them; if we do something to help them (e.g., let a movie studio show previews of a marginally-sf film to promote it) *that we would not "normally" do*, then why should we reimburse them? ((They should be paying us, no?))

At any rate, a lot hangs on the interpretation of "general interest." It's a judgment call, that I hope Ben and I will be able to make, based on some accepted policy, probably making individual decisions in iffy situations.

MCFI Meeting

Date: February 8, 1989
Notes by: Jim Mann

The May meeting will be on May 3. The corresponding apa will be due on April 23 and will be distributed on April 26.

Treasurer: Ann Broomhead reported that we made money last month. She's been working on taxes so she doesn't have a real report, but we made more than \$9000.

We spent \$200 to have the telephone installed. Mark Olson said that the answering machine would be installed as of that day. Currently it is a message-only setup; it cannot take incoming messages. The number is 617-776-3243.

[At this point, several of the neighborhood children threw the door open and ran away. Dave Cantor went out to see what was going on. There was a scream, and the children didn't bother us anymore.]

GULP: Jim Hudson said that they were desperately seeking topics. Later in the meeting, we decided to have an open GULP on March 1 at Jim and Ellen's to discuss a variety of policy issues.

Mad 3 Party: Leslie Turek said that the latest issue (#32) had gone out, and that everyone should have received their copies.

Progress Report 5: Mark said that PR5 seems to be landing all over. Pam Fremon said that we've received hotel forms from Japan and Malaysia. Andi Shechter asked about the reply cards. Mark said that they're coming in, but we really don't need them. The hotel forms themselves are telling us when things are arriving. Leslie said we could look at a sample. Mark said it seemed

pointless to him, but OK.

Our plan for the cutoff of the first batch of hotel forms was a week after we were reasonably sure that all the PR mail groups had arrived. Mark said that 30 bags of PRs had been sent out. When we get a hotel card from each, we wait a week. Andi said that we have a hotel room allocation work session next week. This will give us a sense of what's going on.

Extravaganzas: Mark said that Lynx has accurate bluelines of the Hynes. Those that need these should see him.

Jill Eastlake said that Ellen Kushner will be the MC for the anniversary party. Ian and Betty Ballantine will be MCs for the Hugo ceremony.

They have received quotes from ARA but haven't had time to go over them with a fine-toothed comb. They will when Ellen Franklin gets back.

Jill said that Steve Boheim of Boxboro Fandom has been working on contracting the High Tops, a 6-piece band from New Jersey, to play New Orleans Jazz at the Boxboro party. They are working out a contract, which we have to discuss.

Mark said that the final contract will be reviewed by Mark, Rick Katze, and the Board of Directors. Currently Boxboro has budgeted \$10,000 for their party. They won't need more than the \$2000 we've already promised from us (though of course they would like more). The band costs \$2700, which includes travel. Since Boxboro is an unincorporated association, they'd like us to sign the contract and pay the deposit.

Jim H. said that he saw the band's video at Boskone. They don't take themselves too seriously and should fit right in. Jim Mann asked if people not getting free memberships will grumble that others are being paid to attend. Mark said no; they should understand that these people are specialized contractors.

Jim H. said that another reason for our handling this is that all of Boxboro's money is tied up in CDs. Tony Lewis said that we're already committed for \$2000. This only puts us \$700 at risk. Let's go with it. Sue Carson asked if Passing Fancies could use the band also. Mark said okay if it's in their budget.

Paula Lieberman said that she was thinking that we'd been talking on and off about a dance. Mark said that the contract allows for a second night at 2/3 the cost. Leslie said that we might consider getting a sponsor for this.

[There were no objections to going ahead with the contract.]

Jim H. reported on the experiment of picture taking at Boskone. We took about 18 rolls of film. Reports from the development team look good. We have also learned how easy it is to use up lots of film; we should plan better for N3.

George Flynn said that on Saturday a bishop will be consecrated at the Hynes. This will be on TV. We can watch and see how large events go.

Facilities: Don Eastlake reported that the latest Facilities apa was out.

We got a letter from the Hynes on the contract. We wrote them a letter. Don, Joe Rico, and Mike DiGenio(?) met with the director of security. Paula Quamo was also there. We learned that things were not quite as rosy as

the marketing department told us.

33,000 people attended the Yankee Dental Conference. We don't know how they handled them.

Don and Fred Isaacs met with Freeman decorators. We have a new account representative and more information on furniture.

Bob Lidral has recruited Rich Ferree and Charles Seelig to work with him at the Sheraton. Don, Mike, and Bob met with the new head of Sheraton Security. They don't seem to be afraid of us. Kim Pazzera (the Sheraton's liaison to us) is working on a proposal on corkage. She says that they can work on selling us party supplies at a reasonable rate. She also wants to know if we can give her back a small room for a luncheon for 12 on Thursday. Don said that a Liberty or Beacon room could work here.

At the Hilton, we signed a contract in a rush when we were uncertain about whether we would have the Sheraton. It appears that the contract doesn't say anything about the function rooms, and in particular whether the function rooms will cost us anything. We need to work this out. [We later verified that the Hilton will be comping the function rooms.]

We have a number of little rooms early and late and can probably release some of them. They've also sent us a proposal for having the Boxboro party there.

At the other hotels, Pat Vandenberg and Al Kent have recruited more staff. We're looking into whether we can use the function space we have at the Lafayette and Park Plaza for parties.

We've received a large number of hotel forms. Don said that every time he sees Debbie King she's clutching a stack of forms to her breast. As of February 2, we had about 380 good forms, of which 338 had the Sheraton as first choice. We have lots of suite requests: some for families, some for parties.

Don reviewed the upcoming facilities meeting schedule, which includes a March 7 meeting at his house and an April 4 meeting at Andi's place.

Mark said that we've been examining the idea of placing some parties in the first-floor Hynes rooms. If we do, we'll need to subsidize them to some extent. His best guess is about \$12,000. He's moved that amount from "convention reserve" to "party supplies." We have to start thinking about if and in what fashion we want to encourage/support parties.

Andi said that members of the committee should remember to get in their hotel forms. Priscilla Olson asked if we could have division blocks. Mark said we can consider them division affinity groups.

Art Show: Dave Anderson reported that chairing Boskone interfered a bit with N3 Art Show stuff, but they had the first 120 or so info mailings out at Boskone, with another 160 or so about a week later.

Mark said that the final panel fees were about 8% higher than those we discussed last month.

Mark said that he met with David Cherry (President of ASFA) at Boskone. We offered ASFA a subsidized suite. He also mentioned that Dave and Claire want to invite art directors from book companies to attend the art show reception. George said he attended the ASFA meeting at Boskone.

George said that Rick Foss is putting together an exhibit of Hugo-nominated art to bring to various conventions. He's also interested in listing a selection of works by the nominated artists on the Hugo ballot. George told him that we have to go to press soon after we have the final results. We could ask the artists for a list of works when we notify them, or Foss could get in touch with them. Fred said that it seems tacky to have a third party contact them before we have. George said that this couldn't happen unless the mails acted funny.

Pat said that we should include a "Don't forget room reservations" in the art show mailing. Fred said that the Second Floor Division had been contacted by someone who wanted to do an Emshwiller exhibit; he'd like to refer that to the Art Show.

Site Selection: George summarized the situation regarding the voting fee for the '92 site selection. The default voting fee is \$20. This means that voters could become full members for \$40. Discon has proposed raising this to \$30 (meaning \$60 for a full membership). The two bidders have not yet agreed on a voting fee. If they do, we then have to vote to approve or disapprove. If they don't, the fee remains \$20.

George talked to Joe Siclari, Tony Parker (both of MagiCon) and Kent Bloom (Discon) at Boskone regarding the voting fee. MagiCon is essentially saying no to \$30; maybe to \$25. George told them to get a decision to us in time for the next APA:89. We'll vote at the next meeting if necessary. [We later learned that MagiCon turned down the proposed increase, so that we have nothing to vote on.]

Chip Hitchcock said that the whole problem here is the rule that says that an attending membership will be available for no more than twice the voting fee for 90 days after the vote. He thinks the factor should be 3 or more, and wants advice on drafting a proposal for the WSFS business meeting.

Hugos: As of 7:30, we had received 61 nominating ballots. [Andi said that Debbie would be willing to trade her hotel forms for George's ballots.] The votes range from a high of 47 for novel down to 17 for non-fiction book. Of the 61, 19 are from pros or their spouses. Chip asked how many hadn't voted for their own work. George said "a few."

We sent out ballots to about two dozen fanzines. Two printed them, so far [thanks, Pam]. We also had a prominently placed story in *Locus*.

George said that we have to decide whether to mail out nomination ballots first-class to people who join after this date. Sharon Sbarsky said we have a bulk mailing going out tomorrow. George said that this would apply to anyone joining after tomorrow's mailing. Tony said no. Most major fannish people have joined already. Also, a low percentage actually bother to nominate.

Leslie asked how much money we were talking about. Mark said about \$100. Tony said that was little enough to merit discussion in great detail. Chip said that the ballot deadline is at the membership cutoff date, so the last-minute rush will be too late to be sent ballots anyway. Mark said the cutoff date for first-class mailings, if approved, should be on about March 1. Rick agreed: go with first class, but stop on March 1. We're not talking about that much money. Mark asked George if he wanted us to

approve this. George said yes. Paula said the *Locus* article (see previous paragraph) might kick people into joining. Mark said, given the cutoff dates, we're probably talking an expense of \$50. [First-class mailing was approved. George will decide on the exact deadline.]

George raised two Hugo eligibility issues:

- The cutoff between semiprozine and prozine is an average circulation of 10,000. *Interzone* published 4 issues in 1988, ranging in print run between 5000 and 15,000 as reported by *Locus*. George has written to *Interzone*. If it does turn out to be right on the borderline, can we put it in the category in which it received the most votes (in this case, semiprozine?). Mark said that, unless it were a clear-cut case, we should base it on votes. [No objections to this.] George noted that they can decline if they don't like the category they wind up in. [We have since heard from *Interzone*: their average print run for the year was about 9,000, so they clearly qualify as a semiprozine for this year.]
- Hawking's *A Brief History of Time* has received a number of votes. How closely related to SF do science books have to be to be eligible? Think about this.

George said that we have to have a counting orgy. The postmark deadline is March 15, so March 25 is a logical date. This has to be an official meeting, since we may have to decide to move things from category to category. After a bit of discussion we decided to schedule the official part of the meeting for 4 pm. Counting will start at 11 am. [This was later changed to noon.] Monty will arrange other entertainment [clubhouse renovation work] if things get dull.

George said that at the next meeting we have to decide how to mail the final ballots.

George reported that the Hugo rockets have been ordered.

Program: It being Tony's birthday, we sang "Happy birthday" to him. We all sang the first verse. Rick "sang" the second verse.

Priscilla says that responses to their mailing are arriving thick and fast. About 250 people have sent in responses. About 180 have joined the con. All of our GoHs have now received program letters.

Priscilla said that they'll be getting the XT from Sharon shortly, so that Aron Insinga can go to work on it. Jill noted that now that Aron no longer works for her, the next thing she knows he's allowing one of "those" computers in his house.

We're getting requests from people who want to use the Program database. Our policy is that the database is for the use of other Worldcons, NASFiCs, and regionals that have helped with the database. This doesn't preclude sharing it with others, but they'll have to be examined on a case-by-case basis. The confidential material will be kept separate, and won't go out with the database itself. Paula asked if we'd received a SFWA membership list. Mark replied that no, we had Nolacon's program list, and considered this to be more accurate.

Liz Gross is now running science program. She is getting lots of people outside of the field. Can we give these people one-day admissions? Mark said that this would be only for outsiders and for one day only.

Tony asked, if it's just an admission, why not make it for the whole convention? Mark said that we don't have the money to give away. Andi said that it will be easiest to handle like the one-day memberships we sell at the convention. Paula said that we must make it clear that it is an admission, with no voting privileges. Leslie said that she's in favor of the one-day admissions, since we should minimize the number of full admissions we give out. However, we should give it to them for any day on which they speak. Sharon said that we should work out a policy to allow them to convert to full memberships if they come and decide that they like it. Mark said that we'll work that one out later. [Given the discussion, Program will go ahead with this.]

Mark turned to a related topic: Program has received several requests for exemption from purchasing memberships. We have a great variety of opinions. We probably shouldn't publicly discuss the specifics. If there are no major objections, we'll allow Program to make a small number of exceptions. Rick asked what is small. Mark said probably more than 5 but less than 2 dozen. Fred said that every division head should have that power. Jim H. said that, if he was remembering correctly, at Noreascon Two, all division heads had the power to give out a small number of one-day passes. Mark said that pre-con is the issue here.

Rick said that he is disturbed by Fred's comments. What does Fred include there? Staff, for example, should never get free admission. Jim M. pointed out that there are some exceptions. Our babysitters, for example, are not some random outside contractors, yet at Boskone they've received free memberships as part of their payment. It was agreed that the division heads must use judgment here, and that Program will come back to the meeting with this if it somehow turns out to be more than they anticipated.

Paula said that at-con people will walk in who didn't pay but who want to be on the program. We should have something nice for those who sign up in advance, like a program participant's mug. [There was little enthusiasm for this idea.]

The SFWA Situation: Mark said the situation is better. Jim H. talked to Greg Bear, and Greg said that, "If you'd only been more forthcoming at the start, we'd have resolved this already." Jim H. said Greg actually said that "if Mark had only been more forthcoming..." Since we all know who drafted Mark's original letter [Jim], this is particularly ironic.

Mark said that we offered SFWA a suite under their control. It appears that they may have been honest in their claim that previous Worldcons had given this to them. Some archaeological research has indicated that, while every Worldcon seems to tell its SFWA liaison "All program participants get in" and the SFWA liaison agrees, the liaison then seems to go to SFWA and simply say "We have our suite."

Mark said that SFWA recognizes that our budget will not allow us to give free memberships in advance to program participants. We have agreed that we will try to make refunds available at the con to anyone who gets a request to us *in writing* by August 15. This applies to both program participants and staff. The decision as to whether to refund at con won't be made till Sunday, and only if

we're very sure of our financial situation.

Priscilla said she wasn't sure if it was completely over. They were getting a lot of questioning letters from newer pros wanting to be on program. Mark said that Greg Bear understands that we won't be able to put everyone who asks on the program. Rick asked if we still have the lower rate for program participants to join at. Mark said no. Paula asked what happens if other groups ask for suites. Mark said this isn't a problem. We don't give it to them. They don't have the clout SFWA has.

Jim H. said that SFWA is trying to convince Chicon to give them free memberships. Jim raised the "Do they get to vote on Hugos if this is the case?" issue with Chicon.

George said that we should alert future Worldcons and bidders about what happened here.

Second Floor: Fred said that the division ~~ana~~ came out. He also said that there will be division meetings at Lunacon, Balticon, and Disclave.

Fred said that the discussion with the decorator improved enlightening. The price to rent sofas was distressingly high. However, as they were walking about, they saw a pile of park benches. Fred expressed interest, and the decorator said that they could put together a park, with green carpet and picket fences. They're working up a price for this, with and without a gazebo. We can put up "Please Sit on the Grass" signs. Jim H. said that, if we have the money, ARA has ice sculptures for \$200 each.

Fred said that their new contact does seem to be energetic. They have no price yet on display cabinets. For comfy furniture, sofas are about \$64 a section. Maybe we'll just get them for the reading room. Leslie suggested looking at some of the varieties of chairs that are available. Mark said we probably couldn't just get a semitrailer full of beanbag chairs.

Fred said that they still have a problem with how to carve up the space. Eight-foot drape is one possibility.

The hucksters' mailing is not out yet. Fred said that Cindy Gold talked to some hucksters at Boskone. The mailing will go out after the current draft of it makes its approval rounds.

Alexis Layton reported on the investigations of the badge technology committee. Some numbers still need to be collected. They're looking at the prices for lamination styles. When they met with Robbie Cantor at Smofcon, she said that the problem with forgeries at Nolacon was not as bad as we had thought.

Ann asked if they had come to a conclusion. Alex said not entirely. Don asked about the experimental badge clips we tried out at Boskone. Alex said most people didn't like them. Maybe we can use them for one-day memberships.

PreRegistration: Sharon reported that at Boskone, we received 72 attending memberships, 2 supporting, 3 children's and 1 conversion. There was a mailing Sunday. Sharon will be leaving soon for Arizona on business and will be gone till at least February 24, maybe longer.

Services: Jim M. reported that they'd lost two area heads. First, we received a letter from Electrical Eggs' attorney saying they don't want to work with us. We wrote back saying sorry to hear, sorry you didn't want to be part of the committee, and so forth. We're trying to get a replacement.

George Mitchell, citing personal reasons, also resigned as head of Logistics and may not be able to attend the con. Lu Ann Vitalis will take his place, with Mike DiGenio now serving as consultant (since the title "Local Liaison" no longer really makes sense).

Jim also reported on the status of the convention books. Tor is doing a Grand Master anthology, edited by Andre Norton. Norton mentioned to them that it might be nice if Noreascon could publish the hardcover. Jim had a long talk at Boskone with Jim Frenkel (who is an editor at Tor) and followed this up with a letter. If we can agree on details, material is now ready and we can get to work soon. The committee thought this would be a nice idea. Jim said that NESFA would still handle the book. Mark suggested that we call Joe Siclari to make sure Norton agrees that this is a good alternative.

Jim and Laurie Mann have also written to the Strangers, telling them about the idea of scaling down the book and making it a fanzine. It will be available at con for a low price or "the usual." The committee thought that we should try for a George Richard (Harry Stubbs) color cover, perhaps via color Xerox. Paula said we should look at other printing methods.

Jim said they'd also written to Harry Warner, asking for permission to reprint his article on the Strangers from *All Our Yesterdays* in the book. We also asked if he would write a loc, since no fanzine is complete without a loc from Harry Warner.

Chip reported on the Ballantine book. He said that he sent a letter to the Ballantines, confirming what he thought they'd agreed to in a phone call. In particular, he thought they had agreed to help track down stories by dead authors. Their letter back to us does not seem to confirm this. We'll still have the material, but the committee must help and we'll have to liberate it. Jim M. asked what "liberate" meant. Chip said it means that we have to find out who has the rights to the stories by dead authors. Tony said that he thought tracking down dead authors' estates was something SFWA should do.

Priscilla asked, if the Ballantines aren't interested, why are we doing this? Chip said he's not sure if they are interested or not. They just don't seem to think that we can pull it together in the time remaining. Priscilla asked how the committee felt about this.

Rick said that this whole thing sounds fuzzy. Just what are we trying to do? Chip explained that it would be a tribute to the Ballantines, with stories, articles, and essays by authors who owe their positions to them. Rick asked about a contract. Jim M. asked if and how we're going to pay these people. Chip said this is to be worked out. Jim said we should work this out before we go any further on this.

Rick asked about publication numbers. Chip said about 1000. Rick asked if any would be signed and boxed. Chip said this was a side issue.

After a bit more back and forth on this, Chip was asked to go out and gather more facts. The next apa should include his findings.

Envelopes: Mark asked if anyone remembered who had printed up the first batch of business envelopes. We need more. He was told James Turner had. He will talk to James.

At-Con Publications: There's been a lot of talk — in M3P, in the apa, at a GULP — about the nature of at-con publications. Do we go with a traditional program book and pocket program, or do we use a program booklet (containing full program, a restaurant guide, and other stuff needed at con) and a souvenir/year book, which eliminates all pretense of being a "Program" book?

[There are no objections to going with the latter approach.]

Greg Thokar gave a quick report on the state of the Program Book. Andre Norton has written her piece already. The Ballantines and Joan Vinge have pieces in the works.

Greg asked what people would think of an excerpt from a Norton work-in-progress in the Program Book. Jim H. said he'd rather see us spend our pages in other ways. Sharon said that we will have a Norton bibliography. Tony said we could get a publisher simply to buy lots of pages of ads. [We decided against asking Norton for an excerpt.]

Advertising: Rick asked if we will be accepting ads for PR 7. One bidder has already asked. Mark said that we know our costs. Of course there will be a cost at which they can buy an ad. However, it won't be cheap. Anything will push us up to the next postal rate. So anyone wanting ads can figure on 20 cents per member plus printing costs. This is \$1500 to \$2000 for seven pages.

Progress Report 6: Mark said that PR6 will be our final large PR before the convention. It will be big, but space will be limited. We won't be able to include things that aren't vital. Information aimed at only certain subgroups will be abbreviated: "Here are the highlights. Write if you want to know more."

The aims are:

1. Tell members everything they need to know to plan their trip to Noreascon.
2. Advertise. We may be able to pick up a few more members.

The first draft of text is due to Greg by February 29. It will then go to the division heads and many others for review. March 15 is the copy deadline for revisions. The absolute deadline is March 20. We go to press April 1 and into the mail May 1.

Mark reviewed the outline and people commented on it.

Paula said that she was bothered by PR 5. It didn't say when the program starts and ends. Pam asked if it would be worthwhile to include a tear-out registration form. Jill wants some amount of tourist stuff. Pat agreed to write some. Ann said that Martin Minow would write up something on jogging. Jill said that Pam jogged her memory. People coming to Boskone weren't sure how to transfer memberships. We should include instructions on this. Jim H. said we should include T information on getting to pieces of the convention.

Fred said that it should include a request for volunteers for Passing Fancies. It should also list any exhibits we know about. George said it should also list Art Show special exhibits.

Mark said that getting banquet information into this one will be critical. Jim H. said we'll have to make a few decisions at the next meeting, like do we pay an extra

\$2.50 to have a dessert bar, and so forth.

Mark said that we need to get our party policy together and write it up.

Andi said we have to decide on a smoking policy. Smoking is prohibited in the Exhibit Halls and in the film room. We have to decide on other areas.

Mark said that we have to describe our Children's policies/plans and what we are doing for Handicapped Access. (There was some concern that Electrical Eggs has been telling people that we are not committed to handicapped access.) He also asked if we know anything about the film program yet. Pam said she thinks Bill Carton should know a lot as of the beginning of last month.

Mark said that we cannot include a list of pros who might attend. One sore point with SFWA was their claim that we used their members as free advertising.

We should acknowledge the grants for the Hugo rockets from LA and the cake from DC.

Jim H. said we should include a writeup on Boxboro.

Jim H. noted that most of the writing assignments have been made.

Miscellaneous: Andi asked if we'd have a problem with people saving seats in the auditorium, given that we were opening doors early to allow Handicapped Access. Don said that the auditorium is far bigger than we need for even our biggest event, so this shouldn't be a problem unless our attendance is enormous.

Fred said they are still looking for someone who is willing to be Sharon's assistant on preregistration.

George asked when we'd set the at-the-door rate. Mark said next meeting.

Jill noted that now is the time to start trying to recruit local workers. We can use them at work sessions. Jim M. said that he'd talk with Beth about including an extra paragraph in the letter to gophers. Jill suggested monthly open volunteer meetings.

We adjourned at 10:36 pm.

Division Heads Meeting

Date: February 18, 1989

Notes by: Leslie Turek

An open division heads meeting was held Saturday morning at Codclave from about 10:15 am to noon. Mark Olson announced that our main priority was to bring out issues that need to be discussed at the March 15 MCFI meeting in order to get into PR 6. He warned that the next MCFI meeting will be a busy one.

Party Policy. This discussion was saved for the MCFI meeting.

At-the-Door Rates. Mark and Jim Hudson have done some calculations based on a \$110 base rate. This would include \$35 day admissions (perhaps \$25 on Thursday and Monday), and decreasing full membership rates of \$85 on Sunday and \$50 on Monday. One-day admissions could be converted to full attending memberships with credit. Children's one-day and at-the-doors would be proportional. In all, we'll need about 15 different rates.

Membership projections. Mark and Jim also came up with a method for predicting total pre-con membership. They looked at past Worldcons, and found the difference in their membership between the current date and the closing date for advance memberships. All the ones we have data for are fairly similar. If we take the smallest gain, it shows us coming out at 6400, 400 over our previous estimate. This may allow us to increase our expense budget.

Banquet. A brunch consisting of juice, fruit, scrambled eggs (both plain and with crabmeat and scallions), sausage, potatoes, bacon, pastries, a steamship round of beef (with carvers), and desserts would come to \$25/person. This includes tax, tips, the cost of resetting the chairs in the room after the banquet, and a reasonable number of free tickets for speakers.

Leslie Turek wondered if it might be better to omit the beef and reduce the ticket price to \$23. She felt that having an individually-carved item would slow the serving line. Others felt that beef would be healthier than the traditional fatty breakfast meats, and that people wouldn't mind paying \$25 because they will be there more for the entertainment than the food. Some felt that there was a severe risk of sticker shock, and that \$23 would be more acceptable than \$25.

We speculated as to what we would do if we only sold 500 tickets. Some felt we should cancel it. Others felt that it would be messy to cancel, and we should just scale it back. The Hynes Ballroom has partitions, so we could use only part of the room. The only fixed cost is the free meals for speakers.

The rest of the ARA proposal for con refreshments is about what we expected. Only the soft drink prices are ridiculously high; we will try to negotiate that. Fred Isaacs noted that they had typoed Kaffeeklatsches as "Coffee Clutches."

Smoking Policy. The Hynes bans smoking in the big exhibit halls and restrooms. The policy in the rest of the area will be up to us. We will definitely have at least one smoking lounge attached to the mixing area. Priscilla Olson would like to keep the smaller program rooms smoke-free, if possible. This will be easier if smoking is allowed in the corridors. Non-smoking program rooms might cause a problem if any of the speakers feel that they absolutely have to smoke. Smoking in Club SF is also an issue. Mark asked Priscilla and Ben Yalow to come up with a smoking policy for program rooms.

Tony Lewis is working on a survival guide for foreign fans, in which he mentions that smoking restrictions are much more common in the U.S. than abroad.

Sales to Members. Mark and Ann Broomhead hope to discuss this with Steve Whitmore at Lunacon.

Fannish Names on Badges. Our policy is that we will have people's real names on the official N3 badges. If people want to have fannish names, we can provide materials for them to make separate badges. We might tell people to check their PR mailing label, since that will be the way their name will appear on their badge.

Membership Transfers. In PR 5, we neglected to state a deadline for this. People need to understand that we can't process a whole bunch of membership transfers at the last minute. We should say what they have to bring to the con if they want to do a transfer there.

Progress Report 6. Mark pointed out that the text deadline is only two weeks away. How are people doing? Fred said Hynes 89 might be a bit behind due to Peggy Rae Pavlat traveling on business. Mark said that we will be tight on space, but we will make it as big as it needs to be. Let's make it well-written, and get across all the good stuff we're doing.

Bidders Questionnaire. We received responses from both bidders. They each sent us nearly 20 pages, and we only have room for about 1 1/2 pages in the ballot mailing. We concluded that we made a mistake in asking such detailed questions and making them do so much work. We should offer to make the complete responses available to anyone who requests them. Leslie declined an offer to use them to fill up the next two issues of *M3P*.

Hucksters' Room Mailing. Fred had a draft copy of the hucksters' room mailing, which he passed around. He would like to collect any comments today, so the mailing can go out soon.

Timeline. Mark has inputs from several people, so the timeline is getting longer. He plans to meet with Ruth Sachter about registration later today. He urged people to put things in the timeline, even if the date is uncertain. The main purpose is to jog our memory; we can always correct the dates later. We should add a schedule for getting information to the decorator, and also ConFiction work sessions.

Worksessions. It appears that we will have worksessions at the clubhouse every Wednesday from the end of April to the convention. We are getting enough memberships in to do a bulk-rate membership mailing every week. We also need to process hotel stuff. And if there's nothing else to do, we can always help Pam Fremon process the mail.

Telephone. Worksessions will be announced on our answering machine. The standard phone message is now posted over the machine; you are invited to mark it up if you think of things that should be added. We should try to keep the message down to 3 minutes.

Mail. Mail-handling has been an enormous task. (Yes, it was acknowledged that George Flynn warned us about this.) Both Mark and Jim Mann have spent some time helping out and have been appalled at the time it takes. An estimate is 3 to 4 hours per day! We get 100-150 pieces of mail per day on the average; 200-300 on the bad days. *[This corresponds to the Noreascon 2 weekly figures.]* We are getting some 20 memberships a day. Currently, the rush is due to the hotel reservation forms, and that will drop back. But then we will get Hugo nominations, then banquet reservations, then site-selection and Hugo ballots. George guessed that the N2 peak day was 600 pieces of mail on July 15. *[He later determined that the actual peak was 364 on July 14, with 1227 pieces of mail received during that entire week — see page 15.]*

Jim and Mark suggested that one thing that would save a lot of time would be not to try to keep the original envelopes associated with each piece of mail. Whoever opens the mail will need to check that the name and address is legible inside, and that there aren't any significant notes scribbled on the envelope.

We have already been doing other things to streamline mail-handling. Straight requests for info go directly to the area heads without copying. The program division does

their own copying off-line, then returns the originals to Pam. Hugo nominations don't get copied. We have not been copying art show and hucksters' room reservations, but probably should do so, since money is involved.

A lot of the copying time is spent opening and closing the cover of the copying machine. Getting a machine with a document feed would speed things up a lot.

If anyone has any other ideas for things we can cut back on to speed up the process, please speak to Pam, Jim M., or Mark.

Would it help to pay for xeroxing at the MIT Student Center copy center? We would still need to mark up the mail and sort it into piles by the number of copies needed.

Mark concluded we should be careful about including questionnaires in our future PRs, since each check-off box will require a response on our part. Let's make sure we know what we plan to send out *before* we print the questionnaire, and not include any tangential things. Fred thought we should appoint someone to have authority over such forms and call him "Mr. Checkoff."

Jim M. reminded people to coordinate their responses to letters affecting multiple areas. At least say that other people will be responding to the other parts of the letter. Note that all the people receiving each letter are listed on the letter.

Please don't ask Pam to help with outgoing mail; she's already got enough to do. You can bring it to a worksession or ask Jim M. to arrange for help.

Stationery. More #10 envelopes have been received. Take what you need, but don't hoard large quantities. We need to order 5" x 7" gray envelopes.

Hotel Worksession. We had one last week to process the large piles of hotel forms received so far. It looks like everyone in the first batch will get their hotel of choice. Debbie King will get the counts to Leslie for *M3P*. Earlier numbers showed that 338 of the first 380 forms requested the Sheraton.

It was time-consuming to look up roommate membership numbers. There were some anomalies, such as when person A (female) submitted a form saying that she was sharing with person B (male), while person B submitted a form asking for a single. It was suggested that we send each of them a copy of the other's form. When people started speculating as to the identity of these people, it was pointed out that this was one of the reasons people should attend work sessions.

Several people attempted to reserve multiple rooms in the Sheraton without specifying Noreascon 3 members who would be occupying these rooms. We are going to return these for more information, but will hold their place in the priority list if they respond by March 5.

We should make it clear in PR 6 that, once assigned a hotel, people should deal directly with the hotel for any further changes, although we would like to hear about cancellations. Don Eastlake read Debbie's draft acknowledgment card. We should make it clearer that they should send any credit-card information directly to the hotel.

Ben felt that we should also ask people to inform us of roommate changes. Others felt that this would be too much work for us, and would be hopelessly incomplete in any case. Discussion on this was deferred.

Some people asked to be near the pro parties, but since the publishers haven't reserved their party suites yet, we don't yet know where those will be. In past years, many publishers have chosen to be out of the main hotel.

We expect to get periodic reports from the hotels so we can track cancellations and know how many rooms are still free in our blocks. Ben noted that Boskone had about 15 cancellations in each hotel in the last few weeks before the convention.

With a few localized exceptions, we believe that PR 5 has now reached all parts of the country.

Extravaganzas. Jill Eastlake has seen videotapes of the band Boxboro is hiring for their party; it seems to be fine. Dave Cantor, looking at the ARA proposal, wanted to know what is a vegetable "crud-ite"? The next Extravaganzas meeting, on February 28, will discuss PR 6 and movies. They are still awaiting information about the Hynes stage. Fred wants to discuss film exhibits with them. Priscilla wants to put film contests in Club SF. We still need to find a director for Club SF.

Program. There will be a "code freeze" on the program-tracking software tomorrow. May 12 is definitely the date for the big program work session at Mark and Priscilla's. We'd like to try to arrange a Hynes visit for out-of-town staff that Saturday morning. Although this will be a working weekend, we will try hard to fit in a bit of time for socializing.

Services. Our first choice for taking over handicapped services can't do it, so we brainstormed about possible choices and people to ask for suggestions.

The division is hoping to get out its first apa in early March. They've been delaying it due to the changes of personnel they've been having. Jill suggested that they should just set a date and go with the apa, even if it's incomplete.

Hynes 89. Fred asked how we planned to come up with artwork for the registration badge. Mark said that Steve Whitmore will make a proposal for a convention logo to go on our sales items. Merle Insinga may be doing a t-shirt design of a mad tea party in space. We'd like the badges to have some thematic unity with the other things we're producing. Hynes 89 can propose an artist and a design, but Mark would like MCFI to have a chance to give final approval. The badge artwork should leave enough space for a large name and not be too fussy.

Mark mentioned that Stu Shiffman has a Hugo Nominee certificate he received from Seacon. This is a nice idea, and he asked Extravaganzas to look into producing something similar.

Fred has received prices from Freeman for setting up some parklike areas in the mixing area. Green indoor/outdoor carpeting is \$2.50/running foot of 12-foot-wide carpeting. Park benches are \$75 each and lampposts are \$50. White picket fence is \$3/foot. A decorative gazebo with no seating would be \$250. The basic idea seems feasible, as these prices include trucking and setup. It would be nice to add some plants, but the plant rental place may not give us a show management discount, since none of our exhibitors are likely to be interested. Some of this can be last-minute add-ons, depending on our membership income.

Fred also got prices for the large plexiglass directory display block that we saw during one visit to the Hynes. Prices range from \$230 up, depending on size. One limitation is that the material for this display must be prepared in advance. This might be useful for floor plans, hucksters' room directory, anything else? This can also be a later decision.

The bad news is display cases. They cost \$250 each for whatever size: 4-, 5-, or 6-foot. There is no discount. Only 6 are available locally from another vendor; if we want more, we will have to commit for 20 before it is worth their while to ship them in from New York. This can be a real problem for our planned exhibits.

We are arranging to have some exhibits by commercial companies that we believe will be of interest to our members. These people will pay for their exhibit space, and will show items that are not in competition with the usual merchandise we have in the hucksters' room. (An example of this is might be an online computer service.) Can we allow them to sell their product? No one had any objections to this.

How will we handle exhibitors' packets for these people and for hucksters? Since Freeman is willing to do this, why not supply them with names and addresses and let them send them out? It was pointed out that our labor consultant had some ideas about how to handle the packets; we should wait until Ellen is back before we decide.

George (WSFS). Orlando has decided to reject Discon's suggestion for a voting fee increase, so the voting fee will remain \$20. The bidders can elect to charge higher rates to non-voters if they win.

George has heard from *Interzone* that their average press run for 1988 was about 9000, so it is definitely a semiprozine. George will issue a press release to fannish newszines when the nomination count is done. He is using a database to track the nominations.

George (Art Show). Art show reservations are coming in. Don has tried to call the fire department about whether we can use the Baltimore pegboard hangings, but they want a letter from us. We probably should send them a sample. There was speculation that solid materials are easier to get approved than fabrics. We should dig up the flameproofing certificate for our current hangings, or get a new one.

Party Subsidy. Mark has been thinking that if we want to use the first floor of the Hynes for parties, we have to move quickly to reserve the rooms. We always can release them later. They will not cost us anything if we use ARA to cater the parties. The budget currently has \$12,000 in party subsidies (\$400/party for 6 parties per night for 5 nights) to assist with the catering costs.

Registration. Ruth asked if we had any news about using the Hynes Lobby for registration. There wasn't, and probably won't be for a while. (If we ask now, the answer may be no.)

The meeting adjourned at this point. However, after the meeting, a very productive informal meeting discussed many aspects of registration, badges, etc. Your intrepid reporter unfortunately was totally out of it due to incipient food poisoning, but I do remember that one part of the discussion was about where to locate registration. Since the Hynes will not be open to the public until Thursday, we can put Wednesday registration in the Constitution

Room in the Sheraton. This can also be a fallback location if it turns out that we can't set up in the Hynes Lobby for the main days of the convention. Constitution is a large room that is not scheduled to be used until Art Show sales on Sunday. By that point, registration will have wound down and can be moved to a smaller space.

Excerpts from APA:89

Issue 105 / March 8, 1989

(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.)

Hugo Nominations (by George Flynn)

Counting Session: As you'll recall, we've scheduled a Hugo counting session for Saturday, March 11. I found my report on the one in 1980, which took about four hours with seven people present. Since we'll probably have more people this time (side issue: MCFI members only?), we've decided to move the start from 11 am back to noon.

Why, you may ask, do we need this session? It's because, no matter how you record the nominations as they come in, it's possible to get momentarily distracted and either miss a particular vote or record it twice. Since there are likely to be close races for the last spot on the ballot in several categories, we have to go through the ballots and make sure of the exact numbers of votes for the nominees in question. (As I recall it, in 1980 we sometimes needed several tries to get the same number twice in a row.)

After we have reliable numbers, we next must consider the problem of transfers between categories. Some nominees get votes in more than one category: when the categories in question are compatible (short story/novelette etc., semiprozine/fanzine, pro artist/fan artist are the obvious combinations), it seems reasonable to count all the votes in the most appropriate category — except for cases where the nominee appeared in both categories on the *same* ballot (yes, I'm keeping track of these). In most cases the great majority of the votes are in one of the categories, but there are likely to be exceptions. The worst case so far this year is a story that's getting roughly equal vote counts as a short story and as a novelette: by my count it has about 8500 words, the preliminary Nebula ballot called it a novelette, and the *author* nominated it as a novelette; but the *magazine* called it a short story. . . . (Oh, well, in 1980 one story that almost made the ballot got *all* its votes in the wrong category.)

To deal with problems like this, the committee is authorized to move stories into "more appropriate" categories if they're within 5000 words of the nominal limits. In theory we'd like to do this so as to grant the wishes of the largest number of voters, but we can't follow that criterion blindly: we wouldn't want to have a 2600-word story on the ballot as a novelette, for example. Judgment calls are thus needed, and that's why the counting session needs to have the powers of a meeting. As it turned out in 1980, all the stories on the ballot were in the categories corresponding to their actual lengths: we decided not to count a 10,000-word story as a short story, even though it had more votes than a couple of the genuine

short stories. (By the counting session I will of course have word-count estimates for all the stories in the running; anyone else want to do independent counts?)

Announcement of Nominees: Once we have a list of nominees, we have to contact them to see if they'll accept the nomination. Most should be in the Program or Registration data bases, and Ben has agreed to contact publishers to get any addresses we don't have. We allow a couple of weeks for them to decline (and scramble to notify runners-up if somebody *does* decline), then the ballot goes to press in mid-April.

At this point I rush the news to the newszines and our agents; Press Relations will subsequently get the word to the mundane world. The announcement will include:

- the names of the nominees;
- the number of votes cast in total and in each category;
- the range of votes cast for the nominees on the ballot in each category (say, 37 to 95 votes);
- maybe the number of entities getting votes in each category;
- notes on anything that got enough votes to appear on the ballot, but either was ruled ineligible or declined.

Something that's been done very rarely is to list along with the nominees the "honorable mentions" — those that got *almost* enough votes to appear on the ballot. (I think this was last done in 1979, and then for novels only.) How would people feel about doing this? Argument for: more people get egoboo. Argument against: it could be taken as detracting from the honor given the nominees themselves. Though I brought this up, I think I'm leaning against the idea, but if the committee wants to do it . . . In any case, this sort of information will be released *after* the award ceremony, as was done in 1980.

The last meeting authorized me to pursue the idea of including on the ballot the names of a couple of works by each nominated artist (as suggested by Rick Foss). The more I think about implementing this idea, the less I like it: No matter what disclaimers we included, people would tend to cast their votes on those works rather than the whole body of the artist's work. And what would we do if one or more of the artists failed to respond — list works for the others only, or abandon the idea for all? So I've

decided against trying to do this.

Mailing of Final Ballots: It's pretty definite that the final Hugo ballots will go out in a separate mailing, along with the site-selection ballots and the results of the bidder survey (with which both the bidders seem pretty unhappy, given all the work they had to do answering it); it looks as if there won't be room for additional advertising by the bidders. Things to consider: Do we mail them first-class or bulk? (In 1980 the initial mailing went out bulk, but everyone who joined after mid-May got their ballots first-class; there were 1600 members in the latter group.) Do we pay for collating and stuffing envelopes, or do it ourselves at work sessions? These decisions *could* wait till the April 12 meeting, but it would be nice to get it over with. (Chip has information on the costs of various options.)

The Mailroom

By Mark Olson:

One of the things which we forget soon after a Worldcon (and thus we bid again) is the amount of mail which we get. (George assures me that *he* hasn't forgotten!) Given the enormous amount of work Pam has been doing the last couple of months, I thought that it is time to take stock of our mail flow for the next 8 months.

What I've done is built up a table of sources of mail, expected total amounts, period during which they come in, average number of pieces/day assuming smooth distribution (a very bad assumption!) and estimated (guessed) time and amount of peak. I've assumed 20 mail days/month. (The avg/day column doesn't add up since some of the higher averages are for a short time only.)

Appalling, ain't it?

[See Mark's table across the bottom of this page.]

By George Flynn:

How Bad Can It Get? Lately there's been a fair amount of talk about the amount of mail we're getting. I thought I'd exhume the corresponding numbers for 1980, to help in projecting the flow of mail over the next few months. (The principal aspect in which they're not comparable is that in 1980 we weren't handling the hotel reservations.)

Type of mail	Total	Period	Avg/day	Peak date	Peak load
Room requests	1800	1 Feb-1 Jul	15	15 Feb	50
Room other mail	300	1 Feb-1 Jul	3	15 Mar	6
Memberships	2000	1 Feb-15 Jul	15	15 Jul	100
Art Show reservations	300	1 Feb-1 Apr	7	1 Mar	15
Masquerade entrants	100	1 Jun-1 Aug	2	15 Jul	5
Masquerade photographers	100	1 Jun-1 Aug	2	15 Jul	5
Hugo nominations	750	1 Feb-15 Mar	25	15 Mar	75
Hugo ballots	2000	1 May-15 Jul	33	15 Jul	300
Site Selection ballots	800	1 May-15 Jul	16	15 Jul	150
Prog. Participant replies	200	15 May-30 Jun	7	1 Jun	15
Misc. program letters	300	1 Feb-30 Jul	2	?	?
Late program letters	150	1 Aug-28 Aug	7	10 Aug	10
Hucksters location forms	200	1 Mar-30 Jul	2	?	?
Miscellaneous	500	1 Feb-30 Aug	4	?	?
N3 general info requests	250	1 Feb-30 Aug	2	?	?
Bounced letters & PR's	250	1 Feb-30 Aug	2	1 Jun	10
Totals:	10000		71	15 Jul	600

1980 Dates	Letters Received	New Membs.	Hugo Ballots	Site-Selection Ballots
Dec. 31-Jan. 4	113	48	12	
Jan. 7-11	148	46	18	
Jan. 14-18	153	39	12	
Jan. 21-25	148	52	16	
Jan. 28-Feb. 1	147	39	15	
Feb. 4-8	163	43	15	
Feb. 11-15	164	46	14	
Bosklone	—	53	—	
Feb. 19-22	100	39	15	
Feb. 25-29	165	59	34	
Mar. 3-7	190	56	57	
Mar. 10-14	273	90 <i>a</i>	166	
Mar. 17-21	257	56	169	
Mar. 24-28	129	52	2	
Mar. 31-Apr. 4	144	64		
Apr. 7-11	145	87 <i>b</i>		
Apr. 14-18	168	80		
Apr. 21-25	167	58		
Apr. 28-May 2	210	65		
May 5-9	199	47	11	8
May 12-16	371	56	123	83
May 19-23	415	78	162 <i>c</i>	90 <i>c</i>
May 27-30	303	49	91	43
Jun. 2-6	336	93	68	36
Jun. 9-13	377	99	89	43
Jun. 16-20	313	94	77	37
Jun. 23-27	376	145	75	38
Jun. 30-Jul. 3	395	231 <i>d</i>	89	39
Jul. 7-11	534	191	211	77
Jul. 14-18	1227	492	696	145
Mon.	364	195	171	44
Tues.	130	59	58	14
Wed.	225	113	120	21
Thurs.	327	86	227	41
Fri.	181	39	120	25
Jul. 21-25	317	41	88	41
Jul. 28-Aug. 1	324	16	7	31
Aug. 4-8	292		—	32
Aug. 11-15	401		1 <i>e</i>	58
Aug. 18-22	303			42
Aug. 25-29	165			4
Noreascon II	—	711 <i>f</i>		702
Sep. 2-5	38			
Sep. 8-12	55			
Sep. 15-19	49			1 <i>g</i>
Sep. 22-26	42 <i>h</i>			

Notes:

a. Remember, in 1980 there was no rate jump in March.

- b. We never did figure out what caused this little peak.
- c. These peaks are the people who sent in their ballots as soon as they got them; as you can see, they're a minority.
- d. Some people thought the preregistration deadline was July 1. As I've mentioned before, 18% of all preregistrations came in after June 27 (Midwestcon weekend).
- e. This ballot came by sea mail from Britain — and broke a tie!
- f. Plus about 100 freebies and 900 one-days.
- g. We let Chicon decide what to do with it.
- h. Things were pretty slow after this (total = 14,000 through Sep. 9).

Estimating Attendance (by Mark Olson)

It's time that we reviewed our official budgeting estimate of N3's total membership. Our official estimate at the moment is 6000 members (attending, supporting, and admissions, with 500 one-days). This was chosen to be not unreasonable, but also not to be optimistic. I think that it is now clear that this is conservative.

I'm indebted to George for providing me with some new numbers on the membership curves of recent Worldcons. Noreascon Two, Denvention, Chicon IV, and L.A.con II provided fairly regular membership statistics. More recent Worldcons (including Atlanta and New Orleans, as well as the recent foreign Worldcons) haven't. George has made some estimates based on what paltry numbers have been published. I've also made requests of several people to see if they have access to better numbers for Atlanta (where the numbers existed, but were not made public) and New Orleans.

There is nothing like a single trend curve over the last 8 months of a Worldcon. George's plots show that clearly. So how do we use the historical data to make a conservative estimate which protects us without being so conservative that it cripples us? Jim Hudson made a fine suggestion here: look at recent Worldcons' trend lines and extrapolate N3's *current* membership using the worst case. E.g., compare the ratios of total membership at close of pre-reg to 15 February to select the lowest ratio. Use that multiplier to estimate N3's close-of-pre-reg figure from N3's 15 February figure. A table of those numbers appears below.

You'll note that I've followed very close to the most conservative set of reliable numbers. You will also note that even then, N3 is second largest in terms of final pre-reg. I worry over the trend that more recent Worldcons seem to have somewhat smaller multipliers than N2 and Denvention did. I also worry that our three-year lead time makes this an exercise in futility.

This projects about 300 more members than our current working estimate. At the 15 March 1989 MCFI meeting, I plan to propose that we raise our income projec-

Convention	15 Feb	15 Mar	1 May	1 June	Final
N2	2900 (1.86)	3250 (1.66)	3650 (1.48)	3950 (1.37)	5400
Denvention	2300 (1.87)	2500 (1.72)	2850 (1.51)	3100 (1.39)	4300
Chicon	3600 (1.39)	3650 (1.37)	3900 (1.28)	4150 (1.20)	5000
LAcon	4150 (1.57)	4400 (1.48)	4700 (1.38)	5000 (1.30)	6500
Confederation	~3600 (~1.5)	~4250 (~1.3)			5410
Conspiracy	~3200 (~1.5)			4150 (1.06)	4400
Nolacon	~3800 (~1.4)	4100+ (1.2-)			5050
N3	4117 (1.40)	4260 (1.35)	4610 (1.25)	4800 (1.20)	5760

tions by that amount.

A note in passing. If instead of using the lowest ratio we used the highest, we find a predicted 7660 advance members. Under those circumstances we certainly wouldn't do anything to advertise N3 locally, so an at-the-door of 1000 is a high estimate. Combining the two high estimates, we get a total membership of 8600. While this is very high (*much* higher than I think we'll get), you will note that it's nowhere near the 9000-11000 some people have suggested. At this point it seems highly unlikely that L.A.con will be dethroned as the largest Worldcon, and I'm grateful for that.

At-The-Door Rates (by Mark Olson)

It is also time to set at-the-door rates. This isn't as simple as it seems. Consider the following:

1. We want to allow one-day memberships, but we don't want to encourage people planning to attend the whole con to buy one-days rather than full memberships.
 - So one-days can't be too cheap (it should always be significantly cheaper to buy a full membership for the rest of the con than to buy a series of one-days).
 - Neither do we want the price of one-days to be so high that nobody buys one — they are a significant source of income (so they shouldn't be as high as 1/2 of full).
2. To be fair, we probably want the price of a full membership to decline starting Saturday or Sunday. Certainly charging \$110 on Monday won't get many takers!
3. We want the price of a one-day to reflect how much is happening that day, but we don't want too many different rates. Perhaps one rate for Thursday and Monday and another rate for all other days.
4. I believe that we need a full rate for the whole con close to \$110. I have budgeted using that figure.
5. We need full and one-days for children. We probably want to meet all the criteria above.
6. One-days are admissions. Full, even if purchased on Monday, are memberships.
7. We should continue to sell *supporting* memberships at-con for people whose site-selection ballots are hand-carried in and for people who didn't come but want the publications. (I suspect the latter is a pretty small group.)
8. In general, trade-ups from one-day to full membership will be done as if a full membership had been bought on the day the one-day was bought and then the price of the one-day will be credited towards the full membership.

So here's a proposal:

Day	Regular Memb.		Children's Admission	
	Full	One-day	Full	One-day
Thursday	\$110	\$30	\$90	\$25
Friday	\$110	\$40	\$90	\$35
Saturday	\$100	\$40	\$80	\$35
Sunday	\$65	\$40	\$50	\$35
Monday	\$30	\$25	\$25	\$25

[The chart above is given as modified and passed by the March 15 MCFI meeting.]

Badges (by Mark Olson)

Alexis Layton gave me a copy of his badge report at Codclave. It represents a detailed look at the options available to us. Based on it, I have a proposal. But first, I need to go back to basics and discuss just what the various insignia are supposed to do for us.

I'd like to start by defining two levels of security. The higher level of security is for access to places where we store valuables (Art Show after hours; film storage, Treasury, etc.). We really do want to be as close to 100% effective as we can be at keeping people out. I call this a "secure" area. The lower level of security applies to places like Hucksters or Art Show during setup or the backhouse areas. We want to keep random people out, but we don't care very much if a few leak through. Our purpose is to keep out the hordes. I will call this "restricted" access.

I'm defining terms so carefully because I believe our thinking about security has been confused due to our failure to distinguish between the two. What this means is that the insignia which gets people into *restricted* access areas can be simple and need not be particularly secure. The insignia which gets people into *secure* access areas needs to be not so easy to duplicate. Furthermore, we no longer have a problem with guards: most of our guards only need to check to see if a badge is present. Those who are guarding restricted access areas will require our restricted access ID (a ribbon) in addition to the badge. Only those guarding secure areas will need to be alert.

- There will be single laminated badge. It will use the standard clips, but we will try to obtain chains and pins as alternatives. It will contain the fan's name in large letters (as big as we can manage so it can be read from a distance) with City/State, City/Province, or City/Country in smaller letters underneath. (If it can be done without compromising the readability of the name or the city or the badge's overall design, a fan name may be included in type no larger than City/State.) This will be the convention badge.
- Committee and Staff will get a second laminated card which goes below the main badge. (Details of attachment are uncertain: it may be taped, it may be physical part of the main badge or there may be a third alternative — this needs to be worked out.) The extra card gives the area title (e.g., "Registration," "Newsletter," "Hucksters," etc.) It does *not* give rank. It may be very simple — black letters on white — or it may be fancier, but it will be clear and it will be not too much work to produce. It will not be highly customized. For example, everyone in the Art Show will get one which reads "Art Show." (Obviously, there needs to be some room for maneuver here. It might be more appropriate that there be several Art Show tags: "Art Show," "Art Show Sales," "Art Show Exhibits," but I'd advise against it.)
- Ribbons will be attached to the badge for (at least) the following categories: Committee, Staff, Gopher, Huckster, Artist, Hugo Nominee, Guest of Honor, Judge. They will be the ordinary ribbons just like at Boskone and most recent Worldcons. The ribbons will be the insignia which gives access to restricted areas.

- An ID card will be designed for the limited number of people who need secure area access. It might include their picture and will include some color and will state the area of access, e.g., "Art Show," "Hynes," "Treasury," "All Areas." To make counterfeiting more difficult, it will *not* be worn visibly. (There are two thoughts here: it can be carried like an ordinary ID card, or Dave Cantor suggests that it could be punched and hung out of sight *behind* the regular badge.) This needs to be designed.

The point of all this is to:

- a) minimize the Chicon-like distinction between us and "ordinary" members of the convention.
- b) make the visible insignia's meaning obvious to the average attendee. This plan uses no new or obscure types of ID.
- c) make the guards' job as easy as possible. They get one of three sets of instructions:
 - Let in anyone who has a badge.
 - Let in only people with ribbons. (if we want to be fancy, we can say what type ribbon.)
 - Let in only people with ID cards.
- d) make counterfeiting the only ID we really care about hard (since it's not normally visible)
- e) make handing out the badges easy: You get your badge from Registration, and the rest of the paraphernalia from your area.
- f) as a minor benefit, it makes field promotions easy.

Taking it Easy (by Mark Olson)

There's a paradox in the way we do things. We try to do the most perfect job we can, which inevitably results in us doing a lot of extra work, and sometimes results in us doing a poorer job in the long run. We bite off more than we can chew and then run out of time and energy.

Now is a good time to step back and take a look at our plans and see if we're getting a bit grandiose in places. I don't have any specific areas in mind, but I'm getting a general impression that too many of us are just assuming that manpower will be available for all the little projects we think up and all the neat things we'd like to do.

After Lunacon, I'm going to make a point of asking people to take a look at their plans and see what we can do to eliminate people-intensive frills. Particularly important is making ease of implementation a bigger goal of our planning. As we plan, we should be looking at ways of making our jobs easier as well as at ways of making the con better. The general rule is that people are more available in August than at the con, are more available now than in August, and aren't all that available now.

This will have to come in the form of consciousness-raising so that everyone thinks more about keeping workloads under control. I plan also to make it a major part of the review of each area's plans in the division head's meetings.

Related to this is the issue of when people move into the hotel. Obviously it will be necessary for many of us to work full time on N3 for more than the six days we normally devote to a Worldcon. This does *not* mean that we have to move into the hotel on the Saturday before N3 and move out on the Thursday after! Some people will probably have to show up early and others may have to stay later. Local staff should consider commuting during the

out-days.

It seems probable to me that N3 will ultimately elect to reimburse extraordinary expenses such as extra hotel days. I do *not* expect that any such reimbursement will extend to people who thought it would be neat to move in to the hotel a few days early. Moving in unnecessarily early is not evidence of enthusiasm, it's evidence of poor planning. The division heads will be reviewing each area's move-in and move-out schedules and will be trying to keep them in reasonable proportion.

Planning Smart (by Mark Olson)

I just came back from the Mass. Horticultural Society's Spring Flower Show at Bayside Exposition Center. (It was a delight — acres of flowers, grass, shrubs, and trees in winter!) I was struck by their poor planning in a couple of critical instances.

We went to the members' showing (8am–10am, before the hordes descend). We took the Southeast Expressway, and the cars waiting to get into the show were backed up onto the Expressway. Why?

Well, the bottleneck in the whole affair was parking. The problem was that they picked one gate to let cars come in, and had four booths for paying the parking fee, but once the lot was even a little bit filled, *all* traffic had to go down between one row of cars to get to the rest of the lot. Furthermore, this row led right down to the entrance of Bayside, so that the foot traffic from people coming to the door from their cars necessarily crossed the line of incoming cars, which stopped traffic most of the time.

This was bad design. Had they eliminated that one intersection of foot traffic with vehicular traffic, they would have completely eliminated the bottleneck that built up right when their members were trying to get in.

The next bottleneck would almost certainly have been the four stations where cars paid for parking. They had three other entrances, only two of which were needed for exits. The second major bottleneck could easily have been eliminated by using additional entrances. (This would have also helped the first bottleneck.)

The final bottleneck is hard to deal with; they opened the doors at 8am sharp and there were already perhaps 1000 people waiting. *They* probably didn't have any choice. Leslie points out that being an annual event, they can't open up early to avoid the crowds because people will just show up earlier next year. I'm not sure what they could have done on this one.

The lesson for us is that poor planning caused problems for everyone. Not an original observation, but at least in this case it could have been so easily avoided. Will we make similar blunders?

Party Policy and Subsidy (by Mark Olson)

At the last meeting I spoke briefly about a party subsidy and we agreed to hold back \$12,000 towards it. Things have moved on, and I think we need to make some decisions.

Our strategy for making N3 fun for everyone is significantly based upon keeping as much of the con in the Hynes as possible. In particular, we want to keep many of the larger parties there. The problem is that ARA is not the cheapest place to buy munchies. Thus the party subsidy.

In a nutshell, we will rent roughly six rooms in the Hynes on the 1st floor for parties. They are free if catered events are held in them, and cost about \$200/day otherwise. We will provide the rooms and a catering subsidy to up to six open parties each night. If we use the \$12K for six parties/night for five nights, we can subsidize \$400/party.

Given the current ARA prices (we have some hope we can negotiate here) it will cost about \$1000 to run a decent-size bid party. We can contribute a free room and \$400, leaving \$600 to be covered by the bid. Hotel suite rental would be \$400, and even a fairly frugal bid party could expect to spend \$200 on refreshments, so it's plausible that things balance with what it would cost to hold a party in a hotel room.

Complications include the fact that many bidders plan to sleep in their suite, but this should be balanced by the fact that in order to have a suite for one night, they might have to book it up for the weekend. While the sleeping rooms don't cost extra, the parlor room does and would probably be unused several nights.

At any rate, what I will be asking for is approval in principle for N3 to provide a party subsidy something like that stated above. It might not be just to bidders, it might not be in the Hynes, it might not be handled in detail like above, but it will look something like that.

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]

Program Participant Memberships

• Rebecca Ore, Critz VA:

Judging by all the money Atlanta has given away, a similar Worldcon could give full support to over 30 guests of honor. So yes, pros have some reason to feel exploited and Guy Lillian III was silly to compare free memberships for program participants to Guest of Honor support for hotels, meals, and travel expenses that I trust Noreascon 3 plans to give Andre Norton and other major guests.

Not all pros are rich, nor does the money always come on time. When I got to New Orleans, I was told my membership had been taken care of. My free membership and possibly some others seem to have been given based on the con committee's awarenesses of personal need (in my case, I had discussed my financial problems while trying to find out in August if I actually would be on programming). Perhaps, this was unfair to pros in as bad financial shape who didn't complain about it. If Noreascon isn't willing to give free memberships to all program participants, you might consider giving them to people who serve on more than five panels or who are willing to work a stipulated number of hours as gofers in addition to serving on at least two panels. That would ease your burden and ours without requiring proof of financial need, etc.

[As we have explained before, the issue is not how much money the Worldcon has available, but the fact that a Worldcon usually can't be sure how much money they will have available until the very last minute. Too many of the memberships come in just at the final mail-in deadline

or at the door to allow for precise advance budgeting. Thus, it is much safer to handle program participant memberships as reimbursements after the convention than as up-front free memberships.

As other conventions have done, we can make some exceptions on the basis of financial need, both for program participants and for committee and staff members. — LT]

Masquerade

• Patti Mercier Gill, Columbia MD:

I have been reading *MTP* with great interest and think that you all will put on a marvelous Worldcon. I feel certain that my particular area of interest (the Masquerade) will come off well. I do, however, feel compelled to correct a misimpression that Lloyd Penney conveyed in his letter about Masquerade "props," in issue #32.

I have absolutely no problem with Suford's banning large props and scenery from the Masquerade. I understood her reasons to be lack of space and her desire to have a tightly paced show. No good costumer would quarrel with this, especially since it is well publicized in advance. Good costumes can stand alone and still be entertaining and winning.

I do not, however, agree with Lloyd that using props is unfair to the distant costumer. L.A.con II, one of the ones at which he was "easily defeated," had four groups with really large props. Three of these came from farther away than Toronto (New York, Montreal, and Baltimore). My group, from Montreal, flew in with the 6 ft x 3 ft *Metropolis* machine as checked luggage — it took us a year to design it so it would break down and be easily transportable in a box whose dimensions were 3 feet x 3 feet x 6 inches. All it takes is ingenuity and planning. We pulled off a similar trick at ConStellation, again traveling from Montreal.

So Lloyd was at no more a disadvantage than the rest of us. I think I speak from a knowledgeable enough position, having been one of a group that took 5 Master level Worldcon awards in 5 straight years in the Eighties — all from a considerable distance. So let's cut the sour grapes, Lloyd.

Thanks for letting me put in my two cents worth!

Sunday Brunch

• David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

While I like the concept of the Sunday Brunch, the notion of spending \$25 for "... minimum brunch food" is appalling. Maybe that's what prices are like in Boston, especially when hotel or convention center catering prices are involved, but for a lot of folks that's the kind of money they want to spend on a far fancier meal. Also, while a "standard food function" may need an hour for the food, a stand-in-line buffet brunch may need a bit more, especially given the amount fans like to eat.

[Hotel and Convention Center banquet prices are always higher than the cost of comparable food in a restaurant. (And don't forget that the banquet price includes tax and tip.) It's not just Boston; I'm sure if you checked out the catering menus of any of the downtown Philadelphia hotels, you would find the same situation. That's one reason why Worldcons gave up having banquets several years ago. But brunch prices are generally quite a bit less than a dinner banquet would cost, which is why we decided to try

a brunch.

By the way, it looks like the brunch price will come out more like \$21 or \$22 than the \$25 we originally estimated.

I agree that the logistics of the serving tables and lines must be well thought out. One very successful buffet banquet I attended at Rivercon some years ago used a lottery system to draw table numbers, so that people didn't have to stand in line very long. They enlivened the wait by awarding prizes to some of the tables. For example, the last table selected won a free bottle of wine to compensate somewhat for the wait. — LT]

Portrait Gallery

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

The Picture Gallery is a good idea, but I remember that the Gallery was to contain pictures of well-known names of fandom. Fandom is name-oriented, and there's a lot of people who are well known by their names. How large would this gallery be? 100 pictures? 1000? It's all subjective just how Big Name that Fan is.

[The pictures for the Portrait Gallery are being taken by the photographer Christine Valada. Her main emphasis will be on pros, not fans, although some fans may be included. Christine is making an effort to photograph as many well-known pros as she can in her travels around the country, but in the time available, we cannot hope to be complete. The portraits I have seen so far are of excellent quality. — LT]

Communications

• David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

Jim Hudson's section on communications [in *M3P* #31] was quite interesting. His point that "telephones are the best for point-to-point immediate communication, if you have enough of them" is a good one, especially when combined with the idea of display beepers. However, you might want to ensure that all the folks with beepers also have some sort of list showing where pay phones [or con-controlled phones] are located, especially for the Hynes and the Sheraton function rooms [where they'll probably only be able to make in-house calls anyway]. And, of course, don't forget a few rolls of quarters for emergencies; maybe you should tape a few to each beeper!

Publications

• David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

Mark Olson asks about what ought to be in the "Pocket Program." What I like to see in such an item is very, very basic: maps of the con-related areas in the hotel[s] and Hynes; operating hours for major areas such as art show, hucksters, con office, info desk; phone numbers for con hq, info desk, medical services, and similar locations; times of big-ticket items like GoH speeches, Hugos, etc. [including when the doors will actually open] and very little else. No more than one big sheet, one that'll fit into a small pocket or a wallet when folded. Perhaps the Program Book that Mark's discussing could include this as its centerfold sheet, to be pulled out if desired. [Now, if you want to cater to con collection completists, you'll have two copies per book. . . .]

• Barry Newton, Sandy Spring, MD:

Evidently I've been put back on the mailing list for *M3P* due to my recent appointment as a registration volunteer. The information and insight is greatly appreciated; also, the zine is much weightier than I remember, and has a lot more to impart. I particularly like your habit of providing some context for otherwise obscure discussions.

I don't think the idea of a "Survival Guide" is entirely new, but cannot remember actually seeing one before. Anyway, here are a couple of suggested items that would have helped me a few years back:

Your Worldcon Survival Guide

Welcome to Noreascon 3. This booklet is intended to give you some tips which might help you to enjoy your Worldcon and miss as little as possible. The first tip is:

1. You can't see it all. The convention is too big, and there are too many things happening. You are going to miss most of them. Worldcons have for many years been run on the same basis as technical and professional conferences: events are grouped in sequences known as tracks. Each track has similar things going on throughout the con, such as panel discussions, authors' readings, kids' programming, or whatever.

The first thing you ought to do is spend a couple of hours studying the pocket program, to get an idea of what is going to happen throughout the convention. Chances are good that you're already missing something! Mark up the schedule matrix to flag all the things you'd like to attend. Then cross out the items you'll have to skip because of conflicts. Now consider when you're going to have time to eat, sleep, or go sightseeing (after the con, hopefully). With a lot of discipline, you may actually get to most of the items you marked. Don't be upset if you're distracted and miss some items. Many older fans miss most of the programming, but are quite happy just to renew old acquaintances and schmooze.

The thing to keep in mind is that all con experiences are unique; every attendee gets a different slice of it. We hope yours is as good as ours have been — it's the variety that keeps us coming back.

2. Emergencies. If you see something that seems seriously wrong — dangerous, illegal, or just plain stupid — tell a committee member. There is a degree of organization and communications behind the apparent chaos of a Worldcon. If your problem is serious enough, the top officials of the committee can be working on it within minutes. If you tell them about it. The committee will also do whatever it can to help you in a personal emergency, if you tell them about it.

3. The World Science Fiction Society business meeting is one of the first items on every day's schedule. This painful scheduling accomplishes at least two things: nobody attends who isn't seriously interested, and since many of the attendees are also running the current convention, they can get to work as early as possible.

If you attend a WSFS business meeting, you will see a remarkable amount of work accomplished very quickly. It has to be — the meetings only occur at Worldcon. The people in the meeting are largely familiar with the issues beforehand, as there is a great deal of private correspondence that goes on during the year. Very little new business arises from the floor, because there just isn't time.

4. Don't go it alone. If you don't know anybody, it can get pretty depressing watching everybody else have a great time. It's even worse if you don't understand what's going on and nobody will take time to tell you. One of the best ways to meet friendly people is to work on the convention. There is never enough help at the Worldcon, and the Committee will welcome you whoever you are. Ask the nearest person with a committee badge where the convention office is — and you might get drafted on the spot.

This is getting to be more than anybody wants to read. I hope some of it is useful.

• Elizabeth Ann Osborne, Inverness FL:

I have just read the latest issue of *The Mad 3 Party*. I loved the idea of a yearbook after the con. This item would not only be great for those who were at the con, but also for those who paid attending fees only to have to cancel at the last notice due to a variety of reasons. Another reason for it would be to end the huge wait that results awaiting reports in different fanzines. After Nolacon, it seemed to take nearly six months till I read reviews or con reports.

The only thing I can think would be a problem is the huge sense of collapse that takes place after a con or any big undertaking. I can't number the trip reports I am supposed to have received over the years from DUFF and TAFF winners but never got. As a former con runner myself, I remember the feeling of relief, depression, and even surprise that it is all over so quickly. After working for a year and all those meetings and planning, a weekend seemed so short a time for it to happen.

As I said before, I really like the idea of a yearbook, but do worry that few members of the committee are going to be in any kind of shape to put together such a project after the con. Maybe you should give the job to people who have no work now. They can collect the information at the con and put it together afterward while the members of the con committee are all lying around from overwork.

[I agree with you about the difficulties of trying to do a big project like a Yearbook after putting on a Worldcon. The Noreascon I Proceedings came out many years after the con, as did the Noreascon II Memory Book. If we could find people who had no work now, we'd certainly try to give them a current assignment, as we're already short-handed. I guess we'll just have to wait and see if anyone is still feeling energetic after the con. — LT]

• Paul Doerr, Suisun CA:

Many West Coast cons have printed daily schedule-change sheets for quite a few years. They are a great help to attendees.

While it is probably still in the future, I hope sound tapes (as of panels, etc.) will be "translated" by computer into print in the very near future.

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

The "yearbook" printed 6 to 9 months after the con is a marvelous idea. It's a way to "see" the parts of the Worldcon you missed.

Hotel Room Allocation

• David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

Room allocation is a touchy subject. I know that my two primary reasons for joining Worldcons as early as possible are cutting membership costs and having first crack at hotel choices; my room request will be mailed within 24 hours of my receipt of the hotel form. For some of us, this is especially critical for any of a number of reasons, such as handicapped access or medical needs (e.g., refrigerator in room for insulin). In my own case, part of my long-term planning for your Worldcon was joining (for a fee) Sheraton's "frequent sleeper" program while in New Orleans, with the specific intention of using that program at your con. In part, I paid that fee because membership in Sheraton's plan guarantees you a free 4 p.m. checkout. In addition, I'll be collecting bonus points for the stay, which never hurts. By the way, if the con has an "official airline," I hope it'll be one which has a frequent flyer plan that overlaps with the plan of one or more of the primary con hotels. I think that's true for Sheraton and American, but it may not apply for a stay at a group rate, alas. (However, the con might want to look into acquiring such points for any rooms or flights for which it pays, for use in further bidding or whatever. . . .)

[Further bidding?!?!? Bite your tongue! — LT]

I'll add that it's been my experience that if you go to a con and stay at a hotel where you're in their plan, it's generally wise to notify them of this fact as soon as you receive your reservation confirmation. It often gets you extra privileges or better rooms, even if you are paying the con rate.

• Sarah Prince, Northborough MA:

Amazing how people like to gripe, and how much more they expect from demonstrated competence (e.g., MCFI). My co-special-requestors (for a mini affinity group) actually came up with a constructive (if not necessarily practical) suggestion: they wished the hotel request acknowledgment postcards had a check box or rubber stamp indicating "your special request is being taken into account."

[We can only say that these requests are passed on to the hotel, but it's up to the hotel to act on them. We strongly urge you to reconfirm any special requests (bed size, non-smoking room, special room location, etc.) directly with the hotel. We also suggest that you guarantee your room with a deposit or credit-card number. — LT]

Food and Drink

• D. H. Blair, Winnipeg Manitoba:

How I recall the poisonous-looking "food" on sale at a stand in the Hucksters' Room at N2. Just the sight (and smell) of it was quite enough — or even more! My solution to hunger was to drift over to the "Fatted Calf" for fish-and-chips, or a hamburger. And from my room at the Park Plaza the nearby Arthur Treacher was very handy. Anyway, my advice to those persons overcome by stomach pangs at the Hynes is to go elsewhere — at least as far as the Sheraton, picnicking in their rooms, even. (Remember the supermarket on Boylston Street, at the base of the Pru.) Giving more than compulsory trade to ARA would be a mistake and a shame. And as for the hucksters who actually may be thinking of selling "food items," my first (and also my second) impulse is to say to them that it would be the course of wisdom simply to abandon such plans, as the game is not worth the candle.

And if even such a *relatively* "wealthy" person as myself, of decidedly mature years, and with a stable income, does not bother with anything fancy in the way of basic nutriment while at a convention, just imagine how it is with the mass of out-of-town/out-of-state youngsters who turn up on a shoe-string, or worse. I had a distinct impression that some of the kids at N2 were on the verge of starvation, and that they had in a number of cases no rooms — sleeping dead-dog style in the depths of the Sheraton. Cannot some form of relief be arranged for the hardship cases this time, so that at least the kids don't go hungry?

[I'm going to sound hard-hearted, but I feel that people should not attend a convention unless they can have a place to stay and can afford to feed themselves. I don't feel that the con committee should accept any responsibility for doing so. — LT]

The prices quoted by ARA for parties at the Hynes make me say "ouch!". We can but hope that the Facilities Division will be successful in the matter of the "first-floor function rooms" and "reasonable corkage." And let us hope also that the "cavern below the Sheraton" is corkage-free. But as things stand at present, you already have made it plain, in reply to Lloyd Penney's query, that the Sheraton (for example) insists upon either supplying the alcoholic drinks for *open* parties (at least) held there, or else imposing a corkage charge for any booze and beer — not to mention wine — brought in by the party-givers. In the event that the cavern could not be finagled, corkage-free, thus leaving us stuck with the *status quo ante*, some clarification would appear desirable still with respect to (small, one hopes) closed/private parties. That is, how much could we get away with here in avoiding corkage? Should the hotel's attitude prove to be unfavourable ("petty," some might say), there would arise immediately the further question of the hoteliers' view of small supplies of refreshment sneaked in by the hotel guests for their personal irrigation/drinking/consumption/use, discreetly, behind closed (and locked) doors. Would Room Service pout/frown/object/throw a fit?

In one way or another, we shall have some good parties, I expect, in spite of all efforts on the part of party-poopers, spoil-sports, and wet-blankets. (I recommend ice-cold sparkling cider as an excellent, refreshing, non-dehydrating, mildly-alcoholic summertime stimulant.)

[I don't see how we can clarify further. The hotels' position is that guests bringing in beverages must pay corkage. Obviously, if they don't notice you, they won't bill you. Obviously, large parties are more likely to be noticed than small ones. However, we can't give you any magic formula that will guarantee that you will be exempt from corkage. — LT]

• Paul Doerr, Suisun CA:

I may be wrong but the Hynes/ARA/labor prices seem to be an excessive ripoff. I would be tempted to make other arrangements. If they lost enough money they might become more agreeable. Allowing others to know could let future concons decide on their moves in advance. Paying off just causes the extortioners to become more bold and extortionate.

[Using a word like "extortionate" doesn't seem appropriate here. The Hynes has a contract with ARA stating that ARA will be the exclusive caterer for the Hynes. In return for this, the Hynes gets a percentage of ARA's

gross fees. Everyone is acting perfectly legally. We have begun negotiating with ARA and they have shown some flexibility in their pricing. Depending on the results of the negotiations, for each case where we have food needs, we will have to decide whether to use ARA or do without. Our contract with the Hynes does not allow us to make other arrangements.

The labor situation is also a fact of life that we cannot change. In many respects we are better off in Boston than in some areas, like New York City, where you can't even carry a box without hiring union labor. — LT]

Badges

• David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

Regarding badges, I'm minded to wonder if there's a way to make a badge that can work in both the clip-on and pin-on modes. Leslie mentions that the clips are often added to the badge at hand-out time, so perhaps there's an equivalent hand-out for the pins. Personally, I'd like to have both handy, so I can suit the mode of operation to the clothing I'm wearing.

[We're looking into this. — LT]

Publications on Convention-Running

• Paul Doerr, Suisun CA:

Thanks for #32 M3P. It is very informative. As you know we produce *The Con Guide*, planned to be monthly if enough information and articles arrive. TCG is intended to cover everything involved in producing, paying for, surviving, and even enjoying life on a concom while creating the con. The monthly will be 12 pages condensed print (about 16 standard-type 8 1/2 x 11 pages) at \$2.00. When enough pages are produced, they will be put on 98-page microfiche at \$3.00 for a permanent reference file. Our first issue is just now completed so I have no idea if we will have a profit or loss, but I enjoy working cons and do most in a hundred mile radius. Concons spend so much of their time re-inventing the wheel that I decided to try to get it all on paper in one piece, rather than scattered through fanzines and business reports. Hopefully, people on specific concons will join and send articles on their experiences, good and bad, as well as extractions from their earlier writings.

[The Con Guide is published by Luna Ventures, P.O. Box 398, Suisun CA 94585.]

Worldcon Bids

• Discon III Press Release:

Kent Bloom, the Discon II bid corporation President, announced that its members have selected Peggy Rae Pavlat as the 1992 Worldcon Chairman, should Washington, D.C. win the right to host the 50th World Science Fiction Convention.

Peggy Rae is a second generation fan with over thirty years of convention experience. Her Worldcon experience includes being a division head for both ConStellation and Noreascon III, managing the Program Development subdivision for ConFederation, and heading Press Relations for both Noreascon II and Chicon IV. In her mundane life, Peggy Rae is a computer instructor and software trouble shooter.

Tom Schaad has been appointed as Vice Chairman. An active fan since 1976, Tom has been a past president of the Washington Science Fiction Association (WSFA)

and has worked on numerous large regional conventions, including serving as con chair for the 1980 and 1988 Disclaves. He was the head of Noreascon II's Art Show and a staff member on both the ConStellation and Noreascon III art shows. Tom is the Deputy Chief of Planning for the United States Coast Guard's Office of Health Services.

Discon III is also happy to announce it has received its federal tax exemption ruling from the IRS. Discon III is now recognized as a section 501(c)(3) organization.

Smofcon 6

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Paul Valcour, Yvonne, and I had another Smofcon meeting, and Smofcon 6's PR 1 is getting ready. It will contain various messages, but we do need ideas for programming in the theme of Convention Planning. We'll be sending PR 1s to all the members of Smofcon 5, plus the concons of the local conventions. Under Convention Format and Material, we have bowed to pressure from potential members, and will be going with the usual-convention panel format for programming. We will still need recording secretaries in the panels for the post-con notebook, so I hope people will volunteer their help and their programming ideas. The address is PO Box 186, Station 'M'.

Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6S 4T3.

Miscellaneous

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

The timeline is a valuable tool. Perhaps the use of the timeline can be a topic at Smofcon 6. Once it's explored, it can become a tool for most conventions. Once the convention is done, the complete timeline can be adapted by successive Worldcons. It can be some insurance against planning and time fiascos and potential disasters.

[Two cautions. First, many items on the timeline are specific to Noreascon 3; while we encourage use of the idea, and reading our timeline to get ideas as to what should be included, no con should just adopt it wholesale. Second, writing things down on a timeline is easy, but getting the work done is a lot harder. The timeline helps to ensure that you don't forget things, but doesn't automatically make them happen. — LT]

SF and Fandom around the World is a good idea, but it must be presented in a way that lets fans walk up to it and look at it. ConFederation tried panels on Canadian fandom, British fandom, Japanese fandom, etc., but only Canadian fans, British fans, Japanese fans, etc. showed up to the panels. There wasn't any interest on the part of American fans in overseas fanac.

The Mad 3 Party #33

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