



Number 34

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— Special Mayday Issue —

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For a complete list of Hugo nominees, vote counts, etc., see the article on page 2.

Hotel Room Status

As of early April, we had received a total of 1184 room reservations, of which 1126 had been processed, 36 were outstanding problems, and 22 were new. We had essentially filled up the Sheraton, the Back Bay Hilton, the Colonnade, and three smaller blocks in the Midtown, Lenox, and Copley Square. We are still holding most suite requests, pending resolution of how parties will be handled.

DC Withdraws From '92 Race

The following is a news release from the DC in '92 bid committee:

Major Hotel Signs Contract with Other Group

Kent Bloom, President of the Discon III Bid corporation, announced that its members have decided to withdraw from active bidding after one of the three hotels in the Connecticut Collection signed a contract for a large portion of its facilities, beginning on Saturday evening of Labor Day Weekend, 1992.

"Given these circumstances, we believe it would be impossible to present the kind of Worldcon we want to run; the kind of Worldcon that we believe the science fiction community deserves for its 50th Worldcon.

"Therefore, with great regret, we must withdraw our bid from the site selection.

"We sincerely thank each person who has supported us: with pre-supporting memberships, with encouraging words, with special mailings, with donations, by wearing Discon III T-shirts and buttons, by hosting our bidding parties, and by agreeing to be Friends of Discon III."

We invite our pre-supporters and friends of all kinds to a Thank-You Party at Noreascon Three. Details will be announced later.

We wish the best success to those who run the 50th World Science Fiction Convention.

[This is really too bad. When so much effort has gone into a bid, it's a shame to see it end this way. And what happened to the DC bid could happen to other bids — the 3-year lead time may no longer be enough. On the other hand, increasing the lead time would be a real strain on the convention committees; three years of convention planning is a long time for a committee to stay active and enthusiastic. Perhaps future Worldcon sites will be limited to places where there's not much competition from other types of conventions. — LT]

New Appointments

Program Division

Club SF — Lee Orlando

Extravaganzas Division

Photography — David Dyer-Bennet

Help Needed

The Extravaganzas division is looking for someone who has had experience with or knowledge of Polaroid slide technology, for help with the closing ceremonies. Please write to the N3 address. Thanks.

Membership Predictions

Here's how the entries in the membership predictions contest compare to where we stand currently. (The guesses were for advance attending memberships.)

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

4534 on April 7

4058 Pat Vandenberg

3964 on March 5

Hugo Nomination Results

by George Flynn

[The following is the news release issued by Noreascon 3 to report the Hugo nomination results]

Noreascon Three received a total of 547 Hugo nomination ballots 8 of which were declared invalid. (2 voters were neither Noreascon nor Nolacon members; 1 person voted twice; and 5 were mailed after the deadline. In addition to these, one person telecommunicated a list of nominees; future Worldcons may wish to explicitly forbid this.)

Of the 539 valid ballots, 514 were from members of Noreascon Three, and 25 from Nolacon members who were not also Noreascon members. It is worth noting that the total is less than the 563 nominations Noreascon II received in 1980, even though Noreascon Three had almost 50% more members by the nomination deadline. The

breakdown of voting by categories follows:

Column A — Number of people voting in the category.

Column B — Range of votes for nominees on ballot.

Column C — Number of items receiving votes.

Category	A	B	C
Novel	485	55-73	280
Novella	247	53-74	59
Novelette	260	37-47	131
Short Story	279	23-37	220
Non-Fiction Book	250	24-55	95
Dramatic Presentation	331	58-209	147
Professional Editor	349	59-144	95
Professional Artist	357	43-97	162
Semiprozine	305	45-171	60
Fanzine	243	24-60	158
Fan Writer	191	12-48	188
Fan Artist	244	27-53	180
Campbell Award	230	11-49	145

In the listings below, it will be noted that there are more than five nominees in a number of categories. This was in part due to tie votes (a three-way tie in one instance), and partly for a reason that requires a detailed explanation:

In counting the nominations, we observed a significant pattern of what appeared to us to be bloc voting, amounting to over 50 votes in some categories. The number of these votes was sufficient to place nominees on the final ballot in five categories. More seriously, about half of these ballots were received with new Supporting Memberships, nearly all of which appeared to have been paid for by the same person or persons (the payments were made with blocks of consecutively-numbered \$20 money orders, purchased at the same post office). We were highly disturbed by this practice. While we did not consider it appropriate to invalidate the ballots in question, we did not wish any potential nominee to be deprived of a place on the ballot because of them. We therefore added a sixth nominee to the ballot in those categories where the presumed bloc voting had been successful (except where fifth-place ties had already produced the same result). We recognize that there is nothing in the WSFS Constitution authorizing this action; but we felt that this was the course which would do the least damage to the Hugo process. For the same reason, we allowed on the ballot Campbell Award nominees with only 11 of 230 votes, marginally below the 5% required by the Hugo rules. We trust that the voters will render an appropriate judgment.

After the original version of this press release was distributed, we were asked by Todd Cameron Hamilton, on behalf of himself and P. J. Beese, to remove from the ballot the following nominees: *The Guardsman*, by P. J. Beese and Todd Cameron Hamilton, from the Novel category; and Todd Cameron Hamilton, from the Professional Artist category. These nominees were among the beneficiaries of the bloc voting described above. Because we are satisfied that Mr Hamilton did not take part in arranging the bloc vote or purchasing memberships for voters, we have agreed to his request to remove the nominees in question from the ballot; we have also eliminated the list of categories affected by the bloc voting. We wish to emphasize that we have not clearly established who was responsible for the bloc voting; any inferences that people

may have drawn as to who was responsible are not supported by the published facts.

The nominees are as follows ("No Award" also appears on the ballot in each category):

Novel

- Cyteen*, by C.J. Cherryh
(Warner; Popular Library/Questar)
Falling Free, by Lois McMaster Bujold
(*Analog*, Dec 87-Feb 88; Baen)
Islands in the Net, by Bruce Sterling
(Morrow; Ace)
Mona Lisa Overdrive, by William Gibson
(Gollancz; Bantam Spectra)
Red Prophet, by Orson Scott Card (Tor)

Novella

- "The Calvin Coolidge Home for Dead Comedians,"
by Bradley Denton (*F&SF*, Jun 88)
"Journals of the Plague Years,"
by Norman Spinrad (*Full Spectrum*)
"The Last of the Winnebagoes," by Connie Willis
(*IASFM*, Jul 88)
"The Scalehunter's Beautiful Daughter,"
by Lucius Shepard (Ziesing; *IASFM*, Sep 88)
"Surfacing," by Walter Jon Williams (*IASFM*, Apr 88)

Novelette

- "Do Ya, Do Ya, Wanna Dance,"
by Howard Waldrop (*IASFM*, Aug 88)
"The Function of Dream Sleep,"
by Harlan Ellison (*Midnight Graffiti* 1;
IASFM, Mid-Dec 88; *Angry Candy*)
"Ginny Sweetlips' Flying Circus,"
by Neal Barrett, Jr. (*IASFM*, Feb 88)
"Peaches for Mad Molly,"
by Steven Gould (*Analog*, Feb 88)
"Schrodinger's Kitten,"
by George Alec Effinger (*Omni*, Sep 88)

Short Story

- "The Fort Moxie Branch," by Jack McDevitt
(*Full Spectrum*, where it was mistitled
"The Fourth Moxie Branch")
"The Giving Plague," by David Brin
(*Interzone* 23; *Full Spectrum* 2)
"Kirinyaga," by Mike Resnick (*F&SF*, Nov 88)
"Our Neural Chernobyl," by Bruce Sterling
(*F&SF*, Jun 88)
"Ripples in the Dirac Sea,"
by Geoffrey A. Landis (*IASFM*, Oct 88)
"Stable Strategies for Middle Management,"
by Eileen Gunn (*IASFM*, Jun 88)

("Kirinyaga," which has close to 7500 words, received appreciable numbers of nominations both as a novelette and as a short story. We placed it in the category where it received the most votes.)

Non-Fiction Book

- A Biographical Dictionary of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists*, by Robert Weinberg (Greenwood)
First Maitz, by Don Maitz (Ursus)
The Motion of Light in Water,
by Samuel R. Delany (Morrow)
The New Encyclopedia of Science Fiction,
edited by James Gunn (Viking)

Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror: 1987.

by Charles N. Brown and William G. Contento (Locus)
(*A Brief History of Time*, by Stephen Hawking, received enough votes to appear on the ballot, but was ruled ineligible, since it is not a book "whose subject is the field of science fiction or fantasy or fandom," as required by the rules.)

Dramatic Presentation

- Alien Nation*
Beetlejuice
Big
Who Framed Roger Rabbit
Willow

Professional Editor

- Gardner Dozois
Edward L. Ferman
David G. Hartwell
Charles C. Ryan
Stanley Schmidt

Professional Artist

- Thomas Canty
David Cherry
Bob Eggleton
Don Maitz
Michael Whelan

SemiProzine

- Interzone* (ed. David Pringle)
Locus (ed. Charles N. Brown)
The New York Review of Science Fiction
(ed. Kathryn Cramer, David G. Hartwell,
Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Teresa Nielsen Hayden,
and Susan Palwick)
Science Fiction Chronicle (ed. Andrew I. Porter)
Thrust (ed. D. Douglas Fratz)

(While *Interzone* had a print run of over 10,000 by the end of 1988, its average for the entire year was only 9000 and it thus remains eligible as a semiprozine this year.)

Fanzine

- File 770* (ed. Mike Glycer)
FOSFAX (ed. Timothy Lane)
Lan's Lantern (ed. George "Lan" Laskowski)
Niekas (ed. Edmund R. Meskys, Mike Bastraw,
and Anne Braude)
Other Realms (ed. Chuq Von Rospach)
(The ballot will also include the addresses of all nominated semiprozines and fanzines.)

Fan Writer

- Avedon Carol
Mike Glycer
Arthur D. Hlavaty
Dave Langford
Guy H. Lillian, III
Chuq Von Rospach

Fan Artist

- Brad W. Foster
Teddy Harvia
Merle Insinga
Stu Shiffman
Taral Wayne
Diana Gallagher Wu

John W. Campbell Award
for Best New Writer of 1987-1988

(not a Hugo; sponsored by Davis Publications)

P.J. Beese and Todd Cameron Hamilton (1)

Christopher Hinz (2)

Melanie Rawn (1)

Michaela Roessner (1)

Kristine Kathryn Rusch (1)

William Sanders (1)

Delia Sherman (2)

(1) First year of eligibility

(2) Second and final year of eligibility

(Elizabeth Moon and Daniel Keys Moran received enough votes to appear on the ballot, but were ineligible because of prior publication: both were first published in 1982. Kristine Kathryn Rusch appeared in 1987 in *Aboriginal SF*, which at that time was still a semiprozine; 1988 is therefore her first year of professional publication, which governs Campbell Award eligibility.)

Here are some statistics on the flow of ballots. Most members of Noreascon Three received their ballots with Progress Report 5, which was mailed on January 11. (Separate mailings were sent to overseas members and to new members who joined during February.) Ballots had to be mailed by March 15. The numbers of valid ballots received as of various dates were as follows:

1/31	29	3/11	235
2/8	61	3/15	359
2/13	86	3/17	482
2/20	120	3/20	527
2/26	148	3/25	536
3/4	193	4/5	539

(The last ballot was sent airmail from England on March 10, and arrived on April 5! Fortunately it did not affect the results, since the nominees had already been notified.)

Addendum

[Shortly after the original news release appeared, a large amount of query and speculation on this topic flooded the various electronic mail networks, especially CompuServe. Noreascon 3 issued the following statement to respond to some of these issues.]

All Hugo nominees were notified of their nomination and given the standard opportunity to withdraw as required by the rules. No nominee was given advance notice of the identity of the other nominees or the contents of our press release.

Noreascon 3 has made public all the information supported by the facts and consistent with our responsibility to maintain the secrecy of the ballot. We do not feel further investigation is appropriate and hence have no plans to investigate further.

Hugo Nomination Proposal

by Leslie Turek

The previous article, starting on page 2, is the official Noreascon 3 news release on the Hugo nomination voting. What follows here is my personal opinion, and does not represent the official view of the Noreascon 3 committee.

The news release points out that Noreascon 3 noticed a voting pattern in which a number of supporting memberships were purchased by money orders apparently coming from the same source and accompanied by Hugo nomination ballots voting for similar sets of nominees. In the discussions that the committee had to decide how to handle this, several people referred to rumors that this sort of thing had been noted by past Worldcons, but had been kept quiet for one reason or another.

This is clearly a matter for concern among people who care about the Hugo awards. What isn't so clear is what can be done about it. There have already been complaints that the supporting membership fee is too high for people who want to join just to (legitimately) vote on the Hugos, so raising the fee doesn't seem like a reasonable response. The WSFS Constitution already requires a signature on the ballots, to ensure that a single person can't buy lots of votes unless he at least has a different person willing to sign each one of them.

I think there are two things we can do that will help the situation somewhat. First, we need to all nominate and vote on the Hugo awards. We *especially* need to nominate, since there are usually a lot more people who vote than nominate. Large numbers of legitimate nominations will make it harder for a bloc-voting campaign to prevail.

Second, I'm thinking of proposing a change to the voting rules, to limit nominations to people who joined the Worldcon by December 31 of the year covered by the awards. For example, for Noreascon 3, that would have been December 31, 1988. This would mean that no one could send in a membership and a Hugo ballot at the same time; they would have to purchase their membership before December 31, and then also send in a ballot after December 31. This won't stop a determined bloc-voter, but it would certainly mean they'd have to plan a lot further ahead and be a lot more organized.

From the administering convention's point of view, this could make things easier for them. They could simply produce the ballot-mailing labels at the cutoff date, and not go through the hassle of trying to get ballots out in time to last-minute joiners. Since membership numbers are usually assigned in increasing order, they just need to make a note of the last membership number assigned at the cutoff date, and check ballots to be sure the membership number is lower than the cutoff number.

Some of you might have other ideas for how we might deal with this problem; I'd like to get your letters on this subject.

How the Timeline Has Been Used

by Mark Olson

The building of the Noreascon Three Timeline was started in late November 1988, following a suggestion by Leslie Turek. It's now about half way to the convention, and I think it might be a good idea to look at how it's being used and how well it's working.

The timeline is contained in three files on Reflex Plus, a mediocre pseudo-relational Macintosh database management system. It runs on a standard Mac Plus. One file is a list of areas keyed by area name and containing pertinent information (at the moment, only the area's division). The second file contains rooms, keyed by a unique room name and containing information like room location and size. The third file is called "Events" and is the heart of the timeline.

The Events file contains a record for each event in the timeline. (An event is something which happens: a work-session starts, an area opens for business, Masquerade rehearsal ends, etc.) Each event has a time and a date, a description, an area (only one — letting multiple areas be associated with an event would be a nice enhancement, but not really necessary), a "completed" flag (indicating that this event has taken place — obviously only useful for the pre-con events), and a list of rooms that the event pertains to.

I can generate reports showing events sorted by time, by area, or by room.

The database as it now exists contains something like 1000 events. It's hard to decide where to cut off adding detail. For the moment, I've decided to be fairly detailed in advance of the con and to stick to a broader brush during the con. For example, at con I frequently note only an area's opening and closing schedule. In Program, I don't note individual program items, but only when Program starts or ends in a given room. Big events like the Extravanzas are listed in full.

The timeline allows me, my staff, and the division heads a global view of what's going on. (It's remarkably hard to really have a feel for what's happening where — a Worldcon is too damn big!) It also gives area heads some chance of knowing what other areas are doing, in hopes that at least some conflicts will be picked up before they happen and that things which should be coordinated will be.

A second major use is in planning. Our planning style might best be described as one of successive approximations: We put together a first cut at some area, making guesses where we don't have solid information. Once we're got this, we put it into the timeline.

For example, let's look at the Program Booklet. (This is the thin 8.5" x 11" publication which will be printed just before the con and which will contain — as well as it can — the accurate schedule of the convention.) When we first decided to go with this idea, we had a brainstorming session (one of our GULP meetings) and got a basic notion of what we needed to do. I entered a bunch of things into the timeline:

15 Mar 89 Ben & Priscilla do preliminary sketch of contents of Program Booklet

1 May 89 Ben & Priscilla decide on contents and format of Program Booklet
1 Jun 89 Ben & Priscilla have area head for Program Booklet on board
1 Aug 89 Deadline for MLO to make budget decision on including extra material (precis. etc.) in Program Booklet
21 Aug 89 Program Booklet copy deadline
23 Aug 89 Program Booklet goes to printer
28 Aug 89 Program Booklet delivered to Hynes

Now, these were not necessarily very good guesses as to schedule or even necessarily all the events that we needed to worry about. What it accomplished was that Priscilla and Ben (the Program Division heads) had a reminder that they needed to do some things, and I had a reminder to check up on those things at an appropriate time. The second thing it accomplished is that it got a plan out in front of everybody where people could think about it. Since that time, we've modified the schedule somewhat (we realized that Priscilla and Ben wouldn't have enough information on 15 March to do a very good sketch of contents, but that they would by mid-April, so we pushed that date ahead a month) and we've looked at adding other events. (For example, "1 Jul 89 Program Booklet area head and Ben demonstrate software to produce camera-ready copy from program database".)

What we're doing is getting *something* down in writing early, and then changing it continuously as we approach the convention and — presumably — know better what we need to do. (The big question around here is "Is N3's planning a convergent or divergent series?" Ask me in October.)

I've got to emphasize that we are making a very real effort to keep the timeline descriptive rather than prescriptive. We really want it to reflect reality and we recognize that it needs to change all the time as reality changes. We try to limit the prescriptive aspect of it to asking that the division heads and the area heads keep it up to date so that we can count on their doing things about when the timeline says they ought to. The failure isn't to miss a deadline recorded in the timeline, it's not keeping the timeline reflecting the real deadline.

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 work session information.

Feb 10 Get updated Hodges ribbon catalog
<done>
Feb 15 Start sending out Art Show confirmations
<planned for late March>
Feb 15 Settle on official logo for souvenirs
<done>
Feb 15 Norton contract drafts ready
<done>

Feb 15	Select Club SF area head <done – Lee Orlando>	Apr 15	Hugo base design and quotes approved
Feb 15	Get stage specs	Apr 15	Complete Strangers book data entry
Feb 28	Review draft handicapped-access survey <done>	Apr 20	Complete preliminary mixing area layout
Mar 1	Norton book data entry complete	Apr 20	Logistics questionnaire to areas
Mar 1	Draft souvenir book outline	Apr 23	Draft Souvenir Book text ready for review
Mar 1	GULP meeting on policy issues <see minutes on page 7>	Apr 30	Ribbon logo artwork to Hodges
Mar 1	Decide on banquet menu <done – will be in PR 6>	May 1	Badge materials ordered
Mar 1	Preliminary registration layout	May 1	Norton book to printer
Mar 1	Select sound, video, film, communications vendors	May 1	Approve ribbon colors and designs
Mar 2	Deadline for selection of Souvenir Book cover artist <done>	May 1	Masquerade stage plans complete
Mar 5	Send out handicapped-access survey	May 1	Office-supplies questionnaire to areas
Mar 10	Set gopher crash space policy	May 1	Draft SF Tonight script
Mar 12	Badge physical design decided <done>	May 3	MCFI meeting
Mar 15	MCFI Meeting <see minutes on page 9>	May 3	Decide on special committee awards
Mar 15	Choose T-shirt artist <Merle Insinga and Robin Wood>	May 3	Mail Hugo and Site-Selection ballots <CHANGED from Apr 26>
Mar 15	Fix content of Strangers book <done>	May 3	First PR 6 mailing <will probably be later>
Mar 15	Preliminary list of events for Club SF	May 7	Division heads meeting
Mar 15	Prepare exhibitors' packet	May 10	Draft PR 7 outline
Mar 18	Division heads meeting <see minutes on page 13>	May 12	Spring Program Frenzy Weekend
Mar 25	Decide Den location <done>	May 13	Possible Hynes tour
Mar 25	Initial program items data entered <started>	May 15	Artwork complete: place T-shirt order
Mar 25	Hugo ballot-counting meeting <done>	May 15	Settle on badge design (artwork and layout)
Mar 26	Begin informing Hugo nominees <done>	May 15	Send out children's questionnaire
Mar 30	People Mover mailing	May 21	Demonstrate that badge-production software works
Apr 1	PR 6 to printer <to printer on April 10>	May 22	Schedules mailed to all program participants
Apr 1	Decide on Hugo base design	May 24	Deadline for comments on PR 7 outline
Apr 1	Decide on ribbon colors and designs <done on April 25>	May 25	Strangers book mimeo complete
Apr 1	Deadline for academic program proposals	May 25	Deadline for areas for ribbon order
Apr 1	Start constructing strawman program	May 26	Start of Disclave (Hynes 89 and Art Show meet)
Apr 1	SF Tonight has most participants set	May 30	Final PR 7 outline
Apr 1	Pencil in initial equipment orders	Jun 1	Complete layout of Mixing Area
Apr 5	CD maturity	Jun 1	Complete layout of Registration area
Apr 5	Boskone photography experiment demonstrated	Jun 1	Deadline for Souvenir Book ad reservations
Apr 9	Deadline for Souvenir Book draft text	Jun 1	Anniversary Event budget and plan
Apr 9	Division heads meeting <see minutes on page 15>	Jun 1	Send invitations to Art Show Reception
Apr 10	Order registration badge materials	Jun 1	Draft Closing Ceremony script
Apr 10	Finish entering Program questionnaires (CHANGED)	Jun 1	Club SF equipment ordered
Apr 12	MCFI Meeting	Jun 1	Select Masquerade judges
Apr 12	Hugo nominee withdrawal deadline	Jun 1	Program revision cycle starts
Apr 12	Hugo ballot to printer <delayed due to last-minute changes>	Jun 1	Second-draft SF Tonight script
Apr 15	Review rough design for T-shirt <done>	Jun 1	Ask areas what signs needed
		Jun 1	Update technical equipment orders
		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
		Jun 30	Westercon weekend
		Jul 1	Complete Hucksters location assignments
		Jul 1	T-shirts arrive
		Jul 1	Norton book arrives from printer
		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
 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
 Jul 26 Logistics inventory work session
 Jul 28 Complete Hugo-ballot data entry
 Jul 30 Pre-reg data entry complete
 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 Souvenir second mailing to program participants
 Aug 1 Souvenir Book arrives from printer
 Aug 1 Technical places final equipment order
 Aug 2 Logistics inventory work session
 Aug 9 Treasurer departs for Rio
 Aug 9 Logistics packing work session
 Aug 10 Committee gafiates
 Aug 10 Press release and packets sent to local press
 Aug 10 Send engraved Hugo invitations
 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
 Aug 21 Pocket Program copy deadline
 Aug 22 Copy deadline for hucksters' guide, restaurant guide, and masquerade program
 Aug 23 Pocket Program to printer
 Aug 24 Program signs done
 Aug 26 Logistics picks up first truck(s)
 Aug 28 Bulk of Committee moves into hotel
 Aug 28 Prepare program participants' handouts
 Aug 28 Office opens
 Aug 28 Pocket Program delivered to Hynes
 Aug 29 We get Hynes for setup

GULP Meeting

Date: March 1, 1989
 Topic: Miscellaneous
 Notes by: Leslie Turek

This was a catch-all meeting with no set topic. It was attended by Jim Hudson, Ann Broomhead, Priscilla and Mark Olson, George Flynn, Paula Lieberman, Laurie Mann, Greg Thokar, Sharon Sbarsky, Leslie Turek, Bill Lehrman, Pam Fremon, Andi Shechter, and Ellen Franklin. Jim Hudson began by writing down potential topics that people called out to him. We then started discussing them in no particular order.

Do something for neos? Ideas included a special handout, or a room open from 10 am to noon on the early days of the con with people speaking on topics like etiquette and behavior and where to find things out. Jim H. wondered if someone is already planning to do this, and Paula asked if we could farm this out. Andi offered to talk to Debbie and find out if Information might want to handle

this.

In the same spirit, maybe we should have a panel for neopros. Perhaps SFWA could do something about this.

Fannish Names. Some people felt that we had originally given members the impression that we would put their fannish name on their badge. Our policy is now that the real name must be the basic name appearing on the badge. How should we handle this? Mark felt that we had made no promises and didn't need to make a point of this. We should experiment to see if we can fit the fannish name on the badge in smaller type. If not, we can provide materials for people to make their own auxillary badges. The official badge must still be worn for admission, however.

Smoking. The Hynes prohibits smoking in the Auditorium, Ballroom, Exhibit Halls, and rest rooms. For the rest, it's our choice. We're definitely agreed that there will be no smoking in the Art Show and the children's areas. There will be a smoking lounge room as part of the mixing area.

We were undecided as to what to do about the remaining program rooms. There was a lot of sentiment for having all the rooms be non-smoking, but it was unclear how this would be received. Many program participants smoke. The WSFS business meeting rules mandate splitting the room in half. There was some support for doing that in all the program rooms; others felt that if you allow smoking anywhere in a small room, it affects the entire room.

This got into a long discussion of the FAA short flights policy, the New England non-smoking culture, the hopelessness of trying to mandate something we can't enforce, and the effectiveness of peer pressure. I believe the conclusion was that we would probably have to allow smoking in a number of areas. We also suggested that the Den should look into renting some air cleaners.

At this point in the meeting, Ariel requested goodnight hugs and kisses from a selected set of privileged individuals. After a short pause to put Ariel properly to bed, we returned to discuss...

Handicapped. Although we have not yet found an area head, we do need to put some information in PR 6. What policies do we all agree on?

There will be special seating at large events, and a general exemption from standing in line.

There was a discussion on whether we need to identify handicapped people in some way. Leslie felt it would make it easier for staff and the individuals involved if we could easily know who should be getting special access without the individual's having to go into an explanation each time. We decided that a special sticker on the back of the badge might be the best way. This way, handicapped individuals could choose when to make their situation known. We would have a special table at registration to give out the stickers.

We will try to provide large-type versions of the publications. We will not do any special medical support, but will use the nurse the Hynes has on staff. Sign interpreting will be done if we get the volunteers. We can have them on call. We will look into providing rental of carts and crutches.

If staff permits, we might set up special tours of parts of the convention. We should try to provide specialized maps with optimal routes marked, elevators indicated, etc.

There is a good book on getting around Boston that we might tell people about in advance of the convention.

In the questionnaire we might ask what publication formats people could most use. Three people have asked for computer-readable ASCII text files and one for oversize print. So far, there have been no requests for braille. Jim H. suggested that we dispense with the questionnaire and just tell people what we're planning and invite responses.

Priscilla mentioned that we have 3 deaf people on the program already. Andi again volunteered to do training for staff.

Mark asked why we needed full-time staff for handicapped access. Laurie said we need people available who can answer questions and help. Leslie suggested that we combine this with Information, to cut down the number of people. We can have the specialized access people on beeper. Jim agreed that we can train info as the point of entry and save people points. Andi said that if we do staff handicapped access separately, we will have people sitting around doing nothing most of the time.

Do we need a special sitting/socializing area for handicapped? Probably we can just use the general mixing area.

Andi mentioned that we should have a battery charger available, and perhaps a few spare wheelchairs. People who know they have problems usually bring their own chairs, but you always get a few people who are normally mobile but just can't cope with long hours on their feet and long hallways.

People Flow. Mark asked that we consider the situation when we will have about 2000 people leaving the auditorium all at once. The corridor from the mixing area to the Sheraton is quite narrow; we should encourage people leaving the auditorium to use the plaza connection (which involves going a short distance out of doors; we just need to hope it doesn't rain). This can be announced at the end of the event.

We should also try to provide many places for people to go after things break, so we don't have everyone trying to go the same way. We will try to have some entertainment in the auditorium after big events so that some people won't leave immediately. Other places people might go include the Sheraton, the Hilton, the ConCourse, films, Club SF, Boxboro (on Friday night), other parties in the Hynes, and evening program.

One of the problems with people flow is the situation where people meet old friends and start a conversation in the middle of the crunch point. There isn't much we can do about that.

Signs. We need Information to figure out what signs are needed, and Services will produce them. We plan to use a laser writer to print on legal paper for most signs. Larger signs will need to be done by some less automated means. We will use the method discovered at Conspiracy of PVC pipes in wood blocks, rather than easels which people tend to trip over. We will need some extra-tall stands to be visible over people's heads for places like registration and information.

We need to figure out how many sign holders we will need. It would be nice to have signposts with pointers at major intersections. We probably can do without the expensive large plexiglass block that Freeman offers; we can do the same thing with a bulletin board (and a bulletin

board would allow us to change the display in mid-con).

Someone suggested color-coding the signs. "Why?" asked Mark. "Because it's fun!" said Priscilla. Someone suggested chalking day-glo footprints on the sidewalk to lead to the Hilton if we have any major events there.

Reimbursements. Mark asked to talk about what expenses we should consider reimbursing after the con if we have a surplus. So far, we've only committed to trying to reimburse memberships for committee, staff, and gophers who work over a certain amount (to be decided). There will be another class of expenses that we won't budget to refund, but might consider if we can afford it, so people should keep records. One example is Peggy Rae's airfare to come to division heads meetings. Other possibilities might be extra days at the hotel or time taken off from work.

Someone suggested using our comp room-nights for the committee. Mark said we should consider comp rooms as being the same as money, since they can be resold.

Mark felt that people shouldn't move into the hotel any earlier than necessary. We can offer crash space to out-of-towners, and do much of the pre-con work at the clubhouse. We should use Monday and Tuesday to get acquainted and up to speed. We need to carefully schedule these days and not try to do too much. The office needs to get started early.

Some people have offered to do things for us if they can get comp memberships. We need to evaluate these offers on a case-by-case basis.

If We're Really Big. If we get a lot more people than we're currently expecting we should try to take over Halls A and B. We will need more busing, more parties, and more staff. We should consider trying to set up video feeds, and a second film program in the auditorium. We might try to expand the hucksters' room.

Mark felt that about 8500 people was the most we could expect to get, based on his projections. He expects to see more like 7000. We currently have about 4300.

We should have plenty of hotel rooms, even for the maximum number of members. We should emphasize how easy it is to get in from all the hotels, since they are all near public transportation.

Making it Easier. We should think about recruiting more help or cutting the scope or simplifying what we're trying to do. (Or, as someone called it, the "sanity issues.") At the con itself, we will all need to get away from it all now and then. We're setting up big plans, but need to consider where all this staff is going to come from. To some extent, remote area heads will suck in their friends. We need to do more. We should approach SF clubs for help. We can mail to local people about the Wednesday night worksessions. We need some local people with lots of time who can help.

In addition to recruiting, we should also think about where we can cut down the need for work. Maybe we should do a Gulp on how we can cut down the at-con labor sinks. Anytime you need a person sitting for hours at a location, you're really using a lot of people in 2- to 4-hour shifts. We should eliminate frills.

The meeting ran out of time, with a number of issues yet to be discussed. Maybe next time.

MCFI Meeting

Date: March 15, 1989
Notes by: Jim Mann

[The soothsayer was right!]

At 8:02, Mark Olson popped the White Rabbit-in-the-box and banged a chair on the floor to get people's attention. When someone told him he should use a gavel, he said that he was the Chairman so he should use a chair.

Mark passed on the news that Jim Hudson's mother had died suddenly that day. The Saturday division head meeting was moved to the Manns'.

Mark also said that the work sessions will now be a regular Wednesday feature. He asked that pre-meeting work sessions start no later than 6:30 and preferably at 6:00. Mark, Jim Mann, and Pam Fremon have discussed mail handling. Pam will not process mail on Monday and Tuesday, but will instead save things for the Wednesday work session. If we get 8 to 10 people helping, we'll finish by 8:00 or 8:30.

Future Meetings: The next meetings will be on April 12 and May 31. There was some debate on the following one, since at least a few people couldn't make it on each reasonable date. Debate centered on Tuesday, June 27, and Wednesday, June 28. Mark flipped a coin, and June 28 won.

Treasurer's Report: Ann Broomhead said that there was a quasi-report in the last apa. The January totals are complete fiction. The February totals are a little closer to reality. They state that we have taken in \$241,000. We've now gone over a quarter million.

Ann said that Steve Whitmore gave her samples of souvenir pins at Lunacon. She reviewed some prices. If we make 500 pins, we can produce them for between \$1.19 and \$1.94 a pin. We can have ceramic mugs made for \$600 for 248 mugs with plain print/art or \$700 if we want gold lettering.

Mark said that he also talked with Steve. We'll have a complete proposal at the next meeting. Basically, however, we can have pins that we'll sell for \$4 or \$5. Steve proposed two: one like our bid sticker, another a Cheshire cat. Mugs should sell for about \$6. The T-Shirt will be the "Mad Tea Party in Space" art. There will be a staff shirt, which will be sold to the staff at cost. In summary, we can do things at a reasonable cost.

Gulp: Mark said that the chaos Gulp went well. We dealt with about half of the 20 topics proposed. If we have time, we'd like to hold another.

Mad 3 Party: Leslie Turek said that the March issue is late: she's been very busy at work. She would try to have it out by the end of the week.

Progress Report 6: Greg Thokar said that things proceed apace, and he's handed out more proofing copies. Mark noted that we're still on target for going to print on April 1 and into the mail May 1, though it's tight.

Program Book: Greg said that Bruce Pelz has copies of all Program Book covers except 1956. We're going to include pictures of them in our Souvenir Book.

Books: Jim M. said that things continue apace on the Norton anthology. Jim Frenkel told him that Tor would not only typeset but would enter the text. We're sending them a sample contract. Jim Frenkel will be contacting Bob Eggleton about the cover. *[We later found that we were mistaken, and will have to enter the text ourselves.]*

Jim M. talked to Harry Stubbs at Lunacon. Harry is going to send us slides of his artwork. Jim and Claire Anderson are going to look at them for possible color mimeo for the Strangers book.

Based on suggestions from the audience, Jim will contact SCIFI to see if they will donate some of their store of the last Twilltone paper in existence for us to produce this. Tony Lewis asked if we'd use 2 or 3 staples. Jim said that maybe we can let SCIFI decide if they donate the Twilltone. George Flynn said that given the years the Stranger Club was active, we should be using ditto or hecto. Jim said he was willing to go with hecto if George was volunteering to do the repro.

Extravaganzas Division: Jill Eastlake said that they continue having monthly meetings and continue to make slow progress.

Mark said that Ellen Franklin met with ARA and seemed pleased with the results. We got minor improvements in the banquet menu plus the agreement that they wouldn't charge us tax because we're a nonprofit organization. Also, we've done some recalculation and feel we only have to give 25 pairs of freebies for speakers etc., not 100 pairs. Finally, Extravaganzas proposes that the convention, not the banquet attendees, pay for those freebies. *[No objections voiced to this.]* Given all this, the banquet price should be about \$21 with tax and tip (\$18 before tax/tip).

Jill reviewed the brunch menu which will appear in PR 6. She then said that they planned to allow advance sales till July 1 and at-con sales through noon on Thursday. Ticket pickup would be in the info area. In response to a question, she said that Extravaganzas expects 2000 attendees; more conservative members of the committee expect 1000. Tony said that a catch-as-catch-can method of getting in/getting tables can be a problem. They did this at St. Louiscon and there were injuries as people pushed and shoved to get in.

Rick Katze asked about the cutoff. Jill repeated the cutoff dates. Leslie said that she was concerned about the July 1 cutoff. It seems too early for people to have their plans set. Mark noted that we're just approving the banquet now; these details can be worked out later. Peggy Rae Pavlat noted that the at-con deadline can probably slip in real time. Fred Isaacs said that the caterers need to know the numbers so they can hire the appropriate number of waiters. We should explore moving the deadline with ARA. Don Eastlake said that union rules would require the deadline being the end of the day Wednesday. They are already bending the rules by allowing us till noon on Thursday. George said that, if things proceed the way they did at Noreascon 2, we'll get 1000 memberships after July 1. This argues for a later banquet deadline.

[We voted to approve the banquet with the price at or near the one stated and with the understanding that Extravaganzas would consider what had been said about deadlines. Extravaganzas later decided to make the deadline August 15.]

Jill then reviewed other areas of Extravaganzas. Details for the Hugo Ceremony have been cleared with the Ballantines. We're trying to contact the Knights of St. Fantasy as bearers.

Pam said she is looking to bring in a few people to help for her Friday item. She went through a trial run herself the night before to get an idea of timing. It took 1 hour and 37 minutes.

Paula Lieberman said she's working on the Meet the VIPs. She sent a draft PR to Ellen Kushner. She got ideas at Lunacon.

Suford Lewis said that we have received about 150 requests for information on the Masquerade from the PR 2 (4?) checkoff sheet. We need 50 or so more volunteers. She'll be sending out a mailing as soon as she has the time.

Rob Spence said that work on the slideshow continues. They'll be trying to do a show production on Sunday. Basically, they have to figure out how long and how many slides, figure out music for the length, and fit it all in. It's lots of looking, listening, and rearranging.

Rob also said that he had successful discussions at Lunacon with techies from the last couple of Worldcons. We won't need bailing out at the last minute. (Priscilla told Rob that the program AV squad was pleased to meet with him.)

A week and a half ago, Rob and the tech crew met to discuss how to do high-quality video cheap. Suford is reviewing his writeup. We're looking to do a pro-level job for much lower prices. At Nolacon, equipment rental was \$3000 a day. We hope to spend \$3000 for the whole convention.

Jill said that they were looking into moving the Boxboro party to the Hilton. Mark said that this is premature, and deferred discussion till later in the meeting when we discussed parties and party subsidies.

George Division:

Art Show: Dave Anderson said that we've received a wad of applications. They'll be sending out confirmations in a week or two.

WSFS: George reported that Robert Sacks has submitted two motions for the business meeting.

Orlando has turned down the increase in the voting fee.

On the ballot mailing, George received 3 different memos from Chip Hitchcock in the last 48 hours. There will be a ballot mailing, it will either be in envelopes or as a self-mailer, and either first class or third. Mark said that Chip has found vendors who will do complete folding and so forth for little more than Beane charges just for printing. We'll miss the giant collating session. Perhaps we can arrange for non-self-sticking labels, just to give everyone something to do.

Hugos: Before today, we'd received 235 nominations ballots. We've received 110+ more today.

George said that there a large number of eligibility issues posed in his apazine. Mark suggested we defer debate on issues until we were sure we had to discuss them. If something were not likely to make the ballot, it wasn't worth debating whether it was eligible. Do we have anything now that we have to debate?

George said that Hawking's *A Brief History of Time* was likely to get enough votes to make the ballot. He recommend that we make it ineligible. Certainly by the rules it is not eligible. There is precedent for the nomination of a science book; George thinks this precedent is bad. Also, he doesn't think Hawking would really appreciate the nomination.

Mark said that he'd read the book. It's a straight science book, discussing ideas about time. It does go into some of the paradoxes. However, it is fair to say that the author had no fictional intent. Tony said that Noreascon Two had started the non-fiction Hugo, and that it was *not* our intent to allow this type of book. It must deal with the field, and is therefore not eligible. Mark said that we have to make a distinction between this book and speculative science, which he thinks can be eligible. He used Robert Forward's *Future Magic* as an example.

Rick suggested we take a straw poll. Only one person thought the book should be eligible. However, if so many people were nominating it, perhaps we should discuss it more. Peggy Rae said that she heard more about that book from her SF friends than any other book. Andi Shechter said there is a thin line. She didn't nominate Richard Feynman's book. Suford said that the fact that fans talk up a non-SF book speaks well for fans but doesn't make the book eligible for a Hugo.

[We agreed to drop it from the eligible list.]

Mark said that in April we will discuss special committee awards. These are *not* Hugos. So far we have four suggestions.

Mark reminded everyone of the formal meeting scheduled for 4pm on March 19. Ballot counting begins at noon. George said that the meeting should take no more than 2 hours, and more likely 1 hour.

Mark summarized the nominations for the Nolacon gripe session: a number of us are nominating it for Best Dramatic Presentation. George and some others think it should not be eligible. We will discuss this only if it gets enough nominations to make the ballot.

George said that currently only 3 votes separate the 5th-place novel from the 10th-place novel. He also said that he determined that the *New York Review of SF* is a semiprozine, and he's written to *SF Eye* to see if they are. One issue is *Weird Tales*; does it have just 3 issues (in which case it is not eligible) or many (that is, is it a continuation of the original *Weird Tales*)?

Pat Vandenberg asked if we have to publish what we rule ineligible. George said that the press release will include the nominees, the range of votes, and who would have made the ballot but was ruled ineligible. Complete info will be available at the convention.

George said that we seem to have a bloc vote underway. There seem to be about 50 of them, which should be enough to get their choices on the ballot in several categories. Rick asked if we can do anything. George said no. Fred suggested we tell them they haven't voted often enough, to encourage them to buy more memberships. Paula knows about a past bloc vote that was thrown out. Tony said how can you tell; one might have thought that there was a bloc vote of sorts last year coming from the local area, since many people independently voted for Leslie and Merle. Mark said that the difference here is that at least half the bloc vote is made up of subscribing

memberships all bought by one agency.

[This situation was discussed at length at a ballot-counting meeting on March 25. That meeting decided to take the actions described in the news release on page 2.]

Facilities Division: Don said that we're getting closer to having a contract with the Hynes. Unfortunately, they don't seem to be willing to change the most obnoxious liability stuff. However, they will attach a letter to fuzz things up. The letter will say they are "reasonable." Rick said that, in regard to standard contracts with addendums, courts tend to look at the addendums as the true will of the parties and ignore much of the contract itself.

The Hynes claims that they'll take care of firefighter costs, as a result of not having a fire alarm system operational. Some conventions don't want to be disturbed by alarms. Dale Farmer said that they have a fire alarm about once a week, when a train parks in the correct spot under the building.

We're getting lots of hotel room requests. Debbie King said that she hopes to mail a list out to the hotels on Friday and to start processing the next batch next week. We've received over 30 suite requests. In response to a question, Debbie said that, technically, the Hilton is filled. Don said that we have several large reserved blocks. Andi said that staff should be encouraged to fill out their forms and mark "staff" on them. Paula asked what happens when we release part of a block: who gets the room? Mark said whoever next is to be assigned a room. Debbie said that Program Division should tell her if they need anything special from the hotels.

Mark said that there seem to be two small conventions at the Marriott over Labor Day. Mr. Breidbart is hosting a convention of convention organizers. Mr. Spelman is hosting a group of booksellers. This is a wonderful thing: it gives us more rooms in close.

Andi said that they've received a number of "I need a room in the Sheraton because..." requests. We've tried to be reasonable and when in doubt give the room. For example, if someone was pregnant they got a room. However, this didn't apply to people with small children. Also, some people wanted to be close in because they didn't feel safe having to walk through a strange city to get back to their hotel. While we can't accommodate this request in all cases, we will try to post areas where people who want to walk back to a hotel together can meet.

Andi said that they've received info from bed-and-breakfasts and inns. Prices are as low as \$55 per night with a kitchen. We could look at these as places for staff who are coming in early.

Rich Ferree discussed insurance (part of Services Division, but the report fit here since our primary concern right now is insurance for the Hynes). He said that the Hynes contract required us to get fairly high liability limits. We must insure our trucks. Don said that we must give them written proof of our having obtained insurance thirty days before the convention. Rich said he needs to know how many trucks we're getting. He also asked if we want insurance coverage in the Hilton. Mark told him to discuss this with Don off line. Don said that the marketing people claim they've varied the limits. His impression is that other groups do sign the contracts and get the insurance.

Back to the Hugos: George reported that he just received a new motion for the Business Meeting from Tony and Dave Cantor. They want to create a new Hugo category for ineligible material. Dave said that he thinks this is the first time he and Tony ever agreed.

Program Division: Priscilla Olson said that there's going to be a program. They've now received 300 or so questionnaires. Some people who already filled out questionnaires are sending in letters volunteering to be on program, apparently forgetting that they've already been in touch with us.

They continue to work on Super Science Friday. Tony got Marvin Minsky for them. Priscilla asked for more suggestions. Tony suggested Professor Moriarty in London. Priscilla liked the idea: he can talk about asteroids.

Priscilla said that Tim Szczesuil has been coming up with lots of good ideas for gaming. We will approach game companies to run specific games in rooms. They won't be able to sell in the rooms, though they will be able to pass out material. We may ask them to set up a fund for refreshments for referees. Rick asked if it would be 24 hours a day. Priscilla said no, probably just 10am till midnight. [There were no objections to the concept of the game companies running the games.]

She said that we'll have a filk concert. We may also do some stuff in the Back Bay Hilton. Wail Songs has offered us \$100 for the rights to tape the filkers. She wrote back saying that we don't have the rights: the singers do. Wail Songs wrote back saying that they do this all the time, can clear things with the singers. Priscilla talked with a few filkers: they think Wail Songs is good. Rick asked what happens if some filkers say "no way." Priscilla emphasized that they won't tape without getting permissions. Mark said that this seems to be standard industry practice. Deborah Snyder was a little concerned. Does this put us in a situation where we won't be able to tell them to stop? Rick said that the contract is going to have to protect us. [There were no objections to arranging this with Wail Songs.]

Priscilla asked if 50 rooms could be held back in the Colonnade for program participants. Mark said that we have to get the program participants to let us know early. Pat said that we already had a block in the Sheraton. Mark said that it isn't adequate. We will have 500 to 600 program participants, only 300 of whom have contacted us to date. Debbie thought that we already have too many rooms blocked in the central hotels. Paula said that we aren't currently considering whether someone is a program participant when assigning rooms. Rick said that he wasn't sure when, but we have to cut down on the size of the reserved block. Program has to push, and we have to push the staff and committee. Mark said that, after the bulge, we have to look at our lists and make intelligent decisions. Peggy Rae suggested that Debbie give out a list to the division heads of who has rooms. Mark said we should do the same for program participants. Debbie said that she gave Priscilla a list. Priscilla said that the list was based on out-of-date stuff: she and Ben will work on getting things up to date. Mark said that he hadn't heard much concern over having a block, but just on how long we hold it. Can we go ahead and hold this till June? [No objections.]

George asked if there would be a trivia bowl. Priscilla said that this comes under Second Floor. Which leads us to...

Second Floor: Fred said that they are looking at a new approach to Trivia Bowl, that would be a rip off of Tropicon's approach. They'd give out wooden nickels that could be redeemed for 10 cents worth of stuff in the Huckster room.

He has the rest of the PR 6 text in hand. He and Peggy Rae will go over it and get it to Greg.

The division met at Lunacon. They discussed how to make cheaper display cases.

Seth is running the scavenger hunt. He's looking for sample questions. We'd like to get a teaser in the PR.

There was a technical difficulty in the huckster mailing, which will require many of the packets to be re-sent. Paula noted that some hucksters were irate.

Peggy Rae said the the Eisensteins have offered to do a special Art Show exhibit on Ed Emsh. They wrote to Atlanta to see if they could get a grant. When Atlanta didn't respond, they wrote to us saying they need a decision now. Peggy Rae wrote to them saying it sounded neat but we'd have to discuss this. They'd need money and transportation for Emsh. Mark said that he thought this had been sent to Art Show and that they weren't interested. Peggy Rae said that it was, but the new letter reraised it with her. Mark said it sounds like they want us to make Emsh, in effect, our Artist GoH. We can't do that. We also can't afford to fund this. Mark felt this would make a good program item, perhaps a slide show.

Services Division: Jim M. said that people mover will be sending out a letter to volunteers, in an attempt to have as many as possible assigned to areas rather than going through the gopher hole. Pat suggested we list possible areas in the letter. Andi also suggested that, if we find ourselves in need of low-level staff, we can send out letters to everyone in a certain zip code range saying, "Hi, we know you didn't volunteer, but would you be interested..."

Preregistration: Sharon Sbarsky said we're getting lots of new members. George said that the deadline date is the inflection point: we should get as many in the week after the March 15 deadline as we did in the week previous.

We've had tables at lots of cons. We're mailing the hotel information overseas first class to make sure it gets there in time.

[As we are about to start talking about several budget-related items, Mike Walsh arrives.]

Estimating Attendance: Mark said that we've already exceeded the attendance projections for May 1. Is this an expected bulge due to the rate change? Is this the result of the hotels (i.e., people must be members to get a room)? Mark followed some ideas by Jim Hudson to get a multiplying factor (that is, how many times more members we'll have than we have now), basing this on past Worldcons. [See Mark's article in the last M3P for more details.] Conservatively, we get a factor of 1.4, giving us 300 more members than we have projected. Is this OK to use in budgeting? [No objections to this.]

At-the-Door Rates: Mark said that his budget has been based on \$110 at the door. Most recent worldcons have been \$100, so this is reasonable. We have to ap-

prove this and also look at one-day admissions plus how the at-the-door rate changes as the con continues.

Mark's original proposal was as follows [note that this is not the final version of the rates]:

Day	Regular		Children's	
	Full	1-Day	Full	1-Day
Thur	110	30	95	20
Fri	110	40	95	35
Sat	90	40	85	35
Sun	60	40	50	35
Mon	25	25	20	20

Pat asked why the rates for children were lower than for full memberships when we want to encourage kids to register in advance. Mark said he was looking for a compromise rate. Monty said that he doesn't like the way Monday's full admission is equal to its one-day rate. Priscilla said that there was too big a drop in rate between Saturday and Sunday. There's still going to be lots of program on Sunday.

Mark noted that we only publish the full at-the-door rate, not how it changes over the course of the convention. George, in response to Monty's comment, suggested that we make the full rate on Monday be \$30, but drop it to \$25 (same as one-day) if we run out of Souvenir Books. Don proposed a Sunday rate of \$65 and a Monday rate of \$35. Gay Ellen Dennett proposed that the one-day rate for children be the same as that for adults. Dave A. thought the Sunday rate was too high. Those arriving on Sunday are only getting one out of the three main days of the convention. Rick said that at Boskone, when the rate was \$25, we had a bunch of undesirables show up at the door. Leslie said that a Sunday rate of \$60 is consistent with the one-day rates. Don said that some conventions have had flat at-the-door rates, and have had people plop down the full amount on Monday. George asked if we wanted to encourage people who were dumb enough to do so. Jim M. suggested that we vote on the \$110 since no one seemed to disagree with that. We could then go on to the other rates. Lynx said that the lowest full rate should not be less than what our earliest members paid. Sharon said that we also should sell full memberships on Wednesday. Mark said that this was implicit in the rate structure.

Ann said that on Monday at Noreascon Two they just started putting out one-day badges and letting people take them. Jill said that she was glad Ann hadn't told her that then.

Mark suggested we take a straw vote on various proposals.

Leslie suggested we make Monday's rates \$30 and \$25. [Lots of support.]

Priscilla proposed raising Sunday to \$70. [About 2/3 for adding this proposal to the list.]

Ann proposed raising the Saturday rate to \$100. [Only two votes against adding this to the list.]

Gay Ellen suggested that we make Children's one-days the same as adult one-days. She feels that parents are dumping kids in babysitting. Jim M. pointed out that kids' admissions require that there also be an adult membership. We voted on children's one-days. [It was a tie, thus was defeated.]

Mark noted that we wanted to encourage full memberships over one-days. The full membership price should be less than the sum of one-day admissions. First of all, we want to make money. Priscilla said that this also keeps them from going through registration more than once. [A large majority was in favor of raising the Monday rate to keep this so.]

Motions:

- Sunday full to \$70. [Defeated 10-11]
- Sunday full at \$65. [Passes. 14 to fewer]
- Saturday full at \$100. [Passes]
- Monday children's one-day at \$25. [Passes]
- Monday full at \$30. [Fails]

Badges: Mark asked how many people wanted a long boring technical discussion. Tony said he did (since he and Suford had to leave soon). Mark said that the idea was that the badge would be the same for everyone. There would be a small area under the badge to designate the area for committee and staff. Any ribbon — for committee, staff, program participants, etc. — would hang beneath this.

Mark said that the basic badge has to be big if we want a large name, city, and state. We also need to have room for artwork and a foil or distinguishing mark. Mark shows a mock-up badge Paula brought in. The area thing (gizmo) at the bottom may have to be one inch high. We'll make it as small as convenient, since no one wants to wear an over-large badge. Mark demonstrates the use of the badge. The gizmo will be handed out by the areas. The ribbon can be taped on.

Rick asked if we'll be using artwork. Mark said yes. Fred said that we need a way to put a non-removable "Press" on the badge. Paula complained that the badge was too large. Mark pointed out that security is a separate issue. We'll have something that will let those who need to into high-security areas. This thing will not be visible. Andi said that it just has to be distinctive for the guards.

Andi asked if other (fannish) names will fit. Leslie said we can go to three lines and make the artwork a little smaller. Pam said that if we make the gizmo too much smaller, we'll have trouble attaching the ribbons. Sharon said that some people have large names. Mark said that 4 inches wide is really the limit. We can't design the badge so that those with 15-letter first *and* last names can still have their names in 30-point type. Priscilla said that we can color-code the gizmo. Don said we can always use condensed type, and fit more on the badge.

Fred asked how we're getting artwork for the logo. Ann said that Steve Whitmore will be working on that. Susan Hammond said we have to give Hodges a lot more time on the ribbons than we do for Boskone, since summer is their busy season. Andi said we can limit the number of ribbon colors by using stripes.

[We vote. The badge design passes many to Paula.]

Party Policy: Mark said that the issue we have to examine is that, while we hope our crowd won't be as wild, Chip's Boskone was crowded with 4000 people. We'll have 7000. The original idea of putting parties in the Park Plaza fails because it's too far away and we don't have a big block of rooms there. The Hilton has said no to parties on sleeping floors. This leaves us with two op-

tions for where to put parties: Sheraton function space or Hynes function space. The latter is a better option, in that it concentrates people in the Hynes.

We want to attempt to move the major parties to the Hynes. We'll have to try to subsidize this enough to make it a fair trade. Last time, we had \$12,000 which we allocated as contingency. Mark said we should now move this to the appropriate line in the budget. We also should make a moral commitment to move more money later if we can. The parties would be primarily on the Hynes 1st floor, but some would be on the 2nd and 3rd floors.

As an example of what we could do, we could offer a party free space, free soda, and possibly some additional support. We have to work out the details. Paula asked what our policy would be on wet bars. Mark said that we could allow cash bars and could even provide some subsidy to pay bartender costs. Under no circumstances will we permit convention members to serve alcohol. Don said that the Sheraton is still claiming corkage for the sleeping rooms, so this would be an issue even there. Pat asked if ARA was still insisting on serving everything. Would they insist on cutting a chocolate bar, for example? Mark said, by the letter of the agreement, yes, but they will probably bend a bit here in practice. Rick said that the policy seems to be quite reasonable: let's approve it and work out the details later. Mark warned everyone that we will get some flak. Joe Siclari has already complained. Priscilla said we should concentrate on the positive aspects of the situation. For example, there will be no elevators to contend with, we can announce their parties between evening program items, and so forth. Tony suggested a central wet bar: people can get a drink there and go to any party. Deborah Snyder said that she wishes she were more confident about this. We are infringing on the liberties of the party throwers. Don pointed out that they do have a choice: if they don't want to use the Hynes, they can use the Park Plaza. Andi said the ambiance bothers her, but the options are lousy. Priscilla said that the bidders can look at it as an opportunity to show how creative they can be.

[There were no objections to subsidizing parties in the Hynes.]

We finally adjourned at 11:03.

Division Heads Meeting

Date: March 18, 1989
Notes by: Leslie Turek

The meeting started sometime after 11am at Jim and Laurie Mann's. Attending were Jim and Laurie, Don and Jill Eastlake, Mark and Priscilla Olson, Peggy Rae Pavlat, Fred Isaacs, George Flynn, Ann Broomhead, and Leslie Turek

Information for Area Heads

Mark asked for ideas as to how we can review each area's plans and see how they fit into the rest of the convention. We need to prevent people from overdoing things. Some areas haven't started their planning yet. Laurie felt the technique that worked best was to first talk things over with the area head, and then put what was decided in writing. Priscilla agreed, and added that the next

step was to get the area head together with the other areas and divisions they interact with. Jill asked if we could use the program planning weekend to do this. Priscilla felt that the weekend should be oriented around the specific tasks it was intended for. Mark asked if we could use division heads meetings, but Fred felt that we didn't have enough time. Don suggested the Gulp meetings, but Mark felt those were more for brainstorming than coordinating.

We also worried about remote area heads' having inflated expectations of what the "committee" would be able to do for them/provide them with. Jill felt we should provide an outline of what we could do, comparable to software specifications. Leslie mentioned the area requirements forms we used for Noreascon II. Mark saw it as a sort of "exhibitor packet" in which we would tell area heads what services we could provide. He felt we should try to send something out in April. Leslie compared it to a programmer's manual (as opposed to the Progress Reports, which are the user manuals). Priscilla objected to all this techie jargon.

Jim M. volunteered to coordinate production of this letter. It was agreed that this should go out to all of our area heads.

Most of the rest of the meeting involved a discussion of what should go into this letter, with some diversions into other issues as they came up.

We should ask people to be specific about their space requirements. In addition to their main function space, they should list any meeting rooms or storage space they might need. Perhaps we should designate a specific room for staff meetings, where areas could sign up for time. There will probably be a daily division heads meeting at about 11 am.

What furnishings might people need? In the Hynes, nothing should be assumed. Water setups? Waste-baskets? What are their security requirements? Will they need beepers or use other communications methods? Are they expecting to offer hotel rooms or free memberships to guests?

Do we need international signs? Probably not. We may have translators on beeper for emergencies.

Signs. After some discussion, it was decided that Information should plan general directional signs, although Services will actually produce the signs. Info should probably set them up, although sign stands will be provided by technical. Each area should plan its own sign needs. We need an estimate of the number of signs needed, so we will know how many stands we need.

The staff lounge will be in the Hynes. We hope it will have light snacks, such as chips and pretzels, but we won't be able to afford full meals or soups.

Tech Services can provide microphones, light, sound, projectors, carousels, construction, electricity, extension cords, overhead projectors, and screens. They will collect each area's requirements and place bulk orders.

We should discuss logistics, shipping, and storage in the next meeting. It's not clear what access we have to loading dock, freight elevators. It's not clear how we can receive materials shipped to us, since there is not normally someone in the clubhouse during the day. The Hynes has no receiving room. Our labor consultant may be able to help with this. The main point to be made now is that

people should not plan on shipping anything to us without checking with us first.

Todd and Joni Dashoff are handling special-interest-group meetings as part of program. Tom Hanlon is handling club exhibits as part of Hynes 89. Club tables may be falling in the cracks; one of them should pick it up. This will be worked out. George will handle bidder tables.

Services will procure things that are shared by multiple areas. Most things will be staged out of the clubhouse. Logistics won't move things around during the con unless special arrangements have been made.

Fred asked what out-of-town area heads should do when they need to locate local rentals? They should go through their division heads, and resort to logistics only if that doesn't work.

The office will be responsible for central communications, mailboxes, phone list, beepers, keys, petty cash, committee and staff ID, at-con check disbursements, and standard office supplies in small quantities. (Areas requiring large quantities of certain items should place orders in advance.) There will be copying facilities for a small number of copies. Large-scale copying must be arranged in advance.

Only limited areas should be handling money at the con; these should all be arranged in advance (e.g., registration, souvenir sales, art show).

We will not carry lots of insurance on objects; just liability insurance.

The area heads' letter should explain our publications philosophy, program booklet deadline, etc.

We should explain how people mover will work. We can offer area heads lists of local members that they can use to try to recruit staff. We should mention the Wednesday night work sessions.

People should be told not to move into the hotel before Tuesday unless their job specifically requires it. They should work this out with their division heads.

We should make the area heads aware of handicapped access needs and ask them to cooperate with our goals in that area.

Program can provide a list of program participants with their addresses and phone numbers, and their at-con schedules. Anyone planning to use a program participant should let program know so their schedules can be coordinated.

Information will handle various sign-up lists. They will need each area to provide them with information. They will need input for the newsletter.

Passing Fancies will be available to entertain when there is heavy people flow or the possibility of lines. Areas should let them know.

There will be space in the mixing area for performances, demonstrations, etc. The ConCourse area will schedule use of this space.

Everyone will register for the con at central registration, with no exceptions. There will be a table for official handouts at registration; freebies will be in a different location, in the ConCourse.

We want to make the Hynes our center. The Hynes will be open into the wee hours (probably until 3 or 4 am).

At this point we had a side discussion of the membership database and how we track program participants. The program database currently has 1350 people. Some of these are confirmed for program, some are likely, others have volunteered but may not be used, etc. Just because someone returns a questionnaire doesn't mean they will be on the program. Conversely, some people who will be on the program haven't sent in questionnaires.

Fears were expressed that we might have missed some memberships in the last rush. Ann brings Sharon copies of all the checks that were deposited as a double-check. Perhaps we should also do this with charge slips? The charges have been handled slowly because we have to go through NESFA. NESFA has a favorable fee rate; if we set up our own MasterCard/VISA account, we will be charged substantially more.

Someone sent in a membership contingent on getting a room in the Sheraton. Since the Sheraton is full, we returned it.

Jim Mann talked about the mechanics of producing the area heads letter. He would like to do it on a Mac, so encouraged people to give him text in the form of a Mac disc. He will try to get an outline and the Services section completed by Wednesday, and the finished letter out about two weeks from now.

Banquet. We discussed how to handle banquet reservations. We need to push pre-con sales, since there won't be much time at the con when we can sell tickets. Extravaganzas has agreed to move the advance sales deadline later: to August 15. We considered giving a discount for advance reservations but decided against it.

There will be two types of tickets sold: individual tickets or complete tables. The full tables will get preferred locations. We discussed whether individual tickets should get table assignments, and decided that it would be better not to. That way, people have a better chance of getting to sit with who they like.

At-Con Copying. Jim Hudson has been looking into rental of high-volume copiers for the production of the daily newsletter. Unfortunately, the cost is high. As an alternative, Laurie has been trying to find places that we can send out to who will give us fast turnaround. Beane has quoted some prices, but they have the disadvantage of being a half-hour cab ride away. She will see what Copy Cop can offer.

Jim has found a new type of machine that is currently available only in Japan, but may be imported by the time of the con. It's sort of a cross between a copier and a mimeo machine. It takes about 1 minute to start up because it makes some sort of master, but then puts out 150 copies per minute. The dealer couldn't tell us much about the technology, except that it's 400 dots/inch, and guessed that it would sell for \$10K-\$15K.

Committee Block. There was some discussion of whether we should set a deadline for committee reservations so we can release the unused part of the committee block to general members. Leslie pointed out that the reserved blocks are to be used for handicapped, foreign, and selected program participants as well as committee. She felt that we will have lots of demand for these rooms, so we might as well keep them under our control and give them out to the people with the most need for them. It was decided to hold onto the blocks for the time being.

Move-In/Move-Out. Mark felt that there was no need for anyone to move into the hotel on the Sunday or Monday preceeding the con. Areas that will probably need to set up early include Services/Office, Logistics, Press Relations, and People Mover. Note that we can't even get into the Hynes until Tuesday, and Freeman will be moving their stuff in then. Realistically, we can't do much setup in the Hynes until Wednesday.

Perhaps we should schedule a get-acquainted party in the Den for Tuesday night. People from out of town may need to come early, but we can try to put them up in less expensive places. There will always be a lot of last-minute stuff to do, but we shouldn't *plan* on doing critical work in the last few days. We need to plan the transition from the clubhouse to the Sheraton.

Mark reiterated the reimbursement policy. We will not budget for reimbursing extra room nights, but may do so if there is a surplus. No one will be reimbursed for the basic 6 nights they would be spending in the hotel for any Worldcon. People will be reimbursed for extra nights only if their job requires them to come in early/stay late. Consult your division head if in doubt.

Division Heads Meeting

Date: April 9, 1989

Notes by: Leslie Turek

The meeting started sometime after 11am at Mark and Priscilla Olson's. Attending were Jim Mann, Jill Eastlake, Mark and Priscilla Olson, Jim Hudson, Ellen Franklin, Pam Fremont, Ben Yalow, Fred Isaacs, George Flynn, Ann Broomhead, and Leslie Turek.

The meeting was preceded by some productive side meetings. Pam Fremont wrote a great description of this sort of pre-meeting milling around in NESFA's *Instant Message*. She described it as playing "favorite fannish indoor games like *I Can Give You More Papers to Read and Comment On Than You Can Give Me, I Have Just One More (Honest!) Correction to Make on That Before You Take it Away, and I Want to Talk to You and Her and Him — No, I Saw Him First!*"

Hugo Base Design

Ellen passed around for comment some Hugo-base design sketches and people offered opinions. It was suggested we might offer to ship the Hugos to the winners so they don't have to deal with airport security, etc.

Labor Coordinator

Ellen has met with Bob Dubinski. Bob now has a contract with Local 82, so he will be in a position to hire and directly supervise our union labor. This should make things much more effective. We need to provide him with a resume of Hynes activities and setups as soon as we can. He will meet with Freeman to lay out the ground rules of which of them will do what.

Bob thinks that we shouldn't have any problem with our people bringing in stuff with handtrucks, etc. He thinks we are similar to craft shows, where people do that with no problem.

We need to develop detailed plans for mounting our exhibits. Bob may have ideas and/or sources for us. He will also coordinate use of the loading docks and freight elevators.

tors. He can also get us information in regard to fire codes.

Exhibit Structures

Ellen will be cleaning some stuff out of the Hasbro warehouse, and invited Fred to come along and see if he'd like anything for the exhibits/mixing area. We need to arrange for a storage location for this; Jim M. will investigate sites.

In regard to the Hynes resume, obviously we don't have complete details, but we need to start pinning things down. Leslie had a rough list of the planned exhibits, to give Ellen an idea of what's involved. Most of the exhibits will be things we do ourselves, involving small items such as photos, flyers, fanzines, and various memorabilia. We need to come up with ways to display these vertically (like a bulletin board or art show panel) and horizontally (a table-top or display case). Most items will need some security from pilfering. For some items, such as the Hugo display, we might be able to use bookshelves with a layer of plexiglass over the front.

We should develop plans for 3 basic types of displays: horizontal, vertical, and bookcase-style. We can send sketches and dimensions out to the people planning exhibits and ask them if these will meet their needs, and how many of each they will need. Monty is looking into suppliers and prices for plexiglass.

There are also some exhibits that will be brought in by outside groups. For these we will have an exhibitor's packet. If they are elaborate, they will need to use union labor to set up. Many of these might not be known until the last minute, especially those from film studios.

We may need to customize the packet to include only those things that are reasonable for people to order. For example, we don't want dealers in the middle of the hucksters' room to order 8-foot drapery.

Progress Report 6

A copy of the final pasteup for PR 6 was passed around. At this point, only very urgent changes can be made, since it's going to the printer almost immediately.

Parties

Don has spoken to Hynes management and they agreed to ask ARA to negotiate with us. Bob Dubinski also suggested that we might try corporate ARA, but Ellen is going on vacation for 2 weeks and can't tackle that until she gets back.

We have also spoken to the Sheraton, but they are in the process of changing management, and don't want to commit to anything until the new management gets in.

Both of these things will take a while to work through. Leslie suggested that we send a form letter to the groups who are asking for party space, explaining that it will be a little while before we can respond to them. Jim H. then handed Mark a letter on that very subject that he had drafted that morning.

Brunch

Ellen has been out of town, so hadn't seen the brunch-ticket order form before today. She agreed that on whole-table sales we don't need to ask the names of the other people at the table, and agreed to call Greg and ask him to change that before PR 6 goes to the printer.

At the moment, we don't have anyone to handle banquet ticket orders. It was agreed that we could easily use a manual process. As orders come in, we will put the tickets in an envelope with the purchaser's name on the outside. They will be handed out in the Information area (not Registration). We will keep a file copy of the order forms.

The banquet desk will need a charge card imprinter while sales can happen (up until noon on Thursday). We should run ticket sales for at least part of the day on Wednesday because of the early cutoff. We can devote part of a bulletin board to banquet announcements: people who want tickets, want to sell tickets, etc.

We can easily print tickets by mimeoing onto postcard stock. We will hand-number them. Ellen agreed to produce the tickets. (She snapped her fingers imperiously, and seemed to be surprised when no tickets materialized.)

Hotel Room Allocation

We need someone to work with Debbie King to coordinate and make decisions for each of the special room blocks we are tracking. Jim M. as clerk will handle the staff and foreign blocks. Jim and Laurie as Services will handle the handicapped block, and Program will handle the Program Participants' block.

Has anyone taken care of getting Isaac a room in the Towers? It was agreed that Program should do this.

Meeting Schedule

The next division heads meetings will be May 7 and June 3. We will probably precede the June 3 meeting with one-hour discussions on technical, logistics, and space planning, with the appropriate area heads invited to that part.

We discussed how frequently to meet, and decided we should go to twice a month in July and August. Leslie suggested that we utilize the Wednesday work sessions for specialized discussions. The Boskone slide show will be shown for the first time at the Extravaganzas meeting at the Eastlakes on May 9. During the program planning weekend, there will be a Hynes tour at 10 am on May 13; and a barbecue at the Olsons' at 7 pm that evening.

Photography

Fred noted that Second Floor would like to coordinate with Extravaganzas on photography. Extravaganzas will be taking pictures for the closing ceremonies, and Second Floor needs pictures for an N3 exhibit. Ellen said that she had many volunteers to take pictures, but needed to select someone to supervise them. When that's done, she has a draft letter ready to send to the volunteers.

Mark pointed out that Extrav. needed slides and Second Floor needed prints. Jim H. will see if Copy Cop (across the street) has the machine that will convert slides to color Xerox. This gives reasonable quality and would be the fastest way to get results.

Division of Responsibilities

Club SF will be officially listed under Program, although it will be shared between Program and Extravaganzas.

Second Floor has divided into functional areas. Fred will be lead on mixing area, registration, hucksters, and interfacing with the decorator. Peggy Rae will lead on exhibits and information.

Ben and Priscilla have worked out how to handle their telephoning. Originally they were going to list both numbers, with Ben's listed as "friendly service" and Priscilla's listed as "grouchy service." But since Priscilla has an answering machine, and Ben has some problems with taking calls, they decided that Priscilla would take incoming calls and pass on some of those that needed returning to Ben.

Ben and Priscilla will work on an outline of what is to go in the program booklet.

We are planning to sign up for an account on Delphi, since many of the sf professionals use it.

Treasury

Ann needs to be notified of any large payments we need to make before August 1, so she can evaluate how much of our money should *not* go into CDs.

If the firemen need to be paid on-site, we can use pre-signed checks with an upper limit specified.

Dave Cantor is helping NESFA process charge slips, so our charges are now getting through in a timely fashion.

Area Heads' Mailing

Mark would like us to get the area heads' mailing we discussed last time out by May 1. It has gotten larger, and will include a cover letter by Mark, the area heads' information, a checkoff form, a set of special-purpose forms, the PR 6 staff list, the complete timeline, the division budget, staff appointment forms, and possibly a convention map.

We discussed the layout of the checkoff form in detail, and Jim M. will produce a revised version by the Wednesday MCFI meeting. We need to explain that it's important to get the form in soon, even if the information on it is not yet final. We have to make clear what they can count on getting just by checking it off on the form, and what will need more action on their part.

Everyone should mark up their copies of Mark's letter and the Information for Area Heads and return it on Wednesday.

It would be useful to define the difference between staff and gopher.

Debra Spencer may be willing to accept UPS deliveries for the convention at her home. We will still need to limit what we will accept there (since we have to get it to the convention), and Logistics will need to track what we expect and what has arrived.

Identification

Mark said that Facilities was happy with the idea of using special passes for access to secure areas at the con. Level 1 personnel (basically division heads) will get photo ID cards that will give them access to all areas. Other people with need for access will get passes to their specific areas; these may or may not be photo IDs. These will be handed out at-con either by the Office or by each division.

We got into a side issue of possibly using photo IDs to identify people making treasury pickups. Mark felt that we should use other means, like using only people who will be recognized (since there will be only a few areas handling money), or checking by making a phone call to the treasury area.

Communications

Jim H. thought that the Area Heads' Information should say more about communications options. He repeated a previous proposal that radios should be limited to specific areas with special needs (possibly facilities, technical, and logistics), and most communications should be via beepers and telephones.

We can easily get a lot of beepers, but telephones in the Hynes are infrequent and expensive to install. Leslie felt that the lack of telephones would be a big problem, and urged Mark to try to fit as many as possible into the budget. We need more information about their costs. There are pay phones, and we will have dimes available for staff people to use when making calls.

We discussed beeper policy at great length. To some extent, who should get beepers will be up to each area to decide. They are more needed when an area doesn't have a fixed place of business. There should be some floating beepers that will be given out to people who might only need them for certain periods of time.

Ellen suggested wearing a vibrating beeper in an interesting place and getting all your friends to call you. Leslie objected because you wouldn't know who was calling. Fred said that the only reasonable response to such calls is, "I'm coming." Mark said that he had one more topic to discuss, but after this, anything else would be an anticlimax.

The meeting adjourned somewhere around 2 pm.

Letters

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

Program

- Allan D. Burrows, Mississauga Ontario:

Taras Wolansky wants to see blood in the aisles of the programming halls. If you agree with that, then here's an idea. One aspect of fandom has gotten attention in fan-nish and mundane circles, and especially one popular book. That book is *Bimbos of the Death Sun* and the aspect is the obsessive element that underlies fandom. How about program titles like, "Fandom: Escape From Adulthood" or "Fans and the Peter Pan Syndrome" or "SF: Why It's All Hack Writing" or "Up Fandom, Let's Shoot Pool" or "FI-JAGH" . . . That should get some attention!

- Mary Piero Carey, Canton OH:

There is a piece of Art Programming which I would like to see. I caught just the last 5 minutes of this at a regional last year. (It was probably Millenicon or Marcon.) An artist whose name escapes me was discussing the preservation of your collection. Proper matting, framing, cleaning, etc. He emphasized finding out just what materials had been used, and getting good advice on how to treat them, not necessarily from the artist, who might not know. Quite a few people might be interested in this one. I wish that I hadn't been lollygaggin about and missed it.

[Do any of our readers have any idea who this might have been? — LT]

- David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

I see you have a Scavenger Hunt planned. Will this require special knowledge of Boston, or will it be set totally within the con's confines?

[Neither. The Scavenger Hunt will require a knowledge of science fiction and fandom, and most of the gathering will be done in advance of the convention. See PR 6 for more details, and a few sample items. — LT]

Most large cons that I've attended have had some sort of panel on how to survive and enjoy such events. (I've even been on a few, and they can definitely be fun.) However, these panels are often scheduled too early for many first-timers. Such folks often decide to put off arrival till Friday night, sometimes because of finances, and sometimes because they're not sure if they want that many days of a still-unknown event. If you plan on such a panel, you might want to have it scheduled for more than one occurrence — maybe once on Thursday, then Friday late afternoon, again that night, and once more mid-day Saturday. (The latter may be a good way to get one-day attendees to switch over to the rest of the con!) And, no matter when such events are scheduled, make sure that there are large signs near registration telling folks about them — it's too easy to miss them in the program till it's far too late.

Masquerade

- Allan D. Burrows, Mississauga Ontario:

Toni Lay mentions comments in *TM3P* #25-30 claiming "... that costumers *require* a 'humunguous' audience ..." I'm afraid those must have been my comments. I didn't realize how I came across. I really enjoy masquerades, but *those crowds* ... *I HATE crowds!* That's where the vehemence came from. (I'm sorry I didn't see Toni's letter before I met her at Boskone; I could have told her so.) It's a pity no fannish group exists that could handle video for masquerades; that would cut down the cost of live video feed to the hotels and consuite by a big chunk. *sigh* Crowds again this year, I guess. Oh well ... And by the way, I'm sure costumers must read SF; their costume ideas must come from somewhere!

[I don't think the problem with video costs is that there are no fans who can do the work; I think the problem is just that the equipment required is extremely expensive, even if all the work is done by volunteers. — LT]

- Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Re letter from Patti Mercier Gill: No sour grapes at all, Patti. I still don't feel that extra points should be awarded to costume groups with props and choreography. Those awards should go to the best costumes. I could not possibly have taken any amount of propwork or extras with me to the Worldcons; I don't know how you could have unless the props were already in the US. If you prefer to remind us all about your awards, that's fine. My opinion stands, and it is shared by many costumers in this area, many of which you know.

Hugo Awards

- Mary Piero Carey, Canton OH:

Notifying the winner of the drama Hugo is good if you can maintain secrecy. How much time does using the "May I have the envelope, please?" schtick add to the presentation time? If it is more than a few seconds, don't use it. The ceremony is long enough. May I add a plea on the matter of the Hugo bases? How about something pretty for a change? Also, something that didn't require its own suitcase would be considerate. I have nominated someone with back trouble and would rather not have his doctor put him back in therapy after he wins.

- Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

APA:89 105 has George Flynn mentioning listing the honorable mentions in the Hugo nominating race. It's great to win, it's great to be on the final ballot, and I guess it's great to be almost good enough to get on the final ballot. By all means, let people know who almost made it.

[We're going to announce this after the convention. — George Flynn]

Hotel Rooms

- David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

I was one of those foolish people who responded quickly enough to make your deadline, but omitted the arrival and departure dates. You sent the form back in late February, with a note telling me that if you received a corrected one by (I think) 3/10, I'd still be on the priority list. I sent off the corrected one well before 3/1, but have heard no more from you, so I'm crossing my fingers that the statement about the Sheraton being essentially full won't apply in my case. At the moment, I figure the thing to do is to be a bit more patient and give you time to catch up with the paperwork.

[You should have heard from us by now. Keep in mind that to keep the amount of work down, many of these things are handled in batches at the weekly work sessions. — LT]

- Taras Wolansky, Jersey City NJ:

#33 reminded me to put in my hotel request (thanks) so I filled out the form and stuck it in an envelope. Then I settled down to read my *Mad 3 Party* ... "arrival/ departure dates"? What "arrival/departure dates"?

So I cut open the envelope and went over the form with a fine-tooth comb. Eventually I found where you hid the date blanks. Very clever!

[After this spate of letters about missing the arrival/departure dates, I dug out my PR 5 and took a look. Really, guys, what's the problem? It's right there in the same size type as everything else ... — LT]

- Mary Piero Carey, Canton OH:

On the matter of hotel room assignments, while I sympathize with fen who are broke (that being my usual state), I agree with Leslie. I will be more than a little peeved if I find someone with a membership number in the 7000's at the Sheraton, while I am in the Holiday Inn.

[As mentioned elsewhere, everyone who wanted the Sheraton and returned their hotel forms immediately should have gotten into the Sheraton. — LT]

Handicapped Services

• Allan D. Burrows, Mississauga Ontario:

It's a pity about Electrical Eggs. Not being handicapped myself (unless you count eyeglasses), I'm not familiar with the services they provide or the quality of their service. Any group who help those in need, especially if they can do so without making those helped feel indebted or looked down on, should be commended. The way you describe this situation makes it sound like what Art Widner, *YHOS* #46, called "enantiodromia." This is the tendency of organizations, as they get big, to make their members serve them, instead of them serving their members, as things should happen. This is how the tail wags the dog, and it should be scotched ASAP. (Still, I've never had contact with Electrical Eggs, so I don't know if that's what's happening here.)

Food and Drink

• Allan D. Burrows, Mississauga Ontario:

It sounds from the meeting reports in this issue [#32] as if ARA is going to be more trouble than they're worth, definitely a problem for members. It's a shame you can't dispense with food in the Hynes altogether. I can just imagine members making rude remarks about Hynes food, calling for boycotts, maybe printing up protest fliers, even doing anarchistic protest things like deliberately bringing in outside food. (Let's hope nobody does anything drastic!) Then again, I'm a pessimist.

By the way, these are things that members did about the hostile hotel management and Scientology at Conspiracy, so there are precedents for them happening (except boycotts: I thought of that myself). On the other hand, Conspiracy had much more going wrong for it than Noreascon 3 has.

[We certainly don't encourage anything of the sort, and it could make life very difficult for us if people chose to behave in such a irresponsible way. Sure, it's unfortunate that the Hynes requires us to use a specific contractor for food and drink. It's particularly difficult for science fiction conventions, where there has been a strong tradition of bringing in our own refreshments. But ARA has not been hostile or uncooperative; they are simply expecting us to live up to the requirements of the contract which we have with the Hynes Convention Center. It's pretty unrealistic for us to expect them to give up profits they have a legitimate right to expect. — LT]

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

I hope you can soon give us an idea of which hotel the bid parties will be in. I know the beer controversy might be holding things up. Linda Ross-Mansfield told me Worldcon bidders are holding out for the Sheraton-Boston, in spite of their corkage. We are also keeping in mind the corkage demanded by the S-B. You may have already told us, but do you know how much corkage per case of beer will be demanded?

[As discussed at the April 9 Division Heads' meeting, things are still in a state of flux, unfortunately. Several new developments, including a change of management at the Sheraton-Boston, have slowed down our negotiation process (although improving the chances that the final result will be a better one). Keep in mind that there are arguments against using the Sheraton-Boston for large

parties other than the corkage situation. Their upper floors are quite cramped and would have the usual problems of elevator crowding and the potential of noise complaints. On the other hand, the Hynes is easily accessible and belongs mostly to us, so large parties could be more easily accommodated there. In any case, we are aware that the bidders and other party-giving groups need this information, and we'll be getting it out to you as soon as we possibly can. — LT]

Publications

• Allan D. Burrows, Mississauga Ontario:

On convention publications, let me say that a memory book like that discussed in the December GULP meeting is not the sort of thing I would normally buy. (I usually settle for my program book, pocket program, and copies of the daily zines as souvenirs.) If I particularly enjoyed the con, however, and if the price was right, (say US \$15.00 or thereabouts: I'd think twice at \$20), I might buy this one. I'd especially consider it if I couldn't make it to the con after all, for instance because of work.

[I think the intention was to make the Souvenir Book free or available for only a nominal charge to members of the convention. This would depend on the surplus funds, if any. — LT]

Further, I don't think I've ever read my program book at a Worldcon; my first glance is generally on the plane on the way back. Putting directly con-related info in the pocket program sounds better; I'd like to have it where I can get my hands on it. Having a pocket in the souvenir book for pocket program, daily zines, and such would sure save me some closet space; I'd pay extra to have that! As for the rest of the proposed items for the souvenir book:

- Picture Gallery — pictures of what?
- Program Participant photos/bios — If I'm going to see them at the program anyway, why bother?
- Art Portfolio — whose art? The souvenir book is likely to be mostly words; a big section of pictures would be out of place.
- Noreascon 1 and 2 History — This might be entertaining, but you'd have to choose carefully what aspects of the cons you wrote about. I'd leave out statistics.
- SF and Fandom Around the World — North American fandom needs to have its horizons stretched. Go for it!
- Past Worldcons — Hmm. Conspiracy was supposed to be an anniversary and so was ConFederation. Mightn't you be tempting things by making *too* much about the fiftieth yourselves? Still, it might be nice.
- Past Hugo Nominees — This could take up a lot of space as an article, and tables are boring.
- Material Related to This Year's Hugos — I think it's only fitting to have this. The Hugos are an important part of Worldcon, after all.
- Expanded In Memoriam — I'd only do this if a major pro or fan snuffs it.
- Pictures of Nolacon II — Cripes, who wants to remember that? Concentrate on your own con!
- Articles On Our History, The Fan Year . . . — We're talking fan writing here. That's well and good but should the souvenir book be a fanzine? Still, you might try soliciting work from major fan writers and

see what you can get.

- Other Fifty Year Visuals — same as Past Worldcons and Art Portfolio
- Retrospectives — That sounds like an item for Articles On Our History, The Fan Year, etc.

[The Picture Gallery would be reproductions of the Christine Valada photographs of pros that are going to be displayed in the exhibits area. Program participant photos/bios might be a useful reference. Usually the introductions given at panel items are brief, and many people come into an item after it has already started. This would be a place you could find out more about someone you have seen on the program. The art portfolio would probably feature works related to our guests of honor in some way. Yes, tables may be boring to read, but again, these may be useful as reference material. — LT]

Pam Fremon, in her apa excerpt, described Daily Zines (the convention newsletter) and Pink Sheets (latest, most correct program schedule). I've seen the Pink Sheet combined with the Daily zine and it worked well enough. I'd also suggest the Survival Guide be incorporated into an expanded Pocket Program; the fewer bits of paper you give members, the easier it is to keep them on hand. Have "read me first" info, like weapons policy and babysitting hours, on the front page, and maps on the back page.

- Mary Piero Carey, Canton OH:

Pam Fremon's idea for a Yearbook is very good, but don't bite off more than you can chew. I would be ecstatic just to receive the post-con report of the Hugo, Site, and Masquerade winners along with the issues of the daily newszine. This would be more than I've received from any Worldcon since N2, whether my membership was attending or supporting. Please do something you can produce in time for voters to meet the conversion deadline. I have been getting notification of who won the site selection at least 30 days after the deadline passed, if at all, and usually through the fanzines and word of mouth, rather than from either of the committees involved.

[Notifying you of conversion rates and deadlines has to be the responsibility of the winning committee because they are the ones who set the rates, etc. — LT]

On the Program Book and all its offspring: I use the pocket program and always carry it with me. The program book doesn't always come along. For this reason, the map of the facilities should be in the pocket program, as the Sheraton/Hynes Complex is just too complex. I remember being lost at N2 all too well. The Pink pages are a good idea, or the changes could go into the daily newszine. The idea of just printing the day's program and distributing it every morning does not seem good to me. The first thing I do after registering is to decide which pieces of the programming I can't miss. How can I know that I want to be awake at the unGhuly hour of 10 am Sunday if the schedule for Sunday doesn't come out till then?

[You misunderstand. We would print the entire program in advance: in the "program booklet," which is a slightly expanded version of the traditional pocket program. The daily sheets would be done in addition to give you any last-minute changes from the preset program (due to participants not showing up at the convention, etc.). — LT]

Phone Line

- David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

One of the most frustrating things about dealing with Nolacon was the impossibility of getting answers from their phone line, even when one stated that collect calls would be accepted. It's nice to see that you're planning to avoid this particular variety of frustration.

A possibility you might want to consider if there's an IBM-compatible PC with a hard disk at the phone's location is a product called BigMouth. It's a combination of an interface card and matching software that lets you set up a PC to do detailed phone responses. You can have the user select an option by pressing a Touch Tone button ["Press 1 for Registration Info, Press 2 for Hotel Info, etc.'], and have digitized responses stored on the disk for the most common questions; caller messages are digitized and stored in the same way, and then played back to you through the handset. We're currently experimenting with one of these at my office. While they do take some time for initial setup — several hours, typically, including planning out your response menu and message — they can be real time-savers for your staff. Oh, and they expect to have a multiple-line version out in a month or so, and there are also several other competing products that might deserve equal consideration.

[This is interesting technology, but we don't have a PC in the same location as the phone. We get nearly the same result by having a very long recorded message that gives all the standard information. — LT]

Badges

- Allan D. Burrows, Mississauga Ontario:

Andi Shechter, in her apa excerpt, mentioned the possibility of having medical and emergency info stickers on the backs of members' badges. This might cramp my style a bit, as I put bid stickers there. It's still a good idea, but I'd suggest you decide in advance what sort of info you want to put on it and put it there yourselves. Otherwise, you'll find irrelevant and unreadable info there as sure as Ghu makes little green neos.

[You may be right, but I don't think we'll have the staff available to fill out everybody's sticker. This is a suggestion that we will make to people so we can have a better chance of helping them if they have a problem. If they don't choose to take it, that's up to them. — LT]

- David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

A cheap and simple notion for you that we've been using at the Philadelphia Folk Festival (3500+ badge-wearing volunteers) for about five years: The badges are standard pin-back units, but with a simple modification — two holes, about an inch apart and 1/4" diameter, are punched near the top of each pinback and badge. When the badge is issued, it comes with a 2-foot length of thick, brightly-colored cord. The wearer then has a number of options. The cord's ends can be tied together, allowing the badge to be worn about the neck without damaging clothes; after tying, one can slip the tied end of the cord through a belt-loop, and then slip the badge through the cord-loop, forming a slipknot that makes the badge extremely hard to lose; the pin-back can be used as designed; etc.

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Mark Olson's description of what will appear on the badge is great. The larger the letters of the name on the badge, the better.

Timeline

• Mary Piero Carey, Canton OH:

The timeline you published is just appalling. I can't imagine sustaining such a level of effort and organization over the length of time you folk have been slaving away. While I do understand most of the items, especially Rio and mass Committee gafiation, one item does puzzle me. Why does the Toy Fair make Ellen go insane?

[We agree that the timeline is appalling. At this point, most of us are counting the days until it's over. (Less than 5 months now!) I'm glad you appreciate the lighter items in the timeline. (You may be the only person who's actually read it.) Part of the reason I publish M3P is the forlorn hope that by making it extremely clear how much work running a Worldcon is, I can make some of the future bidding committees think twice about whether they really want to do it.]

Toy Fair is the annual trade show for the toy industry, held in New York every February. In the real world, Ellen Franklin is director of exhibits for Hasbro, Inc., and is responsible for designing and installing an entire floor of exhibits at Toy Fair each year. It's like running a small convention, and involves essentially moving to New York for over a month to supervise this process. — LT]

Nolacon

• Allan D. Burrows, Mississauga Ontario:

In your letters section, I noted a good deal of input from Guy H. Lillian. This is the chairman of the second-worst Worldcon of the decade. I wouldn't take any of his advice too seriously. I found the following quotes particularly irksome (emphasis mine): "... how would such a work do *homage* proper to your Guest of Honour?" (*Homage? Ass-kisser!*) "One boring staple, the *membership list*, we chopped it..." (*the members don't count for much?*) "... prior to opening the auditorium to the *great unwashed*." (*Nope, I guess not.*) "Some people flinched at Nolacon's outre Hugo base, but don't let that keep you from having fun..." (*He still doesn't see the problem.*) Some people just never learn.

[Actually, Guy was in charge of Publications and Publicity at Nolacon: John Guidry was Chairman and Justin Winston was President and Business Manager. — LT]

Worldcon Date

• Allan D. Burrows, Mississauga Ontario:

Steve Jackson's point about Worldcon date is well taken. Fans with school-age children (heck, fans who are school-age children) should and probably do have trouble with Labor Day weekend, as should teachers. I can tell you that I've started booking off the Tuesday after Labour Day so I can come home then. Traffic and crowds at my local airport, and probably most other airports, on Labour Day are not to be believed, with whole families coming home at a time. Then there's the problem of booking that much hotel space on a busy weekend; it might actually be easier to block hotel space, say, a month earlier or later. Later would probably be the easier of the two, but I'd sug-

gest earlier to keep it in the summer vacation period. I don't know about the U.S., but in Canada the last Monday in July or the first Monday in August (it varies year to year) is a civic holiday. Now, obviously it's too late for Noreascon 3 and ConFiction to change dates. Chicon V might think about it, though, and MagiCon/Discon could consider it more easily.

[It's probably too late for those two cons, also. Many large hotels get booked up 3-5 years in advance. Please note, also, that ConFiction is not on Labor Day weekend; it's one week earlier, as most overseas Worldcons have been. — LT]

Worldcon Fees

• David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

I think Chip Hitchcock has a very valid point regarding the rule about attending membership prices, and I will be looking forward to seeing his proposal for the WSFS meeting. I hope, though, that it'll also set a reasonable maximum for attending memberships in advance of a con, but closer to the con date — perhaps no more than double the price in the post-election period. Getting more money early, to allow for better planning, is reasonable, but encouraging lots of increases in the future poses problems, especially for newcomers to fandom.

[There would be a lot of resistance to setting limits to the membership rates beyond the first few months or so, because the costs of Worldcons vary so much, and have changed so quickly with inflation. Setting the initial fees low can always be compensated for by raising the later fees. In fact, part of the reason that fees increase so much during the pre-con period is that the initial rates are sometimes artificially low. Chip's motion to increase the ratio between the initial supporting and attending rates, in addition to keeping the supporting fee low, would allow committees to charge initial attending rates closer to their actual expected costs. Thus they should not have as much pressure to raise the rates so high closer to the convention. — LT]

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

The Feb. 18 Division Heads' meeting raises the idea of the over-\$100 at-door full membership. Fandom should know better than to wait to pay at the door, but many still do. Will they stand for \$110, should this at-door rate be approved? (I see it was at the March 15 MCFI meeting.)

Miscellaneous

• Allan D. Burrows, Mississauga Ontario:

In the section on the MCFI meeting, Program Division, I noted that Pat Mueller is pregnant. Congratulations to her then, and best wishes for an easy birth and a healthy baby.

• Mary Piero Carey, Canton OH:

A few comments on the last few M3Ps. Town Meeting sounds like a good name for the daily gripe session. I don't like "Ask Mr. Worldcon."

• David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

By asking members of the SF community to accept post-convention reimbursement, you're effectively requiring them to commit to coming, as a no-show can't get his or her money back. While I can see the sense in this, it could cause problems for those whose careers don't allow ad-

vance planning for that time of year.

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Looks like my membership prediction will soon be a dinosaur. I'm certainly glad to be wrong here, although I hope you won't have to contend with the enormous numbers predicted by some.

Re letter from Barry Newton: Our most important rule at any convention is 5 and 2... at least five hours of sleep per night, and at least two meals a day. That's to make sure you have the minimum rest and nutrition to get you through a hectic day.

Corrections

• J. R. "Mad Dog" Madden, Baton Rouge LA:

In my letter to you dated 7 October 1988, I ranted a while about "pin versus clip" badges. I stated that the initial estimate for pin-style badges (by that I meant heavy molded plastic lumps with insert name cards and pin on back) for Nolacon II had been \$10,000. When my letter was printed in issue 30 of *M3P*, the figure was doubled, for whatever reason, to \$20,000. No wonder John Lorentz was upset with his comments in issue 31.

Mr. Lorentz asked "where did Mad Dog's \$20,000 cost figure come from?" Well, it was \$10,000 and it came from a member of the Nolacon con committee who told

me that was the quotation made by a company based in Boston. The company eventually decided not to work on the job and the Nolacon concomm had to go with a local outfit using the laminated badges (which I liked very much).

• David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

I must admit that I slipped up in not noting that your brunch price included tax and tip, which does make it more reasonable. Consider my price complaint withdrawn, please.

• Judith C. Bemis, Boca Raton FL:

As a member of the proposed Smofcon 7 committee, I would like to correct some mistaken impressions about this proposal that have found their way into the fannish press.

Smofcon 7 in *Fort Lauderdale* is a *proposal* put together by Joe Siclari, Edie Stern, Tony Parker, Judy Bemis, Dave Cantor, Gary Feldbaum, Sharon Sbarsky, and the South Florida Science Fiction Society (a Fort Lauderdale-based active SF club) to hold a convention by this name in or near Fort Lauderdale, FL, in 1990. Neither the Orlando-based group sponsoring Magicon, the bid for Worldcon in Orlando in '92, nor OASFiS, the Orlando SF club, are sponsors of the Smofcon bid.

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