



Number 35

June 1989

— Special "Last 100 Days" Issue —

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### Recent Activities

Progress Report 6, containing the Hugo and Site Selection ballots, was mailed out between May 10 and May 17. As of June 7, we had received 198 Hugo ballots, 85 paid and 10 unpaid site-selection ballots, and 44 banquet ticket orders.

The Spring Program Frenzy resulted in a completed first-draft program design. After review to eliminate schedule conflicts and other bugs, individual program-participant schedules will be mailed out in early June.

Much to our surprise, the Sheraton-Boston Hotel has announced a new weekend special rate of \$89 per night. Thus, by the terms of our contract with them, they are extending this room rate to all singles and doubles reserved for Noreascon 3.

The Sheraton is now completely full, except a few rooms that are being held for handicapped members. Over half of our total hotel block is full. In order to give faster response, we are now sending out hotel acknowledgments about every two weeks.

### New Appointments

We are pleased to announce that Dick Roepke will be in charge of handicapped services at Noreascon 3.

Marty Spence will handle film acquisition, and Marty Spence and Cathy Bence will handle film scheduling.

### Parodies

*The Mad 3 Party* has been parodied again — this time the parody is titled *The Sad 3 Party*, produced by person or persons unknown. Since it's not copyrighted, I'll be happy to send a copy to any M3P subscriber who sends me an SASE. (Foreign subscribers can just send me a request and I'll include it in the envelope with your next issue.)

### At-the-Door Rates

The discussion of at-the-door membership rates reported in the minutes of the March 15 MCFI meeting seems to have had a few errors in it. To avoid any confusion, here is a table of the actual at-the-door membership rates that will be in effect at Noreascon 3.

| Day  | Regular |       | Children's |       |
|------|---------|-------|------------|-------|
|      | Full    | 1-Day | Full       | 1-Day |
| Thur | 110     | 30    | 90         | 25    |
| Fri  | 110     | 40    | 90         | 35    |
| Sat  | 100     | 40    | 80         | 35    |
| Sun  | 65      | 40    | 50         | 35    |
| Mon  | 30      | 25    | 25         | 25    |

### Help Needed

The standard Boston projector-rental rates are quite high, so we are looking for less expensive sources for rental or loan of 16mm and 35mm projectors. Any leads would be appreciated.

Anatoly M. Paseka, a Soviet SF artist and fan, hopes to come to Noreascon but cannot afford hotel space. He and his wife are hoping that some fan can put them up for a few days (for which he will give them an autographed piece of his artwork). If anyone in the Boston area can do this, please contact Jim Mann at the Noreascon 3 address.

### 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.) As of May 31, memberships were coming in at the rate of about 50 per week.

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

4817 on May 31

4795 Stu Shiffman

4668 on May 3

4638 Lloyd Penney

4534 on April 7

4058 Pat Vandenberg

3964 on March 5

### Missing Members

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

Maria Bucar, Winnipeg Manitoba  
 David Chaplin, Ottawa Ontario  
 C. F. Claremont, New York NY  
 Cary Anne Conder, Winnipeg Manitoba  
 Jeff Franzen, Canton NY  
 Robin Garner, Rehoboth MA  
 Jodi Garratt, N. Hollywood CA  
 Asenath Hammond, Tarzana CA  
 Tracy L Henry, Dunn Loring VA  
 Sheri John, Omaha NE  
 Roney Jorensen, Camp Springs MD  
 Thomas Meserole, Lenexa KS  
 Timothy A. Pruitt, Buffalo NY

Peggy A. Stevens, Nashville TN  
 Becky Tannenbaum, Cambridge MA  
 Catherine R. Younger, Denver CO

### 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 15 Start sending out Art Show confirmations  
<done>
- Feb 15 Get stage specs
- Mar 1 Norton book data entry complete  
<done>
- Mar 1 Draft souvenir book outline
- Mar 1 Preliminary registration layout
- Mar 1 Select sound, video, film, communications vendors
- Mar 5 Send out handicapped-access survey  
<done>
- Mar 10 Set gopher crash space policy
- Mar 15 Preliminary list of events for Club SF
- Mar 15 Prepare exhibitors' packet
- Mar 30 People Mover mailing
- Apr 1 Decide on Hugo base design  
<done>
- Apr 1 Deadline for academic program proposals  
<done>
- Apr 1 Start constructing strawman program  
<done>
- Apr 1 SF Tonight has most participants set  
<done>
- Apr 1 Pencil in initial equipment orders
- Apr 5 Boskone photography experiment demonstrated  
<done May 9>
- Apr 9 Deadline for Souvenir Book draft text
- Apr 10 Order registration badge materials
- Apr 10 Finish entering Program questionnaires  
<done except for new ones coming in>
- Apr 12 MCFI Meeting  
<minutes on page 4>
- Apr 12 Hugo nominee withdrawal deadline  
<passed>
- Apr 12 Hugo and site selection ballots to printer  
<done on April 26>
- Apr 15 Hugo base design and quotes approved  
<done>
- Apr 15 Complete Strangers book data entry
- Apr 20 Complete preliminary mixing area layout
- Apr 20 Logistics questionnaire to areas  
<part of area heads mailing>
- Apr 23 Draft Souvenir Book text ready for review
- Apr 30 Ribbon logo artwork to Hodges
- May 1 Badge materials ordered
- May 1 Norton book to printer

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| <p>May 1 Approve ribbon colors and designs<br/>&lt;done&gt;</p> <p>May 1 Masquerade stage plans complete<br/>&lt;done&gt;</p> <p>May 1 Office-supplies questionnaire to areas<br/>&lt;part of area heads mailing&gt;</p> <p>May 1 Draft SF Tonight script</p> <p>May 1 Veejay commitment for Club Degler [NEW]</p> <p>May 1 Finish strawman program [NEW]<br/>&lt;done&gt;</p> <p>May 1 Draft program cover letter [NEW]<br/>&lt;done&gt;</p> <p>May 1 Decide content and format of Souvenir Book [NEW]</p> <p>May 3 MCFI meeting<br/>&lt;minutes on page 8&gt;</p> <p>May 3 Decide on special committee awards<br/>&lt;done&gt;</p> <p>May 3 Mail Hugo and Site-Selection ballots<br/>&lt;done on May 10-17&gt;</p> <p>May 3 First PR 6 mailing<br/>&lt;done May 10-17&gt;</p> <p>May 7 Division heads meeting<br/>&lt;minutes on page 12&gt;</p> <p>May 10 Draft PR 7 outline<br/>&lt;done&gt;</p> <p>May 12 Spring Program Frenzy Weekend<br/>&lt;frenzied on schedule&gt;</p> <p>May 13 Possible Hynes tour<br/>&lt;done&gt;</p> <p>May 15 Artwork complete: place T-shirt order</p> <p>May 15 Settle on badge design (artwork and layout)<br/>&lt;have layout: soliciting artwork&gt;</p> <p>May 15 Send out children's questionnaire</p> <p>May 15 Select banquet speakers<br/>&lt;invitation letters have been sent&gt;</p> <p>May 18 GULP Meeting<br/>&lt;minutes on page 12&gt;</p> <p>May 21 Demonstrate that badge-production software works</p> <p>May 22 Schedules mailed to all program participants<br/>&lt;planned for early June&gt;</p> <p>May 24 Deadline for comments on PR 7 outline</p> <p>May 25 Strangers book mimeo complete</p> <p>May 25 Deadline for areas for ribbon order<br/>&lt;done&gt;</p> <p>May 26 Start of Disclave (Hynes 89 and Art Show meet)<br/>&lt;done&gt;</p> <p>May 30 Final PR 7 outline</p> <p>May 31 MCFI meeting<br/>&lt;minutes next issue&gt;</p> <p>Jun 1 Complete layout of Mixing Area</p> <p>Jun 1 Complete layout of Registration area</p> <p>Jun 1 Deadline for Souvenir Book ad reservations<br/>&lt;done&gt;</p> <p>Jun 1 Anniversary Event budget and plan</p> <p>Jun 1 Send invitations to Art Show Reception</p> <p>Jun 1 Draft Closing Ceremony script</p> <p>Jun 1 Club SF equipment ordered</p> <p>Jun 1 Select Masquerade judges</p> <p>Jun 1 Program revision cycle starts</p> <p>Jun 1 Second-draft SF Tonight script</p> <p>Jun 1 Ask areas what signs needed<br/>&lt;done&gt;</p> <p>Jun 1 Update technical equipment orders</p> | <p>Jun 1 Send out ribbon order<br/>&lt;draft order ready&gt;</p> <p>Jun 1 Get price for xeroxing newsletter [NEW]</p> <p>Jun 3 Division heads meeting [NEW]<br/>&lt;minutes next issue&gt;</p> <p>Jun 10 Start sending Hugo ballots first class [NEW]</p> <p>Jun 14 Final Souvenir Book text deadline</p> <p>Jun 15 Restaurant Guide final draft done</p> <p>Jun 15 Outline of Anniversary Party [NEW]</p> <p>Jun 18 Division heads meeting [NEW]<br/>&lt;minutes next issue&gt;</p> <p>Jun 20 Absolute Souvenir Book ad deadline</p> <p>Jun 20 Deadline for PR 7 initial text</p> <p>Jun 22 Souvenir Book goes to printer</p> <p>Jun 30 Areas give treasury on-site cash needs</p> <p>Jun 30 Westercon weekend</p> <p>Jul 1 Complete Hucksters location assignments</p> <p>Jul 1 T-shirts arrive</p> <p>Jul 1 Hugo bases arrive [NEW]</p> <p>Jul 1 First batch of info to badge production [NEW]</p> <p>Jul 9 Division heads meeting [NEW]</p> <p>Jul 10 Final draft of PR 7 to div. hds. review</p> <p>Jul 10 Start badge production [NEW]</p> <p>Jul 15 Art Show bid sheet mailing to artists</p> <p>Jul 15 Final Hucksters mailing goes out</p> <p>Jul 15 Postmark deadline for Hugo ballots</p> <p>Jul 15 Pre-registration cut-off</p> <p>Jul 15 Draft of press kit ready</p> <p>Jul 15 Have plan for at-con money handling</p> <p>Jul 15 NESFA contribution to reading room packed</p> <p>Jul 15 Final script for Closing Ceremony</p> <p>Jul 15 Complete Anniversary Party speaker list [NEW]</p> <p>Jul 15 Produce SF Tonight commercials [NEW]</p> <p>Jul 20 PR 7 goes to printer</p> <p>Jul 21 Actual end of pre-registration</p> <p>Jul 22 Actual deadline for receipt of Hugo ballots</p> <p>Jul 22 Badge production starts for pre-registrants</p> <p>Jul 22 Division heads meeting [NEW]</p> <p>Jul 26 Office purchase supplies</p> <p>Jul 26 Logistics inventory work session</p> <p>Jul 28 Begin Hugo-ballot data entry [CHANGED]</p> <p>Jul 30 Pre-reg data entry complete</p> <p>Aug 1 Order Hugo base engraving</p> <p>Aug 1 Hucksters' table free-cancellation deadline</p> <p>Aug 1 Release of hotel blocks to direct reservations</p> <p>Aug 1 Deadline for Masquerade costume and photo area entries</p> <p>Aug 1 Deadline for decision on inclusion of precis in "pocket program"</p> <p>Aug 1 PR 7 mailing</p> <p>Aug 1 Possible second mailing to program participants</p> <p>Aug 1 Souvenir Book arrives from printer</p> <p>Aug 1 Technical places final equipment order</p> <p>Aug 1 Complete building displays [NEW]</p> <p>Aug 2 Logistics inventory work session</p> <p>Aug 5 Final info to badge production [NEW]</p> <p>Aug 6 Division heads meeting [NEW]</p> <p>Aug 9 Treasurer departs for Rio</p> <p>Aug 9 Logistics packing work session</p> <p>Aug 10 Committee gaffiates</p> <p>Aug 10 Press release and packets sent to local press</p> <p>Aug 10 Send engraved Hugo invitations</p> <p>Aug 15 Nominal deadline for Site-Selection mail ballots</p> |
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Aug 15 All pre-registrant badges completed  
 Aug 15 Receive ribbons from manufacturer  
 Aug 15 Norton book arrives from printer [CHANGED]  
 Aug 16 MCFI meeting [NEW]  
 Aug 20 Badge alphabetization work session  
 Aug 20 Division heads meeting [NEW]  
 Aug 21 Program Booklet copy deadline  
 Aug 22 Copy deadline for hucksters' guide, restaurant guide, and masquerade program  
 Aug 23 Program Booklet 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 Program Booklet delivered to Hynes  
 Aug 29 We get Hynes for setup

## MCFI Meeting

Date: April 12, 1989

Notes by: Jim Mann

The meeting was called to order [?] at 7:40.

**Schedule:** Mark Olson noted that we will continue to have work sessions every Wednesday. Division head meetings are going to be occurring about every two weeks, generally before the NESFA Business or Other meetings. These are closed: not because we have anything secret to do, but because the meeting would be too big and unwieldy if everyone interested showed up. For the June division heads meeting, some area heads will be asked to attend before the meeting itself.

We scheduled the MCFI meetings for the duration:

June 29

July 19

August 16

The apa will be due 10 days before each meeting. Jim Mann noted that the meeting dates on the cover of the last apa were wrong.

**Chairman's Report:** Mark said that we haven't made any further progress in negotiating with ARA. We're starting to discuss with the Sheraton using function space on the third floor for parties. The old Sheraton General Manager has left; we're waiting for the new one.

Paula Lieberman asked if we'd gone to Atlanta or LA to ask for a subsidy for parties. They rejected our last request since we didn't ask for anything definite. Mark said that that was a good point, and that we'd try this.

Mark said that he doesn't know what will happen here. Unless the committee tells him no, he may take more money out of reserve. We need major parties off the sleeping floors if we want things to work right. Debbie King said that there are lots of suites. Mark said that this is not the issue: having lots of people going between the suites is the issue. Paula said that at Noreascon Two, the suites were too crowded anyway. Mark emphasized that we are not saying that there will be no parties on the sleeping floors. We just want to move the real biggies. Jim Hudson said that if we can move 3 or 4 a night we'll save ourselves lots of trouble. Paula said that big, open parties attract people who can't find them. Thus we get

lots of people wandering the halls looking for them. Mark said we can't do suite allocation until we resolve this issue. [There were no objections to Mark moving more money from reserve if he saw the need.]

**Pass-on Funds:** Mark said that, as most of us know, we made an offer to the upcoming three Worldcons to pass on 50% of our profits if they'd agree to do the same. Holland and DC both said yes. Chicago has not replied. Orlando has been quibbling. Basically, they don't like our "no strings attached" policy. They want to be able to decide who's worthy and who isn't. We're running out of time. Mark has drafted a letter to Joe Siclari et al. We accept some of their points, like the convention must have a draft budget before they get any money and so forth. But the giving Worldcon should not sit in judgment. He is also going to write to Chicon, and tell them we're going to pass them by, since they haven't responded.

**Committee Awards:** Mark said that a Worldcon traditionally has the power to give out as many damnfool awards as it pleases. We will not give any other Hugos. As for other awards, we'll summarize current proposals now and discuss them at an upcoming meeting. It's a mistake to give too many.

*[The specific proposals will remain confidential.]*

Mark asked if we needed a closed meeting to discuss this. Tony Lewis said yes; otherwise the awards will be known in advance. Rick Katze agreed. Mark said that we'll have a closed meeting after the next meeting.

**The DC in '92 Bid:** Mark said that the DC in '92 bid has withdrawn. A chunk of their hotel space was taken by a group that was willing to commit and put down money now rather than "maybe in September." Mark called Peggy Rae Pavlat and Kent Bloom to confirm this.

DC still has an ad in PR 6: it was too late to change this. It is not too late to change the site-selection ballot; however DC has stated that they want to remain on the ballot. We have to decide what to do with this. George Flynn summarized our options:

1. Leave things unchanged.
2. Leave DC on the ballot, but indicate that they have withdrawn.
3. Remove them from the ballot

With either option, we can either include or remove the questionnaire. Removing it saves us a little money, but forces us to redesign the ballot. Also, it could be useful to Orlando. He recommended that we leave DC on the ballot but mark "Withdrawn" across their entry.

Rick said that if they stay on the ballot, any votes they receive should be treated as "no preference." Mark said that issue would be addressed at some future meeting. Right now we're just addressing what to do with the ballot.

Andi Shechter said that if we leave DC on the ballot we must make it clear that they've withdrawn. Also, the questionnaire is valuable; the bidders did lots of good work on it. She asked George what the WSFS Constitution had to say. George said that it required Worldcons to leave bids on the ballot only after receiving evidence that they had a valid contract or letter of agreement. Mark said that we are the sole judge of this.

Fred Isaacs said that DC should have removed themselves from the ballot. Tony agreed with Fred. We must do something to show that they have withdrawn. Jim Hudson liked George's proposal; he suggested we put the "Withdrawn" right over where voters would put their X. Dave Cantor said we have a write-in line on the ballot. DC could get votes there if they really want to. Alexis Layton said we should do the fannish thing and put ///// through their entry.

Mark said that nobody seems to be in favor of leaving the ballot as it is. [No objections.] We therefore have to decide between the other two options. [We decided to leave DC on the ballot. We decided to leave it up to George as to what exactly to say.] George read his proposed text:

"Just before this ballot mailing went to press and after Progress Report 6 had gone to press, we received word that the Discon III/Washington committee had lost a significant fraction of their facilities and were therefore withdrawing from bidding. However, the committee requested that their name remain on the ballot. Please take these developments into account in your voting."

**Progress Report 6:** Greg Thokar said that PR 6 is ready to go to the printer. The question is when do we go into the mail? The printer can be done by May 17 if we look at proofs, and by May 10 if we do not. Mark asked if we can just go down and look at it in person, thus reducing the time needed for us to look at a proof copy? Greg said we might be able to, but noted that the only problems we found last time were not printer problems, but things we'd done wrong. Paula said that the Boskone ad was unreadable. Greg told her to talk to Mike DiGenio; this was not the issue under discussion.

Sharon Sbarksy said that since the 17th is already a work session with no collation or meeting scheduled for the same night, we should just wait till then. Mark said that would make us three weeks late. Jim H. said we should aim for the 10th. If we don't have time to get all of them out, we can still get some out. Furthermore, if the printer slips, we can then move to the 17th. Mark noted that there are no strip-ins (the most likely source of printer error) this time, so we should be safe. Fred was worried that we were acting as if we were immune from Murphy's Law. Greg noted that we went without proofs for PR 1. Mark said that we should go without proofs. We can't risk being too late. Greg said that if we do mail on the 10th, many people will have them for Disclave. Rick said we should take the risk of going without proofs and shoot for the 10th. [We decided to go without proofs.] Greg will ask the printer if someone [Tony] can come down in person to check the proofs.

**Meeting Format:** Mark said that we've been following the format of a beginning section followed by division reports followed by policy items for a while now. Does anyone want to change? Priscilla Olson suggested that the divisions report in reverse alphabetical order. Jill Eastlake said we should start later. Rick said no. Pam said yes. Dave C. said, as a person who drives down from Nashua before the meetings, we should start later. Jim M., as a person who must drive home after the meetings, said we should not start later. Mark, having heard this all before [see several previous apas. This issue is raised and voted down about 3 times a year] called a halt.

Since nobody else seemed to have anything to say on meeting format, we moved on to other topics.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ann Broomhead handed out reports. She said that our assets are still somewhat under a quarter meg (\$250,000). Most of our money is now in CDs that don't come due until July or August.

She also handed out a list of trinkets we're looking at selling at the convention. Ann said that she favored the cloisonne pin. Paula said she thought the enamel was prettier. Ann went to get a picture so that Paula could look again. There was much talk about the NESFA/MCFI joint esthetics committee and related silliness.

Ann said that the point of discussion here was just to decide that we'd do these things. Mark said that we don't want to discuss pricing and so forth; we don't have enough info yet. Does anyone have any comments? Are we doing too many things? Jim H. said that 3 different kinds of pins at 500+ each might be too many.

**GULP:** Mark said that many people have requested that we do another chaos GULP. Jim H. said that it will be on Thursday, May 18.

**Mad Three Party:** Leslie said that she was working on it.

**Souvenir Book/Program Booklet:** Mark said that as soon as PR 6 is done, Greg will start on an outline of the Program/Souvenir Book.

He also said that Ben and Priscilla have put together a preliminary sketch of the Program Booklet.

**Services Division:** Jim M. reported that the Norton book is again back in our laps. Jim Frenkel called him to say that Tor could not work the typesetting and production into their schedules. They will buy typeset galleys from us for their edition if we can meet their specs. Frank Richards is looking into whether we can scan some or all of the galleys in, rather than typing it in.

Jim also said that Services (mostly Laurie) is working on a packet to send to Area Heads. Mark summarized the packet. It will contain:

1. A cover letter.
2. A packet telling what sorts of things we'll do automatically for them, what they have to ask for but can be gotten easily, and what's been done in the past but we're not doing.
3. Forms.
4. Timeline.
5. Their division's part of the budget.

They will return the forms to their division heads. This is mostly intended for out-of-town area heads.

Alex said that the deadline for getting info back to us should be specified, perhaps as a running head on each page. Davey said we should have background material and maps. Mark agreed. Paula said she could computerize some maps. Mark suggested she talk to several people offline about this.

**Second Floor Division:** Fred said that Infocom wants to exhibit.

He gave a hucksters report. Cindy Gold was going to be here, but her significant other is sick and she's home feeding him chicken soup. We've had some problems because people are misconstruing our policy. If a huckster asks, don't volunteer information. Send them to Cindy. Some of those who gave us money at Nolacon thought

they were guaranteed a table, even though the handout said otherwise.

Cindy is getting rid of some of her reserves. She is also sending out letters and refunds to those who didn't get tables. We're also assigning tables to those on the waiting list. If you have comments, talk to Cindy.

Rick asked how many tables we were still holding back. Fred said 15-20.

Paula said she heard a rumor that some hucksters who really wanted only two tables asked for three in hopes of getting two. There was much tsk-tsking about the ethics of some hucksters.

Fred said they are putting together their second division apa. Wendy Lindboe volunteered to do the repro and mailing.

Sharon gave a prereg report. She then said that new memberships aren't coming in fast enough to merit her printing labels for a work session next week. Mark said we can hand-label them, but let's get them out. Sharon said actually she wants to go to a seder. Mark asked her why she didn't say that in the first place.

**Program Division:** Priscilla said that she and Ben Yalow spent the weekend together. They went through the whole program participants database (750 people). They selected 100 people to do a reminder mailing to.

The pocket program/program booklet contents can depend upon what we want to do. We can produce an index sorted by people. We want to incorporate anything that's scheduled. By the beginning of August, if Program hasn't heard from an area they expect to hear from on schedule, they'll hunt them down. Mark said that it should include things like a hucksters' directory, film schedule, and so forth. We want to have an outline in the next apa.

Priscilla said that they've mostly been dealing with people lists. They're trying to get ready for the Program Frenzy weekend (May 13-14).

They went to the Back Bay Hilton to look over the function space.

Priscilla's still worried about SFWA-related issues. Mark said that several SFWA members have gotten promises of free memberships and/or hotel room preference. We have to figure out just what's going on here.

Mark also noted that the committee is funding none of the Program Frenzy travel. Everyone is doing this out of pocket. We may consider reimbursement after Noreascon. Similarly, we're not paying for Ben's and Peggy Rae's travel, but may consider it afterwards. Keep receipts in case that day arrives.

#### **George Division:**

**Hugos:** George noted that the Hugo nominations are now official. We added one short story since the Hugo meeting, since more ballots came in. He phoned Norman Spinrad in Paris yesterday, since he was the only nominee we hadn't heard from. Many nominees phoned him, including Harlan (twice — once to tell him his home phone was out of order). The final Hugo ballots went to the newszines this morning.

**Art Show:** Dave Anderson said that they're getting lots of entry forms asking for lots of space. He doesn't yet have a list of entrants together.

**Facilities Division:** Don reported that the Hynes is redrafting the event license agreement. It will probably be as long and obnoxious as the previous version, but at least they'll fix the typos. As noted last time, the cover letter from them should fuzz things up a bit. They claim they'll get the new version to us in 3 weeks. Their answers to our questions are supposed to be in the mail.

Don complained to the Hynes about ARA. The Hynes promises to "do something" but it'll be our middleweights complaining to their middleweights, with no one having the power to do anything.

He tried to contact the Marriott. They're getting a new Associations Sales Manager. However, she won't be back till 4/13, and has asked that no messages be taken.

Don went on a suite tour of the Sheraton today. There's no reason to hold back on the allocation of small, high-up suites. Also, the hotel is enforcing sending people through us for the suites. The San Francisco Worldcon bid tried to get their Sheraton to get them a suite in our Sheraton. Our Sheraton said no, and referred them to us. Don told them to fill out the form.

Debbie said that the Sheraton is sending out confirmations. The Sheraton, Hilton, Colonnade, Midtown, Lenox, and Copley are filled for all practical purposes (not counting our reserved room blocks). Davey said that we might get three dozen rooms from the Hancock Conference Center.

Davey and Sue Hammond then backed up to the ribbons report (which should have been given under Services). They will show samples and we can debate esthetics. They need a rough listing of what staff and committee ribbons we will need in three to five weeks.

**Extravaganzas Division:** Jill and Ellen Franklin gave a joint report.

Ellen said that she knows it's getting real, since she spent more of the last week on fan stuff than real stuff.

Ellen said that Extravaganzas has agreed to take photography responsibilities for the entire convention, since they will be using it the most. David Dyer-Bennet will be area head. They want to show the slides they gathered at Boskone and the show they put together from them.

We can think of their division as "Esthetics R Us." Ellen said the word for the week is "poignant." She feels this is so the more she works on the banquet. The phrase of the month is "all circuits are busy, call back later."

Ellen and Jill then went through a show-and-tell with Hugo designs. Ellen gave her designers a Hugo rocket, and they thought it was nice to fondle. Thus the first group of (rejected) designs. Most look like vibrators. Jim H. suggested that, given the discussion at the last division heads' meeting, we should use this design for beepers.

Ellen said that we're getting free design and fabrication time. Dupont donated a large quantity of corrian (synthetic granite) to her designer.

Ellen then showed the finalists, which were well-received.

Ellen also said that she has a lot of stuff in her warehouse that she'll have to get rid of. This includes sign stands, gold-mirror walls that bolt together, trees, a big rocket ship, free-standing arches, etc.

She got a commitment from her designers to paint a backdrop for Pam for SF Tonight. We'll just pay for the canvas.

Club SF has moved to the Program Division.

Jim H. said that at about the time the Program Booklet closes, we'll need the final staff/program lists so we can put together closing credits for the slideshow. Ellen said that we used the pictures we got at Boskone as a training tool. Jim said that their working assumption is a 16-minute slide show, showing 2 slides a second.

Jill said that Deryl Burr is putting together an addition to the manual. They'll use commonly used production terms for titles: gaffer, grip, best boy, etc.

Jim H. said that if anyone has experience with Polaroid slide film, they should talk to him. That may be the only way to get slides of closing ceremonies to use in the closing-ceremony slide show. Ellen said otherwise they'll have to stage part of it in advance.

Pam said that she's made some progress on SF Tonight. Mike Glyer will be the announcer. Tom Whitmore will be stage director. She's heard back from the guests and is working on scripts. The guest list is overbalanced with males. Can we think of any females?

Paula said that Ellen Kushner called her to confirm her position for Friday night. She liked Paula's letter.

George said we have a letter from Disney. They will help coordinate showings of *Roger Rabbit*.

Jill said that if we hear rumors of groups that want to give awards at the Hugos, they should talk to her. She will not solicit them. Priscilla said that ASFA specifically does *not* want to give out their awards at the Hugos. Tony said that, given our position as the 50th anniversary convention, we should try to get the First Fandom award given out with the Hugos. Rick agreed. Jill said that even for that award she won't go soliciting awards.

Priscilla said that Susan Schwartz wants to write a neofan's guide to the convention for the program book.

We adjourned at 9:40.

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## Excerpts from APA:89

Issue 107 / April 24, 1989

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

### Phone Etiquette (by Pam Fremon)

Now that we're moving into the home stretch, we (as individuals) can expect to be at the Clubhouse more often, and we can expect the MCFI phone (now installed, thanks to Mark) to ring more often. QED, we'll be expected to answer more phone calls relating to Noreascon.

While there will continue to be a number of general-information-type questions, I predict we'll see an upswing in reports of specific problems: "I never received the information from Area X that I requested in January." With the con only 4 months away, more people will feel time-crunched and try to solve problems by phone, rather than write. I think it would be helpful to have a set of guidelines for answering the common questions posted near the

phone.

This is not as easy as it sounds! It requires almost a policy decision to know what to say in the following instances:

Q: I haven't sent in my hotel form yet, but I want a room in the Sheraton, or if not that, the Back Bay Hilton. After all, I was a presupporter and converted at Atlanta. There won't be any problem with this, will there?

Q: I really want to be on the Program. I'm a new member of SFWA. I've never done this before.

Q: My company would like to have an exhibit showcasing our new product . . .

Q: I'm so mixed up. I hope you can help me. I can't afford to come to the con unless I can stay in the Sheraton in the room adjoining my brother-in-law's so we can share the babysitting, and I forgot to say that my panels in the Art Show have to be near his, and my table in the Huckster's room has to be near my sister's, and I can't be on any Program items opposite the WSFS meeting, and . . .

Q: Did you get the membership transfer (Art Show form/Masquerade registration/etc.) I sent you?

Q: Who's handling Registration (Babysitting/Club Tables/the Boxboro party/etc.)? What's their phone number? I need to talk to them.

You get the idea. These are a few of the likely ones that jumped out at me; there are a lot more. We're past the stage where any one of us could put on a concerned look (in person) and say, "I don't know (but I'll try to have someone who does get back to you)" and have the person be satisfied. They're going to want answers a lot quicker.

Perhaps writing down sample answers to the likely questions, and posting these by the phone, would be a help. Example: To the first question above, the written answer should state (if we want) how full the closest hotels are, and why the person should therefore rank every hotel on the form. Note that behind a lot of questions, there will be a lot of ruffled feathers that need to be smoothed, such as, "We appreciate your having presupported us and converted early. That early money did help us plan. However, our hotel rooms have been filling up fast, so your best bet is to get your form in immediately."

If the question is not one that can be resolved immediately, how are we going to help the questioner? First, connecting the questioner and the person with the answer (PWTa): I don't believe that *anyone's* home phone number (or work number!) should be given out unless they have *specifically stated* it is OK to do so.

Second, getting the message to the PWTa: Leaving it in the mailbox is not a good idea if they're not likely to be at the Clubhouse for another 3 weeks. In many instances, even a 1-week delay is not good. Should we say that all such cases should be phoned to the PWTa?

Third, how will the PWTa answer the question? By letter? Phone call? This might depend on the circumstance and how much time there is.

Is there an easier way of handling the "did you get my \_\_\_\_\_" question than having to call the person in charge of that area, who has to check their records, and then get back to the person? Since probably most areas receiving forms from a number of people have this info on comput-

er, how about having them print out a status list every 2 weeks to post by the MCFI phone stating only from whom they've received forms (and maybe date received). Obviously, the membership list already there does that for registration.

I realize this is a lot to absorb, but I think a unified plan of phone etiquette will gain us goodwill points and help us work more efficiently.

### Preliminary Program Design (by Ben Yalow)

This article addresses the preliminary design for the program for N3. It merely blocks out the hours for the program, and doesn't address what items go in what rooms at what times. However, a few notes on room utilization are implicit.

- The main program tracks will all take place on the third floor of the Hynes. The Green Room and Program Oops will be located there also. There will be a limited number of rooms left open for continuation rooms.
- The readings and special interest group meetings (SIGs) will be in the Beacon complex in the Sheraton. The Independence Ballrooms in the Sheraton will be available on Friday and Saturday, primarily for Art Program. On Sunday and Monday, the Art Show will need those rooms for sales, so Program can't have them.
- The Hilton will be the site of most of the Filk and Gaming activities.

The program will generally be designed as 50-minute events in hour slots. This will allow time for people to move to the next item, and let the program run on time. Some items may be given longer slots, generally as 2-hour slots for a 1.5+-hour item.

The following is a block representation of the program rooms as of April 16, 1989. This covers only the rooms in the Hynes and the Sheraton, and doesn't include the space in the Hilton (currently planned for gaming and filking). Room size estimates (in parentheses after room names) are always much smaller than the floor plans claim — I don't trust them, since they've never been right in the past, and seemed high when I took the Hynes tour.

### Hynes Rooms

#### Permanent rooms:

308 — Program Ops

|       | W | Th      | F, Sa, Su | M       |
|-------|---|---------|-----------|---------|
| N-8pm |   | 9am-9pm | 8am-9pm   | 8am-4pm |

313 — Green room (same hours as Program Ops)

301 (60) — continuation

307 (30) — continuation

#### Programming rooms:

(Times listed are the times of the beginning of the program item in the room, so a room listed as ending at 7pm has the last program item in the 7pm-8pm time slot)

| Room      | Th      | F, Sa, Su | M        | Slots |
|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|-------|
| 303 (60)  | N-1am   | 10am-1am  | 10am-2pm | 63    |
| 305 (60)  | 2pm-8pm | N-9pm     | N-2pm    | 40    |
| 309 (175) | N-9pm   | 10am-1am  | 10am-2pm | 60    |
| 310 (175) | 1pm-9pm | 11am-8pm  | 11am-2pm | 42    |
| 302 (350) | 3pm-8pm | N-7pm     | N-2pm    | 33    |
| 311 (300) | 2pm-8pm | 11am-8pm  | 11am-2pm | 41    |

|                      |         |          |          |    |
|----------------------|---------|----------|----------|----|
| 312 (350)            | 1pm-8pm | N-7pm    | N-2pm    | 35 |
| 304/6 (650)          | 3pm-8pm | 11am-7pm | 11am-2pm | 37 |
| (Total of 354 slots) |         |          |          |    |

#### Other Hynes space:

Super science — Auditorium — F N-6pm; Sa N-4pm

Ballroom A (700) — 4 slots/day F, Sa, Su

Club SF (200)

| Th    | F, Sa, Su | M        |
|-------|-----------|----------|
| N-1am | 10am-1am  | 10am-2pm |

### Sheraton Rooms

Beacon Complex: (8 × 50 person)

Readings (2 rooms)

| Th      | F, Sa, Su | M        | Slots |
|---------|-----------|----------|-------|
| 2pm-7pm | 11am-6pm  | 11am-2pm | 64    |

SIGs (4 rooms)

| Th     | F, Sa, Su | M       | Slots |
|--------|-----------|---------|-------|
| N-10pm | 9am-10pm  | 9am-2pm | 236   |

Spares (for readings/SIGs which overrun) — 2 rooms

Independence Ballrooms (3×100) (mostly Art Program)

F, Sa N-6pm (42 slots)

### Program Room Summary

#### Thursday

|          |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| N        | 60, 175                     |
| 1pm      | 60, 2×175, 300/350          |
| 2pm      | 2×60, 2×175, 2×300/350      |
| 3pm-7pm  | 2×60, 2×175, 3×300/350, 650 |
| 8pm      | 2×60, 2×175, 2×300/350, 650 |
| 9pm      | 60, 2×175                   |
| 10pm-1am | 60                          |

#### Friday, Saturday, Sunday

|                                  |                                                         |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 10am                             | 60, 175                                                 |
| 11am                             | 60, 2×175, 300/350, 650                                 |
| N-6pm                            | 2×60, 2×175, 2×300/350, 650, Auditorium (F. & Sa N-4pm) |
| 7pm                              | 2×60, 2×175, 3×300/350, 650                             |
| 8pm                              | 2×60, 2×175, 300/350                                    |
| 9pm                              | 2×60, 175                                               |
| 10pm-1am                         | 60, 175                                                 |
| Plus Independence F, Sa 11am-6pm |                                                         |

#### Monday

|       |                             |
|-------|-----------------------------|
| 10am  | 60, 175                     |
| 11am  | 60, 2×175, 300/350, 650     |
| N-2pm | 2×60, 2×175, 3×300/350, 650 |

### MCFI Meeting

Date: May 3, 1989

Notes by: Jim Mann

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.

Mark Olson said that the printer's press exploded, so we do not have the final Hugo ballot. Chip Hitchcock thinks it will be here Friday. Next Wednesday we'll have a Hugo/PR6 mailing. Sharon Sbarsky suggested that, since both the flyer and PR6 will be mailed, we can tuck the ballot in the PR. There was discussion as to whether it should be folded, if it were likely to fall out, etc. Mark said that would be decided off-line.

Ann Broomhead reviewed the status of sales items. She told Steve Whitmore to order all three types of pin (two for sale, and one for Hugo nominees). Mark said that, unless there are objections, we'll offer t-shirts at 25% above our net cost.

Ann also discussed possible gifts for the Guests of Honor. She showed some nice awards. Mark said that we can't put them in the budget yet, but Ann will find out how much lead time we would need. The committee should think about this. George Flynn said we should also think about what we want to give out if we give any special awards. Rick Katze said that what Ann had was much nicer than plaques. Paula Lieberman said that if our guests were like her they'd lose them on their desks. [We decided to do it.] Ann asked what the inscription should say. Mark said that the joint NESFA-MCFI esthetics committee can decide.

**GULP:** Jim Hudson said the next GULP, another chaos GULP, will be on May 18. They also want to discuss "making Noreascon fun."

**Mad Three Party:** Chip was just delivering the latest *Mad 3 Party* to Leslie Turek as Mark called on her. Leslie asked people to help staple and label. Jim H. suggested we could move it to next Wednesday, since we're doing everything else then. George objected to consideration.

**Services Division:** Laurie Mann said that they had been working on the informational mailing to area heads. The mailing would take place on Sunday.

The handicapped-access survey is just about ready to go. We've been delayed since nobody seems to rent mobies [electric carts].

Jim Mann reported on Publications. The proof copy (copyedited by George) of the Norton book has been returned to Tor. Also, Jim Frenkel promises to have the contracts to us any day now.

Harry Stubbs sent us a number of slides as possible covers to the Stranger book. Jim passed them around for all to see.

**Extravaganzas Division:** Jill Eastlake said that the big news was that Scott Robinson and Sally Martin have been appointed area heads for Closing Ceremonies. She also confirmed that David Dyer-Bennet will head photography. Mike Glycer will be the announcer for SF Tonight. Tom Whitmore is stage manager and is also working on the brunch.

Jill said that Deryl Burr has written up a list of definitions of theatre terms. They're going through them to see which apply to the Extravaganzas events.

Jill said that most recent work has been done by Rob Spence. Rob said that technical has been digging out the costs of lots of things. Things are starting to cost money. He reviewed some key items from a handout. Things on the handout don't match reality in some cases. He noted that things are listed by rooms, not items, since that seemed the more natural way to list them.

He reported that we have an agreement with BMI on music use. Note that they charge at two rates: one for under 7500 people; a higher one if we have more than that. Mark felt that if we have more people than that, the higher price would be no problem. We're working on a similar agreement with ASCAP. Pam Fremon asked if this means we can just use any BMI/ASCAP music we want throughout the con. Rob said yes; it's a bulk price.

Rick asked how much higher this budget was than original estimates. Rob said he didn't know. He'd just finished it a few hours ago and he was still adding up columns. However, he noted that some line items were significantly higher.

Jill ended the Extravaganzas report by saying that we got a letter from Stanley Schmidt, saying he was pleased we were having the Hugo Ceremony on Saturday.

**Second Floor Division:** Sharon reported prereg figures: 5095 total, 4668 attending, 322 supporting, 103 children's.

Sue Carson said that a number of people have been sending audition tapes to Passing Fancies.

Fred said that he gave the Second Floor apa to Wendy. It's a dilly this time. (George: size or content? Chip: or smell?) His apa contribution talks about possibilities for display cases: a covered table, a pair of bookcases on a table, bulletin board with plexiglass on both sides. Union labor may be the largest cost component. He wants to discuss this more before Disclave.

**Facilities Division:** Don said that not too much is going on. We now have a contract with the Hynes. He modified the contract, diddling a few things based on stuff they'd talked about. For example, it states that the first-floor function rooms will be free if we have a catered event there. Mark noted that the letter about their being reasonable is attached.

Don said he'd talked to the Marketing department. There is now an assistant there. Laurie asked if this were good or bad. Don said that it's easier to get someone to talk to, but we are talking to someone three levels removed from authority.

Don said that Ben Yalow was recently at a gathering of the Marriott chain. He met the Association Sales Manager of the Copley Marriott (the one who last month wasn't accepting messages while she was gone). We might be able to get 100 to 150 rooms there. Mark said that the way Ben described it, he talked about what a satisfied customer of the Springfield Marriott we were: the Springfield Marriott then said what wonderful people we were. It was a love fest. Mark said that room prices might be about \$109. Rick said this was \$15 higher than Dick Spelman was getting. Don said that's because we want a bigger chunk of the hotel. [The Marriott did attempt to get another convention to release some rooms to us, but the other group didn't want to do so at this time.]

Debbie King said that we've now used up about half of all our hotel rooms. We've gotten a few letters from people who weren't happy with what we gave them. Jim H. said we have to think about who gets Marriott rooms if we get them.

Priscilla asked about Sheraton Towers rooms. Don said that we have 6 rooms blocked in the Towers for the guests.

**Program Division:** Priscilla said that, as of yesterday, all the questionnaires had been entered. Then she got today's mail. The database is alive. Aron's entering data; she's entering data.

They have more ideas for program items than they know what to do with.

Program frenzy is coming. It will be a working week-end.

She gave some numbers: 300 people heard from, 100 staff and guests, 150 inferred. They have 400 or so main items.

They've worked up an outline for the program booklet. Mark described the booklet. It would be printed 8-10 days prior to the convention. It would contain all convention handouts: maps, restaurant guide, film schedule, hucksters directory, and so forth.

#### George Division:

George said that as soon as Technical develops a time machine, he's going to resign last month.

**Art Show:** Dave Anderson said that they are sending out space confirmations. We'd be overfull with the requests on hand and those who we really want. We've received lots of nice letters, such as one saying "We're really looking forward to a real art show." We still have some brainstorming to do on the print shop.

**Hugos:** George said that he's been assured by Chip and Greg Thokar that Hugo and site-selection ballots do indeed exist. We had two withdrawals. All we have to say is in the press releases. Mark said that, as many of us know, there's been quite a stir on the computer nets. Don't be the source of rumors. Even official stuff gets distorted. One rumor actually started from the press release, but got distorted as one person told another. If asked about anything, just refer people to the press release. Rick expanded on this. Avoid even reading the press release word by word to someone. Let them read it themselves. George suggested carrying copies around.

The open meeting ended at 8:45. Mark noted that the closed meeting on special awards would start at about 9:10. [The awards will remain confidential until the convention, so the minutes will not appear here.]

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### Division Heads Meeting

Date: May 7, 1989

Notes by: Leslie Turek

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This meeting was held from 11 am to 1 pm at the NESFA clubhouse on a glorious spring day. Attending were Mark and Priscilla Olson, George Flynn, Ann Broomhead, Dave Cantor, Pam Fremon, Jim Hudson, Ellen Franklin, Jim and Laurie Mann, Don and Jill Eastlake, Fred Isaacs, Ben Yalow, and Leslie Turek. The meeting was preceded by an hour of side meetings and work sessions, featuring the preparation of the area heads packets for mailing. Mark asked the division heads to each insert their division budgets into the packets for their area heads. Mark also announced that the timeline would be revised in a few weeks.

**Intern.** We received a letter in February from a Suffolk University professor of journalism, Deb Geisler, who expects to have some free time in the summer and is willing to help out. She also has a student, Babette Mortell, who would like to intern for us. Jim H. met with them and learned that they are fans who have strong computer and publications skills. Deb also has strong contacts (ex-students) at various local media organizations. They will come to the work session on May 17 to meet us and

start taking on tasks. Possible jobs for them include support for Pam in handling the mail, helping Program get their letters out, setting up press contacts, working on the program booklet, restaurant guide, or Stranger book, helping with prereg, preparation of maps, etc. Pam and Jim H. will coordinate their efforts. We need to give the intern at least one good project, as we will need to write a review so she can get college credit for her work.

**Program.** Yesterday, Ben and Priscilla went through a preview of the programming frenzy weekend (which will be next weekend). Priscilla's living room is now transformed with yellow post-its and masking tape. (Next week they plan to advance to plywood and mylar.) They have entered all questionnaires received prior to Friday, and have assembled a large list of potential program items from numerous sources. They have 800 tentative items to fit into about 400 slots. They have also tentatively assigned selected program items to time and rooms, and have assigned some participants.

Next weekend, the program staff will arrive starting Friday afternoon. There will be a preliminary meeting Friday night to lay out the ground rules of what is to be accomplished over the weekend. At 10 am on Saturday, there will be a Hynes tour. From 1 pm to about 6:30, they will work over the program. At 7 pm, there will be a barbecue. Ben wanted a late-evening work session, but Mark announced that he was planning to enforce a strict curfew and turn the lights out at 11 pm.

Priscilla affirmed that they would not be producing the final perfect program. The *draft* program will be sent out to the participants, and will then be revised based on the nasty letters and angry phone calls they expect to receive. Tim Szczesuil is working on program precis and should have about 70% of them done by the end of the weekend.

This implies there will be a big program mailing late this month, in which each participant will be sent a personalized schedule.

Ben said that they would try to leave holes, as there were people they wanted on the program who we haven't heard from. We have more ideas than we can use. We can add some more items if we get the use of the Hynes 1st-floor rooms.

George asked how many items will be held at one time. Priscilla said 10-12 at peak times. She admitted that they were practicing "baroque" programming rather than "minimalist" programming. People will complain that there's too much going on, but that's okay. Better to have lots of neat things to do than not enough.

**Space Allocation.** This is being held up a bit until we settle where the large open parties will go: in either the Hynes first floor or the Sheraton third floor. We are still trying to set up a meeting with the new Sheraton management.

The location of the Boxboro party is also still unclear. The Boxboro staff took tours of the Hilton and Hynes yesterday. The Hilton space is smaller, and there are some traffic flow worries, but the Hilton management seems to be enthused about the concept of a theme party. If Boxboro used the Hilton, we'd have to find alternate space for games and/or filking.

Ellen reported that Hilton had made a proposal for supplying the party, but Boxboro had not yet had a chance to negotiate it. Ellen guessed that it would come out less

costly than the Hynes.

George asked about the location of Registration. Don said that now that we have a signed contract with the Hynes, we can talk to the actual building management (as opposed to marketing and sales). Now we should be able to determine if we can get the lobby area for registration. Fred said that we may have to use the Sheraton Constitution on Wednesday, anyway, so if we can't get the Hynes lobby, we'll just stay put.

It has been decided that registration will be open whenever the Hynes is open. That means from 9 am to 3 am. (The Hynes will be open for only staff from 8-9 am and 3-3:30 am.) After midnight, we may have a very minimal registration setup and not accept new memberships (so we don't have to handle money).

How shall we handle people who come in early (Tuesday and Wednesday) while the Hynes is still being set up? On Tuesday, the decorator will be working, so we should probably limit access. On Wednesday, we should let in anyone who'd like to help out. Ellen suggested getting a bunch of "Move-In Staff" sticky badges. We should see if we can have the mixing area operating by late Wednesday. This is complicated by the fact that we will be setting up exhibits there. Laurie suggested we set up a "Ready Room" in the Sheraton before the Hynes is open (perhaps in the Commonwealth room). It should be a lounge space with an outpost of People Mover (someone called it a "gofer trap," and it was suggested that it be baited with chocolate) and convention and local tourist information. (These would be the days when people would be most interested in touring the city.)

The Second Floor division needs the two rooms across from Hall C as lounge areas (at least one as a smoking lounge). They may not need a separate room for the used-book ghetto; that could be in the mixing area. They are still working out the exhibit sizes; this depends a lot on the cost of secure display space. There will be a division apart shortly, and a meeting at Disclave, then we'll work on exhibit layouts after that.

We are still tentatively holding Liberty for babysitting and DragonsLair, even though sleeping rooms might be more convenient for the staff. Jim M. recalled that the Boskone babysitting staff expect to receive crash space; Mark suggested they add that to their budget. Mark asked if we were doing a survey to count how many kids might be needing these services. Laurie said that something would be going out to all children members around June 1. It was pointed out that there might be additional kids that joined as full members, but that was felt to be rare.

The masquerade has requested room for the photo area in the mixing area, but this hasn't been firmly blocked out yet. This might use the "park" areas or the autographing area. It will probably need curtain backdrops.

We discussed which position the auditorium/Hall C divider would be placed in. Mark felt it should be toward the auditorium, which we believe would still leave 4200 seats, after accounting for the stage and other space taken up by the masquerade layout. We need to confirm these numbers.

During the Anniversary Party, we will probably open the divider between the auditorium and the mixing area. The chairs will not be placed into the auditorium until after

that event. Paula would like a cafe table setup for the party, but we can't afford that.

The business meeting will be in the second-largest programming room. Mark suggested scheduling it for 10am-noon each day, except for 9:30am-11:30am on Sunday because of the banquet. George felt 9:30am-11:30am each day would be better. This allows the option of running slightly overtime if that would allow a future meeting to be cancelled. Priscilla promised to schedule WSFS-oriented programming right after the business meeting in the same room.

The location of the various internal offices will wait until the party location is decided.

**Budget.** Mark reported that registration is running ahead of schedule and we may be able to add some money to the budget. However, we've just had a rate hike, so we should wait until the end of the month to decide. This will probably be the last time we can add funding to the budget before it's too late to make much difference. Mark then reviewed some of the areas that might need more funding.

The newsletter is currently funded for only minimal mimeo reproduction. Jim H. announced that he had talked briefly to Copy Cop and had an initial price. For 15 issues, 5000 copies (with 1000 needed in the first hour), colored paper, and on a holiday weekend, they are quoting their standard rate of 4 1/2 cents per side, or a total of \$6750. We have hopes that we can negotiate this lower.

Another area is technical. The current technical wish-list is about double what is budgeted, and prices are running higher than expected. They are still collecting quotes, and hope to have a better idea after their June 3 meeting.

Guards are budgeted at \$42K, but are currently projected to cost \$65K. We need to try to revise the plan to save some money, and may also have to increase the budget. People should talk to Don over the next few weeks about their guard requirements.

There is \$9000 in the budget for union labor, but that's only a guess. We need to meet with Bob Dubinski and try to refine this. Ellen believes that our volunteers can use tools and hand trucks during setup. We will definitely need to hire union elevator operators and loading dock workers.

We also need to learn more from Bob about the fire code. We've had a sample of the Baltimore art show hangings in for approval for a while now, but haven't heard anything.

Ellen announced that she is under pressure to get the exhibit stuff she is donating to us out of the warehouse right away. If we want to get it, we will need to move it next weekend, in spite of the fact that this conflicts with the programming weekend. Plans were made to rent a truck and storage space. Ellen suggested that we photograph each piece as we move it into storage so we will know what we have. Some pieces might need painting or repair. The Boxboro crew will try to help, since they hope to use some of the material for their party. Ellen gave directions to the warehouse in Rhode Island.

**Phone.** Pam wrote up some suggestions for handling calls on the MCFI phone (see page 7). For information calls, we should try to keep some pre-stuffed envelopes ready to send out. The person taking the call can write the name and address directly on the envelope. Priscilla asked people to date and initial messages, so the recipient

would know whom to talk to if things are unclear. Leslie suggested posting a set of file cards on the wall near the phone, one for each area, stating what can be said about that area. These can easily be updated. Don suggested a notebook instead, but Mark thought that might be less likely to get used. Pam thought there would be a maximum of about 20 areas that would need such information. It could say things like when the last mailing for that area was (or will be), so people don't worry about not hearing.

Pam asked how the incoming messages should be passed on. The general feeling was that we should use the same method as mail messages: basically put the message in the recipient's mailbox. If they don't check their mail regularly, then that's a problem we need to solve for their mail messages also.

Leslie suggested that people going to conventions could easily copy what we're calling "the party line" (the current set of information cards) to bring along with them.

The meeting adjourned as scheduled at 1pm.

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## GULP Meeting

Date: May 18, 1989  
Topic: Miscellaneous  
Notes by: Leslie Turek

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This was a second catch-all meeting with the goal of covering some of the topics we didn't get to at the March 1 meeting. It was attended by Jim Hudson, Priscilla and Mark Olson, George Flynn, Paula Lieberman, Greg Thokar, Leslie Turek, Pam Fremon, Fred Isaacs, Sue Carson, Mike DiGenio, Ellen Franklin, and Don Eastlake.

**The Spring Program Frenzy** We started off intending to talk about how to make the work more fun, but quickly got diverted into a discussion of the Spring Program Frenzy. Actually, the topic was relevant, since this was an example of intense activity, and the people who did not attend were wondering how the team worked together, as well as being interested in hearing what was accomplished.

About 12 people attended the program frenzy, with about 7-8 involved in the real work at any given time. At times, people showed the results of stress, but there were good periods, too. People did break for dinner, albeit grudgingly, and Mark forced them to go to sleep by turning the lights off at 11:30.

In general, there was more work to be done than they expected. This points up one cause of burnout: unreasonable expectations. Sometimes we need to enforce discipline on people who won't do it for themselves. A case in point is Ben: left alone, he would work to exhaustion, but he surrounds himself with people who won't let him.

One of the problems is that they hadn't done enough planning beforehand on how the computer database would work. It turned out that things which worked fine for Boskone (with 150 people in the database) didn't work as well for the larger scale of Noreascon (800 people). There needed to be more automatic integrity checks than Boskone needed, so they ended up designing these in on the fly. Additional new reports were needed. We still don't have easy ways to check time conflicts with outside events, for example. The suggestion was made to enter text as a comment on each person's schedule, and then re-

view them manually. The precis still are not completed.

The program division now has a spare PC which they will be happy to loan out for a test of the badge-generation software.

**Making it More Fun.** Getting back to the original topic, Jim pointed out that before N2 some people did freak out and threaten to quit (including the chairman — twice). We should expect this, but be ready to provide support when it happens. We need to treat each other carefully and be more aware of what other people are working on and the problems they have. Fred said that we need to lighten up.

We need to be careful how we say things, and if we notice we're starting to get upset, we should warn the person who's pushing us so they can back off.

Pam suggested we make the work sessions more fun by bringing snacks, music, toys, and by scheduling breaks. Others felt that they don't have a lot of time to spare, and would like to just get the work done and go home.

We discussed the difficulty of having small group semi-private meetings in the open space at the clubhouse. We need to be sensitive to the need for privacy, and not take it personally if we're excluded from a particular meeting.

Leslie suggested that we should remind ourselves of why we're doing this. It would be nice if Jim Mann could save a few complimentary letters to read at meetings. We need to pat each other on the back more. As an example, Greg noted that he hadn't received any comments on PR 6.

Jim reminded people of the community barn-raising scene in the movie *Witness*. He thought that was what working on Noreascon should feel like.

Mark felt that he gets run ragged at meetings and never has enough time to talk to the people he needs to. Leslie said it was like that for N2, also. She would go to gatherings with lists of what she needed to talk to each person about.

**Program Registration.** Everyone will register at regular convention registration, but Program will have an outpost there to handle program-related issues. Greg will be in charge of this. The main problem they're worried about is people who are scheduled on the program who haven't joined the convention. They will try to deal with this in advance by carefully crafting cover letters to different categories of people:

- People who sent in questionnaires, who we've scheduled on the program, who are members. (No problem)
- People who sent in questionnaires, who we've scheduled on the program, who are not members. (We remind them to join)
- People who sent in questionnaires, who haven't been scheduled. (We explain the situation)
- People who didn't send in questionnaires, who are members, who we'd like to have on the program. (We invite them to be on the program.)
- People who didn't send in questionnaires, who are not members, who we'd like to have on the program. (We invite them to be on the program and ask them to join the convention.)

People who are not convention members or who do not respond to our invitation will be only tentatively scheduled, and will not be printed in the program booklet unless they have joined and/or responded by then. Greg will need a phone connection to program ops, so he can confer with them about people who ask to be on the program at-con. Since most of the program will be set at that point, we will feel no obligation to find a spot for these people unless we really want them.

We will have the option of handing out 1-day passes to people from outside the field who are coming to the con only to be on the program. We can also use these for visiting spouses, etc.

Mark asked Priscilla to circulate the draft letters as soon as possible.

It was pointed out that because of the size of the membership database, it is not always possible to determine if a program participant is a member (because of the possibility of two people with the same or similar names). This points up the need for a universal fannish identifier [joke — I think]. Unfortunately, we already have to get social security numbers for our artists, due to IRS reporting rules.

**Making it Easier.** Jim posed the next discussion topic: Where can we cut down on our scope?

Leslie was worried about the display items that Second Floor got from Ellen's warehouse. Many of them need extensive setup, painting, repair, etc. Do we really want to spend time on this? Mark thought we could let people willing to help into the mixing area early. We could use that standard bright yellow tape to block off the setup areas. Leslie thought it would be chaos. Jim estimated we would need one setup leader for each group of 4-6 people.

Jim said that people would come out of the woodwork to help out in the last few months, and we should plan for this. College students, for example, have more time free in the summer. We can use them for things like tracking down rentals and making signs.

**Setup and Facilities.** (Without exactly planning it that way, the discussion moved from "Making it Easier" to a discussion of setup and facilities.) Will the Hynes be air conditioned during setup days? "To the extent they think it's necessary," is what the contract says.

We need to work out the exact sequence of when we will get into the Hynes, how much time Freeman will need to do their setup, and when we can really start our own setup. We should plan on having services areas set up before the individual areas start operating. Logistics may have things in their hands for several days, between loading and unloading the trucks. Anything vital (such as art show records, etc.) should not go on the trucks.

Don announced that the Baltimore hanging material was determined to be not acceptable to the Boston fire department. We suggested it might be made acceptable with intumescent paint, and they said we were welcome to submit a sample so painted. We need to discuss this with Baltimore, and to look at other hanging options.

Don went to a meeting at the Sheraton to discuss party options. He said that our convention coordinator, Kim Pazera, has been working hard behind the scenes. The hotel has agreed to sell us supplies (including beer and wine) in bulk for not-too-outrageous prices. They will deliver to a function room, and we must handle the resale

and distribution from there. We can use these items in sleeping rooms and in offices without paying corkage, and can resell them to other groups for parties. The only restriction they are still imposing is that parties in function rooms must be catered by the hotel. They will be sending us a letter spelling this out in detail.

This is encouraging, but we are still worried about the problems that will ensue if we allow large open parties on the Sheraton sleeping-room floors. It would be a lot better if they could be in the function areas. We need to continue discussing this. This does seem to imply that we should locate our staff lounge and convention offices in the Sheraton.

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## Excerpts from APA:89

Issue 108 / May 25, 1989

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

### Program Updates (by Jim Hudson)

I've been thinking about the first issue of *Looking Glass* [the convention daily newsletter] each day, the one which is supposed to have the whole program. It seems to me that we need to make this fit on one two-sided sheet, and it has to include the time, location, title, and participants for each program item. It should also identify any changes from the basic schedule, ideally describing what has changed.

The problem with this is space. About the greatest density we can achieve is 8 lines per inch, which gives us 176 lines total including all headers and margins. With half-inch margins and a 1-inch title area on the first page, we're down to 152 lines. To make the layout clear, I think we should work with fixed columns, rather than run-together text. Subtracting column headers and white space, I'd guess we've got about 130-140 lines to use for program material. And we've probably got about 125 characters in width.

This isn't a lot of space. We'll probably have over 100 program items in a day, especially if we include passing fancies, readings, autographs, etc. So almost all program items have to fit on a single line. Consider the following:

Location, 10 characters (S-Hampton; H-301)

Time, 13 characters if we want start and end  
(10:00-11:00am)

Title, 40 characters

Participants, 55 characters

Space between columns, 3 characters

That totals 121 columns.

So, how do we produce this? Our main options are Macintosh and PC, going to laser printers. For simplicity, I'd use one of our PCs, R&R [a report-writing program] running off the program database, and an HP Laserjet. This won't easily do the title block for the newsletter, but that can be prepared in advance. It will go directly, without tweaking, from the program database to final copy, which seems to me to be a big advantage. Macs are

going to be a scarce resource, and the Laserjet has the fonts we need built in. Program could produce the final copy for this issue each day.

There's only one real problem with this, which is identifying changes. On the Laserjet, about all we can actually do with small type is underline it. And I don't see how we could easily underline the 1 changed participant in R&R. The tools aren't very good for showing what has changed. On the other hand, it would be easy to create a flag column showing that *something* has changed since the (real) Program Book. That's the simplest way out.

So, my proposal is that we create the headers for these issues in advance, and then use the existing program PC with R&R and a Laserjet to do our final copy for these issues. And I think that we'll be able to fit this issue onto 1 sheet of paper per day with this technology.

### The Program Booklet — A Preliminary Design (by Mark & Priscilla Olson)

This memo brings together notes and discussions by us with Ben, Jim H., and others.

The Program Booklet is an 8.5×11 saddle-stapled booklet which will be printed as close to the con as possible to contain up-to-the-minute schedules. It is modeled on the Nolacon *Real Program Book*. We intend that all schedules and handouts which go to the entire membership be included in here.

We are looking at doing 8000 copies. The printing technology we're looking at encourages multiples of 8 pages (or possibly 4) at a cost for 8000 copies of about \$120/page.

We are doing a design based on an austere budget and several expansions from that. We intend to decide which version we go with about 1 August.

We'll base our estimates on:

|     |                                                  |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------|
| 500 | program participants                             |
| 100 | others (autographs & readings)                   |
| 400 | panel-type program items                         |
| 150 | autograph sessions                               |
| 100 | readings and other single-author events          |
| 50  | pre-planned discussion groups and SIG meetings   |
| 150 | other events (Films, Extravanzas, Club SF, etc.) |

Passing Fancies are not part of any printed schedule and are not included here. We assume an average of 4 program participants per panel.

Jim Hudson did a write-up looking at the Newsletter printing the day's whole schedule. He concluded that the basic listing fits on a single line (albeit with fairly small type) and that we can plausibly expect to get around 80 lines/page. We'll base further estimates on those numbers.

- (1) The basic item is the **program listing**. This comes in two parts: a grid, and a listing sorted by day, by time within day, and by room within each hour. It will contain time, place, title, and people for each item. We intend that films and extravaganzas be included here.

Jim Hudson's analysis suggests that we can fit this into a single line, so we have  $(400+150+100+50+150)=850$  lines, or eleven pages of program listing. The grid is harder to estimate, but I'll guess at 4 pages.

If we have space, we can go beyond the basic and do three things:

- We can expand the descriptions of the program items. This will add 400 lines (panels only get the additional line) and add 5 pages.
- We can add a cross-index by person (all of the events at which E.E. Smith will be present). We have a total of  $(400 \times 4 + 150 + 100 + 150) = 2000$  person-items. Each person-item generates an entry which identifies the event. At best, we can probably hope for one line/person, or about 500 lines or about 6 pages. (We need to figure out a good way to identify the events — day/time/room seems minimal.)
- We can add the precis of all the program items. At 400 panels and about 80 words/precis and 6 characters/word, we need room for 190,000 characters. Assuming only 20% wastage for spacing between precis and assuming another 20% for item time and title, we get roughly 275,000 characters. Jim H.'s figures give us a page of 80 lines by 120 characters, which is 10,000 characters per page, or roughly 28 pages for the precis. This may be somewhat extravagant...

- (2) The next most important items are the **maps**. This will probably be maps of all three levels of the Hynes, the 2nd and 3rd floors of the Sheraton, and a map of the general Prudential Center area. A Hilton map might be included. Three pages if we squeeze (Hynes levels 2 & 3 on one page; Sheraton 2 & 3 on a second page, and Hynes 1 plus Prudential on a third page). If we have more space, we should certainly expand this to five pages. We could also include a T/hotel/Bus route map (1 page).
- (3) Next, a **general guide to Noreascon**, which will be some sort of arrangement covering the whole convention: No individual program items, but just start and stop times. Extravanzas and area hours (such as Babysitting, Art Show, Hucksters, etc.). One page (the back cover).
- (4) The third major item is the **restaurant guide**. MLO did a brief (though decent) restaurant guide for Boskone 24 in 2.5 pages (including map). Estimated at 4 pages for a brief guide and 6 for a fuller one.
- (5) The **Hucksters' directory** would run a minimum of 1 page (map only) but might run 4 pages (including name/address listing). Note: we leave the Art Show out deliberately since its layout will probably not be fixed at press time. In a very high-end option, we might include a map of the Art Show without artist names.
- (6) We would also put a more detailed **film program** in here. We're not sure Films plans one, but this is the place for it. We assume that it would contain a film schedule (1 page) and file descriptions (2 pages??).
- (7) We might include a **personal schedule** page: some sort of basic grid where people can fill in things they want to see.
- (8) Finally, a nice extra is a set of special-interest program listings like what the Boskone Art Show often does: listings of program items of interest to to specific groups. This might include: filk, masquerade, art, gaming, film, ?? Nothing in the basic booklet, but up

to 6 pages in an expanded booklet. This would also be a good place for a broken-out autograph schedule.

*[These options give a range of costs from \$3000 for the basic booklet (25 pages) to \$9960 to the biggest version of the booklet (83 pages). The complete table of options has been omitted here.]*

Our base budget for this item is in the range of \$4000, so it looks like we can plan on something a bit more elaborate than version #2, but not all of #3. *[Version 2 included the basic program listing, a 4-page restaurant guide, and one page of film notes. Version 3 had an expanded program listing, a 6-page restaurant guide, and 3 pages of film notes. Both versions had a grid, 4 pages of maps, 1 page of overall schedule, and 1 page of hucksters' directory. Neither included the index by program participant, precies, or a personal schedule page.]* It is possible that we can reduce our printing costs somewhat by using other methods — this is being investigated. We place a high priority on the Program Booklet, so more money is quite likely if we wind up with more members than we are planning on right now.

### Display Setups (by Fred Isaacs)

We were somewhat traumatized by the cost of display case rental: it's \$250 per case plus an extra \$50 if we need to use the case's interior lighting. There's also an availability problem, though it's much less of a problem at that price. There are half-a-dozen display cases available locally. There are a large number of them available in New York; however, this means that the decorator would have to truck them to Boston. The decorator is not interested in trucking fewer than 15 or 20 display cases.

After some talks with the decorator and some thinking on our own, we've come up with some alternatives. Other custom techniques are possible, if we really need to do them. However, it's easier and cheaper to use one of the methods described below.

- Skirted and covered table with a raised plexiglass cover. The cover will be mounted on 2 × 4's on edge which will form a raised rim around the table, with the plexiglass sheet parallel to the tabletop. Rough cost guesstimate: \$80 per table, including the table.

- Pressboard bulletin board with plexiglass covering. A similar plexiglass and 2 × 4 framework would be mounted vertically over a free-standing pressboard bulletin board. There would probably be two independent framework and plexiglass structures (one for each side) which would clamp to each other around the bulletin board. The pressboard will accept thumbtacks and other pointy fasteners, but we will not be able to hang anything heavy on these. Bulletin boards are 4' × 8', though we may have to use 4' × 6' in some locations. Rough cost guesstimate for a double-sided setup is \$160, including labor.

- Bookcase with plexiglass covering. Very sturdy unfinished pine bookcases with adjustable shelves can be bought. These would have a framework and plexiglass cover clamped over the front. They would be placed on tables to make the bottom shelves more visible. The bookcases would have some resale value, but the amount is unknown so I have not factored it in. Two 4' × 4' bookcases on a 2' × 8' table would cost about \$400. (\$248 of this is the cost of the bookcases.) Variations are possible depending on the size and quality of bookcase

used. Lighting with any of the bookcase units could be a problem.

- The remaining alternative is the display cases. These are 38" high and either 4' or 6' long. They cost about \$250 to rent. While they have internal lighting, each electrical outlet will probably cost us about \$50.

- Pegboard is also available from the decorator. This is 8' high and comes in 3', 4', and 5' widths. It is \$9.15 per foot of width, so a 5' wide unit would be \$45.75. Only one side is usable, probably due to the support hardware. However, this includes trucking, setup, supporting hardware, and fire marshal approval, so it is probably our best approach to the freebie racks.

- Velcro-friendly (i.e., velcro will stick to them) double-sided display panels are available from the decorator at \$140.55 each. This also includes trucking, support hardware, and setup. Each side has about 38" wide × 7'3" high of usable display space.

- If security is not an issue, bulletin boards and tables without the plexiglass covers can be rented for \$15 per table and \$20 per bulletin board.

### Hasbro Expedition (by Fred Isaacs)

Many thanks to Ellen Franklin for allowing us to pillage her left-over exhibit supplies. The expedition met at an Unghodly hour of the morning at Ellen's. I got there about 7:30 am. Fellow participants were Ellen, Steve Boheim, Ann Broomhead, Brigid Cassidy, Jill Eastlake, Ken Knabbe, Allan Kent, Anne Norton, Charles Seelig (truck-driver), Pat Vandenberg, and some Buxboro people for whom I have faces but not names (my apologies to them). After many fiascos due to Budget Rent-a-Truck, the truck arrived at about 8:30. We then drove to the warehouse "somewhere in Rhode Island." We finished loading at about 12:30, took a lunch break, drove to the storage space in Hudson, Mass., and unloaded.

While there was some hostility directed towards the truck rental company for giving us a truck that was smaller than the one that we had reserved, this resulted in us getting a truck that was smaller than the storage space. The one that we had reserved was larger. The fates may have saved us from ourselves.

It should be noted that all of the acquired items have been used in Toy Fair shows in New York. This means that they have met New York fire codes and are quite apt to meet Boston ones as well. The Hynes '89 division has acquired the following items which are now in the Noreascon 3 storage space (additional items were ceded to Buxboro and are not listed here):

- 4 triple banner racks
- Approximately 8 single banner racks
- Approximately 8 banners. (Note: we can make additional banners out of fireproof felt.)
- One levelor wall separator unit. The tinkertoy committee needs to try assembling this so we can see how big it is and if we have all of the pieces.
- One giant funky plywood toy rocket ship. This is shaped like a fat canoe and stands on end. It is blue and orange with yellow fins. It's about 7' tall and 5' wide. We may want to paint it.

- Several two-dimensional funky trees. We need to find a way to lift these up a few feet to make them more tree-like.
- One trellis wall and two light trellis sections. These could use touch-up paint, and we need to find a way to prop them up.
- One small elliptical gazebo pinnacle. *[We later found that this would have to be returned to Hasbro.]*
- 10 heavy chrome-steel sign holders.

If we were to rent another storage space the size of the one we have and make another truck run, we could get more stuff. In addition, there are some items which we can borrow briefly and return shortly after the con. We would have to pick these up on a logistics run.

#### Registration Meeting (by Fred Isaacs)

A registration discussion was held at Fred Isaacs's house on Sunday, 14 May 1989, from about 1 pm to about 5 pm. Participants were:

|                |                                           |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Ann Broomhead  | Treasurer                                 |
| Dave Cantor    | Deputy Treasurer                          |
| Suli Carson    | Soothing influence on<br>Co-Division head |
| Fred Isaacs    | Co-Division head and<br>minutes writer    |
| Alexis Layton  | Badge committee                           |
| Ruth Sachter   | Registration area head                    |
| Sharon Sbarsky | Pre-registration area head                |
| Greg Thokar    | Program Registration                      |
| Leslie Turek   | Chairman's Staff                          |

Various people arrived and left at different times and this determined the sequence of discussions. None of the conclusions are totally cast in concrete, but they are at least cast in silly putty; they are our current working assumptions and they do not seem likely to change.

We began with a discussion of the interface to Program Registration since Greg had to leave first. We will not pull program participants' registration material; it will be intermixed with everyone else's. (We will not pull anyone else's registration material, either.) We will attempt to mark program participants' badges with a "P" when we print them. This "P" marking will allow the registration staff to point out to program participants that they should go to the nearby program registration table and check in with the program staff.

There is a generic problem with people who have had checks or charges bounce, or who have paid the wrong amount. Treasury and Ruth will agree on a form for this; it will get filed at the problems desk. A note with a forward reference to the form will get filed in place of the badge of each person affected by the problem (there may be more than one). These people can then be quickly referred to the problems desk.

The physical siting of registration was also discussed. We will tentatively continue with the plan to use the Hynes registration area as our preferred location, with the Sheraton Constitution Ballroom as a fallback option. The Hynes registration area has a number of problems as far as our physical setup goes; there's a lot less useful room there than one would think. (We may have to cut back on some of the proposed registration area satellite outposts.) However, using the Sheraton means that all the people who haven't registered yet have to traipse through the

Sheraton to do so. We agreed that we do not want to move registration during off hours, since the confusion attendant on that would outweigh the benefits. The Hynes has a small lockable office off the registration area that can be used for securing computers, etc. We will not have a cashbox during off hours.

We felt that the only reasonable way to have registration be open in some form whenever the Hynes was open would be to have an "off-hours" mode in which we would hand out badges to anyone who is pre-registered, but not take in any payments for new memberships. We would prefer to switch to "off-hours" mode whenever it is very late and the traffic has dropped to a level that warrants it. However, we will probably have to run some sort of full registration up to the hours we publish in PR 7. We need to agree on what those hours will be.

There was some discussion of one-day admissions and their usefulness for program participants from outside the SF community and their entourages. There seems to be no good reason not to be liberal enough about giving these out to prevent sticky situations and bruised egos. Day admissions will be credited towards full memberships or admissions only if a receipt for them is presented, and we will not give out receipts with the freebies.

There was some discussion of phone line requirements. Registration will need 2 for charges (since our memberships are expensive enough so that most people will charge them) and one at the problems desk. Sales will need 1 for charges and Program Registration feels that they will need 1 also. This will be 5 phone lines in the area; this should produce enough redundancy so that we can still operate with 2 of them down.

Credit card imprinters were also discussed. NESFA does not have enough and we will need more. Treasury will take care of this.

Computers and printers are also a potential problem. If we are producing printed labels at con, we will need to dedicate a computer for that. We will also need a computer for database searches and for updates of the membership list. (We will have a plethora of printed reports keyed by everything that we can think of, but there are still sure to be cases which will require searching the registration database.) While those items can be deferred to some extent, having a second compatible computer in the area provides a comforting amount of backup. Trying to run with only one would be entirely too much of an invitation to Murphy.

Printers are also an issue. Alex's badge-making program requires a PostScript printer. We will probably have to rent two of those. Also, whenever you have computer hardware, you need someone to take care of it. Registration will need an on-call system manager. We will also need two laminating machines. We will experiment with the badge-making software and hardware to try to make sure that we can print partial sheets of labels. That will eliminate the techno-aggravation of having to batch memberships until we have a label sheet full.

Color-coded table skirts and uses of the decorator's registration tables with lighted signs were also discussed. Colored skirts will make it easier to direct people to other tables such as information. The lighted signs will also help for things like information where we want high visibility. A consistent color-coding scheme would be good for things

like information and people-mover, which have multiple sites.

The Hynes layout should have Information at the front (Boylston St. side) followed by new registrations. Pre-registration should be on the Sheraton side. It's not clear where the satellites should go. We should try and keep these to a minimum; it's not really clear that the Hucksters' room needs one. That would leave us with Program, Handicapped (?), Information, Sales, and People Mover. The Information outpost should not stock any literature that we don't mind giving out to non-convention members. It should be on the side where we are apt to get the most walk-ins so that they can field the "Gee, what kind of convention is this?" type questions.

Registration paper and people flow was analyzed and will be as follows:

**Pre-registration:** People without quickie forms are told to fill out a substitute quickie form. Those with quickie forms exchange them for their badges. Those with substitute quickie forms present them plus suitable ID and exchange those for their badges. The forms are filed, and a gofer hands each enbadged person a copy of the program booklet and the souvenir book. If the badge is flagged (for example, a "P" for program participant), the person is directed to the appropriate satellite table. Anyone who does not have a badge in the file should have a note referring them to the problems desk.

**New registrations:** An n-part form is used. (We think n is 3, but it could be 4.) There will be instructions for filling out the form and expeditors helping people do this. Once the person has the form filled out and ID and form of payment in hand, they enter the line. The form is then reviewed by a form-checker who will also check ID and note it on the form. The checker separates part 1, which goes to a data entry clerk for badge label manufacture. It has the type of membership or admission on it. (The form then passes to the laminating crew, which will take the label, affix it to the proper badge stock, and laminate it. They will then file the form.) While all of this is going on, the joinee gets to pay. Part 2 of the form goes to the appropriate payment clerk and is filled out by them. Once the payment is valid, the payment clerk will apply a suitable unique marking to part 3 of the form and hand it back to the joinee. This will be his receipt. (Part 2 eventually wends its way to the treasury together with the payment.) The joinee then presents part 3 to the badge pick-up station, where a suitable laminated badge is picked up after part 3 is uniquely marked again. The enbadged joinee is then handed a copy of the program booklet, a copy of the souvenir book, and told to have a good time.

During off or slack hours, the part 1 forms for the new members and the quickie or substitute quickie forms for the pre-registered people will be entered into the database and reports will be generated for who is actually at the con. This is not considered to be an essential item, merely a nice thing to do if possible.

We then estimated the cost for the badges, which came to about \$.50 each including clips, stock, labels, printing, and lamination material.

Alex will have badge production software in final form ready for testing real soon now. We need this tested and running in early July. Sharon will write software to extract the badge information and feed it to Alex's printing

software. This also must be tested and running in early July.

Someone will be placed in charge of finding price and availability information for a suitable hardware configuration for at-con badge production. This includes the rental of two printers plus a second suitably-configured PC. If we cannot rent the hardware at a reasonable price, we will use a typewriter with bulletin type instead. If suitable hardware can be found, Sharon will write data-entry software for at-con badge generation.

We deferred the issue of doing a specific room layout. Ruth will have a draft at Disclave.

There was much discussion of badge artwork and of what the physical constraints for it are. Ruth will talk to potential artists forthwith.

We also looked at registration staffing for peak periods. *[The total came out to 30 people — 16 experienced people plus 14 good gofers — needed at peak period.]* We were, of course, appalled by this, but, on the other hand, it seems not unreasonable. (We should only need this many people for a few shifts, since it accomodates maximum flow for both pre-reg and at-the-con-reg.) We deferred further discussion of staffing and how shifts should be populated until Disclave so that Ruth could catch her train. One thing that we will work out then is the size of a reasonably minimal crew.

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## 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]*

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## Program

• Steve Miller, Skowhegan ME:

I see that there's some question about how many of the program respondents will actually be used in the program. I'd like to point out that a quick reply is extremely important to those writers who are borderline fulltime. The part-time writers can use the convention as a vacation and for networking — assuming they can afford Boston's hotel rates — and so can the BNPs. The \$1000 minimum cost of the con (2 memberships = \$140, \$660 for rooms and that insidious tax, a dieter's \$200 for food and nothing for the art show or huckster's room) means that the full-time freelancers have got to have a real justification before making a final go/no go decision.

*[In response to this, let me outline the procedure we've been using to plan the program and communicate with our potential program participants. Over the past months, we've been collecting the program questionnaires we've received, along with lots of ideas for program items that have come in from the questionnaires, our staff, letters from our members, neat things seen at other conventions, etc. On the weekend of May 13-14, most of the program staff met in the Boston area for a "Program Frenzy" weekend. During this weekend, a tentative program was put together. This process began by sticking post-it notes to plywood boards and moving them around. Then when things were more settled, these tentative program items, with tentative participants, were entered into the program*

computer database. The database also contains information on the program participants in regard to whether they sent in a questionnaire, have joined the convention, if we know whether they plan to attend, etc.

In the next few weeks, the program staff will also be writing and entering precis — short descriptions of each program item designed to give the participants a sense of what they might talk about. They have also been printing out various reports and will be checking for things like people scheduled in two places at the same time, items on similar topics at the same time, people scheduled to be on too many items, etc. It turns out that it's a lot harder to do this for a Worldcon with over 600 potential participants and 500 items, than for a Boskone with about 80 items. Although we have done this before for Boskone, we found that we needed new types of reports, and had more problems with people with similar names.

Once these kinks get worked out, which we hope will be in early June, we will use the computer to generate individual schedules for each program participant, and will send them out to the individuals. These will be accompanied by several different types of form letters for the different classes of people listed in the "Program Registration" discussion on page 12.

So to answer your original question: people who will not be on the program cannot expect a reply before we've gone through this entire program-planning exercise, which should be by early June. This will still allow them to get in their membership by the July 15 advance membership deadline. — LT]

Mary Piero Carey's suggestion of an art preservation/conservation program might well be expanded to include the same topic for book/fanzine/manuscript collectors. When I was Curator of the UMBC SF collection I spent lots of time making sure that things were stuffed into acid-free envelopes, and the fanzine collection is filed in acid-free folders. Perhaps an archivist from one of Boston's many museums could be enlisted to talk on the subject.

• David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

Mary Piero Carey suggests a program item regarding preservation of artwork. How about extending this to cover books, comix, and other faanish items.

• Allan D. Burrows, Mississauga Ontario:

I'd just like to clarify that I do not necessarily agree with the sentiments expressed towards fandom in [my last] letter, ("Fandom: Escape From Adulthood" for instance). I was only suggesting those as program items that would cause heated debate, if that's what Taras Wolansky really wants.

#### Masquerade

• Patti Mercier Gill, Columbia MD:

Regarding Lloyd Penney's remarks to me last issue: Lloyd, if you read my letter carefully you'd have seen that the question was not whether or not extra points should be given for props — I don't care one way or the other as long as the Masquerade's intentions are stated in advance, as they are for Noreascon. It was just that if props are allowed, it does not necessarily penalize the distant costumer (it may tax the imagination, of course!). That was your original complaint. And yes, all our extras were brought

with us from Montreal — as checked luggage — if you are interested, I'll be glad to send you information on how we did it.

My awards won are my credentials, mentioned for the same reason that you have listed your accomplishments in the past. They give us some credibility. You, of course, are fully entitled to your opinion, but the costumers I know in Toronto (people like Barb Schofield, Jacqui Ward, Caroline Julian, etc.) agree with me on the feasibility of bringing elaborate costumes and props to places outside of Canada. Possibly because they have all successfully done it.

[I feel this discussion is starting to cross the bounds from a discussion of how to run a Worldcon masquerade to a more personal dispute. Let's drop it here, folks. — LT]

#### Filking

• David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

The bit on p. 11 about the planned filk concert and the deal with Wail Songs raised my hackles in a number of ways. As the treasurer of a non-profit folk music concert production group, I would note that, if you're being properly legal, you will probably need an ASCAP and/or BMI license for the concert unless all songs are (a) written by the individuals who perform them and (b) the performers have not registered their material with either ASCAP or BMI. Why? A problem with some filksongs is that they are parodies of existing copyrighted material. As such, they are "derivative works," and the right to perform them at any event at which an admission was charged (i.e., the con) does not exist unless the appropriate licenses are acquired. The individual who wrote the music to which the parody is set does have rights, and can sue not only the performers, but also those who put on the concert. The same problem arises when such material is taped and re-distributed, even if done on a non-profit basis. In general, if a performance involves even a single number to which ASCAP or BMI can lay claim, you're in trouble. To my knowledge, however, setting aside rooms for filkers to entertain themselves and onlookers does not constitute a concert or performance, *per se* (it's equivalent to the "home use" approach to other copying), and will not cause you problems.

[We are getting both ASCAP and BMI licenses for the con; see meeting minutes on page 8. — LT]

#### Brunch

• David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

I agree that those who buy individual tickets shouldn't be assigned tables so that they can sit with folks they like. However, this could provide a logistical problem as people try to find their friends, either outside or inside the room. Perhaps you should set up an area near the brunch entrance specifically for such groups to gather themselves together. Also, you may want to have a mechanism by which a group of ten formed at the con can request one of the full tables.

## Information

### • Katie Filipowicz, Spring Valley NY:

I just got through reading *M3P* #34, and all the references in the various reports to "Let's put it in the Information area" made my hair stand on end. Sign-ups for things, determining directional signs for the whole con (not all of which can be anticipated beforehand), specialized handicapped information, handing out of banquet tickets — that's a lot of extra work, beyond what is usually done by Worldcon information departments. True, none of this stuff is extraneous to information — it's just that it requires a lot of staff, and a bit more room than is usually given to Information.

On Wednesday and Thursday at ConFederation, I had four staff people per shift (in addition to myself, the department head) working at the information desk. They were seldom idle, and we had none of the extra duties that have been mentioned. Whoever is running info will have to make sure that they have plenty of staff.

*[We've said before in these pages that we really want N3 Information to be more than has been traditional for the Information department. We want it to be a vital and active nerve center for the entire convention, we want it to be highly visible in the center of the ConCourse mixing area, and we want it to be the place people automatically go to when they need something from the convention. Yes, these extra tasks will be more work for Information. But, on the whole, they will be less work than if, for example, each separate area were to set up a table staffed by a single dedicated person to handle their sign-ups or handouts. — LT]*

## Smoking

### • David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

I wish there were an easy way to deal with the question of smoking at cons. As a smoker who perceives himself as being considerate to non-smokers (an action somewhat akin to terming oneself a "male feminist," in that extremists at both ends of the spectrum dislike one's position), I often find myself regretting the poor ventilation designs in most public buildings, as they usually guarantee discomfort for both smokers and non-smokers. The notion of renting air cleaners is an excellent one, but do note that their filters will need proper cleaning at least once a day.

### • Perianne Lurie, Huntington NY:

Just a few comments about the smoking policy:

1. Does Massachusetts have a "clean indoor air act" or other such legislation that applies to smoking in public places?
2. Don't waste money on air-cleaning devices; they don't work!
3. By permitting smoking in function areas, you effectively exclude certain fans (i.e., those with respiratory or cardiac conditions) from attending unless they are willing to risk potentially severe adverse health effects.
4. Many fans (and pros), while not made physically ill by short-term exposure to second-hand smoke, find it extremely unpleasant.

5. It does not seem unreasonable to ask the pros to refrain from smoking for the hour or so during which they are on the program.

I would advocate a complete ban on *all* smoking in function areas (with the exception of designated smokers' lounges, which could be called "cancer wards"). Splitting a room into smoking and nonsmoking areas does little to protect the air quality (especially when there are no windows to be opened).

## Reproduction

### • Steve Miller, Skowhegan ME:

I note with interest Jim Hudson's discovery (*M3P* #34, May, page 15) of a mimeo technology still only available in Japan — I assume it's the same thing I've seen in the showroom a few miles away from Skowhegan. The unit I saw retails for about \$10,000 and has the other features mentioned in *M3P*: I believe Rex Rotary or Roneo is the manufacturer. Several schools in the area have (and apparently love) the machines — they are extremely cost effective for copying in the 1,000 to 10,000 range. If I find my copy of the brochure before the mailman comes I'll send it along with the letter.

*[Thanks for the information. If you do find that brochure, we'd like to see it. — LT]*

### • Allan D. Burrows, Mississauga Ontario:

At the April 9th Division Heads Meeting, Jim Hudson suggested taking slide pictures only and getting color photocopies made at Copy Cop across the street, if they do such things. Gee, I don't know about the states, but it usually takes about a week here in Canada to get slides developed, especially Kodachrome (Tm). Can you actually get same-day slides in Boston?

*[Jim Hudson tells me that our photographers will be bringing in their own slide-developing kit, which will produce Ektachrome slides in under 2 hours on site. We may also have access to a Polaroid process that can produce slides in less than 10 seconds.]*

*Normal photographic prints from slides can be done in less than a day in the Boston area. But the process mentioned in the original article refers to a Xerox process that will produce a color Xerox copy of a slide; that takes less than 5 minutes. — LT]*

## Badges

### • Allan D. Burrows, Mississauga Ontario:

At the Division Heads Meeting of February 18th, you stated your policy of having members' real names only on their badges, and not their fannish names. This, of course, is heresy. Seriously, please reconsider letting members choose what name they present to the world. Some may deliberately hide their identities for one reason or another; Joshua Quagmire, for instance.

*[But that's exactly the reason for the policy: we don't want convention members to be able to hide their identities. Although many of us personally like the idea of using fannish names, we have to do everything we can to prevent a repetition of the rowdy behavior (at the 1987 Boskone) that caused us major problems with our hotel relations. It seems likely that the ability to hide one's identity might make this type of trouble more likely. It's not that we want to police people, but we feel that some*

people tend to act differently — less responsibly — when they feel that they are anonymous. We are trying to find a way to fit the fannish name on the badges in addition to the real name, but we have definitely decided that the real name must appear prominently on the badge. — LT]

### Hugo Awards

#### • J. S. Fancher, Oklahoma City OK:

An issue has been raised on the Hugo ballot which I feel cannot be allowed to pass uncontested.

According to the article in *Locus* magazine, the book, *A Brief History of Time* by Stephen Hawking "... received enough votes to appear on the ballot (in the Non-Fiction category,) but was ruled ineligible since it is not a book 'whose subject is the field of science fiction or fantasy or fandom ...'"

Whereas I understand and respect your interpretation of the rules, I feel it is exceedingly important to find out how the consumers feel about this matter, and whether or not they feel the rules should be adjusted. On the ballot itself, you were very quick to caution voters about the presumed bloc vote — a decidedly difficult situation which you handled to the best of your ability, though I believe a bit of quiet investigation might have been called for before the *Locus* article came out — but you say nothing about the Hawking issue.

The point I want to make is this: that which makes *Science Fiction* most unique in the story-telling genre is its focus on Science and Technology and where these advances are leading us as individuals and a society. Its greatest value to society has been its ability to make advancement in these areas not only understandable but palatable to the non-scientist. Good stories can be told in many ways: Mysteries, Historicals, Thrillers, etc. Only SF can — and has — help mankind enter into the future and into relationships with non-human intelligences and environments with grace and understanding.

To say a scientific treatise which is popular enough to receive the required percentage of votes *unsolicited* has nothing to do with the Science Fiction field is to undermine that which we are all about.

I feel this is a subject which should be seriously discussed by all concerned parties and not just a Worldcon ConCom, no matter how good their intentions. You chose to give the "bloc vote" decision over to the voters — I think you should have left this up to the voters as well. Publish your reservations on the ballot, but let the consumer make a decision of this magnitude.

By the way, I have not read the book in question, nor do I know anything about it. This is a philosophical question, not a personal one.

I do know I intend to read it the moment I can get my hands on it. Any scientific work which can inspire that much popular support *should* be read by those parties interested in the future of the art and science of SF. I also know, had the people who have more time to read in my fields of interest not recommended it by *nominating* it, I may never have even known about it — even though the only way I could have found out about their recommendation is by reading an article in a *semiprozine* all the way to the end.

What else are awards for than to acknowledge and recommend those works of greatest significance to your fellow enthusiasts?

#### • C. J. Cherryh, Oklahoma City OK:

Add my name as also protesting the exclusion of Hawking's book from the ballot. I agree with Fancher, q.v.: the concom would be quite proper to express its reservations while including the work on the ballot, but I entirely disagree with the committee that this work is not germane to the field. It certainly is, in all senses. I find it appalling that Hawking was excluded while *Roger Rabbit* made the ballot as sf/fantasy. Certainly Hawking is at least as relevant to SF nonfiction as *Rabbit* is to sf movies, certainly a judgment I would make as a writer looking for a reference work, and I fail to see the committee's logic in its decision to exclude the one and include the other.

[Since this was a question of eligibility rather than impropriety, I don't think we could have justified adding an extra nominee in this case. Thus if we had included it, another nominee which clearly is directly related to SF would have been excluded. — George Flynn]

#### • David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

The proposal for a membership cutoff date for sending out Hugo ballots might be a very good way to solve the bloc-vote problem while simultaneously making life easier for con staffers. Now, if there were only a way to actually get the nomination and voting processes over earlier, so that production of nameplates for the trophies could be done earlier, it would be even better.

[Why do you see a problem with nameplate production? A week should be sufficient for engraving. Isn't it more important to give the voters more time to find and read the nominees so that the voting results will be more legitimate? — LT]

#### • Allan D. Burrows, Mississauga Ontario:

I have no objections or corrections for your Hugo Nomination Proposals and I support both the proposals and the idea absolutely. To rig the vote is a low thing; to use the voting rules to rig the vote is just plain disgusting! I'd like to recommend a third change to the rules specifically stating that bloc voting is not supposed to happen. This might make it easier to justify actions like those Noreascon took in the future and, hopefully, prevent or reduce future incidents.

[But how would you define bloc voting for this rule? — LT]

### '92 Site Selection

#### • Guy H. Lillian III, New Orleans LA:

The abrupt departure of Washington D.C. from the 1992 Worldcon race cheats Noreascon of some of its suspense value, and it's always a shame where hotel greed torpedoes a competitive bid. Were this the perfect fannish world, mundane mendacity would command no power over the dedicated efforts of noble SFers. We weep for Peggy Rae and her people; they ran a fine race, particularly in the last few laps, and deserved better than this fate.

But! D.C.'s catastrophe ensures *Orlando's* triumph, and for that, pardon a spate of raw rejoicing. However premature this victory, it is one the blue-shirted brigades from the Sunshine State richly deserve. Their bid has

been a phenomenon of energy, determination, and creativity, sparking the imagination of a jaded fandom; that MagiCon garnered more presupposing memberships than any other bid ever reflects the enthusiasm they engendered out on the hustings. Their facilities are adequate to the Worldcon, according to recent visitor Peggy Ranson, and — please don't flinch, NESFans — refreshingly affordable. The adjacent city bustles with attractions; the cosmic imagination of Disney suffuses the entire region with wonder. Friend Dennis Dolbear toured EPCOT recently, and returned wide-eyed; as a Disneyland nut since 1956, when not even the Dumbo ride was flying, I can't wait to cart my aged hienie to the big show in Florida three years hence. Orlando will have the 1992 Worldcon! New champions!

In a special way it's too bad that Washington lost its shot at victory, as the core difference between the two bids had never been articulated, and I was looking forward to thrashing into the fray. The issue was a conflict of virtues. Is it better for fandom to entrust its Worldcon only to established crews and familiar climes, or should it look to the energy and excitement of new cities, relatively new fan groups, different vistas? A letter from one of your townsfolk appeared in your pages some months back vehement on the subject. The imperfections of Nolacon, my own convention, were cited as reason enough to shy from any future merger of Worldcon tradition with a new group from untested turf — a monumental foolishness. Even admitting to failings by my committee, that is no reason to ascribe similar troubles to another, and it would be particularly stupid to do so in Orlando's case, if that were done. Orlando has an experienced committee, headed by good, con-blooded people — no fan should be unnerved by the prospect of a Worldcon chaired by such as Joe D. Siclari and Becky Thomson, who are not only fine folks, but able. And what a site . . . lemme at that Haunted Mansion!

Fandom — Worldcon fandom — is hitting 50 this year, and in its middle age has to choose between sedentary ways and the continual quest for adventure. Let's welcome Worldcon bids from new locales; let's take the risk that a convention might not run with Swiss precision if it means a fresh approach with fresh energy. You know, even though I myself have criticized some aspects of the way Nolacon was run, in replying to normally-jovial Mike Glycer's contemptuous rationalizations in *File:770*, I want it known fandom-wide that I'm proud of Nolacon's *nerve*, in enlivening the World Science Fiction Convention with some well-needed originality and spunk. I cheer John Guidry and Justin Winston — I've even come to like our Hugo base! Yeah — it's got soul. And it's made of *resin*! Wow!

Before I restrain my enthusiasm, let me again say how anxious I am for *your* convention — stodgy old experienced hands though you may be. While my soul calls for adventure, these creaking old bones — 40 by convention time; alas — are grateful for the efficiency your long-proved aptitude promises. I hope you don't mind excursions, however, without your premises — last time I missed seeing Old Ironsides, and haven't forgiven myself yet. And there is a pilgrimage north to Concord, New Hampshire, that I have needed to make, to the place where the lady lies who tried to make our little fantasies of space life real [Christa McAuliffe]. It would have been her 41st birthday, you know, in early September, and a visit and a

flower is the least I can do.

You guys maintain! 119 days as of May 1st — and counting!

• Susan Cohen, Lance Oszko, Eva Whitley, Jack Chalker, Jul Owings:

This is in response to the letter circulated by the Discon III Executive Board concerning the dissolution of the D.C. in 1992 Worldcon Bid. We, the undersigned, wish to state to all interested parties that said letter, and the decision contained therein, were not unanimous.

The two main points of the letter were that the Board felt it could no longer trust the Sheraton, and that our Worldcon was fatally damaged by the resulting "new" package.

On the first point, there were some of us who were more than willing to trust Jim Harris, Convention Coordinator for the Hilton, to hold the Sheraton to its word under the terms of their corporate entity, the "Connecticut Collection." He had proven himself (to *us*, at least), by turning down the very same group which had bought out the Sheraton! Had he known of what they were going to do, he would have prevented it. In the slim/fat chance of the Sheraton finding another group in the meager five months between the "disaster" and the voting, we are certain he would have watched out for our interests like the proverbial hawk.

The second point is even more easily debunked. The real reason the Board didn't like any changes in the venue were 1) they were sure we'd look like buffoons who couldn't manage our business affairs (which made it doubly strange that the Board wishes to hold what could appear to be a celebration of this at Noreascon!), and 2) it'd be a "logistical nightmare." Are we then given to understand that, under normal conditions (if any can be said to exist!), Worldcons run themselves? That we did not rise to this challenge reduces our much-vaunted superiority to mere propaganda. As such a thing does not exist on Earth, any members of the Board wishing to hold a "perfect" Worldcon should move to another planet!

(Some of the signatories agree with the sentiments of the foregoing letter, but voted for dissolution for reasons other than were stated by the Board. Some felt that the overwhelming pessimism and caution of the Board was too great an impediment to continuing. Others, having had time to pause and reflect, now realize that we have acted too hastily.)

• Allan D. Burrows, Mississauga Ontario:

You mention the regrettable demise of the DC in '92 Worldcon bid. In this you gave two possible solutions to problems such as those which Discon III ran into: increasing the lead time yet further and limiting bids to areas with less competition for convention space. I thought someone ought to mention a third possibility; limiting the size of Worldcon. I'm not advocating that, you understand, just mentioning the possibility. If WSFS did limit membership, we'd run into all sorts of problems. Who would get to come? If memberships were sold on a "first-come-first-served" basis, how to assure they are distributed fairly? If they were made available to members first, it would soon be seen as an "in-group"; if they were made unavailable to present-members they might become unavailable to locals. It would be possible to predict future income very exactly.

but it would also limit the income a Worldcon could expect, possibly too much. What about the Hugos and site selection? Would you limit only attending memberships and allow unlimited supportings? In the past, Worldcons haven't given much to supporters besides Hugo rights; would it be worthwhile? Besides, would we really want to lose huge Worldcons? The venue isn't crowded if it's large enough and it's kind of fun to be with five or six thousand honorary cousins. We could solve problems by limiting the size of Worldcon, but I think we'd lose more than we'd gain.

#### Worldcon Dates

##### • David M. Axler, Philadelphia PA:

The comments about Worldcon dates from Messrs. Burrows and Jackson are interesting, but I think I'd stick with one of the key three-day weekends that's also a national holiday when the con's here in the U.S.; i.e., Memorial Day or Labor Day. Note that the reason that most overseas cons have been a week earlier is that that's their three-day weekend (August Bank Holiday, as the Brits term it).

#### Parodies

##### • Allan D. Burrows, Mississauga Ontario:

I would also like to ask you about a publication which I received recently. It came in a separate envelope with no sender's name or return address and was entitled "The Sad Three Party." This was a one-page spoof of your own famous fanzine, as the title suggests. I realize that neither you, Leslie, nor NESFA nor MCFI had anything to do with it since it had a St. Louis, MO. postmark. Do you or anyone in NESFA or MCFI know anything about it? Spoofing and hoaxing is a fannish tradition and I normally wouldn't give this a second thought, but whoever did this failed to identify themselves. Anonymous "sneak attacks" are another kettle of chowder altogether, almost as low as bloc voting in my humble opinion.

*[No, I don't know who did it, but I'm not particularly bothered. I actually think it's rather flattering to be made the object of parody. I wouldn't place much stock in the postmark, though. Someone living anywhere in the country could have done it and sent it to a friend in St. Louis to be mailed out. — LT]*

#### The Mad 3 Party #35

Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc.  
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