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— Special Eleventh-Hour Issue —

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Recent Events

We survived the last-minute membership and Hugo balloting rush. As of August 6, we had 5752 advance attending memberships. We also had, as of August 2, 974 valid Hugo ballots, 10 invalid Hugo ballots (9 late, 1 non-member), 309 paid site-selection ballots, and 21 unpaid site-selection ballots. A badge-making session to laminate the badges for the preregistered members is scheduled for August 12.

We may still have a few more last-minute memberships to process, but it looks like the winner of the membership-prediction contest will be Charles Seelig, with his guess of 5672. Honorable mentions will go to Greg Thokar and Peggy Wajert, who are both just a bit over 100 from the actual total. (It's interesting to note that if we hadn't extended the advance registration deadline, the winner would probably have been Mark Olson, with his guess of 5601. We had 5607 advance attending memberships on July 19, which was about when all the letters with July 15 postmarks were received.)

Within a week of the time the Souvenir Book was scheduled to go to the printer, we found that they were being swamped by a Lotus product announcement and couldn't do our job. After many phone calls, Greg Thokar found an alternate printer that could handle it. The completed books will be delivered to the Hynes on August 29.

In mid-July, we learned that the Hugo ballots sent to Europe and Australia arrived late. When it became clear the Hugo ballots were not arriving, our agents sent out replacement ballots to all of our overseas members. We then inserted notes in the foreign PR 7s letting people know that we will continue accepting overseas Hugo ballots for as long as we possibly can. We still need a few weeks before the convention to engrave the plaques and affix them to the bases, but if there are any close races, we may have to engrave both alternatives and be ready to use either one after the ballot-counting is completed.

Progress Report 7 was mailed first-class on July 25 and 27. The outer wrapper is a "quickie registration" form that you should bring with you to the convention to speed up your registration.

On July 29, a group of people assembled at the Revere Zayre with two vans and two station wagons to pick up 40 unassembled park benches and 64 stacking garden chairs that were purchased (at bargain prices) for the Noreascon 3 mixing area. The chairs are being stored in the NESFA clubhouse until the convention.

Our hotel blocks were released on August 1. Anyone planning to come to the convention who does not have a hotel room should call one of the available hotels immediately. (See list in PR 7.) If you have previously reserved

a room and won't be attending. please release it to make it available to others.

On August 2, we learned that the Hynes does not want us to use their first-floor lobby for convention registration, but they are willing to let us use Hall A, a large exhibit hall opening directly off the lobby, at no extra charge. This news was received too late for PR 7, but we don't anticipate any confusion, since the two areas are so close together. The new area gives us a little more space to spread out in, so this is actually an advantage.

Our thanks to everyone who has been helping out or will be helping out with Noreascon 3. See you at the con!

— LT

Staff Art Show Access

Committee and staff are invited to the Art Show Reception, which will be held from 10:30pm until after midnight on Thursday evening.

Pre-con bidder registration will be available to committee and staff on Wednesday evening from 8pm to 10pm (probably in the Staff Lounge), and all day Thursday in the Art Show.

In addition to its normal hours, the Art Show will be open to committee and staff from 10pm to 11pm on Friday and Saturday, and also at any other times that we are there (probably for an hour or so before the scheduled opening and one to two hours after the scheduled closing time) — feel free to come knock on the door.

— Dave and Claire Anderson

Bulk Party Supplies

We've negotiated a special bulk rate for party supplies purchased from the Sheraton. If you are planning on holding a party in the Sheraton, please try to fill out the Party Supplies form in advance of the convention. (These forms have been sent to all Sheraton suite-holders.) When you arrive at Noreascon 3, you can pick up your order at the Party Supplies room (Fairfax B of the Sheraton). The Party Supplies room will be open from 2 to 6 pm Thursday–Sunday.

While we encourage you to preorder so we can be sure to have what you need, you will also be able to fill out bulk order forms at the convention. You should first pay for your order at the Sales-to-Members table in Hall C, and then pick up your supplies in Sheraton Fairfax B. We cannot guarantee you'll get exactly what you want if you wait to order at the con, but we'll try to have some extras on hand.

We may also arrange to have some bulk ice available. If so, pickup will probably be in one of the Hynes rest rooms (because of their tiled floors and floor drains). See the daily newsletter for details. — Laurie Mann

Noreascon 3 Yard Sale

What happens when you've bought 40 park benches, 60 chairs, an 8-foot mural, and lots of other neat stuff for a Worldcon . . . and you have no place to put the stuff when the con is over?

You have a yard sale.

Noreascon 3 will have a Yard Sale starting late Monday afternoon. Many items will be for sale at ridiculously low prices. Haven't you always wanted a 10-foot rocket ship in your family room? This is your big chance! Read the daily newsletter for details. — LM

Computer Graphics Exhibit

In connection with SigGraph '89, the Boston Computer Museum is presenting a juried exhibit of computer art, featuring more than 50 new computer art works by computer artists from around the world. The exhibit will run through September 5. The Computer Museum, 300 Congress St. (near the South Station T stop), is the only museum in the world exclusively devoted to computers and their impact on society. Sixty hands-on exhibits, an animation theater, and a multi-media robot show are featured. — LT

Membership Predictions

Here are the current standings and nearly final results of the membership-prediction contest. (The numbers listed are for advance attending memberships.)

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	
5752 on August 6		
5607 on July 19	5672 Charles Seellg	5648 Peggy Wajert
	5601 Mark Olson	
	5555 Tim Szczesuil	5437 Alexis Layton
5125 on July 9	5335 Gay Ellen Dennett	5280 Andi Shechter
5050 on June 27		
	5000 Jim Mann	4964 Rick Katze
4817 on May 31		
	4795 Stu Shiffman	
4668 on May 3		
4534 on April 7	4638 Lloyd Penney	
	4058 Pat Vandenberg	
3964 on March 5		

Hey, Let's Talk!

Communications at Noreascon Three

by Laurie Mann

It's vital to be able to talk to other committee members at N3. It's impossible to run an area in a vacuum. The purpose of this article is to describe the various ways to reach other members of the committee. Throughout this article "members of the committee" refers to *anyone* working for the convention. This is being written about a month before the start of the convention, so some details may change by the time we reach the con. But this is our current best view of how things will work.

Face-to-Face

Almost nothing beats direct communication with the person you need to reach. It's the easiest way to resolve differences of opinions and to get information. However, it's almost impossible for some people to leave their areas and track other people down. So, we have many other ways to reach other committee members.

Phones

Most areas will have phones. Each area will receive a phone list. In both the Sheraton and the Hynes, there will be both house phones and outside lines. House phones can reach any other house phone *in the same facility* simply by dialing an extension. To call another facility, you will need to get an outside line. (This includes calls between the Sheraton and the Hynes.) Areas that don't have outside lines at their locations can always go to the N3 office (Jefferson/Kent) to use the outside lines there, or can use one of the many pay phones. To keep the costs of phone installations down, we plan to use the public pay phones whenever appropriate, and we have plans to keep a supply of dimes on hand for areas likely to use these phones. (Yes, many Boston pay phones, including those in the Hynes, still use dimes!)

We will probably have a few cellular mobile phones for use by liaisons to outlying hotels. We have found that cellular mobile phones don't work in massive steel-reinforced concrete areas such as the Prudential Center or Copley Place parking areas or the interior areas of the Hynes.

Beepers

Many areas will have beepers. Each beeper will be a direct-dial, i.e., you can reach any beeper by dialing its number directly. You will not need to call the office to ask the office to beep an area for you. After you dial up the beeper, you will have to enter the number to be displayed on the beeper. This can be the number of the phone you can be reached at or a pre-arranged code. When you decide to beep an area, try to stay by the phone for a few minutes, to give the area you've beeped the chance to call you back. The Hynes pay phones do accept incoming calls, so they can be used to place or reply to beeper calls.

In general, try to call the area directly before you try to beep the area head. Some beeper numbers will be generally distributed; others will be kept private to the area. In this way, area heads can ensure that they get disturbed only if the problem cannot be handled by the staff currently on duty.

If beeping someone seems to not work, it is possible that they had a problem with their beeper and had to trade it in for a new one. The Office will try to keep track of beeper trade-ins so they can give out the new beeper number if you can give them the number of an old beeper that was turned in.

Radios

Most areas will not have radios. There will be a base station in the office, manned by facilities ops. Radios will mostly be used by technical, logistics, and facility operations.

Messages

Sometimes you might not be able to reach people by beeper or by phone. The office will have a message board and will help you try to find people if it's time-critical and

the other methods haven't worked.

Mail Boxes

Mailboxes will be the most common method used for non-time-critical information dispersal. Newsletters, phone messages, and so forth will all wind up in an area's mailbox. In general, mail is used for any information that does not have to be acted on immediately. You can leave a message for another committee member in a mailbox and be reasonably sure they'll get it within a few hours.

Each area will have a mailbox in the office (Jefferson/Kent in the Sheraton). Mailboxes will generally be labeled with the name of the area, not with individual names. Mail for individuals can be placed in the mailbox for the area where that individual works.

Everyone should check their mailbox at least once a day. Some areas should check more often.

The mailboxes will actually be hanging file folders in milk-crates. This allows us flexibility in adding new areas, expanding, and so forth. It also takes up less space than the traditional pigeon-hole system. You will need to look for the file folder with your area's name.

Some areas may have mailboxes in their own areas. In these cases, one person in the area may pick up the mail for the area and put it in the area's individual mailboxes.

Committee Newsletter

We hope to have 2-3 issues of a committee newsletter over the course of the con. There will definitely be one for you upon your arrival (which may be the latest *Mad 3 Party*), and others over the weekend if we feel they are necessary and we have time to write/produce them.

Committee Messages

One bulletin board in the office will contain messages of interest to the entire committee. You should check the committee message board when you stop by to check your mail.

Office/Staff Lounge/Back Office/Room 300

Informal communications are a valuable way to find out how the rest of the convention is running. We have several areas where committee are welcome to stop by.

The *Office* (Jefferson/Kent, 3rd floor of the Sheraton) is going to be very busy over the weekend. It's also the place where all committee members will need to stop during the con. There will be a sign-up sheet for meeting rooms if your area/division needs to have meetings over N3. The office will be open 24 hours a day while the convention is open.

The *Staff Lounge* (Commonwealth, 3rd floor of the Sheraton) will be a large lounge for the committee and program participants. Drinks (juice, soda) and possibly light snacks (sandwiches, veggies, crackers) will be available. We are planning on having a staff party in the lounge on the Tuesday night before Worldcon begins.

The *Back Office* (Hynes 201) will be a secondary working office for the convention. Extravaganzas, technical, signs, and Hynes liaison will all have areas in this office. If your area is over in the Hynes, and you need a quiet place to meet or get some work done, the back office will be very convenient for you.

Hynes 300 is a quiet comfortable room that will also be open to committee. There may be only water set-ups in

the room, or some drinks and light snacks might be available. We'll keep you posted on this one.

Meetings

The *Conference Room* (3rd floor Sheraton) will be available for sign-up through the Office for small committee meetings or the like.

Top-Down Communications

The chairman, his staff, and the division heads will meet daily at 12:30. If you have an issue that you think deserves wider attention, try to talk to your division head in the morning. Time-critical information coming out of this meeting will be passed along to area heads as soon as possible after the meeting. More likely, you'll see information posted on the Committee Messages bulletin board.

Most areas should plan on having at least one meeting on Tuesday or Wednesday. With people coming in from all over the country, it's useful to be able to connect faces to names, and a group meeting will help.

At-Con Problem Solving

Areas are encouraged to deal directly with one another as much as possible. When areas cannot resolve a problem themselves, they should bring in the division directors involved to mediate. With the approval of the liaison for the particular facility, area heads or their designated representative should be able to speak directly with the hotel or Hynes about routine requests such as water set-ups, trash removal, etc.

Checking In to the Convention

by Laurie Mann

Committee and staff people should plan on arriving at the con on Tuesday or Wednesday. If you're from out of town, don't plan on showing up to work earlier than this, since very few committee or staff will be staying at the hotels before Tuesday night. If you're local, and can spare the time, we will be having work sessions just about every day during the week before the con. See "Helping Out," below.

The office (Jefferson/Kent, 3rd floor of the Hynes) will be officially open for business by 9 on Tuesday morning. Once you've checked into your hotel room, stop by the office. At the office, you will fill out a legal release form and pick up your ribbon. If you will be working in the Hynes, you'll receive a special Hynes "Move-in" sticker. It may be possible to get your con badge at the office, though we don't have provisions for early preregistration completely worked out yet. If you have requested a beeper, and one has been approved for you, you will pick up your beeper. Be sure to check your mailbox as soon as you check in.

N3 is operating on the premise that all areas will have about a day to set up before they are "operational." The office is a good example. We'll be setting up the office on Monday, so it will be ready by early Tuesday to provide you with at-con support. The art show is being set up all day on Wednesday, so the show will be ready to hang art Thursday morning, and will be open to the public on Friday.

Areas in the Hynes will be able to get into their spaces at different times. Rooms 201 and 202 (back office, signs, logistics, Hynes offices) will be setting up on Tuesday, and will be ready for general committee use on Wednesday. Most other areas will set up on Wednesday to be ready for the con opening on Thursday. Hall C will be set up by the decorator and other contractors on Tuesday. Areas on the ConCourse won't be able to set up until this is completed, probably late Tuesday. Talk to your division heads directly if you have any questions about when you'll be able to do work in your area at the con.

Room Assignments

The following list gives our room assignments as they stand in early August. As with everything else, this is subject to change, but is probably pretty close to being final.

Sheraton

Beacon A/D-F	Evenings	Parties
	Days	Program
Beacon B-C	All	Phoenix party
Beacon G-H	Evenings	San Francisco party
	Days	Program
Berkeley	All	Administration
Clarendon A&B	All	Program (SIGs)
Dalton A&B	All	Program (SIGs)
Exeter	All	Press
Fairfax	All	Logistics storage; Slide show working area; bulk party supplies
		ASFA party
Gardner	All	
Hampton		
Conference	All	Meetings (sign up in Office)
Jefferson	All	Office
Kent	All	Office
Commonwealth	All	Staff Lounge
Board	All	Division Head Meetings
Liberty A,B,D-G	All	Babysitting; Dragonslair
Liberty C		
Constitution	Fri/Sat	Program (SFWA Auction; Regency Dance)
	Sun/Mon	Art Show Sales
Grand/Republic	All	Art Show
Independence	Thu-Sat 2pm	Program
	Sun 2pm-end	Art Show Auction
Republic Foyer	All	Artists' tables; Art demos

Hynes

Hall A	All	Registration
H102	Thu-Sun	Winnipeg party
H103	Thu-Sun	Nashville party
H104	Fri, Sat	Program (Readings)
H106	Thu-Sun	Atlanta party
H112	Thu-Sun	SFWA party
Auditorium	All	Extravaganzas; Anniv. party; SF Tonight; Hugos; Masquerade; Closing ceremonies
		Extravaganzas pre-function
H200	All	Work area; Signs; Newsletter
H201	All	
H202	All	Logistics dump

H203		
H204		
H205	All	Readers' room
H206	All	Program
H207	All	Film Exhibits
H208	All	Smoking lounge
H209	All	Hologram Exhibit
H210	All	Club SF
Hall C	All	Information; Exhibits; Mixing area; Autographs; Club and SIG tables; Worldcon & Bid tables; Club and SIG tables; Sales-to-Members
Hall C Office	All	Hynes '89 Division
Hall D	All	Hucksters
Hall D Office	All	Hucksters
3rd fl. corridor	All	Portrait Gallery
H300	All	Non-food staff lounge
H301-H307	All	Program
H308	All	Program Oops
H309-H312	All	Program
H313	All	Green Room
Ballroom A	All	Program
Ballroom B	Thu, Sun	Films
Ballroom B	Fri, Sat	Program
Ballroom C	All	Program
Ballroom	Early Sun	Banquet

Hilton

Washington	Fri	Games; Boxboro
Third floor	All	Games
Mariner	Fri	Boxboro
Copley	Sun-Sat	Boxboro (storage)
Tremont	Fri	Boxboro
Belvidere	Fri	Boxboro
Maverick	Fri	Boxboro
Westminster	Fri	Boxboro
Tremont	All ex Fri	Games; Filk
Belvidere	All ex Fri	Games; Filk
Maverick	All ex Fri	Games; Filk
Westminster	All ex Fri	Games; Filk

Helping Out

by Laurie Mann

They're here . . . ere . . . ere . . .

Yes, the talk about Noreascon 3 work sessions is now becoming action. We've been having weekly work sessions at the NESFA clubhouse (at 504 Medford St. in Somerville) since June. However, beginning on about August 14, the weekly work sessions become daily work sessions. Currently, we expect the NESFA clubhouse to be open every evening from the 14th to the 18th, and daily from the 19th until August 30 (when we should be completely moved into the Sheraton/Hynes complex).

During the last full week before the con, people will be at the clubhouse, doing things for the con and receiving various items that people will ship to the clubhouse for the con (like films, exhibit materials, etc.). If you have any time that week, and can lend a hand, call 617-776-3243 for more information. The following is our current best guess

of what will be happening each day.

Wednesday, August 23

Sales-to-Members work session, starting at 6:30 pm in the NESFA clubhouse. Bags will be packed with T-shirts, books, and N3 souvenirs. If you advance-ordered material, you can pick up your stuff at this work session.

Saturday, August 26

Major clubhouse reorganization. The clubhouse will be organized to expedite packing the trucks. There may also be a final badge lamination work session if necessary. Stop by any time after 10am.

Sunday, August 27

In the afternoon, at the clubhouse, we'll load materials for signs, office, facilities, press, people mover, treasury, and other early stuff to be brought to the Sheraton. This truckload is brought to the Sheraton and locked into Jefferson/Kent.

Monday, August 28

We could use a few good people to help us arrange the office and make some small pickups with one of the trucks during the day.

6pm. NESFA Clubhouse: Big truck-loading session. At the front of the truck, we'll load a lot of stuff that won't be offloaded until the Hynes opens Tuesday morning, like materials for information, handicapped, exhibits, freebies, and program. At the back of the truck, we'll load stuff to bring to the Sheraton and unload on Monday night: registration, technical, and Sales-to-Members material.

8pm. Sheraton: Unloading of the truck, followed by assorted mini work sessions to organize materials.

Tuesday, August 29

We need lots of people at the Hynes starting today. The Hynes will be open to con workers — stop by the Office in Jefferson/Kent to pick up a special move-in badge. The office will be open by 9am. Exhibits, souvenir books, and other large items will start to arrive at the Hynes dock and will need to be moved.

Early morning logistics: We need a bunch of people at the Hynes by about 9am to offload the rest of the truck that was loaded Monday night. This material will be staged into Hall C.

Assembly session: A number of items to be assembled for Hall C will be brought to what will be the autograph area at around 10am on Tuesday. These items include 40 park benches that need to be screwed together. If you can bring along power screwdrivers, that will be very helpful.

We expect to make a number of logistics runs today. We'll drive to Rhode Island to pick up a fountain for the mixing area. The computers for registration need to be picked up.

6pm. Clubhouse: At the front of the truck, load art show, lighting, dragonslair, babysitting, gaming, and anything else that's left at the clubhouse, including the furniture (except for folding chairs). At the Sheraton, offload the furniture into the Commonwealth (Staff Lounge).

9pm. Sheraton Commonwealth: An important event that anyone working on the con needs to know about: a Welcome Party in Commonwealth. More details will be available at the con.

Evening: We may be able to move Art Show material into the Republic Ballroom on Tuesday night. If this is possible, we'll do so. Currently, it looks like we can't get into the area until Wednesday morning. A truck from Maryland with many hangings for the art show will arrive, and will be unpacked either late Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning.

Ongoing: Boxboro refurbishing sessions. Boxboro fandom will be rebuilding/creating materials for the Louis Wu party on Friday. If you like to make things, give Steve Boheim a call at 508-263-4280. These work sessions will be going on in Boxboro before the con, and on the second floor of the Hilton probably beginning Tuesday afternoon.

Wednesday, August 30

Now that move-in is approaching completion, convention setup begins in earnest. The art show materials are unloaded into Republic and art show setup begins. We need *lots* of people to work on that. In the Hynes, the exhibits and mixing areas are being set up in Hall C [see "Meet Me On the ConCourse." below]. In Hall D, the hucksters are moving in. Registration will officially open in the afternoon and can use staff. People mover and Information will set up in Hall C and will need extra staff immediately.

Morning, Hall A: Registration will get organized on the first floor. It will open by noon, but shouldn't be terribly busy until the evening.

The technical truck will arrive sometime during the day, and we'll need a crew to move rented tech equipment in.

Afternoon: A van with 750 pounds of films will arrive at the con. They need to be unloaded and the film library will need to be organized.

Thursday, August 31

This is Registration's big day. Also, the day the artists set up, so the Art Show will need extra help. Also, the day the con officially opens, so all the areas will start needing gophers.

Friday/Saturday, September 1-2

Looking for something to do? Stop by People Mover in Hall C. The Boxboro party on Friday will need helpers. The SFWA auction on Saturday in Constitution may need extra runners. Registration will still be going strong.

Sunday, September 3

Today features the Art Show Auction and Closeout and the Masquerade. Both of these events always need more helpers than we think.

Monday, September 4

Move-out starts. Areas will be moved out as soon as they can be taken down. Major teardown on the Art Show today. In the late afternoon, we'll be assembling a Noreascon 3 Yard Sale in the performance area of Hall C. We may need a few runners to help with that.

Tuesday, September 5

Exhibits are taken down. Films are prepared for pick up. Load big truck for clubhouse trips, and little truck for rental returns. Everyone will be tired, so help now is especially appreciated.

Wednesday, September 6

There will undoubtedly be things to do today, but it's hard to say when and where this far ahead. Call the NESFA clubhouse for information.

Meet Me On the Concourse

I could use your help. Staff meetings will be 8:30am and 2pm, Wednesday through Monday, at Jekyll Park in the ConCourse.

The ConCourse, aka Mixing Area, aka Hynes C. will essentially be Noreascon's con suite. It is a large room which will be filled with neat things to look at and places to sit. Information will be located inside, as will be the club, Worldcon, bidder, and Special Interest Group tables. There will be a performance area featuring a variety of amateurs and professionals to entertain passers-by. Food and drinks will be handled through the ARA concession stand, which may not provide manna, but takes a lot of load off us.

If you're arriving for the con early, consider showing up on the ConCourse for Wednesday setup. It'll be a good place to find people and something to do. You could assemble park benches, move chairs, help the exhibit folks arrange things, and watch me pretend I'm not panicked over missing materials.

Monday will also be a busy day. We'll be taking apart stuff, helping exhibitors pack, and holding a yard sale. Want a park bench, cheap?

In between, work on the ConCourse should be light. I hope to have at least two people roaming around most of the time, answering easy questions and referring problems. We don't yet know what janitorial services the Hynes will provide, but I doubt it'll be enough to keep up with several thousand people a day. Knowing how one cup on the floor attracts five, I expect our biggest task during the con will be policing the area so it doesn't get nasty.

So, let me know if you can give a hand, or just show up at one of the staff meetings. Hope your's is a fine one.

Jane E. Hawkins

(208) 834-3828 any time

Pre-Con Timeline

- Feb 15 Get stage specs
<done>
- Mar 1 Select sound, video, film, communications vendors <done>
- Mar 10 Set gopher crash space policy
- Mar 15 Preliminary list of events for Club SF
<done>
- Mar 15 Prepare exhibitors' packet
<done>
- Mar 30 People Mover mailing
<done>
- Apr 1 Pencil in initial equipment orders
<done>
- Apr 15 Complete Strangers book data entry
<done>
- Apr 23 Draft Souvenir Book text ready for review
<done>

May 1	Badge materials ordered <done>	Jul 15	<deferred for overseas members> Pre-registration cut-off <deferred for 2 weeks — now passed>
May 1	Draft SF Tonight script <done>	Jul 15	Draft of press kit ready
May 1	Veejay commitment for Club SF [CANCELLED]	Jul 15	Have plan for at-con money handling <getting there>
May 15	Settle on badge design (artwork and layout) <done>	Jul 15	NESFA contribution to reading room packed <done>
May 15	Send out children's questionnaire <done>	Jul 15	Final script for Closing Ceremony <done>
May 15	Select banquet speakers <invitation letters have been sent>	Jul 15	Complete Anniversary Party speaker list
May 21	Demonstrate that badge-production software works <scheduled for August 12-13>	Jul 15	Produce SF Tonight commercials
May 25	Strangers book mimeo complete	Jul 19	MCFI meeting <minutes on page 10>
May 30	Final PR 7 outline <done>	Jul 20	PR 7 goes to printer <done>
Jun 1	Complete layout of Mixing Area <first draft done>	Jul 22	Division heads meeting <minutes on page 12>
Jun 1	Complete layout of Registration area <delayed by move to Hall A>	Jul 26	Office purchase supplies
Jun 1	Anniversary Event budget and plan <done>	Jul 26	Logistics inventory work session <done>
Jun 1	Send invitations to Art Show Reception <done>	Aug 1	Order Hugo base engraving <should be done by August 11>
Jun 1	Draft Closing Ceremony script <done>	Aug 1	Hucksters' table free-cancellation deadline <passed>
Jun 1	Club SF equipment ordered	Aug 1	Release of hotel blocks to direct reservations <done>
Jun 1	Select Masquerade judges <in progress>	Aug 1	Deadline for Masquerade costume and photo area entries <passed>
Jun 1	Program revision cycle starts <in progress>	Aug 1	Deadline for decision on inclusion of precis in "pocket program" <decided not to include>
Jun 1	Second-draft SF Tonight script <done>	Aug 1	PR 7 mailing <done on July 25-27>
Jun 1	Update technical equipment orders <in progress>	Aug 1	Possible second mailing to program participants <scheduled for Aug 12-13>
Jun 1	Get price for xeroxing newsletter <done>	Aug 1	Technical places final equipment order <getting close>
Jun 14	Final Souvenir Book text deadline <done>	Aug 1	Complete building displays <in progress>
Jun 15	Restaurant Guide final draft done	Aug 2	Logistics inventory work session <done>
Jun 15	Outline of Anniversary Party <done>	Aug 6	Division heads meeting
Jun 20	Absolute Souvenir Book ad deadline <done>	Aug 6	First batch of info to badge production [CHANGED] <done>
Jun 20	Deadline for PR 7 initial text <done>	Aug 9	Treasurer departs for Rio <postponed to August 12>
Jun 22	Souvenir Book goes to printer <done>	Aug 9	Logistics packing work session
Jun 28	MCFI meeting <minutes on page 8>	Aug 10	Committee gaffiates <postoned to August 13>
Jun 30	Areas give treasury on-site cash needs	Aug 10	Press release and packets sent to local press
Jul 1	Complete Hucksters location assignments	Aug 10	Send engraved Hugo invitations [CANCELLED]
Jul 1	T-shirts arrive <done>	Aug 12	Badge lamination work session [NEW]
Jul 1	Hugo bases arrive <fabricator will affix plaques, so will hold bases until that's done>	Aug 15	Nominal deadline for Site-Selection mail ballots
Jul 10	Final draft of PR 7 to div. hds. review <done>	Aug 15	Receive ribbons from manufacturer
Jul 15	Art Show bid sheet mailing to artists <in progress>	Aug 15	Norton book arrives from printer
Jul 15	Final Hucksters mailing goes out	Aug 15	Deadline for banquet ticket advance orders [NEW]
Jul 15	Postmark deadline for Hugo ballots	Aug 16	MCFI meeting
		Aug 20	Division heads meeting
		Aug 21	Program Booklet copy deadline
		Aug 23	Program Booklet to printer
		Aug 24	Program signs done

[See "Helping Out" on page 5 for the near-con schedule.]

MCFI Meeting

Date: June 28, 1989
Notes by: Jim Mann

The meeting was called to order at 7:52 pm. Mark Olson said that there will be at least one MCFI meeting at Noreascon itself. We'll set the time later. *[See correction in minutes of next meeting.]*

Treasurer: Ann Broomhead said that registration income has passed the quarter-million mark. The Bank of Boston has approved our account, so we now have a place to deposit cash collected at the con.

Sales to Members: Ann said that the bad news is that the company which does enamel pins won't do less than 360, so we need a different source for the Hugo nominee pins. However, the state just south of us is known for its junk jewelry, so she'll continue to look

Gay Ellen Dennett said that we now have an advance-sales order form for committee and staff. Orders must be received by August 15. Mark said that we reserve the right to cut off advance sales if the committee is scarfing up too many of an item. The boxed book is of particular concern. We want to have 1/3 to 1/2 of the tote bags and at least 100 boxed books left to sell at the convention.

Gay Ellen said that there will be a committee T-shirt. It will be available in children's sizes, but those will be available only in advance.

Mad Three Party: Leslie Turek said that we'll probably have July and August issues.

Souvenir Book: Greg Thokar said that 95% of the text has been entered. It will be formatted next weekend. Mark noted that the Souvenir Book has changed a lot since its original conception. There are a number of articles by fans on the history of the Worldcon. George says that it promises to be one of the best pieces of fan history he's seen. Greg said that currently we're looking at printing 7000.

Progress Report 7: Mark reviewed the outline which was available as a handout. He said that PR 7 will be thin, with little or no artwork. We hope to go to press on July 20. There are a couple of places where people are asked to write to us, and they won't have time if we go much later. The outside will be a quickie registration form; it should have no information that people will want to save, so they'll actually use it. We discussed some of the points in the outline.

Ada Franklin is stuck at home for 6-8 weeks, and has agreed to help us with people phoning in. We've put a second phone line in her house. We'll publicize the number in the PR.

The membership info will not include lists or maps, due to lack of space. We'll tell people what they need to know to get to the con, and so forth. Sharon Sbarsky said we should also include info on how to convert from supporting to attending. Pat Vandenberg and Al Kent have completed the info on how to get to the convention. It is voluminous and may need to be trimmed. We'll try to discuss party policy under hotel information.

There was some discussion on Program and what should go in. We'll try to say what kinds of big events will happen early in the con, so people can plan. We don't

have a film schedule yet, but we should be able to list what hours films will be running.

Under children's stuff, we'll tell people that if they bought a full membership for their kid and are planning to use babysitting, they should tell us (if they already haven't) so we can plan. Sharon is going to use the hotel list to help in the mailing to members who might be bringing children who don't have children's memberships.

Information on souvenir items will go on the back of the quickie. Laurie Mann suggested we mention what kind of weather to expect.

Greg Thokar said that Andre Norton wrote us to say how much she liked Kurt Baty's bibliography, which will appear in the Souvenir Book.

Books: Jim Mann said that the Norton book went to press, and that we expect it back in mid-August.

He also reported that Tony Lewis has agreed to do some work on the Strangers' fanzine.

Art Show: Dave Anderson reported that they had an almost complete layout. Jim M. asked if the problems with the Fire Marshal had been resolved. Dave said that the layout will show what type of hangings will be used where. If the fire marshal signs off on the plan, presumably all is okay.

Andi Shechter repeated her suggestion that we include seating in our plans. Mark said that we'll put in seats after the Fire Marshal approves. Otherwise, he'll worry about clearance around the seats. This way, if he objects, we can always move the seats at con.

WSFS: George Flynn said that we've received 371 Hugo ballots, 102 site-selection ballots with payment, and 14 without payment. We've received no new WSFS business, but he's heard rumors about some.

Extravaganzas Division: Jill Eastlake said that Technical had a message for George: George requested a time machine. Tech says they discovered one (Jill points to her watch) but couldn't get it to run backwards. Extravaganzas has three more meetings before the con. There are about 300 people signed up for the banquet.

Second Floor Division: Fred Isaacs said that a number of things are still in mid-air. Cindy wants to send the decorator packets out to the Hucksters herself. Don said that Freeman will send out what we want.

Fred said that Jan Howard Finder has requested secure display space for stuff for the Robert Adams auction. We have no way to provide any. Andi asked if we could provide a guard. Priscilla Olson said that there are some valuable items: is there any space in the Art Show? (There was an inarticulate yelp from Dave A.) Pam asked if we could secure it in a logistics area. Priscilla said the problem is he wants to display it. Seth Breidbart suggested displaying copies or photos of the items. Mark said we can put the auction in Constitution, but will have to tell Jan we can't afford to provide guards.

Fred said we're having a construction crisis, since Monty has gafiated. We need people who can do carpentry and still have fingers afterwards. Mark suggested that Fred try to get Monty to at least draw up some plans.

Seth said we're getting a lot of grumbling from hucksters. When is the mailing going out? Nobody knows how many tables they have or where. Fred said Real Soon Now. Mark said we also got hit on this at Disclave.

We've later than most Worldcons. Hucksters have to know how much stock to order. We're getting 1-2 calls per night. Fred said the information would go out around the same time as the exhibitors' packet.

Facilities Division: Don Eastlake said that the Hilton has lowered its rates by \$5 per night. The Boxboro party will be in the Hilton.

Don summarized the current state of parties. The Sheraton policy seems stable. People can run parties by buying from the bulk supply. Even third-floor parties can do this, although the alcohol policy is different for the third floor. For sleeping rooms, parties can buy wine and beer from the bulk supply and only need to hire a bartender for hard alcohol. For the third floor, they need a bartender if alcohol is to be served at all. If they do have a bartender, then everything else they serve must be catered.

We can give large bid parties the option of Sheraton or Hynes. Essentially, the Hynes is cheaper if they want to serve alcohol; the Sheraton is cheaper if they do not.

Don said that he has contacted the Sheraton-recommended security company about guards for the Sheraton. They said they can cover it with 6-8 guards. Don doesn't think we'll get away with this few, but we should get away with many fewer than the 25 we had planned.

Debbie King said we've used up 1670 sleeping rooms. We're in no danger of using up the rooms in the outlying hotels. Pam Fremon asked if we have a policy on what to tell people who call about hotels after the prereg deadline. Don said they can call the hotels directly after August 1. Mark asked if there were any good reason to still require people to be members to get a hotel room. After a little debate, we decided not to worry about this any more.

Andi said she is trying to track down information on visitors' T-passes.

Jim M. asked about the Marriott. Don said that the other group there hasn't released any rooms. He'll keep checking, though.

Pat said we got a quote on buses. It will cost \$4200 for 3 buses running from 8pm to 4am for 4 days. We can modify this until two weeks before the con.

Program Division: Priscilla said they had a mailing to about 420 program participants. She got her first phone call. Despite the note in her letter saying "don't call unless this is something that can't be handled by letter; we'd prefer not to get phone calls, etc." one participant called to say that he was going to write her to tell her everything looked good.

Program is right on line with the expected number of people to reimburse.

Services Division: Laurie said that all is well. She said we should have keys and beepers in the office. Mark said we'll have few keys. We have to work out the details on beepers.

We adjourned at 9:50pm.

Mail-Handling Session / July 17, 1989

[Being the first in a very short series designed to give a bit of the flavor of what it's like to be involved in the last-minute frenzy of putting on a Worldcon. — LT]

On Monday night, July 17, I had the experience of assisting in an N3 mail-handling work session. Let me recommend this activity to anyone who thinks they'd like to bid for a Worldcon, not to mention anyone who's ever written an angry letter to a Worldcon committee complaining of mishandled mail.

We have not been counting pieces of mail this time around, but it's my guess that the 6 people working all evening did just the preliminary handling on about 400-500 pieces of mail that were received that day. There were approximately 140 new memberships or conversions, several hundred Hugo and site-selection ballots, 30 or 40 hotel reservation forms, plus information requests, program responses, and a big pile of letters that didn't fall into any standard category but needed to be individually handled.

We started by opening each envelope and sorting the contents into piles for each type of mail. Then, taking the membership pile as an example, each letter was annotated with the date processed; type of payment, amount, and initials of the person processing it; and a list of people to whom the letter or form should be copied. In the case of memberships, that was normally the "Reg" area. If the membership was charged, the "Charge" area was added. If the amount was incorrect, "Treasurer" was added. And if a *Mad 3 Party* subscription was included, "M3P" was added. Then an automatic number stamper was used to stamp the same ID number on the letter and the check.

The letters and forms went to the person operating the copier (a full-time job), who made the right number of copies of each item (according to the annotation), highlighted which person was to get each copy, and stuffed the copies into the individual mailboxes for later pickup.

The checks went into a separate pile for the treasurer, who would later copy them in batches, record them in the books, and deposit them. She would also have to send out form letters to the people who underpaid requesting the additional payment. (If not received by the con, they would need to be flagged as problems and their badges pulled to be held at the Registration desk.)

The charges would go to an agent of the treasurer, who would call in approvals and fill in charge forms for each of them. The treasurer would also enter these into the books.

The registration forms or letters would go to the pre-registration person, who would later enter them into the membership database and print out labels for the next work session (2 days hence). At that point we would package up a set of progress reports to be mailed out at bulk rate.

At Sunday's work session we had prepared packets containing hotel information and site-selection ballots (not Hugo ballots, since the deadline was past). On Monday night, we hand-addressed and stamped these packets for all new members, so they would get this information as soon as possible. (As the person doing this job, I was

pretty appalled by how many people had given us their names in illegible handwriting.)

Finally, someone went through the discarded envelopes one last time, just to make sure that they were completely empty and that we weren't inadvertently throwing out something significant.

The other types of mail each had their own procedures for handling. Hugo ballots were generally not copied, but just passed on to the Hugo administrator. (Unless a membership was enclosed, in which case the name-and-address portion of the ballot was handled like a membership form.) The many special pieces of mail were each copied to all of the appropriate people and stuffed into their mailboxes for pickup.

MCFI Meeting

Date: July 19, 1989

Notes by: Jim Mann

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 pm.

Mark Olson said that we have one more pre-con meeting: on August 16. He corrected last month's minutes: there *may* be one or more meetings at Noreascon. The location will be announced there. It will probably be in the office (and/or the den, and/or the staff lounge). We'll *try* to give everyone at least overnight notice.

Mark said that Chip Hitchcock has been doing a bunch of fire-fighting. If you are printing something, spec it out in advance. This is as much for the division heads as anyone: look ahead. Things go much faster if you can give advance notice. Beane usually has a several-day queue, but you can schedule a place in that queue if you plan.

Mark also proposed a purely social get-together: a picnic at Cochituate State Park (in Natick near Wayland). The date will be August 5 at 9:30 am. The committee decided not to fund it, so it will be potluck. No business: no papers are to leave the parking lot blacktop.

Treasurer's Report: Ann Broomhead said that money is coming in faster than she can do anything but deposit it.

George Flynn said that the amount of money now in Ann's mailbox (that is, that has come in this week) is more than the total income of Noreascon I.

Budgets: Mark said that he is a little optimistic. We have 250 more members than our current budget. However, we didn't get the flood postmarked the 15th that we'd have expected based on what arrived on the 13th and 14th. It's possible they just haven't arrived yet.

He reviewed the latest "Major Outstanding Budget Issues" handout. It looks like we have enough money for everything we *have* to do and about half of what we'd *like* to do.

Jim Hudson said that the technical crew, in looking at their budget limitations, thought they'd be willing to gamble their membership reimbursements in order to do neater things. Mark said this is something to consider. We'll discuss it next month.

Mark also said that Paula Lieberman has suggested re-approaching LA and Atlanta for money. Members of each group implied that our initial request was too broad and vague. We might do better if we focus it a bit. Mark

suggested some possibilities: 35-mm projectors for films; video equipment to tape the masquerade; a larger program booklet; comfortable chairs for the mixing area; more funding for Buxboro. Chip asked about extra cake for the anniversary party. Mark said no. While this was Paula's original motivation for suggesting we contact Atlanta and LA, we have lots of better places to put money than for cake at \$3 per slice.

Souvenir Book: Greg Thokar said that we got a new printer: Gooding Graphics in Burlington. We lost our old printer, because they're working on the documentation for the new Lotus release. The Souvenir Book will be shipped in the 8/24-8/27 timeframe.

Mark said that the Souvenir Book looks very good. It should be one of the best ever.

Mad 3 Party: Leslie Turek said she wants to have one more issue, which will come out in the middle of August. We can use this to reach our staff and tell them things we want them to know before they leave for the convention.

Progress Report 7: Mark said that things have gotten complicated. Chip explained: we can have the printer fold, or fold and staple closed: \$500 to just fold and \$850-900 to fold and staple. Do we want to do this?

Mark said that we'd originally planned to do all this ourselves. Using *Mad 3 Party* experience, Leslie convinced him of how much work this is: 7000 copies, about 70-80 fan hours of work. This is 20-30 people working for 3 hours. If we do this, we're going to buy new staplers.

Jill Eastlake said there are better things to spend the money on. Rich Ferree said it is a lot of work: he wishes we had paid to have it done on the NESFA brochure. Pam Fremon said we have too many unfunded items. Leslie asked when we would do the work. Mark said next Monday. If we don't finish, we'll finish on Wednesday. Leslie asked if we had any other major work that week. Mark said no. Sharon Sbarsky mentioned that she hadn't planned on getting the labels out till Wednesday, since the weekend would be taken up by Lexicon. Mark said that a 2-day delay is a lot of time at this stage of the game. She should do as much as she can. Or she can give the database to Mark, and he'll print out the labels. Jim H. said we have better things to throw our money at. [The vote is many to 2 in favor of doing it ourselves.]

Local Publicity: Mark said that we can easily get convention information in various newspaper calendars of events. With a little more effort, we can stay out of them. Priscilla Olson said it sounded good as long as we tell people how much it costs. [We decide to go with it.] Jim H. said it was good we decided this, since the press release has already gone out to the newspapers. Mark was pleased with such quick work.

Extravaganzas Division: Jill said that Extravaganzas plans to do a walk-through of their plans on the Saturday morning of Lexicon.

Jill said that Ian Ballantine had to withdraw from the position of Hugo Ceremony MC. He had an operation, and although he will be at the convention, he shouldn't stand on his feet for two hours. She's written to someone else and will keep us posted.

Ellen said the Hugos look great. She's seen all the pieces of the base.

Paula said that Ellen Kushner is going to the Netherlands and won't arrive at Noreascon till Saturday. So we also need a new MC for the Anniversary Party.

Jim H. said, on the film front, we have commitments for 3 of the 5 Hugo nominees: *Roger Rabbit*, *Willow*, and *Beetlejuice*. We also will have *Baron Munchausen* and probably *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, *Batman*, *The Making of Batman*, and 3 *Indiana Jones* blooper reels. We're looking for sources for high-power (750-watt), movable 16-mm projectors.

Jill said that Andy Cowan has agreed to be manager of the film crew at con. (He doesn't want to touch a projector.) Megan Gentry will be lead projectionist and will check people out on the equipment.

Program Division: Priscilla said that she is in the middle of schedule spaghetti. She'll be doing another mailing on around 8/5. About a week after that we'll have a real good schedule. By about 8/23 the schedule has to be printed for the program booklet.

Facilities Division: Don Eastlake said that things are progressing. He has a new plan for guards in the Sheraton.

Fred Isaacs said that Freeman said we have to get counts for unusual items to them by the end of the week. He would try to push this off till Monday (after Lexicon).

Don said that there are now telephones in all the Hynes function rooms.

The guard company recommended to us by the Sheraton told us they were too busy to take on our job. Thus we're back to using Excelon.

Also on the Sheraton front, we've settled the bulk supply question.

Don reviewed the party layout. It will spread things out and thus, we hope, minimize noise and traffic problems. The parties will be located as follows:

First floor Hynes: SFWA, Atlanta, Nashville, Winnipeg

Third floor Sheraton: Orlando, Phoenix, San Francisco, ASFA, Los Angeles

Hilton: Boxboro

Sheraton sleeping floors: Others

We've assigned a large number of suites: more than 30 in the Sheraton. The publishers are mostly going into the Colonnade.

Debbie King said that we have 2800 rooms in all our block. Debbie talked about the Sheraton's overbooking of double-doubles. She has written letters to people explaining the situation and giving them a choice between a confirmed double-double in the Hilton or a regular double in the Sheraton.

Pat Vandenberg said things seem to be going well with our outlying hotels. There have been a few small problems with people not getting their confirmations.

Don said that Pat has arranged busing. We're currently planning for 8pm-4am, Thursday through Sunday. We could increase this later.

Mike DiGenio said that at some point Facilities Ops and Services Ops will coordinate.

Davey Snyder said the Hilton is running out of non-smoking rooms.

Don said that the staff lounge in the Sheraton will be in Commonwealth.

Don listed upcoming meetings: 7/24 (Andi's), 8/8 (Eastlakes'), 8/22 (Andi's).

Second Floor Division: Sharon reported prereg figures: 6070 total; 5607 attending; 332 supporting; 129 children's; 2 admissions.

Fred said that they seem to be narrowing in on a division budget.

On hucksters, the decorator packets should be being mailed even as we speak. The table locations will be sent to people at the beginning of August. The wait list is pretty dwindled. Leslie said she thought it was a mistake to send out the decorator packages without the locations. Mark said the decorator packets are only going to a small percentage of the hucksters.

Jane Hawkins, who will be running the ConCourse (mixing area), introduced herself.

George Division:

Hugos: George said we've received 931 Hugo ballots. If this is the final, it is the lowest number for any North American Worldcon since 1977 and the lowest percentage since 1971, maybe ever. He hopes there are lots in the pipeline. [*The July 28 total was still only 966.*]

We're having the traditional problem with the overseas Hugo ballots. The ballots didn't get to Europe/Australia till much later than in the US. The agents will be telling people that their deadline has been extended, and we are inserting a notice about this into the overseas PR 7's.

Art Show: Claire and Dave Anderson said that the bid sheet mailing would be going out the next night. They had a 6-hour meeting at Unicon.

Services Division: Debbie said that in looking over PR 7 she discovered that the office would be handling late-night registration. This is okay, but she would have liked to have been told. If anyone is expecting anything special from the office that was not in the area-head mailing, please talk to her.

Laurie Mann said that there will be a joint Services/Facilities meeting on the Sunday morning of Lexicon.

Laurie said that there would be carpentry work sessions on 8/2 and 8/9. Frank would be making sign holders and cases for exhibits.

Davey said that the ribbon order is closed.

Mike D. said that Logistics has received only one form. If anyone wants Logistics to move something, they should tell them so.

Tony Lewis described the Stranger fanzine. It would have the same name and pick up on the numbering of the Stranger clubzine. There is no noticeable difference between it and fanzines of today. It will include a loc from Harry Warner. There was some discussion as to whether Laurie's computer typesetting system could simulate the quality of a manual typewriter, complete with filled-in o's and out-of-line upper-case letters.

Other Stuff:

Pat asked what we should do with the Alice costumes after the con. Jim H. said we could send them by boat to Holland for their exhibits. There was some speculation as to whether this would be cheaper than trashing things, given the current cost of dumpsters.

Ann showed the tea-party shirt.

Priscilla said that people are calling her and Mark at all hours. She asked people not to call them after 11 pm.

Fred talked about the coins to be given as "Passing Fancies" trivia contest prizes, and to be redeemed by hucksters. (Fred used Don's suggested name of Noreascoins, and George asked how many of them went into a Gernsbuck.) Paula thought this was throwing away money, and stressed this point, although it was pointed out that we were probably talking about this costing about \$20. Priscilla thought it was a good idea, as long as the person handing them out wasn't aggressive about asking the trivia questions. Suli Isaacs said he wouldn't be.

We adjourned at 9:30 pm into the usual assortment of side meetings and discussions.

Division Heads Meeting

Date: July 22, 1989
Notes by: Leslie Turek

Although Lexicon is usually a relaxacon, this year's Lexicon was held just 6 weeks before N3. Because of this, it inevitably turned into an N3 work session, with a nearly-non-stop round of meetings and discussions trying to work out many of the final details of schedules, room layouts, contractor orders, budgets, and area interfaces. Although every area presumably took notes on the meetings they were involved in, there is no complete record of everything that happened. To give a flavor of the proceedings, I'll mention a few of the meetings I was aware of, and then give the minutes of the Saturday night division heads meeting.

Mixing Area/Hall C: The person in charge of the mixing area, Jane Hawkins, lives in Seattle, so we decided to use one of our free airline "site-inspection" tickets to bring her to Lexicon to work on the Hall C layout. This was a complex task, since there are so many things that need to go into Hall C and so many different ways to arrange them. To assist the process, Leslie Turek used her Macintosh to produce a large floor plan of the area, along with a bunch of cutouts, to scale, of everything that needed to go somewhere: tables, chairs, seating areas, bulletin boards, etc. This turned out to be helpful, as Jane sat down with various people throughout the weekend and moved the pieces around until she could come up with a layout that everyone was comfortable with. (See draft layout on page 15.)

Floor Plans: A number of other groups were seen working over floor plans, including Extravaganzas, which worked on the stage and auditorium layout, Registration, and the Office.

Registration: In addition to working out a floor plan, registration coordinated with Program to determine how program-participant registration would be handled. Merle Insinga arrived on Saturday night to deliver the name-badge artwork.

Extravaganzas: The Extravaganzas Division held a long meeting during which they stepped through all of their events day by day and hour by hour, producing a checklist of what would be happening when. This included everything from when technical equipment would be picked up and brought in, to when rehearsals would be held, to when

the guests would assemble for each event.

Office: The office staff met with some of the facilities staff on Sunday morning to discuss how they would be organized and how they would interact with Facilities operations.

Program: Priscilla and Ben met for most of Saturday afternoon to go over program schedule changes. Program and Films met to work out an exchange of rooms between the auditorium (which was needed for Hugo-nominated films) and part of the Hynes ballroom (which was needed for Super Science Friday).

Division Heads Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 pm. Mark Olson announced that we would take a 10-minute break at 11 pm, and would end the meeting by 1 am no matter what.

Budget Summary

The convention reserve is at \$20K, and should be at about \$10K at the start of the convention. Mark added \$2K to the guard budget, which now covers our expected guard expenses (about \$50K). We've cut out renting any Hynes first-floor rooms, except party rooms which we get free. We've added 100 staff reimbursements and 50-100 more gophers; we're working on getting better estimates. The badge-production budget has been increased somewhat to match estimates.

The change to a new printer has caused the Souvenir Book budget to go up by \$1000-\$1500. We've added \$1200 to the Boxboro party for moving and storing the Hasbro material. The budget for PR 7 was increased, and the daily newsletter budget was upped to \$5000 to cover Xeroxing. The Program Booklet is now at the medium size, and we are now budgeting for GoH gifts.

We still have miscellaneous small items that are not covered, plus a \$9-\$14K shortfall in technical. Boxboro could use more money, and we'd like to add more nights to Den operations. Other items on the wishlist include anniversary party decorations, drink chits for the program participants, refreshments for the receptions, extra ice for parties, etc.

The current budget has \$26K in unallocated funds. This will be discussed later. Other possible money items include a dance floor for Club SF, and overnight developing for masquerade photos.

Ombudsman and Town Meeting

Mark described the proposal made by Debbie Notkin [see M3P #36] and asked for discussion. Jill Eastlake thought it would make people feel someone is listening. Ben Yalow pointed out that if there was no official channel for problems, then Services would get them anyway, so we might as well provide such channels. Laurie Mann thought that the Town Meeting would help our relations with our members, especially if we acted on their suggestions.

The Ombudsman would need to be the right kind of person. Mark pointed out that we would need several, to operate on different shifts.

Pam Fremon thought we might scale down the Town Meeting; if it wasn't held every day, it would be less of a strain.

Peggy Rae feared the Town Meeting was fraught with possibilities for disaster: she thought the Ombudsman would be a better solution. Sharon Sbarsky and Ben agreed. Jim Hudson pointed out that one of the problems of real New England Town Meetings is that it's easy for vocal groups with an ax to grind to pack the meeting. Priscilla Olson thought that a Town Meeting could be exciting and good for the convention.

Ben wondered if we might just provide a suggestion box, and post our answers on a bulletin board. Leslie Turek compared this idea to the *Mad 3 Party* letter column. Jill pointed out that we could also post comments about problems that we've noted ourselves, and tell people what we're doing about them.

Pam still liked the idea of an Ombudsman because it was more personal than a Town Meeting. We don't have to have someone on duty all the time.

Mark asked Leslie to send these notes to Debbie Notkin as soon as they were transcribed, as input to her final decision. He summarized the main points against the idea were the risk of exacerbating problems and the amount of high-level effort required.

At this point, Fred Isaacs entered the room wearing a "thinking cap" — a metal cap with a light bulb on top.

Move-In Stickers

These will be used to allow staff, committee, and other people who want to help into the Hynes during setup days. The Facilities division will produce them, and the office will be in charge of handing them out. Quantities will also be given to the division heads for them to hand out.

People on the staff should check into the office (Sheraton Jefferson/Kent) when they arrive at the convention. For people not on staff, the People Mover should probably hand them out at Registration on Wednesday. We might try to have a staff registration table in the office on Tuesday.

There will be similar stickers for people working on move-out.

Dream Park Request

Peggy Rae announced that Mark Matthew Simmons, who is working with Larry Niven and Steve Barnes, has a display relating to their new *Dream Park* book coming out in October. He would like us to give him space, where he will sell advance copies of the book. Our policy has been that if we feel that the exhibit would be of interest to our members, we may provide space, but may also charge booth rates for the space. Peggy Rae will try to get more information about the exhibit.

At-Con Newsletter

Jim H. has been looking into reproduction methods for the at-con newsletter. There are three possibilities:

- 1) Mimeo. This would be cheapest, but would take a lot of work at the convention. There were also doubts expressed that our machines would hold up for the duration of the convention.
- 2) Xerox. Copy Cop, across the street, will charge us 5 cents per impression for fast service. This would cost \$6000—\$7500; we currently have \$5000 in the budget.

- 3) New fancy "electronic mimeo" technology. We are still exploring this. The machine is too expensive to buy, and we can't find a place it's available for rental. But this technology is of interest to our members, so we might be able to make a deal in which we show the machine off. Jim would like to collect more information on mimeo costs to use as a basis for negotiation. Mark suggested he talk to Claire Anderson.

Giving Out Distinctive Change

In the past, Boskones have made a practice of handing out unusual types of change (such as \$2 bills or 50-cent pieces) at the registration desk. The idea is that people would use this when paying for things at local merchants, and the merchants would realize our impact and be nice to us.

There are some differences between Boskone and Noreascon. For one, the at-the-door rate is higher, so more people will be paying with checks or credit cards. Also, Noreascon is not an annual event, so this would have less impact. The consensus was that we weren't eager to do this for N3.

Miscellaneous

The staff list which will appear in the Souvenir Book is now closed, but if we have future updates, they should be recorded and can go into the slide show credits. Jim Mann volunteered to take over updating the staff list.

Jill asked who would handle getting the special awards. Don suggested using the Hugo base with a Klingon ship instead of the Hugo rocket [joke]. Ann is getting the GoH gifts. • Pat Vandenberg volunteered to handle engraving. Mark has a source to recommend.

Peggy Rae Pavlat asked people to tell her about anything that needs to happen in the ConCourse or at Information, such as signups. Laurie made the same plea in regard to the Office.

We have five complimentary airline tickets that need to be assigned to our guests. Other guest travel arrangements need to be made. Rick will be doing this.

Fred mentioned that he'd read the fire code handout in the exhibitor's packet. There is a requirement to empty trash. Don said the cleaners will do this. Will we have a problem with empty boxes being stored behind the tables? We don't know.

Laurie asked for a confirmation of the handicapped policy we had discussed some time ago. Is it okay for handicapped people to cut in on lines if they have trouble standing? Mark said that we earlier decided that they would need to have some sort of identifying insignia if we wanted a policy to let them do this. We should put something in the program booklet explaining whatever we decide.

Extravaganzas would like to have signing for the big events. Laurie said that we have 2 volunteers to do signing, but no requests for it as yet.

Sheraton Room Get and Drop Dates

Don reviewed the schedule for when we get and drop rooms in the Sheraton, and made notes of which times we would like to try to change. He will check the revised times with the Sheraton next week and report back. [Don took detailed notes on this portion of the meeting.]

Bulk Supplies

Sheraton bulk food and drink sales will be handled by Logistics, which is looking for a person to run this. It will be open only a few hours a day. To avoid handling money, payment may actually be made at convention sales anytime, with pickup in the Sheraton with a receipt. We need a procedure to handle the situation where supplies are paid for but not actually available.

[Ellen, who was busy assembling a slide presentation for her mundane job, asked if anyone had any post-its. Blue, yellow, and pink ones in various assorted sizes were offered. Priscilla praised Extravanzas' improvisational comedy bits that made our meetings so entertaining.]

Forms

Mark asked that Facilities start working on draft hotel/Hynes resumes, and pass them around for comments. Facilities pointed out they hadn't received much input from the areas. Mark asked people to do so, and also to turn in expense reports reasonably quickly so we'll know how our spending is going.

Peggy Rae asked if forms turned in by the area heads could be assumed to go directly to the service areas. Mark said, no, that they would be run by the division heads first for approval.

So far, the only complete set of request forms submitted were from Seth Breidbart (Department of Hoaxes). Jill said that Suford had done forms for the masquerade, but the division heads were still reviewing them. Jim M. said that the division heads didn't need to wait for all their areas to report; they could just forward the forms as they received them.

At-Con Division Heads Meeting

We discussed when we should schedule the daily at-con division heads meeting. Various times were mulled over. Leslie said that N2 met during lunch, with sandwiches provided. Mark pointed out that since most divisions have two heads, only one need attend. We concluded that the meetings would be 12:30 pm most days, except 2 pm Sunday because of the banquet. We would start on Wednesday.

Phone Needs

We started to work on listing phone and electrical needs. Most Sheraton function rooms have in-house phones. Most Hynes function rooms have phones of some sort — we believe they are in-house. There are no phones in the exhibit areas, except for banks of pay phones (which we intend to make use of). We went through the divisions listing their phone needs, which will be refined in the days to come. Major phone needs included registration, sales, and art show (for charge clearing), information (to handle incoming information requests), office, press, auditorium, and commercial exhibits (which will be paid for by them).

Freeman Order

We discussed items to be obtained from Freeman. Some things we would like are not in the budget at the moment. These include comfy chairs for the program Green Room, mixing area, staff lounge, and other places. We also need some furniture for the SF Tonight stage set-up. Freeman gives us a 50% discount on most of their inexpensive stuff, but only a 20% discount on the nice stuff. Each sofa section (seats one) costs \$66 to rent.

Other sources we've looked at are equally expensive.

Fred said that they wanted a count on Monday, in order to reserve items throughout their system. It isn't clear if there's any charge if we reserve more than we can currently afford, and then cancel some of it.

People were asked to give Fred their estimated counts of furniture (tables, chairs, bulletin boards), carpet, and drapery needs by tomorrow. Drapes should be specified by height and color.

Labor Contractor

Our primary labor contractor is Bob Dubinski. We need to prepare a resume for him also. Drayage, if we use any, will go through Freeman, since they offered us a relatively good rate (\$15 per 100wt). In general, we should try to avoid drayage due to the expense.

Our main use of labor will be in moving stuff from the dock on Tuesday and Wednesday, and also during moveout. If we make a big last-minute profit, we can spend more on moveout help. We need to estimate how many bodies we will need.

We should avoid deliveries addressed to the hotel, since it tends not to work. We can have truck deliveries to the Hynes dock.

We might consider hiring a temp to sit in the clubhouse during Wednesday through Saturday of the con to accept deliveries. Estimated cost is \$300.

We need to decide who should be the primary liaison to Bob Dubinski. So far he has met mostly with Ellen and Don.

Rigging (hanging things like stage lighting from the ceiling of the auditorium) requires a licensed rigger. Lynx has names of companies we can use.

ARA Order

Jim H. mentioned that we need to finalize our ARA order. This includes Green Room refreshments, bars at parties, banquet, cake for Anniversary party, first-floor parties, Hall C refreshment stands, refreshments for masquerade participants, etc. We can work from Ellen's original list.

Electricity

Dale Farmer is "power czar." Please turn in lists of your electricity needs. Mark will review them. Function rooms all have wall plugs, but we need to pay for drops in Halls C and D, the corridors, and the registration area.

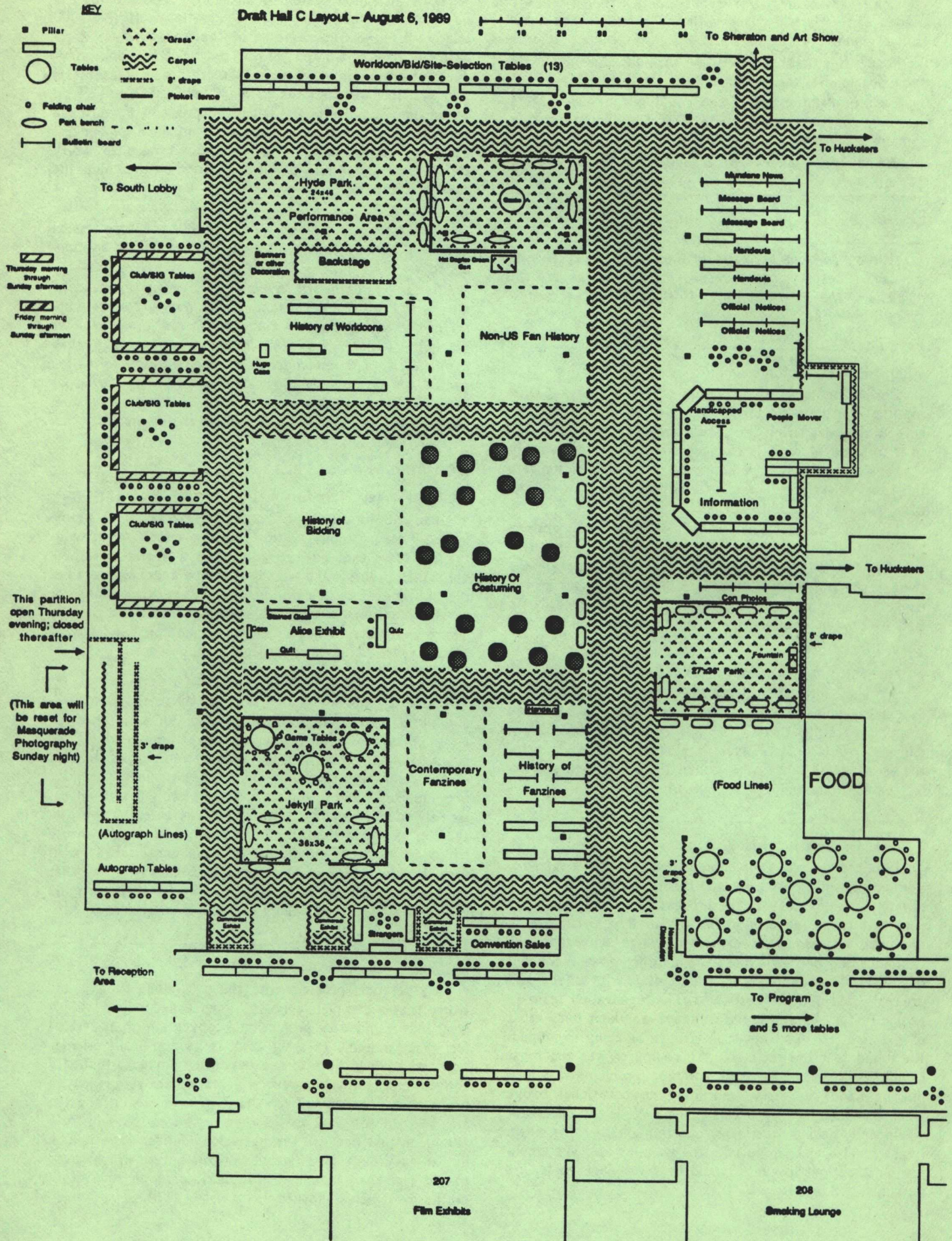
More Miscellaneous

Pam asked that people sending out mailings or forms should let Ada Franklin know what's happening so she can answer questions that come in by phone.

Priscilla said that many people have asked to see the draft program. It is 53 pages long and still inaccurate. She will try to get a copy to the clubhouse for reference, but can't mail it out to everyone.

We are giving out program participant addresses only to Worldcons, NASFiCs, and the few groups which gave us addresses.

Someone asked if we are making any arrangements for car-pooling committee members to the hotels to avoid parking charges. Mark said those should be made privately.



Don reviewed the list of Hynes function rooms that are needed early. He will check with the Hynes to see if we can get them.

Peggy Rae has some NASA exhibit information to show people after the meeting.

Ellen Franklin asked if she could resign now. Mark said only with 2 months' notice. Priscilla pointed out that some of us had been meeting for up to 12 hours today.

We adjourned somewhere around midnight.

Letters

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

Program

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Panels for neos (as discussed at the March 1 GULP meeting) usually wind up being useless. The neofans are so new they can't find the panel, and experienced fans go to it to see if anything's changed since they got involved. Perhaps a special sign or notice of some kind to indicate the panel exists and where it is may be needed to let the panel do what it's supposed to do.

In Allan Burrows' letter (Hi, Allan!), he mentions Sharyn McCrumb's *Bimbos of the Death Sun*. I read this novel last month, and was disturbed by some of the themes she put into the novel. This novel would be the basis of a panel or two . . . *Bimbos* . . . Are We Really As Bad As Sharyn Thinks? (or is she just taking us too seriously?)

• Chuq Von Rospach, Newark CA:

A quick note on *M3P* #35. Program division says that it has more program ideas than it knows what to do with. Suggest to them that they compile the entire list and either publish it or have it published by someone for the benefit of all those other conventions out there still doing the 43rd rendition of "vampires in SF."

Registration

• Gerald E. Masters, Orlando FL:

I noticed the plans for computer assistance at registration and unless I misinterpreted them, you may be overestimating the efficiency of the process. I recently used my computer to do registration for OASIS II in Orlando with gratifying success. My experience there was that one computer and printer is quite adequate for a *small* convention. Our attendance was around 400, with about half pre-registered and half walk-ins. The registration team (3 people Friday, 4 Saturday, 2 Sunday) was kept busy most of the time but was never in danger of being swamped. We found that the typist on the computer was the most significant delay. The most common problem was deciphering handwriting and reprinting an occasional badge when an incorrect guess was made. While we never got significantly behind, I seriously question whether any single typist could ever keep up with the walk-ins at a Worldcon. My most optimistic guess would be 4 terminals, if feeling pessimistic, 8 or 10.

My registration system is an Amiga 1000 running the Superbase Professional data base with an NEC P2200 printer. I found Superbase to be the easiest-to-use database I have ever worked with. It made dBase look primitive and programming it was a breeze. This database is also available for both the IBM PC and the Atari ST. I will include samples of the labels we printed. If you have not seen clear labels before, I recommend them for badges. They are almost invisible and you don't need to worry about covering up the badge's artwork or matching the color of the background paper. Cost was a penny per label.

[The transparent labels were nice, but they don't seem to be available for laser printers, which is what we are hoping to use.]

As far as number of terminals, two things to consider. One is that we are not attempting to handle complete entry of the registration via computer in real time. We are planning to enter only the information needed for the badge itself. The remainder of the registration information can be added at a later time. The second thing is that we may have more registrations to deal with than a small con, but they will be spread out over a longer time period.

— LT]

DC Withdrawal

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

The withdrawal of DC from the 1992 race is a shame indeed. We all know the time, money, effort, sweat, worry, and tears that go into a bid and a Worldcon (some more than others), and we should all be angry to see all of the above go into the dumper because a hotel waits for several years for the final vote, and pulls out a few months before that vote. I hope the DC people can tell us what their lawyers say about their legal position soon.

• Mary K. Maulucci, Pleasant Valley NY:

I find it quite interesting that not all of the Discon III committee agree with the reasons for DC's withdrawal. As a presupporer of Discon III, I was saddened by the news. I understand the annoyance on the part of the rest of the committee regarding Discon III's planned party for presupporers, but I think they should know that I am extremely touched by the gesture and plan to enjoy the party. I'm also glad that Discon III decided to remain on the ballot despite the withdrawal. I have chosen Discon III first and MagiCon second. I agree with Guy H. Lillian that the suspense is now gone, but Orlando, FL is still a good choice of a site. I'm thinking over the idea of going.

Pass-On Funds Proposal

• Gerald E. Masters, Orlando FL:

My personal problem with the pass-along fund is the worry that a completely no-strings-attached policy will attract bids founded by professional convention organizers. I feel that fandom's greatest asset is its non-profit orientation and I would hate to see that lost. I have attended 3 conventions in the last several years which were run with profit as a primary motive. All 3 left me feeling cheated and I would not want to see their organizers bidding for a Worldcon just because the pass-along funds made it look like an easy buck. It is worries of this nature which cause me to feel that guidelines for distribution of any future profits must be established.

[This is not really a problem, since the original proposal specified that recipient organizations must be non-profit corporations. IRS regulations prohibit non-profit corporations from disbursing funds to profit-making entities, in any case.]

Besides, if someone really wanted to try to get control of a Worldcon to make a profit, getting 1/3 of the surplus from a convention that wasn't trying to make a profit would be only a drop in the bucket compared to what they could rake in directly from their own Worldcon. This is a real worry, but I don't think the pass-on funds proposal makes it any more likely to happen than it already is.

— LTJ

Nolacon

- Guy H. Lillian III. New Orleans LA:

It may come as a wild surprise to Tom Schaad, who savaged in your July issue my stated pride in certain accomplishments of Nolacon II — but I agree with much he had to say. There were indeed deep flaws in the structure of the convention and the manner in which it was run. I was a department head, close to the center of action — I know those flaws better than anyone. Assuming I can get to Noreascon, and I certainly plan to, I'll talk about Nolacon with anyone who approaches me with a legitimate question or rational comment — although truthfully, I would rather discuss topics of greater importance to the future of the human spirit, such as the natural superiority of the redhead (particularly with fannish ladies of that spooky persuasion).

But for all the verity of his comments, Schaad missed part of my point. I have indeed been critical of Nolacon — I wrote a long article for *File:770* discussing its faults, as honestly as I knew how. Had Mike Glycer run it, fandom would have seen the '88 Worldcon from a unique point of view; at the time when I penned the epistle Schaad found so irritating, I thought that he would. Thus the worry that provoked my letter — worry that the other guys involved with Nolacon would read my criticism and not know how proud I was of the dream.

Well, no doubt repulsed by the egotism rampant throughout everything I write, Glycer failed to publish my deathless prose — and, all things considered, perhaps that's for the best. Nolacon's problems have long been crowded off the front pages of fandom's scandal sheets. Like Conspiracy's site-selection balloting hassles, ConStellation's bankruptcy (who remembers DiamondVision?), the problems considered so eternal and so enormous at the moment, its awesomeness is fading. Your Hugo scandal is on every fannish lip now. Let the lesson sink in, and take heart, Boston: next year's Worldcon will take precedence, eventually, in fandom's eye. It will have its own problems. Yours will join ours, in blessed oblivion.

Which brings to mind something else I said in my Glycer articles, something else I wish fandom had seen. Worldcons represent fandom's most intricate and involved expenditure of effort. But it is still fandom, still a diversion, still an activity for *good times*. The worst thing about the Hugo scandal is that our happy little trophy presentation is being elevated to a level of such importance that people's reputations and careers are in jeopardy. How inutterably foolish. How absurdly inappropriate. We are boosting Worldcon's sense of importance at the cost of

good humor and good times; we are being false to what fandom is all about. Fandom should be fun; it needs to laugh. It is not surgery. Its caprices should determine the success or disaster of no one's life.

Noreascon will mark the 20th anniversary of my first Worldcon — St. Louis. I never dreamed that I'd be attending Worldcons still, and, this time, as a Hugo nominee myself. Greatest be your fortune!

Miscellaneous

- Neil Rest, Chicago IL:

Getting down to the wire, I see the *Mad 3* issues are finally thinning . . . but it's by far the earliest I've ever started my party list!

Thanks yet again, and wishing you all a speedy and full recovery.

Last-Minute Additions

Noreascon Nightmares

Now that the work is heating up, committee members are starting to generate a fascinating crop of Noreascon Nightmares; asleep or awake, our fevered brains are working overtime to think of all the possible ways the convention can be screwed up by something totally outside of our control. These range from the mundane ("The program books don't get delivered until *after* the convention."), to the elemental ("A major hurricane hits Boston and floods Back Bay."), to the tragic ("A highly infectious disease hits the committee a week before the convention"), to the surreal ("I'm wandering the halls with my key, but can't find my room."), to the inventive ("The EPA bans toner as a toxic substance and we can't generate any paperwork."). Send me your favorite Noreascon Nightmare, and if I produce another issue of *M3P* after the convention, I'll print the most colorful. Some of them may even come true! — LT

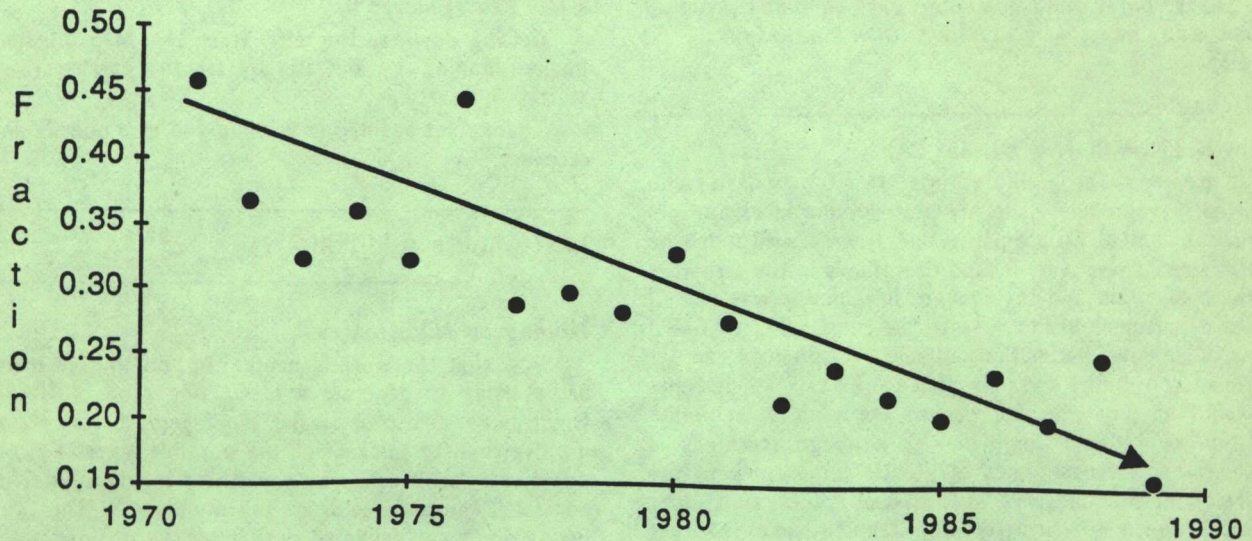
Hugo Voting Trends

On this page and the next, we give some statistics on Hugo voting trends since 1971. (This data is based on last week's numbers, rather than the final vote count, but there's not a whole lot of difference. We should also state that the trend line was manually drawn, not computer generated.) But the trend seems clear enough to give some interesting food for thought.

Table of Hugo voting trends

Year	# voting	Adv. members	Fraction voting
1971	732	1600	0.46
1972	550	1500	0.37
1973	708	2200	0.32
1974	930	2600	0.36
1975	600	1880	0.32
1976	1595	3600	0.44
1977	800	2800	0.29
1978	1246	4200	0.30
1979	1160	4126	0.28
1980	1788	5447	0.33
1981	1247	4529	0.28
1982	1071	5000	0.21
1983	1322	5500	0.24
1984	1467	6740	0.22
1985	443	2199	0.20
1986	1267	5400	0.23
1987	990	4953	0.20
1988	1178	4721	0.25
1989	951	6100	0.16

Fraction of Advance Members Who Cast Hugo Ballots



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