

The Mad 3 Party



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The next issue will be published in October; the deadline for letters and contributions to appear in that issue is September 15.

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ALL ON A SUMMER DAY

Bidding activities at ConFederation

The Boston in '89 Committee, even though currently unopposed, is expecting to be very busy at ConFederation. Here are some of the things that will be taking up our time.

Room Blocking. Many of us will be arriving at the hotel we have selected (the Hilton) as early as Tuesday and Wednesday, although some will come later due to pressures of mundane work. Over the past few months Joe Rico and Ben Yalow have been working to arrange a suite rental and a block of sleeping rooms in the vicinity of the suite. This is so the committee can easily find each other at the convention, to insulate the party suite from potential noise complaints, and to have some overflow rooms handy in case we want to expand the parties.

Our experience with previous hotels has been that blocking never works on the first try. The earliest people check in, get assigned random rooms, meet each other and compare room numbers, and figure out that they haven't really been blocked. They then have to spend several hours explaining this to the hotel and getting their rooms changed around. (I am learning never to unpack at a Worldcon until the room block is settled.) So straightening out the room block will probably be the first thing we spend time doing at ConFederation.

Parties. We are planning to have bidding parties on Thursday and Friday nights and (hopefully) a victory party on Sunday night. Laurie Mann is in charge of the parties, and she will recruit helpers as needed.

Work on the bidding parties begins even before we leave Boston, as we assemble all of the paraphernalia that will be needed — flyers, stickers, t-shirts, knives, bowls, decorations, Hynes brochures, popcorn popper, coffeepot, 10-pound chocolate bars, cashboxes, paperwork, and so on — and either ship it to Atlanta or find people willing to help carry it down.

At Atlanta, there will be a major supply run, probably on Thursday afternoon, to get soda and munchies. At each party, several people will be needed to post flyers and set up the party (filling bathtubs with ice, setting out food, chopping veggies, etc.).

During the parties, people will be needed to replenish supplies, talk to voters and answer questions, hand out stickers, and sell Presupporting memberships, t-shirts, and other bidding items. We expect to sell a number of Presupporting memberships, since we are planning to give out a limited-term coupon good for a \$5 membership discount for each \$3 Presupporting membership sold.

Site Selection Voting. We will need to staff a voting table, which will be located somewhere near convention registration. The voting hours will be 10am - 6pm on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. At the table, we will accept ballots for the '89 site selection accompanied by payment of a \$20 voting fee. Although supervision of site selection voting is technically the responsibility of the administering Worldcon, normally such tables are staffed by representatives of each bid for a given year. Since we are unopposed, it will probably be entirely our responsibility.

On Saturday night, the ballots collected at the table and the ballots previously received through the mail by ConFederation will be counted. We will be allowed to have at least two representatives present at the count; they will probably include Don Eastlake and George Flynn. The ballots have been designed so that the voter's name and ConFederation membership number are on the opposite side from their vote. This will allow the ballots to be verified without the vote being visible, then the membership information can be separated from the ballots before the ballots are counted. Usually the membership information goes to the winning committee, and the voting portion goes into the business meeting records. (Although with no permanent WSFS officers, there is no central repository for past business meeting records.)

The ballot counting process will probably run late into Saturday night because the '88 site selection, with 4 bidders, must be counted at the same time.

Aftermath of the Voting. Once the ballots have been counted, if we win, our work will be just beginning. We will be handed a pile of ballot stubs (we hope as many as 1000) with names and addresses in varying states of legibility and the checks from the at-con voting table. In addition, ConFederation has promised to give us copies of the checks received and deposited during the mail voting period. These will be our initial membership records. We will need to sort them out, confirm that everyone has paid, confirm that the total amount of money received matches the number of members, etc. It sounds simple, but there are always discrepancies. This will probably take a large part of Sunday.

Meanwhile, at the Sunday WSFS Business Meeting, the winners will be announced. Each will be allowed a brief time to make whatever statements they wish. Usually this involves announcing GoHs, rates, etc., and handing out Progress Report 0, which would have been previously printed by those bidders relatively confident of winning. (A sad thought: This year, there may be as many as three PR 0's, lovingly prepared by losing '88 bidders, that will never get to see the light of day.)

Sometime on Sunday, and continuing into Monday, we will be expected to reopen the voting table as a membership sales table. Many of the people who voted will have to come back yet again to pay the \$15 conversion to attending; others who failed to vote will buy new memberships for \$20 (Supporting) or \$40 (Attending). At this point, only a few hours after receiving the ballots, it is almost essential to have a complete list of voters. You wouldn't believe how many people aren't sure if they voted (or how many times they voted!) and therefore don't know what they need to pay for attending membership. Our innovation of giving out a Presupporting coupon does

mean that we won't have to check a separate list of Presupporters, which will make things a little easier.

We had asked ConFederation if we could have a one-step voting. That is, allow us to sell optional full attending memberships when we took the voting payment, to save people from having to return to the table a second time to convert. We would, of course, have refunded such payments if we were to lose the bid. However, ConFederation would not approve this procedure, as they thought it would be treating us as the winner before the vote was counted.

This completes the list of specifically bid-related activities that the committee will be responsible for. But as individuals, there are a large number of other commitments that we must meet at ConFederation.

Working on ConFederation. Several of our members have accepted fairly responsible positions on the ConFederation staff, which will take up a lot of their time. Tony Lewis is track manager of the "Behind the Scenes" programming track, and Rick Katze, Jim and Laurie Mann, and Priscilla Pollner are on the Program staff. Ben Yalow is Hotel Negotiator and Assistant Division Manager for Operations, and Ann Broomhead is on the Ops staff. Greg Thokar is working in VIP Registration. Others who did not sign up in advance will probably pitch in and help out at the convention itself.

There are also several of us who have been invited to appear on various program panels. Leslie Turek is slated for a panel of ex-Worldcon chairs entitled "The Perfect Convention"; Jill Eastlake (Noreascon 2 Treasurer) will be on a panel about Worldcon finances ("Happiness is a Positive Cash Flow"); Laurie Mann has been recruited for a panel on how APAs are formed; Tony Lewis is on a panel on organizing a fan club; Chip Hitchcock is on a panel on putting on fannish plays; Jim Hudson is on a panel titled "Kids in Politics". ConFederation has also scheduled a time on Monday for 1988 and 1989 Worldcon presentations so some of us will need to prepare for that, as well.

WSFS Business Meeting and Standing Committee. Many of us are, of course, interested in the proceedings of the WSFS Business Meeting and will try to attend most of the three or four sessions, which will likely last from two to three hours each. In addition, some of us are members of or interested in the WSFS Standing Committee and will attend the meetings of that body.

NESFA Activities. Most of the members of the Boston in '89 Committee are also members of the New England Science Fiction Association. NESFA will be running a sales table in the hucksters' room, and Boston in '89 members are committed to doing their share in staffing the table during the 40 or so hours the hucksters' room will be open.

NESFA is also publishing a commemorative book for ConFederation. It is a double-titled work: *Between Two Worlds*, by Terry Carr, and *Messages Found in an Oxygen Bottle*, by Bob Shaw. Although all of the production work will have been completed by the convention, there will be a book numbering and autographing session for the 225 copies of the limited boxed edition.

All told, a lot of work for the 30 members of the committee. And, of course, we all still have wistful hopes of seeing some of the convention and socializing and partying and smoffing somewhere in between all this activity. (Jill says I should also mention the necessities of life, such as eating and sleeping.)

If any Friends or Presupporters would like to lend a hand, please check in with Laurie Mann early in the convention — she would surely be grateful for some extra help with party supplies and ice runs. We could also use the help of Friends in staffing the voting table.

Whether you can help or not, the most important thing you can do is to VOTE and to encourage your friends to vote. Even though we are unopposed, we are really going to need the seed money that the voting fees bring in. And voters will get the lowest membership fees. So vote early and ~~vote off~~ . . . vote in both the '88 and '89 races! — LT

UFFISH THOUGHTS — PART 1

Excerpts from the June 11 APA:89

Because of the limited time available at full committee meetings, many ideas are first presented and discussed in the committee APA before coming to final discussion and vote at a meeting. There is usually one APA distribution in the interval between meetings, containing minutes, committee reports, and whatever else members submit. The June APA:89 totalled 100 pages, so we can only include a small fraction of it in *The Mad 3 Party*.

These excerpts come with two reminders. First, unless otherwise noted, these are the personal opinions of the individual contributor, not official committee policy. Second, as with all topics discussed in these pages, please feel free to send us your comments.

In the following excerpts, italics indicate direct quotes, regular type means the comments have been paraphrased or added by the editor.

Timeline Committee Report (Jim Hudson):

Children's Memberships: *We talked for a long while about what it costs us to serve various types of members, what the financial burdens might be, and so forth. We came up with at least two consistent approaches, and decided we liked one best.*

The first approach is the "all members are members" approach, where they pay the same amount whatever age or species, and we attempt to provide services of interest to all ages and species. (Under this approach, babysitting and specialized children's programming would be free to any children who are members. This was essentially Noreascon II's policy.) This is a consistent approach, and one we should consider.

The other approach notes that most of the kids of interest are dependents, and do not need the publications; most have little interest in the WSFS functions: site selection, Hugos, etc. So we thought about dividing the Attending Membership into two pieces: A Supporting Membership (\$20) and an Attending Admission (\$x). \$x is \$20 at the beginning for a total of \$40 and rises to \$30 later for a total of \$50.

Under this proposal, we would offer ADMISSIONS to kids 12 or under as of 9/1/89. The price in the first rate step would be \$20, and it would rise to \$30 at the next rate step. They'd have to come with a full member, and they would not get any publications or WSFS voting rights. Of course, we could modify this policy at the later rate steps.

This "Kids admissions" approach is the one the committee recommends to the membership.

Jim Mann:

I think the proposal that Timeline will raise at the next meeting is a good one: make children's admissions cost as much as a membership minus the cost of a subscribing membership (\$20). My main thesis is that a full membership is a lot of money for a child. Granted, they do get something for their money. However, several things should be kept in mind:

- 1. Young kids don't (and indeed can't) take part in much of the con. They don't vote for Hugos, read PRs, etc.*
- 2. Many of these kids are coming to the convention because they have to, since their parents are coming.*
- 3. Since they are already coming with their family, we are already getting at least one and usually two full memberships along with the kid's membership.*
- 4. If the family has two or (shudder) more kids, the cost of full memberships can be devastating. The likely result of not having children's memberships would be 1) they won't use children's programming and drag the kids along all day [this is assuming that kids-in-tow will be free] or 2) they won't come at all.*

I reiterate that we want to encourage kids to come because Dragonslair [programming for ages 6-12] needs a minimum number of kids to function well. . . Except for those whose parents are working gobs of hours on the con (and we should be nice to those people) most parents do not keep their kids in babysitting/Dragonslair full time.

George Flynn:

By the way, I also found another fascinating entry in the 1978 minutes, 2/24/78, at the end of a long discussion on voting fees and publicity:

Jim [Hudson]: When do we start publicity for 1989? (Hilarity.)

What's more, on 5/11/78:

Don: [Bill] Bowman [of Sheraton] said [Hynes] expansion won't happen while we're alive. (Jim: But we'll need it for 1989!)

I suspect these are the first recorded references to Boston in '89. Well, now you know who to blame . . .

Paula Lieberman:

Labor Budget. We have limited resources — a finite monetary budget, a finite time for planning N3 and finite time during which it will occur, finite convention facilities and space, and finally, a finite labor pool. And of all the resources mentioned above, people are the most important.

I remember from N2 that we had more things that needed volunteers to take care of than there were volunteers — for example, the Axolotl Room that was barely open because of the unavailability of people willing and able to guard the room. . . I'm still convinced that we

need a labor budget for N3 as well as the fiscal budget — we need people to work the art show, people to do logistics, people to direct traffic when dealers move in and move out, there will be people needed for technical, people for program timekeeping, people for manning the Green Room, people for people mover, information, consulte, committee den, gopher hole, treasury, stoperations/C&C [sic], program operations, hotel liaison, Masquerade, Registration, etc. etc. I don't think it's impossible, or even really that hard, to begin roughing out our body and experience level needs.

Highlighting the GoH. The program ought to have some focus on the GoH. For the pro GoH, there should be a track devoted to the works the GoH has written and the GoH's influence on the field. For the works program items, at least one of the panels should include the GoH with other people who write in a similar idiom. Additional panels would have other people doing analyses of the person's works, including some real academic-type panels.

If the pro GoH is an editor, the track should emphasize the book/magazine lines edited, and the writers developed/influenced by the editor. Actually, the latter would also be good for a writer GoH — a panel discussion of the impact of the writer on their works. More potential program items emphasizing the pro GoH: the settings/worlds/universe of the GoH; illustrating the GoH's worlds; GoH interview and/or speech; GoH roast; retrospective of the GoH's works/summing up of GoH's influence on the field; the current works of the GoH; past & contemporary influences of the GoH on the field/how the evolving sf field has affected the works of the GoH.

For the fan GoH, the focus is perhaps somewhat muddy; again, the influence of the person on fandom, a panel with other people discussing the impact of the fan GoH. If the person is a fanzine fan, there could be a panel with the GoH on it discussing writing for fanzines; if the person published fanzines, a fanzine publishing panel. Or a panel about the different aspects of fandom over the years. . .

Don Eastlake:

At-Con Publications: There are quite a few things that are or could be published at the convention and I think that we have a chance to do some really interesting things with these. Even today, for just \$175 you can get a device that will scan a photograph or drawing and input bit mapped graphics to a Macintosh. For about the same, you can digitize the output from a television camera.

How about a Masquerade guide with not just a list of the entrants but pictures as well? How about a four page daily newsletter that is a bit closer to a newspaper and has pictures as well? I guess that in principle all this could be accomplished with mimeography but at nowhere near the quality.

I think that the most serious overall organizational flaw in Noreascon Two was the lack of staff and/or high quality deputies/assistants at the higher levels. People just did not, in general, realize the amount of at-con effort and complexity that was involved in the Division head positions. Area heads frequently had good staff setups with strong 2nds, shift managers, etc. And most Division heads had some sort of assistant. Nevertheless, they got

run pretty ragged. We should be careful to avoid cliquish areas that grab all the good people. . .

Other Items:

Some of the other items in the APA included minutes of the previous meeting, agenda for the next meeting, treasurer's report, sales report, press release (printed in the last issue of *TM3P*), other member contributions, letters from six of our Friends giving their recommendations for our GoH selection, samples of writing of some proposed fan GoHs, a draft of a letter to Presupporters that will be going out in July, drafts of ads for the Confederation Progress Report 4 and Program Book, a draft of the art to appear on the Presupporters discount coupon, and the SMOFcon flyer.

WONDERS WILD AND NEW

What's new at SF conventions. . .

This is a new column in which we invite you to send us reports of the new ideas that are being tried at the SF conventions you attend. We are interested in hearing about new things that are being done and how well they worked, and about new and better ways of doing some of the traditional things. It doesn't matter if you are commenting from the point of view of a convention member, or from behind the scenes as an organizer or helper.

This column won't work without your input. You don't have to write a long letter — just a postcard will do. Please include the name of the convention, and, if possible, the name of the person responsible for the innovation. We are particularly interested in hearing about conventions outside of the Northeast that members of our committee might have missed. We will run this column whenever we receive material appropriate for it; so if you don't have something in mind right now, keep your eyes open as you go to conventions throughout the year.

THE CAUCUS RACE

MEETING: Wednesday, June 18, 1986 at the NESFA Clubhouse (!), Somerville, Mass.

[When reading minutes of our meetings, please bear in mind that none of our decisions are cast in concrete. If you wish to comment on any of the decisions reported herein, please do so. We will always be willing to reconsider an action if new points are brought to our attention.]

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm.

Chairman: Mark Olson announced that he was looking for people to fill two positions:

- Preregistration. Whoever runs preregistration must be able to keep good records, since mistakes here can cause real problems. (At least one person has expressed interest in this job.)
- Progress Report 0. The next Timeline meeting will discuss the format of PR0; we need a person to produce camera-ready copy.

Mark suggested that people bring a copy of the news release [see last issue of *TM3P*] with them to conventions as a reminder of our rates, etc.

Mark also suggested that we give free memberships in Noreascon 3 to the artists who have assisted our bid: Mike Moyle, Charles Lang, and Merle Insinga. This was passed with no objections.

Secretary: George Flynn congratulated Jim Mann for finding a new way to misspell Patrick Nielsen Hayden's name. Ben commented that Patrick said he didn't have these problems before he was married, but that it was worth it.

Treasurer: Ann Broomhead summarized a multi-page financial report that appeared in the committee APA. Since our current assets are \$4500 and our planned expenses about \$3000, Ann proposed that we cancel the last two assessments (for the current quarter and for the last quarter). This was passed with no objections. Those who have already paid it can request a refund, or can wait until the rest of the assessments are returned.

Smofcon: Mark suggested again that we try to recruit members for Smofcon at the conventions we attend. In spite of our efforts to not get general publicity, Smofcon has been listed by Filthy Pierre, Andy Porter, and Charlie Brown. We can just hope that we don't get anyone who is expecting a regular SF convention and who will be disappointed.

Parties: Mike DiGenio reported that upcoming parties were listed in the committee APA. Laurie Mann will be coordinating parties at ConFederation, although she would like individual "flight directors" for each night. Mark has obtained chocolate. Laurie had some party proposals in the APA; they will be discussed at the next meeting.

Computer Committee: Jim M. reported that the computer committee had met and that the only thing that looked definite at this point was that we were going to have a multi-machine system. Jim Hudson, James Turner, and Don Eastlake are writing up proposals, which will be turned into a report for the next APA.

Sales/Membership: In a written report, Debbie King said that she was all out of receipt books, license plates, and buttons, because people were not returning them to her after bidding parties. She needs them back!

Guests of Honor: The main business of the meeting was a very long final discussion of our Guest of Honor choices. Mark summarized the letters we had received from our Friends, which had been printed in the committee APA. Several people spoke lengthily, inspiring Don to suggest that when people raise their hands to be recognized, they should hold up the number of fingers indicating how many minutes they are willing to limit themselves to.

When the discussion had wound down, a preferential vote was held for the Pro and Fan Guest of Honor. The GoH committee counted the ballots and reported at the end of the meeting. Our Pro GoH choice does conflict with at least one of the '88 bidders, so we will probably not be able to announce our choice at ConFederation.

Children's Admissions: The Timeline committee presented their proposal for a children's admissions policy. [See page 3 of this issue.] Our previous policy had been that kids pay full rate, but several people objected to this

and reopened the issue. The new proposal is that kids get admission (but not publications or voting rights) for the difference in cost between Supporting and Attending membership.

Tony Lewis asked whether children could still buy a full membership if they wished; the answer was yes. Ben Yalow asked about kids who paid \$20 to vote; the answer was that they would be allowed to convert their Supporting Membership to a Children's Admission. Paula Lieberman felt that a lower rate would cause more kids to attend, which would improve children's programming. Sharon said that the different rate would allow us to estimate how many kids will be at the convention and plan accordingly.

The Children's Admissions policy passed many to one.

"Don's Policy": At the May meeting, we discussed this new policy proposed by Don:

All aspects of the convention will be planned on the assumption that every attendee has multiple interests. We will try to minimize the time an attendee must invest to participate in an area.

Some examples: A film or video program should be designed with repeats of major items so that attendees with multiple interests have a good chance of being able to see what they want; the Business Meeting should be in the morning to minimize conflicts with other items; and the Art Show should work primarily with written bidding, so auctions can be shorter.

At the last meeting, people felt that the wording wasn't sufficiently clear, and asked the Timeline committee to try to reword it. The revised wording was:

All aspects of the convention will be planned to accommodate fans with multiple interests. If you have multiple interests, you don't want to waste time waiting in one area that you could spend doing something elsewhere. And, you don't want to be continually forced to choose one interest over another. So we'll try to reduce the wasted time to a minimum and schedule items to give you a chance to participate in them.

This wording still left some people confused about what the policy was trying to say, while others were very sure they understood it, but couldn't effectively explain it to the others.

Tony asked why we are doing this [that is, trying to put this policy into words] at all? Don said that we've been making decisions based on this principle and we should verbalize it so we would continue to do so.

The consensus was to ask the Timeline committee to try again.

Toastmaster Policy: The Timeline committee recommended the policy that we don't select a Toastmaster until we have a good idea what he/she will be asked to do. Also, although we agree that selection is an honor, the primary criterion should be suitability for the job. This was passed with no objections.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Announcing
Smofcon 3
on the subject of
Brainstorming the WorldconSM
December 5-7, 1986 at the Lowell Hilton

"Everybody smofs about the worldcon, but nobody ever does anything about it."

With the advent of the three year lead time for selecting a worldcon, we believe that a first rate opportunity exists to examine and perhaps improve the way worldcons are run.

We believe that fandom needs an open discussion of the worldcon's strengths and weaknesses by experienced worldcon runners and neosmofs alike. We want to have brainstorming sessions aimed at developing both new ideas and solutions to specific problems. This is your chance to have a real impact on future worldcons.

The sorts of things we might talk about include:

❖ General	Just what is a worldcon, anyway? What do fans want from it? Who is the Worldcon for? What are the problems at a Worldcon?
❖ Guests of Honor	How should GoHs be selected? What criteria should be used?
❖ Hotel Relations	How can you establish and maintain good relations with a hotel? How can hotel problems be avoided?
❖ Dealing with Bigness	How can a big con feel small?
❖ Organization	Can we prevent committee burnout? How should a worldcon committee be organized? Is there a best way? A worst way?
❖ Program	How much is enough? Are there any <i>new</i> ideas left?
❖ Evening Functions	How many rings does the circus need? Should we change the way we do things?
❖ Staff	If you aren't Ben Yalow, can you work 32 hours a day and still enjoy the con? Why do people work on these damn things, anyway?
❖ Fan Programming	What is it? Is it just for fanzine fans?
❖ Finance	Is there a way to avoid huge profits while still keeping the chance of a loss small?
❖ Special Interest Groups	What is the role of the fringe fan in the worldcon? Should the Worldcon try to be all things to all fans?
❖ The Committee	How can a geographically spread-out committee function effectively? Can a committee stay together for 5+ years??
❖ Computers	How can a worldcon use computers? (Other than to run off mailing labels!)
❖ Traditions	Are we getting too stuffy? What is essential to a Worldcon? Have some traditions outlived their time? What does a Toastmaster do?
❖ Con Suite	Should a Worldcon even try to have one? What should it be like?

The specific topics to be discussed will be selected in consultation with Smofcon's preregistrants. Join early and help us plan the program.

We hope that we'll have a good turnout of fans from outside the Northeast: Fans who have run worldcons, who are just about to run a worldcon, who are bidding for the worldcon, who are just thinking about starting a bid, or who have things to say about their special concern.

The Lowell Hilton hosted Codclave '86 (NESFA's winter relaxacon) and proved to be a great hotel for a small con. It has an indoor pool and a Jacuzzi large enough to hold most of Philly fandom. There are good, inexpensive restaurants within walking distance.

Lowell is northwest of Boston, at the junction of Routes 3 and 495. It is about the same driving time as downtown Boston for those of you coming from the West or South. Hudson Limousine runs frequent shuttle bus from Logan Airport, \$13.00 each way. The hotel has free indoor parking for guests. The hotel rate is \$64 for a single or a double. Hotel reservation cards will be sent to those who register for Smofcon.

Our membership rate is \$30, which gets you some real high caliber smofing, the classic Con Suite and any proceedings which may be published. Cindy Gold plans to produce a truly "decadent" Con Suite for Friday and Saturday nights, to balance the intensive brainstorming sessions on Saturday and Sunday.

For information, or to join, write us at:

Smofcon 3 c/o MCFI PO Box 46 MIT Branch PO Cambridge, Mass 02139

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THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

Brainstorming the Worldcon

This installment of THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS is a little bit different. Rather than providing you with a topic we'd like you to write about, we are going to ask you to propose topics you'd like us to smof about. Specifically, we are looking for good brainstorming subjects for Smofcon 3.

The most recent Smofcon — held by Ben Yalow, Theresa Renner, and Joe Siclari in October, 1984 — took the form of a tutorial. People who had some experience in convention running came and gave panels and presentations sharing their experience and knowledge. The topics were generally convention areas that were "well-understood", and for which people had definite solutions to pass on to others.

At Smofcon 3, we'd like to try a different emphasis. We are hoping to tackle some of the problems that haven't been satisfactorily solved yet. We plan to use a brainstorming approach to try and come up with some new strategies to apply to some of these problems.

For the types of problems we're referring to, take a look at the sample topics listed in the Smofcon flyer on the opposite page. What we'd like to ask you this month is to look over the proposed topics and give us some idea of which of them you think we should work on. We would also very much like to hear ideas for additional topics.

If you have things to say about these topics, we hope you can come to Smofcon and join in the discussion. If you can't come, but would like to write about any of these topics, we will make your letter available to the Smofcon attendees.

After Smofcon, we hope to publish some of the results of the brainstorming sessions in *The Mad 3 Party* and elsewhere. Our goal is to come up with some new approaches that might be put into practice at Noreascon 3 or any of the upcoming conventions that are willing to try them. For example, we hope that members of the winning '88 bid committee will attend and take home some ideas.

So that's the topic for this issue. What are some of the perennial Worldcon problems that *haven't* been solved yet, and should be? We're hoping to hear from you. (Deadline to get your letter into the next issue is September 15, but if you miss that, write anyway, and we'll try to put your letter into the following issue.) — *LT*



THE CLAUSES THAT CATCH

The WSFS Standing Committee

by Leslie Turek and Donald E. Eastlake III

[The following article gives the opinions of the authors, and not those of MCFI as an organization.]

The Standing Committee of the World Science Fiction Society was permanently established by amendment of the WSFS Constitution in 1983. Its duties are to register and protect the Society's service marks. An ad hoc committee on Mark Registration had existed for several years before 1983 by vote of each year's WSFS Business Meeting.

The Standing Committee consists of one member appointed by each of the future selected Worldcon Committees and each of the two immediately preceding Worldcon Committees, and nine members elected three each year to staggered three-year terms by the Business Meeting. Current committee membership is:

Worldcon Representatives:

1. Craig Miller, CA (L.A.con II)
2. Jack Herman, Australia (Aussiecon II)
3. Penny Frierson, AL (ConFederation)
4. Colin Fine, UK (Conspiracy '87)

Members through ConFederation:

5. Donald E. Eastlake, MA (Chairman)
6. Leslie Turek, MA
7. George Flynn, MA

Members through Conspiracy '87:

8. Rick Katze, MA
9. Ross Pavlac, IL
10. Willie Siros, TX

Members through 1988 Worldcon:

11. Kent Bloom, DC
12. Jim Gilpatrick, IN (Secretary-Treasurer)
13. Ben Yalow, NY

Since the Standing Committee was formed, it has succeeded in registering the following service marks in the United States: Worldcon, World Science Fiction Society, World Science Fiction Convention, WSFS, and Hugo Award. Attempts to register "Science Fiction Achievement Award", the formal name of the Hugo, have been repeatedly refused on the grounds that the mark is too generic — a mere description of the type of award. The Business Meeting has instructed the Standing Committee to discontinue efforts to register that mark to avoid further expense.

In addition, work is progressing on registering the mark NASFiC, as directed by the L.A.con II Business Meeting.

The Committee has published a preliminary Service Mark Usage Guide, which is available on request from the WSFS Standing Committee, PO Box 1270, Kendall Square Station, Cambridge MA 02142.

One possible future goal of the Standing Committee would be to register the WSFS service marks in countries other than the United States where Worldcons have been held. Information has been obtained on Canadian registration. Jack Herman has volunteered to look into procedures

for Australia, and Colin Fine is doing the same in the U.K.

Another project under consideration is to take action against some of the organizations that are infringing on our marks. For example, the Chicago International Film Festival gives out something they call a Hugo Award. (Anyone aware of any actual confusion that has occurred between this "Hugo" and the WSFS Hugo Award, or of any other cases of possible infringement against WSFS trademarks, is requested to contact the Standing Committee immediately at the address given above.)

An issue that has been a problem for the Standing Committee since its inception has been the problem of funding. Registering service marks requires significant expenses. Since the motion creating the Standing Committee did not provide for any funding, the committee has been operating by requesting funds from the various Worldcon committees. Donations over the past seven years to the Standing Committee and the predecessor ad hoc Mark Registration Committee have totalled about \$4200. Each Worldcon and NASFiC since Noreascon II has contributed at least \$250, with Noreascon II donating \$1200 in several segments, Conspiracy donating \$527, and CactusCon donating \$500. In addition, ISFiC, the Illinois organization that runs WindyCon, has pledged \$500. Expenses have totalled about \$3900, and have been almost entirely governmental and legal fees, along with some small amounts for postage, copying, stationery, and post office box rental.

At the L.A.con II Business Meeting, Donald Eastlake proposed a motion to provide some permanent funding for the Standing Committee by allotting some of the site selection voting fees to the committee. The original motion had a number of options: a fixed amount per voter, a percentage of the voting fee, etc. The Standing Committee had reported unanimously to the L.A.con II Business Meeting that its normal operations would require a minimum of \$500 per year. After considerable debate, the Business Meeting settled on 5% of the default voting fee per voter. At current rates, this would be \$1 per voter, which is likely to yield a reasonable amount — about twice the minimum funding the Committee has found it needs — most years (more if there is also a NASFiC selection, or two Worldcon selections like this year). This motion was passed at L.A.con, but failed when brought up for ratification at Aussiecon. Don plans to introduce a new funding motion at ConFederation.

In addition to defeating the funding motion, the Aussiecon Business Meeting also gave initial passage to motions changing the name of the Standing Committee to the "Mark Registration and Protection Committee" and limiting its membership by region. There seems to be a common thread to these actions, based on a fear of the Standing Committee taking on powers beyond those that have been granted to it by the WSFS Constitution.

For example, the Standing Committee reported to the Aussiecon Business Meeting that it had received a request for a list of Hugo winners from a library. One would think that any WSFS committee or Worldcon should be able to answer such a routine question. But at least one person argued vigorously at the Business Meeting that to permit the Standing Committee to answer such a routine query would be a dangerous expansion of its "powers".

As another example, to decrease the possibility of U.S. tax liability, the Standing Committee introduced a motion at Aussiecon II to add some boilerplate to the WSFS Constitution to make the IRS happy. One IRS requirement is that the "assets" of the organization be dedicated to "charitable" purposes even if the organization falls apart. Thus, even if you have no plans or mechanisms for dissolving the organization, you have to make someone responsible for transferring the assets to other tax-exempt organizations if there is a dissolution. The motion proposed by the Standing Committee made the Standing Committee responsible for this if WSFS should ever somehow dissolve. And this seems reasonable, since the Standing Committee is a broad-based representative of the Business Meeting and the Worldcon Committees. Nevertheless, several Business Meeting attendees made it clear that they were implacably opposed to this, as it gave the Standing Committee additional authority, no matter how unlikely it was to ever be executed. Thus, to improve the chances of passage at Aussiecon, the motion had to be changed to give this authority and responsibility to the current Worldcon committee.

Permanent funding for the Standing Committee was defeated at Aussiecon on the argument that it was "dangerous" to give the Standing Committee any money it did not justify in terms of exact requirements. It was argued that the Standing Committee should "come before the Business Meeting" to request funding. But this is misleading, since the Business Meeting has no money. In fact, those arguing against permanent funding for the Standing Committee want the Worldcon committees to have a financial veto over the Standing Committee in addition to their representation on the Committee.

Historically, there has been some friction between WSFS and the various Worldcon committees. Years ago, Worldcon committees were free to operate however they wanted to, within very broad guidelines. More recently, due to various acts and omissions by some Worldcon committees, the WSFS Business Meetings have amended the Constitution to impose more rules and restraints upon the committees.

Some feel that the WSFS Constitution is only a piece of paper and there's really no way to enforce it, so it doesn't really matter what the Business Meeting does. (To roughly quote one recent Worldcon chairman, "The Worldcon committees will do as they damn well please.") And there may be some truth to this, although any WSFS member could theoretically bring suit against a Worldcon committee that, say, failed to award the Hugos. This status of WSFS is made even more tenuous by the fact that it has no officers, and essentially no concrete existence between annual business meetings.

The existence of a Standing Committee provides a potential focus for WSFS as an organization. Even though the current powers of the Standing Committee are limited to an extremely small area, it becomes a natural place for the business meeting to invest additional authority, if it should see fit. Furthermore, the makeup of the Standing Committee is the same as the makeup of the proposed Board of Directors under a recently-dropped revised constitution that called for the incorporation of WSFS.

The proposed name change, seemingly a trivial item, symbolizes the conflict between the traditional independence of the individual Worldcon committees, and the desire of the membership to impose some restraints via the Business Meeting. The supporters of this motion have made it clear that their intention is, through this name change, to make it less likely that some future Business Meeting will assign the Standing Committee any additional responsibilities.

It is important that Worldcon committees be allowed broad freedom. Article I, Section 5, of the WSFS Constitution says, "Authority and responsibility for all matters concerning the Worldcon, except those reserved herein to WSFS, shall rest with the Worldcon Committee, which shall act in its own name and not in that of WSFS." But there are considerations spanning multiple years, such as the protection of trademarks, the site selection process, and some aspects of the Hugo Awards, where increased Business Meeting oversight, via a committee or some other instrumentality of the Business Meeting, is reasonable. However, this could only come by specific enabling vote of the Business Meeting, and is not the issue being directly decided by the proposed name change.

At the early Worldcons, the Business Meeting was one item on a single track of programming that constituted the convention, so "everyone" was there. Now, although all attending members of the current Worldcon are entitled to go to the Business Meeting, there are usually fewer than 200 present. (The smallest attendance ever was probably at Aussiecon I in 1975, where there were only 12 people present for much of the Business Meeting.) Usually attendance consists of those fans who are active in convention-running and thus is heavily weighted in favor of past, current, and prospective Worldcon committees. Such a body usually opposes any action that might make them accountable to any authority other than themselves. We hope that many of you can find time to attend the Business Meeting in the midst of the many competing activities offered by the Worldcon and make your opinions known.

UFFISH THOUGHTS — PART 2

Excerpts from the July 16 APA:89

[Please see the introductory notes for UFFISH THOUGHTS — PART 1 on page 3.]

Computer Committee Report:

[The Computer Committee recommended allocation of \$7650 to buy an initial set of three computers: a Macintosh Plus with hard disk and imagewriter, a PC Clone, a PC-XT Clone with dot matrix printer, plus modems and software. This proposal must still be discussed and voted on by the full committee.]

The PC Clone (2-floppy-disk version) will reside permanently at the NESFA clubhouse. For the next 9 months or so, it will be our central machine, running bulletin-board software plus any software members want to use on it. It will be open for use by anyone who needs it. Later, when we get a more sophisticated central machine, the PC clone will serve as a terminal/peripheral

machine. In addition to the communication software, this machine will have a word processor, a spread sheet, and some simple data base software.

The Macintosh Plus will be a near-full-time clubhouse resident. It will be our publications machine, and may be borrowed during PR-production peak periods by the head of publications. For the initial period, it will be attached to an ImageWriter. Publications will work with material in-house until it is in as close to final shape as we can make it with our equipment. Publications will then take it to a do-it-yourself shop in Harvard Square for a final printing on a Laserwriter. Future plans call for us to get our own Laserwriter.

The XT-Clone will be the preregistration machine. It will reside at the house of the person in charge of prereg. The main data base will reside on this machine, though copies should reside on a clubhouse machine.

This system meets our current needs. The components have also been chosen with future needs in mind; all of them will be integral parts of any expanded system.

Preregistration: The system chosen meets both current needs and future needs for preregistration.

Publications: The system meets our current needs quite nicely. Having to go out-of-house for laser printing will not be desirable as the convention approaches. However, we decided that it was better to put off the purchase of the Laserwriter until we were more certain of our financial status and since it was not needed for the first year or so.

Communication: The PC-Clone is adequate for our short term needs. It is not the machine of choice, but it meets our first-year requirements. It will enable the committee to send mail to one another. It will also provide a central location where files can be stored for review, where announcements can be left, and so forth.

Treasury: Spread sheet software will suffice for budgeting. Accounting software won't be needed for another year or so.

Timeline Committee Report (Jim Hudson):

Here are the items that would be nice to put in PRO:

- Membership rates*
- Committee list*
- Dates of the convention*
- Guests of Honor, etc.*
- TM3P — what it is, how to get it*
- Art show information*
- Ad rates and specs*
- How to join/convert*
- Agents and how to use them*
- Progress Report Schedule*
- Location*
- Dealers information*
- Request for fan art*

We believe that this can be done two-sided on a single sheet, with space left for the Pro GoH where we talk about not having one. [because of the conflict with the '88 bidders]

Mark Olson:

Fan writing. Talking with Ben [Yalow] and George [Flynn], the idea came up of doing a really good anthology of fan history as part of N3. There is a lot of good material out there which could be collected and published. By making it a reprint anthology rather than a monograph, we eliminate the probable disaster of getting a fan writer to turn out a book on time. It's perfect to go along with the 50th anniversary. I've asked Ben and George to see if enough good material exists to make such a project worth considering.

Sharon Sbarsky:

Westercon Party Report. Greg Thokar and I arrived Wednesday night and discovered that everything the hotel previously told me was wrong and the type of room I actually wanted for the party was a "Standard Room" near the lobby. The two-story "Deluxe Rooms" off the patio were actually two-story buildings with regular hotel-type rooms off the parking lot. Wednesday night there were no available rooms to change to, so I put myself on the waiting list, and polled the other committee and friends there to try to locate a better party room. Thursday at noon they told me to come back at three and a room would be available. I ended up two doors down from the Portland in '88 Westercon Suite. (I felt sorry for whoever was between us.)

We held the party Friday night since Saturday was the Masquerade, and a Masquerade in San Diego meant big and good. Andrea Mitchell's mother lives in San Diego, so Andrea baked three types of brownies at her mother's house and supplied bowls for the party. She also supplied her van to go shopping in. Andrea and I went shopping and bought 5 8-pound bags of ice along with party supplies. When we came back and discovered that the ice machines were dead and buried, she and Gary Feldbaum went to buy more ice at a local ice manufacturer for both our party and Andrea's brother's party, which was the same night. Greg and Dave Cantor felt that I might have been low on supplies, since this Westercon was larger than usual (2700, but one-days were double-counted) and we were close to other parties. So Dave went out again to buy more supplies. We couldn't count on a 24-hour store since this was July 4th.

Dave, Greg and I prepared the munchies and then tried to find a hotel restaurant (there were many restaurants) that wasn't too crowded. We ate at a counter and went back in time to do last-minute preparations before the hordes descended. We opened right at nine. The first words were "Where's the chocolate?"; the next were "MMMmmm." The party took in about \$280, including 39 Presupporters and 26 Tea-shirts. There were plenty of munchies and soda left over. It turned out to be a cool drizzly night and people were not thirsty. In fact neither Ben Yalow nor Rick Katze touched the Pepsi until I pointed out that there were 3 unopened bottles! Andrea's brownies and Tom Galloway's chocolate chip pie did get demolished. We sold the leftovers to the Woodstockcon and Joel Rosenberg/Felicia Herman parties to bring the costs back in budget. We closed around 3am and smuffed for a while while we cleaned up. I left a \$5 tip for the maid and got another thank-you note.

Pam Fremon:

I think one of the nicest things N3 could do for the fans for the 50th anniversary would be to celebrate fandom itself — in particular, return to the roots. In APA: NESFA and in oral discussions recently people have lamented how some fannish areas have tended to become "professional", to the point where a new fan may find it hard to break in, or may even feel unwelcome. Why not make an extra effort to lure in, educate, and encourage participation in the areas, particularly the fannish areas? Why not create a [pun unintended] "Renaissance Fan"?

Fanzines — How many of the casual fans who are under 30 know what a fanzine is? This is a difficult area to open up. Perhaps some of the notable fanzine fans could offer readings from fanzines. Another idea would be to have them run semi-workshop/lectures on what fanzines are — or how to get them — or how to get started writing for them. It would be important to discourage, at these things, reminiscences between current fanzine fans of personalities from the past who would be meaningless to the uninformed fan.

Fanzines may seem like a small interest compared to areas like the exhibits, but the fanzine has deep roots in fandom. It should be one of the areas highly deserving of being brought to the younger generation's attention, in this anniversary year.

[Pam also discussed ways of making other areas, such as the Art Show, Filking, and Program, more accessible to the neofan.]

Jim Mann:

Fannish Terminology. Fandom has many long-standing traditions. One of these traditions is the use of a fannish vocabulary. We always talk of SMOFs, GAFIA, and so forth. However, there is one place in particular where we seem to ignore fannish tradition, and I think we should not: the Huckster's Room. The long-standing fannish term for those who sell things at SF conventions is "huckster" not "dealer." "Dealer" seems to be a term that has come into use in the last few years due to the large number of non-fans who are now buying space in the Huckster's Room. But we should keep in mind that we are running an SF convention, and that as such we should try to follow the traditions of SF fandom. Furthermore, "huckster" is a fun term, used by those who are here to have fun; "dealer" is a deadly serious term, used by those who don't really care about the con but only about the money they can make from it.

It has been argued that "huckster" may offend some hucksters. I have several things to say about this. First of all, if they complain, we can explain fannish tradition to them, and point out that the term is not meant to be derogatory. Second, the only people "huckster" tends to offend are the non-fannish types who I'm not sure we should encourage and who perhaps are in need of offending. If we give in to non-fannish usage because some non-fans out there don't like it, what's next? If some fans object to being called "fans" but want to be called "aficionados," do we rename "fan programming" "aficionado programming"?

Preproposers' Letter:

[As most of you know, Presupporters of Boston in 1989 were recently mailed coupons good for \$5 off their attending membership in Noreascon 3, if we win the bid. Our Preproposers also received a letter. . .]

Dear Preopposer,

Thank you for opposing our bid over the last four years. To show our annoyance, we have enclosed a coupon good towards increasing your attending membership in Noreascon 3 by \$5 (if we win anyway).

Since you paid extra to be a preopposer we feel that it is only fair that you pay extra for your membership in Noreascon 3. As with the other coupon, which you may use as well if you wish, the "preopposing" coupon expires February 15, 1987.

Unfannishly Yours,
The Boston in 1989 Committee

TURTLE SOUP

Letters from our readers

Art Show Fees

- Margaret Middleton, Russellville AR:

I and my husband Morris (Mostly me in the advance paperwork; mostly Morris at the convention) have been managing the art show at ROC*KON in Little Rock, AR for the last several years, with an administrative structure derived (simplified) from that used by NESFA at Boskones/Noreascons, as described in various fannish publications and observed on-site at various Boston conventions. ROC*KON is not a huge regional (about 250 bodies max) so we don't need a really complex system.

Basically we charge a space-fee, which the artist can fill with NFS if s/he wants or with for-sale art. If an artist sells enough art to where the 10% commission structure would come to more than the space-fee paid, we take the 10%; otherwise the space-fee is all that is paid. Our minimum space sold is 1/2 panel (24" vertical x 29" horizontal) for \$3; the artist would only have to sell over \$30 worth to get into the 10% bracket.

I can see where this sort of system would require some electronic assistance on the calculating end if applied to a convention the size of a Noreascon; it takes enough time for the 30-odd artists ROC*KON draws, though a carefully-designed calculations-fill-in form speeds things up considerably.

[This sounds like a nice compromise. You make sure that everybody pays their way with the minimum space fee, but then get a little extra from the people who sell a lot. Doesn't sound too hard to compute; as long as the percentage is 10, in our number system it's easy. The time-consuming part is getting all the selling prices and adding them up, and that has to be done anyway to figure out what the con owes the artists. — LT]

- Pat Morrissey (artist), Gardner MA:

I can certainly see the point of wanting to know what kind of money will be coming in, and it's true Art Shows do take more set up, volunteers, and security.

I feel the Art Show should be open to all. Juried shows can scare off people and beginning artists should have the opportunity. But the serious artists who feel the show is really important to them should be willing to pay, then adjust their prices to cover costs. Panel fee and commission would leave off the dabblers. After all, it is a Worldcon. Boskone policy of limiting panel space to newcomers is also a good idea.

I feel there are qualified people out there to jury a show, but there's certainly a lot of extra work involved with deadlines, slide handling, and getting a panel together for judging.

A price break on early registration helps to break up the (cash flow) problem for most of us. I personally have an easier time paying for something if it's broken up over a period of time, i.e., Membership, panel space, and commission.

I'm sure you all will work it out for the best and let us all know in good time.

Conventions and Bids

- Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Thanks for the package you sent to me for Ad Astra VI. I made sure each flyer had a sticker attached (still with backing, of course!), and the lot went on our convention freebie table, where they were snapped up in short order. Happy to help out.

Ad Astra VI was our largest Ad Astra since 1980, with 590 people. Next year will not only be Ad Astra VII, but also Convention 7, or the seventh annual Canadian National Science Fiction Convention, so I hope you'll be able to come up next year. We not only made a real jump in attendance, but we also had our first Worldcon bid party. . . . Bob Hillis came up and hosted a Cincinnati in '88 party. Good fun.

I don't know if Myles Bos has been sending interesting stuff to you, but by now, you must be aware of the Myles Bos' House in '89 funbid. The best laugh I've had in many moons, and many of the crazies involved are old friends from my neofannish days. If you get the silly updates they print up, you'll know that I'm the bid's announced ProGoH. My question is: Will this make any difference to my prereg with you? (big grin) Silly stuff all round, and a good time.

My wife Yvonne and I would like to volunteer to help with not only the bid, but also the Worldcon itself. I'd like to help with the dealers' room, and Yvonne would like to help with the masquerade. She also offers her services as a French translator should you need one. She's fully bilingual. We need the experience. . . . who knows when we might need it for another bid, hm? Anyway, please keep our names on file. . . . The next few years should be interesting, with two Worldcons in preparation at the same time.

[Thanks for helping out with our flyers, Lloyd, and for volunteering to help with the convention. As you probably expect, with a 3-year lead time, we will probably not be making definite appointments for a little while yet. But it's good to know we have people we can count on when the time comes.

I have seen one of the Myles' House flyers, and was very impressed with their organization. For example, they plan to assure a good food supply for the con by planting plenty of potatoes in the spring. Now that's pre-planning! I hadn't been aware, though, that you were their GoH. Congratulations! We have no problem with that; we think competition adds some spice to the race and makes it much more fun. If Myles' House wins, I plan to volunteer for the hammocks-in-the-backyard special interest group! — LT]

• Sheila Strickland, Baker LA:

The change in format promises to make for interesting reading. After being on the concom of a relatively small convention, I'm curious to see the inner workings of a big one. And this way, I don't have the worry of how it'll all turn out!

You realize, of course, that those of us with happy memories of Noreascon II will be hoping for another goodie. I like what I've read so far and have started looking forward to it.

The new Hynes looks great. Wall to wall carpeting? Marbled walls and floors?! Can fandom survive such elegance? (Can such elegance survive fandom?)

• We have received the first issue of a new fanzine called *Con Games*, edited by Bruce Farr under the auspices of the Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society, Inc., PO Box 11743, Phoenix AZ 85061. Its purpose is to circulate information to those who are involved in s-f and related area conventions. In the first issue, published on April 27, Bruce invites commentary from his readers about a number of subjects, including liability insurance, Worldcon masquerades, online registration, serving alcoholic beverages, and other topics. He also has a questionnaire on reader experience and opinions. The first few issues will

be subsidized by CASFS and will be sent free to interested parties.

Name the Cat Contest

• Paul W. Meyer, Hilton NY:

I'm a bit miffed. I sent in an entry on your Name the Cat Contest (copy enclosed) in plenty of time. It was completely ignored. No reference. No mention. I'm not even included in the quantity of people who submitted.

OK!, I thought . . . not enough BNF'ery to my name . . . they have space limitations . . . but to not even be a number!!!! . . . an affront of cosmic proportions.

It was probably a mistake.

[It certainly was a mistake! I never even saw your letter, Paul. Believe me, I would have remembered it. (Here are some excerpts from Paul's original letter.) — LT]

So you need a name for that furry beast adorning your t-shirts and publications alike!? It seems almost inappropriate to have a Worldcon bid, backed by so solid a group as MCFI, represented by an entity with a tendency to "fade" away.

We'll start with a name using one of my favorite words. Everywhere you look you see that Funny (or Furry) Little Ubiquitous Face or "FLUF" for short.

Using this as a base, you can create a number of variants to encompass a variety of circumstances and opinions.

For example: "FLUF-N-STUFF" could be

- *Noreascon's Symbol To the Ultimate in Furry Fandom*
- *Noreascon's Seduction of The Unwitting Fringe Fan*
- *Now Symbolizing Tremendous Unrestrained Fannish Fun*
- *Noreascon's Solution to Unrestrained Furry Fandom*
- *Never Say That's Unusual For Fans*

The permutations of this incarnation alone are virtually endless (well . . . very large). Consider what you could do with such combinations as: "FLUFF-OFF", "FLUF-N-SCRUF", "FLUF-YOU!", "FLUF-N-BOOTS"; "FLUF-IT", or "SNA-FLUF-U".

The Mad 3 Party #13

Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc.
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FIRST CLASS MAIL