



— Special Division Structure Issue —

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Those of us who went over to Conspiracy had a great time in Britain. Most of us actually did most of the things we listed last issue, and came back only a little the worse for wear and with suitcases bulging with books. (Several people did make it to Hay-on-Wye!) Staying in a 15th century Scottish castle was great fun, except that I forgot that a room at the top of a tower might have one disadvantage in a building constructed before elevators were invented. (Indoor plumbing and heat had been added, but the spiral stone staircase was unimproved.)

At Conspiracy, Noreascon 3 ran a membership table which did good business. We decided that it was not practical to hold an open party because a) the Metropole required that supplies be purchased through them at rather high rates, and b) there were so few open parties that the ones that were held tended to be mobbed. It seemed clear that we wouldn't have been able to stay open very long without spending more than we had budgeted for supplies. Instead, we obtained a suite on Monday night (courtesy of Scott and Jane Dennis) for a small BYOB gathering of committee and friends. I'm told that a number of other parties made generous donations of their leftovers: Los Angeles in '90, PSFS, Chicago in '91, and others.

I didn't attend enough of Conspiracy to be able to write a full-scale con report, but I have covered a few areas of particular interest to con-runners: the WSFS Business Meeting (on page 4) and the "gripe session" (on page 7).

The Noreascon 3 hotel situation progresses, but at a slow pace. We had developed a draft contract, but our lawyers advised us to first sign a letter of agreement containing most of the significant points, and then to negotiate a detailed contract later. (Apparently the Sheraton Corporation lawyers also prefer to follow this route.) The letter of agreement was sent to the hotel on September 4, and they are still reviewing it. On page 3, we give some information about a security plan that might be incorporated as part of our agreement.

The major work of the committee over the past two months was the definition of our division structure and the appointment of the division heads. (See article on page 2.)

Mark Olson and Priscilla Pollner were also busy preparing for their wedding, which occurred on September 19, and a move into a new house. (They have been trying to keep a low profile, but I suspect that people would have figured out that *something* was going on when they noticed that Priscilla had changed her name to Olson.)

Don't forget Smofcon IV, which will be held on November 20-22 in Columbus, Ohio. A note on Smofcon with some of the planned program topics can be found on page 8.

Also, don't forget that the Noreascon 3 membership rates will be going up on January 1. Remind your friends to join, and if you haven't converted, now is a good time to do so.

In closing, I'd like to mention and thank the people who review each issue of *The Mad 3 Party* before publication and give me their comments and suggestions: Mark Olson, Fred Isaacs, Don Eastlake, and George Flynn.

— LT

Back Issues

Back issues of *The Mad 3 Party* are available from Noreascon 3 at a price of \$1 per issue. Here are descriptions of the past year's issues.

#14 (October 1986) *Post-ConFederation Issue*. Bidding activities at ConFederation; WSFS Business Meeting events; ConFederation debriefing; Apa excerpts on space usage, etc.; August and September news releases; July, August, and September meetings; Letters on children, ConFederation events, etc. 22 pages.

#15 (December 1986) *Bidding Finances Issue*. History of Boston in '89 bid; Financial reports from '88 and '89 bidders; Apa excerpts on committee organization; Letters on Worldcon bids, ConFederation, etc. 22 pages.

#16 (February 1987) *Smocon Issue*. Smocon 3 report; What goes wrong with Art Shows; Brainstorming at Philcon; Discussion on committee organization; Apa excerpts on budgeting, new approaches to traditional events, etc.; December news release; October and December meetings; Letters on "Whither the Worldcon," etc. 20 pages.

#17 (March 1987) *"Fun With Computers" Issue*. Using computers for convention planning; News release on hotel problem; Apa excerpts on beepers, division head job description, planning budget, etc.; January meeting; Letters on Smocon, "The Game," Art Show, Masquerade, Hucksters' Room, committee organization, bidding finances, Winnipeg bid, etc. 22 pages.

#18 (April 1987) *"Boskone Fallout" Issue*. Discussions of Noreascon 3 hotel situation; Brainstorming at Boskone; NESFA/MCFI rental agreement; Apa excerpts on rowdiness, program, Hynes function space; February and March meetings; Letters on Worldcon management, Worldcon bidding, Art Show, etc. 22 pages.

#19 (June 1987) *Body Count Issue*. Where people spend their time at conventions, with statistics from ConFederation program and Boskone; ConFederation program room manager comments; N3 hotel update; Apa excerpts on managing multiple hotels, rowdiness, etc.; May meeting; Letters on hotel situation, Whither the Worldcon, Worldcon management, and the usual. 22 pages.

#20 (August 1987) *Vacation Issue*. Committee plans for sightseeing in Britain; Proposed WSFS amendments; Ausiecon Two financial statement; N3 hotel update; Apa excerpts on burnout, Fourth St. Fantasy Con, and the Green Room; June and July meetings, with discussion on division structure; Letters on program statistics, hotel situation, and using computers. 20 pages.

Noreascon 3 Division Structure

Noreascon 3 has arrived at a division structure and has made division head appointments. Although we had a lot of theoretical discussion about how Worldcons in general should be organized, the structure we finally came up with had more to do with the interests of the people involved and the special needs of Noreascon 3 than with any theoretical considerations.

We talked a lot about having a greater number of smaller divisions to spread the workload, but what we came out with instead was about the traditional number of divisions, but with many of these having co-heads. The reasons for doing this differed from division to division. In some cases, one of the division heads lives outside of Massachusetts, and we felt that it was essential to have at least one of the heads of each division be local and be able to participate in frequent meetings. In some, the division heads have complementary talents. All the teams have worked together before and are confident of their ability to work together well for the next two years.

When we discussed the division structure on a theoretical basis, some people felt that each division should contain related areas, to minimize the need for communication between areas in different divisions. The structure we are proposing does not have such clean breaks; there are many places where areas in several divisions *must* cooperate to make things happen. Building up channels of communication so that the divisions can work smoothly together is one thing we all will be working on very hard over the next two years. We want to foster a feeling of commitment to the convention as a whole, rather than to individual divisions or areas.

The areas falling into each division have not been completely decided. As planning progresses, we expect to work this out in more detail.

Before going into the structure and appointments, I might say a few words about area-head selection. The division heads have agreed that, for now, no area-head appointments will be made without general division head approval. So for those of you who are interested in doing particular things, now is the time to make your desires known. Just understand that the person to whom you volunteer probably can't give you an immediate answer.

Here is a brief list of the division-head and related appointments. Following that, I describe each division and the people involved in more detail.

Officers and Staff

<i>Chairman:</i>	Mark Olson
<i>Staff:</i>	Jim Hudson, Leslie Turek
<i>Secretary:</i>	Jim Mann
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Ann Broomhead

Division Heads

<i>Program:</i>	Priscilla Olson and Ben Yalow
<i>Extravaganzas:</i>	Jill Eastlake and Ellen Franklin
<i>Second Floor:</i>	Fred Isaacs and Peggy Rae Pavlat
<i>Facilities:</i>	Don Eastlake
<i>Services:</i>	Jim and Laurie Mann
<i>WSFS and Art Show:</i>	George Flynn

The Program Division includes the various tracks of programming, including the Green Room and program operations, VIP and GoH liaison, and production of the pocket program.

Priscilla Olson has co-run Program for the last two Boskones, and assisted with Program Operations at Con-Federation. Ben Yalow has attended over 250 conventions, and has worked on about 100 of them. His jobs at conventions have ranged from gofer to regional chairman (Lunacon 1978) and Worldcon Division Manager (first: Chicon 1982). He was Assistant Division Manager for Fluid Functions at Constellation, and was the Assistant Division Manager in the Programming Division of Con-Federation until January, 1986 (at which time he was transferred to the Services Division). Although Ben lives in New York, he visits Boston frequently for MCFI meetings and other fannish events.

The Extravaganzas Division includes the big, special, one-time events, which will mostly be held in the Hynes Auditorium. This includes the Hugo ceremony, Masquerade, Meet the Pros, Opening and Closing ceremonies, etc. It may also include a banquet or off-site event, if we decide to do them, and may possibly include films. In the past, Noreascons have not been particularly innovative in these areas. Both Jill and Ellen are hoping to change this by bringing some showmanship and fresh ideas into this division.

Ellen Franklin was head of the Exhibits Division for Noreascon 2, managed the Iguanacon Masquerade, and works professionally as Director of Corporate Exhibits and Shows for Hasbro. She is actively involved in meeting and event planning, as well as serving on the Board of Directors of the International Exhibitors Association.

Jill Eastlake was Treasurer of Noreascon 2 and has worked in many different positions on Boskones and Worldcons. Ellen and Jill met through fandom more than 15 years ago and have worked together on a number of events and projects. In addition, Jill and Ellen are clearly compatible — they both like oatmeal for breakfast.

We mentioned in the last issue that we are trying to find innovative ways to use a large open area in the Hynes to serve as an interesting place for people to meet and talk, share information, view exhibits, etc. **The "Second Floor" Division** (which will have a name change when we think of something better) will handle things in and around this area. It will probably include such areas as Hucksters, standing exhibits, registration, mixing area, information, newsletter, press relations, hall events, filking, special interest tables, and con suite.

Fred Isaacs was Treasurer of Noreascon 1 and Chairman's Aide for Noreascon 2, as well as Chairman of Boskone 9. Peggy Rae Pavlat ran Press Relations at Noreascon 2 and Chicon IV. Fred and Peggy Rae as a team have headed the Programming Subdivision for Con-Federation, the Fluid Functions Division for ConStellation, have done program for a Disclave, and Members Services for a Space Development Convention. In many of these efforts, they have gathered together a group of people, called "The Bubble Brigade," who enjoy working together and who try to make the conventions they work on enjoyable for others. This is the type of attitude that we hope will make the Hynes Second Floor work as the hub of convention activity.

The Facilities Division is another new type of division that grew out of the special needs of Noreascon 3. This will handle liaison with our facilities and associated contractors: Hotels, Hynes, Security, Decorator, Caterer, etc. It will handle hotel room assignment, elevator management, and shuttle buses if we have them. It may also be responsible for technical services.

As Operations Division Head for Noreascon 2, Don Eastlake handled these types of responsibilities. Since then, he has run hotel and security liaison for several Boskones. He has been heavily involved in our Sheraton negotiations, and was responsible for securing alternative facilities when the situation appeared to be critical.

The Services Division is responsible for supplying various services to the convention. This includes office management, logistics, committee den and gopher hole, handicapped services, babysitting and activities for kids, internal committee communications, and publications.

Jim and Laurie Mann are currently working together as Chairs of Boskone 25, to be held in January, 1988. Together, they ran Children's Programming at Noreascon 2. Laurie has run People Mover and At-con Registration, and has co-run Program at Boskone. Jim has run Program and Services at recent Boskones, and the Services Division fits in naturally with many of his responsibilities as committee secretary.

The WSFS and Art Show Division may be an unusual combination, but both of them are small enough to not quite justify a division of their own, and George Flynn has experience with both. George was Secretary of Noreascon 2. He has had a long-term interest in WSFS business, ran the Hugo Voting at Noreascon 2, and has served as advisor to many Worldcon Hugo Awards committees. He ran the Art Show at Boskone 23.

The Chairman's Staff is an idea that has been discussed in several past issues. The idea is to have a couple of people working closely with the chairman who can assist with the chairman's tasks on a fairly high level. Jim Hudson was Division Head of Member Services at Noreascon 2, and Leslie Turek was Chairman of Noreascon 2.

The Office of the Secretary, headed by Jim Mann, will run the mailroom and handle the committee apa.

The Office of the Treasurer, headed by Ann Broomhead, will coordinate the money-handling aspects of the convention, and will run sales to members.

— LT

Proposed Convention Security Plan

In our discussions with the Sheraton, the Sheraton asked us to propose a security plan that would prevent the problems they experienced in connection with Boskone. In response to this, an 11-page plan was prepared by Don Eastlake (with input from Mark Olson and Leslie Turek), and was presented to the Sheraton as a starting point for discussions. The introduction to this plan gives a reasonable overview of the type of security we are currently expecting to have, and we print it under "Philosophy of Convention Security," below.

The hotel's main stated objection to holding a science fiction convention is the large amount of activity and noise on the sleeping room floors late into the night. One way

of looking at it is that the problems arise from trying to use the same physical area for two different (and incompatible) functions: partying and sleeping. Our solution to the problem is to try to separate the two functions: to keep the partying localized to the function rooms and lowest sleeping room floors, and to have an interesting mixing area in the Hynes that will provide another option for evening activities.

The Sheraton-Boston has received the security plan, along with a letter of agreement drafted by our lawyers outlining the basic provisions we feel should be in our contract. The letter includes provisions for both function room service and guest room charges, corkage, party blocking, etc. The hotel is currently considering the letter of agreement, and we are waiting for their response. The agreement may be subject to modification after we hear their reaction. Once the letter is signed, we will negotiate a detailed contract incorporating the provisions in the letter.

As you read the following, please remember that the language is specifically aimed at the hotel and the lawyers.

— LT

Philosophy of Convention Security

From our experience with World Science Fiction Conventions, we know what areas are likely to be attractive and what times and days are likely to have extra exuberance. The following paragraphs indicate our general thoughts on this matter, but in general, these attractive areas are the place to concentrate security. There is usually no reason to guard an empty function room (although they need to be checked periodically if they can't be locked).

It should be kept in mind that we will be doing what we can to make the Hynes, which is more capable of handling large crowds than the Sheraton, the focus of the convention and to smooth the crowd flow when large events let out. Besides having most of programming, Art Show, Exhibits, Hucksters Room, and the big events in the Hynes, we will also have registration there and the Con Suite, if feasible. Thus the Hynes will be the place members first interact with Noreascon 3 on their arrival to register and will be the place where most mixing occurs.

Most hotel problems are caused by excessive energy rather than any sort of destructiveness. Friday night probably needs the most coverage, as it is the first night with everyone there and relatively fresh. Thursday and Saturday nights do not need as much coverage in the Sheraton, and there will probably be little security requirement on Sunday and Monday nights.

During the day, the main thing to worry about is badge checking around the large program items and exhibit halls (essentially around the Hynes and the Grand / Independence / Republic area). Minor program items in the Sheraton, such as something that would fit in Jefferson or Kent, are really not worth the effort to secure and will not be a security problem. Back house security will not be much of a problem during the day as the areas are normally occupied by Sheraton personnel and guards on rounds should take care of it.

At night, instead of guard coverage trying to seal off sleeping floors, the thing to do is to (1) provide a reasonable hotel party area, such as the Sheraton 5th floor and some of the 3rd floor, with fairly heavy coverage to keep

the lid on and keep out crashers. (2) prohibit open parties on upper floors to make those floors less attractive, enforced by moderately heavy guards on rounds. *[We want to emphasize that this provision prohibits only open parties, which have been defined in our discussions as parties that openly advertise or keep their doors open to invite passers-by to stop in. The hotel has been told that we still expect that people will be allowed to hold private parties on the upper floors. The purpose of the guards in this area would be to prevent vandalism and disturbances in the corridors.]* (3) keep newsletter or other attraction list distribution within the security perimeter, and (4) plan overlapping and following events so that you never have a large group of people released all at once with limited places to go.

Open hotel parties will primarily run from 9 pm to 3 am, most starting at 10 pm after any evening event, and petering out around 1:30 or 2 am. Coverage in open party areas needs to ramp up before and ramp down after these hours. We will be planning a moderately attractive movie to start around 2 am to provide a buffer for people leaving parties, and end the film program around 4 am. *[We don't consider this film cutoff to be cast in concrete. In fact, the cover letter with this plan offered to negotiate on this, and specifically offered to run 24-hour films if the Sheraton-Boston thought that would be preferable. The film program is currently planned to be in the Sheraton and the Sheraton has repeatedly indicated that the problem is people wandering sleeping room floors, not functions in function rooms.]* After the program, in program areas, and after the parties, in party areas, guard coverage is primarily to stop inappropriate activities.

There will be at least two big evening events in the Hynes but we will design them to be followed by something attractive to reduce the effects of a large number of people being let go at one time. In any case, such crowds will be encouraged to exit via the Boylston Street or West Court Hynes exits. Since such transients are unlikely to last more than half an hour, they are more appropriately taken care of by convention workers rather than contract security which typically has a four-hour minimum shift.

[The plan goes on to list the specific guard schedules for areas described above.]

Conspiracy WSFS Business Meeting

The Conspiracy WSFS Business Meeting was well-attended and surprisingly tranquil. Most business passed with little or no debate, with most discussion aimed at clarifying the meaning and effects of the motions rather than arguing their merits.

The meeting was chaired by Tim Stannard, who seemed to be experienced in chairing meetings, but lacked some of the WSFS background that would have been helpful when he needed to rule on procedural matters. He was forced to rely heavily on Parliamentarian Ben Yalow for prompting when things got complicated. Tim did provide a welcome note of levity, however, which probably helped keep things from getting heated. (Although his appearance in some sort of German WWII uniform on Saturday was not in the best of taste.)

Here is a brief report on the actions of the business meeting.

Business Passed On From ConFederation

All motions passed on to Conspiracy from the Atlanta Business Meeting were ratified (some with modifications) and are now part of the WSFS Constitution. Briefly, the motions provided for the following:

- NASFiC committees will now be able to appoint a non-voting representative to the Mark Registration and Protection Committee. (This motion had been amended to read "voting representative" at ConFederation, but was amended back to "non-voting" at Conspiracy.)
- The Worldcon financial reporting requirements have been modified to allow more time for the final financial report to be produced, but to require interrim pre-con financial reports at each business meeting.
- The North American rotation zones have been defined more clearly.
- The definition of "Best Non-Fiction Book" Hugo category has been changed to read "whose subject is science fiction, fantasy, or fandom" (from the previous wording, "relating to science fiction or fantasy").
- Worldcon committees are required to attempt to notify Hugo nominees (or their heirs) and to offer them the opportunity to withdraw their names before the ballot is announced.
- The WSFS Constitution and rules must be distributed to all members at the convention, either in the Program Book or by other means.

New Business

All of the motions printed in the last *Mad 3 Party* (#20) were approved — some with minor modifications. These motions must now be ratified by the Nolacon WSFS Business Meeting before they will become part of the WSFS Constitution. For the record, I will list the movers and seconders of each motion and note any significant amendments.

Business Meeting Quorum

This was moved by Donald E. Eastlake, III and seconded by Gary Keith Feldbaum.

Question Time

Moved by Leslie J. Turek and seconded by Neil Rest. Debate on this motion centered on the possible expense incurred by a Worldcon committee in sending a representative to the business meeting. In response to this point, the wording was changed from "send an official representative" to "designate an official representative."

Broadened Hugo Nominations

Moved by Mike Glycer and seconded by Donald E. Eastlake, III and Scott Dennis. This motion generated a lot of discussion of a side issue — the rule which required each Worldcon to forward the names and addresses of its members to the next Worldcon so that they could be included in the Hugo nomination process. Members of the Conspiracy committee claimed that this would be impossible for a UK Worldcon to comply with, due to the British "Data Protection Act of 1984", restricting the dissemination of computerized personal data. [It appears that a printed listing of just names and membership numbers,

without addresses, is legal for even a UK Worldcon to pass on.] The matter was resolved by an amendment that when this rule was in conflict with local law, the Worldcon committee need not violate the local law.

NASFiC Selection Amedment

Moved by Scott Dennis and seconded by Mike Glycer and Donald E. Eastlake, III. This motion generated much discussion due to its complexity. When people finally understood what it meant, they voted in favor of it.

Availability of Supporting Membership

Moved by Donald E. Eastlake, III and seconded by Scott Dennis and Mike Glycer. This motion was passed with minor wording changes.

Worldcon Processes Protection Amendment

This was a new motion that did not appear in the last *M3P*. It was proposed by Elizabeth L. Gross and seconded by Victoria A. Smith, Beverly L. Brandt, Robert L. Hillis, and Robert E. Sacks. It provided that the Mark Registration and Protection Committee be responsible for the complete Hugo nomination and balloting process and the Site Selection process. An objection to consideration was brought against this motion and sustained, so the motion was never debated.

Mark Registration and Protection Committee

Rick Katze, chairman of the Mark Registration and Protection Committee read the following report:

Activities during the past year

The Mark "NASFiC" was registered in the United States of America.

A law firm in the United Kingdom has been selected and applications have been filed for registration of all the WSFS Marks except for "NASFiC" (which seems inappropriate for the UK) and "Science Fiction Achievement Award" (which was rejected for registration in the United States).

Four requests were received by the committee for lists of the Hugo Award winners. These and other correspondence received has been responded to.

Initial meeting at Conspiracy '87

A meeting of the committee was held Thursday night, 27 August 1987. A resolution was unanimously passed requesting the Conspiracy committee to print a notice in its daily newspaper noting that "World SF, The International Association of Science Fiction Professionals" is not connected with the World Science Fiction Convention or the World Science Fiction Society.

[This was related to the fact that a "World SF" flyer which did not give the full name of that organization was stuffed in many Conspiracy registration packets. Conspiracy did print the notice as requested. — LT]

Financial Report

During the past year the committee received \$700 in donations and expended \$190.73 in postage and other expenses leaving \$680.11 cash on hand. Total cost of UK Mark registration is estimated to be between \$2,000 and \$3,000 and sources for these funds have been located.

For a full copy of the 1986-1987 Financial Report, a copy of the WSFS Mark Usage Guide, or to report apparent infringements on WSFS Marks, write to the Committee at

*WSFS Mark Registration and Protection Committee
PO Box 1270, Kendall Square Station
Cambridge, MA 02142, USA*

Elections were held to replace retiring members Rick Katze (Eastern), Willie Siros (Central), and Ross Pavlac (Central). Three members were to be elected, no more than one from the Eastern zone or two from the Central zone. Nominations and consents were received for Leslie Turek (Eastern), Robert Hillis (Central), and Elizabeth Gross (Central). A nomination was received for Rick Katze but he withdrew his consent. The three remaining nominees were elected by acclamation.

A combined meeting of the outgoing, incoming, and continuing committee members was held on Sunday. The committee elected Don Eastlake chairman and Scott Dennis secretary/treasurer. The committee decided that after pursuing mark registration in the United Kingdom, the next country attempted would be Canada. They also decided to continue discussions with "World SF — The Association of Science Fiction Professionals" with an aim toward reducing potential name confusion. Scott Dennis reported that Nolacon has donated \$1800 towards the work of the committee.

Codification of Business Meeting Resolutions

At the 1986 WSFS Business Meeting, a special committee was created to compile the resolutions and rulings of continuing effect that have been adopted at WSFS business meetings. Business Meeting chairman Bruce Pelz appointed Donald Eastlake to be this committee.

At Conspiracy, the committee presented a report based on minutes of the 1978 through 1986 WSFS Business Meetings (excluding 1979, for which minutes are not available). The committee hoped that, if the compilation task were continued, anyone with minutes of earlier business meetings would make them available to the committee.

The committee proposed several motions. The first introduced the notion of "resolutions and rulings of continuing effect" into the business meeting standing rules. This motion was passed.

The second moved the work of compiling these resolutions and rulings to the Mark Registration and Protection Committee. In the case of this motion failing, an alternative motion to continue the special committee was also proposed. The alternative motion passed, continuing the special committee for another year.

Copies of the committee's report are available from Donald Eastlake, PO Box N, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge MA 02139. Since the special committee has no operating funds, it would be helpful to include a large SASE with your request.

1990 Site Selection

There was the potential for a disruptive site-selection challenge, since, due to yet another set of mailing foulups by Conspiracy, most of the qualified voters did not receive their site-selection ballots in time to vote. In spite of this, however, the two bidders (Holland and Los Angeles) got together at the beginning of the convention and issued a joint statement that they would abide by the results of the vote, however it came out. This seemed to be the only reasonable solution, since the logistics of extending the voting time while still following the WSFS rules seemed almost insurmountable. (Mike Glycer discusses this decision

in detail in *File 770 #69*.) Still, it was unfortunate that the voting was not completely representative, and it is understandable why a motion was submitted to turn site selection and Hugo voting over to the Mark Registration and Protection Committee.

In the end, Holland won by enough of a margin to indicate that they would probably have won in any case.

	<i>Mail</i>	<i>At-Con</i>	<i>Total</i>
LA	138	402	540
Holland	98	712	810
No Preference	5	9	14
None of Above	1	5	6
Write-In	0	3	3
Other			10
<i>Total</i>			<i>1373</i>

The Holland convention will be called "ConFiction," and will be held in The Hague from August 23 to 27, 1990. Guests of honor are Joe Haldeman, Wolfgang Jeschke (editor), Harry Harrison, and Andrew Porter (fan). Chelsea Quinn Yarbro will be toastmistress. Initial rates (through December) are \$25 supporting, \$45 attending, and \$20 conversion. (Conversion for Presupporters of the Holland bid is \$10.) The Holland committee agreed that, if they could receive a list of the non-attending members from Conspiracy, they would extend the lower voter's membership rate to those who did not receive their ballots in time. (See their announcement on page 8.)

Holland's victory did, of course, raise concerns that the three-year lead time coupled with the three-year rotation system would "lock in" non-North American bids and deny the West Coast the Worldcon for many years in succession. However, there are no announced non-North American bids for 1993, and various bidders seem to have carefully avoided that year. For example, Perth, originally bidding for 1992, has switched to 1994, and Zagreb, Yugoslavia, originally bidding for 1991, has also switched to 1994.

There was also much talk about changing to a system where the non-North American bids are guaranteed a particular slot, rather than being allowed to compete at any time. The major problem with that is that there is bound to be a lot of heated debate about how often that slot should be. It looks like we're in for another round of site-selection debate at Nolacon next year.

Future Bidders

The business meeting also allowed an opportunity for the 1991 bidders to speak. Ross Pavlac spoke for Chicago. The Chicago bid is proposing the Hyatt Regency that was used for Chicon IV in 1982. The Hyatt has about 2000 rooms, and a number of new hotels have been built nearby that connect to the Hyatt via underground passageways. The con chairman would be Kathleen Meyer. In his talk, Ross stressed both tradition and innovation as hallmarks of a Chicago Worldcon.

Greg Rickards gave a lengthy and entertaining talk on behalf of Sydney, Australia. That committee proposes using a new convention center currently being built on Sydney Harbor, to be connected to the downtown area by monorail. There would be a few small hotels near the convention site; hotels in the downtown area would also be used. Many of the Australian fans with Worldcon experience were not participating in the bidding effort, but Greg

felt that they would become involved in Worldcon planning if the bid were won.

Although no time was allotted at the business meeting, each Worldcon bidding group that asked was allocated a table on a spacious balcony and lounge area overlooking the dealers' room. Groups present there or otherwise in evidence at Conspiracy included Sydney and Chicago for 1991; Washington (Discon III) and Orlando (Magicon) for 1992; and Berlin, Perth Australia, Winnipeg, and Milwaukee for 1994. There is some evidence that LA is considering running again for 1993, although no official announcement has been made.

— LT

Conspiracy Gripe Session

People who make a hobby of convention-running tend to do strange things at Worldcons. When they're not busy actually working on the convention, they can be found at the business meeting, smuffing with other con runners, taking notes about the things they've noticed, or attending the gripe session. You can learn a lot from a gripe session about what's important to the people attending, and you can gain the benefit of others' experience without having to actually make the same mistakes yourself. The Conspiracy gripe session was no exception.

The Conspiracy committee started out by blaming a lot of their problems on the Metropole hotel. They cited such things as the hotel double-booking rooms, denying entry to convention members when the hotel felt it was too crowded, cutting back the usual breakfast (normally included with the room rate), making function rooms unavailable due to redecorating, closing the pool during the convention, etc. They went so far as to give out the name and address of the managing director of the hotel chain and encouraging fans to write to him directly.

There was an audience complaint about Hugo seating — the fact that the entire floor of the auditorium had been reserved for guests and convention workers, with all other members being relegated to the balconies. The committee responded that the floor had been opened when it was obvious that it would only be partially filled, but the people already in the balconies were not informed of this. A couple of people who worked on the convention complained that they were never told there was special seating for them.

One person was disappointed that Guest of Honor Doris Lessing did not appear on enough program items. The answer was that this was partly due to her own reluctance. The questioner then suggested that there could have been program items *about* the guest, even if she didn't appear on all of them. The answer to this was that there were too many guests to have had many program items about each of them. *[I think that this shows why it's not a good idea to have so many guests of honor that you can't take the time to honor each of them. — LT]*

There was a complaint about the quality of slides shown at the Hugo ceremonies and the fact that there were no film clips used from the nominated films. The committee cited the great expense of renting 35-mm projectors for just a few minutes of film clips. They said that some of the poor slides were due to the fact that the nom-

inees had not provided slides themselves and did not show up for the scheduled photo sessions at the con. *[Some information from people helping out in registration indicated that the problem may have been that the nominees didn't get the photo session announcement stuffed into their packets, due to excessive confusion as to which items were to get stuffed into which packets. People were being registered before all the customized items had been inserted into all the appropriate packets. And then there's the perennial problem that people don't usual have time to read everything they are given in their packets, especially when a lot of it appears to be advertising material. — LT]*

The Masquerade Ball drew some complaints from ticket holders who felt they had not received what was promised. Masquerade director Ann Page had attempted an innovative event in which the traditional masquerade would be followed by a masked ball. Participants in the ball paid 10 pounds for a ticket, which they had been led to believe entitled them to preferred viewing of the masquerade and a buffet dinner. The buffet dinner turned out to be a fixed amount of food packaged in styrofoam. The preferred seats, on the floor of the auditorium, turned out to be worse than the balcony seats which non-paying customers received. This was because the costumes were presented on the floor of the auditorium rather than on a raised stage. Ann argued that this was done for the safety of the contestants, and that she had not realized that the sight lines would work out as poorly as they had. There were also complaints about the music at the ball.

There was a complaint about the disorganization of the masquerade photo area. The location of the photo area had been changed at the last minute, when it was realized that some of the costumes could not fit into the elevator which was needed to transport them to the originally-planned photo area.

A comment in praise of the Sunday night fireworks was applauded by the audience. *[There had been a really impressive show on the Brighton beach immediately after the Hugo awards ceremony. Unfortunately, this did lead to one major problem, when directly after the fireworks the entire convention membership attempted to enter the Metropole at once. This was one of the times when the Metropole stationed guards at the entrance to keep out non-guests. While I was at several parties, calls were received from invited guests explaining that they could not get into the hotel. — LT]*

Someone complained about the convention advertising its dates as running through September 1 (Tuesday), when, in fact, the last day of official convention events was August 31. A number of people indicated that they had made travel plans to leave on Wednesday specifically because they expected that the convention would still be in session on Tuesday. They weren't too impressed by one member of the committee who pointed out that one official function lasted until after midnight on Monday.

One of the artists participating in the art show felt that the art show suffered from lack of organization. His specific complaints were that the customs information sent out by the committee was wrong, the display system involved hammering nails into panels that already had artwork hanging on the other side (thus knocking it down), and the auction rules were constantly changing.

The next speaker held up a copy of the pocket program, which had a cover provided by Bridge Publications, and asked if "this sort of thing" was really necessary. The committee said that professional sponsorship of the convention did provide needed income, and that it was a difficult problem to decide where to draw the line on such sponsorship. *[This may be a good question for discussion in the M3P letter column. — LT]*

Several members of the audience mentioned problems with hotel bookings. One person said he had given up on waiting for the committee to notify him of a hotel assignment and had called the Metropole directly. This inspired a heated exchange in which one member of the con committee accused the people who did that of causing her severe problems because the hotel had double-booked the rooms she thought were being held for convention guests. Several of the people who did that [myself included] pointed out the difficulty of making travel plans when no booking was forthcoming from the committee after many months of waiting.

The bad feelings about the hotel were expressed in a creative manner on Monday night in the fan room, when a group of fans started making up "Hotel Manager jokes," printing them on pieces of paper, and posting them in the hallway outside the fan room. By the time I heard about it and wandered down to view it, there were over 100 items posted, they were still going strong, and the corridor was packed solid with people chortling over them. The news traveled through the hotel staff, who also came by to be amused. I later heard that the sheets were auctioned off at the staff party and raised some 300 pounds for charity.

ConFiction Statement

ConFiction, the 48th World Science Fiction Convention, would like to state that — due to the mail ballot problems which occurred in England — it has agreed with the committee of Conspiracy, the 45th World Science Fiction Convention, as well as with the opposing bid committee from Los Angeles for the 1990 bid and members of the WSFS present at the business meeting in Brighton, to honour ballots cast by members of Conspiracy who did not have a chance to mail in their ballots on time.

Ballots that have been received after the mail deadline, which was already extended till August 29th, will be forwarded to ConFiction by the British committee. We will extend that deadline and offer those members of Conspiracy who did not have a chance to cast their ballot a supporting membership with the right to convert to a full attending membership at the same conditions that are available to those who actually took part in the voting procedure. We regret the problems that have occurred with the mail ballots, but this is a matter which is beyond our responsibility.

Membership rates for ConFiction, valid until December 1st 1987, are: full attending \$45.00, supporting \$25.00, children under 14 \$10.00; conversion rates upon paying the requested voting fee of \$20.00 are: voter only \$20.00, voter and presupporting member of Holland in 1990 \$10.00, and for presupporters of Holland in 1990 who did not vote, \$35.00. Payment should be made directly to our address, either by International money order or cheque, accom-

panied by your mail ballot and your Conspiracy '87 membership number.

We would also like to offer our apologies for the confusion at the conversion desk in Brighton and the conversion rate first quoted in the original progress report zero. All ConFiction members will soon receive a letter from us, and those who have paid too much will be reimbursed. However, there is unfortunately little we can do about inflation and hence request that you pay in your own currency, as our rates are based on the most common currencies used at Worldcons. We hope that this statement helps to clear any and all problems that have occurred in Brighton.

On behalf of the committee of ConFiction,

Kees van Toorn
Chair

ConFiction
48th World Science Fiction Convention
PO Box 95370
2509 CJ Den Haag

Smofcon IV

by Liz Gross, Chair

Smofcon 4 will be held on Nov. 20–22, 1987, at the Quality Inn, Columbus Airport, 4801 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio, 43213. Registration is \$35. The emphasis of Smofcon 4 will be on regionals, large and small, although Worldcons will certainly not be neglected. Programming topics will include Art Shows (moderated by Mark Olson of Boston), Masquerades (Bernie Willinger, Louisville), Programming (Mark Evans, Columbus), Hotel Relations (Steve Francis, Louisville), Recruiting and Training of Staff (Van Siegling, Columbus), Styles of Conventions (Ben Yalow, New York), Changing Convention Management (Leslie Turek, Boston), The Fannish Inquisition (Scott and Jane Dennis, Kentucky). Bob Hillis and Ben Yalow will discuss/debate the role of operations, services, and communications in large conventions. *[See Bob's letter on this subject on page 15 — LT]* Other topics may include Registration, Babysitting and Children's Programming, and the Changing Nature of SF Fandom. We will also have the traditional Smofcon party suite. We will have a wine and cheese tasting party plus game and/or other forms of entertainment. If you wish to participate in any of these panels, write me care of the address given below.

If you have been involved in running many conventions, or only a few, or if you are thinking of running a convention in the future, there will be much to learn and the rest of us can profit from your experience and expertise. Those who register prior to November 1 will receive an advance packet of publications. Send \$35 for your registration and any ideas to Fanaco, Inc., 376 Colonial Ave., Worthington, Ohio, 43085 c/o Liz Gross.

Excerpts from APA:89

July 30, 1987

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

This issue of the apa was devoted mainly to discussions of division structure and material prepared for the discussions with the Sheraton. Since both of these subjects are covered by special articles, I will excerpt only comments on other topics. — LT

Secretary's Report (by Jim Mann)

Mail: Pam [Fremon] continues to function as mailman and is doing a fine job. She picks up the mail, processes and copies it, and passes it to me, with copies given to others (*M3P* copies to Leslie, prereg stuff to Sharon, etc.). I plan to keep mailman as a permanent part of Secretary's staff: Pam if she's willing, though she'll need help in '89.

Mail is coming in slowly at this point. We're getting one or two information requests a week (I'm sending them a flyer in response, with a letter or note if they ask questions not answered by the flyer), perhaps one request a week for Art Show or Huckster info (I'm returning a post card, saying they'll get info as soon as someone is appointed), and a letter or two a week to *M3P*.

Files: The biggest part of the filing is still out of my hands. Sharon and I decided that, at some point in the not-too-distant future, the prereg files will pass to the secretary. For now, however, she has all of them. At this point, all prereg files will be kept in alphabetical order. Letters/correspondence will be kept under the name of the "key" person (usually the person who signed the check); the others on the list will be cross-referenced to this location.

As for the other files, as I noted way back, I'm filing things by subject. Any records we need can be found in one of several folders, depending upon what it is. For example:

- A file of all correspondence with the hotels regarding room and other commitments.
- A file of correspondence with hotels relating to the recent problems.
- A file of all requests for art show/huckster information requests.
- A file of volunteers (I also have an on-line database of this).
- A file of letters addressed to *M3P*.
- A file of correspondence with the GoHs.

There are several others, but you get the picture.

A Reminder to Everyone: I want copies of all correspondence. Later on, I will discuss with individual areas what correspondence I don't need (for example, I probably won't want copies of all letters program sends out). However, unless I've told you otherwise, I want copies of things. *I also want records of phone conversations with hotels, guests of honor, advertisers, etc. This can be a memo to the files, a phone log, or whatever you want.*

PR 2 Mailing Report (by Greg Thokar)

Only a dozen people showed up to help mail out PR 2. *[There were a number of conflicting events that night.]* Many thanks go to Sharon Sbarsky, for providing zip/bulk sorted labels, Kelly Persons, Rick Katze, George Flynn, Wendell Ing, Don Eastlake, Leslie Turek, Dale Farmer, Rich Ferree, and Jane Wagner. Jane receives a "brave and noble," as she is doing a 10,000-piece mailing at work.

2188 PRs were mailed; 2079 going out bulk, about 100 foreigners, and 3 hand-delivered. (Dale was leaving in two days for 3 years of shipboard duty; Jim and Laurie hadn't sent in an address change.)

The PRs were not folded to IM-mailing size as originally planned. This was due mainly to the lack of workers and the fact that they tended to bulge when folded (please recall they are made with 11 x 17 paper that has already been folded once at the spine and stapled). They were stapled twice along the open side, labeled, and placed in zip-sorted/bag-sorted mailing piles. Thanks to Sharon's foresight, this streamlined operation was completed in 2 1/2 hours.

Note for next time: South Station postal annex is not supposed to take in bulk mailings after 7 PM. I was lucky that they made an exception and took the ten mail sacks of PR 2 (estimated at 200 lbs.).

Green Room (by Fred Isaacs)

Isaac's First Law of Feeding Frenzies:

The number of pros in the Green Room when food appears is always sufficient to devour at least twice as much food as you've ordered, regardless of the quantity.

Whatever you do, *don't serve food in the Green Room.* We got more abuse [at ConFederation] for not having enough food than we did for any other thing at the con. And we could not have had enough food, no matter how much we ordered. All sorts of program participants showed up for the free meal. It's amazing how cheap pros are. I think we would have had the same feeding frenzy if we'd served ipecac and peanut butter sandwiches. The case of the occasional pro who hasn't had a chance to eat can be solved by having some gofers around and sending one of them off to get said pro a sandwich.

[I've been thinking about this phenomenon. Why is it that this happens in the Green Room, but not so much in the other areas where food is provided: the staff or gofer lounges, for example? Perhaps the pros seize on the food as the one tangible thing that they get from the convention. Maybe their sense of honor requires that they feel, in some way, that they are being paid for their efforts. The fans do it for the love of it, but the pros, if they are truly to be pros, can't do it just for fun, they have to feel that they are worth something. (This is all very psychoanalytical...) Is there something else we can use to give the pros a sense of fair payment for their professional services? — LT]

MCFI Meeting

Monday, August 10, 1987, at the NESFA Clubhouse, Somerville, Mass.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32. There was a motion to adjourn. It was seconded and passed, and we adjourned at 7:32:30. Mark Olson decided to continue the meeting anyway.

Division Structure: Mark noted that there was a handout describing the new division structure. [See article on page 2.] He thanked everyone for the large amounts of feedback that he'd received. He noted that the division structure was evolving. We don't expect any major changes, but do expect a number of minor ones.

The division heads will be talking to and recruiting people, but will make no firm area-head appointments for a while. The divisions will work together on these appointments to keep competition at a minimum. The divisions will all be working for N3, rather than for themselves. We want to maintain a balance between what the convention needs and what people want to do.

People should talk to the division heads about what they're interested in doing. Some will need staff. However, don't expect appointments to start until September or October. All areas won't be filled until the spring. If you think some appointment is urgent, talk to the division heads.

After Conspiracy, the division heads will get together and attempt to define the boundaries between the divisions. Also, note that we have deemphasized the importance of lumping all the areas that must communicate with one another in the same division. There seemed to be good reasons not to do this.

Finally, Mark talked about the distinction between the division heads and MCFI. MCFI sets policy. The division heads (and the area heads) then work out the operational details. They will report back to MCFI regularly.

Planning Schedule: Mark said that we will be making real operational decisions soon — in the fall to spring. Think and write about what issues we should discuss. N2 is our starting point. What should we do differently? What can we do better? What should be dropped? It will be harder to make major decisions more than 6 months from now.

Jim Hudson will be restarting GULP to discuss these issues. We'll be having sessions oriented around each division. The first will be on Extravaganzas, on September 21 (a Monday). Jim H. will summarize the results for the apa.

Next Meeting: The next two meetings will be on September 30 and October 28. Both will be at 7:30.

Treasurer: Ann Broomhead said that Sharon Sbarsky has given her the last 6 months of NESFA cross charges. We gained \$3000 last month. NESFA is now holding about \$16,000 of our funds. (Most of this is from MasterCard/Visa.)

The IRS gave up. They are happy that we didn't send them an unnecessary form for 1985. We got a statement saying that our previous balance was \$3000+, that we were assessed a penalty of -\$3000+, leaving a balance due of \$0. Now they want our 1986 return. Ann sent

them a registered letter, politely telling them that we had already sent one in, etc.

[The one thing we've learned in dealing with the IRS is always send correspondence to them via registered mail and save the receipt. Almost every year one of the local fan organizations gets a notice that some form or another hasn't been submitted, and the receipt has always saved us from further trouble. — LT]

Preregistration: Sharon said that we had received about 6 members since the last meeting. We now have about 55 PR 1s to mail and about 6 PR 2s.

Bounced PR 2s have been arriving.

Mad 3 Party: Leslie Turek asked the division heads to let her know who they might recruit. She will add them to the distribution list. The next issue will be out after Conspiracy.

Progress Reports: Greg Thokar said that the PR 2 mailing is done. It was delivered to the post office at 11pm Thursday (August 6). Sharon got hers on Saturday. If you find any errors, let Greg know. We went over budget. The printer decided we needed to use metal plates, which account for essentially all of the additional costs.

PR 3 is currently scheduled to go out in January. Should this be before or after Boskone? Mark added this to the agenda for the next meeting.

Mark said that we were raising our ad rates for PR 3. We were undercharging by about \$10 per ad.

Bulk Mailing: Rick Katze said that we now have a non-profit bulk mailing permit, courtesy of the Framingham PO and \$100. The person who processed the application remembered us from last time and expedited processing.

Chip Hitchcock said we will have to look into whether we can still mail at South Station using this permit. Jim Mann pointed out that this is not that big an issue, since many of us live reasonably close to the Framingham Post Office.

Press Release: Jim H. asked if we were going to issue a press release on the hotel situation and appointments. Mark said that we hadn't on the hotel since everything had moved at an even keel, with no big events that seemed to merit a press release. We will ask Rick to give Andy Porter, Charlie Brown, and Mike Glycer a call. We will produce an ordinary press release on the division heads.

George Flynn said that *M3P* was doing so well that we didn't seem to need press releases. Leslie said there was a time delay. Mark said that our policy could be that if something wasn't time-critical it could wait for *M3P*.

Ben Yalow asked if we planned an electronic press release. Mark said that whenever we have a press release we also issue it through electronic channels.

Conspiracy Party: Mark reported that we've been trying to arrange a party for about a year. Jim M. has written several letters to Colin Fine. We've talked to him (Ben via Joe Siclari). Colin apologizes for not responding to the letters; things have been crazy. Joe Siclari and Magicon are trying to put together a consortium of American groups trying to hold parties. Someone in Brighton told him that hotels there are really sticky on corkage. For the parties, someone on the British end will do a group

buy. We will go ahead with Joe if we can. Ben talked to Joe's answering machine again. From all he can gather, England is still there. Mark said we are interested in sharing a suite in the Metropole, and we are willing to take an off night. (Pam asked if MCFI would like a smaller room.) Mark said that Joe S. did get a suite in the Bedford.

We might have a closed party, depending upon the corkage rules. Rick said we should stay open if we can. Tony Lewis said that we should wait to decide until we see what happens on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Ben said that Bedford suites were running 100 pounds a night (which is about what we budgeted). Don Eastlake said that he'd received a letter from the Holland people. They say that they are also having problems getting a suite.

Conspiracy Table: Sharon said that, since we are not involved in site selection this year, we don't have to have long hours. She wants to staff the table for 12 hours total, 1 hour per person.

Sharon said that Colin has informed her that our table will be in the balcony around the Exhibit Hall. She'll bring supplies.

Mark said that everyone should know our address and rates. However, no one should take memberships except at the table or at the party. We will accept British money and pick up the pieces later. Colin Fine said we may be able to exchange with Conspiracy's dollar account. Priscilla Pollner [*now Olson*] said we could also sell pounds for dollars. Mark said that it appears likely that we will be able to accept British credit cards. We'd prefer dollars.

Conspiracy Party Line: Mark went over the party line for everyone. For Art Show/Huckster information, tell people we won't have any more information or rates until 1988. Tell them to send us a letter. Ann pointed out that we can't set our rates till the Hynes sets theirs.

Hotel: The hotel situation looks good. We have an oversupply of rooms. We will probably shed the outer rooms, and pick up more inner rooms. There is fragmentary info in the PR and full details in *M3P*.

Staff: The division head appointments are public. (They can go in IM.) We're going to need help. Tell people to talk to the division heads and to write to us. Chip said the operative phrase for N2 was, "Help us whitewash this fence."

Mark distributed little green notebooks and told people to carry them around. But also encourage people to write in directly to us with their comments.

Conspiracy Business Meeting: Ben talked about what he saw coming up at the Conspiracy Business Meeting. The big thing will probably be the site-selection ballots: they aren't arriving. Colin wasn't aware 'till last night that people hadn't received theirs. He had mailed them (with Progress Report 4) to Forbidden Planet, and thought they'd been remailed two weeks ago. [*They appear to have been remailed about a week before the meeting, but hadn't been marked "First Class," so apparently got treated as Third Class mail. I got mine the day I left for England (August 20). — LT*] Ben said we might be asked if the '88 and '89 worldcons would be willing to do an emergency mailing.

Jane Wagner asked what those people who aren't going to England should do. Rick suggested giving their ballot to someone. Tony asked what if they extend voting

and ask us to administer. George said he will take direction from the Business Meeting. Jim H. suggested establishing a standing committee [joke].

Don summarized motions he is going to make or second. These were summarized in more detail in the last *M3P*. Briefly, he has drafted motions to:

- Change qualifications for nominating for Hugos, allowing members of the previous worldcon to nominate.
- Assure the availability of subscribing memberships.
- Clear up some wording regarding the NASFiC.

Ben said that if LA wins, there won't be a 1990 NASFiC. If they lose, NASFiC site selection will be at Cactuscon. Only San Diego is running at this point.

Leslie is submitting her motion to give Worldcon committees time to speak at the Business Meeting.

BS Sessions: Tony asked if we will have any BS sessions. Mark said it sounds good, but would be hard to organize. Tony said we can decide when we get there.

Cactuscon: Dave Cantor and Ben are going to the NASFiC. Jill Eastlake said we also have Friends who are going and can help. Mark suggested having a table that is open at least a couple of hours, with these hours posted. Ben said Louise Sachter has volunteered to help. Lots of people will be willing to.

The Hotel Situation: Don first reported that the Park Plaza has signed a contract for 600 rooms. But it turned out to be only 305 definitely, with options on 295 more if those who have first options refuse. The Park Plaza says they are trying to reduce those other commitments so that we can have all 600 rooms.

Don had a draft contract that he was going to send to the Sheraton. It is similar to the N2 contract, and specifically references the security plan he has developed. However, the attorneys on both sides want to get a letter agreement first, before we negotiate a full contract.

Don said the hotel still sees people wandering around as a problem area. Mark said that we've agreed to try to structure things so that we don't get large crowds of people wandering the Sheraton. We will be organizing things so that people will be drawn away from the Sheraton. Hall C of the Hynes will be an area to which people will be attracted. We will also concentrate on counterprogramming.

Mark then made a motion, allowing Don to sign a contract in his place when he is out of the country. [Passed unanimously, 31-0.]

The Lawyers Fee: Mark said that we got a bill for \$13K after they told us we were well under \$5K. (Five MCFI members heard this estimate on more than one occasion.) The bill is as of June 30. Their response to this was "Gee, we couldn't have said it was under \$5K." However, Mark thought we did get our money's worth; the complaint they drafted was a work of art.

Davey Ferree said that that amount of money could pay lots of corkage. Andi Schecter asked if our being a non-profit organization could mean anything.

Pat Vandenberg asked if it would be reasonable to put a cap on how much more they could spend. Rick Katze said this would be reasonable. Ben said we should authorize an additional \$10K over the previous money, making the cap \$15K. Jim H. asked if we needed to authorize more. Mark said we should, and motioned for \$16K. [This passed with no objections.]

Other: Fred said we should investigate a long-distance telephone service. Mark, seeing that this might turn into a religious argument, deferred this.

We adjourned at 9:10.

Excerpts from APA:89

September 16, 1987

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

Financial Report (by Ann Broomhead)

Income

Administrative	1685.62
Membership	74137.83
Mad 3 Party	1307.00
PR 1	455.00
PR 2	120.00
Donations	46.00
Over/Under Account	679.75
Total Income	78431.20

Expenses

Administrative	830.07
Meeting, Storage & App	2287.63
Cap Equip & Maint	6734.69
Legal	10000.00
Legal Associated	245.96
Membership	875.87
Membership Computer	266.94
PR Computer	638.42
PR 0	127.35
PR 1	6759.27
PR 2	331.78
Public Relations	109.04
Guest of Honor	74.72
Closed	73.00
Total Expenses	30523.05

Pre-Registration Report (by Sharon Sbarsky)

There has been a large increase in memberships due to the table we had at Conspiracy (the data from NASFiC has not been entered yet) and the fact that we had left open the possibility of a rate increase for Sept. 7. *[The rate increase will not actually take place until January 1. — LT]*

At Conspiracy we took in 45 Attending, 11 Supporting, and 4 Conversions.

Total memberships	2338
Attending	2064
Supporting	233
Children's Admissions	41

The following people have had their PR1 or PR2 bounce:

Susan B. Collingwood, Alachua FL
Cary Anne Conder, Victoria BC
Chandra Lea Morgan, Shaker Heights OH
Valerie L. Richardson, Perris CA

Michiko Short, Austin TX
Allyn K. Vogel, Durham NC
Daniel Zoll, Brookline MA

[If anyone knows the correct addresses for these people, please let us know. — LT]

Cactuscon Report (by Dave Cantor)

Many people were looking for the Noreascon 3 table. Most of the MCFI members and friends at the convention were working on one thing or another.

On Sunday, Seth made arrangements to have a table from 3 to 5 pm on Monday. I was at the table during that entire time (it was just a stone's throw from the Registration area). Thanks to the other people who came and sat for a while: Seth Breidbart, Andy Robinson, and Ruth Louise Sachter.

We sold 8 new memberships and one conversion, and took two changes of address. There were several questions and suggestions. Here they are:

Jerry Masters of Florida ('92 Orlando bid) says that Andre Norton will want a "cat fix" at the convention. She loves cats and would probably be very pleased if she could visit with some cats for a while each day. Anyone want to sacrifice their cat for our GOH?

One fan would like us to be sure to detail in our literature how to get from the airport to the hotels.

One fan suggests that we set up a table at the airport to coordinate fans arriving for the convention.

Many, many people asked about the situation with the Sheraton. I simply told them that as far as we knew at this point, we will have the rooms and that we were on the verge of having an actual contract with the hotel. People seemed to take this at its face value. No one objected. Most said good.

Sponsorship (by Tony Lewis)

Conspiracy showed that corporate sponsorship in a Worldcon is possible. It also showed some of the ways to not do it. For those who were not there — New Era Bridge (the SF publishing arm of Scientology) had the cover of the pocket program, ads inside, sponsored the Hugo party, had a commercial at the Hugo ceremonies, and sponsored the Re-creation awards at the Masquerade. That was a bit much.

I believe we should pursue this concept and spread it around a bit. Any money we get can be pumped back into the convention to make it more enjoyable for the participants. By spreading the sponsorship we can avoid the ill feelings that were generated by a monopoly. Some of the areas that are ripe for sponsorship are:

- Art show awards
- Masquerade awards
- Hugo winner party
- Hugo loser party
- Pocket program

I'm sure that people can add more. We could set up a simple sealed bid for the more unique items such as pocket program or parties and allow a first-come first-served for items that are more numerous, such as awards.

One long-term project that I believe we ought to do is to produce a large number of Hugo-shaped rocket ship pins in a silvery color (and a few in bronze with the number 5 on them). Each time a person won a Hugo they

would be given such a lapel pin so that they could flaunt their winnings. We should make up pins for previous years' winners and distribute them as soon as we have them ready. You can't carry your Hugo everywhere but you could wear this pin. We should also make up a batch of these for future conventions to carry on the tradition.

Whatever we do, I strongly believe that the Hugos are **not** to be sponsored by anyone other than WSFS. I also believe that there ought to be no "commercials" at the Hugo ceremonies. I don't think having the other awards after the Hugos was a good idea; it was an anticlimax. I also think the idea of having a different presenter for each Hugo is an idea whose time has come *and gone*. In some cases the presenter is so much more notable than the recipient that the glory is deflected. We should set up a presenter who is notable and set the program to allow the audience reaction to die down prior to the presentation of awards.

Weird Ideas (by Jim Hudson)

These are various ideas that I've created or heard discussed in the last few weeks that are worth putting down in print.

- We're talking about having a lounge area in the Bazaar. (This is what I'm currently calling the Hynes "mixing area" — sort of a cross between "Bizarre" and "Bazaar.") Or several lounge areas. What about putting a Con Suite there that provides activities (games, mural, etc.), but *does not* provide free food and beverage? Let the concessionaires do that. Or buy them off and provide bulk soda and chips, but let them do the real food part of things. Let them set up the cash bar and deal with those hassles.

- Staying in that lounge, what about a video area with a specific purpose: to continuously show all the movies that won Dramatic Presentation Hugos over the last 35 years. Even renting from your local video store (or, at least, Videosmith), the total budget for this would be \$500 for 2 large monitors, a VCR that lived behind the information table (for security), and 30 movies for the weekend, running 1 every 2 hours while info was open.

[Obviously, we would have to get permission to do this from the copyright holders. Just renting or purchasing a videotape does not give the rights to a public showing outside a private home. But such rights should be possible to obtain if we plan ahead. — LT]

- (Credit to Debbie Notkin and Andi Shechter) Walking information. People easily identified (Mad Hatter Hats?) who go around the convention to take questions and maybe direct traffic. *Not* fixed site information, though they would send hard questions and complaints there; not rovers looking for problems and working with the committee; but mobile and informed people available to the members.

- (Credit to Ellen Franklin) Produce an audiovisual show for closing ceremonies. Create a multi-projector slide show (probably 10 projectors, 1 screen, full dissolves, etc.), largely scripted in advance, but with *during-convention photography* and maybe some audio tape. The slide processing would be easy to arrange — there are plenty of labs who do that sort of thing; the equipment is available for rent; the professional skills in putting together such shows would be harder to find or more expensive. But it

would make closing ceremonies a real part of (and summary of) the convention, and it would also quickly and easily generate a *video* memory tape which we could sell/distribute.

- (Credit to Ellen Franklin) Black tie reception pre-Hugos (or post-) and preferred seating at the event. Make the event more formal to make it special.

- To remove the stigma [Boston fandom] has gained as uninterested in films, and to work with our "50 year" opportunity, poll our members about the greatest SF films. To give a reasonable spread, probably organize this by decades: pre-1950, 50-60, 60-70, 70-80, 80's. Ask for nominations in PR #3, distribute the ballot in perhaps December 88 with the Hugo nominations. And then, *show the winners on the film program* at the convention. Set it up so that this would be maybe 1/3 of the features at the convention, with the Hugo nominees providing another batch and the rest up to our discretion (or lack thereof). There are other things we can do in the same mode if we want — balloting for best fanzine by decade, best novel. We want to involve our members and we want to promote historical thinking; various types of polls can do that.

- (Credit to Ellen for the band idea, developed further by me) A marching band, or circus parade with floats, or whatever, through the Bazaar preceding opening ceremonies. Or an open parade with band starting at the Sheraton and going around the street to the front of the Hynes, in and up. That would limit the floats to hand-carried, but still has some advantages. Invite fan and pro groups to march or send a float, include musicians, etc. Low cost for the parade permit for that distance and the security and marching band; great way to start.

- Awards for costumes best representing the SF of the decades of the 50 years: 39-49, 49-59, 59-69, 69-79, 79-89. Recognition on stage for anybody who wants to bring and wear an award-winning costume from those eras.

Why Me?

As Chairman's staff, I figure I'm supposed to be a troublemaker in the planning phase. If a division or area has too many ideas, I should bring them back to reality by concentrating on resources: if they don't try to expand their boundaries, I should question assumptions (for example, why should signs use pen and board? can't we get better and faster results by computerizing?). Both Extravaganzas and Bazaar have a lot of opportunities for creativity and a lot of ways they can get expensive, so they will require some attention in the near future. The others have their own problems, which we'll deal with later.

Program Themes (by Ben Yalow)

The themes Priscilla and I see building the N3 program around seem to be inherent in our choices of GoH's and by this being the 50th anniversary Worldcon. In honor of our pro GoH's we see a number of themes. Norton gives us both young adult literature (including how it fits in with the rest of the field), and how early SF reading (like Norton) influenced "us" as adults in fandom. The Ballantines give us a perspective on how the publishing industry, as well as the SF genre within it, have changed over the last 50 years. Our fan GoH also gives us the historical theme, since it will have been about 50 years since the founding of the Stranger club.

Overall, I think that the clearest theme is historical perspective. The first Worldcon was 50 years ago, and was associated with the New York World's Fair with its vision of the future. (The fan feud associated with it also had its origins based on differing visions of the future.) We therefore have the obvious theme of where we have gone in the last 50 years, and where we will be going for the next 50. We can carry this theme through not only in SF&F programming, but in science or space programming as well. *[Not to mention the film and video program and masquerade, as Jim Hudson mentions above — LT]*

We can design the program around a large number of unrelated panels, or we can try to design it around a unifying theme. It is easier to do the former, but I suspect the latter will give a better program. I suspect that the 50th anniversary theme gives a good starting point around which to build a program, and I would suggest that we do so.

Other Topics

There were a number of additional items in the September Apa that space does not permit us to include here. Lois Mangan and Phil Nathanson made a detailed proposal for video coverage of the convention. Paula Lieberman contributed an extensive commentary on her observations at Conspiracy. Jim and Laurie Mann gave a description of the areas they see making up the Services Division. (This will be included in the next issue, after the division heads have decided which areas will go where, and the other divisions have had a chance to write something about their areas.) — LT

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]

Summer Vacations

• Dennis Virzi, Duncanville TX:

Pat [Mueller] and I arrive in England Saturday, Aug. 22. We'll be basing our sightseeing out of the Metropole. We plan on wandering about Brighton the next day and making day trips into London Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

On our "must see" list is the zoo, the museum and the Tower. Plus whatever else we have the time and energy for. We'll be rising early, eating a "full English breakfast" and training into London each day. Then it's lunch on the run (or possibly on the Thames), dinner in a quaint little bistro — it's just amazing how many different words the English have for smoked fish — all the while frenetically photographing every damn thing in sight.

We've no plans to go anywhere during the convention. A fluid attitude will be maintained, however, should an offer to dine, shop or frolic away from the immediate area arise. We plan to enjoy the convention as much as possible because we have to be in Phoenix to work the NASFiC. (Pat producing the daily newszine and myself producing one of the sf tracks.) Then it's back home Labour Day in time to reset all the clocks and go to work the following day.

Proposed WSFS Amendments

• Dennis Virzi, Duncanville TX:

I like the coverage of the proposed WSFS amendments. I've seen coverage of passed amendments but can't recall anything about amendments that are intended to be introduced at an upcoming business meeting. Perhaps others will write touting their amendments?

[I have always thought that we would benefit by having some discussion of proposed amendments before the Worldcon. Usually the WSFS business meetings are too time-constrained to really have an effective debate when the motion is brand new to everyone there. On the other hand, fannish procrastination usually means that proposals get thrown together in the last few weeks before the Worldcon and there usually isn't enough time to publicize them. So it goes. — LT]

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

I would certainly applaud sending the complete membership list from one Worldcon to the next one, but after all these years of nominating works for Hugos and voting on finalists being dependent on being a member of that particular Worldcon, would some members object to paying for these above-mentioned privileges when some would get them for free, because they were members of last year's Worldcon? I guess it would be an effective way to increase interest in Hugo nominating and voting . . . for example, if you bought a membership for the 1989 Worldcon, would your nominating and voting privileges extend for one or two years into the future . . . your 1989 membership would mean you could vote for Hugos from 1989 to 1991?

[The motion calls for the privilege to extend only one year into the future, and allows only for participation in the nominations, not the final voting. Part of the idea is that people will be encouraged to join when sending in their nomination ballot so they can vote. — LT]

Re NASFiC Selection Amendment: Possibly a two-year lead time for a NASFiC would have been preferable, to give us time to consider and vote on a suitable city long after the Worldcon has been awarded to a foreign bid. I don't think there have been many NASFiCs (I'd really like to see a short history and chronological table of NASFiCs), and of those that have been held, I cannot remember competition between cities for the NASFiC. I have heard rumour that two Canadian cities may fight it out for the NASFiC, should it be necessary, for 1990, setting the stage for the possibility of neither the Worldcon nor the NASFiC being held in the continental United States.

[I agree with you about the two-year lead time. Although there hasn't been much NASFiC competition in the past, it might become more likely if non-North American Worldcons become more frequent. Here is a list of NASFiCs, and as much as we can remember about name and place:

1975 Los Angeles CA
 1979 NorthAmerican, Louisville KY
 1985 LoneStarCon, Austin TX
 1987 Cactuscon, Phoenix AZ
 1990 San Diego CA

— LT]

Noreascon 3 Hotel Situation

- Bob Hillis, Worthington OH:

I am writing this in the confident expectation that you will solve your hotel problems and Noreascon 3 will not set a record for dispersal of accommodations. In any case, New Orleans should be grateful that you are diverting fan-nish attention from them.

- Sheila Strickland, Baker LA:

The news concerning the Sheraton is heartening. I could live with a Worldcon in an auditorium with my hotel a 10–20 minute walk away, but it's not ideal. At Lone Star Con I stayed at the Sheraton and walked back and forth to the Palmer Auditorium — a 10 or 15 minute walk — a couple times a day. It was all right, but not very convenient, especially with the high temperatures. Though I don't expect Boston will be quite as hot.

Still, I wouldn't want to stay at the Sheraton at any cost. As has been pointed out, a hostile staff is no fun. If Noreascon 3 does make it back into the Sheraton, maybe we need to discuss how to improve our image with the staff. A strict separation of party and non-party, fan and mundane sleeping floors would help a lot; if the front desk clerks would be willing to do a little extra work assigning rooms as people check in.

The Sheraton's concern over people wandering the sleeping floors late at night is somewhat understandable. That man with a badge might be a fan heading back to his room, but he might be a professional thief looking for a room to break into. As to the problem of noise on the sleeping floors; even if there's a separation of party and non-party areas, a group of fans who leave a great party at 4 am and go to their room on a non-party floor may not realize their good cheer is not appreciated by the people behind the doors trying to sleep. A few signs in strategic locations such as opposite the elevators and inside the stairwell doors could help.

[We plan to try very hard for strict blocking, and the posting of signs, as you suggest. Right now, all indications are that the hotel staff will be cooperative, as they have been in the past, now that we are past the higher-level management problems. — LT]

- Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

It's comforting to know that there is some discussion and negotiation going on between you and the Sheraton-Boston. True, things are still in the beginning stages, but it's great to see the two sides together, talking. I wish you success, with the hope of positive results.

Re letter from Katie Filipowicz: She does bring up a point which may trouble us in the future . . . bitterness towards the Sheraton, should all conflicts be cleared up between the con and the hotel. It seems that fans never forget or forgive. Will we be bitter when we arrive two years from now in Boston, or will we treat the hotel staff with courtesy and smiles? I hope it's courtesy and smiles, for the staff have nothing to do with the decisions made by management of the hotel. I remember the staff at the Marriott Marquis were great . . . they cleared up misunderstandings, helped with our voluminous luggage, explained what policies were, showed us where particular stores were, and were marvellous people. They drooled over the Canadian beer we brought with us, too (grin). If there's any fault to lay, it's to S-B management, and not to the

staff we may come in contact with. It's useless to harbour any negative feelings against the management, anyway, and everything may be fine by the time August 1989 comes around.

Worldcon Management

- Bob Hillis, Worthington OH:

I approve of your tentative decision for a relatively large number of divisions which will each contain a moderate number of areas/departments/functions. You will be depending on volunteer labor who will all expect at least nominal access to real decision makers. This should also eliminate any justification of Subdivisions.

[As explained in an earlier article, things didn't quite work out that way (large number of small divisions). But we don't think having larger divisions is necessarily a bar to staff participation in the decision-making. — LT]

I still however find reference in *The Mad 3 Party* to roving agents of the Chair and questions as to their degree of "authority." I firmly believe that managers at all levels down to significant areas/departments should have both clones and aides, but these titles are not interchangeable.

Clones for the Chair, Division Managers, and heads of large areas should not have any other important duties during the convention itself (c. eight days). On site their authority should be identical with that of their principal, subject to the right of the principal and/or superiors to remove them. If rank insignia of any kind exists, that of the clone should be differentiated from that of the departmental staff. At- and post-con "perks" should be determined by MCFI based on an assessment of actual time committed and responsibility assumed, not on the basis of potential duties.

It is very important for key managers, including some officers and all managers above area head (and about half the area heads), to have aides. This is an almost ideal position for out-of-town volunteers with much expertise, either specialized or general, who for some reason are willing to work long hours on site, but are not competent or usable as an area head or assistant in the precon phase. Even clones need one aide and the Chair could conceivably use as many as three. However, an aide is not a manager. They can and will be used as observers and messengers in addition to running personal errands for their principals, but they should have no formal authority to act on their own even in "emergencies." An aide can advise, praise, and even rarely warn, but have no power to command. If a real problem exists, somebody with real authority can be secured. As to insignia and perks, an aide is a senior member of the convention staff and at best equivalent to the average area head's clone, since the aide has no responsibility for recruiting staff or administering a budget.

[It is my feeling that, in volunteer organizations, at least, a person's authority does not derive exclusively from their official role in the hierarchy. People tend to listen to people they trust, who have given good advice in the past, have experience, seem to be unbiased, etc. There are situations where someone well-respected can have a tremendous amount of influence without any title at all, and, conversely, situations where a person with a title is virtually ignored when he or she has been proven to be ineffective.]

Titles and structures are most useful only when they match the natural patterns of the group that they are being applied to. When they don't match, they tend not to work. One skill of a good leader is to recognize these unspoken patterns (or other potentially-workable patterns) and bring them out by giving people the titles that match the structure that's already pretty much there.

Of course, this gets a lot more complicated when you're trying to put together a working group with people who haven't worked together before. But the basic principle still holds. — LT]

An obvious question comes to mind. Where can the convention find enough good people to provide all these clones and aides working behind the scenes without harming the actual areas that serve the attendees? The answer is to get rid of the department of troubleshooters. Modern conventions are too large and complex to benefit from a "swat" team waiting around in the back room. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of the problems that arise will be disposed of by Division and area/department management. Anything that they can not handle will probably require the intervention of the chair/corporation. Clones and aides are actually working rather than holding meetings or waiting for a "crisis" worthy of their talents. There is a real need for a message center, a few radio rovers, a twenty-four-hour office, and even volunteer security, but people should not be allowed to believe that they will also be general troubleshooters because they are working in some specific department. The best real use of the old-fashioned operations department was to serve as a labor pool to create a de facto new department to meet an unforeseen problem. Worldcon staffs are now so large that such a need can be met by transferring underutilized talent and on-site recruitment.

[I tend to agree with most of the above paragraph, but it can be hard to break a pattern that everyone is so accustomed to. — LT]

Another source of aides would be managers' spouses. None of the compelling reasons that disqualify persons' spouses from serving as their clones apply to the appointment of one's spouse as one's aide.

[I don't see why there is any general rule that spouses shouldn't work together as equals. Surely it would depend on the individuals involved? — LT]

Finally I would like to discuss two minor concerns.

Security passes are not rank insignia and should not be easily wearable. Something comparable to a driver's license is probably best. In addition, security passes should not be given automatically to anybody of a given rank on the committee. A lot of division managers have no need of unsupervised access to the film library or to the art show when it is closed. It might be quite reasonable for an individual to have a security pass and his superior who normally does not leave the office to not. In fact, security passes are for normal situations. Procedures for disaster situations can be worked out as needed.

Portable radios can be useful for large conventions. They are usually more useful in a fixed position that does not have access to pay telephones (you can make a lot of pay calls for \$100) than in the hands of rovers. Even rovers can be useful as a source of immediate information to the Chair and for patrolling closed areas. [Based on my experience] as Noreascon II's House Manager, I do not ad-

vocate the use of radios for crowd management. As a point of reference, SHEA Inc.'s current commercial rate for the local rental of a base station and eight portables with all necessary and/or normal accessories operating on two channels for seven continuous days is \$1000. There are however non-monetary advantages for Noreascon 3 to deal with a local company.

• Dennis Virzi, Duncanville TX:

Still struggling with the committee structure, I see. Perhaps a structure that fits the structures? Design around the physical layout of the convention. Entities that are physically isolated should be more autonomous than activities that share facilities. If experienced and capable people are running them they should be left alone. Insist on cross communications for essential matters like resource commitments, expenditures and policy decisions. Be flexible enough in your structure to bolster the weaknesses of key personnel. (Think I'll stop now before I start underlining and boldfacing. This ain't the Kiplinger newsletter, after all.)

Program Division

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Re Atlanta programme stats: Sigh. I was the organizer and moderator of the Canadian fandom panel, and I really thought there would be enough curiosity on the part of fans from other countries, but no. One American fan did come in, but left within five minutes. I thought some fans from the border states would come to see what's going on a little north of them, but no. That was a surprise. However, some of the Canadian fans who came to find out what was going on in their own country did learn a few things about the various activities in the big city close by, activities they may have participated in in the past had they known about them. The attendance was disappointing, but the objective was met, to inform.

[It's certainly disappointing to put the work into a program item, and then find almost no one attending. That's happened to me a number of times on fan program items at Boskone. And it's even more likely to happen at a Worldcon, where there is so much else going on at the same time, so that even people who might have enjoyed the panel find themselves drawn to something else. I consider a fan panel a success when the audience outnumbers the panel. — LT]

One panel I'm surprised wasn't mentioned was a panel that my wife Yvonne ran, on the re-creation of a TV or movie costume. She says she filled the room, capacity of about 40 to 50, and she used a tape and slide projector. Lots of discussion and good ideas and laughs. The discussion was continued in the convention area lobby after the time slot expired, and she says the talk continued for about another half hour.

[Sorry I left out Yvonne's panel, but I couldn't include all 300 items on the ConFederation program, so I just listed the ones that had some significant commentary on the room manager's sheet. — LT]

Re Boskone 24 data: With the 2500 disappearing fans Jim Hudson speaks of, I have to wonder . . . are they getting parties prepared? Are they out touring Boston? Are they eating out? Is it simply enough to be in Boston or at Boskone, and the con itself doesn't matter?

Re letter from Neil Rest [in *M3P* #19]: Neil lists an idea we've tossed around for a couple of years at Ad Astra . . . in your travels, if you see a van with fantasy art on the side, why not stop them or try to find the owner, ask him about the van, offer a free membership to the con, and stage a gathering of "vantasy," making the hotel parking lot part of your function space, with a display visible for most of the weekend.

[In fairness to Neil, I should point out that I don't believe Neil was advocating an exhibit of van art: he was using that as an example of the many different areas that could be included in the category of sf. His point was that we should limit the size and growth of cons by not including such "fringe" areas. — LT]

Re The Green Room: Perhaps the Atlanta Green Room was a little generous with programme participants . . . I showed up there a couple of times, grabbed a soft drink, and sat around, sometimes talking with a fan or pro I knew . . . and looking back on that, perhaps I shouldn't have been there. The Green Room seemed to become a private con suite for the programme participants, even if their participation had come to an end. The Green Room is an area where participants can gather before their panel, but it turned into an area where all panelists could gather at any time, as long as they wore their programme participant ribbon. I'm not saying the Green Room was abused, but perhaps its purpose was not made clear to the participants. I see Fred Isaacs' comments, and I see that the two rooms merged, which gave the impression to me that participants were there no matter when their panel was. There may have to be enforced limitations imposed on the Participants' Lounge and the Green Room, but not so that the lounges become holding pens.

Re letter from Dennis Virzi: Another question besides what to do with 5000 fans is what to do with the pros? How do you get them a panel they want to do? What to do with pros and other people connected with the professional end of things you may not know? How does someone in charge of Worldcon programming get in touch with most of SFWA, and the pros who don't belong to that organization? This may go back to the database of addresses mentioned earlier. Not only a list of Worldcon members, but a separate list of addresses of pro writers and artists and editors so that they can be contacted.

[Fred Isaacs gave me some information about how this has been handled at past Worldcons. First, addresses of pros can be obtained from a number of sources: the SFWA mailing list (which is restricted in distribution, but which can usually be obtained by Worldcon program departments), lists shared by other conventions, or by going through the author's agent or publisher. Most program departments have contacts with pros who are willing to serve as informal advisors. If a pro asks to be on the program, and no one on the program department has heard of him, including the pro advisors, you can probably conclude that there won't be a lot of fans clamoring to see him.

There are a large number of pros who have published one or two stories who are eager to appear on program items for the prestige or exposure. On the other hand, there are a smaller number of pros who are well-known and whom most fans really want to see. The pros who actually have something interesting to say can come from

either group, so if at all possible, you try to get information about the pro's appearance on other conventions' programs, rather than just going by the name.

Matching pros to panels and other program items is tricky, partly because there are just so many program items and program participants at a typical Worldcon. Ideally, a program planner generates an idea for a topic, and then asks the pros that she has reason to believe might have something interesting to say about the topic. Whether the pro accepts or rejects, you could ask them to suggest other possible participants.

For ConFederation, the program staff assembled lists of program topics that they had come up with, along with those suggested by program participant volunteers. The lists were sent out to all potential program participants, who were asked to check off the ones they were interested in. These were used as data sheets for the people trying to assemble the panels.

We'll be writing more about the actual procedures we use for Noreascon 3 as we go along. — LT]

Children at Conventions

• Michele Canterbury, Cleveland OH:

An open letter to the Washington Science Fiction Association regarding Disclave '87:

I was disappointed in my attempt to attend Disclave '87 with my family.

After driving seven hours in a car from Cleveland, Ohio, I proceeded to register for the convention. I walked up to the registration desk and filled out a card.

I asked if I could have badges for my kids (ages 3 and 5), assuming that at the most it would cost half price for them to get in. Customarily the cost is free at most of the cons I have attended in the past.

The reply I got was "That will be \$60."

Needless to say I was stunned. When I asked why children were being charged full price, I was told, "I just work here, I don't make the rules." Then I was directed to Con Ops. I went there and got pretty much the same story.

I attempted to locate the chairperson, but I was unable to locate him either Friday or Saturday at the con (I didn't attend on Sunday).

My main gripe is that the policy was not publicized in pre-registration information.

In popular comprehensive con listings such as *Filthy Pierre's*, and even in their own flyer, instead of putting this announcement under membership and registration information, it was buried under an insignificant little paragraph at the bottom of the page titled "babysitting."

*[In general, conventions have very little influence over what appears about them in con listings published by secondary sources, such as *Filthy Pierre's*. Frequently space limitations cause significant information to be omitted. I don't think it's fair for you to blame the committee when their flyer did contain the information you apparently overlooked. — LT]*

Nowhere in any of the literature I saw was it stated that babysitting was mandatory, as I was told at the registration desk.

Where is the logic of having a pre-registered-only babysitting service when 40–60% of con attendees show up at the door?

[In a follow-up letter, Michele explained further:]

a) I was told by registration that children under 8 were not allowed into programming areas, and that all children must be in babysitting.

b) The \$20 membership fee was there to pay for the child care workers, however, there was no discount given to children who could not get into babysitting (i.e., we would be paying for a service that we could not use.)

[It may be necessary to schedule babysitting service in advance, and a committee on a low budget may not have the resources to risk hiring babysitters that may not be used. In general, it's a lot harder for a con committee to plan services for people who register at the door, since they can have no firm idea of how many to expect.]

It does seem unfair and illogical for the committee to charge for babysitting and make it mandatory for people to whom it is also unavailable. On the other hand, at least one family group from Boston, which included a child of 7, were never told of this rule and attended a variety of program items. Sounds like a typical case of the right hand not knowing what the left hand was doing. — LT]

I was told by committee members that this policy was invoked deliberately to discourage the inclusion of children in the lives of their fandom-oriented parents.

That is why I am sending this letter to people I feel should know about and address this important issue before some irreversible damage is done to fandom's reputation.

Must we draw lines?

Must we choose sides?

First the "Media Nimbos," then the gamers, now the rugrats.

The whole foundation of fandom is based on being different, being misunderstood, feeling alone. Now has fandom grown so blueblooded as to reject the very reasons it was formed?

Children are such an easy target to stab at. There are laws to protect the Blacks, the Hispanics, the Mentally ill, etc. But it seems that children are fair game.

In the past couple of years, cons have recognized that children in fandom are growing larger in numbers. They have added programming suitable for *paying* children that attend the con.

That's my point. Go ahead, charge full price for kids, but there darn well better be something there for them in return for the money they have paid.

It's not that hard to do. You don't even have to run an entire track of kids' programming. Just designate certain hours to show video that is suitable for children under 13. Also, run some panels and things for kids throughout the day. There may be a need for more as the number of children in fandom increases.

It's time we realized that children have a place in our lives and they are not merely "Furniture with diapers."

I have no objection to making parents accept responsibility for their kids' behaviour. I think the ransom idea that some of the midwest cons are doing is a great one. But being responsible for my kids is also why I don't "dump" them into babysitting with strangers at an out-of-town convention — state-certified or not.

The number of children in fandom is growing larger. To shut them out of that part of our lives is contrary to everything fandom stands for.

I invite all comments on this issue — pro or con. I would like to see discussions at committee meetings and conventions, letters in editorials and APAs, and comments of all kinds.

Please write to me with your comments on this important issue.

Michele Canterbury, PO Box 5641, Cleveland, OH 44101.

[Noreascon 3 did have much discussion of this issue last fall shortly after winning the bid. The policy we came up with is described in PR 2. We give parents with kids three different options. 1) If the child will be with them at all times and not attending the convention independently, the child will be admitted free. 2) The child can purchase a full attending membership like anyone else, and will be entitled to all benefits of membership, including children's programming and free use of babysitting. 3) A reduced-rate children's admission is also available, which allows the child to participate in all activities (including free babysitting), but does not give them publications or WSFS voting rights. (Note that we are making a distinction between the terms "admission" and "membership.")]

Although N3 is planning to have children's programming, it is a lot harder for smaller regionals to provide such programming. Disclave has traditionally been a minimally-programmed relaxacon and therefore it's not too surprising that they would not have a special children's track. — LT]

[In her follow-up, Michele says:]

As for our local con — we will have some specific programming aimed at kids and our program and movie schedule will be marked if they are suitable for children under 13.

Worldcon Bidding

• Debra F. Sanders, Honolulu HI:

I've wanted to write ever since I first heard of Noreascon 3's problems with the Sheraton-Boston, but somehow never found the time. Now several things are happening here in Hawaii which I thought might be of interest to you and your readers.

Within the past month, I have been approached by members of the Sales staff of Hilton Hawaiian Village with regards to holding the first Worldcon ever at their hotel. HHV is a hotel unique in the Pacific basin, and indeed with few rivals world-wide. The hotel grounds alone cover nearly 22 acres, and the current total guest room capacity (in 4 separate towers) is set at 2,525. With adequate pre-planning, and depending on the final attending membership, HHV would be able to accommodate virtually *all* convention attendees and *all* program events and exhibits in *one* hotel, with other nearby hotels such as the Ilikai available for spillover. We are still waiting to find out whether MENEHUNE-CON is approved for the 1991 ballot, or whether we will have to concentrate our efforts on 1993, but we *will* make this work, I feel confident.

[Hawaii can bid in 1991 only if it is considered an out-of-North-America bid. The definition of the Western zone currently says "Baja California, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Saskatchewan, and all states and provinces westward." A clarifying motion adding the

words, "including Hawaii, Alaska, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories" was passed at ConFederation and ratified at Conspiracy. It seems clear that Hawaii is in the Western zone and is not eligible to bid until 1993. — LT]

What I especially wanted to share with you was Hilton's complete and cheerful cooperation with us in this venture. They are bending over backwards for us. Not only did they go out of their way to persuade me to tackle this project ("We want that piece of business!"), but they are holding my hand every step of the way. I informed them right up front that Worldcon is a 24-hour-a-day convention; that things are happening virtually every hour of the day or night. Their reply? "Great! Sounds like fun!" I told them that fans often sleep 5 or 6 to a room, due to limited funds. What did HHV say? "No problem. Just make sure that everyone in a particular room registers." I told them to expect con attendees to go everywhere in costume, even the restaurants. They said, in effect: "When can we start planning?"

Nor is HHV's help limited to just the planning end of the convention. They want to help with the bidding and the advertising. I suspect that when I go to Nolacon next year, HHV will send a couple of their sales people with me to help run the bidding party. They also offered to help me negotiate with the Hawaii Visitors' Bureau to send along some good, old-fashioned Hawaiian entertainment (don't miss our bidding party, OK?).

One factor that went over well when the Village decided to tackle this project was that they called up Hilton's national file on the Worldcon and received very favorable reports from Los Angeles and Atlanta. At Hilton Hawaiian Village, the fellow who currently handles convention business in the Catering department worked with many Science Fiction and Fantasy conventions in Los Angeles. And (coincidence of coincidences!) the new Sales Manager of the Village was Sales Manager at the Atlanta Hilton last year during ConFederation!

The point I am trying to make, I think, is that if a hotel wishes to be considered a "Major Resort Hotel," then it must be staffed and managed accordingly. A large property cannot be run like a roadside motel. When dealing with conventions, such a hotel must be prepared to be flexible, sometimes almost to the extent of the ridiculous (like one banquet at the Village, where someone rode a horse through the ballroom!).

I wish you luck in your future dealings, and should any of your readers wish to pre-support MENEHUNE-CON (and we need *all* the support we can get!), they can send \$5.00 to: MENEHUNE-CON, c/o D. Sanders, 1415 Victoria St., #206, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822.

[You may have a wonderful hotel, but a hotel alone does not a Worldcon make. Do you also have a large, dedicated, and experienced committee? If so, tell us more about them. If not, perhaps you should reconsider your bid. As much as I would love an excuse to vacation in Hawaii, the main factor I use in deciding which committee to vote for is their level of con-running experience.]

Also keep in mind that you are currently dealing with the hotel's sales staff — people whose whole orientation is to get your business. Once the business is won, you will be turned over to the people who really have to do the work. A little healthy scepticism would be in order when dealing with the salespeople. — LT]

Miscellaneous Topics

• Sheila Strickland, Baker LA:

Priscilla Pollner [*now Olson*] has some good suggestions for avoiding burnout at the con. Additionally you can try getting away from it all — literally leaving the con (if only briefly). Do something mundane — go to the drug-store and compare prices on shampoo. Maybe the hubbub has gotten to you. Go to your room, put out the "Do Not Disturb" sign, prop up your feet and try to slow down your brain. Forget about the con for a while — it'll still be there when you get back.

[You could always try reading a science fiction book . . . — LT]

• Dennis Virzi, Duncanville, TX:

Leslie, you're turning the M3P into a first-class newszine. I like it. I hope it makes the ballot in '89 and causes all sorts of trouble.

[Thanks for the kind words, but if M3P were to be nominated for the 1989 ballot, I would have to withdraw, because of M3P's close connection with the administering committee. — LT]

Katie Filipowicz' brainstorming letter is refreshing. It's a very good example of what the concept of brainstorming is about. Almost every item she suggests is something I would never "normally" consider. Too often brainstorming sessions turn out disappointing results because the participants are too close to the "problem." Brainstorming after all is supposed to produce a lot of different ideas, not rubber-stamp preconceived notions.

[Yes, exactly so. It's hard to get people off the beaten track. We tried to do that at Smofcon 3, but some people tended to use the sessions as an opportunity to proclaim their firmly-held personal opinions rather than to listen with an open mind to the ideas of others. — LT]

Finally, PR 2 arrived a few days ago [early August]. Seems to me that it contains too many boxes, but the boilerplate info was all there. The banner headline looks especially nice.

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Re Masquerade: The Masquerade is a showcase of fine costuming talents . . . and of egos, I'm afraid. (Previous experience . . . my wife and I took part in the masquerades in Chicago, Baltimore, and Los Angeles.) A final judging *not* in front of a large audience would not appeal to the masquerader. After six to eighteen months or more of work on a costume, a masquerader would like to bask in the sun of a stage and audience of 1000 or more for 45 seconds. There is little reward for such labours, and a final judging in closed quarters would take that little reward away.

Re letter from Katie Filipowicz: She mentions something I like . . . The Heart of the Convention section contains ideas that will channel the nervous energies of fans into creative areas, such as the mural. With additions by various talented fan artists, sections could be sold at auction, with proceeds to memorial funds or fan funds. The fan performance corner is also a good idea . . . it's a variation on the fan cabaret. An area where amateur performances could be given in front of fans in a cafe-type atmosphere. Even old masquerade routines (selected by the cabaret's 'talent scout') could be performed.

Re Member Services to Outlying Hotels: This is one gigantic negative aspect of the multi-hotel Worldcon . . . you might have to have remote units of various divisions at other hotels to act as guides. One solution is a check-point and information board/wall/counter at the various out-lying hotels. If arrangements could be made with if not all the hotels, but at least the major hotels (your first tier), a circuit of hotels could be arranged for the distribution of convention information sheets and newsletters. Possibly, you might need a person in charge of that hotel's N3 information area, but this is an option that might only aggravate the personnel situation.

• Massacre Convention Fandom:

You are just too nice! Please — feel free to reprint *Bad Brie Party* to your heart's content! We enclose the originals, and some extra copies, for your use.

[When I offered the gift copies of Bad Brie Party to local fans at a NESFA meeting, everyone said, "Oh, have they put out another issue?" and seemed disappointed when I said no. The (still) anonymous publisher(s) might take note. In the meantime, if anyone who failed to receive the first issue would like a copy, send me a SASE and I'll send you one. — LT]

The Mad 3 Party #21
Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc.
Box 46, MIT Branch PO
Cambridge MA 02139

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