Welcome to your second 1984 TM3P issue. We have some interesting and thought-provoking articles for you and some fun.

To start with the fun, you will find Priscilla Pollner's first puzzle for TM3P on page 10 - WHY IS A RAVEN LIKE A WRITING DESK? The words to complete the puzzle are scattered throughout this issue.

Other fun is Claire Anderson's OF CABBAGES AND CONS (pages 6 & 7) which describes "happenings" at various conventions.

For thought-provoking, we have an interview with six well-known fans about outstanding and proposed WSFS amendments, in particular the change from a 2-to 3-year bidding cycle, which starts on page 3. Jill Eastlake, President of NESFA; Don Eastlake, Chairman of the WSFS Standing Committee; Larry Gelfand, Chairman of the Philadelphia in '86 bid; Bruce Pelz, Chief of Administration for LACon II; Robert Sacks, General Secretary of the NY in '89 bid; and Ben Yalow, Director of Services for Chicon IV, were the six fans interviewed for this article.

Also informative is Tony Lewis's second installment about different aspects of Norcon II versus Norcon I - HOW DO THE LITTLE CROCODILE? on page 8.

We'd love to hear from you to see what you like, what you don't and what could be changed. Enjoy.

*** SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ***

Don Eastlake informed your editor just before press-time that five of the six WSFS trademark requests have been approved!

The only holdout is "Science Fiction Achievement Awards" which the attorney is still working on. Congratulations, Don.

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TM3P will appear for the duration of the bid. Subscriptions are presently available at $3.00 for the four 1984 issues. Committee Members and Friends of Boston in '80 will receive one copy of all issues free, as will newszines and WorldCon bidders/committees. All correspondence and requests for subscriptions (please make checks payable to Boston in '89) should be sent to: Boston in '89, TM3P, Box 46, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139.

THE CAUCUS RACE - PART I

MINUTES: Wednesday, April 18, 1984
Hosted by Ellen Franklin and Jim Hudson.

Jim Hudson called the meeting to order at 8PM.

Sharon Sbarsky commented that she had commitments from 19 people who want to leave Boston for LACon as a group and 17 who want to come back in a group and she needed credit cards or checks from all. George Flynn stated that it was unlikely that ConStellation would distribute the WSFS minutes and felt we could do so for $200 if we got a clean copy of the minutes and a mailing list. After some discussion, and a cautionary note from the Treasurer, it was decided to appropriate $200 to distribute the WSFS minutes.

A discussion ensued regarding Connie's financial situation. Leslie Turek presented a draft of the letter she planned to send to the various WorldCons and SF Groups (see last issue) and Rick Katze presented a draft of the letter to be sent to the creditors. They hoped to have final letters and a list of who was to receive them by the next meeting.

After further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

New Friends as of April 18, 1984:

Monty Wells

1
WHO ARE YOU?

This being our continuing column to introduce to you the Members and Friends of Boston in '89, you will read of new people and/or accomplishments of previously biographied people and more bios of our Long Distance Friends (HINT, HINT), but first a reprint. I wonder how many of you noticed a line missing from Greg Thokar's biography? -- see *. I know that at least one did as I was asked how one became Head Usher at a bid! Sorry Greg, as I explained, line overlays can happen on our text editor; I hope I have this solved.

FRIENDS:

GREG THOKAR, while still in college, attended his first convention, the '77 Worldcon in Miami, after having driven 1600 miles. He ended up handing out drinkchits at the meet-the-pros party and it's been downhill ever since. His first regional was the '78 Boskone, where he was imprinted with the NESFA work ethic. He subsequently moved to Boston. Since then he has been heavily involved in fandom. He produced several of the NESFA Press Guest of Honor books that have appeared at Boskones and recent Worldcons; ran Boskone art auctions and judging; and worked on numerous regional artshows. At Worldcons he can usually be found roving for Operations, working as a runway manager at Masquerades, and recently as Head Usher at ConStellation. He is a strong supporter of * the HoboKon in '86 Worldcon bid (the only clear alternative, all they offer is parties). His goal in fandom is to see at least one program item per convention!

DAWN PLASKON: It was a hot and steamy day in August when I made my first entrance into fandom. Little did I know the far reaching repercussions of the letter I sent in response to a plea for volunteers at Norwescon II! Since that moment, it has been downhill all the way. I have worked on Worldcons and regionals, caused scandals, raised ruckus, and, eventually, moved to California.

"Very true," said the Duchess:
"FLAMINGOes and mustard both bite."

“All mimsy were the BOROGOVES, and the mome raths outgrabe.”

RICH FERREE: It has been alleged that I first came into the possession of my parents one miserable October night when the dog dragged me home, but I was very young then and am not able to confirm or deny this.

I read a lot as a child; this included some science fiction. I don't remember what I read then, but it certainly included some Heinlein juvenile material.

In 1978 I started my career in Philadelphia and attended my first convention (Chambanacon). I was unable to attend Philcon '79 (it fell between professional examinations). My first encounter with Philly phandson was Terry Sisk in the Con Suite at Norwescon Two. I got to Philcon '80 and met Joann Lawler in the Con Suite, who thought that I looked too normal to be at a con.

My first PSFS meeting was in January, 1981. It was a truly awful meeting; they were electing officers and drafting bylaws for incorporation. A report on parliamentary procedures and courtesies highlighted the evening. This report was given by a bitchy blonde who was out of order more than any two other persons there. However, Joann assured me that this was the worst meeting in her memory and that they were basically much more pleasant and enjoyable.

I came back and they made me a member. They later were looking for a place to put their money, and the committee in charge appeared to be unsure of itself. I did a survey of nine money market mutual funds and selected one. I made the mistake of letting someone know that I knew some bookkeeping, and when the treasurer became disabled with twins, they gave me the job.

When it became apparent that I was going to be elected to an office, I changed jobs and moved to Boston. I brought the blonde with me.

My first NESFA meeting was February, 1983. It was a truly awful meeting; they were amending bylaws. For some reason these people seemed to be enjoying the meeting. I came back and they put me to work. I developed the subsidiary through which NESFA is borrowing to finance its clubhouse. Then they made me a member. They told me that my future has been planned, but there have been no hints as to what is coming!
DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE
by Pat Vandenberg

My thanks to Don & Jill Eastlake, Larry Gelfand, Bruce Pelz, Robert Sacks and Ben Yalow for giving their time and thought to our interviews.

When your editor conceived the idea of interviewing a few well-known fans for their opinions on the bidding cycle changes coming up for ratification at LACon, the original thrust of these interviews was directed toward the 2-to 3-year change in the voting cycle. Since ratification of this proposal would mean that 1989 as well as 1988 would be voted on in 1986, MCFI, among others, would be affected by this change.

As usual, discussion of one change led to discussion of the other two changes which could be ratified at LACon - the NASFiC regulations and earlier facilities agreement submission - as well as possible proposals to be made at LACon's WSFS Business Meeting.

Since most of the changes discussed deal with the bidding cycle, Item 1 is an overall look at how the present cycle (which includes the voting) works. Items 2 thru 5 deal with our original question regarding the impact of just the 2-to 3-year voting cycle change, and the rest is self-explanatory. Where possible, I have combined replies into a general statement.

1. HOW DOES THE CURRENT CYCLE WORK?

The current cycle calls for a vote to take place at the Worldcon two years in advance of the one being voted on. The North American continent is currently divided into three zones (East, Central, and West) with all sites in a zone eligible to bid for a particular year. All non-North American sites are eligible to bid for any year. There is a mail-in ballot distributed by the Host (current) convention to its members, previously in one of its PRs. In order to appear on the ballot a bid group must submit a facilities agreement, or adequate proof of facilities, in advance of the ballot printing. The Host convention is required to announce the ballot submission deadline 4 months in advance. Also needed for eligibility is a copy of the rules under which the bid convention is to be run, the term of office of the principal officers and their selection criteria - i.e. Corporate Bylaws. This must be presented upon request to any eligible voter. It is still currently possible for a convention to be written-in on the ballot, if the host so decides, but it must still present its bylaws on request and be in the correct zone - or outside North America. In the event of a 'None-of-the-Above' bid winning, the WSFS Business Meeting has the responsibility of deciding the site of the WorldCon for the year being voted on. Any person who is a member of the Host convention is eligible to vote for site selection, but must pay the required voting fee, which goes to the winning convention committee, if their vote is to count. In addition to the mail ballots, site voting is also done at the Host convention. Voting usually takes place at a table manned by representatives of the bid committees being voted for, and usually closes in the early evening on Saturday of the Host convention. Votes are counted that night and the official winner is customarily announced at the Sunday WSFS Business Meeting. When a non-North American site has been selected, a NASFiC (North American Science Fiction Convention) may also be chosen for the same year.

2. WHAT IS THE PROSPECTIVE CHANGE?

The amendment as written would call for the vote to take place at the Worldcon three years in advance of the one being voted on. This change would take place at the 1986 WorldCon, where both 1988 and 1989 would be voted on. Since this would currently cause the vote to take place in the same zone (East) as the Host convention, a rider disqualifying bids for a site within 50 miles of the Host convention was added to this change. New York in '89 will be excepted from this disqualification in the event New York in '86 is the Host convention.

"It was high time to go, for the pool was getting quite crowded with birds or animals, that had fallen into it: there was a DUCK and a DODO, a LORRY and an EAGLET, and several other curious creatures."

3
3. WHY NOW?

More and more bidders have found it difficult to get good hotel and convention space as those facilities can require a longer lead time than 2 years. The world conventions are getting larger and require larger facilities, which puts us in a position where we have to compete with monied cons. One such is a library group Bruce is familiar with who normally make their reservations 8 or 9 years in advance and who are willing to put down a sizable deposit. The average reservation for these large cons is 4 or 5 years in advance of the convention. Don recalled that this proposed change has been brought up in one form or another sporadically over the last few years. If it remains undecided at LACon it will probably not come up again until 1986. That means the earliest it could go into effect would be 1989, and so the bid committees for the next five years would continue to struggle trying to get facilities with only a 2-year guaranteed leadtime.

4. WHAT ADVANTAGES AND/OR DISADVANTAGES DO YOU FORSEE THIS CHANGE HAVING ON:

a) Hotels and Other Facilities:

The original negotiating will be easier. This change will let bids sign a firm contract one year earlier which will please the hotels and facilities. It should also make bigger and better hotels and facilities available.

b) Rates:

Bruce and Robert felt that hotel rates would be more competitive since more hotels would be willing to compete for our business. Don, Ben and Larry pointed out, however, that hotels are usually unwilling to commit to room rates and extra charges until within 1 or at most 2 years of the convention. This would mean that a second set of possibly tricky negotiations would be required at a time when the hotel has a stronger position - you already have a contract with them. This could, however, be offset in areas where there is a strong regional with which the hotel wishes to stay on good terms. No one felt the change would have any significant effect on convention rates.

c) Attendees/Voters:

The change would give them more time to plan (and get the money together) to attend worldcons. Also, they will be more familiar with the bidding committees and the area for which they will be bidding.

d) Participants:

They may be able to schedule commitments sooner though they tend not to commit to attend until within 1 year of the con.

e) Bid Committees:

Little or no effect on current bids. Those after 1986 will have to hold together longer - 3 to 5 years instead of 2 to 4, and as Larry pointed out, fans tend to move around. Bruce said this was a worry back in 1969 when the cycle changed from 1 year to 2. However, he felt more bid committees may be formed, as they would have an easier time getting hotels and other facilities. It would also be easier for the bid committees to get to the Host convention for bid work and coordination.

f) Bid Planning:

Increased concentration on the local (in zone) vote will be necessary according to Ben. Bruce and Larry felt one more PR would probably also prove necessary; Don, two. Larry pointed out that it will be difficult for those bids already announced but not being bid for until 1986 or later, as they won't know until after LACon when they will be voted on. Ben, however, said that he did not currently know of any bids after 1989, which meant that only 1989 would be affected.

g) Pre-Bid Strategies:

The decision to bid will have to be made further in advance of the year the committee is bidding for, as the site will not be selected until a minimum of 3+ years before their convention. The vote will take place in the bidder's home zone, which may encourage more people from that zone to attend the con - i.e. larger cons. Robert noted that bidding expenses may be less, as bid committees may start their bidding closer to the voting year. As he put it - 1 year less of agony and suspense.
DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE  (continued)

h) Implementation:

There may be voter confusion in 1986 when voting at the same time for two (or possibly 3) conventions. (If one of the two is a non-North American bid, there may be a third vote for a NASFiC.) Also expensive, as voters have to pay for 2 or 3 voting fees and change-over fees (to attending status) in the same year. There will be additional work for the Host convention also. The Treasurer will have to juggle 2 or 3 site-selection bank accounts. All site-selection procedures such as ballots, tables, counts, space, etc. will have to be doubled or tripled. Robert and Bruce mentioned one possible advantage for the 1986 Host convention, however: increased advertising income.

5. DO YOU SUPPORT THE CHANGE?

Don - Yes. We need the additional year to ensure adequate facilities will be available.

Larry - Yes. However, I don't support the 60-mile rider. Also, having the voting in the same zone as the Host convention could bias the bid to a particular area and make it more resistant to change. (Larry felt he would be more likely to favor the change if the current zone rotation were also changed.)

Bruce - Yes. We need more time with the hotels. Committees are having more and more trouble with hotels being grabbed out from under them.

Robert - Yes, but I would like to see the 60-mile rider eliminated.

Ben - Yes. We need longer lead-time to match the hotel industry standards. (Ben also felt he would be more comfortable with this bid cycle change if the current zone rotation were also changed.)

"Beware the JUBJUB BIRD, and shun The frumious Bandersnatch!"

“This here young lady,” said the GRYPHON, “she wants for to know your history she do.”

HISTORICAL NOTE from Don Eastlake:

The increasing size of Worldcons and need for earlier commitments to hotels was why the voting leadtime was changed from its original 1 year to 2 years. St. Louiscon, in 1969, was the WorldCon at which both the 1970 (HeiCon) and 1971 (Noreascon I) WorldCons were selected due to the one-to-two-year change. Thus Noreascon I was the first WorldCon selected two years in advance. If the proposed change goes through, Noreascon III could be the first WorldCon selected 3 years in advance.

6. FACILITIES SUBMISSION.

The next question mentioned was the change requiring all WorldCon bids wishing to appear on the ballot to submit their "proof of adequate facilities" (which can be just a letter of intent that does not really bind the hotel, etc.) at the WorldCon prior to the Host convention. In addition, it requires that any NASFiCs submit their "proof of adequate facilities" by December 31st of the year prior to the Host con.

Both Bruce and Ben said that this amendment would just set the filing deadline at a known time instead of at the discretion of the Host convention. Don and Larry commented, however, that this earlier filing might decrease the number of bids on the ballot and eliminate write-in ballots. Robert added that he felt hotels would not be willing to bind without guarantee for a full year, which could be expensive (to guarantee) or eliminate popular facilities. Don and Ben, also felt this change was not strictly necessary. Ben because the date specified is not actually earlier than is possible under the current rules; and Don, because combined with the 3-year vote lead, bid committees have a sudden jump from needing a facilities letter 2-1/2 years in advance to needing it 4 years in advance.
7. NASFiC REGULATIONS.

The final change coming up for ratification at LACon is to apply all WorldCon site selection rules to a NASFiC. (No constitutional changes can be done at a NASFiC, nor Hugo balloting.) Currently NASFiCs are customarily decided on the floor of the WSFS Business Meeting on Sunday — after the official announcement of a non-North American bid win — unless all committees bidding for a particular NASFiC decide otherwise. (They decided to hold open voting at Connie since Australia was the only 1985 bid running. This meant a non-North American WorldCon was guaranteed.) The current procedure of announcing or forming a NASFiC in the Business Meeting eliminates the voting fees WorldCons get.

Everyone agreed that this might be a good thing as it would regularize the NASFiC bidding and provide them with start-up funds. Don, Bruce, and Robert expressed the feeling that this may be a bit much, however, to expect of a group who may only bid if a non-North American bid wins. This may also eliminate groups who don’t want to take the gamble and probably also eliminate last minute NASFiC bids by losing North American WorldCon bidders.

8. POSSIBLE NEW PROPOSALS:

a) Both Don and Bruce mentioned possible rotation change proposals. This change would be to either 2 (East and West only — split approximately on the Mississippi) or 4 (Northeast, Southeast, Central and West) zones instead of our current 3 (East, Central and West). Most of those interviewed seemed to prefer the two-zone change.

b) Another possible proposal, from Don, is a change in the default voting fee. The WSFS Constitution says the voting fee is $10 unless all bidders and the Host convention agree to set another value. There may be a motion to increase the default fee as the set fee has been consistently higher than $10.

Has this article given you some food for thought (and action)? I hope so.

See you at the LACon WSFS Business Meeting.
THE CAUCUS RACE - PART II

MINUTES: Wednesday, May 16, 1984
Hosted by Anton Chernoff.

The meeting was called to order by Mike DiGenio, as temporary chairman, at 7:48 PM. Leslie Turek announced that two donations had been received for the ConStellation creditor buy-out. In addition, Fred Isaacs and Ben Yallow received offers of Carl Lundgren prints to be auctioned off for Connie. Both Mark Olson and Leslie felt fandom was being very supportive of efforts to bail out Connie.

Dave Cantor, appointed Chairman of this meeting, arrived and took the chair.

Rick Katze introduced the new Boston in '89 T-shirt and passed around a preliminary sketch. After much discussion it was decided to order men's sizes for the present, check on children's and women's sizes, and take orders for all. The T-shirt will be unveiled at LACon.

Greg Thokar produced 5000 pieces of stationery. Mike's comment was that the printing (in bright green) was not the sort of thing you want to see when you have a hangover!

(A box of chocolate-covered cherries began its pilgrimage around Anton's rec room at this point and disrupted discussion!)

Suford Lewis stated that we are not doing a Proceedings, as the area reports are too long. For the Post-Con Report, however, she still needs amusing stories - other than the door, the ice and the desk - and she has ordered the rest of the Masquerade pictures. Size has still not been determined.

Pat Vandenberg introduced the new staff of The Nad 3 Party. While a draft copy of the next Nad 3 Party (issue #2) made the rounds, a discussion about mimeo versus offset ensued. After budget discussions, it was decided to stick to mimeo.

A long discussion regarding bid budgeting was initiated by Leslie and Jim Hudson, who both had tentative budgets to be reviewed. Ways of cutting expenses were proposed as well as ways of trying to increase income. After getting estimates of what other bid groups have spent, Mike expressed everyone's feelings with his statement that the definition of a frugal bid had definitely changed! Proposed by Mark was the idea of an article in TH3P on bidding finances. (Your editor is looking into this.)

An outcome of this discussion was the formation of a Strategy Committee who would also look into budgeting. The former Party Strategy Committee was augmented by Sharon Sbarsky, Paula Lieberman and Laurie Mann to become the Strategy Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 27, 1984 at Pat Vandenberg's apartment.

OF CABBAGES AND CONS (continued)

Louisville, Kentucky:
This year's Rivercon featured Don and Jill Eastlake as their Fan Golls. Among the other Boston-area fans in attendance were Donny Eastlake, Alice, Tony, and Suford Lewis, Jim Hudson, Ellen Franklin, Cynthia Hanley, Rick Katze, Leslie Turek, Chip Hitchcock, Mark Olson, and James and Joe Turner. Yes, Ben was there also. Don and Jill gave speeches, held room parties, were Masquerade judges, and had a wonderful time. Donny especially loved the riverboat ride and took everyone he know on a personalized tour of the engine room. Rick played poker each night until well past dawn. (This is what he calls "attending the Program")
Mark thought the Hucksters' Room was terrific — lots of used paperbacks.

The hit of Rivercon was the Smoffbusters group costume, in which several fans are terrorized by a fan shouting "Blah-blah-blah-hotel contract-blah-blah-fiscal-responsibility-blah-blah-blah-Diamondvision-blah-blah-blah." This horrific being was clothed in black pants, white shirt, and bow tie to represent you-know-who; his shirt tail hung out in the manner of Bob Hillis; he was padded like Rick Katze, and carried a Ross Pavlac brief case. The fans are rescued by the Smoffbusters who sprayed the pest from a backpack made of tonic cans (most of them CocaCola, an anathema to Ben, who drinks only the proper elixir of fandom Pepsi.) Let's hope this costume reruns at LACON. Local fans who've been told about the costume now are chanting, "Blah, blah, blah!" to quell discussions of Connie and fannish finances.
HOW DO THE LITTLE CROCODILE?
by Tony Lewis

NOREASCON II PROGRAMMING PROCEDURE:

Near the end of 1979 we sent our an information package to the SFWA membership plus a large number of writers, artists, editors, publishers, and scientists. This package explained what the WorldCon was, when and where it was being held, and how and why we wanted them to participate. We also included a form asking for programming suggestions and areas people either would or would not be interested in. We also asked for non-SF areas of expertise and interests - after all, how many people can you put on the new writers panel? One advantage you have at a WorldCon in comparison with a regional is that you can expect almost all the professionals to attend. The first major concern is to get good program items. These come from many places - suggestions by committee, members, professionals; program books from previous WorldCons and regions; current "hot bulletins", etc. We put requests in our progress reports for everyone to send in ideas; many did. As you might expect, many of these ideas were not workable or duplicated each other. Still, a reasonable number of workable ideas (or ideas that led to workable ideas) were received.

All program ideas and people volunteering (or asked) to participate were kept in a single huge notebook lugged around to conventions and meetings throughout the year.

After the program items were generally set, another package was sent out to the participants giving them a list of the people on that program item, some thoughts on direction and content of the item, and a request for restrictions on time. Some of these restrictions were:

- Arrival Date
- Departure Date
- Religious time
- No morning items
- No evening items
- Not at the same time as ___
- Only one item/day
- Not the same day as the Masquerade or Hugo or ___
- Not in conflict with any program item with ___ on it
- And so on.

In addition to scheduling main tracks, we also had to coordinate with children's programming, autograph sessions, special interest groups, author's readings, etc. More about this next time.

"It's the CROW!" Tweedledum cried out in a shrill voice of alarm; and the two brothers took to their heels and were out of sight in a moment."

THE CAUCUS RACE - PART III

MINUTES: Wednesday, June, 27, 1984
Hosted by Pat Vandenberg.

The meeting was called to order at 8:15PM by Mike DiGenio, acting chairman.

Jim Hudson presented a fan, imprinted with "Boston in '89", as a publicity suggestion. His concluding comment of "Another fan for Boston in '89?" inspired many bad puns.

Laurie Mann passed around questionnaires on future con attendance by MCFI members which everyone was to fill out and pass back. Laurie intends to tabulate the information and announce the results at the August meeting.

Pat Vandenberg thanked the TM3P staff for their hard work. Her anticipated publication schedule for TM3P is: the second 1984 issue at the end of July; the third in October and the fourth in December.

Mark Olson described what the SCB&R committee (particularly Rick Katze) had been doing regarding Connie's financial situation. After meetings with ChiCon at both Connie and Disclave the ChiCon committee decided to contribute $5,000 if a list of 9 conditions was met. Two conditions - educating fandom and a public letter from Mike Walsh - spurred considerable discussion. Rick is ably handling negotiations and MCFI voted unanimously to let him continue the good work.
THE CAUCUS RACE  -  PART III  (continued)

George Flynn has not heard from Connie regarding the WSFS Business Meeting Minutes. Whether he hears or not, George is thinking of distributing copies of the minutes at LACon who wants them.

Sharon Sbarsky reported that Ben Yalow has been bringing flyers to cons and that she has been mailing out others. Sharon also passed around a new sticker design.

Rick announced that there will be T-shirts at LACon.

Don Eastlake reported that getting the WSFS trademarks will take time.

Jill and Don, who are Fan Guests of Honor at Rivercon, plan to throw a personal party there.

Chip Hitchcock "volunteered" to be flight director for the Boston in '89 LACon party.

Partial budgets were arranged for various items with a full budget going back to the Strategy Committee for more work.

A new committee to work on "Timeline and WorldCon Philosophy" was established with Jim, George, Mike, Don, Dave Anderson, Joe Rico and Pat as members.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 15, 1984 at Bob Spence's.

New Members as of June 27, 1984:
Joe Rico

New Friends as of June 27, 1984:
Yale Edeiken  Peggy Rae Pavlat
Louise Sachter  Priscilla Pollner
Deryl Burr  Shira Ordower
Sue Lichuaco

"As if it wasn't trouble enough
hatching the EGGS," said the
PIGEON, but I must be on the look- 
out for serpents night and day!.
Why, I haven't had a wink of sleep
these three weeks!"

"When the pie was all finished,
the OWL, as a boon,
Was kindly permitted to
pocket the spoon?"

TURTLE SOUP

While not specifically addressed to TM3P, this is a reply of sorts to MCFI's letter to fandom regarding ConStellation's financial situation. This is being printed with Mike Glyer's permission through the kind offices of Sue Hammond, who put it together.

In FILE 770:47 Mike Glyer commented on Leslie Turek's 4/26 letter (previously published in TM3P) addressed to the "SF community" about the ConStellation debt.

After quoting from Leslie's letter the reason why formal bankruptcy should be avoided, Mike wrote: "While sharing the overall view of the MCFI appeal, I feel some of its premises are overstated. For one, it implicitly assumes that ConStellation's last resort is bankruptcy. In fact, many business entities that become defunct, simply cease operation. Bankruptcy proceedings cost money too, whether you look at it from the con's side, or the creditor's side. Creditors would find it uneconomical to pursue ConStellation's almost-empty shell. Connie could expend the last of its funds paying bills, file a final tax return and vanish, secure in the knowledge that, even at that, they've done more than many in the same position." He commented on the possibility mentioned in the letter that monies paid to artists by ConStellation could be included in the bankruptcy proceeding by stating that "ConStellation essentially acted as a broker, and held no claim on the gross receipts aside from its fees and commissions." (Editor's Note: Mike also commented that he is, however, not a bankruptcy lawyer.)

Mike notes that DiamondVision and Gestetner, two of ConStellation's largest creditors, have agreed to a buy-out of their debts; also that Rick Katze has contacted the convention's creditors; "6/11 Katze sounded confident that settlement will be reached with them all provided the necessary money becomes available."
WHY IS A RAVEN LIKE A WRITING DESK?
by Priscilla Pollner

PUZZLE I - For the Birds

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<td>R</td>
<td>E</td>
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<td>F</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A) Cross off all Wonderland "bird" related words.
EDITORS NOTE: To make things interesting, the "bird" words are scattered throughout the pages of this issue. There are 12 bird words in all. The following requested words are normally found in The Mad 3's articles.

B) From the letters remaining, cross off letters spelling out the name of the bird in the title of this column.

C) Cross out the initials of the organization responsible for this nonsense.

D) Cross out the letters abbreviating the other organization to which many of the members of the above belong.

E) Darken the boxes with letters that have not been crossed out to reveal the "secret" message!

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