

The Mad 3 Party

Suford's

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CONTENTS

- 1 THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS
Questions for our readers on GoH selection
- 2 THE CAUCUS RACE - PART I
Minutes of the Dec. 4 MCFI meeting
- 5 OF CABBAGES AND CONS
Balticon Report
- 7 THE CAUCUS RACE - PART II
Minutes of the Jan. 22 MCFI meeting
- 8 SHORT RAUCUS NOTES
Name the Cat contest reminder
- 8 THE CAUCUS RACE - PART III
Minutes of the Feb. 26 MCFI meeting
- 10 WHY IS A RAVEN LIKE A WRITING DESK?
Solution to last issue's puzzle

In the next issue: Results of the MCFI elections and profiles of our new officers. Also, the winner of the *Name the Cat* contest. Keep those cards and letters (and subscription renewals) coming! Many of us will be at Disclave and are looking forward to seeing some of you there.

Deadline for next issue: May 15.

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

by Leslie Turek

To encourage input from our readers, we plan to bring up topics that are under discussion in the committee. This issue's topic is the criteria to be used in selecting guests of honor for the convention. To get things going, let me propose some of the ideas and questions that I have heard expressed by various people. The first question is what purpose does having a guest of honor serve?

One view might be to consider the series of GoH's chosen by the various Worldcons as a "hall of fame" of illustrious contributors to the field. If this is your view, you would select someone who has been in the field a long time, and you would consider the total body of his/her work. In choosing between two candidates, with all else being equal, you would choose the older of the two candidates, to insure their recognition before it is too late. You would not want to repeat someone who had been chosen before, since they are already in the "Hall of Fame".

Another view would be to consider the GoH as a star attraction for the convention. If this is your view, you would choose someone likely to appeal to the members. You would want someone well known and gregarious. You would consider their contribution to the field, but would focus on their more recent work rather than work done many years in the past. Under this view, repetition would be permitted, if the person has done much new work since they were last honored.

Another question is how many guests should there be? Traditionally, there has been one pro GoH and one fan GoH. But almost invariably the pro GoH has been a writer. Is it reasonable to choose an editor or artist as the pro GoH? Or should there be separate "Special Guests", or an "Artist Guest"? And what about the Toastmaster, who has traditionally been treated on a par

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with the guests of honor?

Let us know what you think.

THE CAUCUS RACE - PART I

MEETING: Wednesday, December 4, 1985 at St. Eulalia's Church, Winchester, Mass.

Chip Hitchcock called the meeting to order at 8:19 pm by playing a kazoo. He is planning to answer Balticon's offer of time for a bid presentation by requesting 1/2 hour in prime time. We would be happy to share a panel with the '88 bidders if they are interested.

Mad 3: Al gave the Mad 3 report in Pat Vandenberg's absence. Pat needs committee biographies and first con writeups. Also, bookstore reports would be welcomed. Chip congratulated Pat for getting the latest issue out almost on time, despite some people being almost a month late with contributions.

Timeline: Jim Hudson presented a written committee report covering several areas. [Text in italics is taken from the report.]

GOH: The schedule passed by the membership required names to be suggested by all of us as of December 1985, bibliographic information distributed by February, and approval voting in March. Here's how we think that should work:

We have three categories: GoH, Fan GoH, and Toastmaster for our selection. We haven't talked much about the latter, but Toastmaster is usually named in PR0, and this will be the best way to choose one.

If you have names to suggest, submit them to the Secretary by the APA deadline. Better yet, write something on them for the APA.

We'll prepare a full list from the last year of APA89 before the January meeting. At that point, anybody can suggest additions. By the end of that meeting we will close off the list.

The committee...will compile material on them from Nicholls, Tuck, etc., and send these through the APA. People are also strongly encouraged to comment on any or all in any APA up through the March meeting.

Approval voting — "Would X be a good choice for Guest [Y/N]?" happens at the March meeting. We'll compile the results and suggest a cutoff for the short lists. We'll talk about those more in February and March.

GoH Criteria: To a certain extent, these are personal, and we may not all agree. At this point, we may not need to agree.

This report was accepted as presented, with the addition of Mark Olson's suggestion that Laurie Mann write to the Friends and ask them for their suggestions.

Jim H. then reported on the Timeline Committee's discussions in regard to early cash flow. We want to make it easy for people to vote and convert as early as possible. We also want to be ready to take deposits on dealers tables in the fall. We're looking into the idea of issuing a discount coupon to Presupporters. [At this point there was some silly discussion regarding the concept of Noreascon life memberships.] We are also looking for a volunteer to investigate the possibility of receiving equipment donations from local computer companies.

Jim H. announced that we should plan on discussing the membership rate schedule at the next few meetings. At this meeting, we will discuss the policy statements proposed by the Timeline Committee.

The convention will run from Thursday 8/31/89 through Monday 9/4/89.

Jim H. stated that this would make us an official 5-day Worldcon, as opposed to an official 4-day Worldcon of N2 and the 6-day of some recent Worldcons. These are the days the con is officially open to the public -- it is recognized that many people will show up earlier in any case. Leslie Turek pointed out that it doesn't necessarily mean that everything will be open on Thursday. Things that need lot of setup, like Art Show, could still open on Friday, but there can be some things on Thursday, like films, that don't take a lot of effort. Jim H. pointed out that we're not saying when Thursday and when Monday -- just that these are the official dates. The policy was approved, many to one.

We will hire secretarial staff to assist in paperwork during the year of the convention.

Jim H. said that the Timeline Committee is convinced that we're going to need it, probably starting on a part-time basis. We should budget for this. George Flynn stated that it was his idea. This policy was approved unanimously.

MCFI will appoint no staff before its time. Staff appointments will be made on a considered schedule. We will attempt to make appointments to allow enough time to do the job, but also give us the maximum time for

recruitment and consideration.

Jill Eastlake stated that this was corny. Jim H. volunteered to reword it. Jill: "I didn't say I objected, I just said it's corny". Jim H.: "You're right." The policy was approved many to one.

We do not yet have a formal Table of Organization, and we believe that the organizational structure depends heavily on the people appointed. We will build the jobs around the capabilities, no define the slots and squeeze people into them.

Although people seemed to agree with this policy, in principle, many felt that the wording was somewhat misleading. Don thought that it was too strong -- that we have to have some layering of structure. Paula Lieberman felt we should address people's interests as well as their capabilities. Jim H. said that one idea that should be implied is that we plan to be cooperative in working for the good of the convention, rather than territorial. It was agreed that the Timeline Committee would rework the wording and present it at a later meeting.

A major goal is to make a big convention feel small. We don't see a way to make Worldcon attendance smaller that isn't worse than the disease of "bigness". So we will try hard to overcome the problems of size -- crowding, lack of "human touch" in our operations, inability to find the people you want to.

Jim H. felt that from his perspective (Member Services at Noreascon 2), this is the most significant change to approach in running the convention. This says that we are not only going to try to run a "traditional" Worldcon as best as we can, but also try to get some new direction in making that Worldcon act like the ones 10 or 20 years back. Mark agreed that this was extremely significant. "I don't know whether we'll succeed, but making this a major goal addresses something we've heard time and time again about the Worldcon." George felt that making this as a statement and publishing it would tend to attract people who would like to help us pull it off. Mike DiGenio said that there is very little we can do about how big the Worldcon is, but there may well be a great number of things we can do about how big the Worldcon feels. Jim H. pointed out that the reason to have it as a policy statement is that if we aren't thinking about those things from the beginning, we won't be able to do it well.

Paula objected that some people may like big conventions. Don offered to provide a crowded area for those who want it... with a one-hour Stephen King autograph line.

After much discussion, the policy was approved, many to one.

[Written SF Focus -- to be discussed at meeting.]

Jim H. explained that the Timeline Committee hadn't developed a wording yet, but they have a sense of the committee that the convention should overall focus more on written SF. Mark felt that this was self-evident and should be recognized. Leslie felt that it should be carefully worded so that other types of groups don't feel excluded. Chip: "The Timeline Committee is hereby enjoined to walk a tightrope." This policy was sent back to the Timeline Committee for detailing.

Chip announced that the final topic to be discussed under Timeline was what we are going to do at Boskone. Sharon reported that too many people were busy working on Friday night for us to be able to do a costume presentation. Sue Hammond proposed that the costumes revert back to their wearers for upkeep and informal convention use. Sue and Jill Eastlake will arrange this.

It was suggested that we ask Boskone to set aside tables for ConFederation, and for the '88 and '89 bidders. There was much joking about which MCFI member should make the request: Mark (who is Boskone chairman) or Jill (who is NESFA president).

The next question was what kind of party will we throw at Boskone? Options were having a party in the con suite, combining forces with Boxboro, or having a separate party of our own. The major problem is whether we have enough people to staff a party. Jill asked those who are working on Boskone to raise a hand. (The whole room did.) Jim Mann felt, in spite of this, that we should do what we can. The consensus was that we wanted a party, and Mike would figure out how to do it and report back at the next meeting.

Parties: Mark volunteered to do a "somewhat less organized" party at Philcon. Mike reported that Rick Katze ran a Loscon party. Mike is still looking for someone who is going to Confusion. Coming up in March are Lunacon, Istacon, Aggiecon, Balticon, and Minicon. Lunacon shouldn't be any problem. We had DeepSouthcon on the list, but it is going to be in September (after the voting). Chip mentioned that he will be going to Wiscon

and would be willing to do a party there.

SMOFcon: Mark plans to have a SMOFcon draft flyer in the APA. Laurie is going to typeset it. Something will be ready for Philcon. He would like comments, especially to tighten up the list of topics. It has been decided that *nonparticipating* children will be free. We should probably sell memberships by personal contact, rather than leaving flyers out on the freebie table. We want to find people who would make a good addition to the con. Chip suggested that flyers should also be mailed out to Friends.

Mark continued by saying that we are ready to accept memberships: \$30 checks made out to SMOFcon 3 are ideal. We can also take VISA or MC. We want to try to get people from outside of this region. The topics discussed will be selected with input from the pre-registrants. Mark is also planning to recruit participation from the '88 bidders, as soon as we have a firm date.

Jim H. presented a SMOFcon 2 report: "It was a fun convention. It had a couple of unexpected arrivals of people who had not sent in their money and had not heard it had been canceled. Our bidding party was Sat. at Tom Whitmore's. Best con I've been to in a long time. It was sort of spread out around the city..."

ConFederation Liaison: Chip is still looking for volunteers for hotel liaison. Jim H. suggested Ben Yalow, since he is an MCFI Friend and is helping ConFederation with their hotel relations. Sue H. agreed to talk to Ben.

Don Eastlake reported that he had written to ConFederation volunteering to lay out the site selection ballot for '89. We would like to take MC and VISA at the site selection table. Although this costs us about 3%, it would make things easier for people who have to pay to vote for two conventions at the same time. We are recommending that ConFederation establish separate bank accounts for the two Worldcons being selected. The last thing Don asked about was whether we could allow voters to purchase an attending membership in one stop, rather than having to come back again after the winner was selected. Of course we'd agree that if another group wins, we'd provide refunds, etc.

Flyers and Mailings: Leslie reported that flyers were mailed to Tropicon and Loscon. There aren't many conventions in the dead of winter.

Chip reported that flyer text is in the APA, and comments should go to the APA.

Memory Book: Chip reported that 243 books were packaged and labeled and ready to go out. This brings the total distribution to over 2000.

Mark presented a motion for NESFA to sell the Memory Books. It was decided that NESFA should set the price as low as possible and keep the first \$2 of each sale. [The price was later set to \$2.] Sue H. (who was not a Noreascon 2 member) asked to buy the first book.

Mark brought up a related question - all the stuff we have stored in NESFA storage. NESFA has moved it to the clubhouse, and over the next few months there will be an attempt to clean it out. Anybody who thinks they have a stake in MCFI's dead storage ought to make themselves known.

Advertising: Sharon is working on an ad for the Atlanta PR3. She has edited the flyer text and plans to add a hotel map. She would like to have it typeset, but many people felt her laser printer output was good enough.

TAFF/DUFF: George reported that Dave Langford's trip report has been published and he will mail him a check as soon as we see a copy.

New Business: Jill moved that the MCFI Board of Directors talk to the NESFA Board about making official use of the clubhouse. This was passed many to one.

Don Eastlake reported on MCFI's investment (\$1000) in the NESFA Lunar Realty Trust #1. He admitted that, as trustee, he had accidentally mailed MCFI's interest check to SCIFI. (It was returned.) The interest is roughly \$69, and he asked to appropriate \$32 to add back to the interest and buy one more note in the Trust. This was passed unanimously.

There was a discussion of APA deadlines, and the scheduling problems posed by Boskone. Jim announced the dates of the next Timeline meetings. The next meeting will be on Jan 22, at St. Eulalia's.

Chip requested the "H.P. Lovecraft motion". Jill moved to dissolve the committee. The meeting adjourned at 10:57 pm.



OF CABBAGES AND CONS

Balticon

March 28-30, 1986, Baltimore, Maryland

by Leslie Turek

This year's Balticon returned to the Hyatt Regency. The good news was the hotel's location near Harborplace and its attractive open atrium where you could sit and meet just about everyone you were looking for (except on Sunday, when the hotel set up a brunch and moved out all of the furniture). The weather was marvelous and many people did a lot of their eating outdoors overlooking the harbor, at either the stand-up specialty shops (cannoli, fudge made while you watched, Thrasher's french fries), or the excellent outdoor restaurants such as Phillips (sea food), Athena Taverna, or Gianni's (Italian). We particularly appreciated the con committee's success at arranging for member discounts at many of these eateries.

The bad news about the hotel was pervasive, however. Once again they oversold the hotel, and did a poor job allocating rooms to customers. Singles arriving as early as 7 pm with guaranteed room reservations had to fight off being put into suite parlors with only a roll-away bed. Many large groups requesting double doubles got put into rooms with one king-sized bed, whereas, at the same time, couples looking for king-sized beds get assigned to unwanted double doubles. (They did manage, however, to assign Ben Yalow the perfect room - immediately adjacent to a large Pepsi machine!)

The Hyatt's anti-party policy continued. Parties could happen, with the payment of corkage fees, and with no advertising of room numbers, and with doors kept closed or propped ajar with towels stuffed into the hinges.

In addition, the hotel just seems too small and cramped for the size Balticon is currently. The dealers' room aisles were impossible to move through, the Friday night masquerade was jammed, and many of the program events were in rooms too small for the number of people attending.

The good side of all this is that there have been a number of new hotels built in the area since Constellation, including a Marriott and a Sheraton. It was rumored that next year's Balticon committee is planning to look around for other sites. Since new hotels are

usually eager to get business, it should be possible for them to locate a more cooperative hotel, hopefully near enough to Harborplace to retain the special ambiance of recent Balticons.

The convention had a little bit for everyone. There was a dealers' room, art show, masquerade film and video program, and a multi-track main program with an art track, a science track run by the L-5 society, and a small music track. Filking was highlighted, and there was a music guest of honor, Leslie Fish. There was also an extensive gaming program.

In spite of the Hyatt, parties managed to exist. PSFS continued their 50-year anniversary celebration. Three of the '88 bidders were there, in spite of Minicon being held on the same weekend. Cruisecon served "island punch" and displayed pictures of the S.S. Norway's cabins. New Orleans played loud music and festooned their beads on all comers (including the large schefflera in their suite). The Cincinnati party was low key, with maps and floor plans available for viewing, but no heavy politicking, at least while I was there. There was also a small party supporting Holland in '90.

The Boston contingent had decided not to battle with the Hyatt's policies, and did not hold a party. The traditional bar of chocolate Chip Hitchcock had brought down was donated to the PSFS party.

We did, however, participate in the bidding presentations scheduled for Saturday morning. Cincinnati, Boston, and Cruisecon each had 1/2 hour for presentations to an audience that ranged from 7-15 (including ex-Boston fan Doug Hoylman). Here are my notes on what was said.

Cincinnati. The Cincinnati spiel was presented by Liz Gross, with Bob Hillis assisting with the movie projector. They are planning to run a full service Worldcon, with something for everyone. Their committee has been active in running and attending conventions since the late 60's. Liz has had experience with running art shows, and also has gaming and media experience. They are preparing for a large convention of 6,000 - 8,000 people. They have 71,000 sq feet of exhibit space for the dealers' room, and 65,000 sq feet for art show and exhibits. There is a 4,000-seat auditorium which will be used for masquerade, GoH speeches, and Hugo ceremonies. All of this is in a newly-revamped convention center. They also have

meeting space in the convention center and in 5 hotels.

The main hotel will be the Clarion, with 700 rooms. The others hotels are a Hyatt, the North Plaza (decorated in art deco style), the Hilton, and the Westin (with pool and sauna, very friendly management). It is 2 1/2 blocks, or 8 minutes to the farthest hotel. An enclosed second-story skywalk connects all the hotels. They have booked 2300 hotel rooms and a new hotel is being built.

Amenities of the city include excellent restaurants. The committee is planning an expedition to the King's Island amusement park on Wednesday preceding the convention. The city will have fireworks on Labor Day. The downtown area is active on weekends, and the city is easy to get to. (They then showed a typical chamber of commerce film on Cincinnati.)

The convention will be run by FANACO, Inc. The same group has been running 2 Ohio regionals. Chair is Mark Evans, who has chaired regionals and been a Worldcon department head. Robert Hillis was Vice Chair and Comptroller of Chicon IV. Liz Gross has run real-world science conferences, and has regional and Worldcon experience. The rest of the committee is Ohio-based, with members from Chicago, Texas, and New York. They solicit volunteers and ideas. In response to requests, they are planning a more prominent fanzine room, for example. The theme will be "Next 200 Years". They plan to invite John Glenn and Neil Armstrong.

There was a questions about whether a banquet was planned. There will not be an official large banquet, but maybe a brunch or some smaller food functions. The GoH speeches will be in the auditorium.

Boston. Chip Hitchcock gave the Boston presentation. Also present were committee members Leslie Turek (wearing her Boskone Gopher t-shirt), Ben Yalow, and Priscilla Pollner, and Friend Alexis Layton.

Chip had a set of slides of scale models and floor plans of the new Hynes, and spent most of the time discussing the layout of the Hynes and the new hotels in the area. He stressed the large increase in available space since Noreascon II, the improved meeting room layout, and the improved access from the Sheraton. (Up to 3 entrances on the second level, rather than the 1 we had last time.)

Chip had been hoping to work from questions from the audience, but there weren't very many. One question concerned security for the art show and dealers' room, and another was about how big we expected the convention to be. We expect security to be easier than last time because the multiplicity of entrances to the Hynes will allow us more flexibility in closing off certain areas. (Previously, we would have to walk through the dealers' room to reach the art show or auditorium. This is no longer the case.) As to size, we admitted that it was difficult to tell, but we felt we had the facilities available to handle anything that we could reasonably expect.

The audience seemed mostly friendly, and we sold two Presupporting memberships at the end of our talk. We ended early, and turned the floor over to Cruisecon.

Cruisecon. The Cruisecon information was presented by Hillarie Riley. She described the S.S. Norway as a "floating con suite". It has 932 cabins, containing 2135 berths (beds). The lowest price berth is \$695, 1000 are under \$1000, and 90% are under \$1400. The average price is \$1100.

The price includes 3 meals and 3 buffets a day, plus 24-hour room service. There are outdoor restaurants, sport activities, 10 open bars, entertainment, a 1000-book library, video games, movies (525-seat theatre), sauna, laundry facilities, babysitting, etc. The cruise will last 7 days, and the con committee will decide the ports of call. One port of call will be a private island, where the ship will run a buffet picnic. There will be a dealers' room, art show, masquerade, hugo ceremonies, business meeting, GoH speeches, as usual.

There were a number of questions from the audience. In answer to a question about committee experience, Hillarie said that she ran the hospitality suite at Chicon II, and has been active at Minicon and Windycon for several years. Ross Pavlac was Co-Chair of Chicon II.

In assigning berths, there will be the following priority list:

1. Presupporting site selection voters
2. Site selection voters
3. Presupporting non-voters
4. Everyone else

Each group will have a deadline for sending in a deposit. Note that if you were a voter, but your spouse wasn't, you cannot reserve a berth for your spouse under the voters' priority. So far, only the GoHs and Toastmaster

have been slated for free berths.

Ben asked a detailed question about when payments for the boat are due from the con committee. The answer was that this was still under negotiation.

The dates of the cruise are from Sept 3 - 10 (Sat to Sat), which includes Labor Day.

I found Balticon to be mostly an enjoyable convention, with the exception of the hotel problems. One thing I wonder about, however, is why their programming starts so early Friday (3 pm -- before most out-of-towners can arrive), but then ends so early on Sunday (12 noon -- before most of us have to leave). I had the feeling that I was missing half of the convention on Friday, then had hours with nothing happening on Sunday. Perhaps the flyers could warn of this unusual scheduling.

THE CAUCUS RACE - PART II

MEETING: Wednesday, January 22, 1986 at St. Eulalia's Church, Winchester, Mass.

The meeting was called to order by Chip Hitchcock at 8:21 pm. He reported that Balticon had allotted us 1/2 hour on Saturday afternoon or evening to make a bid presentation. He would like volunteers to see him. No one, including George Flynn, had any corrections to the minutes. Sue Hammond: "He's given up trying to correct my spelling."

Treasurer's Report: Al Kent reminded everyone that assessments are due for the next quarter. It looks like estimated receipts for the bid will cover our expenses. We also have about \$1000 in MCFI assets which must cover SMOFcon 3, the N2 Memory Book, our promised contributions to TAFF and DUFF, meeting space, and the APA.

The Mad 3 Party: Pat Vandenberg hopes to have the next issue out by Boskone.

Memory Book: Jill Eastlake reported that the NESFA exec board set the price at \$2.00. Chip sent out the last mailing to N2 members found on the Austin membership list. We are still getting a trickle of requests from N2 members, but we will answer those individually.

Flyers and Mailings: Leslie Turek reported that she hadn't been sending out flyers because all that are left were at Philcon. Now that they're back, we have enough remaining to last to Boskone. Laurie Mann is planning to have a new one done by about that time.

Advertising: Sharon Sbarsky passed around copies of ads that were sent to ConSpiracy and ConFederation. Jill moved that we commend the artwork by Merle Insigna passed by acclamation. Don Eastlake produced a "how to vote" flyer on his MacIntosh. There were some changes suggested. It was decided to print 2000-3000 and to hand them out at Boskone and send them to the Presupporters.

TAFF/DUFF: George triumphantly presented 2 TAFF reports and 1 DUFF report that have been received since the last meeting. (Dave Langford's TAFF, Roy Tackett's TAFF, and Christine Ashby's DUFF.) [MCFI has committed to contribute to TAFF and DUFF for each report published.]

SMOFcon: Mark Olson reported that the date is still uncertain, since we are waiting to hear when Philcon will be. He will find out if there is a cheaper alternative to the Sheraton. Since SMOFcon is so small, it doesn't get much of a discount.

Memberships: Debbie King reported that we have another 26 Presupporters. Laurie reported that some Friends are overdue in renewing their memberships.

ConFederation Liaison: In response to Don's letter, the person in charge of site selection at Atlanta agreed that we asked a lot of appropriate questions. We still don't have any information from Atlanta on hotel reservations.

Parties: Mike DiGenio reported that Seth Breidbart will run a Confusion party. We still need a volunteer for Norwescon. After discussion, Lastcon was added to the party list. Rick Katze volunteered for Midwestcon, and Mark said he'd be going to Minicon. We don't have a volunteer for Lunacon, but lots of people are going. It was noted that one person can volunteer a room and someone else can volunteer to actually run the party.

There was a discussion of where the Boskone party could be. Will there be anyone who's not working on Boskone who will be free to run it? Laurie and Paula Lieberman volunteered to work. Wendy Lindboe has volunteered to help. Joe Rico volunteered to call the Sheraton to see if they would donate a room or a suite. Saturday will have lots of parties. Also more people will be free to work on Sunday. It was decided to hold the party on Sunday and to rent a 1-bedroom suite if we couldn't get one free from the Sheraton.

We will have a table in the registration area at Boskone to push the '89 bid. Jim Hudson agreed to staff it.

Timeline: Jim reminded people that elections are coming up in a month or two. It's time to start thinking about who will be running. George is taking an unofficial poll of people's preferences for officers.

GoH and Toastmaster candidates were discussed. Leslie suggested that we wait a while before selecting a Toastmaster. At the moment, we are collecting names and printing information about each candidate in the APA. Next meeting we will try to get the lists down to about 10 names by approval voting. The ballot will be run in the APA.

Joe: "I wish to raise a point of personal privilege. The Men's room is out of order. I now declare the Ladies room the *People's* room."

Membership rates were discussed. The rules say the voting fee can't be more than \$20, and the initial conversion fee can't be more than the voting fee. We earlier decided to give a break to the voters. Jill pointed out that it will be 9 years since Noreascon 2; Hynes costs will probably double or triple. The following rates were approved:

- \$20 Voting fee (Supporting memb.)
- \$15 Conversion to attending for voters (total \$35) through at least the end of '86
- \$40 Attending for non-voters through at least the end of '86
- \$20 Supporting at all times

We will need to decide more details by the PRO deadline.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 pm.

SHORT RAUCOUS NOTES

This is your last chance to enter the contest to *Name The Cat* on the Boston in '89 t-shirt. The winner will receive one free attending membership to Noreascon 3, when-and-if we win.

All entries must be in writing, and sent to Boston in '89, *TM3P*, Box 46, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, by May 15. (Multiple entries are allowed.) Entries will be judged for: appropriateness, originality, and pun-ability.

THE CAUCUS RACE - PART III

MEETING: Wednesday, February 26, 1986 at St. Eulalia's Church, Winchester, Mass.

The meeting was called to order by President Chip Hitchcock at 8:26 pm. Chip announced that he will do the 1/2 hour Boston in '89 presentation at Balticon. He requested additional volunteers or anyone who has appropriate slides to see him.

Secretary: Sue Hammond announced that there was some confusion about the date of the next meeting. Tuesday, April 1, had been announced, but some felt that it was unfair to change the day of such an important meeting from our usual Wednesday. This had been done because the Belmont Lion's Club would allow us to start earlier, but is not available on Wednesdays. The space has already been reserved. It was decided to let the date stand.

Timeline: Jim Hudson has the flu and is not here. Jill Eastlake collected GoH approval ballots to give to him. Mike Glycer has given us advance copies of the *File:770* poll on Worldcon GoH preferences. The reader's selections included a number of people who had previously been Worldcon GoH. Ben Yalow reported that there was some confusion on the part of the voters. Mike had included a list of prior GoH's, and many apparently thought they were *suggested* names!

SMOFcon: Mark Olson reported that Philcon has still not set a firm date, so we have not yet set our date. [Since then, Philcon has announced for Nov. 14-16, so SMOFcon has been set for Dec. 5-7.]

Memberships and Sales: Debbie King reported that we have 62 new Presupporters, 4 Preopposers, and 2 Friends. We sold 87 tea shirts, and Rick Katze is reordering them. We now have 676 Presupporters.

ConFederation Site Selection Liaison: Don Eastlake has sent a suggested ballot mockup to ConFederation.

ConFederation Hotel Liaison: Ben reported that ConFederation has signed a contract with the Hilton. The rates are \$59/69/79/89 for the Hilton and \$76 flat for the Marriott. Hotel cards should have been mailed this weekend. We need to decide which hotel we want to be in. Hilton will have programming; everything else will be in the Marriott. The Marriott is brand new with larger rooms. ConFederation is paying a blanket corkage to the

Hilton; the Marriott has waived it. Both are tall, with potential elevator problems. We need more info on suites.

Chip appointed a committee of Ben, Don, Joe Rico, and Rick to decide on the hotel. [The committee later decided on the Hilton.]

Parties: Seth Breidbart reported that the Confusion party had only 12 attendees, but only cost \$10 because he was able to sell the leftovers.

Laurie Mann reported that the Boskone party was successful. She thanked Debbie for running sales and Leslie Turek for helping. She volunteered to run an annual MCFI party on Sunday night at Boskone.

Mike DiGenio listed the upcoming parties. Istacon was dropped, since we couldn't find any information on it. Ben volunteered for Norwescon. Balticon might be a problem because of the Hyatt discouragement of open parties. Mark volunteered for Minicon. Mike will talk to Kurt Baty about running a small party at Aggiecon.

Laurie admitted she went over budget by \$6 on the Boskone party and asked to be absolved. Chip pronounced "Go and sin no more". Tony pointed out a blackboard that had in large letters: "GUILT-- CONTRITION-- ABSOLUTION--" with definitions. [This is what happens when you meet in church-owned space.] The meeting got silly for a few minutes.

Pat Vandenberg requested party reports for *The Mad 3 Party*. Mike requested a volunteer for Lunacon. Sharon requested an extra \$10 a night to get a "superior" room at Westercon. Dave Cantor pointed out that these rooms open onto a garden, making for easy access. The expense was approved.

The Mad 3 Party: Pat hopes to have the next issue out next week. She would also like to hand over the next 4 issues to somebody else. Chip asked volunteers to see him.

Flyers and mailings: Leslie is in Omaha, but has left a report. She has sent packets to Loscon, Tropicon, Chattacon, Chimeracon, Swampcon, Corflu, Contex, Wiscon, Conquistador, Phoenixcon of Atlanta, Wamcon, Concave, Millennicon, and Norwescon. She is almost out of old-style flyers.

Laurie reported that the new flyer is in progress; we might have copies for Lunacon.

Memory Book: Mailing of Memory Books is now being handled by Ann Broomhead. Debbie reported that we sold 5 and gave out 6 at Boskone. Chip reported two complimenta-

ry letters have been received recently.

Ads: Sharon Sbarsky reported that the ConFederation PR4 cost is \$85/page and the deadline is May 1. The Program Book is \$150/page and the deadline is June 15. We are planning 3 pages in PR4, and 2 in the Program Book. Sharon will have suggested copy for PR4 in the next APA. It will list all of our Presupporters. We still haven't gotten a deadline for ConSpiracy's PR1.

TAFF/DUFF: George Flynn reported that Teresa Nielsen Hayden's report has been delayed due to illness. We have used up about half of the TAFF/DUFF appropriation.

New Business: Tony Lewis suggested that we consider having a Poet Laureate for the convention.

Next Meeting: The election meeting will be April Fool's evening: Tuesday, April 1, at 7:30. The building will be open at 7:10, and the elections will be held at 7:45.

(Since it was still early, the meeting decided to discuss some additional topics.)

Friends Mailing: Mark suggested we discuss doing a mailing to Friends and Presupporters. Don thought it should arrive at the same time as the site selection ballot. Ben reported that Atlanta was planning to send the ballot out with PR4. The earliest that will be mailed out is mid-June. Don suggested that our mailing take the form of a 1-page letter enclosed with our 4-page flyer, sent out at bulk rate. He volunteered to write the letter. Seth pointed out that some of our Presupporters will not be members of Atlanta; we will need to include how-to-vote information. Sharon suggested we include an Atlanta flyer. Debbie pointed out that the addresses were not on line, and it would take some work to get them all together in one place.

Membership Rates: Laurie suggested that we discuss when the membership rates will change during 1987. Mark projected that having the jump on Jan. 1 (rather than after Boskone) would give us 5% more total income, and slightly more cash during the first part of '87. Laurie thought we should wait until Boskone. With a three year lead time, she felt we should have a longer time between rate changes. Sharon felt it would be convenient for people to buy their memberships at Boskone. Ben thought there might be confusion between buying next year's Boskone membership and a Noreascon membership. Chip thought most fans would know the difference between \$17 and \$40. After much discussion, the rate change after Boskone

won, 13-7.

The next question was the rate after Boskone. Rates proposed were \$60, \$55, and \$50. Ben spoke in favor of the higher rate, to give us a financial cushion and to minimize the number of jumps. Mark thought we shouldn't raise our rates too fast or too high, since, with careful budgeting, we shouldn't be desperately short of money. Laurie pointed out that we would have the use of this money for up to an extra year (with the 3-year lead time). Tony, Don, and George also spoke in favor of \$50. When the vote was taken, it was \$50 (many), \$55 (3), \$60 (0).

Chip suggested that the \$50 rate should run at least to the end of NASFiC, with no statement as to what it will be after that. That takes us through the first year. Passed unanimously.

The next question was should the special rate for voters run until Jan. 1 or until after Boskone? It was decided to make it after Boskone, to match the basic rate jump already set.

It was confirmed that after Atlanta we will mail a letter to voters giving their options. Also, that conversions will be allowed from supporting memberships at all times.

There was some discussion of potential problems, such as people who will vote for '88, but think they're entitled to our voters' discount.

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 pm.

WHY IS A RAVEN LIKE A WRITING DESK?
by Priscilla Pollner

The solution to last issue's puzzle:

M E A T
A X I O M
M A M M A L
E M S D I E
T V A
H E R
H A I R S
O G R E
P O K E R
P A W
A K A
A N D R E X
K O R A T S
I V O R Y
N A P E

The Mad 3 Party #11

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