

# The Mad 3 Party



Number 12

June 1986

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*The Mad 3 Party* is published by the Committee for Boston in 1989, Box 46, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge MA 02139. Editor: Leslie Turek. Subscriptions until ConFederation are \$3 for 4 issues. At ConFederation and after (if we win the bid) the price will be \$1 per issue. Free copies go to newszines, Worldcon bids and committees, members and friends of Boston in '89, and significant contributors.

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## UNCOMMON NONSENSE

### *Future plans for The Mad 3 Party*

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When *The Mad 3 Party* was initially conceived, we planned to publish it quarterly through the bidding period. That time is now drawing to an end, and we have begun to make plans for what we would like to do with *The Mad 3 Party* if we win the bid.

We have decided to continue this fanzine if we win at ConFederation. However, it will gradually take a different slant. Rather than telling you all about Boston and our committee, we will start using it as a working tool for the convention planning process. We will be sending it to all of the convention staff and prospective staff, and we will begin to include detailed discussions of our convention preparations.

This does not mean we will forget our subscribers. We will continue to accept subscriptions, and we will encourage your letters of comment with features like THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS.

In this way, we hope to establish a synergy between the two groups. We hope to give our subscribers a true and unvarnished view into the inner workings of a convention committee. At the same time, we want to make our staff aware of the concerns of our members and our responses to them.

We hope this will work, but we won't know until we give it a try.

Starting at ConFederation, the price of *The Mad 3 Party* will increase to \$1.00 per issue. We will continue accepting subscriptions and renewals until then at our current rate of 4/\$3.00.

We are aiming at a publication schedule of 6 issues a year, with deadlines on the 15th of January, March, May, July, September, and November. The size will vary depending on the amount of material we have.

We'll probably not have much space for artwork, but we would like to solicit small drawings, approximately one column (3 inches) wide, for occasional use. "Alice" or convention themes are preferred. We will return any artwork we cannot use within a few months, and will send free issues in trade for any artwork we accept.

As a minor detail, we have departed from the Volume/Number numbering scheme and have changed to a simple issue number. This will make it easier for us to show when your subscription expires on your mailing label. There were six issues in Volume I, and four in Volume II, before we began the simple numbering scheme with the previous issue (Number 11).

Thanks for your support, and we hope that you will enjoy *The Mad 3 Party* in the years to come. —LT

#### THE CAUCUS RACE - PART I

**MEETING:** Tuesday, April 1, 1986 at the Lions' Club, Belmont, Mass.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Chip Hitchcock, who pointed out that it was April Fool's Night. Chip reported on the Balticon bid presentation described in the Balticon report in the last issue. He announced that Claire Anderson had resigned as a committee member. And "as virtually my final official action, I am pleased to announce a new sucker to take care of *Mad 3 Party*—our esteemed ex-chairman, Leslie Turek." (applause and whistles!)

**Secretary:** George Flynn commended Sue Hammond for making only 3 errors in the spelling of Teresa Nielsen Hayden's name (as Theresa Nielson-Hayden). The record he knew of was 4, set by ConStellation.

**Smofcon:** Mark Olson reported that the date will definitely be Dec. 5-7. (Philcon is Nov. 14-16.) Mark is considering several hotels in addition to the Sheraton-Boston, but all the data isn't in yet. Memberships have started to come in; we are planning to have a

flyer ready for Disclave.

**Membership:** Debbie King reported income of \$222 from 21 new Presupporters, 1 new Friend, and some *Mad 3* subs and tea-shirts.

**ConFederation Liaison:** Don Eastlake reported that ConFederation liked our sample ballot, but plan to produce the actual ballots themselves. They want to make them machine-readable, but Don pointed out that the WSFS Constitution requires that they be counted at the convention with observers. ConFederation is offering each bidder a 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" space for statements to go out with the ballot, with copy due April 21. The balloting will have a separate PO Box and bank accounts; the mail deadline will be August 15.

Other news from ConFederation is that Bruce Pelz will chair the Business Meeting and sessions will start at 1 pm. Leslie mentioned that she wrote to protest this scheduling.

Joe Rico reported that the convention is not getting reduced rates for suites at either hotel. Don pointed out that the Hilton has 'atrium' floors, so we will try to get our suite blocked there.

**Elections:** Sharon Sbarsky moved that we restore voting rights to Ellen Franklin and Wendell Ing, who had lapsed due to missing 3 consecutive meetings. This was passed, many to one.

Don Eastlake and Mark Olson were nominated for President. Tony Lewis and Leslie Turek were appointed to count the ballots. Chip pointed out that it's customary to allow the condemned some last words, so both candidates spoke briefly. While the ballots were being counted, Chip thanked the people who had helped him during his term as President, and hoped that they would continue to do the same for "whichever of these poor fish ends up with it". Rick Katze moved to commend Chip for the past 6 months of noble sacrifice. (Many "Hear, hears!" were heard.) Tony reported that Mark had won (?) 17-11.

The next election was for Treasurer. Ann Broomhead and Joe Rico were nominated, and both spoke briefly. Ann noted that she was willing to make a full 4-year commitment, which would take us into the next decade. Chip noted for the minutes that, at these words, Ellen Franklin wept and tore her raiment. Ballots were distributed and counted, and the winner was Ann, 19-9.

Jim Mann was the only nominee for Secretary, and was elected by acclamation. (Laurie Mann attempted to vote against, but was ignored.)

There followed the ritual greeting, "Hello Suckers!" After a short recess, the new officers took over.

**Parties:** Mike DiGenio called for reports on parties held since the last meeting. Pam Fremon said the party at Lunacon went well. Ben reported that the Norwescon party was in the farthest away room in a no-party wing, in the same hall as the resident manager. Despite that, about 250 people came by. Leftover supplies went to the dead dog party. Mark, assisted by Candace Massey and Joyce Scrivner, ran a Minicon party in a huge suite donated by Seth Breidbart and Elan Litt. The party was held on Friday night, which may have been a mistake since Saturday was less busy. The turnout was not good—mostly SMOFs. Chip reported that the Balticon hotel was non-cooperative, so there was no party. We donated a bar of chocolate to the PSFS 50th Anniversary party there. We also gave a slide presentation during the program.

Upcoming parties include Aggiecon (no party, but Kurt Baty is bringing chocolate), Disclave (Laurie Mann flight director, in Chip's room), Baycon (no one going yet, due to conflict with Disclave), Lastcon (many people going, but no volunteers yet), Midwestcon (Rick Katze), Rivercon (Jill and Don), Westercon (Sharon), and ConFederation (which will be discussed next time).

Greg Thokar said that we need an estimate of how many buttons we need for the rest of the year. Jim Hudson warned that we're almost out of chocolate. Dave Anderson volunteered to pick some up.

**Mad 3 Party:** Pat Vandenberg reported that the last issue for '85 has been published. Leslie will take over for '86. Leslie said that she doesn't mind typing in contributions; she will take material in any form. She is planning short, frequent issues in April, June, and early August.

**Flyers and Mailings:** Leslie reported that flyers have been sent and will be sent. Chip reported that the new flyer has been produced.

**Memory Book:** Mark announced that MCFI is done with the Memory Book, so there will be no further Memory Book committee reports. There were no objections.

**Ads:** Sharon ran the text of the latest ad in the last apa. No one had any objections to the format. Mark said that we are trying to make sure no Presupporters or Friends get left off the list of names. Sharon reported that our last ad will be in the ConFederation Program Book. June 15 is the deadline. Jim H. pointed out that the Program Book ad won't influence voters, but could influence people after the vote. We could, for example, publish rates.

**TAFF/DUFF:** George reported that we have received the latest DUFF newsletter from the Cantors. Jack Herman's report stated "thanks for the contributions from LASFS and NESFA." The editors corrected this.

**Treasurer:** Since the month just ended, the quarterly report is not yet ready. Al Kent did have a list of who owes dues.

**ConFederation Liaison:** Laurie reported on plane rates to Atlanta: Piedmont, \$178 with 1 plane change and 1 stopover; Republic, \$178 with a plane change in Detroit; TWA, \$225, more for children. Alexis Layton added that Eastern has a flight for \$198.

**Timeline:** The first timeline topic is what to do for our Presupporters. Jim H. pointed out that we want something that is easy to administer. The timeline committee's proposal: We give all of our Presupporters a coupon good for \$5 off of the cost of a membership. It will only be good until the February '87 rate change. We will only accept one coupon per person. The coupon will say "NOT FOR VOTING", though a couple of people will probably try to use it for voting anyway. We should talk to Atlanta and tell them we will cover any coupons that come in if we lose. Preopposers also get a coupon. We could sell Presupporting memberships up through the last party at Atlanta (i.e., even after we win). It could be a good hack.

The last point, whether we should keep selling Presupporting memberships even after we win, was debated first. In favor of doing this were the following arguments: it would be a good hack; it might help our early cash flow. Against doing this were the following arguments: it would be additional paperwork; it would be unfair to our legitimate Presupporters. It was decided to sell Presupporting memberships only until the voting closes.

Then we went back to the basic question of whether we should have discount coupons for Presupporters. There was unanimous support for this with no further discussion.

Ben Yalow suggested that we should follow the tradition of giving Presupporters low membership numbers. Leslie asked how we would advertise the coupons. The answer was in flyers and at our parties. It is too late to get this into the Progress Report ad. There may be a press release that will mention it. The Timeline committee will design the coupon.

The next topic from the Timeline committee was the GoH selection process. Referring to the results of the preference poll, published in the last APA, Jim H. asked for discussion on where we should establish the cutoff point. Candidates above the cutoff point will be discussed in more detail at future meetings. The committee recommended a point that would leave seven or eight candidates on each list (Pro and Fan); this was approved by the membership.

For Toastmaster, Jim H. noted, the list did not allow for the possibility of deferring the selection until later. At the next meeting we will discuss whether this is an honorary position or a functional one.

The next discussion was on the procedure for selection. This is complicated by the need for secrecy and the fact that the '88 convention will be selected at the same time as we will be. The '88 bidders have agreed to release their choices to a small subcommittee of our committee. We have two possible ways to proceed:

1. Vote on our GoH choices, and let our subcommittee count the ballots and attempt to reconcile our choices with the '88 bidders' choices. This may or may not work out, depending on who we pick compared to who the '88 bidders pick. If it does work out, the subcommittee invites the guest, prepares Progress Report 0, and announces our choice to the full committee on Saturday night at ConFederation.

2. Defer the final selection until after the '88 convention is chosen. This means we don't have to have elaborate contingency plans, but also means that we won't be able to announce our guests at ConFederation. If we choose this option, we would have to decide on our guests early enough so as not to interfere with the '90 bidders' selection process.

After much discussion, the first option was chosen. The subcommittee was designated to be the officers plus George Flynn. At the next meeting, we will start discussing specific names.

**Old Business:** Don pointed out that in '83, we amended the by-laws to replace "Chairman" by "President", to make it clear that the presiding officer elected during that period was not intended to be the head of the convention. Don moved that we now change it back to "Chairman". Passed unanimously. Jim H. also moved that we give the Chairman the honorary title of President. This also passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting:** Jim H. announced that the subject of Children's memberships should be discussed in the next apa and at the next Timeline meeting. Mark announced that we would also be discussing what sort of suite we would need for Atlanta. Two dates were suggested: May 7 and 14. [Later May 7 was decided on.] The meeting was adjourned.

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LET'S ALL MOVE ONE PLACE ON  
*Profiles of our new officers*

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**Chairman: Mark Olson**

*by Leslie Turek and Priscilla Pollner*

Mark may be relatively new to convention-running fandom, but he has been an sf reader and fan for most of his life. And in the convention-running area, he has made up in breadth of experience what he might lack in longevity. Mark's hallmark is energy—he enjoys working on conventions and usually manages to still be going strong after handling responsibilities that would make lesser fans quail.

Mark's first convention was Minicon I, which he attended while he was an undergraduate at the University of Minnesota. (See *The Mad 3 Party*, Vol II, No. 1 for Mark's recollections of that con.) In 1969, he moved to Binghamton NY to attend graduate school at SUNY Binghamton. As well as being one of the meanest chemistry TA's in the history of Binghamton, he gained the distinction of being one of the early members of Bingy fandom. He wrote for *Son of a Beach*, the fanzine of the Terminal Beach Club, and later became Official Editor of APA:Bingy, a post he still occupies.

In 1976, he moved back to the "wimpy zone" and spent a few years doing post-doc work in Iowa and Ohio. He then moved to Boston via the first World Fantasy Con, held in Providence RI. The first Boskone he worked on was Boskone 17, just prior to Noreascon II. At this point, all was lost.

MCFI first encountered Mark at Noreascon II, where he assisted in the People Mover area. After the convention, as the higher-level committee members dropped by the wayside, Mark took over more and more tasks, starting with sales and moving on to areas that required even more organizational and coordinating skills.

He was a leader in the successful effort to buy out the ConStellation debt (a project that required liaisoning with a number of fan organizations on a very sensitive topic). He was also our strong right arm in running the Lone Star Con art show last year, a job which won him the title "Speaker to Armadillos".

Mark has also picked up a lot of relevant fannish experience in that other local fan organization, the New England Science Fiction Association. He has served as NESFA Treasurer, and is one of the people that the club tends to rely on when it is attempting to analyze the financial impact of an activity. He has run various areas at Boskone, such as the Hucksters' Room, Program, and Services (a name that reflects a significant philosophical change in function of the traditional operations area).

Most recently, Mark was chairman of the successful 3600-person convention, Boskone 23. If that isn't excellent preparation for a prospective Worldcon chairman, I don't know what is.

In the real world, Mark is an engineer at Digilab, a division of BioRad, which builds Fourier transform infrared spectrometers.

His interests are wide-ranging. From a childhood spent attempting to blow things up, he has progressed to hiking, camping, and a fascination for building fires. He is a voracious reader, with a special fondness for the works of Poul Anderson and H. Beam Piper. He also studies history and is an amateur astronomer. He likes to cook and adores licorice. Along with a number of other Boston fans, Mark has recently taken up the sport of orienteering, where his long legs give him an undeniable advantage in running through underbrush and bounding up hills.

In Mark's announcement of his candidacy, he had this to say:

*As a rule, I will try to err on the side of being casual rather than formal; I will try to err on the side of making information available rather than keeping things secret; I will try to err on the side of trusting people to do their jobs rather than trying to micromanage the convention.*

You might ask why Mark is crazy enough to want to take on a Worldcon. It's because he thinks it will be fun. What better reason? Working with Mark over the past several years has been a pleasure, and I'm really looking forward to working with him on Noreascon III.

—LT (with assistance from Priscilla Pollner)

**Secretary: Jim Mann**

*by Laurie Mann*

Jim's been kicking around fandom for over 10 years now, and has been an SF reader for about 25. He's part owner of an extensive SF library, and has been collecting SF movie tapes as well. He works for a computer company, avoids suits and ties like the plague, and likes to take his daughter star-gazing. In short, he has all the qualifications to be a Worldcon committee officer.

Back in college, Jim was one of those people who just couldn't decide what to major in. He wound up with a double major in Physics and English, with minors in Math and Education. Since he lived nearly an hour away from Carnegie-Mellon University (by bus, that is), he had lots of spare time for reading. He read Anderson through Zelazny, comic books, and may even have cracked an occasional textbook as the bus ran down from Oakland through Pittsburgh, and finally out to the western suburb of McKees Rocks.

In college, he started reading fanzines, especially a little newszine of the Seventies, Linda Bushyager's *Karass*. Linda directed him to the Western Pennsylvania Science Fiction Association, a club she'd helped found on the CMU campus years before. Jim attended his first WPSFA meeting soon thereafter. A month after that, they took him to Midwestcon and he was hooked.

Appropriately enough, Jim and I met at a WPSFA meeting. After college, Jim and I got married, and spent our honeymoon watching the premiere of *Star Wars*, going to Disclave, and looking for work. Jim found a job teaching science at Central Catholic High School. He soon started a science fiction club there, and introduced his high school kids to the joys of convention fandom by convincing the school's administration to lend him the school van for a Balticon.

After two years of teaching, Jim started looking for a job that would pay real money. The good news was that he got a job as a technical writer at Goodyear Atomic. The bad news was that he had to move out of

Pittsburgh and move to rural Ohio. So we packed up our books, found a huge apartment, and moved to Chillicothe, Ohio, a town about an hour south of Columbus and two hours east of Cincinnati. We heard rumors that there were other SF fans in town, but we never met any. Ironically enough, Jayge Carr had just started writing, and lived in Chillicothe, but we never met her.

Jim generally liked his job at Goodyear, and we made several very good friends down there—people who really disliked the area but lived there because that's where they worked. Jim turned the largest room of the apartment, which a mundane would use as a living room, into a library, his ambition being to fill the whole room with books. His major book-buying spree in Ohio was to buy out a friend's book and magazine collection for a flat fee, which the friend generously let us pay off over a year. But his quest to fill the whole room was never realized, mostly because we decided it was time to add to our family. We like to say that our daughter Leslie's first two words were "book" and "beer"...

Neither of us got deeply involved in any of the Ohio fan groups. We both contributed to apas, and ran Children's Programming for Noreascon II.

Jim started to look for a new job after we'd been in Ohio for two years. He was invited up to Stone & Webster in Boston for an interview, was given a job, and we moved up there just before Boskone in 1982. Jim spent that Boskone taking care of Leslie as I worked in Ops, but he's been hard at work at every Boskone since. He introduced hot popcorn to Boskone's Con Suite in 1983. He assisted Mark Olson the year Mark ran Boskone Program, and ran it himself the following year. The next year, he ran Boskone Services. In his "spare" time, he was the editor of several NESFA Press books. Recently, he got a new job (at Stratus Computer), and we moved almost an hour west of Boston.

And now, in his "spare" time, he's the secretary of a Worldcon bid.

**Treasurer: Ann Broomhead**

*by Tony Lewis*

Ann has quite a bit of experience working on conventions—especially Boskones and Noreascons. She co-chaired Boskone 12 and was chairman of Boskone 22. Over the years with NESFA she has worked on a number of other Boskone areas and has been treasurer and vice-president of NESFA, Index

Production Chairman, and many other areas too numerous to mention.

Ann handled all of the membership records for Noreascon II, a job that required a similar level of organization, attention to detail, and just plain hard work as will be required for the position of Treasurer. She attended most of the Noreascon II planning meetings, so she has been through it all and knows what to expect.

Ann grew up in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. Naturally, she attended college at Michigan State University, where she was active in fandom. On the mundane side, Ann majored in criminalistics, taking her degree in that subject. Upon returning to the East, Ann naturally became a programmer working for Digital Equipment Corporation. She has moved about in DEC, but still remains true to it.

In addition to SF and computers, Ann maintains a reasonable (if varying) number of cats, as well as the occasional undesired raccoon. She is active in a local D&D group, and does needlepoint and cooking (all traditionally masculine areas). As is true of other decent human beings, she adores chocolate, Sherlock Holmes, Emma Lathen, Georgette Heyer, and Charlotte MacLeod.

It is a particular pleasure to me that Ann's first convention was Boskone 7, the first convention I chaired. Is the onus upon me that Ann got hooked on convention fandom? I hope so.

#### MY FIRST CONVENTION

*by Ann Broomhead*

This past weekend, as I was doing some spring cleaning, I found my Boskone VII badge. That little scrap of stiff paper, with its dinosaur peeking coyly over its shoulder, brought back a flood of memories.

In 1969 I had gotten married, and had gotten my first real job. Someone at work (George Berry, blessings upon him!) put up a flyer for Boskone VII, a science fiction convention, conveniently located in downtown Boston. So, on a rainy Friday night in March, my husband and I went to our first sf con.

We found our way to the second floor of the Statler Hilton, and paid for our memberships. There is a fifty per cent chance that we were registered by Jill Eastlake. My husband took our coats to put in a closet behind me.

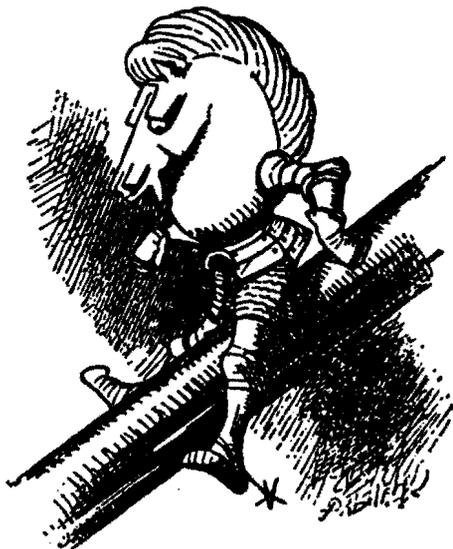
Suddenly, there was an arm around my waist. I turned, and found myself facing a genial, smiling older man—someone I did not recognize at all. I was panicked.

He asked me who I was. I told him, and by then my husband had returned. I wondered, should I introduce him as "R. Terry", analogous to R. Daneel Olivaw, that famous robot? No, I decided, I was too chicken. I said, very pointedly, "This is my husband, Terry McCutchen." The stranger smiled even more broadly, and replied, "I'm Isaac Asimov." (! I had definitely guessed wrong on the introduction.)

Was the rest of the convention a letdown? No. I had a wonderful time. I'd never seen anything like the Hucksters' Room. I saw my first Art Show: a single set of double-sided panels down the middle of a room, and a sketch table. I bought a sketch. There were movies. The only feature film I remember was *Burn, Witch, Burn*. Interspersed with the other films was a tongue-in-cheek serial, "Captain Celluloid and the Film Pirates."

There were panels and speeches. I especially remember a formal debate: "Resolved: Isaac Asimov Should Write Science Fiction." Isaac Asimov and Elliot Shorter, who was something called a TAFF delegate, took the negative. Their arguments were not persuasive; the final blow came when Elliot made a Freudian slip. The final line of his summation ended ". . . and that is why Isaac Asimov should write science fiction!" When he realized that he had left out the "not", he buried his head in his arms, while the audience went wild.

Times have changed. I no longer have either the sketch or the husband, and the badges no longer have coy dinosaurs. But conventions are still wonderful, wonder full.



## THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

### Questions for our readers on Art Show fees

A few issues ago (Vol. II, No. 3), Jim Hudson reported on the MCFI convention-running policies that had been established so far. One of them, under the category "Money and Rates", included the following words:

*Artists' and dealers' fees should cover the fair costs of the resources they use...*

In the March issue (Vol. II, No. 4), Thomas Endrey wrote disagreeing with this policy in regard to the Art Show:

*I feel that the Art Show, just like panels, seminars, etc., should be covered by the membership. If they make a sale, then the con should charge a commission.*

Editor Pat Vandenberg responded by explaining the advantage to the convention in charging a fixed rate that allows accurate budgeting, etc., over a commission which is unpredictable in its income.

Tom has written again on this issue, which made me feel that perhaps this topic should be explored in this column. What I plan to do is print Tom's recent letter, make a few comments of my own, then ask you to write in your opinions on some of the questions that Tom has raised.

Tom writes: *I relatively recently got involved with SF&F art and convention fandom. Once I became more familiar with fandom, it struck me as a rather double standard, the way we treat our artists. Aside from the con membership fee, writers and masqueraders pay nothing, the dealers pay the table fee, and artists (double whammy!) pay hanging fee AND commission. Considering the Atlanta prices of \$28/panel, to show your art can be quite expensive.*

This fee structure may be explained with a basic thinking, that we are a literary convention, so we pamper the writers; like to have some fun, so we tolerate the dealers and masqueraders; but visual arts don't quite belong there, and since they need so much space and extra work (set-up, lighting, security) they should pay more of the expenses than anybody else.

I don't think Pat ever gave serious thought to the expenses involved (art materials, time and labor, shipping, your basic convention expenses, like travel, hotel, food, then the double whammy fees—and no sale

guaranteed). I know they are tax deductible, but you have to have income to cover it. So I don't see where is the gravy? Dedication, egoboo—certainly a lot of it, but not much profit.

So we end up with a situation, that a good 2/3rds of name professional artists, the ones involved in paperback and magazine covers, you can not see, or very rarely at conventions. (DKS, P. Alexander, A. Gutierrez, Ken Kelly, Boris, the Hildebrandts, A. Hejja—to name a few.) Also, I have never seen any of the old time collectors with their vintage art. What we can see are a lot of well-to-do amateurs with batty dragons or corny unicorns from Muncie, Indiana, and badly drawn at that!

Which brings me to the second point I would like to make: Worldcons I believe have some informal screening system, that decides who gets on panels, the masqueraders and hucksters probably also have something similar, only the art show, where all comers are welcome as long as they pay their fees. I feel that the Worldcon at least (1989 is not too late) should start some selection process to eliminate some of the debris. This can be enhanced by having a regular Artist guest of honor (I believe it has been done before?) with his own exhibition. The top pros maybe invited with the same perks you extend to top writers. (Maybe this is also being done, I am not familiar with green room procedures.) I know these are difficult changes, but somebody has to try it.

I also would like to deal with the so much dragged forth budget argument. According to Atlanta P.R. 3, they have about 3200 registrants with about \$93,000 membership fees. If you figure an additional 3800 members with an average fee of \$45-50, it means an additional \$170-190,000, with total membership income of \$260-280,000, probably more. Dealers table fees come about \$27,000 and hanging fees about \$17,000 (600 panels @ \$28). That certainly helps with the early cash flow, since most of the money comes in with late pre-registration or during the convention, but as a contribution to income, it's a pittance, more like being done to reinforce some old traditions, than having the actual need for it. A refundable reservation fee would serve the purpose just as well and you can still charge commission on actual sales.

Tom has brought up a number of questions in his letter. The first question concerns the financial relationship of the Art Show to the rest of the convention. Should the Art Show be subsidized by the membership fees to keep the entry fees down; should the Art Show fees be set to just cover the Art Show expenses; or should the convention make a profit from the Art Show fees? We have tentatively set our policy to take the middle ground, setting the fees to just cover expected out-of-pocket expenses.

With such a policy, the artists will still receive the services of a large amount of volunteer labor that is not charged for. Also, there is a big difference between the services provided for Dealers' fees as compared to Art Show fees. Dealers get nothing but a table, and are responsible for staffing it themselves. With the Art Show, the artists are expected to help hang their work, but can then disappear for the rest of the convention until it's time to pick up the unsold work. The Art Show takes care of all of the sales arrangements, including payment of charge card fees on sales, and is also responsible for damage or loss to the artwork (with current insurance rates, this is not an inconsiderable expense).

On the other hand, the Art Show is a major attraction for the convention, and is viewed by many people in addition to those interested in purchasing art. In this light, it would not be unreasonable to subsidize the Art Show from the membership fees.

Regardless of what the answer to this first question is, the next question is whether the fees should be a flat-rate (by space used or pieces hung), a percentage of sales, or a combination of the two? Boston-run Art Shows have, for many years, had only a flat rate system. ConFederation is apparently going to have a combination.

Some of the advantages of a flat rate were mentioned in Pat's reply to Tom's last letter. A flat rate makes it easier for a convention to budget because it is possible to know exactly what will be coming in. In one sense it seems fair to have people pay for the resources they actually use. It also might have the economic effect of eliminating really poor artwork, since it becomes less feasible to hang artwork that will not sell if the space is going to cost money in any case. As a fixed fee becomes greater, however, it could have the effect of making it prohibitively expensive for amateurs to exhibit.

From that point of view, a percentage of sales might be seen as preferred, since it gives a break to those least able to pay, and charges more to those who are making a lot of money from the Art Show, and are presumably most able to pay. (Although it may also encourage artists to make private deals to avoid paying the show's percentage.) Most percentage fee systems need to have some separate provision for "not for sale" artwork.

A combination of flat fee/percentage of sales may have the best of both worlds, allowing the convention to collect the most from those able to pay, but also insuring a certain minimum fee to be sure that the show doesn't get overwhelmed with poor artwork that would pay almost no fee under a pure percentage system. Artists, though, usually do not like combination fee systems, since they feel they are paying twice. Such a system can be used to hide higher total fees, although that needn't be the case.

One effect of lowering the art show fees, whichever system is used, is that you are likely to get more artwork than the show can handle. As mentioned in Tom's letter, art shows are highly labor-intensive, both in setting up the hangings and the artwork, and in handling the sales and teardown. As the show gets larger, the work involved gets proportionately larger. Even at a Worldcon, there is some upper limit to how much art can be handled.

The next question, then, is how to limit the show? Should we stick to a first-come, first-served system that has been the usual situation, or should we make some attempt to select who should be admitted to the show? If the latter, what should be the criteria? I believe that there should always be a place in any art show for the beginning artists, both to give them a chance to exhibit, and to give the art buyers some opportunities to purchase lower-priced artwork. So how would we decide who to admit and who to turn away? And who should make that decision?

We've outlined a lot of important questions here. We hope you will let us know what you think. (The deadline for the next issue is July 15.) — LT

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## HYNES II: SON OF HYNES

by Joe Rico

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I was asking Darrel Baker, of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA), the new agency that administers the Hynes Auditorium, about the extent of the renovation of the Hynes. I was hoping that by telling us what was left of the old Auditorium, the place that held Noreascon II's Dealers' Room, Art Show, and Masquerade, he might give me a starting point for this piece on the renovations made since 1980.

I was wrong.

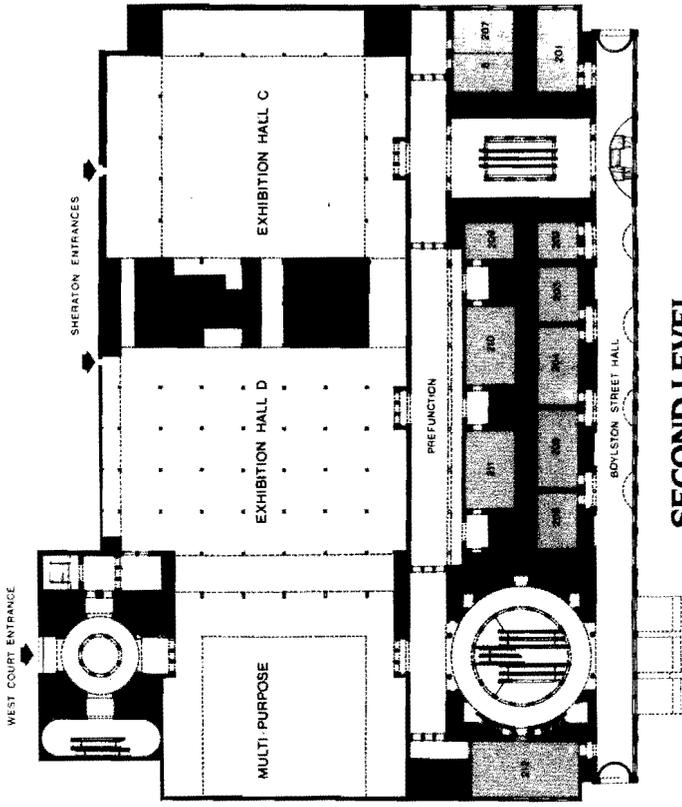
Darrel's brow furrowed as he considered my question. "Let's see," he replied, "we left the tunnel in the basement that the Mass Turnpike passes through, we also have kept part of the loading dock on Cambria Street and some of the foundation . . ."

"Wait a minute", I interrupted, "some of the foundation? You mean you replaced the foundation as well as the outside walls and interiors?"

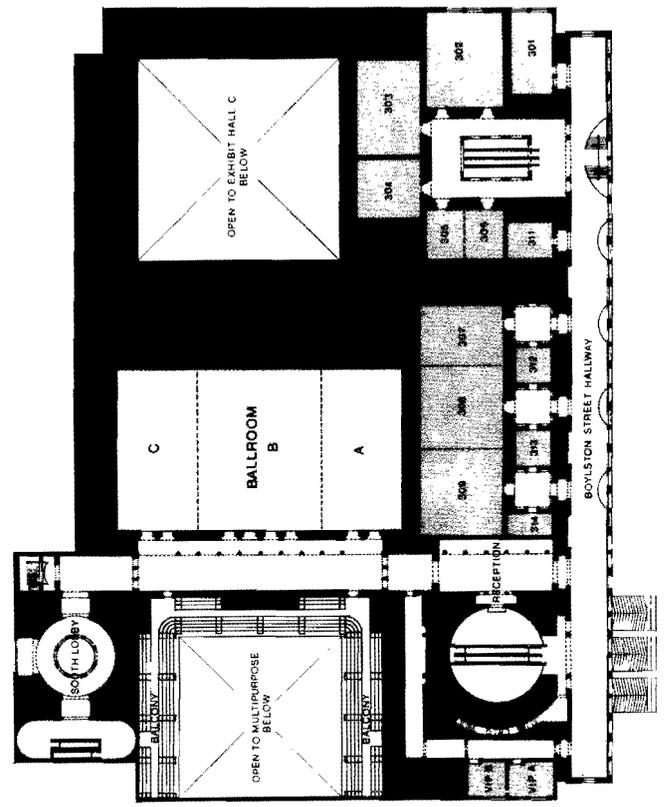
"That's right. We had to go down 180 feet to find bedrock, this area of Boston being filled-in swamp."

It was then I realized that the Convention Center at the corner of Boylston and Dalton Streets isn't being renovated. For all practical purpose, the old Hynes Auditorium has been demolished and a brand new building is being placed on the old site.

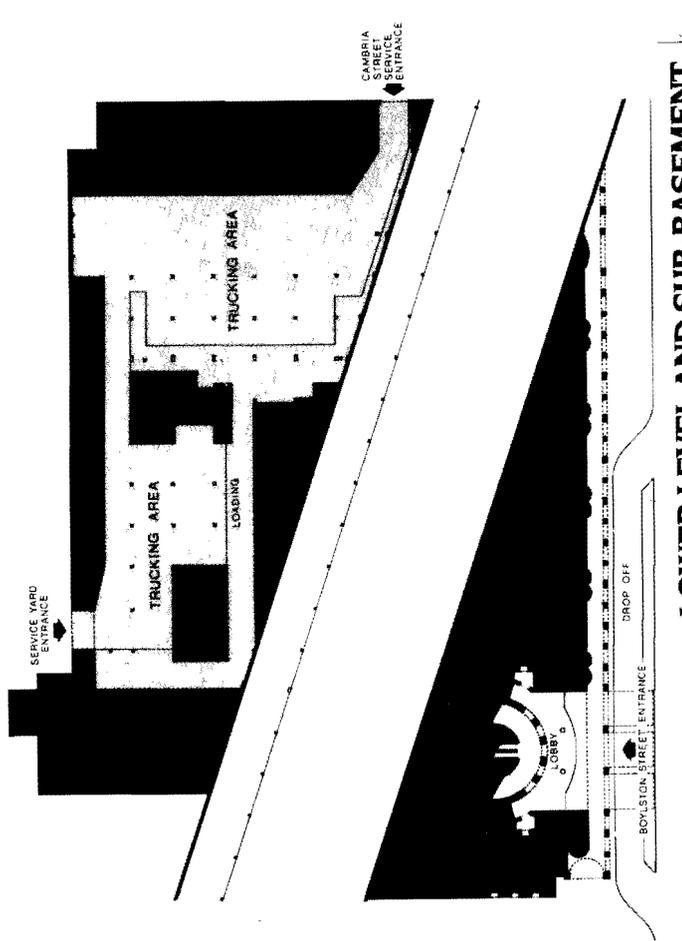
It was impossible for Darrel to give me a tour of the Auditorium at this stage of construction. Though everything is on schedule for the Hynes' January 1988 reopening, at this time the construction site is too dangerous for visitors, even with a hard hat. Instead, Darrel invited me to take a "walk" through a model of the new Hynes Auditorium with the aid of a special viewer. This viewer, a periscope-like affair built for the Lennox Corporation of Pennsylvania, gives the user a vision of the interior from the perspective of a person inside the building. I could have had hours of amusement with it. As it was, I was able to take a walk up the stage of the Multi-Purpose Hall in order to accept the 1989 fanzine Hugo for *Proper* . . . huh? Where was I? Oh, yes, I remember now . . .



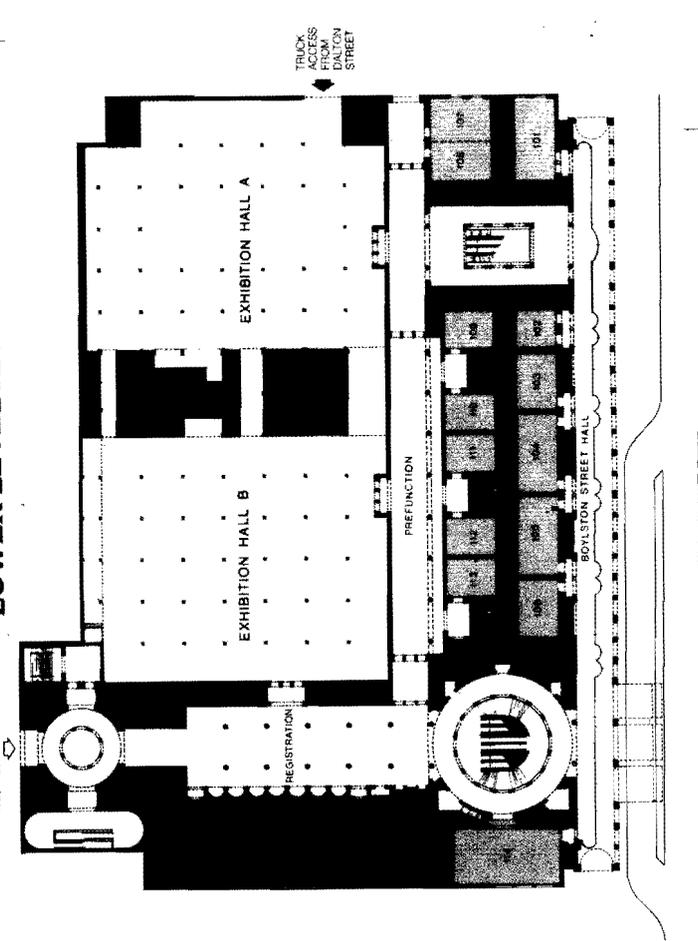
SECOND LEVEL



THIRD LEVEL



LOWER LEVEL AND SUB-BASEMENT



PLAZA LEVEL

Regretfully, I cannot show you the model, but with the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority's kind permission (and the blood, sweat, and photostats of Chip Hitchcock and Leslie Turek) we can show some diagrams of the new Hynes. Using these, let's try to take a tour of the Hynes.

#### **Lower Level**

Logistics and Services types will be pleased with the new loading dock setup. The Cambria Street entrance will now be devoted exclusively to trucks; no longer will a tractor trailer get in the way of the hucksters' unloading. Seven elevators will service this loading dock and the secondary service entrance (limited to vans and cars) that enters the Hynes from the Sheraton/ Prudential parking lot. (Those of you who read the Noreascon II Memory Book may remember this as "the door that didn't exist".) As before, two elevators will have the capability of transporting a van or a truck (up to 75,000 lbs.) to the Plaza and Second Levels. There are also five additional elevators for smaller loads. (The elevators may not show up very clearly on the floor plans, since they are in the darkly-shaded areas.)

Our tour of the lower level ends with the taxi and bus dropoff entrance on Boylston Street on the other side of the Massachusetts Turnpike's tunnels.

#### **Plaza Level**

Take a good look at the diagram for Exhibition Halls A and B, because you probably won't see the insides of these rooms at our proposed Worldcon in 1989; we expect that the Second and Third Levels will provide us with all the space we will need.

What you might see at Noreascon III, if we win, is the Cafeteria that is down the Lobby from the West Court Entrance (which is in the courtyard between the Sheraton and the Prudential Building). The Cafeteria will be set up to serve real food, as opposed to the Fenway Franks wrapped in cardboard that we all came to know and . . . know at Noreascon II. The Lobby is designed to be used as a convention registration area, though at only 37 feet wide, it may be a bit small for this purpose at a Worldcon.

Let me say something about the lobbies and the exhibit halls. They are going to have a whole new look. Let's face it, the old Hynes had all the ambience of a church basement. The new Hynes is going to have wall-to-wall carpeting in many areas, marbled walls and

floors, wood paneling in the Ballroom, and a large glass foyer on Boylston Street. The whole effect is going to be an attempt to give the Hynes interior the same feel as that of a quality hotel.

#### **Second Level**

This will be where the major events of Noreascon III will probably take place. We have the entire floor including Exhibition Halls C and D, the Multi-Purpose Hall, and the small meeting rooms. The combined area of the exhibition halls is 110,000 sq. ft. The Multi-Purpose Room seats 5,000 if both the floor and balcony are used, and with the optional stage in place.

Note also that the Second Level has direct access to the Sheraton Hotel at three separate locations, up from one at Noreascon II. This should eliminate some of the bottlenecks that occurred at Noreascon II before and after the major evening events.

#### **Third Level**

We have tentatively reserved this floor's large Ballroom, the small meeting rooms, and the Multi-Purpose Room's Balcony. Rooms 307, 308, and 309 could be combined to create a 1200-seat single hall. Conversely, the Ballroom could be subdivided into three parts, or all 24,426 sq. ft. can be kept in a single section.

Access between floors is provided primarily by escalators, though there are elevators for handicapped access. The Multi-Purpose Room, Hall C, and the two escalator wells are partially lit by skylights.

#### **Support Facilities**

The new Hynes Auditorium will have a number of features that will make running a convention there a pleasure. For one thing, a new state-of-the-art sound system is being installed, replacing the previous units that at Noreascon II worked imperfectly when they worked at all. Cables for a video hookup are being installed throughout the Auditorium. Although we do not know at this time what the capabilities of this video system will be, it should be possible to transmit an electronic schedule throughout the Auditorium.

A perimeter security team will guard the entrances to the Hynes. There will be a paramedic team on site at all times. The Second Level will also have a refreshment stand to provide convention-goers with quick and (hopefully) edible snacks. A janitorial service will keep the corridors, but not the

function halls themselves, clean free of charge. Indeed, all of the above features will be provided to users of the Auditorium for no additional charge.

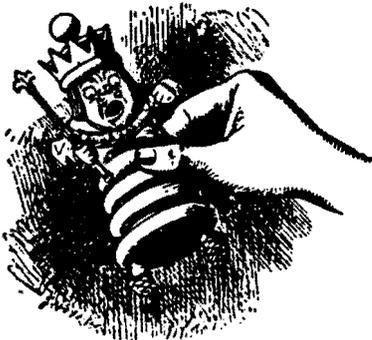
### The Bottom Line

Our fantasy tour having ended, we must come back to reality with the burning question "How much is this going to cost?"

That is a difficult question to answer as the rates for the Hynes have not been set for the January 1988 opening, let alone for Labor Day 1989. Further, the Large Ballroom on the Third Level did not exist previously and so there is no rental history on this room. However, we do know that all of the small function rooms and the Plaza Level Registration Area will be given to us free by virtue of our status as a major user of the Hynes Auditorium. Also, the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority *intends* to reopen in January 1988 with the same rate schedule for the Hynes Auditorium that was in use in 1985, when the Hynes was last open. MCCA, a quasi-state agency, views the purpose of the Hynes as not so much to make money on its own, but to attract large conventions to the downtown Boston area. All rates are negotiable. If our bid is successful, these negotiations could start as early as the Fall of this year.

The most important aspect of our contact with the Hynes Auditorium that is coming across in our preliminary interviews is a spirit of cooperation on their part. MCCA is aware that SF convention committees like to do things themselves and will endeavor to help us in our dealings with area unions. They really want our convention to come to their auditorium in 1989.

We will have copies of Hynes brochures at our parties, and will be happy to answer any questions you may have about this facility or any of our other proposed facilities.




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## MY FAVORITE BOSTON BOOKSTORES

by Bill Davidsen

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Whenever I visit Boston there are two bookstores I visit without fail. The first is *Avenue Victor Hugo* on Newbury St. near Mass. Ave., which features a selection of used books on virtually everything from SF to bird calls. The last time I tried to stump them by asking for books on vegetarian vampires, they asked if I wanted "microbiotic or macrobiotic"!

In addition to a good selection of SF in paper and hardcover (I think the paper selection is better), they have mysteries of all vintages from "still in the corner drugstore" to 1930's. Prices range from acceptable down to dirt cheap, and I was able to get two first editions during the last Boskone for about 60% of the asking price in the Hucksters' Room. They also carry a good selection of late 50's and early 60's Ace doubles, most at very reasonable prices. Although I bought every one available in upstate NY from 1958 to 1962, I still find some new ones every trip. Be warned that books are split in categories, and don't be surprised to find some legitimate fantasy in with the occult and/or horror stories.

For F&SF only, the *Fantasy and Science Fiction Bookstore* in Harvard Square is my personal favorite. When you get off the MBTA, face the Harvard Coop, which is on a corner. Across the street to the left of the Coop as you look at it is the store, on the second floor, with signs on the street door and in the second floor window.

The operator is a humanoid known as "Spike", who, like the mayor of New York in *Cities in Flight*, "looks enough unlike the normal run of humanity to pass for an alien". Besides a very good selection of current and used titles in paperback, there are varying quantities of old magazines. What I really like the most are the hints on interesting books I might have missed. I usually buy four or so books based on asking what's good that people aren't buying or reviewing. I have yet to get anything but good advice, even to the heresy of "I think I have a copy of that used", while ringing up my selections. Explain your taste and any advice you get will not be based on just trying to sell another book or two. If you buy a bunch of books, don't be shy about dickering on the price a little,

particularly on the used books. The results vary, perhaps with the phases of the moon of the proprietor's home planet.

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## THE CLAUSES THAT CATCH

### **The Atlanta WSFS Business Meeting**

*by Leslie Turek and Donald E. Eastlake III*

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This article describes the WSFS Business meeting in general, and also discusses some of the business that will be coming up at ConFederation. (The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors, and not of MCFI as an organization.)

The World Science Fiction Society is an unincorporated association that oversees the World Science Fiction Conventions. The WSFS Constitution contains provisions that each Worldcon Committee is bound to follow concerning the Hugo Awards and the selection of future Worldcon committees. The Constitution doesn't have a whole lot to say about the details of running the Worldcons outside of these areas, but in recent years it has acquired provisions relating to the financial management of the Worldcon. (If you are a member of ConFederation, you should have received a copy of the current WSFS Constitution with your Hugo Nomination ballot.)

WSFS itself has no officers. It is governed solely by the annual meetings held at each Worldcon. All members of the current Worldcon are members of WSFS and may attend and vote at the WSFS Business Meeting. The Business Meeting often appoints committees to look into a particular issue and report to the following year's meeting. There is also a Standing Committee, which was established in 1983, which is responsible for registering and safeguarding the Society's service marks (Hugo Award, Worldcon, etc.) in between annual meetings. (More on these committees later.)

The Business Meeting usually acts via amendments to the WSFS Constitution. This is a slow process. First, amendments passed at one convention must be ratified at the next year's Business Meeting before they can go into effect. (This is to prevent the situation where one convention might have an unusual Business Meeting attendance and might hastily pass something most Business Meetings would oppose.) A new amendment does not take effect until the end of the

convention at which it was ratified. And "no change imposing additional costs or financial obligations upon Worldcon Committees shall be binding upon any Committee already selected at the time when it takes effect." Since we now have a 3-year site selection lead time, any financial motion coming up for the first time at Atlanta may not take effect until ratified in '87, and then would be binding on the '91 committee (since the '90 committee will have been chosen in '87). In practice, however, most committees will voluntarily agree to abide by rules that have been ratified, even if they are not formally required to do so.

The WSFS Business Meetings usually have several short sessions spread over several days. The first session is designated as a "Preliminary Business Meeting". The Preliminary Meeting may not pass, reject, or ratify amendments to the Constitution; its main function is to set the agenda for the following meetings, including time limits on the debate. Because most people don't want to spend their whole convention at business meetings, the meetings have established fairly strict rules for the conduct of debate, including time limits, equal time for pro and con arguments, etc. Although some people may feel that this does not give them enough time to talk, in actual practice, when enough people are concerned about an issue, it is possible to extend the time limits for oral arguments or to prepare and distribute written arguments.

For the past several years Business Meetings have been held at 10am. This was not to try to hide it from the view of potential attendees, or to make it particularly hard to get to, but rather to make it possible for people to attend the Business Meetings without having to miss the rest of the convention. This year, ConFederation plans to hold the meeting at 1pm. Their avowed purpose is to make the Business Meeting more accessible to the average fan. However, it may have the opposite effect, and tend to limit attendance to the Business Meeting veterans, since there will be so many other events at the same time competing for attention. We shall see.

There are eight items of old business scheduled to come before the ConFederation Business Meeting. (These were printed, along with the Constitution, in the Hugo Nominations ballot mailing.) The first six are amendments that were passed at Aussiecon and are being presented for ratification. The last two

are committee reports.

Item 1 prohibits Worldcon committees from using the profits from a Worldcon to bid for another Worldcon, unless the amount is evenly divided among all bidders who have officially filed. The purpose of this motion is to prevent committees who have previously run profit-making Worldcons from having an undue advantage over new groups. The motion was first passed last year at Aussiecon II with no debate, and with only 3 or 4 votes against it.

This item was fairly obviously filed as a response to the Southern California Institute for Fan Interests (L.A.con II), which publicly stated that it planned to spend \$20,000 of L.A.con II's net income on bidding for Los Angeles in 1990. (We hear that L.A. has not actually spent any of this \$20,000, and now does not plan to use it.)

Some years ago, MCFI passed an internal guideline similar to this motion: all Boston in '89 bidding activity is financed solely by funds specifically raised for that purpose via donations, pre-supporting memberships, t-shirt sales, etc.

Item 2 is a housekeeping amendment to remove a redundant section of the Constitution.

Item 3 limits membership in the Standing Committee by region. The Standing Committee has twelve members. Nine are elected by the business meeting, three each year, in overlapping 3-year terms. The other three are representatives of each of the existing Worldcon committees. (This will go to four when the 3-year advance selection goes into effect at Atlanta.) When the Standing Committee began, all nine initial members were elected at one time. Perhaps because this election was held in the Eastern zone, there was a preponderance of members from the East coast. Currently, six of the nine are from the East coast. The motion would require that of the nine elected members, no more than three may be from any one region.

You might think that this motion would require that no more than one person be elected from each zone each year, but that is not the case at all. It turns out that once equal distribution is achieved, those elected each year must have the same zonal distribution as those retiring (if all are from North America), which could be all one zone. The motion also fails to take into account the possibility that members might move between zones, or that there might be no nominees for

a zone. There are no restrictions on non-North American resident Standing Committee members, but so far none have been elected.

In our opinion, the problem with finding members for this committee involves finding people with the necessary interest in the details of service mark protection. We think it would be better to elect people who are truly interested in the business of the committee, than to force a geographic division that might just lead to the election of people with no interest in the committee's purpose. The way in which the committee began did cause its membership to be geographically skewed, but we think that this will rectify itself over the years as elections take place in the various zones.

(We should note that the authors of this article are two of the three Eastern zone committee members whose terms expire this year. The third member, George Flynn, has stated that if this motion is ratified, even though it will not be binding until next year, he will not accept nomination for a new term.)

Item 4 changes the name of the Standing Committee to "the Mark Registration and Protection Committee". This is yet another motion of three relating to the Standing Committee that were passed at Aussiecon. At the same time, the Aussiecon business meeting rejected a motion that had been previously passed at L.A.con II providing for the funding of the Standing Committee. We plan to discuss the controversy surrounding the Standing Committee in a separate article.

Item 5 requires the Standing Committee to submit an annual report, including a financial report. This is already being done on a voluntary basis, and seems a reasonable requirement. This motion was introduced by the Standing Committee.

Item 6 introduces some boilerplate regarding the disposition of WSFS funds for "charitable" purposes. It doesn't really change the way WSFS currently does business, but makes sure that WSFS and its committees can act as tax-exempt organizations. This motion was introduced by the Standing Committee.

Item 7 is a report of the WSFS Standing Committee.

Item 8 is a report of the Special Committee on Worldcon Site Selection and Rotation. This committee, chaired by Ben Yalow, was established to study the questions that have arisen due to the need for a longer lead time for convention selection in order to reserve

facilities. It is also to look into the problems that might be encountered in the current situation of a 3-year lead time and a 3-year rotation plan, in which the vote for the next convention in a given region is held in the same region.

In addition to these eight items of Old Business, there will probably also be a set of new motions proposed for first passage at ConFederation. The deadline for submitting new business is 2 hours after the official opening of the convention or 18 hours before the first Preliminary Business Meeting, whichever is later. The motion must be presented, in writing, to the presiding officer of the business meeting. (At Atlanta, this will be Bruce Pelz.) Six identical copies are required if the motion is 75 words or less; or 106 copies if the motion is longer than 75 words. The motion must be signed by the maker and at least one seconder, and must contain a short title.

Any member of ConFederation may submit new business. However, it pays to be aware of what business has come before the meeting in the past and how it fared. Because of the limited time available for the Business Meetings, it is common for the meeting to "object to consideration" of a motion, and thereby reject it out of hand without debate. An "objection to consideration" may be raised by any member immediately after new business is introduced. If this happens, an immediate vote is taken with no debate allowed. If 2/3 oppose consideration, the business is eliminated.

This may seem harsh, but the Business Meeting participants have usually seen the motion and supporting material in advance. If, having seen only supporting material, 2/3 oppose even considering the motion, it is generally something with no chance of passage. (It is also possible for any participant who voted against consideration to later move to Reconsider the Objection to Consideration if they have changed their mind. This has never happened at a WSFS Business Meeting.)

One proposed item of New Business that we are aware of is Robert Sacks's widely-advertised but truly misguided measure to declare Boskone a winter NASFiC. This amendment (which may be intended as a joke) is being presented against the advice of a number of prominent Boston fans, and certainly without the backing or approval of NESFA, the organization that runs Boskone. This proposal is certainly a prime candidate

for an "objection to consideration".

If you have a measure that you really believe should be considered, a good procedure is to send a copy of it, or discuss it, well in advance with people who are likely to be attending the business meeting and try to get an idea of what people think of it. If a motion is long, complex, or makes a radical change, it is particularly important to do this. If you aren't sure who those people are, start with members of Worldcon committees and bidding committees, or write letters to newszines. It can never hurt to go into the meeting with some of those present knowing what you are planning.

One way to learn more about the Business Meeting would be to read the minutes of recent ones. The following are available from MCFI for \$1 each (to partially pay for copying and postage). In all cases the minutes assume that you have a copy of the convention's Program Book that you can refer to for exact text of motions, etc.)

<i>Convention</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Pages</i>
Iguanacon	1978	13
Noreascon II	1980	12
Denvention II	1981	9
Chicon IV	1982	30
ConStellation	1983	12
L.A.con II	1984	20

We hope that this article has given you some idea of what will happen at the Atlanta WSFS Business Meeting, and how to go about making a motion if there is something you want to change. We would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.



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**THE CAUCUS RACE - PART II**

**MEETING:** Wednesday, May 7, 1986 at St. Eulalia's Church, Winchester, Mass.

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Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 7:35. He announced the following appointments: George Flynn to write press releases until ConFederation; the officers plus George to handle GoH coordination; Jim Mann (chair), Jim Hudson, and Don Eastlake to the Computer Committee.

**Future Meetings:** Tentative meeting dates were set for June 11, July 9, and August 13.

**Treasurer:** Ann Broomhead has not had time to completely review the books, but generally concurred with Al Kent's budget recommendations, including the suggestion that the final (June) assessment will not be needed. This will be decided at the June meeting.

**Buttons:** Greg Thokar suggested that we should buy more button parts, especially since the \$5 discount coupon should attract more Presupporters. It was decided to allocate \$100 for 500 more buttons.

**Friends Liaison:** Laurie Mann stated that we have exactly 89 Friends. A proposed letter to the Friends, asking for GoH comments, will be sent out soon.

**Smofcon:** Mark reviewed the four hotels being considered for Smofcon. He covered room rates, parking, function space, airport transportation, and amenities (pool, etc.), and concluded by recommending the Lowell Hilton. There was no real disagreement. Mark will attempt to finalize arrangements with them, and have a draft flyer ready for Disclave. We will offer a free membership to the person who comes from farthest away. Jim Hudson suggested that, since we were trying to get people to join, we offer a bounty to anyone getting someone to join. The amount, which could be negative, would depend on the desirability of the new member [laughter]. Cindy Gold, with help from Carl Brandon, will run a decadent con suite.

**Mad 3 Party:** Leslie Turek reported that Issue 12 was about half done, and requested a budget increase of \$150 through ConFederation; this was passed.

After ConFederation, she would like to continue *The Mad 3 Party* as a tool for the committee, and wants to send free copies to staff and prospective staff, as well as taking

subscriptions. The mechanism for giving out free issues would be informal. After some discussion, this idea was approved.

The next question was offset versus mimeo. Offset is more expensive, but is faster and requires less committee effort. The decision was to budget for offset, but to try to use cheaper methods when possible.

The next question was should green paper be continued, in spite of the extra cost? The decision was "yes".

Next, should it be mailed first class or bulk rate? Bulk rate is about 1/3 the cost, but might not allow for user response with the proposed 2-month publication interval. It is also more hassle, requiring sorting, forms, and mailing at a specific post office. The decision was to budget for first class, but give bulk rate a try and see how much effort it really is.

The additional cost of mailing overseas was discussed. It was proposed that we offer two rates: surface mail and air mail.

Based on all the above, if we keep the price at \$0.75, we will need to allocate \$500 for the first year (in addition to subscriptions); if we raise the price to \$1.00 per issue, we need to allocate \$100. \$1.00 was selected, with the new rate to go into effect at ConFederation. We will give out free back issues at parties, and mention the new policies in ads and press releases.

**Parties:** Mike DiGenio reported on parties. The chocolate brought by Kurt Baty went over well at AggieCon. Jim H. will contact Tom Whitmore to see if he can throw a party at Baycon. Pat Vandenberg and Al Kent will run the party at Lastcon. As reported earlier, Laurie will run a Disclave party in Chip Hitchcock's room, Rick will run a Midwestcon party, Don and Jill Eastlake will do Rivercon, and Sharon Sbarsky will do Westercon.

**Timeline:** Jim H. presented a new policy proposed by Don:

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

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

should work primarily with written bidding (which people can do when they have time to), so the auctions can be shorter.

Everyone agreed with the substance of the proposal, but felt that the intention wasn't clear with the way it was currently worded. The committee will try to improve the wording.

Jim H. then returned to four items that had been overlooked at the January meeting. These were items that had been discussed in the past and published in the APA, so they were passed with essentially no debate.

1. *A modified planned Progress Report schedule which avoids conflicts with Boskone. The new schedule is:*

1	Magazine	4/87
2	Newsletter	8/87
3	Newsletter	3/88
4	Newsletter	8/88
5	Magazine	12/88
6	Magazine	3/89
	Ballot mailing	5/89 *
7	Newsletter	7/89 *

(The starred items will be mailed first class.)

2. *We intend to send all magazine-format Progress Reports to all pre-registered members. Each newsletter Progress Report will only be sent out while it is current.*

3. *The focus of the convention will be written SF, and we will have a rich and varied program that will include all aspects of science fiction and fantasy.*

4. *Any staff assignment must consider the needs of the convention and the interests and abilities of the individual. Therefore the organizational structure of the convention will depend on those individuals. For this reason, we have not yet developed a detailed Table of Organization; the one we do develop will attempt to describe the structure, not restrict it.*

The Timeline committee has developed a list of things that need to be done before ConFederation, and decisions that must be made before Progress Report 0 can be printed. Two of these that we should discuss tonight are foreign agents and the Presupporter mailing.

The services agents can perform include mailing, currency handling, and answering questions for the locals. The consensus was for having foreign agents in countries for which we expect a significant membership.

We have already received a volunteer from Australia, and will contact him. We had an idea for a British agent, but were undecided about a Canadian agent. (The names will be announced after the agents have been confirmed.)

The Presupporter mailing is scheduled for July 15, and all text should be ready by June 15. The letter will be accompanied by the 4-page flyer and the how-to-vote flyer. We don't yet have a volunteer to prepare the text and the coupon (including recruiting an artist).

Another thing that should be done before ConFederation is to set advertising rates. It was agreed that we should essentially break even on fan ads and make money on pro ads. Don pointed out that we need to decide on our Progress Report format before determining ad sizes.

**ConFederation (Site Selection):** Don reported that the site selection ballots will look like the sample that he sent to ConFederation. We still don't have any information about at-con voting.

**ConFederation (Hotel/Parties):** Joe Rico has reserved a 1-bedroom suite with parlor. We don't have a block yet but are working on it. We had not previously budgeted for the suite; this was discussed. The final decision was to rent the suite for 5 nights and have bidding parties on Thursday and Friday, use the suite for committee work on Saturday, have a celebration (we hope) on Sunday, and decide later what we want to do on Monday. Laurie will remain in charge of the ConFederation parties and Joe will handle the hotel (with help from Ben). Members were reminded not to neglect NESFA sales in the frenzy of bidding.

**GoH:** This was our last chance to discuss specific individuals before the voting at the June meeting. We also went over criteria again, without coming to any conclusions. To protect the privacy of the discussion, it will not be summarized here.

The meeting adjourned at about 10:45. It was followed by numerous discussions on Guests of Honor, Press Releases, and toad sex.

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**TURTLE SOUP**

Letters from our readers

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**GoH Criteria**

- Thomas Endrey, New York NY:

It's very obvious from your article that it would be most logical to have somebody honorable for GoH and somebody gregarious for Toastmaster. That way "you can have your cake and eat it too . . ." Also, if I may have another pro-artist comment: you have a major artists' colony right in your own backyard around Danbury, Conn., Don Maitz, V. Poyser, Mike Whelan, just to name a few . . . Boskones also have the tradition of an Artist GoH, so why not have one for a Special Worldcon Guest?

- J. H. Stevens, Ctr. Conway NH:

I favor the viewpoint that the GoH should be some old, revered father of the genre who has never had this honor thrust upon him before in his life. Why, do you ask? Well, in fulfilling the criteria of being a giant in the field, he will draw a large number of people to the convention, thus fulfilling both criteria, as outlined in THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS.

- Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Perhaps a relatively recent author could be honoured, such as Larry Niven. Or, we could go with a name from both the past and the present, such as Raymond Z. Gallun. Other names worthy of mention . . . Jack Vance, Andre Norton, J.G. Ballard, Hal Clement. Fan names . . . a prejudiced choice, Toronto's John Millard, Torcon II chair and First Fandomite. George Scithers, not only as a pro editor, but also as Discon I chairman. Worldcon chairmen of the past are always good choices. Other categories to consider . . . a Golden Age GoH, an artist GoH, an editor GoH. For Toastmaster, there are several fan who are eternal jessels. How about someone new, who can tell fresh stories, perhaps.

- Patrick Nielsen Hayden, New York NY:

I think a Worldcon pro GoH should have been significant in the field for at least three decades, and that they should not have been a Worldcon pro GoH before. Campbell had it twice and arguably he deserved it; two times for Simak was overdoing it, and Heinlein's three times was way over the line. They should, ideally, also be someone who hasn't

been honored to death at regional cons, and the range of selection should include artists and editors as well as writers. (I don't like "artist GoH" and "editor GoH" slots, at least not for the Worldcon—they cheapen the honor. What's wrong with simply having an artist or an editor? Are they not "real" pros? Etc.)

As for the Fan Guest, I think, again, that it should be someone active for at least twenty-five to thirty years, who has made a well-rounded contribution to fandom (fanzines, clubs, cons, etc). The two forms of "fanac" that I would tend to exclude from consideration are huckstering and semi-pro publishing; whereas these do take considerable dedication, I also note that they pay off in financial gain. Therefore, whereas I wouldn't exclude a huckster or a semi-pro publisher, I would suggest that a candidate's activities along these lines be excluded from consideration when their fannish achievements are being assessed. (Just as professional writing, editing, and illustrating activities should be excluded. Often this leaves a perfectly credible Fan GoH anyway: Terry Carr, for instance, would deserve his spot at Atlanta even if he'd never sold a story or edited a book.)

I would tend to look askance at the fan who's focussed all their activities into one area of fandom, whether it's fanzines, masquerade costuming, or conrunning. On the other hand, often the fan who's mostly known as, say, a fanzine fan, has in fact quietly helped out in a variety of other areas. So a concom has to look twice, ask around, and gather information judiciously.

And remember: there are endless numbers of good choices who've never even been regional GoHs, many of whom are in their 60s and 70s. The whole matter of Guest of Honorships tends too often to boil down to a very brief list of people who are thought of because they've already been thought of. Thus Gordon R. Dickson has been a GoH 5000000000 times, whereas I'm unaware of any con ever thinking to ask Jack Speer, someone who practically invented fandom. But you probably don't need to hear this. In fact both Noreascons so far have had guests who I thought were among the better choices in the last couple of decades.

### Name the Cat contest

- Joel Rosenberg, New Haven CT:

As far as the NAME THE CAT contest, let me put in a name that Felicia and I put on one of our own: Squish, as in, "Squish, the cat." Given that we're all cat people here, it's important to include that comma—without it, you don't have a sentence fragment, but a command.

- Chuck Huber, Champaign IL:

Since you seem to be a bit short on cat names, allow me to suggest a couple, to wit, Schrodinger and Erwin. I'm sure everybody recognizes the allusion to the classic "Schrodinger's cat" thought experiment. That feline was a Cheshire cat of sorts, and has inspired at least a couple of sf works . . . most recently Fred Pohl's *The Coming of the Quantum Cats* at least borrows a title from the concept. Of the two, I think that Erwin has the edge. It's shorter, easier to pronounce, and could also be construed as a tip of the hat to the legendary Mr. Strauss of "Feelthy" fame. (Or is that a liability?)

- Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Catrick, Fritz, Purrty, how about naming him after Rick Katze? (remnants of death wish) How about T.C.? (remember the old Top Cat cartoons?) I have no intentions of making this contest easy.

- Filthy Pierre, Alexandria VA:

My entry in the Name the Cat Contest is Mell (as in Ballad of Lost C'Mell). The double L should avoid it being taken as a mundane name (like Bill or Fred—short for Melvin).

- (See page 22 for the winner.)

### The Mad 3 Party

- Joel Rosenberg, New Haven CT:

Sorry to hear that Pat Vandenberg's leaving as editor, although I'm sure Leslie Turek will do a fine job, too.

Hmmm . . . does the Woodstockcon bid get an automatic freebie?

[Thanks for the vote of confidence. I think we'll have to limit our free copies to official (non-hoax) bids. Of course, sometimes it's hard to tell . . . —LT]

- Thomas Endrey, Flushing NY:

I think it is an excellent idea to discuss selected topics . . . I also would like to thank you for the very informative article on Balticon. I almost did go this year, but now I wait

for a better hotel choice.

What is not an excellent idea is the news of finishing off TM3P in Boston fandom. Any better suggestion?

[We have found a new sucker-editor and our plans have changed. See UNCOMMON NONSENSE on page 1 for details. —LT]

- Chuck Huber, Champaign IL:

Your features have managed to be both entertaining and informative; I especially appreciate the continuing info on 1988 bids, as my contacts with Midwestern fandom are extremely limited.

### Convention Bidding

- Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

We'll be having Jane and Scott Dennis at Ad Astra, and I hope they'll bring copies of Jane's *Fighting Smofs* with them. The discussion of bidding for Worldcons and regionals will come in handy for Canadian fans in coming years, since with changes in the rules, the annual Canadian National Science Fiction Convention, or Convention, will be bid upon. Bids for the 1987 Convention will be entertained at this year's Convention, held in conjunction with V-Con, which will happen next month [May] in Vancouver, site of Expo 86. I'm not sure if the annual convention is held with a bidding convention in other countries, but a convention held at a specific time each year in different cities may be stretching our resources slightly.

Re WILL YOU JOIN THE DANCE: I've found another reason to attend bid parties . . . to get to know the people involved so that you can get involved, too. My wife, Yvonne and I enjoy getting involved with con-running, especially at the Worldcon itself. In 1983, Yvonne helped Marty Gear get the masquerade registration set up, and I scrubbed every plastic trashcan in the Baltimore Convention Centre! We're going to be busy in Atlanta, providing programming, helping with the masquerade again, and escorting feelthy pros, not to mention throwing a Toronto party. It's a busman's holiday every time, but we love it. We'll help in 1989!

Please, see if you can come up to a Canadian convention! In the Eastern part of Canada, you'll find Ad Astra in Toronto, Maplecon in Ottawa and Halcon in Halifax to be lots of fun, and different. Toronto is a shorter drive than Plymouth, Mich., and Ottawa and Halifax are just north. Remember, your American dollar is worth

about \$1.40 in Canadian funds, and with comparable prices, Canadian cons are a bargain.

- Joyce Scrivner sent us a flyer for the Sydney in '91 Worldcon bid. "Conceived in the lift at the Southern Cross, Melbourne, on 25 August 1985 . . . by imagination out of alcohol." The bid address is PO Box 2, Bexley North, NSW 2207, Australia. Joyce is their US agent; her address is 3212-C Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis MN 55407.

#### The Boston Bid

- Thomas Endrey, Flushing NY:

*I just attended Boskone 23 and your facilities for Noreascon III are just perfect! There is no walking to the Convention Center, it's built right into the hotel and the Sheraton also has plenty of well-located function space. It will be a pleasure to convention there! Also to second up Chip Hitchcock's guide, the Au Bon Pain with its large stuffed croissants (@\$1, two are perfect with a large coffee for a very filling breakfast) and soup-and-sandwich meals is just the perfect place to stop by. I also should mention the food service in the Hucksters' room, it was an excellent idea!*

#### Other Topics

- Joel Rosenberg, New Haven CT:

*I love the idea of Jane's Fighting Smofs. As a great fan of well-run conventions, I'm going to have to subscribe.*

*Upon reflection, I'm surprised that some experienced convention-running fans haven't cashed in on their skills in planning and running conventions; surely, it'd be worth some money to organizations like the MLA and SLA (that's Special Libraries Association, not Symbionese Liberation Army) and suchlike to have somebody experienced and competent plan and administer their annual conventions. Just an idea . . .*

[I really don't think that the MLA or SLA could afford (or would be willing) to pay us what we would require if we were to actually charge for our time. (It's amazing what people will do for free that they wouldn't do for any reasonable amount of money!) However, there are some fans that have utilized their sf convention experience in their careers. In the Boston area, we have Jane Wagner, who runs seminars which are held in hotel function space; Bill Carton, who sets up trade show exhibits for Teradyne; and Ellen Franklin (head of Exhibits Division of Noreascon II),

who directs trade show exhibits for Hasbro Toys. —LT]

- J. H. Stevens, Ctr. Conway NH:

#### *What is a Smofcon?*

[A Smofcon, sometimes more formally known as a Concon, is a convention planned for people who run conventions, at which they discuss ideas, methods, and theories about the running of conventions. The first Smofcon that I know of was held in New York City in the early 1970's by Stu Brownstein. It may have been an outgrowth of Stu's work on the Noreascon I committee. More recently, Ben Yalow organized a successful Smofcon that was held in October, 1984, near Washington, D. C. Panels were held on the various parts of a convention: Operations, Programming, Art Shows, etc., and were divided into sessions on small regional conventions, and larger regionals and Worldcon/NASFiC conventions.

At the 1984 Smofcon, a group from the West Coast "bid" for the following year's Smofcon, which they called Smofcon 2. Since there was no opposition (and no formal procedure for selecting sites), they were awarded it by default. However, due to lack of interest (or lack of publicity), Smofcon 2 was canceled at the last minute. A few people who had already made plane reservations went out anyway and had a weekend-long party.

MCFI had decided before the cancellation of Smofcon 2 to bid for Smofcon 3 for November or December 1986. Since again there were no other volunteers, we got it by default.

Smofcons usually do not advertise through the regular convention calendars, since the goal is to keep the membership small and focused on people who have real interest and experience in convention running. However, we are planning to have more information about Smofcon 3 in *The Mad 3 Party*. The dates will be Dec. 5-7; advance membership is \$30; the theme will be "Brainstorming the Worldcon." For more information, see the August issue. —LT]

#### Corrections

- Gail Kaufman, New York NY:

*I received the Mad 3 Party in which you mentioned me at the Thursday night party in Austin. Since you said that you saw me, I must congratulate you and the party committee for making fannish history, by having the*

largest party room ever—and it should happen in Texas. That Thursday night I was in LA, not getting to the con until Friday afternoon. Since the distance from Austin to LA is quite a bit further than the distance between hotels, you now hold a record that should stand for some time.

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto Ontario:

Re my letter: I did know the difference between MCFI and NESFA, and of course, MITSFS. I just thought that with three major science fiction organizations in Boston, there would be some measure of communications between the groups, and that a NESFAn would see my comment.

• We have been informed that there was an error in the NESFA subscribing membership rate given two issues ago in Volume II, Number 4. At that time, the correct rate was \$13 (we said \$12), but it has recently been raised to \$15.

• A few copies of Issue 11 have been returned to us by the Post Office with their address labels missing. If you should have a received a copy, but didn't, please let us know and we will resend. My apologies to those affected. (That's what I get for using labels left over from Noreascon II!)

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**BOSTON IN 1989 NEWS RELEASE**

May 21, 1986

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This is the first in a series of news releases to be issued by the Boston in 1989 Committee (Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc. / MCFI), which is running unopposed for the right to hold the 1989 Worldcon. There should be at least one more release before ConFederation, and (assuming that we win) others will appear on a regular schedule thereafter.

**Officers:** On April 1 the committee elected its permanent officers, who are expected to serve through the 1989 Worldcon:

Chairman	Mark Olson
Treasurer	Ann Broomhead
Secretary	Jim Mann

**Mark Olson** is a long-time fan who moved to Boston a little too late to be on the Noreascon II committee, but has since been MCFI Secretary, NESFA Treasurer, and chairman of the 1986 Boskone (attendance 3600+). **Ann**

**Broomhead** ran Preregistration for Noreascon II; she has also chaired two Boskones and been Treasurer of NESFA. **Jim Mann** was co-head of Children's Programming at Noreascon II; he has run major areas at several Boskones and been Editor of NESFA Press.

In addition to the officers, the committee includes most top-level committee members from the previous Worldcons in Boston (Noreascon II, 1980; Noreascon I, 1971). All 30 members of the committee have held major positions at Boskones or other large conventions.

**Facilities:** If we win, the convention will be held on August 31-September 4, 1989, at the Sheraton-Boston Hotel (headquarters of Noreascons I and II) and the adjacent Hynes Convention Center. The Hynes is nearing completion of renovations, which will leave it appreciably larger than in 1980. The Sheraton has over 1300 rooms, and nearly 3000 rooms will be available within two blocks.

**Membership Rates:** Assuming that we win the bid, membership rates for the first year will be as follows. Voters for the 1989 site selection, having paid the \$20 voting fee, automatically become Supporting Members. The following schedule of rates will apply to later memberships and conversions:

Voters (to 2/15/87)	
Conversion from Supporting to Attending Membership	\$15
Non-Voters (to 2/15/87)	
New Supporting Membership	\$20
Conversion from Supporting to Attending Membership	\$20
New Attending Membership	\$40
All (2/16-9/7/87)	
New Supporting Membership	\$20
Conversion from Supporting to Attending Membership	\$30
New Attending Membership	\$50

The two deadlines above, Feb. 15 and Sept. 7, are respectively the closing dates of the 1987 Boskone and 1987 NASFiC. The \$20 rate for Supporting Membership will remain valid through 1989, and Supporting Memberships may be converted to Attending at any time. The rates for Attending Membership after 9/7/87 have not yet been set, but will probably be higher than those above. Please note that "voters" above refers only to those who vote on the 1989 site selection, not the 1988 race being held simultaneously.

Presupporters of Boston in 1989 (of whom there are currently over 700) will be sent a coupon good for a \$5 discount on the cost of a membership, good through 2/15/87; the details of this offer will be sent to presupporters before ConFederation. Presupporting memberships are still available for \$3.

**Guests of Honor:** Our Guests of Honor will of course not be announced before ConFederation, but it is possible that we will not be able to announce them even there. This is because we have agreed to yield priority to the 1988 Worldcon, for which there are currently four bidders; if one or more of these makes the same choice(s) as we do, we won't be able to finalize our own selection until we know who wins for 1988. We'll work it out as best we can, but don't be surprised if we have to delay our announcement.

**Publications:** The committee has decided to continue its bidding zine, *The Mad 3 Party*, beyond the bidding period, as a means of communication between the committee and those interested in behind-the-scenes planning. The new editor is Leslie Turek (chairman of Noreascon II), who plans to bring out 6 issues per year. Subscriptions will be \$1.00 per issue.

The regular Progress Reports, which go to all members, will be a good deal less frequent, but seven are planned over the three-year

period before the convention. (Remember that this will be the first Worldcon with a three-year lead time.) Since there won't be much news over a lot of this time, several of these will be small newsletters rather than full-size magazine-type reports. Details on scheduling and advertising rates will be announced later, but the first PR (which will be full-size) should be out in the spring of 1987.

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#### SHORT RAUCOUS NOTES

##### *Name the Cat Contest Winner*

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Our panel of judges pored over 18 entries from 7 people before deciding that the winner of the *Name the Cat Contest* is:

**Carstairs**

submitted by Jim Reynolds

To quote Jim: *It comes from one of my favorite B-move lines: semi-sane lab assistant, junior archaeologist, etc., offers his opinion/theory on what's going on (he's usually right, too); someone replies in a hushed voice, "Carstairs . . . You're MAD!"*

Runners up were Sushi (Peggy Rae Pavlat), Claude (Lloyd Penney), and Schrodinger (Chuck Huber). Jim will receive a free attending membership in Noreascon 3 if we should win the bid. Congratulations all, and our thanks to those who entered!

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*The Mad 3 Party #12*  
Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc.  
Box 46, MIT Branch PO  
Cambridge MA 02139

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