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## — Special Post-ConFederation Issue —

It's official! In the face of tough opposition from Myles' House (9 votes), None of the Above (60 votes), and the ever-popular No Preference (111 votes), Boston, with 1088 votes, has been selected as the site of the 1989 World Science Fiction Convention. Our thanks to everyone who presupported, helped our campaign, and voted in the 1989 race.

(There were 27 other write-in votes scattered among the following sites: Rottnest I. (Australia), New York, Benson (AZ), New Orleans, Washington, Sydney Cove, Highmore, Tallahassee, St. Louis, Boxboro, Cucamonga, Wilmot Mtn. (WI), the Sheep Meadow in Central Park, and "Bruce Pelz's house in Flushing".)

As we have mentioned in the past, we do not yet have a Professional Guest of Honor, since we felt that the 1988 bidders should have the first priority. However, we were able to announce our Fan Guests of Honor at ConFederation. To quote from Progress Report 0:

### *Fan Guests of Honor: The Stranger Club*

*The Stranger Club was the first Science Fiction club in Boston, and ran the first series of Boskones in the 1940's. Its fiftieth anniversary will be within a few months of Noreascon Three. A number of original members are still active fans: Louis Russell Chauvenet, Harry Clement Stubbs and Art Widner.*

If you voted in the 1989 site selection, you are automatically a Supporting member of Noreascon 3, and you can convert to Attending for \$15 until February 15, 1987. If you did not vote, Supporting membership is \$20 and Attending membership will be \$40 until February 15, 1987. (If you were a pre-supporter, you should have received a coupon good for \$5 off the Attending or Conversion fees.)

The 1988 winner was New Orleans (912 votes), with the Bermuda Triangle bid coming in second (425 votes), followed by Cincinnati (249 votes), St. Louis (193 votes), and Sydney Cove, Australia (a write-in choice with 16 votes). The 1988 Worldcon will be Nolacon II; they can be reached for more information at PO Box 8010, New Orleans LA 70182.

Of course, the big news for this issue is what happened at ConFederation. We will not have a traditional con report, but in keeping with our publishing goal ("more than you ever wanted to know about running a Worldcon"), we will present three views of ConFederation focussing on our bidding activities there; the WSFS Business Meeting; and some behind-the-scenes observations

from our committee debriefing. There is also some ConFederation commentary in the letter column.

I had hoped to also have an article and report on bidding expenses in this issue, but I underestimated how much time this would take to prepare. Rather than printing only portions of it now, I think it would be better to print it in its entirety in the December issue. In addition to containing a history of the Boston in 1989 bid, and a complete report of our bid income and expenses, we have invited the 1988 bidders to share their bidding information and their thoughts on the subject. All of the '88 bidders have agreed to do so, but not all were able to meet the deadline for this issue. (St. Louis has supplied us with a very detailed report, and New Orleans has given us some rough figures by phone, with more exact information promised in a few weeks.) So, although it will be delayed, I believe that it will be an interesting and informative article when it does appear.

Now that Boston in 1989 is changing from a bid committee to a convention committee, I am taking the opportunity to make some changes in *The Mad 3 Party*. The most visual change is our new logo, drawn for us by Wendy Snow-Lang. I have also decided to reorganize the contents of the zine, and to drop the "Alice" references that previously were used for article and column headings. It was getting harder and harder to come up with new titles that hadn't already been used, and I didn't think I could keep up the game for another three years. So at the risk of being less colorful, I now plan to use utilitarian titles that simply describe the contents of the item.

I have appreciated the letters I have received since I became editor, and I encourage all of you to please write when the spirit moves you. We will try to respond to all questions and suggestions we receive.

Have fun!

—LT

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## Bidding Activities at ConFederation

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In the last issue, we had an article about what we expected would happen at ConFederation. So it seems appropriate to write a few words about what actually did happen there, and how it may have differed from what we expected.

**Room Blocking.** This ending up working quite nicely. By the time I arrived on Tuesday, whatever hassling was needed with the hotel was already over, and I found a note from early arrival Debbie King explaining what would be happening. We did have a nice block of rooms on the 9th floor of the Hilton. Unfortunately, the rooms weren't available until Wednesday, so those of us who arrived on Monday and Tuesday had to be temporarily lodged elsewhere and moved down to the 9th floor on Wednesday.

Because the Hilton had fairly short corridors leading off the central elevator core, we were able to take over just about all of one wing, with a one-bedroom suite near the elevator end of the corridor. A few rooms were on the same floor in other nearby corridors. The suite was quite spacious and worked out well for the parties. The bedroom tended to be used for semi-private SMOF sessions and for things like watching the Masquerade reruns on the video feed.

**Logistics.** We had a big work session about two weeks before the Worldcon, in which we packed and shipped most of what we would need at the convention. This was a combined MCFI/NESFA shipment, so it included NESFA sales items as well as party supplies and bidding flyers. When we arrived at the hotel, the shipment was missing. After much hassle, we discovered that it had originally been delivered too early and refused by the hotel, then supposedly delivered again. We finally, with Steve Francis's help, managed to locate the hotel receiving room and discovered that our stuff actually had been there all day. That was a relief.

Some things had been parcelled out to individuals to bring down, because they were either too delicate, critical, or ready too late to be shipped. That included the Massachusetts fruit wines from the Nashoba Valley winery, some of the chocolate, and the Progress Report O's. These all arrived intact.

Finally, most of the party consumables were purchased in Atlanta. We were lucky that Jim Hudson and Ellen Franklin had driven their car down, and they volunteered for the supermarket runs. There were 4 shopping trips, and on each but the last they filled 4 grocery carts with soda, munchies, vegetables, fruit juices, etc. (We did not serve alcohol at the parties, except for the fruit wines and champagne at the victory party.)

**Parties.** We had bid parties on Thursday and Friday, a big victory party on Sunday, and finally an unadvertised but semi-open smaller party on Monday. During the parties we set up a table off to the side where we sold pre-supporting memberships and T-shirts, and talked about the bid. The table was almost constantly busy, and at times we had to have two people on duty rather than the one we had planned. The bid T-shirts sold out, as we had hoped.

As usual, the 10-pound chocolate bars that had become our trademark were very popular, and a total of approximately 30 pounds of chocolate was consumed.

In general, we felt that the decision to hold our parties in the Hilton worked out well. For one thing, the elevators in the Hilton were much more responsive than the ones in the Marriott throughout the convention. It also seemed to produce a nicer, less frenetic atmosphere, as those people who took the trouble to find us seemed to be genuinely interested in visiting rather than just looking for "action".

Our parties benefited from donations of leftovers from the Minneapolis, Holland, Texas, Woodstockcon, and Canadian Confederation parties, for which we thank them. Other unknown benefactors just dropped stuff off as they wandered by.

**Costumes.** One added feature we weren't counting on was that Sue Lichauco and Sue Hammond decided to bring and wear their Alice and White Rabbit costumes to wear at our parties and around the convention. There was one funny moment at the WSFS Business Meeting, after we had been announced as the winners, when the White Rabbit came in with PRO's considerably after Alice had begun handing hers out. Business Meeting chair Bruce Pelz glowered at the rabbit and announced, "You're late!"

**The Little Green Notebooks.** Just before the Worldcon, some of us discussed the tendency for verbal ideas, questions, and offers to get lost in the hubbub of a Worldcon. One suggestion was to write things down. Mark Olson then purchased a number of small green notebooks and issued one to each committee member going to Atlanta. They worked well. People were certainly impressed when they made a suggestion and we whipped out our green notebooks and carefully noted it down. Some of the results are given in the ConFederation debriefing later in this issue.

**Site-Selection Voting.** At the last minute (a week or two before the Worldcon) ConFederation changed its position on some of the items we had been negotiating with them about. They agreed to let us take credit cards for voting, and agreed to let us have one-stop voting, so that people could pay for their Attending membership at the same time as voting. Some people seemed surprised by this, and may have thought it a bit arrogant (as the voting hadn't yet selected us), but we pointed out that we had agreed to refund any money collected if we didn't win, and it saved the voters the hassle of coming back and going through the paperwork again. Most people seemed to accept this reasoning.

The table itself ran pretty smoothly. We had three people signed up to work at all times, and other committee members stopped by and pitched in when lines built up. There were a few glitches. Like when we came to the table at 9:30 on Monday morning and found that the table had been removed by the hotel staff. We were also amazed by the number of pre-supporters who hadn't remembered to bring their \$5-off coupon with them to the convention. (This included several members of the bidding committee!) After consultation Thursday night, we decided to start issuing replacement coupons for these people. There was also some confusion between the '88 and '89 races, but it wasn't too bad.

There were more voters in the '89 race than we expected: 1276. (There were 1858 in the '88 race, which had four competing bids.) Perhaps our taking credit cards helped the people who couldn't afford the cash outlay for two memberships (although credit cards represented only about 20% of our total income).

The actual vote-counting began at 10:30 pm on Saturday night. Usually, the method is to just count the ballots and see if the result is obvious; if not, the ballots would then have to be carefully validated (to ensure that the voter is a member of the hosting convention, that no one voted twice, etc.) This time, the administrators decreed that all votes would be validated, even in the '89 race which was uncontested. None of the work that could have been done in advance, such as checking mail voters off the registration list, had been done. Checking against the ConFederation membership list was also made more difficult by the fact that the list was in several pieces: advance memberships, at-the-door memberships, etc., and some of the pieces were not in alphabetical order. We were also limited, at first, to two counters (although the '88 race, with two from each committee, had eight counters and thus was able to finish faster). As the night wore on, the administrators loosened this rule and other people were allowed to help out. Nonetheless, it took un-

til almost 4 am to finish.

George Flynn staggered back to the Boston in '89 suite, where a few of us had been keeping the party running until we heard the results of the count. He announced, "Sorry, guys, we held it off as long as we could — but we're stuck with it." (Followed by, "Can I go to bed now?")

On Sunday, after the winner was officially announced in the WSFS Business Meeting, we opened again for conversions and new memberships. We decided that to save time we would only check people's status if they weren't sure about it. After our return to Boston we discovered that a few people had converted without having voted, and a few people converted unnecessarily after having purchased Attending memberships at the time they voted. About par for the course. (Of course, we will write letters to these people either sending refunds or asking for additional payments, as appropriate.)

By the end of the convention, we had a total of 1454 members (571 Supporting and 883 Attending) and 4 children's admissions. This compares very favorably with Noreascon 2, where there were 1069 voters, and 1154 memberships by the end of Iguanacon (786 Supporting and only 369 Attending). It appears that the "one-stop" voting procedure allowed many more people to purchase an Attending membership in the time available at the convention. Perhaps, in the future, this could be done even in contested races, if all the bidders could agree on the attending rate for voters. — LT

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## Selecting Worldcon Guests of Honor

— Time for a Change?

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*[This article gives the personal opinion of the author, and does not represent the official view of the Noreascon 3 Committee.]*

The tradition, at least as long as I have been in fandom, has been for bid committees to select their Guests of Honor before the site-selection voting, and to announce them only if their site is selected. This tradition arose when site selection was done only a year ahead of the convention, and made sense in that context.

We now have a situation where sites are selected three years in advance, and I wonder whether this tradition continues to make sense. The greater uncertainties of the 3-year period indicate to me that it would be better for all concerned if the choice were made closer to the convention. For example, the choice could be made one year in advance, and perhaps be announced at the Hugo ceremonies of the previous year's Worldcon.

A change in the GoH selection procedures would also make things easier on the GoH choices themselves. How frustrating it must be for someone who has been asked to be a GoH for a succession of losing Worldcon bids!

I suggest that the bidders for 1990 and beyond might consider this change. Traditions are fine things, and should not be lightly discarded. But sometimes circumstances change and the traditions should be reconsidered.

— LT

## A Protracted View of the 1986 WSFS Business Meeting and Ancillary Events

by Donald E. Eastlake III

*[This article gives the personal opinion of the author, and does not represent the official view of the Noreascon 3 Committee.]*

### Preface

This article gives my view of the 1986 World Science Fiction Society Business Meeting in perhaps more detail than you would want to know. Although all business I remember is mentioned, I concentrate on new developments in Business Meeting form and on business that related to the Mark Registration and Protection (MR&P) Committee and Worldcon bid funding, as these were the most significant to me. Since I have minutes of neither the Business Meeting nor the meetings of the Mark Registration and Protection committee, most of this is from memory but it has been reviewed by others who were at the meetings.

### Introduction

In the past, I have always had the impression that the Business Meeting has made reasonably thoughtful decisions. I have not always agreed with these decisions, but they seemed to be based on debate at the meeting, within the bounds of the very limited time available.

There have been various threats and rumors of "packing" the Business Meeting but not very much came of them as far as I could see. Sure, when a particularly hot issue, such as changes to or elimination of the Fan Hugos, was coming up, a number of people who do not normally attend the Business Meeting would be there. And many of these people would be predisposed towards a particular outcome. But I always felt that they listened to the debate and voted as individuals.

The 1986 WSFS Business Meeting at Atlanta was different.

Throughout the Business Meeting, essentially the entire rear left quadrant of seating appeared to act as a cohesive and disciplined voting block under the direction of key members of the Atlanta Worldcon committee who sat in the front row of the block. I got a chance to observe this phenomenon up close at the Sunday Business Meeting session. The inadequate facilities provided meant standing room only for anyone arriving late. As a result I ended up against the rear left wall until some seating opened up. All of the time that I observed, the entire block voted unanimously. The back row, at least, seemed to be coordinated by someone seated at the center aisle who passed on instructions. While it was clear from some cross talk I heard that those in the block were predisposed against assigning any new duties to the MR&P committee, it was also clear that they frequently did not understand the motion being voted on, or even know what it was, when they voted. They just followed directions that were sometimes, but usually not, accompanied by a few words of explanation.

### Before the Preliminary Session of the Business Meeting

The only things really relevant before the first (Preliminary) session of the Business Meeting were two things that didn't happen.

First, there was nothing at all about the Business Meeting in either ConFederation Progress Report 4 or the ConFederation Program Book. (Well, Bruce Pelz was listed as the Business Meeting Presiding Officer, but that was buried in the ConFederation Committee list.) Normally there are a few paragraphs in Progress Report 4 giving information about the sessions of the Business Meeting, telling people that if they attend the Worldcon they have the right to attend the Business Meeting, and perhaps giving them the deadline to submit new business.

By the time you get to the Program Book, at con, this material is usually repeated or expanded with material on the time and location of the meeting sessions, their division into Preliminary and Main sessions, and specifying which will also be the Site-Selection session. Mike Rogers of the Atlanta committee had made a big point of scheduling the Business Meetings in the afternoon to open them up to wider attendance. It seemed curious that they were so conspicuously failing to advertise the meetings, a failure that continued through the lack of any mention in the ConFederation daily newsletter other than time and place one-liners.

The second thing that didn't happen was a Thursday afternoon meeting of the Mark Registration and Protection (MR&P) Committee. (This was then called the Standing Committee, but to avoid confusion I will refer to it by its current name.) As Chairman of this committee I had written to ConFederation requesting time and space for two meetings of the MR&P committee, one before the first session of the Business Meeting and one after the last. (The first meeting was to settle the committee's report to the Business Meeting. The second, consisting of the new committee after the elections at the Business Meeting, was to decide on committee organization and activities for the upcoming year.) By the time I had the specifics pinned down, it was mid-day Thursday at the convention and I could not get notice in time to all members of the committee in time. So the first meeting of the MR&P committee had to be postponed from Thursday afternoon to 4PM Friday, after the Preliminary Business Meeting.

### The Preliminary Session of the Business Meeting

Each WSFS Business Meeting is divided into Preliminary and Main Sessions. Generally the Preliminary Business Meeting concentrates on setting debate time limits for Main Business Meeting consideration of Constitutional amendments, handling committee reports, handling changes to the Business Meeting Standing Rules, and taking nominations for the Mark Registration and Protection (MR&P) Committee. The main sessions of the Business Meeting concentrate on disposing of Constitutional amendments, handling site-selection business, holding elections for the MR&P committee, and taking care of whatever else comes up or overflows from the Preliminary Business Meeting.

The Preliminary Business Meeting at ConFederation was at 1PM Friday. First business was setting time limits for Main Business Meeting discussion of the six constitutional amendments that had been passed on for ratification by the 1985 Business Meeting. (It takes votes at two successive Business Meetings to change the Constitution.) All were quickly given fairly low debate limits, ranging from 2 to 6 minutes, which should have indicated that they were not controversial.

Then came the report of the Special Committee on Worldcon Site Selection and Rotation. This committee of seven had produced five minority reports, three members of the committee urging no change in the rules and four members each supporting a different change to the current Worldcon site rotation. Each of the four proposals for change was seconded and became a motion before the Business Meeting. Many of these were complex. After lengthy explanations and questions all of them but one were eliminated.

The sole survivor, for which a debate time limit of 20 minutes was set, was a complex proposal by Craig Miller of Los Angeles. It would have precluded North American site selection being held in the same rotation zone as the site being selected, which some people consider to be a potential problem. However, the plan would also have, for the first time ever, imposed restrictions on Worldcon bids from outside North America, limiting them to every third year. While it is true that right now one third of Worldcons are outside of North America, the proportion has grown smoothly to that level and could continue to grow if an artificial cap were not imposed. It is also interesting, in light of the Holland and Los Angeles bids for 1990, to note that the Miller proposal would have eliminated all competition between North American and non-North American bids by segregating them into different years. However, even if it had been adopted this year and ratified at the 1987 Business Meeting, it would not have taken effect until after the 1990 race is decided.

The next item of business was listed as "Committee to Research Business Meeting Resolutions." At the 1985 Business Meeting, I had suggested that a list of resolutions that had been adopted by the Business Meeting and were still in effect be compiled and maintained by the MR&P committee (see digression following this section). However, that Business Meeting was opposed to any additional assignments to the MR&P committee and instead assigned this task to George Flynn, even though he was not there to defend himself. Since he was never officially informed of this and thought that, as a continuing task, it was something that the MR&P committee should do, he reported that he had not accepted the task. A motion was then made and passed to give this task to the MR&P committee.

The next item of business would have been the report of the MR&P committee but, as I mentioned above, its first meeting was delayed and, as a result, the committee's report was postponed until Saturday.

Then came new business as follows:

A 6-minute debate limit was set for a motion to update the financial reporting requirements for Worldcons to take into account the longer lead times before conventions and the longer times that it takes to settle affairs after

larger Worldcons, and to eliminate the requirement for an "independent accountant." (It's not clear that the independent accountant requirement ever accomplished much or that an accountant can really be independent if they are selected and replaceable at the sole discretion of the Worldcon.)

Three motions related to the Hugos and proposed by Lewis Wolkoff came up. The first two, to prohibit winning in two successive years in many categories and to split the professional artist Hugo into cover and interior Hugos for specific works, were eliminated. An 8-minute debate limit was set for a third, which changes the Best Non-Fiction Book award definition, although there did not seem to be complete agreement over just what the change meant.

A 1-minute debate time limit was set for a motion by Craig Miller to require that Hugo winners be notified and given a chance to decline.

Two motions by Robert Sacks came up. The first would have allowed out-of-rotation North American Worldcons by a 3/4 vote, a provision that used to be in the Constitution in a different form but was deleted several years ago. The second would have included the Caribbean, Bermuda, and a few other places in North America for Worldcon rotation purposes and defined the rotation zone of a cruise ship or other moving site as "the zone it is in port in." Both of these motions were eliminated.

Finally, two motions I introduced came up. A debate limit of 3 minutes was set for the first one, a motion to make it clear that Worldcon committees are required to provide copies of the Constitution and Standing Rules to members in attendance at the Worldcon. Presently they just have to publish them in their Program Book "if there is one." The second was a minor motion to clarify part of the Standing Rules related to providing copies of motions. As such it did not need to go to the Main Business Meeting the way constitutional amendments do and was passed immediately.

The Preliminary Business Meeting ended just about on schedule at 3PM. It seemed to have been pretty sensible. The only odd thing was this block of people in the left rear that always seemed to vote together and usually on the other side of questions from the way I voted.

### **A Digression on Resolutions of the Business Meeting**

Sometimes proposed amendments to the WSFS Constitution come up that seem to express fine sentiments or principles but are just too detailed or specific to a particular situation. Frequently these are converted into simple resolutions so the Business Meeting can express its opinion without cluttering up the Constitution. In other cases, people just propose resolutions so the Business Meeting can go on record, such as the resolutions encouraging contributions to the Mark Registration and Protection Committee.

These resolutions can't do much. The Worldcon committees are independent organizations bound only by the Constitution and, to some extent, the Standing Rules. True, the Business Meeting can give itself directions, but that is what the Standing Rules are for. In any case, most of the resolutions are specifically worded to merely urge, rather than require, that something be done or not

done.

The only problem with considering these resolutions as the Business Meeting "going on record," or as notes to the future, is that they are almost instantly forgotten by almost everyone. Thus it seems reasonable to compile and maintain an up-to-date list of such resolutions as are still in effect, send it to each Worldcon committee, and make it available to anyone else who is interested. You probably would not want to bother publishing it with the Constitution and Standing Rules but it might be nice to distribute it at the WSFS Business Meetings.

This is a simple continuing clerical task. It just seems common sense to assign it to a continuing body. The only continuing body in WSFS is the Mark Registration and Protection (MR&P) Committee. True, the MR&P committee, with 14 members, has more people than you need for this task, but that is no problem. At any time some members are busy on tasks related to its other duties and some members are inactive. But there are enough members that the Chairman of the MR&P committee should have no problem getting the resolution compilation job done on a continuing basis.

It is also true that you could add verbiage to the Constitution to create a second continuing body. But why bother? There is nothing in the Constitution or Standing Rules that prohibits assigning this to the MR&P committee. There is no reason why it couldn't perform a simple clerical task like compiling the Business Meeting resolutions.

However, even though the Preliminary Business Meeting had already voted to do this, others did not agree with this reasoning and were about to take action.

#### **The First MR&P Committee Meeting**

The MR&P committee first meeting was as rescheduled at 4PM Friday.

The first part of the meeting went very smoothly as the committee report to the Business Meeting was settled. My idea that we suggest changing the formal name of the Hugos (now "Science Fiction Achievement Award") to one that could be registered was dropped. A proposal to send a letter to "World SF" asking them to appoint someone to talk to us was changed to appointing Craig Miller as our representative to talk to them. A suggested resolution of the Business Meeting urging financial support for the committee was added. And a number of minor wording changes made. All this took longer and was more substantive than these few words may indicate, but it was all pretty cooperative.

Then came the zinger.

First some background: At the 1985 Business Meeting, Jim Gilpatrick had introduced the constitutional amendment to change the name of the Standing Committee to the Mark Registration and Protection Committee. At the time, as I recall, he argued that it "clarified" the constitution and in debate people said that it would make it "less likely" for future Business Meetings to assign any additional tasks to the committee. If there were some constitutional problem with assigning the resolutions compilation task to the Committee, a point of order should have been raised at the Preliminary Business Meeting that had just done this. This could have been done at any

point during the meeting after the motion was made. But no complaint had been raised at the Business Meeting concerning this assignment to the Committee.

However, just as the MR&P meeting was about to adjourn, Penny Frierson and Jim Gilpatrick moved that the committee should refuse the assignment, on the grounds that the WSFS Constitution as it stood, even before the name change, totally forbade any additional assignments to the Standing Committee. The Presiding Officer and Parliamentarian of the Business Meeting, who were both present, did not agree, and, as the author of this Constitutional provision, I stated that I had not intended any such restriction. When it was clear that no other member of the committee agreed with this motion, a softer version was suggested by Craig Miller. He proposed a motion which referred to limitations imposed by the name change to the Mark Registration and Protection Committee and requested that the Business Meeting assign the resolution compilation task elsewhere. This motion was passed by a 6 to 4 vote and added to the report to the Business Meeting.

All four of those voting against this motion, including myself, agreed to a minority report which stated that we agreed with the Business Meeting that the sensible thing was to assign this duty to the MR&P committee.

#### **Saturday Morning**

After being otherwise occupied the previous evening, I got up at 7AM to revise the MR&P committee report to the Business Meeting and get it run off. I also decided to address the fear of additional assignments to the Standing Committee directly and propose a change to the Standing Rules to require a 2/3 vote to make additional assignments. Although I didn't support this, it at least gave an opportunity for a direct rule on the topic rather than arguments from implication. I drafted this motion and got copies of it made up also.

#### **The First Main Session of the Business Meeting**

The first Main Session of the Business Meeting was held at 1PM Saturday.

The first item of business was nominations for the MR&P committee. Three members of this committee are elected each year by the Business Meeting to three-year terms. About ten people were nominated, and there were no surprises here.

The second item was the committee report. This was generally accepted with limited questions and discussion. All of the motions recommended by the committee were adopted, including first passage of a Constitutional amendment giving NASFiCs representation on the committee since the committee registers and protects the NASFiC marks. The committee had recommended that these be non-voting representatives but the Business Meeting amended that to voting.

The resolution of the MR&P committee requesting that the task of compiling Business Meeting resolutions be assigned elsewhere was treated as a motion to reconsider the assignment of this task to the MR&P committee. This was then postponed until after all the business passed on from 1985 had been disposed of.



Then my motion to amend the Standing Rules to require a 2/3 vote for new assignments to the MR&P committee came up. This motion failed, with the previously-noted voting block voting against it, apparently because to pass it would admit that some additional task might somehow, sometime be assigned to the Committee. More than any other vote, this illustrates the short-sighted implacability of those opposed to any such assignment. If the motion had gone through, it would indeed take a 2/3 vote to assign something to the committee. But because of the defeat of this motion, any future Business Meeting can assign business by a simple majority vote.

Next was voting on the ratification of the six Constitutional amendments carried forward from last year.

The first of these was a motion to prohibit the spending of Worldcon profits to bid for future Worldcons. This seems like a simple matter of fairness. Bidding committees should be on an equal footing to raise money from their members or outside sources. Worldcon profits are supposed to be spent for the benefit of the World Science Fiction Society. The unfairness of a Worldcon bidding committee in using previous Worldcon profits to try to lock themselves in as a repeating Worldcon should be obvious. In fact this was so obvious that the Constitutional amendment to prohibit this had passed by a ten-to-one voting margin the previous year without a single word being spoken in debate.

Now came the second zinger.

In a coordinated salvo, the biggest guns of the Atlanta committee and the Los Angeles in 1990 committee opened fire. It was argued that the provision was unenforceable (although how it was any less enforceable than the rest of the Constitution is unclear). It was argued that no restrictions, even such a limited one as this, should be placed on what a committee can do with money it makes, to avoid discouraging bids. It was argued that since committees may have different financial resources, they should be able to spend any money no matter where it comes from. As the final blow, Craig Miller incorrectly claimed that the Holland in 1990 bidding committee was being financed by the Dutch government.

Thus, in the most surprising vote of the Business Meeting, this narrow restriction on using Worldcon profits was defeated!

The Boston committee believes sufficiently strongly that such mis-use of Worldcon funds should be prohibited that their own by-laws outlaw it, no matter what the WSFS Constitution says. Furthermore, the WSFS Constitution provides that Worldcon Committees should use Worldcon profits "for the benefit of WSFS as a whole." Some members of the Boston committee and others that would have spoken and voted in favor of ratifying the restriction did not attend the Business Meeting because they were working on areas of ConFederation. Their efforts presumably freed up more Atlanta people who could be used to block-vote at the Business Meeting. (This inability of many who were working on ConFederation to attend a Business Meeting held in the afternoon may have affected a number of decisions.)

All of the other five Constitutional amendments were ratified. They deleted a now-redundant section of the Constitution, restricted the elected members of the MR&P committee to have not more than three from each of the rotation zones, changed the name of the committee to its current name, required the committee to file annual reports (which it has always done in any case), and inserted some boilerplate into the Constitution to avoid possible troubles with WSFS-tax-exempt status.

The requirement for the MR&P committee to file annual reports and the proposed IRS boilerplate were amendments that had been submitted by the MR&P committee itself and were not controversial. There was much discussion and confusion on whether the section that was deleted was completely "redundant" or not, but the desire for a shorter Constitution won out.

I had expected the regional restrictions on the elected membership of the MR&P to pass. It sounds like a reasonable thing and could give people a warm feeling about the committee. But I was surprised how vehemently Robert Sacks argued against it and Craig Miller argued for it without touching on their real concern. The logical arguments for regional restrictions are fairly weak. If the committee is just a technical committee or a political committee representing the Business Meeting that doesn't do anything that can favor one region over another, there is no reason for regionalization. Only if the committee is a political committee representing WSFS as a whole, or has duties in which it could favor one region over another, is there much of an argument for regionalization. If the MR&P had the slightest thing to do with site selection, the argument for regionalization would be quite strong. Craig Miller argued by analogy from the geographic representation in US government, but governments do things like give out farm subsidies, set import and export duties, etc., that can greatly favor one area over another. In fact, what was really going on was that some people were disturbed that too many of the elected members were from Boston.

Finally, some comments on the committee name change. I don't think this would have passed if the assignment of the resolutions compilation task to the committee had stood, even though there is little connection between them. The structure of the Constitution is still the same, and the Business Meeting can assign minor duties to any committee it sees fit unless there is some prohibition in the Constitution. All in all, I don't think that the name change to the Mark Registration and Protection Committee makes any significant difference.

### **The Second Main Session of the Business Meeting**

The second main session of the Business Meeting was held at 1PM Sunday. The site-selection winners were announced, but I didn't see that as I got to the meeting late, giving me a chance to observe the voting block at close range as mentioned above.

Voting for MR&P committee members occurred. There was another first: pre-marked ballots were distributed for the first time to influence voters. These ballots recommended first-, second-, and third-place votes for western zone people, two of them (Bruce Pelz and Craig Miller) from Los Angeles.

The next item of business was the reconsideration of the assignment of the resolution compilation task to the MR&P committee. Craig Miller, who has not been noted in the past for his careful adherence to WSFS Constitution requirements, explained that the majority of the MR&P committee felt that they could not accept this assignment because it violated the Constitution. The Business Meeting voted to accept the committee recommendation and assign the task to a committee appointed by the chair. Bruce Pelz announced that he would not pick the members until he'd had a chance to think about it.

Craig Miller's rotation-change motion was defeated after Colin Fine for Britain and Kees Van Toorn for Holland spoke against it. (However, in the process, an amendment by Robert Sacks adding the Caribbean, Bermuda, and a number of other areas to the rotation zones was first admitted as a relevant amendment, then divided off from the main question, and then passed.)

Kees Van Toorn corrected the record by stating that the Holland in 1990 committee has received no funds from the Dutch government and no support from KLM Airlines other than the flyers printed by the airline, and that they do not expect to receive any such support unless and until they are selected for the Worldcon. But the damage had already been done.

The other four new amendments to the Constitution came up and were passed. The only substantive change was to add material to the Hugo notification and acceptance amendment to take care of cases where the award winner is deceased or incapacitated, as happened this year with Judy-Lynn del Rey.

The business meeting ended with the scheduling and announcement of the second MR&P committee meeting and the announcement of the MR&P election winners, a clean sweep for the western candidates listed on the pre-marked ballots.

### **The Second Meeting of the MR&P Committee**

The second meeting of the MR&P Committee was held at 2PM on Monday. Although I had not been re-elected, I was still a member of the committee, having been appointed as the Noreascon 3 representative.

First item of business for the committee was determining its Officers for the coming year. During the previous year there had been two officers: myself as Chairman and Jim Gilpatrick as Secretary-Treasurer. A few members of the committee said nice things about the work I had done and that they would want me to continue as Chairman if I were willing. I made it clear that, although I was willing to continue to do work for the committee, I was unwilling, and would consider it unethical, to be an officer of a group where the majority fundamentally disagreed with me. Rick Katze accepted nomination for Chairman. He seemed to be proposed as someone in the Boston area who could easily continue to use the same PO box, so that things could more or less run as before. Jim Gilpatrick nominated Willie Siros, who was not even present at the meeting, for Chairman. Rick Katze was then elected by a vote of 6 to 1.

At Rick Katze's request, Jim Gilpatrick agreed to continue as Secretary-Treasurer. Also at Rick Katze's request, I agreed to preside over the rest of the meeting.

I suggested that a couple of policies the committee has been following in the past be formally adopted. One was a policy of using paid professional lawyers for all substantive legal work. Another was to send copies of all official outgoing correspondence to all Officers of the committee. At my suggestion, it was agreed that the UK would be the highest priority as the next country in which to register the WSFS marks. I agreed to handle this and several other items during the coming year. Finally, a number of other minor items were discussed.

### **Conclusions**

The net result of the World Science Fiction Society Business Meeting held at ConFederation? (1) A total victory for big-business bidding and Worldcon committees that seem to be working toward a commercial lock-in by the use of the profits made off fans for future bidding. (2) The somewhat disturbing appearance of a large disciplined voting block that controlled the outcome of some votes at the Business Meeting. The sort of voting block which is a tool particularly well suited to dominance of the Business Meeting by the hosting committee. (3) The adoption of every proposal presented that could be considered to weaken, limit, or dilute the Mark Registration and Protection Committee, and the defeat of the lone proposal, no matter how minor or common-sense, that could be considered to give the MR&P committee any sliver of additional duties, all apparently because the MR&P committee is perceived as some sort of potential threat to Worldcon committee authority.

Think about it: Los Angeles still on record as planning to spend over \$2 of profit made off of each and every L.A. Con II member to bid for another Worldcon just six years later; and Atlanta, having conducted a very expensive campaign costing over \$25,000 out of pocket to win the Worldcon, now solidly backing Los Angeles in defeating any restrictions on the use of Worldcon profits for bidding, and announcing a bid for a future Atlanta Worldcon in their last daily newsletter. At the same time, Worldcon bidding committees have been raising the ante, reaching new heights in the '88 race. Based on the information available, it appears that the '88 bidders spent over \$100,000. Nearly half of this (\$45,000) was spent by the winning bidder, New Orleans, whose 24-hour/\$1K-a-day bid party at ConFederation was partly financed by income from dealers who were solicited to pay \$100 years in advance for a privileged position at a Worldcon that hadn't even been selected yet. Is this really what you want for the future of the Worldcon?

There is the smell of real money in the air, and I fear the Worldcon selection process is being distorted by it.

[The report of the Mark Registration and Protection Committee presented to the 1986 WSFS Business Meeting is a detailed report explaining many technical aspects of service mark registration and maintenance. It can be obtained by writing to the Committee, PO Box 1270, Kendall Square PO, Cambridge MA 02142. — LT]



## MCFI Meeting

Wednesday, July 23, 1986, at the NESFA Clubhouse, Somerville, Mass.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm. Chairman Mark Olson announced that Sharon Sbarsky has been appointed to handle Preregistration, and that Greg Thokar will be producing Progress Reports 0 and 1. Various people are working on text for PRO; speak to them if you have any ideas. The draft text will be passed around for comments before going to press. PRO will not discuss the Pro GoH due to the conflict with the '88 bidders.

**Presupporters:** Mark reported that the Presupporter mailing with discount coupon has been sent out. We're getting a lot of bounced letters and will try to get corrected addresses at Atlanta. We will continue selling Presupporting memberships, but won't be pushing them. Debbie King reported that we have 823 Presupporters.

**Stationery:** We are ordering new stationery. The letterhead will be similar to that of Noreascon 2, using the Shooting Star typeface, but will be in dark green. We will have letterhead, regular and manila envelopes, speed letters and window envelopes, and, at some point, acknowledgment postcards. The amounts ordered are being based on Noreascon 2 usage records: 2-3000 letterhead, 5000 envelopes, 2-3000 speed letters and envelopes, and 4-5000 large envelopes.

**Treasurer:** Ann Broomhead said that money is coming in in trickles and going out in gushes. But we're on budget.

**Smocon:** We'll have a new batch of flyers for Atlanta and will be making a push for memberships. Smocon now has about 25 members.

Leslie Turek has devised a game to use for breaking the ice on Friday night at Smocon. Based on a suggestion from Mark, it's a "make-your-own-adventure" type of game based on running a Worldcon. The teams, called "committees," gain or lose *Goodwill* points, *Financial* points, and *People* points based on the decisions that they make. Leslie is looking for help in writing scenarios; currently we have about twelve and would like to have forty to fifty. We will probably also print this as a book and distribute it to Smocon members.

**WSFS Amendment:** Mark reported that Jill Eastlake and Ann Broomhead are planning to propose an amendment to the WSFS Constitution relating to the reporting of Worldcon finances. Since this is being signed by Noreascon 2 and 3 Treasurers, it will be perceived as an MCFI motion; therefore, we should probably approve it. The motion is as follows:

Short Title: ConCom Financial Reporting Act

*Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution by striking the second sentence of Article I, Section 7, and inserting the following in its place:*

*"Each Worldcon Committee shall submit an annual financial report, including a statement of income and expenses, to each WSFS Business Meeting, after the committee's selection through the first or second Business Meeting after its Worldcon, at their option, to which it will also submit a cumulative final financial report."*

*Explanation: The present financial reporting provisions require a report 90 days after the convention and a final report within a year. This is frequently unrealistic. With large U.S. Worldcons there are frequently large expenses in dispute with convention centers or contractors that are just getting finally settled a year after the convention. Furthermore, the expansion of Worldcon lead time to three years gives more opportunity for some financial reporting in advance of the convention as provided by this amendment.*

*The amendment also requires that the reports be given to the Business Meeting which is probably the only body that could really do anything, even if it is just to pass a resolution calling on Worldcon committees to do the right thing.*

*Finally, the independent accountant requirement is eliminated since it is somewhat pointless without requiring any qualifications of the accountant, and an accountant selected and replaceable at the sole discretion of a Worldcon committee can't be very independent anyway.*

The motion was approved with no objections.

**Request for WSFS Funding:** In his capacity as chairman of the WSFS Standing Committee, Don Eastlake has written to us requesting that we contribute funding to the Standing Committee. An amendment providing for funding of \$1 per site-selection voter was passed at LA-Con II, but failed ratification at Aussiecon II. Funding to date has been by voluntary contributions, and both Conspiracy '87 and CactusCon (the 1987 NASFiC) have contributed at least \$1 per voter. Upcoming expenses for the committee include extending protection of the WSFS marks outside of the U.S.; updating and distributing the WSFS Service Mark Usage Guide; paying renewal fees for our mark registrations; and possibly moving against infringers, such as the Chicago International Film Festival's "Hugo Awards". Don has written to the '88 bidders making the same request.

Mark was concerned about the request for money immediately after we win. He'd like to approve the \$1/vote, but with the proviso that we pay half immediately and the other half as soon as our cash flow was certain.

There were some questions about the committee's finances. Leslie passed around a partial financial report, and Don agreed to run a complete one in the next APA:89. A vote was taken and the motion, with Mark's proviso, was passed unanimously.

**Computers:** Jim Mann summarized the computer committee report published in the last issue of *The Mad 3 Party*. In brief, the committee proposed that we spend \$7650 to buy a PC-XT clone for Preregistration, a Macintosh Plus for publications and general use, and a PC clone

for general use. The price includes printers, a hard disk for the Mac, software, etc. The XT would reside at Sharon's house; the other machines would stay at the clubhouse (though the Mac can be borrowed for a few days at a time by publications during the final few days before a PR must go to press). The XT would be purchased before ConFederation; the other machines when we return.

Tony Lewis suggested that we should get some security hardware. Mark agreed, and we added \$100 to the proposal.

Ben Yalow said hard disks for PCs are only about \$400 these days. Why not get a second XT clone instead of the PC clone? Jim M. stated that the PC would later become a peripheral and that we could get by without a hard disk on the PC. Mark emphasized that the proposal was for a minimum cost system. Lynx said that \$400 to make the Prereg and clubhouse machines compatible was a good idea. We can more easily back up the database. Chip added that NESFA has had disk problems. What happens if the disk fails? We don't want things to grind to a halt. Rick moved to spend the money to replace the PC with an XT with hard disk.

The final proposal was: Moved: that we spend \$8150 for the system described above with security hardware and two PC-XT clones, rather than a PC clone and an XT clone. Passed with no objections.

Sharon asked if she could add the extra money (probably about \$1200) to upgrade the XT to an AT. Several people felt joint ownership was not a good idea; if we need it, we should buy it. The question was, do we need it?

The computer committee proposed the cheapest system we could get by with, not necessarily the most effective. Jill Eastlake said that it comes down to how uncomfortable we are willing to make Sharon (who will be entering the data). Ben added that with large databases, the AT is significantly faster. With the XT, in the last few months Sharon would have to enter a record, then go out for a cup of coffee while the record was being processed.

The next question was, if we decided on the AT, would we have the cash to buy one now? Mark said no, but we would after ConFederation. Alexis suggested buying the XT now, then, after ConFederation, we buy the AT and switch them.

Moved: that (if the AT and XT prove to be compatible) we appropriate the extra money to buy an AT. As Alexis suggests, we buy the XT now and the AT after Atlanta. Approved with no objections.

**NESFA Clubhouse Rental:** Mark asked for permission to negotiate with NESFA for clubhouse rental after ConFederation. Essentially we will pay our fraction of the cost of operation. We will determine square feet used by us, square feet used by NESFA, and pay proportionately. We'll refigure this every 6 months. Equipment will be shared but the owner will have priority. Mark felt this would be simpler and a less likely cause of friction than paying on a per-meeting basis.

Pat Vandenberg said we should have a written agreement. Mark agreed, quoting Don, who had said a while back that contracts aren't ways to try to screw the other party, but ways for each side to understand what the other is planning.

**Preregistration:** Sharon said we have two members already, one of whom is a problem. Mark moved that if the average gets worse we dissolve. Mark said we're looking into getting a bulk mailing permit.

**"Don's Policy":** Over the past several meetings, we have been discussing a policy proposed by Don. It has undergone several revisions in wording; the latest is:

*In cases of conflict between planning for the convenience of single-interest attendees and planning for the convenience of multiple-interest attendees, we will always choose to plan for those who are interested in multiple activities at the convention.*

Perhaps tired of the whole discussion, Tony, Jill, and Rick Katze said that it sounded fine. (There were gasps from the audience.) However, Priscilla said she liked the alternate wording proposed in Leslie's apazine better. This was:

*There are lots of things happening at a Worldcon, and no one can get to everything they'd like to. But we will do our best to help our members participate in as many of the areas they're interested in as possible. Examples of things that will help are:*

- *scheduling to minimize conflicts.*
- *keeping people informed of what's happening when, so they can make the best choices.*
- *repeating items where possible.*
- *reducing wasted time by keeping lines short and starting events on time.*
- *structuring areas so that it's possible to participate without spending the whole convention there (unless you really want to).*

Mark's suggestion that we adopt them both was greeted with applause, and the suggestion passed unanimously.

**Hucksters' Deposit Policy:** Also in the previous APA, the timeline committee proposed that we start accepting deposits at ConFederation for huckster tables. The proposal read as follows:

*We would accept deposits from Hucksters interested in showing at Noreascon 3. A limited number of tables and booths would be reserved by early deposits, and those hucksters would be provided with an opportunity to choose their location in the room ahead of those who didn't provide deposits. Deposits would be refundable at any time, but those hucksters would then lose their early preference.*

*Deposits would be \$50 per table or \$100 per booth up to \$200 total per dealer. They would receive a \$5-per-table discount on the eventual price, but we could not pay interest on the deposits.*

Ben argued that we didn't need the cash, and that by accepting deposits we were leading hucksters who get their money in early to expect the best locations. Mark asked Leslie to repeat the cash-flow analysis she presented in her last apazine. She projected \$50,000 income and \$36,900 expenses the first year, concluding that we don't

need the money. If we decide that we do, we can send out a mailing and have the money we need within a month. Other points made were that it is an imposition on hucksters to have to put up money this far in advance; we don't want to tie the hands of whoever will be running the area; and collecting money gives us more work to do.

We decided that we would **not** take deposits now; we would just collect names for the hucksters' mailing, when we are ready to do one.

**Other Policies:** Jane Wagner asked if hucksters' tables fees include a membership. The answer was no. She said we should make this clear from the beginning, as some cons do. There is agreement with this, and it is stated as a new policy.

Several people say that we should also make it clear that you must be a member to be a huckster. This was also passed with no objections.

George Flynn said that a related question is, do people on the program need to buy memberships? Leslie said a safe way to handle it is to tell people to buy and that we'll refund their money if our policy changes. However, it was noted that we already *do* have a policy of "everyone pays."

Jim Hudson has prepared a list of policies we have previously passed. For the time being, these are for our internal use and not for publication. The meeting reviewed the policies and made minor changes to bring them into line with our current intentions.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.

## Excerpts from APA:89

August 13, 1986

Because of the limited time available at full committee meetings, many ideas are first presented and discussed in the committee APA before coming to final discussion and vote at a meeting. There is usually one APA distribution in the interval between meetings, containing minutes, committee reports, and whatever else members submit.

These excerpts from APA:89 come with two reminders. First, unless otherwise noted, these are the personal opinions of the individual contributor, not official committee policy. Second, as with all topics discussed in these pages, please feel free to send us your comments.

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

### Timeline Committee (Jim Hudson):

The Timeline Committee held a brief discussion of what functions might go where in the space available to us in the Sheraton, Hynes, and Hilton. Note that there was a Hynes floor plan in *TM3P* issue 12; write if you would like an extra copy of the issue (\$1) or the floor plan alone (free for a SASE).

*The Hynes "Multipurpose" is the Auditorium. We'll have to build our stage, and we're limited on seating capacity. Open, it seats 5000. We'll probably lose 10% or so, so we may only fit 4,500. That should be enough with counter-programming and maybe video [feed to another room]. So, the Masquerade and Hugos, and maybe some*

*other big events, go there. Assume a permanent theater-style setup for the convention.*

*We put the Art Show in the Hynes Ballroom A-C, 25,000 sq. ft. For the display area, 30-35 sq. ft./panel is in the right ballpark, so this should cover display, office, and sales at a show of up to 400 panels.*

*Hucksters use the whole of Exhibition Hall C, and maybe some of D, with the rest of D containing exhibits. This is our biggest security/people movement problem in the evenings [because access to the hotel is through halls C and D], but seems a reasonable way to go.*

*The next biggest rooms are Hynes 307-309 and Sheraton Grand/Independence (combined), which are roughly equal. We decided to keep temporary partitions open as much as possible, since they don't work for sound insulation.*

*We reserved 307-309 for Program, and Grand/Independence for major films. We want to keep films in the Sheraton because of union hassles and costs, and that's the most reasonable option. It also allows us to reserve [Sheraton] Republic (and Commonwealth?) for second (and third?) track films.*

*With 307-309 used for Program, it makes sense to take the rest of Hynes 3 for Program as well. If VIP A&B are the Green Room/Program Ops, that gives us 8 more rooms, ranging from 50-360 people in size [if we believe 80% of the Hynes seating estimates].*

*On the second floor of the Hynes, we reserved 212 for Masquerade (and related) staging. That will be [a little small], but it seems like the only option available to us. We might overflow the staging to 205/206 if we had to, and close access to the Hall there, but that would be pushing things a bit.*

*The rest of Hynes 2 is available for exhibits, special purpose events, and the like.*

*Over in the Sheraton, we've used up the big rooms except for Constitution. We could put registration in the Hynes (using the Registration Lobby on 1). [And even if we don't rent Hynes 1, we will be entitled to use part of the Lobby and the restaurant, which is also on 1.] But it would be nice if Registration was close to Hotel Registration, and that means Constitution. We might spread to the Foyer, of course.*

*And it looks like it's back to the Alphabet [rooms in the Sheraton] for convention operations, logistics, etc., probably overflowing to some of the Beacon and Liberty. The rest of Beacon and Liberty get the small stuff.*

*We've assumed that the Con Suite is on Sheraton 5, in the bar rooms, and maybe using the Pool area as well. The 5th-floor meeting rooms could be used for various Special Interest Groups.*

*Over in the Hilton, [there is a medium-sized room], they have a pool area, and then rooms with auditorium capacities of about 100, 60, and four in the 30-35 range. Assume the Hilton gets off-track programming.*

*Of course, this is obviously tentative, and it will remain so until the Hynes actually opens and we can see what it really looks like.*

**Tony Lewis:**

I have come up with an idea that I think will be very useful in helping us to plan Noreascon 3: I tentatively call these "Official BS Sessions."

We will be attending numbers of regionals in the time between Atlanta and Noreascon 3. When we know in advance that a senior member of the committee (or convention) is going to be at a regional, we will schedule, in advance, an open session where people can come to talk about a specific area of the convention. This would be an area that that person either had responsibility for or knew lots about or was asked by the responsible person to get information, etc. Any such person would have to be approved by the chair. Some people might run their areas well but not do so well running this kind of meeting. I would suggest that these meetings would normally be held in the evening in an informal setting, probably a sleeping room. Noreascon could spring for a few refreshments — nothing fancy. There would be a specified time and anyone interested could attend (subject to room size constraints). The note taker should have a permanent Noreascon 3 record book to take notes in. We wouldn't guarantee that any ideas would be acted upon or implemented, but they would all be considered. We do not have a monopoly on ideas or concepts. We would probably find these meetings useful for recruiting people we might not normally meet.

Publicity would be in our own publications, in press releases sent to the fannish newszines, and releases sent to the specific conventions we would be attending. It would be important to not conflict with any programming that the convention would be having. That is why an evening would be good.

It would be important that we publicize that Noreascon 3 is not paying for these trips or rooms.

I would be interested in hearing people's comments on how we could implement this. Any suggestions on how to improve it are welcome. It would not be necessary to have the same format at all conventions or for all people. The nature of the conventions and the areas being discussed, in many ways, set the style of the interactions.

**Jim Hudson:**

Like most people, I've never liked the "Meet-the-Authors" party. It does not allow people to meet authors, it is typically a lousy party. There is no way to identify the authors that has worked very well, and adding dancing or other activities has only added to the confusion. At best, it is the biggest thing going on that evening (Thursday or Friday), and therefore gets a lot of people to come. And it misses a chance for a major, interesting, program item.

[Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights are usually occupied by the GoH Speeches, Masquerade, and Hugo Awards Ceremony.] But Thursday night is a problem. On Thursday, most of the people are in and settled — I'd guess 80% by early evening in recent years, remembering the flow from N2 and what I've seen since. Yet it's too early for most of them to have it together to give parties. Programming is just getting started, and there may be a few films. The convention is probably not fully staffed, and we don't want another major event to try to staff and

coordinate, particularly that early in the convention. Overall, Thursday night has typically been one of the weakest times in the convention.

I think that the best solution for Thursday is a major, off-site event at an interesting environment. LA did it with Disneyland, which worked, though we don't have that option. The "environment" provides the opportunities (like the "authors" are supposed to at a meet-the-authors). And it's little hassle, because we let people get there themselves and don't have any staffing problem. With the right location, it's a natural.

My candidate is that we take over (rent) the Computer Museum from 7-11 on Thursday night, with a cash bar (some distribution of free drinks). I don't know the price or capacity, but my guess is that both would be reasonable. If the price is and the capacity isn't, we could add (or substitute) the Children's Museum, which is even more fun. [or the Science Museum] And if we're feeling rich, we offer shuttle buses or some sort of food. Maybe we try for a hall display near registration to push the event, or see if they want to do a "Computers and Science Fiction" show as a tie-in with us. There might even be a special rate for nonprofits. And the Computer Museum is special — there's only one in the world.

So what does all this get us? It provides an interesting, SF-related event on Thursday evening at (with luck) reasonable cost, and with some planning requirements but very small operational requirements. Plus, it's something different that starts the convention off well.

**George Flynn:**

[On making a big con seem small.] Frankly, N2 left a good deal to be desired in this respect, and this is precisely why we have perceived the matter as a significant problem. Strides have been made toward solving parts of it: The "Fan Lounge" (introduced in its current form at Chicon IV) has achieved the small-con feeling for one segment of the attendees; a well-run Green Room seems to do the same for another segment; Operations/whatever has evolved into something similar for con-runners (and I wonder whether this may not be at least as significant as its ostensible function); and so on. We need to find imaginative ways of doing similar things for other groups.



## MCFI Meeting

Wednesday, August 20, 1986, at the NESFA Clubhouse, Somerville, Mass.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:30. Tony Lewis motioned to adjourn. This was seconded and passed overwhelmingly. We adjourned at 7:30:30. Unfortunately, Mark Olson said we still had work to do, so instead of leaving we all hung around and held a meeting anyway.

**Chairman's Report:** Mark reminded people that when we become a Worldcon we get to appoint someone to the WSFS Standing Committee. If any of the current members up for re-election lose, Mark will appoint them. Otherwise, he needs a volunteer.

The NESFA/MCFI Joint Committee met. This is the committee to decide what rent MCFI should be charged for its use of the clubhouse. The committee proposed that we pay \$170 per month for the next six months (when the rate will be re-examined). There was no objection.

The next meeting will be on September 17, with the one following probably on October 17. We will have a short meeting at ConFederation, on Thursday at 8 pm in the suite.

**Smofcon:** Mark asked us to make a real push to get new members at ConFederation. We especially need new members from outside the East Coast. Leslie Turek reported that Priscilla Pollner had contributed some marvelously convoluted scenarios for "Smofcon—The Game." We now have about 20. Mark suggested one argument to get people to join early: it gives us more money to spend on the con suite.

**Progress Report 0:** Greg Thokar asked if 4000 copies was a good number to print. The consensus was that 2500 should be enough, since we will be printing a new version when we know who our Pro GoH is. The deadline for changes is the end of this meeting.

**Progress Report 1:** Merle Insinga has agreed to do the cover, and Greg has volunteers for some of the articles needed. He would like to include a version of our policies, and would like a volunteer to word them appropriately.

**Computer Committee:** Jim Mann reported that we bought the PC-XT clone (approved at the last meeting) at White Mountain computer in Nashua. It is now set up at Sharon's waiting for the mail order DBIII software to arrive. The cost was \$1750, or about what the committee expected. (We might have gotten a cheaper machine via mail order, but felt that local dependable service was worth the extra.)

We are still planning to buy the Mac soon after ConFederation, but will put off purchase of the PC-AT for a few months, until the back room of the clubhouse is ready

to house it.

**Toastmaster:** Leslie presented a proposal on Toastmaster in the APA, and Mark suggested we discuss it. The proposal was to not have a Toastmaster as has been traditionally done, hovering between special guest and working function. Let's just have specific people to do specific jobs that they are suited to do, and select them as we decide what jobs need to be done. Possible examples are: a keynote speaker, someone to introduce the Guests of Honor, a Hugo presenter, etc. We can treat these people like any other program participant, with whatever perks we give them (probably reimbursement of membership, but not free hotel rooms or travel expenses).

There was much discussion of this idea, mostly relating to what various sf and non-sf conventions give as perks to various functionaries. The final vote was 15 to 4 in favor of not having a traditional Toastmaster (unless we change our minds later).

**Free Memberships for all those who attended (or tried to attend) the first Worldcon:** Ben Yalow proposed that we do this as part of our 50th-anniversary celebration. Denvention did this for all those who'd attended Denvention I. This was only about a dozen people, and was probably fewer free memberships, since some of them were on the program.

Mark asked if we want to decide this now. Lynx (Rob Spence) said that we have 3 years. Dave Anderson said that we should decide before we start accepting money for memberships. George Flynn said that if we can decide now, we should do so: we have plenty of decisions to make later.

Some questions resolved during discussion were "Would spouses be included?" (Answer: No) and "What happens if they just show up at the con?" (Answer: They must tell us in advance if they want the free membership.)

The proposal was passed many to one.

Ben suggested that we put this in PR0, as that will make it easier for us to locate these people early. Ben agreed to get us a list of who they are. George will also include it in the next News Release.

**ConFederation — General:** Mark said that we would be reviewing what we plan to do, as well as have some cautionary tales from a few of our more experienced members to point out what kinds of mistakes we can make. Jim H. said that it's easy to have a conversation where the other person thinks you made a promise, but where you think you have made no commitment. Take down information in writing; that way there'll be fewer misunderstandings. [At this point Mark passed out little green notebooks to all of the committee.] Mark and Jim H. raised some examples of people who think we've promised them something that we haven't decided yet.

Leslie raised two other areas. First: What to do if we get questions about policies that we haven't decided yet. The solution is to say we haven't decided yet, ask their opinions, and take down their names and addresses. Second: People will offer us things, many of which will be good things. Don't expect them to write to us later — they won't. They'll feel that they've done their bit by telling someone from Boston and will expect us to come back to them. Again, take down their names and addresses.

**ConFederation — Balloting:** Don reported that we have received information from ConFederation on their plans for the voting tables. Jeff Copeland and Liz Schwarzin are generally being reasonable.

**Preregistration:** Sharon said that our one problem has been fixed and that we now have three memberships. The receipt books for ConFederation will be ready in a day or two. It was emphasized that we can only take ballots and memberships at the voting table or at the Sunday party (not at NESFA sales).

**ConFederation — Hotel:** Joe Rico said that the ConFederation hotel liaison has handed in the MCFI block to the hotel. We don't yet know where we will be, but we have requested a low floor. Leslie suggested that those arriving early leave messages for the others so that we can all be sure to know where the block is.

**ConFederation — Parties:** Jim M. read a report from Laurie Mann. A few weeks ago, Laurie organized and packed party supplies to mail to Atlanta. Kelly Persons, Gay Ellen Dennett, Debbie King, and Mark all provided a great deal of help and Pam Fremon lent her hot pot for the trip. So far we have spent \$50 on chocolate and \$45 on Nashoba Valley Wine (6 bottles). We need people to bring chocolate and wine to Atlanta in their carry-on luggage.

We still need more help for the Atlanta parties. We have currently budgeted \$150 for each party. The first food run will be on Thursday at 11 am.

**Other:** Mark said that it looked like we were done and asked if anyone wanted to drag things out before we adjourned. Paula raised her hand. She reminded us that when we get back from Atlanta we will no longer be a bid committee and will instead be a convention committee. There were various announcements of upcoming events, and the meeting adjourned for the second time at 9:04.

## News Release / August 24, 1986

by George Flynn

This is the second pre-ConFederation news release from the Boston in 1989 Committee, running unopposed for the right to hold the 1989 Worldcon. Assuming that we win, subsequent releases will appear on a regular schedule.

**Appointments:** The following area heads have been appointed, for areas that need to be in operation at an early date:

Registration: Sharon Sbarsky

Progress Reports 0 and 1: Greg Thokar

(Since the convention is still three years away, most area heads will not be appointed for at least another year.)

**Children's Admissions:** Reduced-rate admissions may be purchased for children who will be less than 12 years old as of Noreascon 3, and who will be attending with a full member. These admissions will entitle the holders to full attendance at the convention, but not to publications or WSFS voting rights. The initial rates for children's admissions are:

until 2/15/87	\$20
2/16-9/7/87	\$30

(these rates are \$20 less than the cost of full attending membership over the same period). Note that no separate admission fees will be charged for children's programming or babysitting, which are included in either children's admission or attending membership.

Either children's admissions or supporting memberships may be converted to full attending memberships at any time, for the difference of the respective fees then in effect.

**Huckster's Room:** In response to many inquiries, we have decided to accept no reservations for Huckster's Room space at this time. Those who give us their names and addresses will be sent information as soon as it becomes available (probably not for at least another year). Note that all dealers and their helpers will be required to hold attending memberships in the convention, and that this membership will not be included in the price of a table.

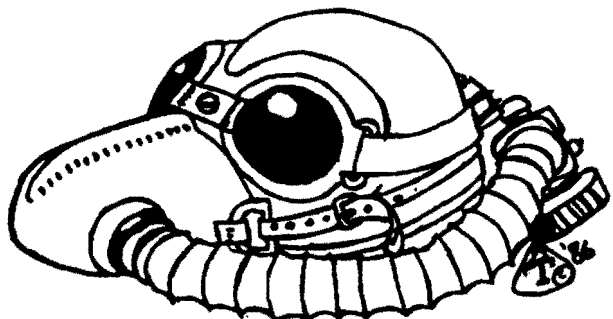
**1939 Worldcon:** 1989 will mark the 50th anniversary of the first World Science Fiction Convention, Nycon I in 1939. To commemorate this anniversary, all those who attended (or attempted to attend) Nycon I will be given free memberships in Noreascon 3. Programming related to the anniversary is of course also planned.

**Presupporters:** As previously announced, all Boston in '89 presupporters (now over 900) have been sent coupons good for \$5 off the cost of attending membership. Anyone who didn't get a coupon, and thinks he or she should have, is urged to contact us.

**Publications Schedule:** Progress Report 1, which will be magazine-size, is now scheduled for publication in January 1987. Subsequent Progress Reports (newsletter-size through the summer of 1988) will appear approximately every six months. Please write for details on scheduling and advertising rates.

**Standing Committee Donation:** Noreascon 3 will make a donation to the WSFS Standing Committee of \$1.00 per site-selection voter for 1989; half of this donation will be paid immediately, the other half when our cash flow is secure.

**Guest of Honor:** As we feared might happen, our first choice for Professional Guest of Honor matched that of at least one of the 1988 bidders (all of whom were kind enough to tell us their choices in confidence). Thus it looks as if we won't be able to make our final selection until after ConFederation. Stay tuned...





## MCFI Meetings at ConFederation

Thursday, August 28, and Saturday, August 31, 1986, at the Atlanta Hilton and Towers, Room 950

Two meetings had been scheduled for ConFederation "just in case" some business came up that we would have to deal with. Both meetings were very short.

At the Thursday meeting, Mark Olson reminded everyone about schedules for the weekend. He also urged people to help Kelly Persons on Tuesday with shipping our stuff back to Boston. He passed out a set of policies, and George Flynn passed out the latest news release.

Leslie Turek asked that people submit their bidding expenses as soon as possible because she wants to do an article on bidding expenses for *TM3P*. Leslie also raised the issue of pre-supporters forgetting their discount coupons. We decided to issue duplicates.

Dave Cantor mentioned that he heard some people upset with ConFederation's kids' policy. We went over our policy, emphasizing the points that are different, so that people would be prepared to answer questions.

On Saturday there was no pending business. Leslie, at Jill Eastlake's request, pointed out that this was our last chance to withdraw before the '89 winner was made official at the Sunday Business Meeting. Leslie made Jill's perennial motion to dissolve the committee. It passed unanimously. However, Mark chose to interpret it as a motion to dissolve the *bidding* committee and to become a *convention* committee!

## ConFederation Debriefing Session

Monday, September 8, 1986, at the NESFA Clubhouse, Somerville, Mass.

The purpose of the ConFederation Debriefing was to share our experiences at ConFederation while they were still fresh in our minds. This included how our own activities ran; our observations on how ConFederation activities went and any ideas we garnered from them; and any suggestions, offers, or questions that were passed on to us from the people we met at the convention. Some people also prepared written reports, which they passed around at the meeting or put into the committee APA.

In preparing this summary, I have omitted items falling under the first topic, since they are adequately covered in the article "Bidding Activities at ConFederation" on page 2. In covering the remainder of the debriefing, I have merged points that were presented orally at the meeting with those which were given in written form, and have tried to group them by topic.

### Special Order of Business

At the start of the meeting, our first group function since being confirmed as the 1989 Worldcon, the committee presented a gift to Chairman Mark Olson: a briefcase to help him carry "the burdens of office."

## Registration

- If registration were to open earlier, it might keep a long line from building up.
- There was confusion with special area registration (for hucksters, program participants, etc.). Some people fell under two categories, so didn't know where to go. (Although some areas did have lists that could point the people to the right place.) Frequently, spouses or children had to go to regular registration, requiring families to stand in two different lines. Some of the special areas weren't open for registration early enough (in the week) or late enough (in the day). People who were, say, both program participants and artists were registered in the art show, so never checked into the program area. Program should have had higher priority, since artists would normally have motivation to go to the art show area. There were also problems with record-keeping, with registration spread out in so many places.
- If special area registration is eliminated, certain areas, such as art show and dealers' room, could give out day passes to reduce the pressure on those people to register until after they are set up.
- Do we really need the caste system of different-colored badges? And the heavy paperwork that was required to appoint people to staff during the convention?
- Many people felt that policies relating to children's membership, particularly "Kid-in-Tow" memberships, had not been made clear. They didn't expect to be charged additional for babysitting after paying for a "Kid-in-Tow" membership.

## Program

- A list of program items, sorted by participants' names, would have been useful (many people want to see a particular individual).
- It was hard to provide food for program participants, since there was always a crowd in the adjoining Green Room, so food disappeared shortly after it arrived. Food had to be obtained from the hotel, so it was extremely expensive. Someone suggested that publishers might be willing to help out with refreshments.
- Green Room should stay open whenever any programming is planned. (Green Room was closed during Night Owl programming.)
- We will be getting copies of the room managers' evaluation forms, which should be helpful to show attendance, use of continuation time, which people were good speakers, etc.
- We should try not to put films on the other side of a partition wall from programming, since the sound from the films carries through.

## Information/Administration

- It would have been useful to have an information desk in the Hilton as well as the Marriott.
- Similarly, both staff lounge and gopher hole were at the far side of Marriott from the Hilton — hard to get to for program workers in the Hilton.

- Information should have at least some local people, so they can answer questions about restaurants, supermarkets, etc.
- Replacement pocket programs should be given out free.
- It would be nice to have fixed locations where the newsletter could be picked up.
- The newsletter should not repeat the same information in every issue. There should be more anecdotes about the convention.
- Phones and other services should be installed and operating before departments start to set up.
- Need more than one person lettering signs.
- There was the usual confusion of getting information to the hotel, and having perhaps too many people who needed to interact with the hotel services people.
- The map should label rooms by use (if known).

### Art Show

- Art Show had severe setup problems, but managed to open nearly on time due to lots of hard work.
- The layout of the panels made it easy to view the art.
- Using the membership number as the bidder number made it too easy to fake without registering to bid.
- Art program items should not be scheduled against the auctions.
- Breaking the show into four separate closeouts was confusing. Many people complained that the first closeout was too early (11 am Saturday); if you didn't see the show on Friday, you found that most of the artwork was gone when you did get there.
- People would like wrapping materials available at the art show. They are willing to pay for this if necessary.

### Hucksters

- Things ran pretty smoothly. Minor glitches included lack of carts, slightly late setup, some booths poorly lit.
- Some found the layout confusing, and thought some of the taller booths impinged on the nearby tables. Perhaps booths should be around the edges rather than in the middle.
- There were rumors of hucksters "scalping" tables (i.e., reselling them for a higher price than the convention charged). Should we try to prevent this? How?

### Events

- The Masquerade ran rather slowly, and would have run much too late if more costumes had entered. The slowness was due to 1) the need to allow each costume to walk the length of the very long and narrow ballroom, and 2) low throughput in the photo area (which was otherwise highly praised).
- Masquerade participants were required to enter in advance. This undoubtedly cut down the number of entries, and made it possible to print a Masquerade program listing all costumes and crediting wearers and makers. The unknown question is, how many people who would have wanted to enter missed out because of this?

- The Hugo Awards program was a nice idea, but should have been proofread more carefully (one nominee was omitted entirely and other names were misspelled).
- The traditional nights of Masquerade and Hugos were reversed. (See letter from J. R. Madden in lettercol for more commentary on this subject.)
- Separate panels of judges for each Masquerade division should have speeded up the judging.
- The quality of the video feed was poorer in the Hilton than in the Marriott. The camera crew had some problems in following the Masquerade action. And it would have been nice if people had some idea of what would be on when. Nonetheless, it was wonderful to watch the Hugo Awards, Masquerade, etc., from the comfort of one's hotel room.
- Some people said they would still like a banquet.

### Handicapped Services

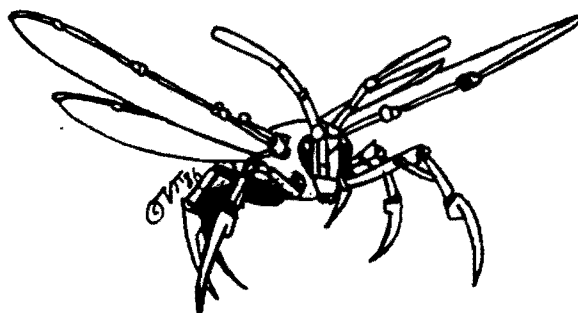
- Handicapped registration and access seemed to work well.
- We should try to get a large-print version of the list of Hugo nominees.
- We should try to get handicapped fans to volunteer to work on the convention.

### Publications

- The pocket program worked well.
- It was felt that the dealers' room layout wasn't really needed in the pocket program; it could have been in a separate handout available at the entrance to the dealers' room.

### Hotels

- Being able to see your hotel charges on the room TV was neat.
- Quick snacks were good, but the Marriott was rather expensive. The Hilton prices were more reasonable.
- One person requested that we mention in our hotel writeups whether any of them have atriums likely to upset people who don't like heights.
- Fan elevator management was used in the Marriott after the Masquerade. This was done after one of the overloaded elevators was reported as slipping several floors before the brakes caught it. Fans rode with each elevator to make sure that not too many people got on. This was labor-intensive.



## News Release / September 10, 1986

by George Flynn

After reconciliation of our records, we believe the following to be an accurate tally of the 1989 Worldcon site-selection voting:

	Mail Ballots	At-Con Ballots	Total
Boston	426	652(a)	1078
No Preference	55(b)	56	111
None of the Above	20	40	60
Write-Ins	8	19	27(c)
	-----	-----	-----
Total	509(d)	767	1276
Void	1	3	4(e)

- (a) The count obtained in the official tally was 662, with all totals correspondingly higher. However, since we received only 767 (rather than 777) memberships from at-con ballots, we believe there must have been an error of 10 in this subtotal.
- (b) Including 4 with name-and-address coupons but no ballots. (All blank ballots were also counted as "No Preference.")
- (c) Breakdown of write-ins: Myles Bos' house 9; Rottneest Island (Australia) 3; New York 2; Benson (AZ) 2; and 1 each for Boxboro (MA), Cucamonga (CA), Highmore (SD), New Orleans, St. Louis, Sydney Cove, Tallahassee, Washington, Wilmot Mtn. (WI), the Sheep Meadow in Central Park, and "Bruce Pelz's house in Flushing."
- (d) 13 mail ballots received after the deadline were tallied as at-con ballots.
- (e) Of the void ballots, 2 were from people who could not be found on the ConFederation membership list, but in fact turned out to be late transfers; the other 2 were from people who voted twice. (There was also 1 person who claimed to have voted, but for whom no ballot could be found.)

\* \* \*

By the end of ConFederation, total membership in Noreascon Three was as follows:

**Supporting Members:**

Voters not yet converted	559
New purchases after the voting	6
Paid conversion fee without having voted	6
	-----
	571

**Attending Members:**

Voters who paid conversion fee	717
New purchases after the voting	164
Gratis	2
	-----
	883

Children's admissions: 4

**Total:** 1454 members, 4 children's admissions

**MCFI Meeting**

Wednesday, September 17, 1986, at the NESFA Clubhouse, Somerville, Mass.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm.

**Chairman:** Mark Olson announced that Colin Fine has agreed to be our British agent. He also said that he had appointed Don Eastlake as our representative to the WSFS ~~Standing Committee~~ Mark Registration and Protection Committee.

Jim Hudson talked to Jane Yolen at ConFederation about being our SFWA liaison. Jane won't be in the area in 1989 because her husband will be on a sabbatical. She has suggested Craig Shaw Gardner. It was suggested that Craig talk to Leslie Turek and Jeff Carver (who was SFWA liaison for Noreascon 2) to find out what a SFWA liaison does.

Mark reminded people to be careful of what they say to others, and to continue to record volunteers. Jim Mann said that he is keeping a file of volunteers. The names will be given to area heads as they are appointed. Mark also said we should continue to record new ideas.

**Future Meetings:** The next meeting will be on October 15. The following meeting will probably be on December 10.

**Treasurer:** Ann is still depositing checks from ConFederation.

**Preregistration:** Sharon Sbarksky decided that the easiest way to assign membership numbers to the committee members is to assign them randomly. She passed around the Mad Hatter's hat containing a set of numbers for people to draw.

**ConFederation:** Our comments on ConFederation were discussed at the debriefing, so will not be repeated here. Mark thanked Laurie Mann, Jim H., Ellen Franklin, and all flight directors of the parties.

**Smofoon:** Please check that everyone who has given you memberships is on the membership list. One idea for Smofoon is to get pros (writers, artists, hucksters, etc.) to sit on panels and critique how Worldcons treat them.

**Progress Reports:** Greg Thokar reported that we will mail out PR 0.1 to members as soon as we have a Pro GoH, and a mailing list on line.

For PR1, drafts are due by October 19. Mark said that we want to get people involved and spread around the burden of writing. Don't worry about producing polished prose — we can edit it. He emphasized that the PRs must be clean, friendly, etc. They are the only thing most people see until the con.

Greg said that PR1 will cost about \$6,000 to print. Tony Lewis said that we must explain our children's policy, since ConFederation came under a lot of fire on this point.

**Computer Committee:** Jim M. reported that we will be buying our Mac very soon. It will reside with Greg until the clubhouse is ready for it (around Christmas time?). Various people are looking into discount prices.

Jim M. also said that Mark has asked the Computer Committee to look into our copying needs and at the prices of copiers to meet those needs.

**Monetary Unit of N3:** Don pointed out that Boskones have had official monetary units: silver dollars, two-dollar bills, etc. He suggested Bahamian \$3 bills for N3, and handed out a sample bill to each officer. Bahamian currency is pegged to the U.S. dollar, so we wouldn't have to worry about exchange rates. Tony suggested chocolate doubloons as an alternate.

**Multiple Guests of Honor:** We discussed the question of whether we wanted to consider having multiple guests of honor. Tony said that, given the example of Conspiracy, we should keep the number of GoHs small. Ben Yalow pointed out that an editor is acceptable for the regular GoH (Don Wollheim's choice by Nolacon was well received); we don't need a special Editor GoH.

Chip Hitchcock felt that artists have been neglected as Worldcon GoH's. Tony listed some artists, including Jack Gaughan and Frank Kelly Freas, who have been selected.

After much discussion, it was decided that there was no significant support for multiple guests.

**Professional Guest of Honor:** Once again, we discussed specific individuals that we were considering for Professional Guest of Honor. Finally, ballots were distributed and a vote was taken. George counted the ballots, and the secretary will write to our choice. Public announcement, of course, will be deferred until acceptance is received.

**Refunds:** Mark said that we had been planning to refund committee assessments after ConFederation, and to consider refunds to Friends. Should we do this now? Mark summarized our finances:

Income to date:	\$40,000
Foreseeable expenses:	
Computers and copier:	\$10,000
Progress Report 1:	\$ 6,000
Miscellaneous:	\$ 5,000
	-----
Total near-term expenses:	\$21,000

The assessment refunds would total about \$6,000 (about \$200 per person), and Friends refunds would total less than about \$1,500. We concluded that we could afford it.

Lynx (Rob Spence) asked how we did it at N2. Jill Eastlake said we refunded assessments as soon as we won. (There was no equivalent to Friends.)

Mark said we also have to consider random contributions and donations and if/how to refund those. Leslie said that at N2 this was done after the convention.

Mark suggested we follow the N2 procedure. Refund assessments and Friends' dues immediately. For committee members we'll credit their advance accounts and give out checks on request. This was passed with no objections.

**The Next Six Months:** Mark asked us to think about what things are critical over the next 6-12 months. We want to think about what kind of con we want. We also should think about the BS sessions Tony suggested in the last apa. Talk about it in the next apa; we'll discuss it at the next meeting.

Jim H. announced that the next Timeline meeting would discuss all the weird ideas with long lead times (e.g., using the Sack Cheri for films). The following meeting will be on technology — where it can help, where it can hurt.

**Approval of Division Heads:** Jill made a motion that when we select Division Heads, they each should be ratified by the full committee. Mark said he didn't plan to appoint anyone for about a year. When asked about N2, Leslie and Tony said that Leslie just made the appointments after lots of discussion with people.

Rick said this needed more discussion, and suggested we write about it in the APA. Tony said Mark wouldn't be appointing anyone before we discuss this and have a mechanism in place. Dave Anderson moved to postpone, which was approved.

George reminded people that officer elections are next month. We adjourned at 9:08 pm.

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## Letters

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### Conventions and Bids

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto, Ontario:

*First of all, three cheers for a bidzine like TM3P: it's very communicative, and even though I'm in Toronto, it does make me feel like I've got a part in it. The '88 bids aren't nearly as communicative; the best of the bunch is the Bermuda Triangle people.*

*Second, I've just signed up with the Holland in '90 people to act as Canadian agent. They seem to be willing to communicate with their preregs, too, and it should be fun. I don't know if any other bids have made their presence felt for 1990; I'd heard something about Los Angeles, but it's been a while. I wish a newszine like File 770 would keep track of all announced bids.*

*[Jane's Fighting SMOFs (347 W. 2nd St., Paris KY 40361) is planning to have a centerfold in each issue that lists pertinent info on all announced Worldcon, NASFiC, and Westercon bids. — LT]*

*Re letter from Joel Rosenberg: Woodstockcon? You mean there was another hoaxbid for 1989? Myles Bos should be informed of this!*

*[Woodstockcon was proposed as an alternate site for 1986, "in case a meteor were to hit Atlanta in say, late July," to quote from a Woodstockcon flyer. The con is described as "Four days of peace, music, and science fiction. . . . How is the committee being chosen? Hey, you do your own thing. Volunteer for whatever feels right. It's cool." The committee list includes such positions as "Catering: Fred 'What We Have in Mind is Breakfast in Bed for 400,000' Isaacs, Treasurer: Jack 'Spare Change' Haldeman, and Disc Jockey: Big Bill Perkins." —LT]*

*Re my letter on convention bidding: Ad Astra Toronto won the right to hold the 1987 Canadian National Science Fiction Convention, or Canvention. It will be held June 12-14, 1987, as part of Ad Astra 7. Our guests of honor are C.J. Cherryh, Elisabeth Vonarberg, and Diana Gallagher, plus the winner of CUFF, the Canadian Unity Fan Fund, which shall (we hope) be revived for this year.*

*Re Clauses That Catch: In this report, it is stated that SCIFI in L.A. had \$20,000 reserved for bidding for a 1990 Worldcon, but no longer intends to use that \$20G. Does this mean that the bid is dead, or does it mean that any Los Angeles bid will use funds from other sources?*

[The L.A. bid is definitely alive, with parties at ConFederation and advertising in the Program Book. I suggest you write to them directly, c/o SCIFI, Box 8442, Van Nuys CA 91409, for more information about their funding plans. — LT]

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto, Ontario (second letter):

*A good Worldcon, and good parties throughout. A pleasure to meet you, Leslie, and your co-conspirators in your successful bid. Congratulations! Myles Bos will just have to bid in another year. Perhaps he can go for 1993. I haven't heard any bids for that year yet. . .*

*Anyway, Yvonne and I visited your party several times at the Atlanta Hilton, had a good time, and found friendly people each time. We dropped off extra supplies left over from the Canadian Confederation Party we staged on Saturday night.*

*I saw buttons for Noreascon 4 in 1998. Is this wishful thinking, planning in advance, or just being silly? A combination of all three, I suspect.*

[Thanks for your party donations, they were much appreciated. We managed to do the parties a few dollars under budget, thanks to people like you who passed on their party extras.

As for the "Noreascon 4" buttons, they are more silliness than anything else. A local fan recently had a party with the Noreascon 4 theme: guests were asked to pick buttons either supporting or opposing this mythical bid, and were given sealed envelopes purporting to contain their positions on the con committee. I got to be a gopher, and there was much contention for the coveted title of "Attendee." — LT]

### Presupporters' Coupons

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto, Ontario:

*The discount coupons are a great idea. Perhaps a complete readout of all pre-supporters to insure that the \$5 discount is given, even if the pre-supporter loses the coupon. Perhaps on the actual badge given out at the convention, a distinguishing mark could be made to show one and all that the wearer was a pre-supporter.*

[Actually, the purpose of the coupon was so that we could avoid having a printout of all pre-supporters. At Noreascon II, we offered a discount for pre-supporters, but we didn't have a coupon. Things got very confusing. We had to have a complicated rate structure which distinguished not only between voters and non-voters, but voting pre-supporters, voting non-pre-supporters, non-voting pre-supporters, and non-voting non-presupporters. (Not to mention pre-opposers.) The rate schedule was so

complicated that most newszines did not print it fully, and even if they did, people didn't always understand it. We also had to have a pre-supporters list anywhere anyone was selling memberships for us. The result was that selling a membership was a complicated procedure, involving the checking of several lists, and many people who sent in their memberships paid the wrong amount, leading to much extra correspondence.

We saw the coupon idea as a way to simplify all this. The rates are the same for everyone: if you are a pre-supporter, you should have a coupon which you use like money to pay for your membership. It does have the one disadvantage that people have to be careful not to lose it, but that's no different from any other kind of coupon or ticket — at least, that's what we reasoned.

But boy, were we fooled! In spite of the warnings on the coupon, more than half of our pre-supporters showed up at the site-selection table at ConFederation having left their coupons at home (this included a number of Boston in 1989 committee members!). We discussed the problem at our committee meeting that evening, and decided that we should change our policy to re-issue coupons for people who forgot theirs. It seemed that the extra hassle was better than disappointing so many of our pre-supporters. — LT]

### Voting Fees

• Wendy Lindboe, Hyattsville MD:

*Why is it that Worldcon committees feel unwilling (or unable) to deposit voting membership checks in some kind of escrow account on behalf of the winning bid? The result is a check outstanding over several months, which can be very annoying, especially if you are trying to close the account. If the Worldcon rules specifically forbid depositing these checks, perhaps the rules should be changed. As far as I can tell, the Brighton committee still has my voting membership check for the '81 Worldcon. I hope they try to cash it. . . heh, heh. . .*

[Your experience is contrary to what is usually done. In our experience, an escrow account is set up. Notice that for the voting this year, you were asked to make out checks for the "46th World Science Fiction Convention" for the 1988 voting, and the "47th World Science Fiction Convention" for the 1989 voting. ConFederation had set up two separate accounts, one for each site-selection race. The voting checks received by mail and at-con were deposited into these accounts when received. After the vote was counted, a single check was issued to the winning bidder, and when that check clears, the escrow account will be closed.

It is possible this was not done for the '81 voting, or if it was done, it is possible that your check was misplaced and never deposited. — LT]

### Facilities

• Lloyd Penney, Toronto, Ontario:

*The new Hynes looks great. I wasn't at the last Boston Worldcon, so I can't make comparisons. I am amazed that a major highway goes right through the lower level. Was the original Hynes built over the turnpike?*

[Yup. There's not only a major highway, but also a railroad line. Space is expensive in downtown Boston. — LT]

### Publications

- Lloyd Penney, Toronto, Ontario:

*Re Caucus Race II: The PR schedule is an interesting one. The glossy PRs we get are great, and are wonderful to collect, but I think many people would rather get the information as soon as possible instead of waiting for one of four PRs. By this, I mean that I would rather have seven non-glossy PRs (much like what you plan) instead of four glossies. The information comes out quicker, and we're better informed, which is the whole goal. The only drawback I can see is the postage costs.*

### Children

- J. R. 'Mad Dog' Madden, Baton Rouge LA:

*I would hope that you are considering childcare for Noreascon III (as we will be needing it!). However, I would suggest that the days of using volunteers has passed because, primarily, with multi-track programming, attendees have little time left over to volunteer for childcare service. Secondly, most folks are fairly picky about who they leave their children with and undocumented volunteers can leave something to be desired. Thirdly, insurance coverage (need I say more?).*

*I recommend you contract with a local agency to provide workers and equipment: the convention would provide the rooms. ConFederation, at the last minute, ended up with an excellent service, Atlanta Best Care. I have no information about the con's contract with ABC, but parents were required to pay \$2 per hour, which was quite reasonable. Initially, childcare was to be offered only from 10 am to 6 pm but this was extended during the con to later hours (as it should have been in the first place, of course).*

*There was some problem with kids too young for the Kids Programming but still having to have Kid-in-Tow memberships; they had to pay the hourly fee on top of the in-tow membership fee. If a kid is too young for Kids Programming (old enough to read and think independently was the ConFederation definition), he is too young for a Kid-in-Tow fee. Some parents read the ConFederation progress reports and interpreted the somewhat ambiguous Childcare sections to mean that Kid-in-Tow fees covered Childcare as well, which was not the case.*

*All this should be arranged for and communicated to the membership reasonably well in advance. I do not expect the convention to provide totally free childcare, that is not fair to those members of the con without children. I do expect the convention to share this area with the parents. If program participants and con staff get free childcare as a perk, fine, that is up to the concom and some might consider it to be quite reasonable.*

*[Since many of our committee members have young children, we are very much aware of the need for quality child care at Noreascon 3. We hope to be able to provide the type of professional child care you describe.*

Our children's membership structure is quite different from that of ConFederation. Children under the age of 12 at the time of the convention have three options:

1. If they wish, they may purchase a regular Attending Membership like anybody else.
2. If they will *always* be in the company of an adult member, they do not need a membership of any sort and there will be no membership charge.
3. An associated adult with an Attending membership may purchase a "Children's Admission" for the child. This entitles the child to full independent participation in the convention, including children's programming and babysitting *at no additional charge*. The only difference between this and a regular Attending Membership is that the child will not be sent the convention publications, and may not vote in the site selection, Hugo awards, or WSFS Business Meeting. The cost of a Children's Admission is \$20 until February 15, 1987.

We hope this clarifies our policy on children's memberships. If there are any further questions or areas of confusion, please write to us. — LT]

### Programming

- J. R. 'Mad Dog' Madden, Baton Rouge LA:

*A worthwhile innovation [at ConFederation] was the special seminar/short course for teachers sponsored by NASA and Georgia State University. The course consisted of six hours of courses dealing primarily with the Space Station plus an additional four hours of panels of the participant's choosing. Continuing education credit for the attending teachers was granted through Georgia State. Many of the participants were not fans though some were readers of the genre: they had learned of the course through their own professional newsletters and/or journals. This would be a good thing for future WorldCons to consider, especially considering IRS concern over non-profit status. My wife, Daphne Grady (a non-fan and teacher), participated in this short course and really found it to be worthwhile. I strongly recommend that Noreascon III attempt to do something along this line in 1989.*

### Events

- J. R. 'Mad Dog' Madden, Baton Rouge LA:

*The Hugo Awards [at ConFederation] were switched with the Masquerade so the Major Purpose of the Worldcon was completed on Saturday night as opposed to the traditional Sunday night ceremonies (the reasons for the switch were really never fully explained and most of the fans I talked with about this did not like it and neither did I).*

*[I have some information about the reasons for this switch. Rather than one major reason, there were a number of smaller advantages noted that seemed to make it worth trying as an experiment, at least. Unfortunately, due to a major turnover in the Events Department personnel shortly after this decision was made, the reasons never got adequately publicized to the convention members.*



In no particular order, the perceived advantages were:

- 1) The Masquerade usually requires some setup time in the same auditorium it will be run in. Because of the shortage of large program rooms, it was felt that it would be better to keep the ballroom free during Saturday afternoon for possible major programming.
- 2) The Masquerade also makes greater demands on the technical staff than the Hugo Ceremonies, since each presentation has different sound and light requirements. By moving the Masquerade to be *after* the awards, the tech staff would get a chance to learn to work with unfamiliar equipment in a less demanding situation before having to do the Masquerade.
- 3) An earlier awards ceremony would be easier on the Hugo nominees, who wouldn't have to suffer in uncertainty for nearly all of the convention. And the winners would have a full day to bask in their victory.
- 4) The masqueraders would have an extra day to prepare and rehearse their presentations. This might be especially useful for large groups that do not all come from the same location and are rehearsing together for the first time at the con.
- 5) Finally, the publicity in the Sunday morning papers might focus on the awards, rather than having pictures of weird costumes and naked ladies. This did turn out to be the case, with one of the Atlanta papers featuring synopses of the Hugo-nominated novels.

Although these reasons are not earth-shaking, they each have some validity. I am not sure why people didn't like the idea, except that everyone is used to having it the other way around. (I heard Moshe Feder say on Sunday that it felt like Monday because the Hugo Awards had been the previous night.) But other than "tradition," we'd be interested to hear more specific reasons why people either liked or didn't like the switch. — LT]

*In an attempt to speed the judging at the Masquerade, there were four panels of judges, one for each category; in principle, it should have worked, but the judges got carried away as I will later discuss.*

*The Masquerade, as I said earlier, was held on Sunday night when some fans feel the Hugos rightly should be. Judging by the attendance figures compared with the Hugos, most fans apparently consider the Masquerade to be the highlight of their convention. This year, the best I can say for the Masquerade would be that we were able to watch it from the comfort of a sleeping room with friends and munchies in abundance. The director of the video crew was caught by surprise several times, resulting in not the best of coverage, and the stage lighting caused rampant havoc with the cameras, but otherwise, it was good to see it on the tube.*

*Additional weight was given by this year's event to my wish to dump the Masquerade from the Worldcon in the future unless changes are made. Primarily, the costumes, at U.S.-based Worldcons especially, in recent years have had very little to do with either science fiction or fantasy. They look more like Las Vegas or Mardi Gras with the feathers, beads, sequins, and glitter. Secondly, the judging has degraded by increasing the number of awards to placate the sore losers amongst the costumers. There were about fifty-five entries in the Masquerade in Atlanta; there were twenty-eight awards given — more than fifty percent!*

*Specific awards were idiotic in most of the four classes (novice, journeyman, master, re-creation), as the judges tried to give everyone a certificate: Excellence in Beadwork, Excellence in Use of Materials, Best Workmanship in the novice category (these are really all the same thing); Most Elegant, Flashiest in the re-creation grouping; Most Dramatic. June Taylor Award for Precision Choreography, Most Macabre, Most Trenchant Satire, Best Individual/Couple/Group in Journeyman with fifteen awards altogether in this one class; sanity returned in the master area with only three awards — Dramatic, Beautiful, Best in Class. If everyone gets an award, does the award have any worth? What ever happened to first, second, and third? Costumers work hard on their outfits and presentations, yes, but that does not automatically entitle them to recognition; it is, after all, a contest with winners and losers.*

*On the positive side, the Masquerade crew ran a special Children's Masquerade preceding the adult version. All of the nine entries received the same "certificate" as did the adult winners (a limited-edition Kelly Freas photo-print) along with several books and other donated items for each contestant. In the case of the Children's Masquerade, everyone there should be a winner.*

### The Mad 3 Party

- Patrick Nielsen Hayden, New York NY:

*Got Mad 3 Party #13, which was enjoyed as usual. In particular I thought the writeup of current Standing Committee affairs to be lucid and fair-minded, a rare and useful thing. I certainly feel better-informed for having read it, anyway.*

### TAFF/DUFF

- J. H. Stevens, Center Conway NH:

*What does TAFF/DUFF stand for?*

[TAFF stands for TransAtlantic Fan Fund and DUFF stands for Down Under Fan Fund. TAFF has been in existence since 1954, and DUFF since the early 1970's. TAFF sponsors yearly fan trips between North America and Europe; DUFF does the same between North America and Australia. The direction of travel alternates from year to year; and the fan to travel is selected by vote of everyone who donates to the fund. The TAFF delegate to Con-Federation this year was Greg Pickersgill, and the DUFF delegates were Lewis Morley, Marilyn Pride, and Nick Stathopoulos. Nominations for next year (which will send North American fans to Conspiracy '87 and the '87 Australian national con) are currently being solicited. For more information, write to the current TAFF administrators: Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden, 75 Fairview 2D, New York, NY 10040, or Greg Pickersgill, 7A Lawrence Rd., South Ealing, London W5 4XJ; and to the DUFF administrators: Marty and Robbie Cantor, 11565 Archwood, N. Hollywood, CA 91606, or Nick Stathopoulos, 17 Norfolk St., Blacktown, NSW 2148, Australia.



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*The Mad 3 Party #14*  
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