

The 3 Party

This introduction has proven to be my most difficult editing job for this issue.

When you are taking over from someone who has created and produced a brilliant brainchild (as *TM3P* was Laurie Mann's) it is difficult to know exactly what to say.

Many of the articles Laurie initiated: fannish biographies (see *WHO ARE YOU?*); MCFI meeting minutes (see *THE CAUCUS RACE*); and Noreascon I and II comparisons (now *HOW DO THE LITTLE CROCODILE* by Tony Lewis), will still be found on these pages. In addition, Claire Anderson and her "stringers" will be writing the *OF CABBAGES AND KINGS* column devoted to parties and happenings in and around cons; Davey Ferree's column, *WILL YOU JOIN THE DANCE?* will devote itself to the problems and ideas experienced by other Worldcon bidders and committees - both past and present; and *TURTLE SOUP* is your contribution to our fanzine. As Laurie stated, all uncredited material is the fault of the editor, Pat Vandenberg.

In the future, we plan to include a few interviews and thoughts from well-known fans on topical subjects, and to enjoy a new column *WHY IS A RAVEN LIKE A WRITING DESK?* from Pricilla Pollner; I'll let you puzzle out that one.



Due to circumstances beyond normal control, this first quarterly issue is not being published in February, 1984. However, there will be four issues for 1984, albeit not quarterly. *TM3P* will appear for the duration of the bid. Subscriptions are presently available at \$3.00 for the four 1984 issues. Committee Members and Friends of Boston in '89 will receive one copy of all issues for free, as will newszines and worldcon bidders/committees. All correspondence and requests for subscriptions (please make checks payable to Boston in '89) should be sent to: Boston in '89, *TM3P*, Box 46, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139.

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Editor: Pat Vandenberg
Staff: Claire Anderson
Davey Ferree
Tony Lewis
Assistant: Bill Perkins

WILL YOU JOIN THE DANCE? by Davey Ferree

Hi out there. We know there are lots of people out there thinking about and actually bidding for worldcons. . There's one born every minute!

This column will be devoted to a discussion of bid committee ideas and problems (*WHICH YOU WILL SEND/MAIL/TELL US ..PLEASE?*) We will present your discussion here and see what it generates. We don't promise any solutions, but you may get some interesting feedback. Please write to: Davey Ferree, c/o MCFI, P.O. Box 46, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139.

THE CAUCUS RACE - PART I

MINUTES: Wednesday, October 12, 1983
Hosted by Jim Hudson and Ellen Franklin.

Tony Lewis brought the meeting to order at 8PM and amended the order of business to hold elections first as 18 Committee Members were then present.

Jim Hudson tried to point out his and Tony's differences: "Both white, male, balding, living in the suburbs, Ph.D. from MIT..." and said he agreed with all of both presidential platforms. There being no other nominations, when Rick Katze, Mike DiGenio and Donald Eastlake finished counting ballots, Jim Hudson became the President-elect 10-8.

Dave Anderson hadn't yet arrived so election of Secretary was held. Mark Olson stated he understood something of how George Flynn must have felt last year and decided not to run, feeling offices should rotate. Laurie Mann was nominated and elected Secretary-elect by voice vote.

Dave A. arrived and Allan Kent's platform was read by Ellen Franklin. "Set up and maintained book of accounts as Business Manager for MIT radio station WTBS. Worked on MCFI books. Familiar with bookkeeping, accounting, finance and tax aspects of IRS 501(c)(3) organizations. Have access to several computers if this turns out to be relevant, which I doubt." Dave's platform was similar: "Served as bid treasurer for MCFI for a while, and like Al, have been Business Manager for WTBS and also have access to computers." Linda Kent sent a letter stating she declined to run for reelection as Treasurer. After tabulating votes, Dave A. became Treasurer-elect 11-10.

At the end of elections Tony and Mark engaged in a game of non-musical chairs with Jim and Laurie.

The office of Bid Treasurer was discontinued as the current Treasurer was the former Bid Treasurer and it was decided that the Treasurer could get assistants as needed.

Paula Lieberman agreed to continue as Membership Secretary and stated that approximately 70 presupporting and pre-opposing memberships were sold at Connie. Mark stated that a few became preopposers because they wanted to pay more money.

Suford Lewis agreed to continue on Publicity and think about ad strategies, but felt someone else should take over. When the talk turned to needed badges, someone suggested "epaulets" for committee member party IDs!

Laurie reported on the state of *The Mad 3 Party*. She requested flannish biographies from Friends and planned to continue as editor while she was Secretary.

Suford volunteered - sort of - to become the push behind the Post-Con report. Chip Hitchcock has about 100,000 words for managerial purposes. He would still like write-ups from people regarding incidents like the 6,000 pounds of ice and Harlan's oak desk, etc. Mike and George volunteered to assist Suford, and Mark issued an early warning that Suford should note what happened to the last Post-Con editor!

MCFI's activities at Connie were discussed. MCFI had been thinking about co-sponsoring the performance of an original musical work by Sontow Sucharitkul at Connie, but people coordination problems arose and it was not possible; Chip felt it was still a possibility for 1986. The boat trips in Baltimore Harbor which MCFI co-sponsored had their own problems. The two morning trips went enjoyably off as planned, but the boat broke down while leaving the dock for the first of the two afternoon trips and they had to be cancelled.

The WSFS business meeting at Connie gave first passage to voting site selection three years in advance. Deadline to file will be four years in advance. It was also announced that the WSFS Standing Committee has four MCFI Committee Members and Ben Yalow, who is a Friend.

The issue of the Noreascon I proceedings was finally decided after some debate regarding inflation and the Consumer Price Index. The final motion, which was passed, was to reimburse NESFA (who paid for the creation and printing of the Proceedings) \$3350. In addition to that money J.K. Klein and Don Simpson will each receive \$100 for their contributions to the Proceedings.

The next item was new business. Leslie Turek, chairman, Ellen Franklin, Suford Lewis and Claire Anderson are in charge of the Austin in '85 Art Show. It was decided that they would run the art show under the auspices of MCFI, which meant they wanted

"volunteers." Allan Kent was put in charge of hangings. Don Eastlake wrote a proposal to make Leslie's group a committee of MCFI in charge of the B'Austin Art Show. A separate bank account is to be set up for it in the future - when that needs to be worried about - but otherwise it will be part of MCFI. The proposal was accepted and passed unanimously.

Suford and Greg Thokar were buttonholed for the - what else - Button Committee.

Rick volunteered to liaise with the LA committee about blocking hotel rooms. Jim suggested we might lend some of our rooms to other groups for parties; Tony felt we should rent them out; and Mike decided our best bet was franchising!

Chip (chairman), Mike, Joe Rico, Sharon Sbarsky, Skip Morris, and Deborah Ferree were appointed to the bidding strategy committee and directed to make out a budget and master plan on parties, ads, etc.

After much discussion a committee of Mark (chairman), Rick, Leslie, Tony, Don, Laurie, and Jim Hudson were appointed to bring a concrete proposal to the December business meeting regarding what MCFI perceives as its role in assisting, if possible, Connie's financial situation. Mark, who proposed the motion creating the committee, stated that it would get information from Constellation as required. Both the committee and the motion that "We are, in principle, willing to help" were passed. Meeting adjourned.

New Friends as of 12 October were:

Ben Yalow Gary Feldbaum Jim Gilpatrick
Larry Ruh James Turner Anton Chernoff
Gary Farber Dale Farmer Dawn Plaskon

WHO ARE YOU?

SHARON SBARSKY is one of our newest Committee members. Sharon was introduced to fandom by Hopkins Science Fiction Association (HopSFA). She attended her first con (Boskone XVI) after moving to Boston in 1978. Her second con was Noreascon II, where she kept busy as a gopher. One and a half years and several cons later, she joined NESFA at her first Business Meeting to avoid paying a soon-to-be-higher rate for Subscribing Members. Since then she has worked at Registration and Treasury for Boskones and is Treasurer for Boskone XXII. She planned to "attend" Chicon but ended up working at the Masquerade and Ops,

and got talked into working the Masquerade, Ushering and the Sales Table at Connie.

She is in charge of Speculative Investments for the "Brighton in '89" (Massachusetts, not United Kingdom) Worldcon bid. NESFA activities have included NESFA Film Night, Building Committee and Nominations.

She is also responsible for the NESFA decal and MAPA:NESFA.

Welcome, SHARON.



JIM MANN is our newest Committee Member. Things were much simpler in 1975 when I first joined fandom and the Western Pennsylvania Science Fiction Association. WPSFA (pronounced WOOPSFA) didn't have any clubhouse problems; we met in the upper level of Carnegie-Mellon's grill or, in good weather, on the lawn out front. The Worldcon we were bidding for . . . Pittsburgh in 2100 . . . was years away. A big regional, like Disclave, had 600 people!

Things began to get complicated in 1976 when Laurie, who was also a WPSFA member, dragged me to a Boskone. At that point, I took the fatal plunge; I joined NESFA. After I found out that those crazy Boston people were bidding for a Worldcon much sooner than 2100 . . . 1980 in fact, . . . I volunteered to help throw a bid party or two in the midwest. I became more deeply involved when Laurie wrote to *VOICE OF THE LOBSTER* saying that Noreascon should consider children's programming. Tony's reply was "Fine. Would you like to do it?" "Yes, we'd love to," Laurie responded, and we became co-area heads.

After two years of exile in Southern Ohio we returned to civilization, moving to Boston in 1982. I wasn't working very much at NESFA until, at one Boskone meeting that I didn't attend, it was mentioned that no one wanted to run the Con Suite. Laurie, kind person that she is, volunteered me! I've been busy . . . and, incidentally, having a great time . . . ever since. I was one of two members of the Boskone XXI program who wasn't part of the NESFA Executive Board, and next year I'm running program.

Welcome, JIM.

There are many people who contribute to the success of a bid. A large group of these have been designated *FRIENDS of BOSTON* in '89 and we would like to introduce you to some of them.

GREG THOKAR, while still in college, attended his first convention, the '77 Worldcon in Miami, after having driven 1600 miles. He ended up handing out drink chits at the meet-the-pros party and it's been downhill ever since. His first regional was the '78 Boskone, where he was imprinted with the NESFA work ethic. He subsequently moved to Boston. Since then he has been heavily involved in fandom. He produced several of the NESFA Press Guest of Honor books that have appeared at Boskones and recent Worldcons; ran Boskone art auctions and judging; and worked on numerous regional artshows. At Worldcons he can usually be found roving for Operations, working as a runway manager at Masquerades, and recently as Head Usher at the HoboKon in '80 Worldcon bid (the only clear alternative, all they offer is parties.) His goal in fandom is to see at least one program item per convention!

JOE RICO: My first entry into fandom came in 1978 when I attended Boskone XV. This event occurred due to my reading about Boskone in *Analog's* calendar of upcoming events (blame Tony.) After attending two Boskones I came to the realization that people, not businesses, were putting on these conventions. Therefore, I volunteered to work on Bosklone, my great downfall. This placed me in contact with Gail Hormats who told me about Noreascon II.

I began working on several of the pre-con sessions and also at the con itself. I had a wonderful time and was granted a caricature portrait of myself by Kelly Freas in token of my services. Due to my association with NESFen at the con, I joined NESFA, becoming a regular member 9 months after attending my first business meeting (my fannish gestation.)

My goals in fandom are to have fun and broaden my experience. To accomplish the first goal, I try to meet new people. As to the second, I deliberately choose jobs for which I have no prior training or experience; such as Boskone Treasury which I took on with no prior experience as a bookkeeper or other financial job.

DALE FARMER: Way back when, while on vacation with my family, I saw a girl walking down the sidewalk, who was wearing lots of blue paint, but not much else. I said to myself, "This has possibilities..", followed her and discovered August Party '78, came back the next year and found a Bosklone flyer, went to Bosklone, got shanghaied into working, and then got sucked into the vortex of Noreascon II preparations, which had just gone into high gear. Since then I have been working on Boskone and Worldcon staffs. My hobbies include work, looking for a better job, and pre-med.

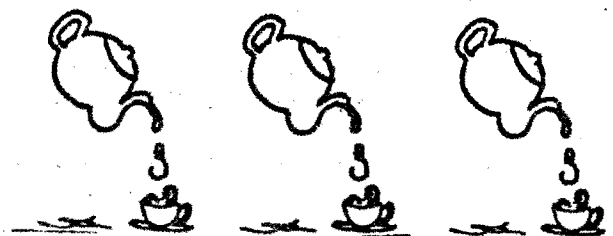
ANTON CHERNOFF: Introduced to fandom at Boskone XVI by NESFA members who, amazingly, are still friends. Worked at Boskones XVI, XVIII and XIX in various capacities, mostly Logistics and Chairman's staff. At Noreascon II was Logistics shift supervisor.

Finally cracked completely and ran Operations at Boskone XX. As proof of incurable madness, did Operations again at Boskone XXI

Outside of Boston, was Operations staff at ConStellation, will be on staff for programming at Disclave 1984, and working Registration at LACon.

Secret Fantasy: to attend a con some day to see what its like outside an office!

SUSAN HAMMOND's (AKA the Cookie Monster) first contact with fandom came at Boskone XIX where she showed up on Thursday to "help out" and ended up spending the weekend under the tutelage of Rick Katze, People Mover; this gave her great insight into volunteering (and being volunteered!) and she's been at it every since. As the Cookie Monster, she provides appropriate "punnish" cookies to various NESFA functions. (One of the first batches was "stuffed shirts" for a NESFA Business Meeting.) She also made the NESFA banner. (EDITOR'S NOTE: This was in cloth, not cookie dough!) She seems to have a talent for getting munged about during conventions, but still prefers them to mundanity.



ALEXIS LAYTON was so mad he missed Noreascon II that he decided there should be another one! Alex was introduced to convention fandom in 1975 but didn't become really active in it until 1981, when Leslie Turek and Donald Eastlake, with whom he works, impressed him into service. Alexis is a regular member of NESFA and has survived working in the same office as Chip Hitchcock at the Computer Corporation of America. He was constantly frustrated by the previous editor of *TM3P* when trying to teach her EMACS.

BOB KNOWLDEN: I've been loosely involved in fandom for about ten years (my first con was Torcon II in 1973.)

I consider myself to be less of a fan than a professional in the field of science fiction and fantasy (I specialize in the types practiced by the US Department of Defense.)

My chief ambition in fandom is to remain as widely unknown as possible.



THE CAUCUS RACE - PART II

MINUTES: Monday, December 12, 1983
Hosted by Jill and Don Eastlake.

Jim Hudson brought the meeting to order after 8PM.

Treasury report was skipped, as Dave A's car broke down and he couldn't make it.

Jim requested that Jim Turner have an Audible Fantasy report (Amherst group recording for the blind) in the next *APA:89* since he wasn't able to attend the meeting.

The subcommittee on the Constellation financial difficulties (SCB&R) made its report and it was discussed in great

detail. It was noted that BSFS voted \$1,000 to the debt and that the club in Louisville gave \$100. At the end of the discussion MCFI voted to assist with \$10,000, but the manner of the assistance was sent back to committee.

Noreascon trade marks and service marks were discussed. Don (chair), passed on the information that the attorney, who is also looking into the WSFS trade and service marks, wants 5 physical objects to look at. The service mark committee won unanimous approval to "do the right thing by Noreascon."

Laurie reported that she still needed fannish biographies from Friends, was hoping to include some news from other bids, and wanted LOCs to include, as well as the business meeting minutes, in the next *Nad 3 Party* issue.

Leslie presented the tentative budget for the B'Austin Art Show. Many problems having to do with space and cost have yet to be resolved. Austin has contacted LA regarding more hangings. Various ways to get hangings to Austin were suggested. One note which drew applause was Austin's statement that the convention center would be air-conditioned!

Suford would like 5 extra hours a day! The Post-con report still needs special interest notes - the ice and Harlan's Desk, for example - editing of existing material, and someone to hound people for reports; Mike stated that people rarely refused him. The cover will be full-color and there will be no ads.

A motion by Laurie to give the Science Museum some money to support their science and computer education projects died. It was the consensus that MCFI's charter was for the support of science fiction rather than science alone.

Rick requested that people let him know where they wanted to be blocked so he could let Craig Miller know.

Greg announced that Suford had turned out 5 different button designs and that he needed to borrow NESFA's buttonmaker to make some more. It was agreed that as long as MCFI paid for button parts that MCFI was a good risk to use NESFA's buttonmaker.

The bidding strategy committee presented a short report regarding parties, then other ideas were brought up for consideration. Mark announced that the "3" stickers would need reprinting in the near future.

Laurie was given a \$40 budget to mimeo the next *Nad 3 Party* issue.

A charter flight to LACon was discussed. Sharon Sbarsky volunteered to look into it. This made Sharon a joint MCFI-NESFA committee and it appeared that Jim and Jill (NESFA's President) are looking into joint MCFI-NESFA agreements (treaties?!).

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 PM.

New Friends as of 12 December were:

Sue Hammond Bob Knowlden

HOW DOTH THE LITTLE CROCODILE . .

By Tony Lewis

The most noticeable difference between the programs at Noreascons I and II is just the sheer size of the latter. Noreascon I had basically one main track, a partial subsidiary track, a film program and a smaller subsidiary program — "The Wheel".

The main program was divided into three components — the interaction between man and his universe(s), *TERRAFORMING THE EARTH*; the interactions between man and intelligence(s), *MAN-MADE MAN*; and a look at the intrinsics of science fiction, *SF, THE WRITING ON THE WALL — PROPHECY OR GRAFITTI?* The main program had 13 items spaced over the four days of the convention; this was supplemented by 7 or 8 other items and major discussion groups. I believe Noreascon I was the first major con to feature significant academic programming sponsored by the then newly-formed SFRA. We heard scientific talks on artificial intelligence (Seymour Pappert), genetic engineering (Jerry Lettvin), orbiting power satellites (Peter Glaser), weather modification (Wallace Howell), and delphic methods (Sidney Feinleib) as well as the usual SF and fannish items. Formats included panels, talks, dialogs, and a formal debate as well as films followed by discussions. Main film program ran 35+ hours; the secondary film program cycled throughout most of the daylight hours of the convention with the less than marvelous films and shorts. Green rooms were not known at SF cons then.

Although the attendance at Noreascon II was only about 4 times that of Noreascon I the program items were up by a factor of almost 8. There were about 3-1/2 main

tracks of programming plus the specials, not to mention the special interest groups, the fan bowl, the children's programming, author readings, autograph sessions, two film tracks, and a video track. As before, the scientific, academic, and fannish program items were integrated in with the SF ones; room assignments were made upon our expectations of audience size and not upon the category (we did guess wrong some times). One of the major problems was the physical separation of the rooms — close to two miles at the extremes and the narrow isthmus between the Sheraton and the Hynes. Still it seemed to work; we learned a lot about Green rooms (they will be used as participant lounges no matter what, so prepare for it. Keep the administrative areas very separate from the program participant areas, etc.). You have seen the results of these learning experiences in recent Boskones. Pamper the participants — they are working very hard for nothing; it is easy to forget just how much work it takes to be on a program item; it is easy to remember how much work it takes to put it on.

There were over 100 program items with over 300 participants — more people on the program than attended 12 of the Worldcons!! They ranged in longevity from Raymond Z. Gallun to the latest neo-pro; they came from the canonical SF community, children's fantasy, academe, the scientific world, and fandom. We had panels, talks, plays, dialogs. The special interest groups provided space for regional clubs, topical clubs, etc. whilst discussion groups allowed people with similar interests to meet and talk. This latter structure has become more and more necessary at a convention where a reasonable fraction of a myriad are in attendance, many of whom know almost no one.

Children's programming (carried into Boskones as Dragonslair) arose to meet a need almost unknown in the early days of fandom — a plethora of under-12s. Although not completely successful at Noreascon II, the lessons learned have been fined at later regionals and are now running smoothly.

One obvious item not extant at Noreascon I to any large degree, was programming conflicts; this became a major concern at Noreascon II. Tune in next time for a bit of detail about the planning and implementation process.

THE CAUCUS RACE - PART III

MINUTES: Monday, March 19, 1984
Hosted by Jill and Don Eastlake.

The meeting was called to order about 9 PM by Rick Katze, who had volunteered to be presiding officer for the evening as Jim wanted to get more people involved in chairing meetings.

Paula announced she collected memberships at Lunacon.

Mark had a few words to say about the Lunacon hotel's lack of blocking - we were put on a quiet floor across from a group of college basketball players who were in a tournament. Party runners were stationed in the hall to keep attendees quiet. The high point of this, according to George, came at midnight when a hotel employee ran a vacuum cleaner in the hall!

There was also mention of a blender and avocados. (See Claire Anderson's column for further details.)

Chip Hitchcock announced that the "Chocolate from Boston in '89" at Boskone was well received.

Leslie Turek, Willie Siros and others had a midnight B'Austin Art Show meeting at Boskone to discuss hangings, etc. It is now official that MCFI is running the Austin in '85 art show. Willie felt the tentative budget was too high.

A short discussion by the SC&R committee regarding Connie's problems only decided that further information was needed from Connie. (See MCFI's letter to various fan groups, printed elsewhere in this issue.)

The Post-con report was put on temporary hold as both Tony and Suford were ill.

Sharon announced the charter prices for the Boston-to-LA flight and passed around another sign-up sheet.

Jim Turner requested the Audible Fantasy contract from Rick, who felt it was okay but wanted more time to examine it.

Jim Hudson directed Dave A. to give Jim T. the \$500 no-strings grant MCFI had previously agreed to, so Audible Fantasy could start getting their badly needed equipment replacements.

Laurie reported that being employed full-time, as well as being wife and mother, plays havoc with one's free time - it evaporates! She requested that the editorship of *The Mad 3 Party* be rotated. Davey Ferree and Bill Perkins volunteered to help with *The Mad 3 Party* and Pat Vandenberg volunteered to become editor.

Buttons came in under budget with five different styles. The committee button was a Cheshire cat; Dave Cantor thought it would be handy to have a committee that can disappear when it wants to!



MCFI donated \$500 to WSFS to assist Don Eastlake in getting the WSFS service marks patented. They are presently having trouble with "Science Fiction Achievement Awards" as the attorney feels this is too generic. At LACon Don intends to present a motion to start a permanent source of funding for the WSFS service marks.

Rick spoke to Craig Miller about the LACon hotel reservations. It appears the hotel is setting up a special computer system for their hotel reservations this summer. Jim requested a hotel floor plan so MCFI can get a better idea of where its blocking should be done - this hotel is humongous!

Jim reported that treaties between NESFA and MCFI are in the negotiating stages. The main areas of discussion are minimizing costs and maximizing resources. The membership decided to apply for NESFA "favored nation status."

How much and what types of stationery needed were discussed. Greg volunteered to recreate the mechanicals and look into getting an address stamp. The number and type of flyers needed and where they should go was also discussed.

LA has expressed interest in holding a seminar similar to the one held at Boskone regarding 2-year versus 3-year rotation.

The where, when and size of program book and PR ads was discussed, as were parties and various odds and ends before the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is May 16, 1984 in Anton's cellar.

New Committee Member as of 19 March was:

Sharon Sharsky

New Committee Member as of 18 April was:

Jim Mann

New Friends as of 19 March were:

John Mitchell	Jim Mann	Rich Ferree
Brigid Cassidy	Mark Norton	Steve Koon
Steve Whitmore	John Houghton	Kris Brown

LETTER TO FANDOM FROM MCFI

Gentlemen:

As you are well aware, ConStellation, the 41st World Science Fiction Convention, is bankrupt in the sense that its debts vastly exceed its assets even after a reasonable allowance is made for (1) some of the debts being exaggerated and unenforceable against ConStellation and (2) expected income by ConStellation over the foreseeable future. It is now SEVEN months since the Baltimore Worldcon and their Creditors, particularly the larger ones, are getting extremely anxious.

ConStellation has had an opportunity to raise funds. It has made a respectable showing and can probably, on a continuing basis, raise additional money. However, now is the time others MUST act if a formal legal bankruptcy of ConStellation is to be avoided.

We are writing to request your financial cooperation in such an effort.

Why should formal bankruptcy be avoided? (1) In a formal bankruptcy, the date of bankruptcy would likely be established as being during ConStellation or possibly even earlier. All funds paid out after that date could be subject to an attempt to recapture them for general distribution to the creditors. For example, this could include monies paid to artists by the ConStellation Art Show and have other severe repercussions. (2) No World-Con has formally gone bankrupt before and it would, of necessity, have negative effects on the dealings of future World-Cons and bidding committees with hotels, decorators, and other service suppliers. (3) At least one of ConStellation's major creditors, their printer, is generally acknowledged to have been a "good guy" who went out of his way in providing services to help a Worldcon, did not ask for much payment in advance, has cooperated in ConStellation's efforts to stretch out its repayments, and is now hurting because of ConStellation's financial situation.

The only advantage we have heard advanced for formal bankruptcy is that it might act as a lesson to others. We feel that, within fandom, any lessons are more likely to be learned either via informal personal channels or by formal inclusion in the WSFS Constitution. We believe that the negative consequences of formal bankruptcy far outweigh any positives.

Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc., (MCFI) has adopted a strategy to deal with this situation. This strategy comes from examining a series of goals listed below in order of decreasing desirability:

1. Pay off all legitimate debts in full.
2. Settle all legitimate debts, mostly with payments of X cents on the dollar.
3. Pay off enough legitimate debts, by purchasing the debts from the original creditors for X cents on the dollar, that we become the majority or dominant creditor. This would give us significant control over any formal bankruptcy and the fact of such control might itself discourage the initiation of any formal bankruptcy. Those creditors that appear more worthy could be given priority.
4. Pay off a lesser amount of the legitimate ConStellation debts by purchasing the debts from the original creditors for X cents on the dollar. This would give us some voice in any formal bankruptcy proceedings and could be done so as to help out those creditors that appear to be more worthy.

(An additional advantage to becoming a creditor of ConStellation is that, if there is a formal bankruptcy, we would share in any payout and such monies paid out to us could be used, for example, to further pay particular creditors.)

At the present time we have the \$10,000 committed by MCFI at our disposal. There is reason to believe, from those experienced in these matters, that most creditors, including the larger ones, would settle for some amount between 50% and 75% of the debt they

LETTER TO FANDOM FROM MCFI (continued)

are asserting. At this time, the three big creditors (the printer, the decorator, and the Diamond Vision supplier) are asserting a total of roughly \$36,000 and there are in excess of \$4,000 from many smaller creditors. After making allowance for ConStellation's remaining assets, we estimate that the total shortfall is in the close neighborhood of \$33,000. Thus the \$10,000 available would likely fall short of achieving goal 3 above. If we attempt to pay off the printer and/or some smaller worthy creditors with a higher percentage of their debt, it will definitely fall short of goal 3.

We are writing to Denvention II, Chicon IV, LACon II, Aussiecon '85, and ChiliCon, plus a number of other fan organizations, to request commitments to support our effort. We understand that the financial situations of these conventions differ radically. In some cases a few hundred dollars might represent a major fraction of available funds. Others may be able to afford thousands. If we can increase the funds available to (at least) \$15,000, then it seems likely that we can achieve goal 3 above. If we can increase the funds available to \$20,000, then there is a good chance of achieving goal 2.

If we receive funds or a binding commitment from you, we would list you among the organizations we represent in our letter to creditors, unless you requested that we not. This list will be in order of decreasing financial contribution. Any debts that are purchased with funds you provide can be transferred to you, if you would prefer to be legally in the position of a creditor to ConStellation so that you would have a voice in any formal bankruptcy proceedings, or left with MCFI if you prefer. If, as expected, not all debts are purchased at the same discount, we would use MCFI funds for the least discounted debts and non-MCFI funds for the most discounted or leveraged debt purchases. Thus you might end up with a disproportionately large voice in any formal bankruptcy proceedings. If we differentiate between non-MCFI fund sources, we

would favor those making the largest financial contribution.

Donations from private individuals would also be welcome, and would be tax-deductible as both MCFI and ConStellation are 501(c)(3) organizations.

As far as the management of the process we propose and negotiations, if any, with creditors, we feel that the formal involvement of other organizations would be too cumbersome to be workable. However, we would be willing to copy significant contributors on correspondence and consult verbally if the contributor is available before significant changes in or negotiating position.

Time is of the essence in this situation. We ask that you provide SOME feedback to us, if only a statement of when you can arrange a meeting of your organization to decide, as soon as possible. We feel that every effort must be made to pin down, by 25 May 1984, what funds are available so that offers can be extended to the major ConStellation creditors.

We await your reply,

Sincerely yours,
LESLIE TUREK, MCFI

The following organizations have been sent the above letter:

File 770	Lunarians
Locus Pubs	Philadelphia SF Society
SF Chronicle	BSFS, Inc.
Denvention II	Paracon II
Chicon	Disclave
LACon	WACO
Aussiecon II	Southern Fandom
Chilicon	Confederation
Philly in '86	Minnesota SF Society
Worldcon Atlanta	Denver Area SF Assoc.
Inc.	LASFS, Inc.
NY in '86	Central Arizona Speculative
ASFA	Fiction Society
SFWA	North West SF Society
DAW Books	Starblaze Graphics
Del Rey Books	Lucasfilms

OF CABBAGES AND KINGS
by Claire Anderson

LUNACON — March 16-18, 1984, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ. Among the 1400 attendees at Lunacon were two dozen Boston-area fans recovering from Boskone including Dave & Claire Anderson, Anton Chernoff, George Flynn, Chip Hitchcock, Rick Katze, Ken Knabbe, Alex Layton, Paula Lieberman, J. Spencer Love, Jim Mann, Skip Morris, Mark Olson, Bill Perkins, Priscilla Pollner, Sharon Sbarsky, Debra Spencer, and Greg Thokar. Naturally, some of these people worked — for Lunacon at Registration, Art Show, etc.; for Boskone XXII, talking to artists, authors, and editors; for Boston in '89 on the Saturday night party. Others managed to relax and enjoy the usual good program that is a Lunacon hallmark. Some were actually observed reading the pocket program which measured only 2" by 3" (in contrast to the Boskone pocket program on 3 sheets of ledger-sized paper).

The most heavily attended program item was, of course, the Sunday afternoon book raffle for which Seth Breidbart purchased 1500 of the 3700 tickets sold. The Master of Ceremonies, Craig Miller, encouraged the audience's enthusiastic chanting of "Kill Seth!" each time Seth won (9 times out of 20). Rick won twice and Sharon once. The raffle ended with Seth being sprayed with seltzer.

The Boston in '89 Party turned out to be quieter than expected as one of the sports teams was on the same floor. The committee tried to find replacement facilities but the alternatives would have impacted on other activities or displaced fans. The party was held, but quietly, with Boston people out in the halls ensuring a low noise level (which was disrupted at midnight when the hotel sent someone up to vacuum the corridor!)

Something green had to be served at the party, and this year it was guacamole made from 8 unripe avocados Priscilla brought to the con. After much chopping, pounding, mashing and cursing by various martyrs, Priscilla remembered she had her blender in her car. (She usually doesn't bring her blender to cons, but this time she was transferring items to various Bostonians to take North as she was soon to begin a new job in Massachusetts.)

The blender helped to both puree the avocados and spread them about the bathroom when the top came off the machine. Almost no one dared to eat the resulting "weird green stuff" which was successfully snuck into and abandoned at another party by the NESFA Clerk. However, we got a chance to talk at length with people at the party. Someone who saw Dave Anderson's cheshire cat committee button told him "It's nice to have a committee that can disappear when it wants to."

There were lots of other parties to attend, and on Sunday after the con, a local Japanese restaurant was so filled with fans it almost seemed to be a party room.

BALTICON 18 — April 20-22, 1984, Hvatt Regency, Baltimore. The next regional in a city that has hosted the worldcon the previous Labor Day is usually smaller and more subdued as local area fans are still recuperating from the effects of the worldcon. This was true of Boskone XVIII after Noreascon II and also was the case for this year's Balticon held 6 months after ConStellation. The registration limit of 2001 encouraged 1500 preregistrations; actual attendance was about 2000 and included Boston-area fans George Flynn, Fred Isaacs, Rick Katze, Jim Mann, Mark Olson, and Leslie Turek. Some of these people participated in the Connie Bail-Out meeting from which Leslie's letter resulted (*EDITOR'S NOTE: See MCFI's Letter to fandom elsewhere in this issue.*) The hotel's stringent corkage rules precluded the holding of a Boston in '89 party this year.

Christopher Rowley's *The War for Eternity* won the Compton Crook Award. In his acceptance speech, the author, who had never before attended a con, acknowledged that living in the East Village had accustomed him to strange people. There was a noticeable shortage of big-name artists in the Art Show but there was a good range of quality; sales were about \$12,500. The masquerade as usual was a highpoint of the con and ran until after midnight. Balticon is to be congratulated for its attractive program book.



TURTLE SOUP

Gentlepeople:

I'm enclosing \$6 for a couple year's issues of the *Mad Three Party*.

I note from your logo that you are distributing copies to various Worldcon committees; would you be willing to send several copies to Australia? I've been agenting for them before the bid and though Fred Patten will be handling money (a good idea!) I'm still working as one of their agents - more human interface than anything else-i.e., whatever is necessary. Anyway, I've been involved in their debates and they have things to say and specific questions they need answered, and one copy (due to procrastination and pass-around problems) wouldn't likely be enough. I'd suggest:

John Foyster - Chair, Programming

David Grigg - Computers, etc.

Peter Darling - Secretary

Christine and

Derrick Ashby - Treasury

Carey Handfield - Operations

plus one for the other seven in Melbourne to work with. Their finances are really tight, but they might spring for a subscription or two.

I expect I'm going to bring in some of their concerns. As a start, I'm curious to hear talk about:

The \$40 membership fee for Aussiecon II.

Do people feel this is out of line?

Do/will hucksters want help shipping to Melbourne or will they not go?

What sort of art show should there be and who will bring/take?

Peace,

JOYCE K. SCRIVNER

2732 - 14th Ave. S., Lower
Minneapolis, Mn 55407

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Our policy is one free copy to each bid or Worldcon Committee. All others must be purchased. If you should be getting one and aren't, please let us know.

FACT, Inc.
P.O. Box 9612
Austin, Tx 78766

Oh, hi there.

Thanks for the copy of *The Mad 3 Party*. We'll be certain to make mention of the news in *The Texas SF Inquirer* and we'll also spread the word around about the bid.

Here's some news about the NASFiC. We've decided to drop the idea of the corresponding memberships and will have the usual supporting memberships instead. A supporting membership will always be \$15 and can be converted at any time to an attending membership by paying the difference. We're making this change due to the large number of fans who hope to go to Australia, but if they can't would still like to attend the NASFiC without paying a full "at the door" fee. While we had hoped to simplify our membership records by using corresponding memberships, we've found that the bookkeeping won't be that much of a problem and it will certainly allow a larger number of fans to make plans for the NASFiC. Basically, it boils down to this - the corresponding membership idea will probably work quite well for a Worldcon, but not for a NASFiC trying to optimize its attendance.

We certainly have no plans to limit membership, and in fact, we will be very active in soliciting memberships. Currently, (14 November, 1983) we have 703 memberships.

Not much happening down here in Texas. We're involved with the usual work of getting folks together for the committee in various positions and departments, and trying to keep from stepping on anyone's feelings. So it goes.

We certainly are looking forward to Boskone. We hope to bring a number of Texans to the convention so we can expose more folks to the NESFA way of running cons, the right way.

If you folks have any questions or need anything, please let us know. We'd be more than happy to help out. See you soon.

All my best,

ROBERT R. TAYLOR

for the Committee
and the usual gang of idiots

P.S. A special howdy to Jim and Laurie.
Thanks again for all the help and support.



SHORT RAUCOUS NOTES. .

This being the work of your (usually) friendly editor.

WOULD OUR LONG-DISTANCE FRIENDS PLEASE SEND US BIOGRAPHIES!!!! (Consider this a long distance shout.)

Regarding the October 12th MINUTES. For those of you who don't know; the editor of the Noreascon I Proceedings was Leslie Turek, Chairman of Noreascon II.

As noted in the minutes, one of the reasons Laurie became past-editor was because she now has a full-time (mundane) job.

Another MCFI Committee Member, George Flynn, has gone and done it too - George is now a full-time member of the mundane workforce; Is this contagious?

As the title may hint, we LOVE getting letters. We will print anything we are not told we can't - or won't be arrested for. We enjoy hearing what you think about fandom or conventions, or what's happening in your part of the world, so PLEASE WRITE!

Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc.
Box 46
MIT Branch PO
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139