

The Mad 3 Party

Supers

March 31, 1985

Volume II, No. 1

Well, we have finally made it! We've started our second volume. I feel like I am back in school and managed to progress from Freshman to Sophomore!

We've had a few positive verbal inputs and I consider our increased readership - many new subscriptions - a positive comment, but I'd really like to get more letters like those from Barbara Cormack, Kathryn Smith, and John Cleary III (see TURTLE SOUP.) We really like to hear from YOU. Your specific comments on articles you like, don't like, would like to see, would be greatly appreciated. As part of our efforts to get YOU to write US, in this issue we are announcing a special event (see SHORT RAUCUS NOTES for further information.)

The bulk of this issue, however, is devoted to the hows and whys of developing the symbols and paraphenalia we are using to identify our bid. Rick Katze, (WHY GREEN?) Suford Lewis, (WHY A CAT?) and Claire Anderson, (IT'S ALL DEBBY'S FAULT) have written interesting and amusing articles on the trials and tribulations incurred in the decisions and development of some of this paraphenalia.

To help keep you mentally active, and frustrated, this issue also includes the second of Priscilla Pollner's puzzles - "THREESOMES"; Why IS a Raven. Like a Writing Desk?.

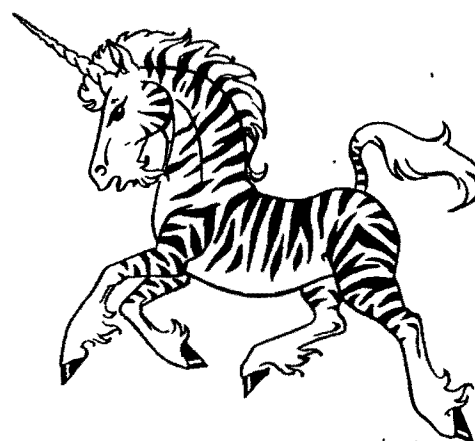
Also, my thanks to Mark Olson for sharing his special (MY FIRST CONVENTION) remembrances; there definitely were advantages to small conventions.

Of our usual articles, only THE CAUCUS RACE - PARTS I & II, the summary of our latest meeting minutes, are included. Most of the MAD3 staff are recouping their energies from Boskone XXIII and planning intriguing articles for our next issue. Enjoy.

TN3P will appear for the duration of the bid. Subscriptions are presently available at \$3.00 for four issues. Newszines and Worldcon bidders/committees will receive one copy of all issues free. All correspondence and requests for subscriptions (please make checks payable to Boston in '89) should be sent to: Boston in '89, TN3P, Box 46, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139.

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THE CAUCUS RACE - PART I

MINUTES: Wednesday, November 28, 1984
at St. Eulalia's Church, Winchester, Mass.

Rick Katze called the meeting to order at 8:35 pm in a semi-whisper. There were cheers and applause when he announced that he couldn't yell.

Mark Olson reported that two more donations to the Connie Creditors' Bailout were received; one for \$1,000 from WSFA (Washington Science Fiction Association) and one for \$10,000 from SCIFI (LACon 2). The Portland Westercon also offered a donation when they close their books, possibly in mid-December. The offered donation of \$5,000 from Chicon had still not arrived. When all donations are received, Mark stated we should be able to distribute approximately 78¢ on the dollar to every Connie creditor. This includes Hour Printer, who had not yet sent in his assignment of debt. Rick was to send him a final letter, if he did not respond, all other creditors would be paid 100% and Hour Printer would receive what was left - approximately \$1000. The SCB&R Committee is still planning to go out of business as soon as all distributions have been made.

Rick announced that he had appointed Joe Rico to be the NASFIC liaison and that he was looking for a volunteer to liase with Confederation. Joe asked everyone going to the NASFIC to sign his block sheet.

Sue Hammond stated that the Annual Report had been filed with the Secretary of State's office, so we exist. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of printing the APA and its distribution. The consensus was for Sue to do whatever is cheaper.

Allan Kent urged everyone to pay their assessments as shown in his report in the APA. In discussing the allocation of party expenses, it was noted by George Flynn that we needed a chocolate controller, as this is bought in bulk and distributed to the party directors as needed. Rick immediately appointed George.

Leslie Turek announced that flyers had been mailed to various cons. Sharon Sbarsky stated that ads were sent to Aussiecon 2 for PR3 and to Confederation for PR1. Suford Lewis was added to the Advertising Committee when she commented that one of the Philly people had said they were really surprised at all the social activity in Boston fandom and suggested we publicize some of the things we do to let people know we are

friendly and not just a lot of data pushers.

Mark gave the Strategy Committee's final report. One item everyone wanted emphasized was that people passing out "3" stickers are to ASK the recipient if they want one, not force the stickers on them. Since no one voted when Mark moved to dissolve the committee, Rick, as chairman, had to make the decision. Doing this in a scientific fashion (he flipped a coin) he declared the committee dissolved and Mark appointed to the Timeline and Philosophy Committee. Mark noted that the chairman had flipped out over the motion!

Rick's suggestion that we print more T-shirts was met with unanimous approval.

Suford circulated a printout of the text of the Noreascon II Memory Book. She requested a few people come help her pick out pictures from the slides and proofs she had and that others find her some of the reviews done on Noreascon II in the various fan and professional zines. Discussion of deadlines ensued, and George was heard to comment: "My gosh, this may actually happen!" Since many of the reviews were too long to appear in the Memory Book in their entirety, Paula Lieberman suggested putting some of them in *TM3P*. (*Your editor is looking into this.*)

Pat Vandenberg reported that Timeline and Philosophy had had a meeting and a report would appear in the next APA. She suggested that discussion regarding GoH selection - how, not who - start happening off-line. Rick asked everyone to start writing about GoH selection for the APA.

Sharon read a humorous letter from Gene Wolfe to *Locus* regarding the MCFI costume presentation picture which had appeared in the previous issue. She also called Drew's answering machine direct to find out about the costume award certificates which had not yet arrived.

Pat announced that there would be a *TM3P* staff and friends meeting on December 3rd to discuss the 4th 1984 and all 1985 issues of *MAD3*. She urged all interested people to attend. Also, since the next issue would be the end of some subscriptions, Bill Perkins was creating subscription renewal notices which would be attached to final subscription issues.

Greg Thokar stated that he would be setting up a work session, sometime in the future, to make more buttons.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:01 pm.

WHY GREEN?

by Rick Katze

Selecting a color for a bid T-shirt should not be left to democratic procedures. There is no telling what a mob would decide. Also, after choosing a color based on a Boskone Chairman's preference - and spending many weeks in reworking the design to fit the color - I came to the conclusion that the shirt color should be selected (most times) to fit the existing design. The color should also be easily recognizable, not usually chosen by other conventions or on T-shirts in general, and yet should be a standard color which can be reordered during a potential five-year period without fear that it will be withdrawn or changed. You also, if possible, want to pick a color which is related to your part of the country or city. In our case, Boston is identified with kelly green. All of these factors effectively limit your choice.

After considering everything, I made the choice based upon the most important factor; to wit, I liked green.

Before there was a recognizable bid, there had been much talk about another Noreascon after 1980. Don Eastlake had gone so far as to reserve the Hynes for 1989 before Noreascon II had ended. Wanting to see if there was really a groundswell to do it again, a group of people (I refuse to mention specific names) were engaged in idle conversation one evening and, noting that Noreascon I and II were held in 1971 and 1980 respectively, formulated the equation "Boston in $1962 + 9n$ " (where "n" currently equals 3) to express the possibility of holding a Boston worldcon every 9 years. I took some orders that evening. Chip Hitchcock did the typesetting in "shooting star", the Noreascon II typeface, and things progressed from there. (In writing this part of it, the old saying "Idle hands are the devil's playground" comes to mind!) The shirts were sold to people while denying any official bid. My "I'm not tossing a bid party" parties happened at a few conventions and the bid finally coalesced. The official bid shirt took a lot longer to develop. My role has always been "producer" and except for the fact that many nice people did much of it, I would have had nothing to produce.

We wanted something simple and yet identifiable. After deciding to use the *Alice in Wonderland* motif in our bid, we looked at the Mad Hatter and his hat, but couldn't



produce an appropriate design. Then someone suggested the cheshire cat. After several weeks of preparation, we had the concept which Mike Moyle was able to draw. The long hours that Suford Lewis worked to prepare the concept for Mike will always be appreciated.

Once we had the cat, we had to decide what to put with it. The "Boston in 1989", which was originally going to encircle the cat, was put on the back of the shirt as was the "N=3", which was shortened to just "3" because it was simpler and yet clearly expressive of what we wanted to say.

Knowing that the bid was identifiable with green and that the new bid shirt would also be green, I followed democratic norms in letting people discuss different colors for the shirt. No one even came close to finding an argument to change the color.

We presented the new bid T-shirt at Boskone XXIII. Sales indicate you agree with us that the color and design work well together.

Finally, for those of you who have noted that the Worldcon rotation may change, thereby making our 9n equation obsolete, have no fear. In conjunction with many other people, this writer is valiantly preparing a reformulation of the equation so that it will always be valid. After all, worldcons are just like peanuts; bet you can't "run" just one!

WHY A CAT?

by Suford Lewis

I guess design is one of my things. The logo of this newsletter is my design, and I did the designs on all the buttons for the bid: Committee, Pre-Supporter, Pre-Opporter (you get to decide whether you are represented by the beamish boy or the Jabberwock), and Helper. Yes, I know they look just like the Tenniel illos, I even kept his signature on them, but compare them side by side with the versions in the books and you'll see the differences. I helped with the new "3" stickers too. You would not believe how much aesthetic debate can ensue on the size and positioning of type!

I have a definite taste in artists and a definite philosophy about what symbols should do and be relative to the thing symbolized. I managed the creation of the Noreascon I symbol: the cat and the dragon. I asked Don Simpson, my favorite artist, to draw it. Don does the best, most sympatico, warm, furry creatures. Anyone can tell that the two creatures in the Noreascon I logo are at least as close as, say, John Steed and Mrs. Peel.

I have done a bunch of stuff for NESFA too. Don Eastlake and I were the major contributors to the NESFA shield; I did the patch (I'm afraid they are sold out now) and the stickers. I drew and produced the first series of NESFA "bonds" (multicolor ditto) which were issued to help buy the Strauss Index. Anyway, when MCFI began to talk about a new T-shirt design, I was immediately interested.

Most T-shirt designs are merely amusing or interesting, or possibly pretty, especially if they are only single color designs. They are not usually visually striking and don't usually have dramatic impact. There is a series of astronomicals (Moon, Mars, Jupiter) that is striking, but they are multicolor. Sure, we could sell any design to fen who already support the bid, but I wanted a design that random neos (and even mundanes) would react to with: "Hey! Neat shirt! Where can I get one?" without caring what it was about; they'd find out soon enough. Besides, there was already an example of grabby graphics on the LACon 2 T-shirt. The LACon rat is a great logo: simple, striking, and easily associated with the bid it symbolized. I wanted ours to be at least that good.

My criteria for good design were:

- 1) Large areas of black and white (as opposed to the usual line drawing), for drama and vividness;
- 2) Sharp edges; no shading, cross-hatching or fiddley details to blur the figure at 20 paces;
- 3) Simple enough to portray on a roughly circular area six to eight inches in diameter (T-shirt size) and still be big enough to recognize;
- 4) Not merely recognizable, but OBVIOUS;
- 5) Appropriate for the bid.

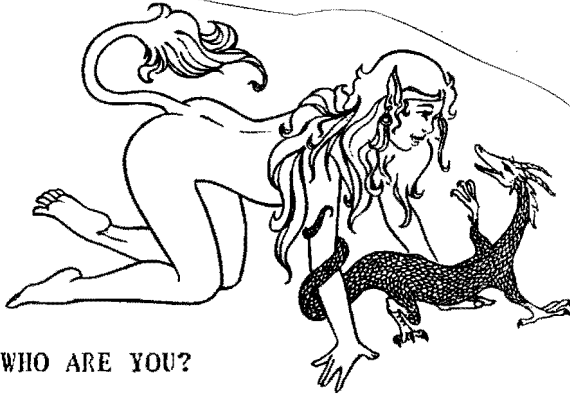
Though we had decided to use the *Alice in Wonderland* theme in our bid (particularly the Mad Tea Party), it was not clear which, if any, Alice character we wanted as our main identifier. I tried Alice, the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter, the Mad Hatter's hat; there were lots of good ideas that didn't work. Most of the ideas had the difficulty that, if they were rendered in solid areas of black and white, they were hard to recognize. They needed more differentiation. Finally, I came up with a preliminary sketch based on Disney's interpretation of the Cheshire Cat. VIOLA! We were getting close. However, I wanted the cat to be less cartoony - more like a real cat.

Oh, yes, there was one more thing which is only partly covered by criterion 5; we had to like it. As to how I accomplished that, I can only say that I made sure I liked it, and was lucky.

Now we come to the difference between an artist and a designer. Sometimes I am a good enough artist to do my own designs, and sometimes I am not. I had a sketch rather close to the T-shirt design, but noticeably busier and less "alive" looking. I knew I needed a real artist. This time, also, I needed a geographically proximate artist, so I couldn't ask Don Simpson; in spite of my regard for the gentleman, he resides in Albany, California. I glommed onto Mike Moyle, a local artist who looks rather like a sympatico, warm, furry creature. He was very tolerant of being told in excruciating detail just what I wanted, and of having his first 3 sketches exhaustively critiqued. He did a wonderful job - as I am sure everyone agrees.

WHY A CAT? (continued)

It is a measure of his charity to bitchy ladies (who can't draw themselves but want to make all the aesthetic judgements) that Mike, after doing the Cheshire Cat, not only is still speaking to me, but also produced (and in record time too) the art and lettering for the NESFA Lunar Realty Trust certificates; the only SF art that pays interest. No collector should be without one.



WHO ARE YOU?

*Michael Moyle is a brilliantly gifted young
As testate from his chosen career of
travelling around the world fighting wrongs
and
After heading up the Manhattan Vets*

Mike Moyle is an illustrator and graphic artist who, besides doing technical illustrations for a great metropolitan computer company, creates advertising, promotional, and medical artwork.

In what he laughingly refers to as his spare time, he creates science fiction and fantasy artwork for private collectors and convention artshows.

Mr. Moyle is survived by a daughter who is the cutest child in the world.



THE BOSTON IN 1989 VANITY PLATE:

It's All Debbie's Fault

by Claire Anderson

Last summer Debbie King decided she wanted a vanity plate for her car. Her sister and brother-in-law, Susan and Bill Cimbrello, who operate Sign Press in Waterbury, Conn., made 3 plates for Debbie featuring a design based on the new MCFI bid stationery artwork. The design was silkscreened onto the plate with green lettering on a white background.

Debbie unveiled her vanity plate at the all-day Boston in '89 costume rehearsal held at the Eastlakes' on Saturday, August 18th. Over a dozen people clamored for a plate of their own, once they saw Debbie's on the front of her car. Thirty-five more plates were produced, 15 to fill orders taken at the costume rehearsal, and 20 for MCFI Sales; where they can still be obtained for \$7.00.

The plates, decorating the front bumpers of Boston area fannish cars, have appeared at many East coast regional cons in the past 10 months.

Who knows what Debbie will think up next!



MY FIRST CONVENTION

by Mark Olson

In 1968, while an undergraduate at the University of Minnesota, I noticed a sign on a bulletin board announcing that Gordon R. Dickson and Clifford Simak would be on campus at a gathering called "Minicon I". This was to be held on a Saturday afternoon a few weeks hence in the Coffman Memorial Union.

In spite of having been an SF reader for, by that time, ten years or so, it had never occurred to me that I could meet the authors and actually talk with them. Needless to say, I went.

The gathering attracted perhaps 75 people and was held in one of the lounges at CMU. In addition to Dickson and Simak, Carl Jacobi and Charles De Vet attended the con. I remember a fanzine display, but no huckster's room or art show, and I don't recall any of the formal programming; it wasn't the highlight anyway.

There were few enough of us that we just gathered around Simak and Dickson and talked. Gordie talked about his Dorsai books and the ideas behind them. Even then, the Dorsai books attracted a large audience. Meanwhile, Clifford Simak told stories about his years as a newspaperman and SF writer.

Though I managed to attend one or two more Minicons before leaving Minneapolis to attend graduate school, they were held in downtown Minneapolis at the Andrews Hotel - "An inspiring view of Hennipin Avenue, isn't it?" - and no longer had the intimate atmosphere of the first. (They must have had hundreds of people at them!)



SHORT RAUCUS NOTES

A CONTEST A CONTEST A CONTEST A CONTEST

From May 15, 1985 thru May 15, 1986 we will accept entries in our NAME THE CAT contest. The cat to be named is the one represented on the new "Boston in '89" T-shirt.

All entries must be in writing, and sent to Boston in '89, TM3P, Box 46, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139.

Entries will be judged for: appropriateness, originality, and pun-ability.

In cases of duplication, the entry with the earliest postmark will be credited.

Entries postmarked after May 15, 1986 will not be credited.

If you have any questions, please write to TM3P at the above address. These instructions, and all entries, will appear in the next few issues of MAD3.

The winner will receive one free attending membership to Noreascon III, when-and-if we win. Presentation of the award will be announced in a later issue.

Enter as many times as you wish. Put your imaginations to work!

APOLOGIES:

My apologies to Fred Isaacs (our first pre-opposer), and the four Zitzows - Harold, Liz, Cynthia, and Virginia - (who were among our first pre-supporters), for leaving you off the "Member" list. You apparently fell off from the top!

THE CAUCUS RACE - PART II

MINUTES: Wednesday, January 23, 1985
at the Holiday Inn, Newton, Mass.

The meeting was called to order by Rick Katze at 7:45 pm.

Jill Eastlake asked those people who might be interested in wearing one of the MCFI *Alice in Wonderland* costumes non-competitively at Boskone XXIII, to raise their hands. Many were interested. Jill announced that a costume work session had taken place at Allan Kent's to open the boxes shipped back from LACon 2 and sort through the costumes. Pat Vandenberg had made up a list of what was where and in what shape, which she passed around. Two work sessions for wash and repair were scheduled for the following Wednesday and Thursday.

Suford Lewis stated that proofs for the Noreascon II Memory Book were expected the following Saturday and would be expressed back Monday so the book would be available for Boskone XXIII. The color section had already been printed and the black and white pictures were being rescreened by the printer. Suford asked for volunteers to man a Memory Book table at Boskone XXIII. It was decided that people interested in paying for a Memory Book would write their name and address on a label and MCFI would notify them when the distribution to Noreascon II members was completed. We would not sell the book until all Noreascon II attendees (except day members) had been notified, and/or received their free copy. Suford was commended by all for her effort in producing the Memory Book.

Mark announced that the Connie Creditor Bailout had received \$1200 from the Portland Westercon. Hour Printer had finally sent in an assignment, so all of Connie's creditors had assigned their debts. (An interesting side note to this was that Connie was served with a writ saying "You just lost a court case you didn't show up for. Pay the City of Baltimore \$5500." They were not aware of any court case and their lawyer is working on having the whole thing thrown out. Connie feels their insurance might handle this and hopefully the insurance company and the city will discuss the matter. This is not, nor will it be, an assigned debt.)

Laurie Mann stated she and Sharon Sharsky would be running a MCFI party at Confusion. Sharon said Wendy Lindboe had volunteered to run the MCFI party at Boskone XXIII with the condition that no MCFI members show up!

Joe Rico had heard from the NASFIC that they were having trouble with their hotel block. The Austin Hyatt had heard too many bad things about "drug-crazied sci-fi freaks" (huh?) and therefore would not allow any open parties. It was decided to try to get a suite at the Sheraton which is 3 to 5 blocks away.

Pat Vandenberg reported that the MAD3 staff meeting had come up with some good ideas. She asked for volunteers for some of the articles - such as "My First Convention" - and requested the committee's input regarding the "Name the Cat" contest. This was okayed and the prize of a free Noreascon III membership for if-and-when we win was approved. (See *SHORT RAUCUS NOTES* in this issue for details.)

Debby King announced that, after going through the paperwork with Allan Kent and Pat, we have 30 Committee members, 31 Friends of Boston in '89, 251 Pre-Supporters and 17 Pre-Opposers. Pat stated that lists of all members would appear in the next MAD3. (See last issue.)

Allan, as Treasurer, urged the Committee Members to pay their assessments. A short discussion of his financial report ensued.

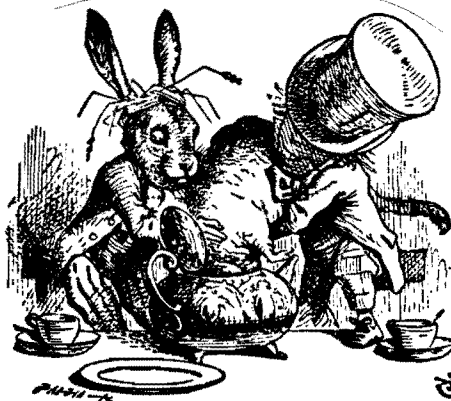
The problem with meeting space was discussed. No home was big enough to hold all members comfortably and rented meeting space was costly. Rick appointed Wendy Glasser to look into meeting space.

Sharon thanked Laurie and Bob Spence (Lynx) for their work in getting an ad together for the Boskone XXIII Program Book.

James Turner announced that the MCFI video ad was ready for showing and would be presented at Boskone XXIII. After Boskone, his group would start script planning for the next video.

Don Eastlake noted that we had received a letter from the Hynes confirming, in writing, that we have reserved it.

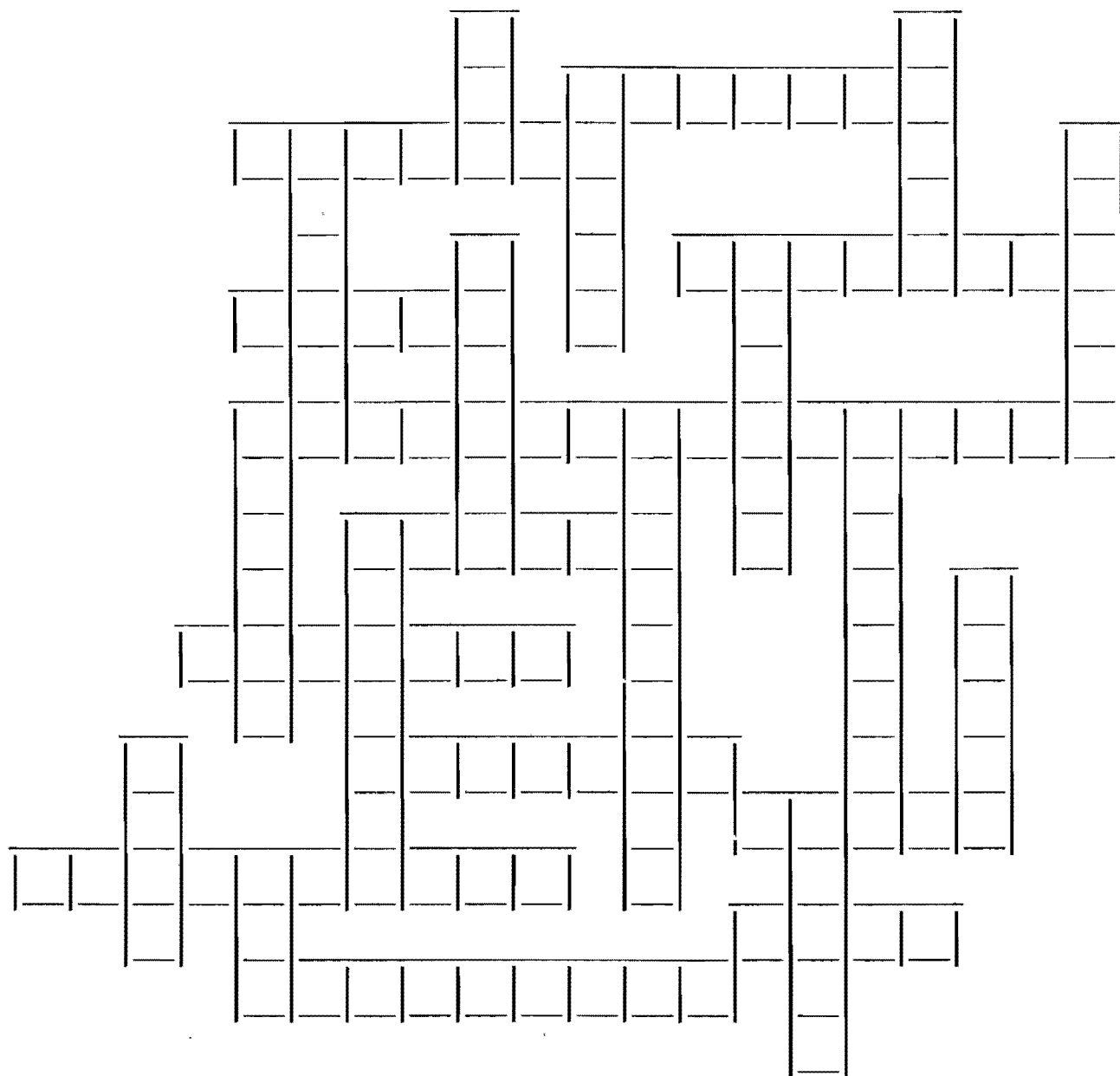
The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm.



WHY IS A RAVEN LIKE A WRITING DESK?

by Priscilla Pollner

PUZZLE II - Threesomes



- Fill in the grid with the 3rd words given.
- Group the listed words into the 3 x 3 threesomes to which they belong.
- Identify the threesomes.
(Ex. Stooges: Larry, Curly & Moe)

3 Letters

Moe
Rob

4 Letters

Chip
Hope

5 Letters

Athos
Baker
Curly
Ernie
Faith
Larry

6 Letters

Aglaia
Alecto
Aramis
Clotho
Gaspar
Thalia

7 Letters

Atropos
Butcher
Charity
Magaera
Porthos

8 Letters

Lachesis
Melchior

9 Letters

Balthazar
Tisiphone

10 Letters

Euphrosyne

16 Letters

Candlestickmaker

Barbara Cormack
Belchertown, Mass.

Dear Friends at NESFA:

I am adjusting to mundanity after my 7th Boskone. This painful procedure was greatly helped by having the Noreascon II Memory Book. What a great idea! How thoughtful! And to get it over 4 years after the Worldcon. All I can say is I'm very impressed. I knew you folks were great, but!! Noreascon II was only my 3rd con (1st 2 were Boskones) and my first worldcon. I have extremely fond and happy memories of it and to be able to relive it a bit through the Memory Book was wonderful. I read it from cover to cover. My 2nd worldcon unfortunately was ConStellation and there's really no comparison. When I think of the mishaps and disappointments of that, my 2nd Worldcon, all I can say is, Boston in '89!

Enclosed is \$6.00 for one pre-supporting membership and one Mad Three (oops - 3) Party subscription. Also, I waited too long to buy a large-size Cheshire Cat T-shirt. If you print any more, could you possibly drop me a card, as I'd like to get one? Thanks so much and keep up the good work.

EDITORS NOTE: We're happy to know you enjoyed your Memory Book. We hope everyone reading this, who was a member of Noreascon II (except for day members), will contact us for their free copy. Also, we are ordering more Cheshire Cat T-shirts. If you back-ordered one, you'll be hearing from us soon.



Kathryn Smith
Derry, New Hampshire

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed is my check for \$3.00 for the next 4 issues of *The Mad 3 Party*.

I've enjoyed reading about what's going on in the bid, and would like to get involved in it. I haven't been involved in running a con before, but if there are things to do at this point that don't require experience, I would like to help. I live about 45 minutes drive from Boston, and am in the area fairly regularly week-ends and some evenings, so I can probably make meetings. Noreascon II was my first con, and I've been hopelessly hooked ever since, so this seems like an appropriate time and place to stick my neck out as far as helping with one goes.

EDITORS NOTE:

Thank you, thank you. It's grand actually have someone say they are enjoying MAD3. If you are interested in attending any of our Wednesday meetings, please call Rick Katze, our current Chairman, at (617) 879-1624 for date and place. Rick has an answering machine if you mis-connect.



John Cleary III
Lomita, California

Dear Mad 3 Party:

A few of the lessons learned from past conventions should be written down. From LACon 2 I noted:

The pocket program:

- 1) really fit in a pocket;
- 2) did not have a complete set of maps;
- 3) made (except for mapping) all other materials unneeded. The last Boskone's pocket program was a lesser product. I really liked LACon's pocket program. It needed only 2 more pages - one for maps and a slightly heavier cover.

John Cleary III

The mottos:

1) were insulting; ("To hell with them" where they can quickly become the attendees)

2) made people impatient with lines;

3) were a very dumb move.

I had a greater appreciation of the N2 motto after this con.

The dances (Elfquest, Informal Regency) were some of my favorite events this year.

The art show looked like it could easily have been bigger, but the inclusion of the Hollywood section was a wonderful use of local resources and a great idea.

The dealers room was good, but there could easily have been an extra row of full-sized islands there. What did I miss? Could prices to dealers have been less or profit more?

I was very impatient with Wednesday registration. Slow lines in a "There will be no lines" convention. No quickie sheets; no

fast NESFA style registration. I just wanted to get registered and get Disneyland tickets. I almost missed a group of my friends at Disneyland. I was expecting a setup that could register 1000 people per hour or so.

But I read that you all tried your hardest and the whole thing was impromptu and you did not have the resources needed. I forgive.

And if I wasn't trying to get somewhere and if that stupid motto wasn't there and if my memories of what registration can be were missing, I would be a lot more patient.

The Ice Cream Social was dedicated to standing in line. They needed 10 ice cream stands, not one.

I hope this did not offend anyone.

EDITORS NOTE: *Thank you for your comments. If you have any ideas specific to Noreascon III, especially regarding the "use of local resources" we'd love to hear them. We'll do our best to incorporate the good points you mentioned and bypass the problems.*

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