

July 31, 1985

Volume II, No. 2

I realized as I was putting together this, our largest issue yet, that one of the nice things happening is that more people are indicating a willingness to write, and actually writing, many interesting and evocative articles for Mad3. Thank you.

This issue sees the start of Sue Hammond's continuing column ALL MY FUR AND WHISKERS. This is a capsulization of some of the more topical issues discussed in the fan-, semipro-, and prozines received by MCFI. Chip Hitchcock's new column FLAMINGOS AND MUSTARD BOTH BITE, is also initiated herein. As Chip points out, this is a "highly personal" viewpoint of some of the restaurants in and around Boston, but it is also an interesting look at Boston itself, giving you the "flavor" of Boston in more than one way. Chip has also contributed his amusing write-up of MY FIRST CONVENTION (which might be entitled "My First Two Cons") for your enjoyment. Laurie Mann's opinions of the upcoming Worldcon/NASFIC bids forms her second WILL YOU JOIN THE DANCE column. She welcomes all comments and contridictions, and I promise to print them as space permits. To give you a look at another "fannish" type place in Boston (in addition to Chip's places to eat) Jim Mann has written an article on an unusual Boston bookstore, New England Mobile Book Fair. I've been promised another bookstore for next issue. and hope others of you with favorite buying, and reading, places in Boston will volunteer for Mad3's other issues. We again bring you Claire Anderson's tales of Boston doings at other conventions, and highlights from the conventions, in OF CABBAGES AND CONS and Priscilla Pollner has posed us yet a different kind of mind-teaser with her third puzzle offering, "FAN LETTERS". It is especially nice to hear from Mad3's readers (see TURTLE SOUP); my thanks to Jim Gilpatrick, Peggy Rae Pavlat, and Joyce Scrivner for their comments, encouragement,

and suggestions, which have been included there. Please keep those cards and letters coming.



TM3P 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, TM3P, Box 46, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139.

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This TM3P column will be a (hopefully) regular review of items, in the fanzines received by MCFI, which are relevant to bidding, management, or other aspects of Worldcons.

Perhaps the most topical item is the denial of 501(c)3 status to St. Louis Science Fiction Limited, the organization that ran Archon, which has been widely discussed at fan gatherings and in the fan press - including File 770 and Locus.

SLSFL applied on the basis of activities that were "charitable, literary, educational, or scientific," aimed toward promoting "interest in speculative fiction (in print, movie, and video form) and art and related activities." In File 770:58 Mike Glyer quotes the IRS position as: "You are operated in furtherance of substantial nonexempt commercial, and social and entertainment purposes, therefore you do not qualify for exemption from Federal income tax" In his commentary, Mike notes the Tax Court standards as being "(1) Was the corporation organized for exempt purposes? (2) Was it operated exclusively for that purpose? (3) Was any nonexempt purpose served by the Corporation substantial in nature? (4) Did corporate activities provide substantial benefit to private rather than public interests?" He points out that the IRS could easily answer these questions by looking at the activities at Archon. A quote from the IRS transcript reads: "Based upon the record, we assume that a 'dead dog' party is a social hour."

Another important point raised by the IRS involved the dealer's room and the art show. The IRS noted that these areas represented "tsubstantial benefit' to private interests"; i.e., that it didn't matter if the con made money on these areas. As Mike put it: "the artists' proceeds were evidence of private interests using the corporation to their advantage."

How this will affect other groups remains to be seen. However, there is, as Mike notes, a contrasting example. When MCFI was audited for 1979 and 1980: "Far from overlooking the art show, that audit told MCFI to be sure to issue Form 1099s to individuals receiving payments from the con!"

Mike Glyer also notes that the IRS wants to reorganize SCIFI (who ran LACon II) as a 509(a)2 private foundation, not a 501(c)3 nonprofit. (More on this when we find out.)

Another very interesting article was one by Norman Spinrad which appeared in the December 1984 Locus, on the changes in the Worldcon. He contrasted the financial status of LACon II and ConStellation and noted the historical perspective - Worldcons began as a nonprofit, communal exercise. He addresses the evolution of the Worldcon from a giant party to the current Worldcon, which features film, video, and other media activites, computer gaming formal Masquerade, etc.

After providing this background, Norman Spinrad goes on to address the question of where the Worldcon should go from here. For instance, where does SF literature fit into the structure of the Worldcon? The readers? The pros? What should be done with any profits? This is a thought-provoking article and anyone interested in Worldcon planning may wish to track down the original.

The "Constellation Bailout" has also been a popular topic in the fanzines; ranging from Uncle Dick's Little Thing to the semiprozines. At this point, the consortium's buyout of ConStellation's debts is complete. For more details on this, see the Consortium's press release elsewhere in this issue.

Aside from the fanzines already mentioned, we have received copies of Thyme, Anvil, The Texas SF Inquirer, and The South Florida Science Fiction Society Newsletter. A quote from Thyme: 33 seems an appropriate close to this column, as it applies to bid members too.

"Convention Committee Member: a condition of severe mental disorder characterized by disorganization of the thought processes, disturbances in emotionality, disorientation as to time, space, and person, and, in some cases, hallucinations and delusions. For discussions of specific types, see: CONVENTION CHAIR; PARANOIA; PROGRESS REPORTS; FEEDBACK PSYCHOSES; SECRETARY; TREASURER; and WORLDCONS." (From J. P. Chaplin, The Convention Handbook.)



Meeting Wednesday, March 6, 1985 at the Newton Marriott, Newton, Mass.

The meeting was called to order by Rick Katze at 7:58pm.

Leslie Turek reported that she was astonished to find her name on the last meeting's attendance list as, to her knowledge, she was watching the moon over the Carribean at the time. As a souvenier, she brought back a can of the drink offered her on the plane - "Frisian Flag Chocolate Milk."

Sharon Sbarsky also made a correction to the minutes. She stated that she had objected to the "Name the Cat" contest until she was made a judge. (EDITOR'S NOTE: Now you know who to blame folks; see latest entries under SHORT RAUCUS NOTES.)

Rick announced the appointment of Greg Thokar as MCFI space procurer and Debbie King as the head of Boston in '89 sales.

Various people volunteered to run Boston in '89 parties at Lunacon, Norwescon, Minicon, Balticon, Disclave, Rivercon, Westercon, and Midwestcon.

Suford Lewis asked people, other than those directing the party, to distribute the NII Memory Book at these conventions. She also requested permission, granted, to send out review copies and contributor's copies of the Memory Book and asked that some other "volunteer" be found to distribute the book.

Leslie reminded Rick that she was happy to mail out flyers, but was not the producer. Somebody was needed to produce the flyers for her to mail out. Rick asked for volunteers. Leslie reported that she was currently well under budget.

Pat Vandenberg announced that the last 1984 issue of Mad3 had been sent out and the next one was due to go to press by the end of March. She also apologised for leaving Fred Isaacs (our first preopposer) off the list of preopposers; he fell off from the top! (EDITOR'S NOTE: There appear to be quite a few people who's names were not on the lists passed to Mad3. We are attempting to make all corrections brought to our attention, and will be publishing a new and revised list with the last 1985 issue. My apologies to all.)

Pat exorted, for the Treasurer, Allan Kent, who was in England, that they not spend too much money, and stated he was glad to hear that Chicon's Connie Bailout money had arrived.

Mark Olson stated that, from the sales figures, it was easy to see that the Teashirts were extremely popular. He also verified that Chicon's Connie Bailout money had arrived as had a valid assignment from Connie's printer. All that was left, he said, was shuffling paperwork and sending out the checks. Rick had spoken to Shirley Avery and said they did not feel they would be doing any more fund-raising. Their one possible source of money might be \$2000 they thought might still be owing for the Muppet Exhibit, but that was not certain.

Greg said he had about 300 buttons, over 200 of which were presupporters; we have plenty of buttons.

Sharon felt she had enough stickers for now and asked any Friends who want stickers to get in touch with her. Paula Lieberman suggested that members going to non-local conventions take along a roll or two of stickers to give to Friends.

Sharon also announced that there was a problem with the ConFederation PR; they didn't see either the check or the ad. They have since received both, and we have a \$40 credit. Checks have been mailed for both Austin and Aussiecon PR4's. She requested that someone plan an ad to be used in the Austin PR4; copy deadline March 29th. Since Aussiecon's deadline was March 1st she had told them to use the ad from PR3. The question of advertising the N2 Memory Book in the N3 ads was discussed. The conclusion was open, the only concern being that the copy not be confusing.

Jim Hudson brought up the question of forth-coming deadlines. George Flynn said the Aussicon Program Book deadline was June 1st. Sharon indicated that Austin had not yet set a deadline for their Program Book; nor had ConFederation set a date for PR2. She asked that people interested in composing ads contact her.

A discussion regarding meeting space ensued. It was agreed that meetings were too large for private homes. It was also agreed that we couldn't afford to spend \$100-\$115 for meeting space and afford to print the APA. Greg agreed to check into the cost of meeting space at St. Eulalia's Church as the Belmont Lions Club was not available on Wednesday nights. The next meeting date was set to April 24, 1985. The NESFA Clerk (Greg) stated he would put a map and note of meeting place in the NESFA IM as soon as the meeting was confirmed.

Leslie Turek discussed the latest Austin

Art Show Committee meeting where an artist mailing was drafted. One of the problems mentioned in the mailing was the air conditioning at the Austin Civic Center which might not be available the Thursday before the con. Its absence might make Thursday set-up impossible, so the letter said we would try to set up Thursday, but it might not happen until Friday. Another problem brought up for discussion was mailed-in art. Various ideas, both pro and con, were suggested. Finally, Leslie and the rest of the Austin Art Show Committee decided to discuss it later, off-line.

Rick stated he would be the party "Flight Director" for Lunacon.

Don Eastlake announced that he had submitted samples to register NOREASCON as a trademark. Rick then asked him about hotels in Austin. While the Hyatt is the Headquarter's hotel and convenient for those working on the Art Show, Don pointed out that it would not permit parties, so it would not do for a Boston in '89 party. The Sheraton, on the other hand, would do fine for the party but be inconvenient for those working on the art show. Much discussion ensued. Jim Hudson proposed a motion that, if necessary, we raise a special assessment to cover the cost of a suite at the Sheraton; this was seconded. Don and Joe Rico proposed to look into costs and arrangements.

James Turner brought up the question of what to do with the video footage. He has stock footage from the Alice presentation, an hour of Damon Knight, and a 15 minute MCFI blurb. He also stated he was under budget. It was decided to rent a VCR at Austin to show the videos and to let other conventions know we had the material and would like to present it on their video equipment.

Jim T. also brought up Audible Fantasy. It appeared that they had spent the \$500 outright grant, but had not yet gotten any equipment as part of the special equipment contract. Mark noted that MCFI had put a March 1st deadline on the equipment grant last fall and it was now March 6th. Rick asked Jim T. to write up a contribution for the next APA discussing both Audible Fantasy and the videos.

Suford Lewis requested that we loan Ann Chancellor's children's theatre group 10 of our Alice in Wonderland costumes. Chance had said they would refurbish the costumes, furnish press releases, photos, etc. for

the fannish press, and pay all shipping costs. The request was granted.

Mark then requested a \$30 budget to print a few Boston in '89 preopposer Tea-shirts. These would have a red circle and slash overprinted on the back of the regular green Tea-shirt. After some discussion, and laughter, it was agreed to print them and charge \$19.89 for 2 or \$10 for one. The meeting was adjourned at 10:13pm.

New Friends as of March 6, 1985:

Jim Scheff Steve Kistreff



WHO ARE YOU?!!

Jim Gilpatrick has been active in fandom since 1976, beginning in Birmingham, Ala. and continuing through sojurns to New Jersey and now Indiana. While active in the Birmingham SF Club, he was president, edited the club's genzine in 1980-81, and was chairman of the 1981 DSC. He has also worked on every worldcon since (and including) Noreascon Two. He helped found the Atlanta in '86 worldcon bid and is now ConFederation's Vice Chairman. Ask him why he is known as "Standing Buffalo".

MY FIRST CONVENTION by Chip Hitchcock

I actually had \underline{two} first cons thanks to combinations of supposedly mundane circumstances.

By my last year in high school I was a Wheel in an unusually extensive theater program (at least, I did a lot of running around in circles), and after I'd eliminated second choices from colleges, the theater programs for students were the deciding factor. When I arrived at Harvard I plunged into a merry maelstorm of theater, music, theater, radio, theater, a little football managing, and, oh, a little theater here and there to fill in the cracks when I should have been studying.

By this time I had been a voracious reader of SF for 11 years; I caught the bug when my parents gave me a Tom Swift Jr. for my seventh birthday. I was tearing through the stock of the Cambridge public library (which was kind enough to segregate its SF where I could find it) and had given myself some magazine subscriptions as a going-away present but I hadn't had much to do with other readers, let alone heard of fandom. I hadn't even heard of MITSFS, maintainers of the largest SF library in the known universe, despite its being a mere mile down the street.

I noticed in one of the magazines a calendar mentioning a convention in Boston. I showed up in the basement of the Statler Hilton (now the Boston Park Plaza) around 6pm, saw absolutely nothing happening, chatted with someone who was probably Jerry Boyajian (aka the Mad Armenian). We agreed it was a terrible thing that the Hugo for Dramatic Presentation the previous year had gone unawarded when Blows Against the Empire was up. (I didn't know from Hugos at the time, but I was a Jefferson Airplane fan before they went pop.) I wandered away within an hour as I had a major competing obligation; I was technical director for a production of A Funny Thing Happened On the Way To the Forum. That was Boskone IX such as it wasn't. I didn't realize until several years later that I'd arrived in Boston just too late for Noreascon I.

The next March, somebody actually tried to organize a SF club at Harvard. (SF is one of a great number of things Harvard doesn't like to acknowledge the existence of.) For some reason I actually saw the notice of this and showed up for the opening meeting. There I found out about the

MITSFS library and MITSFS meetings, which were an insanely funny way to blow off steam on a Friday afternoon. (At Harvard Law School they get drunk en masse on Friday afternoons. Think of what this says about the stereotypical differences between engineers and lawyers.)

The very next day, at my first MITSFS meeting, somebody happened to mention that Boskone was starting that evening. This, being a month early, took me by surprise; after at least two moves and my mother's Labrador puppy, the magazine subscriptions had vanished. If it hadn't been for Harold Zitzow, who gave me a ride, I would have been even more surprised at finding the Statler unoccupied, as this was 1973, and the first of 7 consecutive Boskones at the Sheraton.

I had a GLORIOUS time. I had no idea who Doc Lowndes was, but I listened to his GoH speech, and most of the rest of the program. I sang my voice out with the filkers both nights, staying so late that the busses shut down and I had to walk some miles back to the dorm. When I wasn't singing I watched assorted wonderfully, tertible films until my eyes bulged (wasn't that the year we had Moon Zero Two?); and I talked incessantly about SF with anyone who'd stand still for it (or at least couldn't outrun me).

It was another year and a half before I actually went away to a convention (Discon II, the 1974 Worldcon) or joined NESFA, although I was sufficiently hysterical about Boskone that I persuaded my kid sister to come down from New Hampshire the next year. But that was my real first convention, and you can blame it all on the Fates because it was only through the most ridiculous string of coincidences that I got to it at all.



SCB&R PRESS RELEASE

The ConStellation Bailout Consortium, organized and run by MCFI (Noreascon Two), has raised over \$29,000 and has successfully purchased the entire ConStellation debt. Between the consortium and ConStellation's own fund-raising efforts, the creditors received 80% of the money owed them.

The following organizations and individuals contributed to the fund:

\$10,000 Noreascon Two
\$10,000 L.A.con II
\$5,000 Chicon IV
\$1,285 Portland Westercon (1984)
\$1,000 Philadelphia Science Fiction
Society (PSFS)
\$1,000 Washington Science Fiction
Association (WSFA)
\$425 Fred Isaacs
\$200 Ben Yalow
\$150 Bill Perkins
\$100 Harry F. Leonard
\$33 Carl and Michelle Lundgren
(prints for auction)
\$29,193 Total

When the consortium was set up, the excess of ConStellation's liabilities over assets was about \$38,600. ConStellation's fund-raising efforts managed to raise about \$2000, which was paid out in June, 1984 as a 5% payment to all creditors, leaving \$36,670 owed.

Early in the process, before most of the fund had been raised, the consortium contacted each of the creditors and offered them payment of about 29% of the money owed and a share of any future money raised. Several of the creditors agreed (sometimes after considerable persuasion).

As more money was raised, revised offers were made to the holdouts and, eventually, all of the creditors accepted our offer. In November, 1984 payments were made to all creditors (except Hour Printer, who did not finally agree until January, 1985) to bring them up to roughly the 50% level.

Upon receipt of the last of the pledged money in February, 1985, final payments which brought the total payout to 80% of ConStellation's debt were made to each creditor.

Administrative costs of the effort were \$184, almost entirely to pay for endless phone calls to the creditors. The balance remaining (about \$19) will be donated directly to ConStellation.

Summary of Creditors and Payments

Creditor	Owed	Payment*
Diamond Vision	\$12,500	\$9,985
Exhibit Aids	\$11,332	\$9,054
Hour Printer	\$ 9,300	\$7,421
Larry Beck (Badges)	\$ 2,000	\$1,598
Copy Cat	\$ 1,200	\$ 959
Avcom	\$ 1,000	\$ 799
Telesaver	\$ 725	\$ 579
Gestetner	\$ 514	\$ 514**
TOTAL	\$38.571	\$30.909

*Payments include monies paid to creditors by both Connie and the Consortium.

** At the request of PSFS, their contribution was used to pay Gestetner in entirety and the balance remaining was contributed to the general fund.

Legal ownership of the receivables against ConStellation is now distributed among the members of the ConStellation Bailout Consortium. While, technically, ConStellation owes the consortium's members around \$36,000, we have agreed that any additional money which ConStellation may be able to raise will be distributed first by ConStellation among the original creditors in proportion to the amount they have not yet recovered. The creditors gave up all rights to demand money from ConStellation, including any right to force bankruptcy.

The consortium has not participated in any way in the claim by the City of Baltimore for about \$5500 in damages at the Convention Center. This claim may still be outstanding against ConStellation.

Due to the generosity of fandom throughout the country, the consortium has succeeded in what it set out to do. The Con-Stellation Bailout Consortium has now dissolved; any further contributions should be made directly to ConStellation for use in making additional payments to the former creditors.

For further information contact: Mark L. Olson (617) 891-0031 Rick Katze (617) 879-1624 WILL YOU JOIN THE DANCE?
by Laurie Mann

Here's my latest look at bids for the late '80s.

1987—A choice between San Diego and Britain. I honestly know very little about either bid. When you get right down to it, both are about equi-distant from the East Coast (in opposite directions). I think I'd lean a little towards the British bid, but have boycotted voting this year due to the way Australia has insisted that all voting fees be sent in Australian currency or suffer a \$3.00 conversion fee; something no previous foreign worldcon has done.

1988—This continues to be a very hot, interesting race between four different committees.

St. Louis keeps doing things in an effort to be "innovative". In fact, St. Louis has turned off many fans by the committee's glaring disregard for fannish tradition; such as their incredibly premature announcement of Anne McCafferey as GoH and Martha Beck as Fan GoH. Now, there's a rumor afoot that St. Louis wants to run as a NASFIC instead of a Worldcon for '88, since Cruisecon is running as a foreign bid. When I was at Midwestcon, I did not meet a single fan who was in favor of St. Louis.

Cruisecon started off as a hoax bid and has since emerged as a real one. The bid has some support. However, there are those who are ready to point out that Cruisecon is not a genuine foreign bid; since it would leave from Miami, it's really an East Coast bid in disguise. Cruisecon is being run by some long-time Midwest fans. While an intriguing idea, I think there are many problems with it. For one thing, the con would be very expensive (\$500 is a very optimistic, bare-minimum cost). I think this gives the con a very elitiest tone, and would probably prevent all non-affluent fans from attending. Even though it is now being run as an official bid, the people around it give the impression that running a Worldcon isn't vastly different from running a relaxacon. Should the Worldcon be a relaxacon?

The Cincinatti-Columbus bid was very much in evidence at Midwestcon. The debate still rages over whether a non-local committee

ought to co-opt another city for their bid, and whether the Riverfest Celebration will eat up all the downtown hotel rooms that weekend. After talking with some non-fannish Cincinattians, I have reached the conclusion that Riverfest is not the problem I once thought it was. Apparently the city is mobbed by locals who don't intend to stay in hotels. Those of you who remember NorthAmerican may recall that one of the nice things about that convention was its accessibility to a wonderful ethnic festival. The festival was a neat addition to the con. So, I think there are three other issues to consider when thinking about the Cincinatti/Columbus bid:

- 1. Does it matter that most of the committee lives about two hours away from the site?
- 2. Does it matter that most local Cincinatti fen are still strongly opposed to this bid?
- 3. Does the committee have the experience to run a Worldcon, and will they stick together?

A pleasant surprise at Midwestcon was getting to know a few of the people from the New Orleans bid. Worldcon/NASFIC bids from New Orleans, for the past ten years, have a history of announcing and folding. This bid appears to have a little more con running experience than you might expect. This bid's possible negative points are:

- 1. The committee is geographically spread out, though the majority live in greater New Orleans.
- 2. The weather in New Orleans in early September is supposed to be oppressive.

1989—Boston has no opposition at this time.

1990---??

1991-7?

1992-Would you believe Baltimore? I might.



Jim Gilpatrick c/o ConFederation Suite 1986 2500 N. Atlanta Street Smyrna, Georgia 30080

Dear Laurie, Pat & Eveyone:

After a letter and then a phone call from Laurie, I guess I'd better write if I want to keep the cosmic equation balanced. Herewith a (25 word, did you say, Laurie?) bio contrib for The Mad 3 Party.

Well OK, it's—it's.. 82 words long. It was the best I could do. So much for you, Pat. I hope you can use it. (EDITOR'S NOTE: see WHO ARE YOU?!!)

Now to you Laurie, as Friend Liaison: You know I live in Terre Haute. NESFA knows I live in Terre Haute. My IM's arrive like clockwork. I have filed at least two written CoAs with NESFA and MCFI representatives, most recently with Jim Mann, who is known to you, at Midwestcon. Yet for some inexplicable reason, all MCFI correspondence to me is still addressed to my old NJ address. Please fix it. I'm afraid I'll miss something. Thank you. Harumph. And no fair blaming the computer.

Sorry I did not get to RiverCon to help with the party. I was very unfannish and went to Chicago to see Cats with mundane friends that very same weekend. I toyed with the idea of having my cake and eating it too by flying from Louisville to Chicago on Saturday afternoon, but the idea made me tired. I hope all went well. Steve Francis may forgive me someday. By the way, enclosed is \$12.00 for another year.

With Best Regards to All, I remain,

Yr. Obt. Svt., Jim

EDITOR'S NOTE: Okay Jim, I'll confess, it isn't Laurie's fault, it's mine. However, I did not receive your previous changes of address. Since you should receive this issue at your new address, I have printed your letter to prove I am getting better organized. Thank you again for the bio.

Peggy Rae Pavlat College Park, MD.

Dear Pat:

I have two thoughts for the name of THE CAT. First, is Simon. Because of long association with "Simon Says" and because this particular cat looks like Simon.

Second, Sushi, because it's an appropriately seafoodish name for a Boston cat. Sushi is good and so will be Noreascon III; it's short, unusual and extremely fannish.

Don't ever say that no one reads your newsletter. (I edit my church's newsletter and have from time to time wondered if anyone read it - then something will be tucked into the middle of the newsletter as the only place where the information is available, and yet LOTS of folks at church know about it, so I guess that folks really do read it.)

> Keep up the good work, Peggy Rae Pavlat

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you, thank you, thank you. All words of encouragement greatly appreciated. It's nice to know you read and enjoy Mad3! See SHORT RAUCUS NOTES for additional Cat entries.)

Joyce Scrivner Minneapolis, MN

(This is an excerpt from her CoA.)

I enjoyed the articles in Mad 3 Party about constructing the T-shirts, perhaps the next issue you might talk about constructing bid parties?

EDITOR'S NOTE: I am passing your enjoyment on to Rick, Suford and Claire. I like your idea about constructing bid parties; would you be willing to write something?.. For this article I'd love to get ideas from all of you out there - How DO you go about constructing a bid party? Deadline for the next Mad3 is September 30, 1985.

FLAMINGOS AND MUSTARD BOTH BITE by Chip Hitchcock

Boston is a great area to eat in. It has a reputation, from government statistics, as an expensive city; however, since at least 250,000 of the 3,000,000+ people in the metropolitan area are students, there is a large market for decent food at reasonable prices. Boston is also a city with many distinct ethnic groups; the Vietnamese and Cambodians are the most recent to appear in significant numbers, but Italians, Chinese, Greeks, Armenians, Indians, and many others have already made their mark on the restaurants of the area.

This is a highly personal and vaguely eccentric look at some of the restaurants in the Boston area. There are other people in MCFI substantially more qualified (by adventuresomeness and development of taste) than I am to write portions of this, but I've been rehearsing for nine years right near the proposed convention site, so I have some idea of what restaurants in the immediate area are like. I'm not going to tell you about all, or even most, of the restaurants in Boston or even within reach of the site; instead I'll mention everything I've actually eaten at plus a representative sample of others (annotated so you will be able to distinguish opinion from rumor).

First (and probably most important to congoers), some words about the restaurants in the immediate neighborhood of the convention site. The Sheraton Hotel and Hynes Convention Center are at the west end of the Back Bay, a flat area about 1-1/2 miles long by 1/2 mile wide and laid out in thoroughly unBostonian rectangles, presumably because it was swamp until the mid-1800's, which allowed the streets to be laid out in some semblance of order rather than by paving cow paths. This makes finding your way around it rather easy; the east-west streets are wide and generally not seriously crowded, so walking to many of the places I will describe is easy and pleasant. West of the site there is little of culinary interest; due west are the Fens, still somewhat swampy and largely residential, and northwest is Kenmore Square, which has many discos and the blood donor center, but few places for diurnal humans to eat.

Of course, you can always eat in the hotel; this is not cheap but it is convenient. The Sheraton's coffee shop was perhaps a bit better than the usual big-hotel

coffee shop before it was renovated: I haven't eaten there since, but am slightly leery of the prices and speed of the place calling itself the Boylston Park Cafe. If you're really in a hurry there is a sandwich bar, the Edible Express, next door to the coffee shop; this also has salads, ice cream and croissants, but is expensive. Kon Tiki Ports is the oldest restaurant in the hotel, unaltered since the early 70's; when we had brunch there a few years ago it was astoundingly good for Polynesian. The Massachusetts Bay Company is a very good seafood restaurant which does some of the currently fashionable mesquite grilling and has a good raw bar. The lead restaurant is called Apley's, after a designer responsible for much of the Back Bay; it is very nouvelle-oriented and has gotten raves from every restaurant reviewer in the city, but you'll pay for what you get. (I'd guess a minimum of \$40 per person for a moderate meal and you could easily hit \$80 or \$90 with multiple courses and better wines, but for this price they will even make up a "tasting dinner," with small portions of three different entrees.) Definitely a place to be taken to by someone on an expense account; they will also have a dress code (beyond the shirts and shoes required in all restaurants by the state health code) even during a con.

If you go straight out the front door of the Sheraton, passing the Hilton (which has a \$10-\$15 per entree dining room) on a tiny side street, you come out on Massachusetts Avenue (pronounced "Mass Av") facing two Thai restaurants. Thai cooking is similar in approach to some Chinese but the flavors are quite different. Soom Thai was good, but you pay for the elaborate decor as well as the food; Bangkok Cuisine has been wellreviewed, is a bit cheaper, and has a larger menu (entrees \$5-\$8). There are also several reasonably clean sandwich shops in this block; I can't speak for the food in any of them. To the left (downhill) you pass Symphony Hall and Horticultural Hall (two long, high, and ominously looming brick buildings); beyond this corner, in a thoroughly unlikely location at the foot of a modern condo tower, is Boston's only Ethiopian restaurant, which is said to be good if you're feeling mildly adventurous; the food is centered between bland and incendiary and is messy (you scoop everything into flatbread - there are no plates).

A short distance left on Huntington is Selyoken, which is a Japanese/nouvelle-French hybrid; this sounds strange, but apparently it's all the rage in New York and LA. Reviews of this are good and prices are reasonable (\$10-\$12 for entrees). To the right (west), 1/2 block away, is Kyoto, which is inexpensive for Japanese; the food's okay but nothing special. A block further is Mandalay, which is inexpensive Burmese; the food can be just as incendiary as Thai but it more frequently involves coconut milk for balance. You are now at the edge of Northeastern University, the closest large college to the con site. Beyond Northeastern is the Museum of Fine Arts, which is still impressive even if it has to timeshare the famous portraits of George and Martha Washington with another museum. Their restaurant probably isn't worth the walk by itself, but is said to be a good place to eat if you're at the Museum.

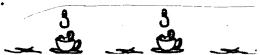
If you go uphill on Mass Av, across Boylston (or go out the front of the Hynes Auditorium and west on Boylston to Mass Av), you'll see a branch of Steve's, the store that started the serious ice cream boom. There's also Newbury's Steak House (mediocre but \$8-\$10 for steaks). (Editor's Note: I have been asked to insert here a differing opinion. People who have eaten at Newbury's within the last few months feel it deserves more than "mediocre". They say steaks have always been good - not tough, salad bar is more extensive than usual and while service is somewhat slow, it is usually due to the fact that the place is packed; you may find yourself waiting in line. / Just east of where Commonwealth Avenue (the one with the huge strip of lawn in the middle) crosses Mass Av is the Medieval Manor, which has a plastic reputation; as a member of the SCA I wouldn't be caught dead in it, but some people might enjoy the wisecracking King (he has a handmike so you can hear all the jokes) and the allegedly pinchable serving wenches. There's an Indonesian restaurant north of Commonwealth which I haven't heard anything about (for ultimate Indonesian, see "Suburbs" in a forthcoming issue).

Going westward on Commonwealth you arrive at Kenmore Square, which is mostly discos but does have a good (for Boston) barbecue at the Rathskeller; having tasted Kansas City barbecue I'd say this one could still improve. Continuing westward from Kenmore Square down Beacon Street, if you're seri-

ously energetic, you can walk about a half-mile down Beacon to where the "C" (Cleveland Circle) green line subway appears above ground (or from Mass Av's Auditorium subway station take the "C" train two stops outbound) to the Sol Azteca. This is a very good Mexican restaurant with terrific sangria and reasonable prices (you have to work to spend \$20 per person and you may not finish all of it, or you can fill up on tortilla dishes for less than \$10).

Buried in the residential area south of Kenmore Square and the baseball stadium, (this is somewhere between Brookline and Boylston streets) there is at least one very good South American restaurant; the one I remember had an unprepossessing storefront, no decor to speak of, and dinners for \$7-\$10. This one will have to be searched for as I don't remember its name or exact location, but its Foejorata (sort of a Brazilian chop suey) in particular makes it a worthwhile endeavor.

Next section will begin with the Pru
Center.



ORIENTEERING AT THE

NEW ENGLAND MOBILE BOOK FAIR
by Jim Mann

New England Mobile Book Fair is neither mobile nor a fair. It is, despite a counter claim by the Boston University Book Store, the biggest book store in New England and one of the biggest in the country. It has a large selection of books of all types, including many that are impossible to find elsewhere; all of this is discounted at least 20%.

What's the catch? It sounds too good to be true, right? Well, there is a catch, at least for novices to New England Mobile Book Fair. It is a warehouse full of books, arranged in what is, at first, an intimidating manner. The paperbacks are not arranged by category. No, nothing so mundane. Instead they are arranged by PUBLISH-ER, and alphabetically by title under the publisher (although there are a couple of racks of new releases arranged by category). Thus, this is not the place for casual, short-time browsing. It is a place to go only if you know what you want or if you have a couple of hours to spend. Copies of Books in Print are available for the less adventurous or those in a hurry.

ORIENTEERING AT THE NEW ENGLAND MOBILE BOOK FAIR (continued)

The hardbound fiction is arranged much like the paperbacks. Hardback non-fiction, however, is divided into categories (then alphabetical by title under the category). Hardback fiction can be a problem at times in that the "publisher" under which the books are filed is the publisher handling distribution, not necessarily the publisher listed on the book. If you don't know that St. Martin's distributes TOR or Simon and Shuster distributes BlueJay, well its back to Books in Print.

Another "catch" is their hours. New England Mobile Book Fair is only open 9am to 5pm Monday thru Saturday; normal business hours. Not even during the heavy Christmas season are they open any evenings or Sundays. During Christmas season you also have a parking problem, as even their large parking lot gets filled.

In addition to the "regular price" section of the store (i.e., where the discount is only 20%), there is a remainder section. This section is arranged by category. Under category, the books are sometimes arranged by title, sometimes by author. In addition, it is sometimes hard to find out where a certain category is located, as there are corridors lined with book shelves, little rooms tucked away here and there, etc.

All of the above is not meant to scare you off. In fact, after you've been there awhile, it gets to be a lot of fun, and you get used to the way the books are arranged. It's great to be able to find almost anything you're looking for, and it's great to save a lot of money in the process.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO KNOW THE AREA: New England Mobile Book Fair is located on Needham Street in Newton, close to the Needham border, and just beyond where Center Street changes its name to Needham Street. If you're near Route 9, get off at Center Street and turn south; you're only a couple of blocks away. If you're near the Mass. Turnpike, get off at Newton Corner and get on Center Street, which begins almost as soon as you get off the exit, if you're coming from the west.

Happy Browsing.







OF CABBAGES AND CONS by Claire Anderson

LUNACON (March 15-17, 1985, LaGuardia Airport: Lunacon '85 returned to the Sheraton Inn at LaGuardia Airport. There were about 1000 attendees including Boston-area fans Rick Katze, Anton Chernoff, Priscilla Pollner, Mark Olson, Claire and Dave Anderson, Paula Lieberman, Jane Wagner, Wendell Ing, Sharon Sbarsky, and Sue Hammond.

One of Friday evening's highlights was Ben Yalow's appearance at a party wearing a "Resident of the Wimpy Zone" T-shirt, supposedly available to Central Zone fans only. Ben would not reveal who supplied the shirt. On Saturday a group of Boston fans visited New York City bookstores and returned. laden with purchases after a refueling stop in Chinatown, to work at and attend the Boston in '89 bid party. The party featured the usual semi-sweet chocolate bar, soon reduced to a few crumbs. This year there was no guacomole made from unripe (or ripe) avocados. To commemorate last Lunacon's memorable guacomole (half of which coated a bathroom wall during the blending process), Priscilla brought a large avocado to the party where it sat on the TV until it mysteriously disappeared.

Some of the special moments of the convention were the GoH speeches. Gordie Dickson spoke about his writing plans for the next two decades. Don Maitz related how he develops his paintings from the earliest sketches through their appearance on a book cover. The overcrowded but high-quality Art Show awarded ribbons in such categories as "Most Maudlin", "Most Erotic", and "Best Use of the Color Purple". And, of course, you want to know how Seth Breidbart fared at this year's Book Raffle. Master of Ceremonies, Craig Miller, brought a cannister of Bagbalm to be applied to various unmentionable portions of Seth's anatomy if he won too much. Seth was udderly revolted at this threat and, luckly for him, despite buying 1851 of the over 4000 raffle tickets sold, won only ten of the twentythree lots. Sharon Sbarsky drew the number three lot and MCFI Friend, Steve Kistreff, won the first lot.

Next year's Lunacon will be held at a new location, the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, and the committee has already recruited many Boston fans to work at the con.

BALTICON (April 5-7, 1985, Hunt Valley Inn)
Balticon 19 also returned to a former location, the Hunt Valley Inn, which was undergoing renovations at the time of the con.
A mall within walking distance had opened since the last Balticon held here. Because Balticon followed so closely after Lunacon, Boston was represented by a small contingent among the 2000+ attendees: Alex Layton, Priscilla Pollner, Claire and Dave Anderson, Robert (Lynx) Spence, Mark Olson, Tamzen Cannoy, Fred Isaacs, and Anton Chernoff.

The Boston Bid Party, held Saturday night, was a success; the party was open longer than the Con Suite. The chocolate bar disappeared as if by magic; many Noreascon Two Memory Books were distributed; lots of green T-shirts were sold.

Balticon offered an extensive multi-track program. The Pocket Program was almost as large as the Program Book. There was a hard science track, featuring General Leigh Wade (one of the three pilots to make the first plane flight around Earth in 1924); a live music track, which delighted fans of Clam Chowder; a children's program track (which certainly needs to be continued at future Balticons because of the many babies that attended this con); and an art show track, which included the "Blood on the Pallet" panel with artists, faces concealed by decorated brown bags, telling all. The Guest of Honor speeches were delightfully atypical. Fan Golf Teresa Renner entertained her audience with a viola concert; Art GoH Dave Cherry's slide show included pictures of his office where he formerly practiced law; and R. A. MacAvoy's GoH speech also included slides and she even passed around pictures of her pony and chickens.

David Palmer was pleased to accept this year's Compton Crook Award for his first novel, the very popular Emergence. He said it was the first award he's ever won. The masquerade, always a Balticon highlight, featured many worldcon-quality costumes. The Best of Show was awarded to the impressive troop of bird solders, "The War Council of Aquila".

DISCLAVE (May 23-27, 1985, New Carrollton Sheraton): Disclave, which has been hotel hopping for the past few years, returned to its 1984 hotel. Con attendance was down a bit (around 800+) as Costume Con III was being held on the same weekend at the Hunt Valley. Disclave is always popular with Massachusetts fandom and over two dozen

Boston-area fans showed up, via car, bus, train, and plane, to party, smof, and even help out. They included Don and Jill Eastlake, Leslie Turek, Chip Hitchcock, George Flynn, Sharon Sbarsky, Claire and Dave Anderson, Greg Thokar, Rick Katze, Davey Ferree, Jane Wagner, Alex Layton, Priscilla Pollner, Mark Olson, Paula Lieberman, Bill Perkins, Fred Isaacs, Andy Robinson, Bob Spence, and Anton Chernoff.

A half-dozen of the early arrivers gathered at the main Washington Post Office at 11am on Friday to tour the facilities. We were facinated by the machines, the systems, the organization of the workload, etc. When George Flynn asked me if the tour had given me any good ideas of how to organize the '89 worldcon mailroom, if Boston won the bid, I forebore from suggesting that he could easily be sorted and sent to five different zipcodes.

The Saturday evening Boston Bid Party was held adjacent to the Con Suite on the hotel patio. The party was a crowded success, but sales of T-shirts were low as we'd had a party at Balticon only a month before. Cindy Gold's mechanical penguin toy was as popular as the chocolate bar. At Disclave, people tend to skip programming to do touristy things. Boston fans visited the national arboretum and received a tour of the Goddard Space Museum from an employee with a fannish relative. Mark Olson finally located the statue of Einstein, in search of which a group of us logged many miles at two previous cons.

This year there was an art programming track; the panel on "What Should Get Into the Art Auctions" involved most of the audience in lively discussion. Other popular program items, in addition to the Golf speeches, were "Sex Tips for Fans", a presentation on the new Twilight Zone TV series, and the gloriously silly "Bad Movies" panel.

There is also an unofficial eating track at Disclave held at the many area restaurants. Rick Katze still holds the Boston record for amount of crab legs consumed at the all-you-can-eat seafood restaurant across the street from the hotel. Sunday night a large group of Boston, Philly, and Binghamton fans made their yearly pilgrimage to Ernie's Crab House. We consumed an average of 15 crabs apiece and topped off the meal with Baskin & Robbins' ice cream. Burp.

Meeting Wednesday, April 24, 1985 at St Eulalia's Church, Winchester, Mass.

The meeting was called to order at 8:17pm by Rick Katze who displayed the new preopposer's Tea-shirt; the regular green Teashirt with a red circle-and-slash on the back.

Rick remarked on Arcon's problems with the IRS; they were denied 501(c)3 status in tax court. The judge ruled that such things as the Art Show, the Dealers Room, the films, etc. did not constitute a literary society. While there were some things which could qualify as educational, as a practical matter it did not fit into the 501(c)3 category. As Rick summarized, this ruling from the tax court may or may not have repercussions against all existing 501(c)3's in the SF field; we really don't know yet.

During the course of the month, Mike DiGenio was shifted from being Friends Liaison to being Party Controller. He will look at upcoming parties, contact people to see who is going to conventions, etc. Laurie Mann has now become Friends Liaison.

Sue Hammond reported that the APA was produced and distributed and is still expensive. She asked anyone with knowledge of a cheaper than 4¢ a page doublesided (copied, collated and stapled) operation to let her know. She also reported that MCFI had received quite a few letters asking about our different memberships. She and Debiie King are getting together to write a letter on this subject. (EDITOR'S NOTE: See SHORT RAUCUS NOTES for an excerpt.)

George Flynn handed in the requested written corrections to the minutes.

Leslie Turek stated that a mailing on the Austin Art Show had gone out to over 300 artists and responses had started coming back. She had sent a budget to Austin but had not yet heard back. Leslie reminded people that it was hoped that Boston people, coming to the NASFIC, will try to be available to help on the Art Show, particularly during set-up and sales. Set-up will still be either Thursday or Friday depending on building habitability. Debbie King was appointed as Deputy Treasurer to handle the Austin Art Show funds.

Allan Kent, Treasurer, reviewed the quarterly report. There was discussion on the format of the reports. Rick asked for an additional column showing the amount of Assessments Due (not paid) as well as those

showing total due and total paid.

Then followed a long discussion on various potential and accepted policies to be applied to Noreascon 3. (EDITOR'S NOTE: Jim Hudson, head of the Timeline and Philosophy Committee, is writing up an article covering all policies accepted by the Committee for our next (1985 - #3) issue.

Joe Rico read off the names of the people who had requested rooms at the NASFIC. He stated that they would not need to mail in separate hotel requests. Don Eastlake is getting confirmation of the Boston in '89 party room at the Sheraton.

Laurie requested someone volunteer to be Friend Liaison's eyes and ears at the NASFIC as she will not be able to attend. She also announced that a letter would be going out to all out-of-town Friends to encourage them to help at the Austin party and in the fall and winter as well.

Pat Vandenberg asked people to help collate and staple the Mad3 after the meeting. She thanked Mark Olson for his "My First Con" article and asked others to write for Mad3.

Laurie asked for help from any graphics artists to create a flyer. Don volunteered his MacIntosh.

Sharon Sbarsky listed the ads coming up: Full page for Austin PB, full page for Aussiecon PB (June 1st deadline for both); 1/2 page ConFederation PR2 ad (July 1st deadline). She gave thanks to Greg, Alex and Lynx for helping her create the ad.

Leslie stated she was on schedule and under budget mailing out flyers; this received a rousing cheer. Deltacom actually returned the unused flyers sent them.

(Thank you.)

Mark announced that between 100-125 NII Memory Books were given out at Balticon, and an extra case went to Disclave via Peggy Rae Pavlat. Sharon volunteered to take some along to Westercon.

Tony Lewis volunteered to write Locus for an address list to be used to verify our old NII membership list.

Mark reported that the Balticon Party went well thanks to help from Alex, Dave, Claire, Priscilla, and Lynx. (See OF CABBAGES AND CONS by Claire Anderson for the party reports.) They got a good crowd and came out right on the nose with supplies.

Chip said the Norwescon party was very low-key. They had a good crowd and the party lasted till 2:30am. Thanks to help from area Friends. He requested more Committee Members plan to attend next year.

Rick thanked Davey, Seth, Sue Hammond, Anton, Claire, Dave, Mark, Paula, Greg, Sharon, George, Ben, Cindy Gold and Ken Knabbe for their help with the Lunacon party. It appears we now have a preopposing teddy bear!

Due to the state of MCFI's finances - it doesn't have any more money - and the fact that the deadline for the Audible Fantasy equipment purchase had passed, it was decided to consider the issue closed.

George reported he received a letter from Dave Langford, the 1980 TAFF delegate; his TAFF report is ready and being distributed. George reminded everyone that MCFI passed a standing rule in 1982 promising to give \$50 every time a TAFF or DUFF report was published. It was decided to put a limit of \$500 on this item.

The next meeting was scheduled for June 12, 1985 at St. Eulalia's Church.

Meeting adjourned at 10:57pm.



WHY IS A RAVEN LIKE A WRITING DESK?

by Priscilla Pollner

PUZZLE #3 - FAN LETTERS

In the diagram at the right are 26 15-letter rows across. If you insert one letter of the alphabet in each of the empty boxes, a word of five letters or more, associated with MCFI will be formed. The letter added may be the first, last, or other letter in the word formed.

It is a good idea to cross off each letter in the alphabet as you use it, since letters may be used only once.

We have entered the first letter, "T", to form the word THREE to get you started.

In addition, when all of the letters have been filled in correctly, every third letter, starting from row 1, (i.e. rows 1, 3, 7, etc.) should be circled. Read downwards, these circled letters will spell out the name of a former Noreascon VIP.

Congratulations on finding any other messages hidden among the letters!

FAN LETTERS

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S Y

SHORT RAUCUS NOTES

Many of the letters sent to us have asked what the differences are between our four types of supporters. Instead of the usual Editor's Note on a letter, it seemed a better idea to write a complete explanation for everyone. The following was composed by Deborah King, Membership Secretary and Sue Hammond, Committee Secretary - with a little help from their friends.

"The Boston in '89 bid has four types of supporters:

Presupporters are people interested in helping Boston become the site of the 1989 Worldcon. Their \$3 fee is mainly used to help fund our bid parties.

During the Boston in '80 bid, some of our friends thought we were crazy to want to run a Worldcon (and they were right). To allow them to support the bid while still showing they thought we were MAD, we invented the <u>Preopposer</u> (and charged them twice the <u>Preopposer</u> (and charged them twice the Presupporter fee). Since we are still crazy, we have revived the Preopposer (the fee for which is \$6) for the Boston in '89 bid.

<u>Friends</u> are people who have accepted an invitation from the committee to more actively support the Boston in '89 bid, with both money and work. They pay \$12 a year and provide essential help in areas ranging from the Newsletter to running parties.

The <u>Committee</u> runs the bid and, if we win, will choose the people who run the convention. The Committee is the major source of funding and does most of the work."

I hope the above answers your questions; thanks for asking them.

3 3 3

THE AMAZING CAT CONTEST!

What is amazing is the lack of entries. I know there are folks out there with immaginations, what is happening? Think of the honor, think of the glory, ... think of the free membership!!

So far we have received three entries:

Norris - from anonymous Simon and Sushi - from Peggy Rae Pavlat Since I don't have to judge them, I can honestly say I think they are all great! I also think there should be more competition Don't let someone else win by default, send in your ideas today; as you can see, I won't even print your name if you prefer .. unless you win!



HELP!!! HELP!!! HELP!!! HELP!!!

Mad3 needs artwork. As we have done before with Vicky Poyser and Ingrid Neilson, we are very happy to showcase a single artist in an issue of Mad3. All artwork is welcomed, but Alice related artwork is preferred. Also desparately needed are small, narrow pieces to fit between the articles; I love our teapots and teacups, but would like to have something more. If you, or a friend, have been looking for someplace to put those extra drawings you did way back when, or feel the creative urge to do a few badge-sized pieces, please send them along. All original artwork will be returned after being copied for Mad3. Thank you. The deadline for the next issue of Mad3 is September 30, 1985.

HELP!!! HELP!!! HELP!!! HELP!!!



WHY :	IS A RAVEN LIKE A WRITING DESK?	4A	FAITH)
	by Priscilla Pollner	13D	HOPE) THE THREE VIRTUES
	•	7A	CHARITY)
	PUZZLE #2	1A	BUTCHER)
		3D	BAKER) WIIY CAN'T I?
	THREESOMES	БA	CANDLESTICKMAKER) (Occupations)
	Solutions	8D	CLOTHO)
		3A	LACHESIS) THE THREE FATES
1Con	mpliments of Hal Zitzow.)	11D	ATROPOS)
9A	LARRY)	7D	ALECTO)
12D	CURLY) THE THREE STOOGES	9D	TISIPHONE) THE THREE FURIES
1D	MOE)	2A	MAGAERA)
БD	GASPAR)	4D	AGLAIA)
10D	MELCHIOR) THE THREE WISE MEN	10A	EUPHROSYNE) THE THREE GRACES
12A	BALTHASAR)	6D	THALIA)
14D	ATHOS)	11A	CHIP)
8A	PORTHOS) THE THREE MUSKETEERS	15D	ROB) "MY THREE SONS"
64	ARAMIS)	20	ERNIE)

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