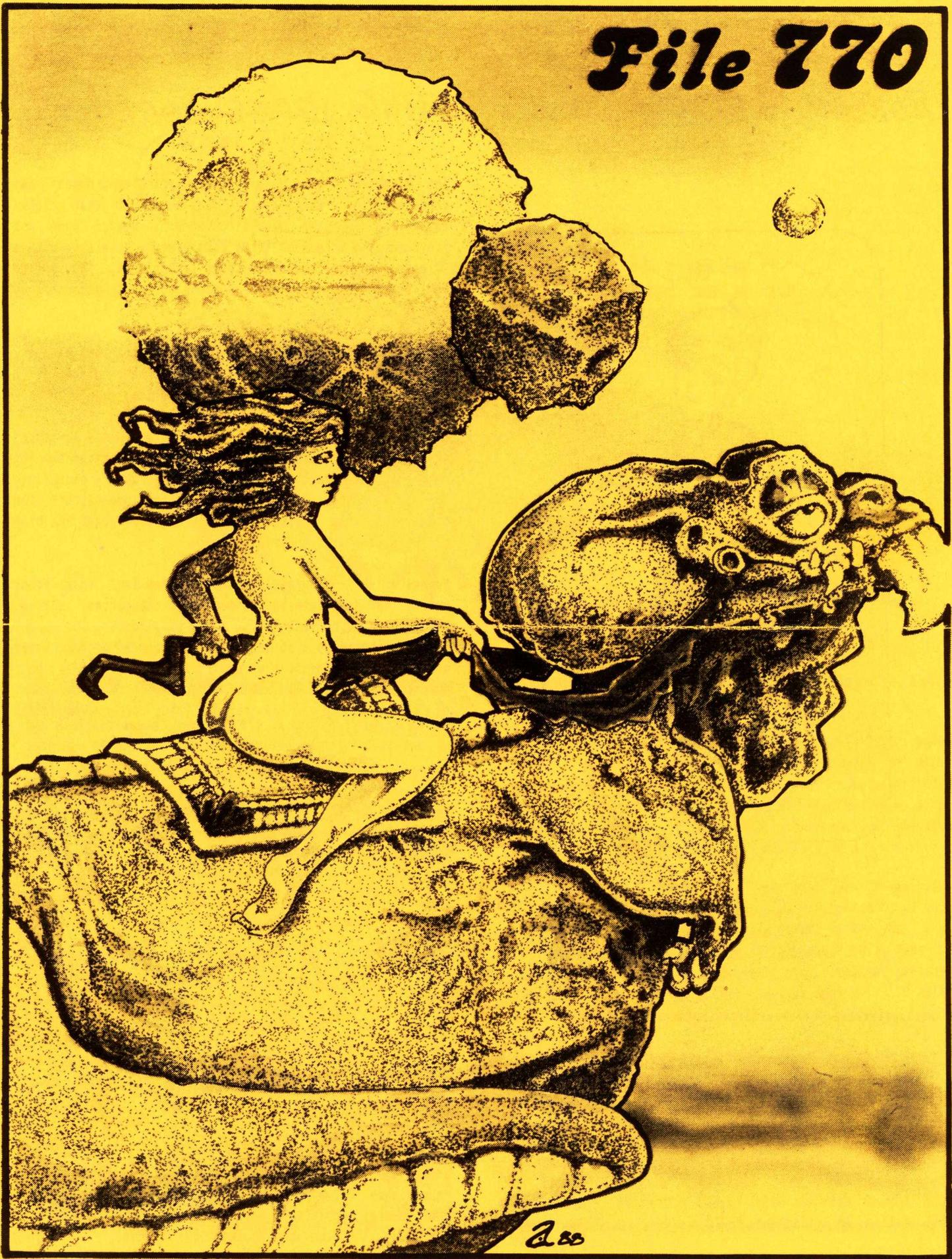


File 770



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NOREASCON REVEALS HUGO VOTING IRREGULARITIES



The Noreascon Three Hugo ballot-stuffing controversy has continued to produce a great deal more heat than light. Beese and Hamilton have circulated a 6-page memo and provoked the Noreascon Three committee to retaliate with a 27-page press release whose cover letter ends, "We invite you to read our narrative and these documents and make up your minds."

Before offering that blandly confident invitation, however, the committee makes it clear they have withheld a considerable amount of relevant information.

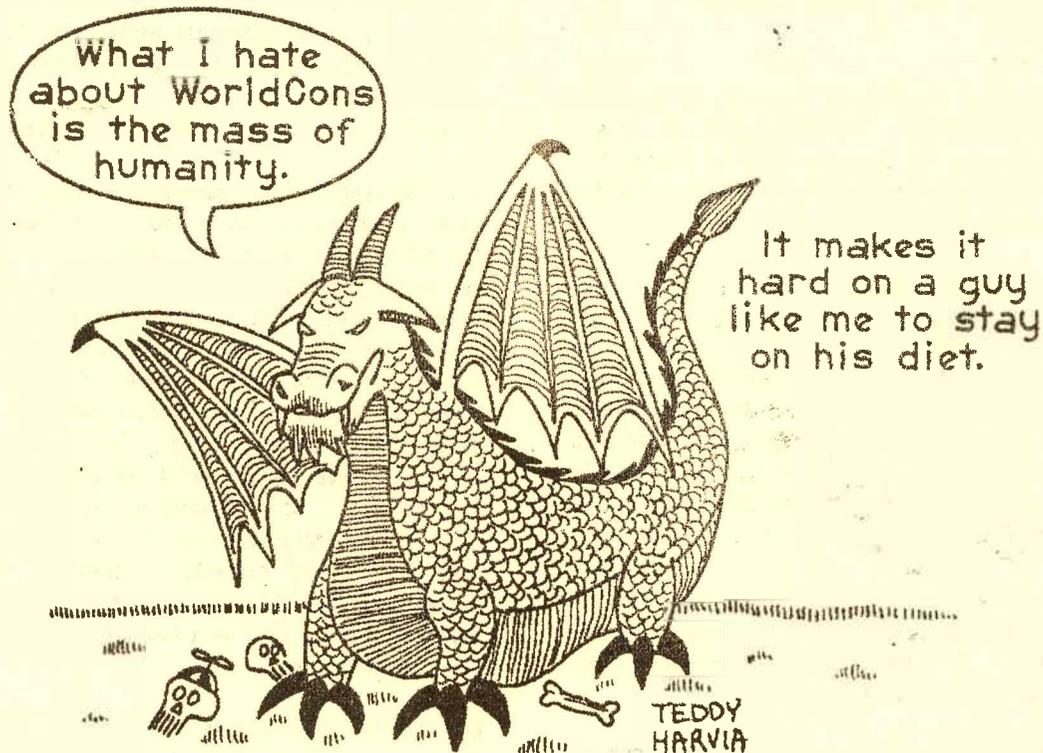
What they did disclose gives the public a limited review of the evidence Mark Olson, George Flynn, Rick Katze and the rest of the committee have used to form their decisions. The data almost does more to inform one about the committee's own attitudes and methods than about the bloc voting scheme and its prepretrators.

Noreascon's first press release informed fans that bloc voting had been detected in many Hugo categories, some of those votes being cast by new supporting members who bought their memberships with sequentially-numbered postal money orders. The committee's new release includes a 7 page chronology of the ballot-stuffing scandal, describing some of the evidence, and rationalizing the committee's decisions at each step.

Noreascon states: "...We were aware fairly early that a rather large amount of bloc voting was taking place, but this did not greatly concern us until the wave of money-order ballots started appearing in mid-March (the three money orders in February had not been noticed at the time). The deadline for Hugo nominations was March 15 (postmark) and all the money order ballots had been received by March 16. The members of the committee were made aware of the outlines of the situation, and a discussion of the matter was planned for Saturday, March 25, when a meeting had already been scheduled to confirm the nomination counts and resolve any Hugo eligibility questions. ...The committee agreed that the money-order ballots constituted an impropriety; the question was what to do about it."

Noreascon's statement carefully defined their terms: "'The bloc vote' refers to a set of over 50 nomination ballots with strongly correlated nominations. More precisely, there were several subsets, with a very strong resemblance among the ballots in each subset, and a somewhat lesser resemblance between one subset and another. We presume that several people were soliciting nominations, each with
(please turn to page 13))

FILE 770:80, paddles madly through the rapids of fannish chaos to your mailbox and soggly announces it came from Mike Glycer of 5828 Woodman Ave. #2, Van Nuys CA 91401. Stay close enough to be splashed by fan news by subscribing 5 issues for \$5.00, \$1.25 overseas air printed matter rate -- or whatever other surreptitious means you can devise!



DAN ALDERSON PASSES AWAY: Appreciation by Charles Lee Jackson 2.

Dan Alderson passed away quietly in bed at about 11 AM the morning of May 17. He is survived by his father and by many friends in Fandom and the world of Science.

What does one say when one has mixed emotions about the loss of a friend? I am sad, because I'll never see my friend again; on the other hand, he had a very hard time of it these last few years and now the hardship and pain are over, and for that I have to feel relieved and in a way happy for him.

For some time he had been in a convalescent home near the clubhouse, stricken by the effects of diabetes. He could no longer see (a said fate for a reader as avid as Dan), had lost his sense of touch, and had lost a foot to surgery. His best friend, Ed Buchman, had for some time been bringing Dan the mile or so to the club, so that he could experience at least something of LASFS meetings. But eventually even that proved too stressful, and his only enjoyments were a radio that Roger Hill had especially rigged for him, and the visits of his LASFS chums. The last time I saw him I spent some time reading to him from "Walt Disney's Comics and Stories", giving a dramatic reading of a Mickey Mouse serial. Doing the voice of Black Pete is very hard on the throat, but it

increased Dan's enjoyment and made the occasion a happy one.

I first met Dan Alderson in late 1967 or early 1968, soon after I joined LASFS, and by the middle of 1969 we were good friends. Dan was an excellent friend to have: giving, caring, interested in his friends' lives, and with many facets of interest to those who listened to him (though sometimes his self-effacing attitude could be a bit much.)

Dan worked his whole life for the Jet Propulsion Laboratories, and his TRAM (TRAjectory Monitor) program was a vital part of the unmanned space effort in the 60s and 70s. Viking, Mariner and especially Voyager ships made it into space principally because of his computer genius. When some alien race finds that plaque we sent out, it will be a tribute to Dan Alderson.

Dan had many interests in fandom. He was a charter member of CAPA-alpha, the first comics amateur press association, and was for a time its Central Mailer. He introduced Glen Goodknight to the works of JRR Tolkien, and so is a sort of godfather to the Mythopoeic Society. At LASFS, he did many things over the years: he was a member of the LASFS Board of Directors for a very long time, and was Senior Committeeman (Vice President) when the club bought its first clubhouse, and had the distinction of calling to

order the first meeting there. He was the treasurer for a few local conventions. His efforts on behalf of APA-L were considerable.

Dan's favorite authors were mostly people he knew, like Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, Poul Anderson, Hal Clement and, I'm proud to say, me. He also like the comics work of Otto Binder and William Woolfolk. He dearly loved the old "Space Patrol" series.

But he was also a master raconteur himself, with a rich fantasy universe people with interesting races and characters. He could tell you about them almost endlessly. The people of Toadland, the Mauvepucians (what most people know as comic-book Funny Animals), Arfnibblestein (master villain who spent his time in search of the Arfnibblestone, source of ultimate power), and many more, most with names so long and strange that Douglas Adams would do the dance of joy to hear them.

All of this controlled from the key point in the Cosmos, which just happened to be Dan's home in Tujunga, known as "Universe Center." He knew these stories well, but somehow never got around to writing them down.

And now the Universe has lost its Center. Goodbye, Dan.

A GIANT STEP: Where is Tim Kyger now? Moved to Washington DC where he works for Congressman Dana Rohrabacher of California's 42nd district (Seal Beach) doing science and technical issues. In recent years Kyger has been a prominent advocate of space exploration, living in San Francisco. Further miraculous proof there is life after being a WorldCon chair.

THE ELLISON FILE: Thanks to his Geo car commercials, Harlan Ellison was asked to appear on HBO's "Not Necessarily The News" in a live broadcast May 24. He would be appearing in his role as "Noted Futurist".

Appearing in a virtual repertory company of roles, Ellison has asked to do 20 panels at the 1988 Westercon, to be held July 4 weekend in Anaheim, CA. Maybe he would break the Guinness Book of Records mark for most panels done by a pro on a convention weekend. But is the tawdry pursuit of statistics Ellison's goal? When asked why he is doing this Ellison said amiably, "Oh, only to piss people off."

THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN: Three Down Under fans took a walkabout Los Angeles in May while on separate American tours.

Western Australians Julia Bateman and her husband Craig Hilton spread the word that there is a revitalized Perth in '94 WorldCon bid. Ironically, because one of the bids is about 10,000 miles closer to home, Perth and Winnipeg

suffer comparable disadvantages in access to the US voter base due to their geographic isolation and the expense of travel. In last October's Maple Leaf Rag, Vancouverite William Affleck-Asch-Lowe reported that the sentiment at NOLAcon favored the Winnipeg bid. Now both must also contend with a Nashville, TN, bid for the same year.

Bid Coordinator Julia Bateman's handout says, "One of our major problems is that we are so far from the centres of fan activity in the United States and Britain. That means we have to work twice as hard as anyone else to tell fans about ourselves. It is impossible for us to carry out the same kinds of bidding activities that US fan centres can without spending many thousands of dollars. This is a handicap, but one we are determined to overcome." She adds, "There are many world class facilities in Perth that we established for the [1984 America's] Cup from which we will benefit. At the moment we are looking at Observation City and the facilities around it as a possible convention site. It has everything necessary for a memorable convention, and the Indian Ocean over the road is a superb swimming pool." Part of a LASFS meeting was given over to their presentation.

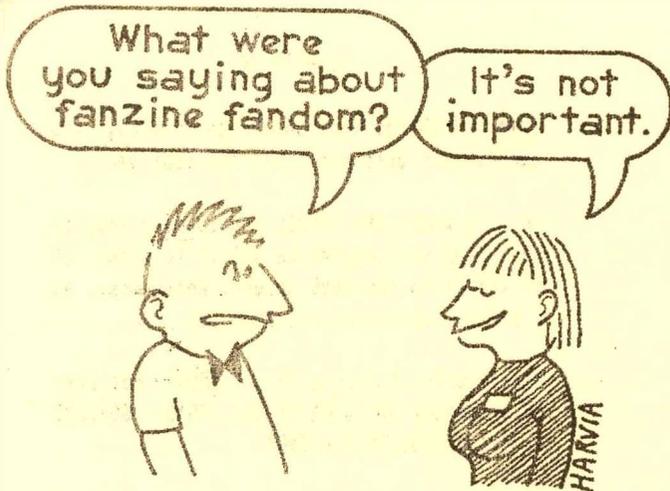
Los Angeles also played host to Nigel Rowe in early May. Returning to New Zealand after awhile in the U.K., Nigel made a fanzine fan's tour of America, spending 5 days in Madison and Corflu weekend in Minneapolis. Nigel's LA hosts were Marty and Robbie Cantor, who enlisted me to take him to Disneyland. Talking to Nigel I felt it was a close call, but Disneyland impressed him even more than the world's biggest concrete cow, chewing its silicon cud on a North Dakota hilltop.

SCIFI REIMBURSES WORLDCON APA EXPENSES: Robert Sacks writes, "I am pleased to report that I have received an expense check from SCIFI (the Southern California Institute for Fan Interests) for the full amount of my expenses in producing WOGF 12/13 at NOLAcon II. This is money I never expected to see; words cannot express my gratitude." SCIFI funded the amount from '84 WorldCon profits.

THE NEXT GENERATION: David Marc Zontar Rowe was born April 30, 1989 to parents Dana Siegel and Eric Rowe. David's weight at birth was 6 lbs. 8 oz.

IT HAPPENED IN PORTLAND: The April issue of Portland's clubzine, Pulsar, reports: "Bryce Walden's cat Bilbo died at the age of 19 years and 8 months; the funeral will be tomorrow...(it is NOT a party)." Also, "David Johnson is looking for a copy of the Koran." (For what?) And: "Michael Pearce has put out a contract on the life of the Ayatollah." (Oh.)

In the same issue, Roger Wells furnishes a very thought-provoking discussion of the appropriateness of censorship



from the Third World's point of view, together with examples of its mixed successes at dictating which benefits of Western technology and culture will be admitted to those countries. It's not a long article, but one well worth noting for fresh insights about a topic most fans and pros typically reduce to boring, self-righteous indignation.

For a copy of Pulsar, send 50 cents to: PorSFis, PO Box 4502, Portland OR 97208.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS DEFENDED: Nelda Kathleen Kennedy in The NASEFA Shuttle, discussing tv coverage of BADD (Bothered About Dungeons and Dragons), said, "Pat Pulling, whose son committed suicide and who founded BADD was (on Sally Jesse Raphael). She said she wasn't blaming Dungeons and Dragons or any other game and she thought parents should be aware of what their children are doing so they can exercise control if necessary. This sounds well and good but she made a big point of D&D being a role-playing game as opposed to a 'board game' (Monopoly was mentioned). Someone said that accusing D&D of causing all the problems the kids who play it have is like saying that someone who plays Monopoly will go out and participate in insider trading. It also seems that the acronym BADD is designed to give D&D a negative image." Heh -- no doubt, but wait until they discover their service mark is also used by a California group, Bikers Against Drunk Drivers!

NOVA EXPRESS '200 OR BUST' PROMOTION: Prominent among the legion of new desktop-published sercon fanzines vying for the attention of pro writers (an attainable goal) and of enough subscribers to break even (a more elusive goal) is Nova Express. A Texas fanzine which received an early financial assist from FACT, Nova Express draws on much the same pro community as Texas SF Inquirer did, offers a comparable high standard of material, but aims for a readership that in other days would have read Algal. For example, the Howard Waldrop theme issue, #3, sold out

three printings.

The editors have managed to place their zine in a few sf specialty bookstores, and have the immediate goal of rounding up enough subscribers to produce 200 copies for bulk rate mail, so the '200 or Bust' drawing of several gifts for new subscribers. Harlan Ellison said he was quite gratified by a review of his work in the most recent issue. Subscriptions are \$8 for one year in the US, from Michael Sumera at 1115 Drava Lane, Houston TX 77090.

FILE 770 OFFICIALLY DETERMINED 'NOT A FANZINE': Long-time readers know I've been loudly ignoring Ted White's message to this effect for years, but now I say "Uncle!" In the May DASFax Harry Warner Jr. writes: "...it's been so long since I saw a fanzine published in Los Angeles that I don't know if mimeography has become obsolete out there."

NEW ENTRY IN TEXAS! MAKE YOUR OWN SF FAN CONTEST: To quote my Texas source, "You didn't hear it from me but Fred [Duarte] and Karen [Meschkel], Dennis and Pat's replacement at Noreascon, are expecting a child of their own around the first of November." Less anonymous confirmation appears in the Noreascon Three Program Aa.

ARMADILLOCON DUSTUP: David Thayer has withdrawn as a guest of Armadillocon, displeased at a change in his status that he attributes to Fandom Association of Central Texas leaders Steve Jackson and Monica Stephens. A fanartist who appears in these pages under the signature "Teddy Harvia", Thayer said he was originally invited as Armadillocon's Artist Guest. He reports that his status became a subject of FACT politics, and publicity for Armadillocon changed to reflect "Official Artist: David Thayer, Fan Artist: Teddy Harvia." Thayer said, "I felt like I was being insulted." He informed the chair, "Either I'm your artist guest or nothing," and getting an impression there were not enough votes on the FACT board to restore him as "Artist Guest" he withdrew. Thayer adds, "I wish it hadn't happened that way."

WORLDCON HISTORY EXHIBIT AT NOREASCON THREE: by Bruce Pelz To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the First World SF Convention in 1939, Noreascon 3, the 1989 World SF COnvention, is developing exhibits on the history of the science fiction field.

One of the exhibits is the History of the WorldCon itself. I am looking for memorabilia and souvenirs of any and all WorldCons -- things published or produced for or by the WorldCon, or photographs which convey some of the features or atmosphere of the WorldCon. (Photographs of such things as masquerade costumes, unless they picture something which was a highlight of the convention as a whole, are more appropriate to other exhibits, e.g., the History of the Masquerade.) I do intend to include such things as a photo



I HITCHED A RIDE WITH A GUY IN A DELDREAN WHO SAID HE HAD BEEN TO THIS CON THE SAME YEAR THREE TIMES, AND HE'S BEEN TO WORLDCON 2001 TWICE.

of the first costume worn to a WorldCon.

I am especially looking for the large Banquet Photos which were taken. I have those for 1958, 1963 and 1972. I need any others.

I have a complete set of WorldCon Program Books. (Thanks for the missing one, Dave Kyle!) I have two sets of playing cards (Emsh, Finlay) produced as fundraisers by conventions. Were there any others? I have the Zelazny Poetry Booklet (1963, Discon I), and the Jack Gaughan art portfolio (1969, St. Louiscon). I have the postage stamps -- full sheets and "covers" of both "Mars Mail" and "Moon Mail" -- from 1955. I have the three years of Proceedings (1962, 1963, 1980) and the 4 volumes of photographs called CONVENTION ANNUAL (1960, 1962, 1963, 1966) by Jay Kay Klein.

It is probably easy to find a complete set of the NESFA Press Guest-of-Honor books. And there is room for only a few of the WorldCon t-shirts. (Which WorldCon produced the first one? Was there a "best" one over the years?) I know there was one WorldCon hat (1984). Were there more? Any other clothing? 1980 did a Tote Bag: were there others?

So: (1) What am I missing that ought to go into the exhibit? (2) Where can I get a copy?

The next several WorldCons have agreed to include the WorldCon History Exhibit in their plans, so that it can begin with the 50th Anniversary of the WorldCon and continue through the 50th WorldCon in 1992. (The 4th WorldCon was postponed from 1942 to 1946 because of WWII.) The expectation is that people looking at the Exhibit will

think of things that should go into it, and the Exhibit will grow over the four years.

So: (3) Would the likely source of a copy of the item you suggest be willing to allow it to travel to the next several WorldCons, as a Travelling Historical Exhibit?

Please write to Bruce Pelz, 15931 Kalisher St., Granada Hills CA 91344. (818) 366-3827 :: EC25PEL@UCLANVS.BITNET

NEBULA AWARD WINNERS: The Science Fiction Writers of America gave their trophies to:

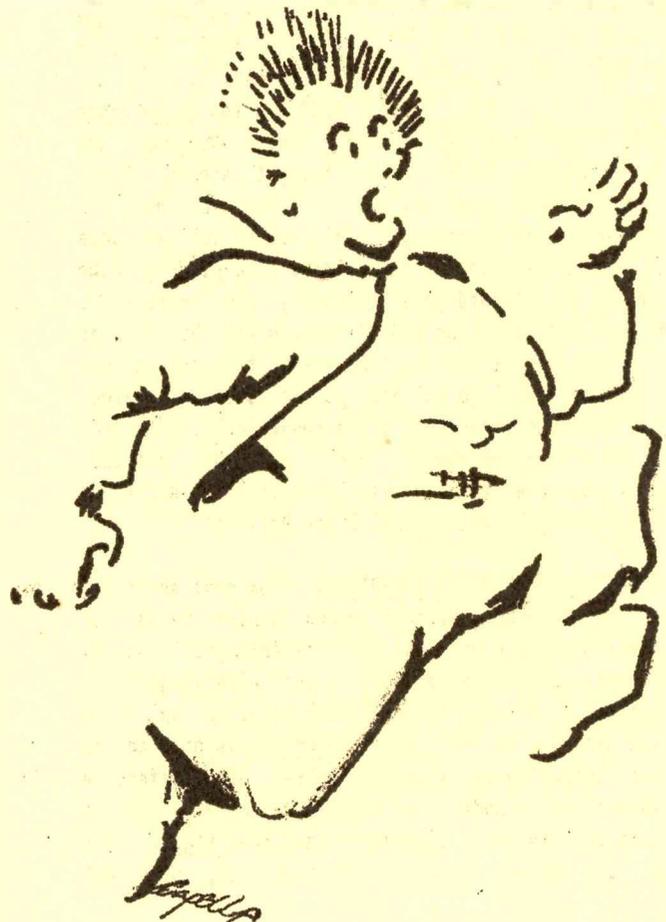
BEST NOVEL: Falling Free, Lois McMaster Bujold.

BEST NOVELLA: "The Last of the Winnebagos", Connie Willis

BEST NOVELYTE: "Schrodinger's Kitten", George Alec Effinger

BEST SHORT STORY: "Bible Stories For Adults, No. 17: The Deluge", James Morrow.

GRAND MASTER AWARD: Ray Bradbury



NORWESCON

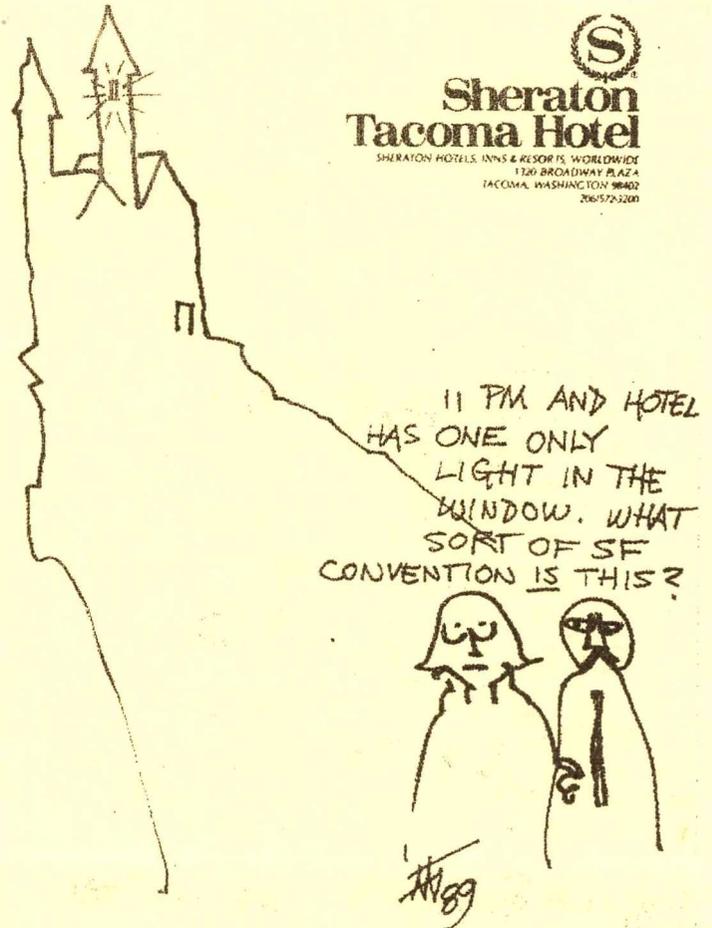
NORWESCON : (March 24-26) by Mike Glycer

Steve Barnes is a rare mix of spontaneous wit, sincerity and verath. After a long time trying to help friends on convention committees outside LA "discover" him as a toastmaster -- along came the Norwescon committee who figured all by themselves what a fine toastmaster Steve would be. So not only was I fortunate to be Norwescon's fan guest of honor this year, but that gave me a front row seat for Barnes' successful debut. I also renewed acquaintance with Algis Budrys, a very popular choice as pro guest of honor, interviewing him as part of the program about all those other aspects of his background and career we neglected in the interview for File 770.

It seems like just yesterday Greg Bennett and friends began hosting Norwescons, but in fact "yesterday" was a decade ago. Their committee is very experienced, with leaders like Judy Suryan, and this year's chair Elizabeth Warren (who changed hats from her past role as proprietress of the Con Suite).

Formerly rivalling Boskone as the largest and most successful regional, Norwescon used to draw over 3000 to downtown Seattle, and was an automatic stop for the SFWA and a loyal following of Eastern snofs. But even before Boskone had problems, Norwescon's large membership of party-hearty attendees ran afoul of downtown hotels. Norwescon retrenched and resorted to the Sheraton Tacoma, on a hill overlooking this industrial and timbering city about 50 miles down the road from Seattle. The 1989 committee was ruled by hope that having another incident-free con under their belts would let them negotiate a return to Seattle, and watchful against drunken vandalism that could lose their Tacoma site and kill Norwescon.

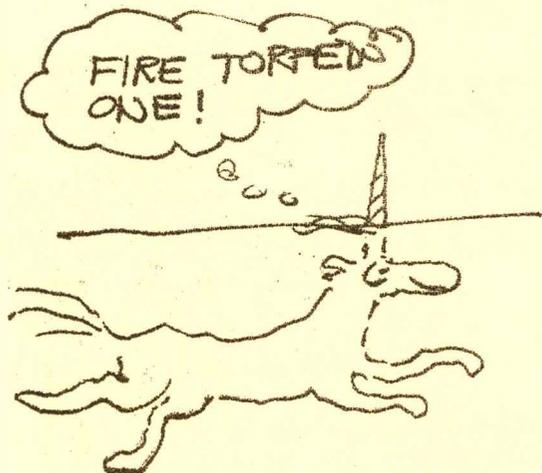
Norwescons still attract Ben Yalow, and Gary Feldbaum (who had to take a deposition in Wyoming and also dropped by to present Philadelphia fandom's Philip K. Dick Award). Many Vancouverites came down, including Fran Skene, William Affleck-Asch-Lowe, Steve Forty and others promoting the city's Westercon bid. Kevin Standlee had a party for the opposition bid for Sacramento. Elton T. Elliott of Portland answered my questions about Dick Geis but was far more avid about the nanotechnology conference he'd attended. Apparently at that conference a leading nanotech scholar rebuked science fiction writers for frightening the public with their speculations, and SFWA President Greg Bear got up and read the riot act. I asked Elliott if the damp Washington weather affected my sinusitis. He said, "I don't know about you, but people



in Klingon makeup at 9 AM give me a headache." A few people, old-time Norwescon regulars who have been coming to these things since nineteen-ought-eighty-one, confided that "Norwescon is dead: it's just nobody has told it to lie down yet", a rather peculiar sentiment applied to a con drawing 2600 people this year.

Having programmed two conventions in the last year, the thought was freshly in mind that whatever information I gave the participants, they were entitled to have more. In case you wondered what it's like -- as a panelist -- to have 100% of the information available for a program item, now we know: it's burdensome. Reporting to the Green Room Thursday afternoon, I was given not merely a registration packet, and but 2-page computer-generated program assignment sheet for each of 12 things I was supposed to do that weekend. Not wanting to be derelict in any of my responsibilities I went up to my room and read this material for two solid hours. Each event sheet had a paragraph describing the event, a checklist of the equipment requirements, and other things needed only by the committee -- knowing the hotel resume didn't make me a


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FANTASIZING UNICORN

#1/89

better panelist, and based on the Norwescon experiment (not error) I will have a standard to apply next time I have to organize a program. (Like a certain other convention starting with 'N', Norwescon also had a lot of schedule changes -- a committee representative made an extraordinary apology from the Masquerade stage.)

The committee hosted the guests at a fine dinner in a Sheraton banquet room, welcoming Steve and Toni Barnes, and across from Dr. and Mrs. Alan Mourse (the doctor was Science GoH) and Algis Budrys. At Opening Ceremonies Steve Barnes assured attendees Norwescon is his favorite con. Then I was off to my 9 PM program item.

Mark Manning and Jerry Kaufman were presiding over the Fanzine Room (in a bed-less hotel room). But "Strange Fannish Tales and Jokes", as is often the case when a program is situated in a room that can barely contain its audience, seemed to have a lot more energy and a more focused audience as the classic tales were related. Jerry Kaufman told the "Secret Handgrip of Fandom" story -- he

was a participant, which means I have heard the story told by each of the principals except Patia herself. Loren MacGregor told a tale of mistaken identity and having nothing to eat at a con except Alice B. Toklas brownies that leads up to the punch line, "...And Ted White was so loaded he didn't even recognize his own wife!" And I told the story of The Shaft's Last Adventure.

A number of interesting program items were staged in the Fanzine Room, though one that didn't work out was a conference call with Minicon. Though while we weren't talking to Minicon, we were raptly listening to Wendell Joost tell about brewing Desert Peach brandy, how Donna Barr drew the labels, and how an occasional bit of deliberate ineptitude on the part of the brewer provided foaming boobytraps to be given as gifts to unsuspecting, but deserving turkeys.

Norwescon does a number of things for volunteers our local conventions could learn from. On the last day of the convention they invited all the GoHs to a "Volunteers/GoH Party", making sure the volunteers got to meet the guests. This let the guests thank the people who ran the convention. Door prizes were raffled off to volunteers. Judy Suryan also promoted the committee/volunteer summer get-togethers. There was a discussion of why people are volunteers. One gofer said she had worked all but two conventions she attended because it let her in "behind-the-scenes", and Judy Suryan joked, "Now you don't know what's going on in much more detail!"

The Con Suite staff, which had ordered even more food than they gave out last year, found themselves swarmed over by fans who didn't believe TANSTAAFL. Between feedings the swarms remained in a lounge area outside the suite. They were still around on Easter morning when the lounge became a studio for a talk show improvised by Norwescon's video and tech crew. Viewing the closed-circuit broadcast in my room, I gathered they were making a great deal of noise because an irate woman accused them of the kind of rowdiness that had gotten Norwescon kicked out of other hotels. During the show's call-in segment the host had to summarize the incoming calls because there was no link between the telephone and television audio. Guests Donna Barr and the Desert Peach (in Afrika Korps khakis) aided the hosts' efforts to explain and top the anonymous callers. The rest of the membership improvised their own parties. I spent some time in the Saturday night DC in '92 party where Algis Budrys was holding forth. (I can't remember the last time I found a pro guest of honor so accessible -- or found one at all, after 5 PM!) The Vancouverites sold hard cider for a buck a cup to finance their Westercon bid. Alexis and Doll Gilliland collected F. M. Busby, Fran Skene and myself to see the big suite they'd been rented at con rates as a make-nice for royally screwing up their reservations. While we sat at a round

table, Alexis penned the cartoons appearing this issue.

At the banquet, membership was announced as being 2500: and breakeven was announced at perhaps 200 less, leaving one to ponder whether the budget was authored by a tightrope walker, or else Norwescon has mastered the science of promptly reinvesting its cash in the con.

BALTICON 23: (March 24-26) by Martin Moore Wooster

For some reason the downtown Baltimore Balticons seem to have much more zest and vitality than Balticons held in that city's suburbs. This year's Balticon, held once again in the Omni after a brief return to the Hunt Valley Inn, proved to be a considerable improvement over last year's convention.

Balticon still has many problems. The con organizers still have to learn that the convention is held over two nights. Friday night is still completely controlled by costumers; if, like me, you don't have that much interest in masquerades, Balticon Friday night was extremely boring. And the con suite was the worst con suite I've ever seen for a major convention.

Still, from Saturday morning onwards, the convention was enjoyable. Saturday's highlights included a fine talk by L. Sprague DeCamp on current developments in anthropology. In the afternoon, Esther Friesner had her fantasies fulfilled by being hauled around the convention in a sedan chair by four iron-thewed slave boys, two of which wore green paint. The "slave boys" promise to be at Norwescon, supplying egoboo for suitable fees.

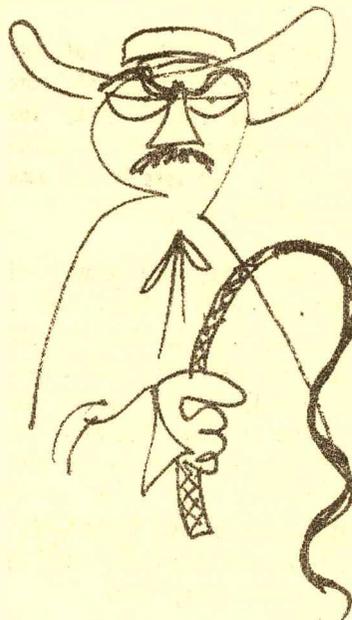
Saturday night marked the latest round in the great battle between Washington and Orlando for the 1992 WorldCon. The Discon committee held five, count'em, five! parties on three, count'em, three!! continents, including the Australian and British national conventions, Norwescon, Minicon and Balticon. Orlando countered with parties at Contrivance, Norwescon and Balticon and according to Judy Bemis, "in Minneapolis we have Laurie Mann running a table, which is almost as good as a party." The Discon suite was larger, but the Orlando party won on style. Goh C. J. Cherryh preferred the Orlando party, singing folksongs until at least 2 AM. Other major parties included the Weird Tales party, Not Dundalk in '92, Boxboro Fandom and the Baen Books party. Supposedly Winnipeg in '94 held a party, but I didn't attend it. Balticon attendance was 2000.

SWANCON XIII: (Easter Weekend; Perth) by Jack Herman

One of the good things about the Australian SF Convention is that it is the annual gathering of Australian fandom, bringing together most of the fans one really wants to see. So the poor turn-out of fans from 'the eastern states' was an immediate minus for the con. There were



ENOUGH PARTY!
GO HOME, FOOLS!



CAN WE
PICK MO'
COTTON,
MASSA?

PLEASE?

compensations: a load of interesting, younger WA fans; the Get Stuffed mob showing the same kind of simple fannish enjoyment in condom as they have shown in zinedom; some fairly creative bits and pieces; and a cast of international and national good people in fandom. Mostly I had fun.

Cindy Clarkson did a magnificent job putting the thing together but, too frequently, she lacked the support of her committee. This was most evident in two areas: promotion and programming. There seems to have been insufficient promotion of the con anywhere, but, particularly in the East. With both John Varley and Bob Shaw in attendance, and the promise of a typical Perth con, there was plenty to promote. Andy plenty to attract the interested fan. Why weren't they enticed?

The guests were underutilized; the Guests of Honor were not on the program enough. Too often panels were unroganized, and we even had the reappearance of the CAPCON classic panel item:

Saturday 1100 PAPER (Charles Room)

Most items on the printed program had no assigned members, indicative of a job improperly done.

The Hotel was more than adequate for the con, but with several problems that emerged: the main function rooms were ~~in a basement~~, shut off from light and air. Facilities were separated too far: the dining, video and art rooms were four stories higher than the main function rooms. The hotel had no reasonably-priced food establishment nor was effort made to get cheap meals provided; and, horror of horrors, the bar within the hotel was closed for all or part of 3 of the 4 days of the con.

On Thursday night we enjoyed long dinner with most of the fans we wanted to see, GUFFER Roelof Goudriaan and Lyne Anne Morse, DUFFER John Berry and Eileen Gunn, the Harveys, John Varley and those elements of Melbourne fandom that had, by then, arrived. We were to see much more of most of these, particularly at the parties.

The Masquerade was held on Friday night, dry because of the local liquor laws relating to Good Friday, and a masked ball was staged on Saturday night to allow for the missed alcohol to be consumed. The two events should have been combined. The Banquet was held on Sunday night and recorded a good attendance, most of whom attested to the good quality of the food. Bob Shaw and Paul Stevens gave after-dinner speeches and the Ditaars and other awards were presented. The evening program went quite well. Partying after the evening program was also good, aided by the appearance of several experienced party fans.

John Varley's 60H speech was both different and interesting. He quoted from The Satanic Verses then explained why, relating to his belief in freedom of speech and his feelings as a fellow author. His other major contribution was a video of his taping of the production of the movie of his novel Millennium. It was good to get an outsider's view of the processes of filmmaking. BoSH delivered a slightly altered version of one of his Eastercon speeches and made a pretty good after-dinner speech at the Banquet.

The highlights of the program were based around the improvised. Some Theatre Sports professionals came in to show how it was done: it is a series of improvised pieces based around set formats with silly plots. Two days later, four teams of fans set about trying to do similar things, and it worked surprisingly well. Tim Richards and Narelle Harris were the comperes, a volunteer provided the piano accompaniment and three audience members were recruited as judges. As a participant, it was a buzz. Fun was also the major ingredient in the Fan Olympics on Monday. Perth was the first Australia fan centre with the idea of silly games during the con; an idea Sydney adapted, with a series of different games, as Fit for

Fandom. The success of the Fan Olympics is dependent on Dave Luckett's organization and the willing participation of 20-30 fans. It went reasonably well.

I didn't have much time for the rest of the program. Not that much was needed. The Future Fanzines discussion was lively with Jenny Blackford keeping it on the rails every time fellow panelist, Terry Frost, tried to derail it. Grant Stone and Peter Nicholls made telling floor comments. Much of the discussion centered on the increasing computerization of fanzine production and whether the paper production will give way to electronic transmission. A side issue was the relevance and aesthetic of zines like Get Stuffed and whether ASER was being too elitist by not trading. Eileen Gunn stood in at the last minute on the "Why Write" panel to rescue the con who'd failed to line up their pro guests for it. She gave reasons why she had written and how her writing fit in with the rest of her life, especially with her employment. The interaction with audience members also bitten by the writing bug was good.

Svancon XIII was not a strongly programmed as either of Perth's previous Natcons, but it was just as enjoyable as a social occasion. It was interesting to see a new, younger element of fandom being just as dominant as the older, more established (my) generation of fans. Although he is not as naturally gregarious as Spider Robinson or C.J. Cherryh, Varley tried hard and attended a few parties, even hosting fans himself late one evening. He deserved more chances on the program and a Q&A should have been included. Similarly BoSH was more than evident socially but less present on the panels. An enjoyable time was had by most as is usually the case at the Natcon despite (and sometimes, because of) the committee.

The Australian SF Awards were won by:
LONG FICTION: Striped Holes, Damien Broderick
SHORT FICTION: "My Lady Tongue", Lucy Sussex
FANZINE: Get Stuffed, Jacob Blake ed.
FAN WRITER: Bruce Gillespie
FAN ARTIST: Ian Gunn
WILLIAM ATHELING JR: Russell Blackford

An International Fiction Award was also given to Orson Scott Card for Seventh Son. The Literary Competition was won by Russell Blackford with joint second places to Dave Luckett and Narelle Harris.

DISCLAVE 1989: by Martin Morse Wooster
Last year's Disclave was one of the most enjoyable conventions I have been to in some time. This year's Disclave was even better.

Held for the fifth straight year over Memorial Day Weekend at the Howard Johnson Plaza in New Carrollton, MD, this year's Disclave was even better. The "Dis-Clave" Con Suite

was back, featuring large, comfortable sofas, food at all hours (including the shocking innovation of fruit, cheese and other non-junk-food items). This year, Ray Ridenour and Joe Mayhev provided art for the "cave"; Ridenour's castle walls and Mayhev's dragon were quite pleasant additions. Also added this year was a book for the Guest of Honor, Lucius Shepard; Shepard's novella, The Father of Stones, was published by WSFA in a limited edition with illustrations by J. K. Potter. Unlike many convention efforts, The Father of Stones looks like a real book; although expensive, the effort paid off. I hope other large regional conventions follow WSFA's model.

Parties were plentiful, including Nashville in '94, Magicon, Philcon and Empiricon. The best parties, however, were held in room 1005. Saturday night Tor Books held a birthday party for Wanda June Alexander where, rumor promised, at the stroke of midnight, famous Hugo winning editor Gardner Dozois would imitate the lusty men of Chippendale's and do a striptease. Unfortunately, Dozois kept his clothes on, but Bob Walters, Peter Heck and James Patrick Kelly did strip. Sunday night Tess Kissinger held a "jungle party" to celebrate Lucius Shepard's steady ouerve. The party largely consisted of guests in jungle garb playing with whoopee cushions. ("If I knew this was going to be a farting party," Gardner Dozois said, "I would have eaten more beans.") The best costume was that of Walter A. Miles, Jr., who wore a green jockstrap and a giant sign saying "BANANAS". "I was a jungle savage," Miles says. The other important party was Alexis and Doll Gilliland's "BNF Soiree," where hundreds of guests all wearing BNF badges in green and white, sipped cider and ate pastries. No snuffing occurred, and Ted White was conspicuously absent.

GoH's Lucius Shepard and J.K. Potter gave a talk about collaboration which was quite entertaining. Attendance was 1,200. Special kudos to book designers Michael Walsh and Mary Blute.

MYTHCON XX UPDATE: Lovers of high fantasy will have a unique opportunity to celebrate the works of Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Lord Dunsany, Ursula LeGuin and other writers in the mythopoeic tradition, when Mythcon XX, the 20th annual conference of the Mythopoeic Society, comes to Vancouver on the University of British Columbia campus (July 28-31).

The special focus of this year's conference -- held for the first time ever outside the U.S. -- is the Arthurian Tradition. GoHs are Canadian fantasy author Guy Gavriel Kay and Raymond Thompson. Also on hand as special guests will be Melwyn Milton Katz, winner of this year's Governor-General's Award in Children's Literature, Michael G. Coney, Eileen Kernaghan and Sharan Newman.

Memberships: \$25 US, \$30 Can., to PO Box 806, Station A,

Nanaimo BC V9R 5N2 Canada. Room/board package: \$155 US/\$205 Can. Information/inquiries re papers: Mason Harris, Department of English, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC V5A 1S6 Canada. Writers' Workshop info: Neville Books, 5211 Neville St., Burnaby BC V5J 2H7 Canada.

FILE 770 CONVENTION BULLETIN BOARD:

RIVERCON XIV: (July 28-30) Louisville KY. Pro: Jack Chalker; Fan: Dick Spelman; TM: Arlan Andrews. Membership: \$15 til 7/15, \$20 at the door. Holiday Inn Downtown, \$56 sgl/dbl, phone: (502) 582-2241. To: RiverCon, PO Box 58009, Louisville KY 40248.

ZERO 6: A RELAXACON (August 11-13) Cavanaugh's Motor Inn, Moscow ID. Pro: John Dalbas. Fan: Jon Gustafson. Featuring two dances, a Jacuzzi party, video room, Sunday brunch. Memberships: \$12 til 8/1, \$14 after and at door. Hotel rooms: \$32/sgl \$38/dbl; call (208)882-1611 for reservations. Info: Moscon-Z, PO Box 8521, Moscow ID 83843.

NOREASCON 3 - WorldCon 47: (August 31-Sept. 4) Boston, MA. GoHs: Andre Norton, Ian & Betty Ballantine, the Boston Stranger Club. Memberships: \$70 attending til 3/15, \$45 child attending til 3/15, \$20 supporting til 7/15. To: Moreascon 3, PO Box 46, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge MA 02139.

STAR WALKING: (Sept. 8-10), Melbourne Townhouse, 701 Swanston St., Carlton VIC 3053. GoH: Jeremy Bullock (Boha Fett). Theme: "All Things Weird and Wonderful." Memberships: \$60 before con, \$75 at door. Rooms: \$82 dbl. To: PO Box 118, Springvale VIC 3171 Australia.

BANFF INTERNATIONAL '89: (Oct. 6-8) Banff Park Lodge, Alberta, Canada. GoHs: Author - Brian Aldiss, Artist - Vincent DiFate, Fan - Mike Glicksohn. The brainchild of the MosCon and NonCon committees, this con has a 650 member ceiling. Membership: \$30/Can \$25/US til 7/1, more later. To: Banff International '89, either PO Box 964, Red Deer, ALTA T4N 5N3 Canada, or PO Box 8521, Moscow ID 83843.

CON-CHORD 5: (Oct. 6-8) Quality Hotel, Los Angeles CA. GoH: Bill Roper and Carol Poore. TM: Catherine Cook MacDonald. Science fiction folk music/filk convention. Rooms: \$50, to Quality Hotel, 5249 W. Century Bl., LA CA 90045. (213) 645-2200. Memberships: \$20 til 9/10, higher at door. To: Conchord: 1810 14th St. #102, Santa Monica CA 90404.

DIITTO II: (Oct. 13-15) Holiday Inn - Van Ness, San Francisco CA. Convention for fanzine fans. Membership: \$27 attending, \$5 supporting. Hotel: \$95 sgl/dbl. To: Gary Mattingly or Pat Peters, 7501 Honey Ct., Dublin CA 94568. Info: (415) 829-7129.

CONVENTION 9/PINEKONE II: (Oct. 13-15) Skyline Hotel, Ottawa ONT. Canadian National SF Convention. SFGoH: Greg Bear; FantasyGoH: Raymond E. Feist; ArtGoH: David Cherry; FanGoH: Michael Skeet. Memberships: C\$20/US\$17 til 9/15, C\$25/US\$21 thereafter. Rooms: C\$85/sgl, C\$95/dbl. CAPSER Awards to be presented. To: PO Box 5368 Stn. F, Ottawa ONT K2C 3J1 Canada.

WEAPONCON: (Oct. 13-15) Comfort Inn-Landmark (Washington DC suburb), Live roleplaying games (interactive literature), awards for best (hall costumes) and most interesting weapon. "You MUST have a weapon on you at all times at this con, however your mouth counts; use it with care." Memberships: \$10 til 9/30, \$20 after. Hotel: 6254 Duke St. (I-395 Duke St. Exit West), Alexandria VA 22312. Rooms: \$56 sgl/quad. (703) 642-3422; say you are with the sf convention. Checks payable to: Irv Koch, 5465 N. Morgan St. #106, Alexandria VA 22312. (703) 354-5358.

NECRONOMICON '89: (October 20-22) Ashley Plaza Holiday Inn, Tampa FL. GoHs: George Alec Effinger and Tom Kidd. Memberships: \$15 til 9/15, \$20 after and at door. Hotel room rates: \$50 sgl-quad. To: Necronomicon '89, PO Box 2076, Riverview FL 33569. (813) 677-6347.

WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION: (Oct. 27-29) Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Seattle WA. Honored Guests: Ursula K. LeGuin, S. P. Somtow, Robert R. McCammon, Avram Davidson. TM: Ginjer Buchanan. Memberships: \$70 til 5/1, limited to 750. Dealers tables sold out. To: WFC, PO Box 31815, Seattle WA 98103-1815.

MILEHICON 21: (Oct. 27-29) Executive Tower Inn, Denver CO. GoH: Robert Bloch. Fan GoH: Forrest J. Ackerman. TM: Simon Hawke. Registration: \$18 til 7/5, \$20 til 10/15, \$22 at door. Hotel: \$47 sgl/dbl. Dealers tables: \$30 til 7/5, \$35 til 10/1, \$40 til 10/27. To: MileHiCon, PO Box 27074, Lakewood CO 80227. (303) 426-0806.

ORYCON 11: (Nov. 10-12) Columbia River Red Lion Inn, Portland OR. GoH: Michael Bishop. Memberships: \$16 til 5/31/89, \$20 til 10/31/89, \$25 at door. To: Orycon 11, PO Box 5703, Portland OR 97228.

SCI CON 11: (Nov. 10-12) Holiday Inn Executive Center, Virginia Beach VA. Artist Guests: Ron Lindahn & Val Lakey-Lindahn. Special GoH: Frank Kelly Freas. Memberships: \$15 til 9/30, \$20 at the door. Huckster tables (including 1 membership) are \$75 til 10/1, and if any are available after that date, they will cost \$100. Info: (send SASE) Sci Con 11, Dept. FA, PO Box 9434, Hampton VA 23670.

LOSCON 16: (Nov. 24-26: Thanksgiving Weekend) Pasadena Hilton, Pasadena CA. GoHs: Authors - Spider & Jeanne Robinson; Fans - John & Bjo Trimble; Artist: A Big Secret. Featuring Spider Robinson's Birthday Party, Steve Barnes' Famous Blowout Dance, Larry Niven's Irish Coffee Party, Ice Cream Social. Memberships: \$17.50 til 7/15/89. Info: LASFS, 11513 Burbank Bl., North Hollywood CA 91601.

SILICON '89: (Nov. 24-26) Red Lion Inn, San Jose CA. Writer GoH: Charles de Lint; Artist GoH: David Cherry; TM: Diana Paxton; Fan GoH: Nancy L. Cobb. Hotel phone: (408) 279-0600. Membership: \$20 til 5/1, \$25 til 11/1, \$30 at door. To: Silicon, PO Box 8029, San Jose CA 95155.

SMOFCON 6: (Dec. 8-10) Toronto, Ontario. The convention runners' convention. Theme: Convention planning. Hospitality suite. Hotel: Howard Johnson

Airport Hotel, 801 Dixon Rd., Toronto ONT M9W 1J5 CANADA. (416) 675-6100. Rooms: C\$72 sgl/dbl. Memberships: US\$28 til 5/31, US\$32 til 10/30, US\$40 at the door. To: Smofcon 6, PO Box 186, Station M, Toronto ONT M6S 4T3 Canada.

CONFURENCE ONE: (Jan. 26-28, 1990) Holiday Inn Bristol Plaza, Costa Mesa CA. Furrries-anthropomorphics-funny animal theme convention. Memberships: \$20, \$25 at the door. To: Confurence, PO Box 1958, Garden Grove CA 92644-1958

CONSONANCE 1990: (March 2-4, 1990) San Jose Airport Radisson, San Jose CA. GoHs: Barry and Sally Childs-Helton. TM: Chris Weber. Rooms: \$52 sgl/dbl; phone (408) 298-0100. Memberships: \$20 through 10/9, \$25 through 2/2/90. To: Mail Songs, PO Box 29888, Oakland CA 94604.

DANSE MACABRE: (April 12-16, 1990) 29th Australian National Convention. Diplomat Motor Inn, Acland St., St. Kilda. Pro: G. R. R. Martin. Fan: John Bangsund. Memberships: \$45. Rooms: \$54/sgl, \$59/dbl. To: Danse Macabre, PO Box 273, Fitzroy VIC 3065 Australia.

CORFLU 7: (May 4-6, 1990) New York, NY. Fanzine fans' convention. Hotel to be announced. Memberships: \$35 attending, \$5 supporting. To: Lise Eisenberg, 99 Joralemon St., #6D, Brooklyn NY 11201.

CONVERGE II: (June 1-4, 1990) NZ Queens Birthday. Terrace Regency Hotel, Wellington NZ. Pro: Richard Arnold (Paramount's Trek archivist), Fan: James Benson. Memberships: NZ\$35, NZ\$40 at door. To: CONVERGE II, PO Box 4188, Manganui, New Zealand.

WESTERCON 43: (July 5-8, 1990) Red Lion Inn, Portland OR. GoHs: Ursula K. LeGuin, Vonda McIntyre, Kate Wilhelm. Memberships: \$25 til 7/4/89, more later. To: Westercon 43, PO Box 5794, Portland OR 97228. Info: (503) 283-0802.

CONFICITION - WorldCon 48: (Aug. 23-27, 1990) The Hague, Netherlands. Pro GoHs: Joe Haldeman, Wolfgang Jeschke, Harry Harrison; Fan: Andrew Porter; TM: Chelsea Quinn Yarbro. Memberships: attending \$70, child attending \$17, supporting \$28, all good til 12/31. To: PO Box 95370, 2509 CJ The Hague, The Netherlands.

CONDIEGO - NASFiC: (Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 1990) San Diego, CA. Pro: Samuel Delany. Fan: Ben Yalow. Memberships: attending \$55 til 7/1/89, supporting \$25 til 7/1/90. To: ConDiego, PO Box 15771, San Diego CA 92115.

CHICON V - WorldCon 49 (Aug. 29-Sept. 2, 1991) Chicago IL. Pro GoHs: Writer - Hal Clement, Artist - Richard Powers, Editor - Martin Harry Greenberg; Fan: Jon & Joni Stopa; TM: Marta Randall. Memberships: attending \$75 til 12/31/89. Supporting? Memberships to: Chicon V, PO Box 218121, Upper Arlington OH 43221. For information: Chicon V, PO Box A3120, Chicago IL 60690.

(Noreascon Hugo Ballot Furor, continued from page 2))
 a slightly different list. (We in fact know the names of several of these people: some voters indicated on the ballots that they "received ballot and instructions" from X or Y.) We emphasize that soliciting votes in this way, while perhaps in dubious taste, is in no way illegal or unethical; we describe the larger bloc vote only because of its relationship to the smaller group of money-order ballots.

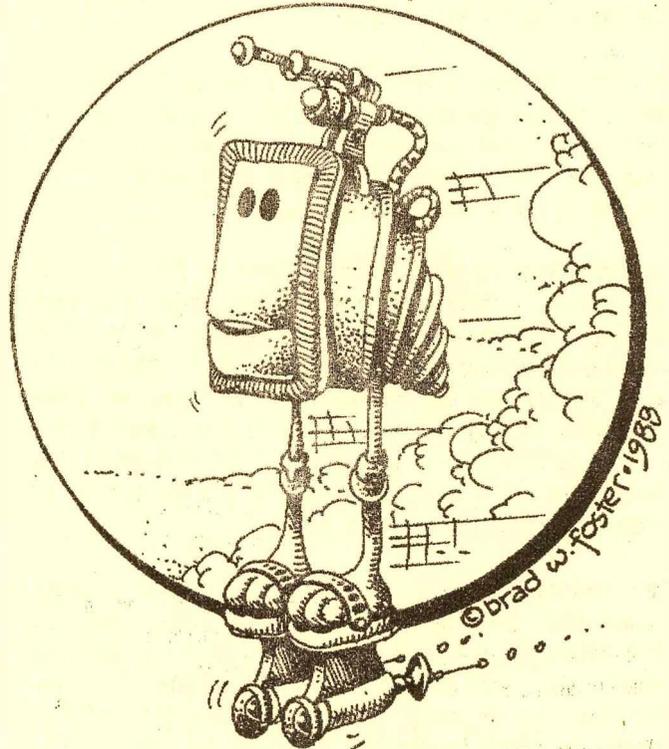
"The money-order ballots' are the group of 25 ballots already mentioned. All were accompanied by new supporting memberships, all paid for by \$20 postal money orders purchased at the same post office in Brooklyn, NY. (It should be noted that all postal money orders bear code numbers giving the zipcode of the issuing post office, the sequence number of their printing, and the date of purchase.) The dates of purchase were as follows:

Tuesday, February 14	3 money orders
Tuesday, March 7	11 money orders
Wednesday, March 8	8 money orders
Tuesday, March 14	3 money orders

"The money orders within each of the above four sets were consecutively numbered. The ballots with these money orders were all part of the bloc vote described in the previous paragraph; some of the subsets mentioned there included both money-order and non-money-order ballots, other subsets included only non-money-order ballots. This suggests that some of the persons soliciting the bloc vote ballots were aware of the money orders. The voters casting the money-order ballots had addresses in nine states, none of them anywhere near New York: 17 from Illinois, one each from Missouri, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Florida, California, Nebraska and Arizona. The signatures on nearly all the money orders matched those on the corresponding ballots; however, a large number of them appeared to have the 'PAY TO' section filled out in identical handwriting.

"[While reviewing the evidence to prepare this statement...we discovered a 26th money order purchased at the same Brooklyn post office on January 20, this one for \$40 for two memberships. The voters were from Wisconsin, and the ballots resembled the other money-order ballots...[and] they appear to have been filled out with the same typewriter as three of the non-money-order bloc ballots. We also found that three money orders purchased at a Chicago post office on February 18 seem to have been filled out in the same handwriting as many of the Brooklyn money orders.]

"The beneficiaries of the bloc vote' refers to those potential nominees receiving many or most of their votes from the bloc voters. There were a total of eight such



beneficiaries, not all of whom received enough votes to make the final ballot. Of those that did make the ballot, only two would have failed to do so without the money-order ballots: The Guardsman for Best Novel and Todd Cameron Hamilton for Best Professional Artist. Nominees in three other categories received a sufficient number of non-money-order bloc votes to have made the ballot anyway. (The latter included the Beese/Hamilton nomination for the Campbell Award, where it took only 11 votes to make the ballot.)"

Armed with the foregoing information, the Noreascon Three committee felt they had three options:

(1) They could accept all the ballots, risking that some of the 50 people aware of the money-order bloc vote would leak that information. "Unfortunately, once those ballots had been cast, there was virtually no course of action not likely to lead to embarrassment for the most obvious beneficiaries."

(2) They could disqualify the money-order ballots, leaving The Guardsman and Todd Hamilton with too few nominations to qualify for the final ballot. Although some committee members favored this course, arguing that the subsidized votes violated the constitutional limit on the number of

nominations one individual could make in a category, others felt disqualifying the ballots would be unethical, or a dangerous precedent, and in any case leave untouched the unsubsidized portion of the bloc vote. The committee also voted against this choice.

(3) The committee settled on a third option, to leave all the bloc-voted nominees on the ballot and also retain the legitimately-voted nominees that were edged out of fifth place by bloc voting. This meant there would be six nominees in the affected categories.

The committee agreed "...that whatever we did would be made public. There are many stories about how past WorldCon committees have thrown out ballots or rejected nominations without telling anyone about it (though the facts usually leak out eventually). We rejected these precedents, feeling that the science fiction community had a right to know what we were doing. Unfortunately, the consequences of this decision thus far are not likely to encourage such openness in the future."

The committee considered it mandatory to publish a press release about their decision. "There was little question about describing the general situation, including both the overall bloc vote and the money-order ballots. It was also clear that we should not name the individual nominees in question (though some would inevitably be deduced.)"

The new release states the committee was "startled" when fandom perceived the first press release as an accusation that Hamilton and Beese had orchestrated the ballot stuffing.

* * * *

The day after I got my Hugo nominees press release in the mail, my phone rang. "Glyer? This is Marlan." As a Hugo nominee he'd gotten his own copy of the press release and he wanted to know, "Who is P.J. Beese and Todd Cameron Hamilton?" He and his wife Susan had already deduced who was being accused by a simple process. "Listen to these names, Glyer: C. J. Cherryh; Bruce Sterling; William Gibson; Orson Scott Card; P. J. Beese and Todd Cameron Hamilton -- which of them doesn't fit?"

Being unfamiliar with The Guardsmen I could only tell him P. J. Beese is married to the Chicon IV treasurer, and Todd Hamilton is a hot artist from Chicago.

It remained for Michael Kube-McDowell, the Rafsanjani of CompuServe, to see that Noreascon's cautious press release did not fail to outrage the uninitiated general public: he explicitly accused Hamilton and Beese on a national computer net.

Panicked by the rhetorical storm on CompuServe, Todd Hamilton and his agent phoned representatives of Noreascon 3, who in turn consulted their attorney. By Todd Hamilton's request, the names of Hamilton and Beese were withdrawn from all but the Campbell category. Noreascon reacted with a second press release announcing, "Because we are satisfied that Mr. Hamilton did not take part in arranging the bloc vote or purchasing memberships for voters, we have agreed to his request..." Such assurance was too late to prevent publishers from cancelling four commissions Hamilton told fans at a party in Chicago the following week. He also spoke out bitterly, at the Marcon banquet, against his treatment by the Noreascon 3 chairman.

Hamilton has good cause to be upset with Noreascon 3, given that his reputation and career have been damaged by the committee's handling of events for which they now hold him blameless.

Todd Hamilton was the last of six speakers at the Marcon 60th speeches. Doug Carey, of Canton, OH, says Todd described his disillusionment with fandom's fairness. He characterized Noreascon's committee and chair as very unresponsive and hinted at possible malice. He stated his lawyer advised him he could "stop the Hugos: this is not acceptable." Hamilton requested that no fannish action be taken against Michael Kube-McDowell for posting bulletins about the vote fraud on CompuServe.

* * * *

Editorialization and Other Excerpts: It has been Noreascon's explicit policy throughout this scandal to seek no information and make no investigation. Despite their reluctance to be informed, further information was thrust upon them and the committee was forced to modify its views.

At the outset, the committee deliberately failed to communicate with Beese and Hamilton about the bloc voting, only talking to Hamilton after the first press release had been circulated, at which time they "became convinced that Hamilton had no knowledge of the money-order ballots and had not himself taken part in soliciting votes."

By then, of course, Hamilton had already been pilloried on CompuServe and in the fannish press, a result the committee clearly intended and felt was utterly appropriate and consistent with their assumption that Hamilton and Beese orchestrated the bloc vote. Their mistake is coolly excused in the latest release with the comment, "...we had originally thought it likely that those who profited from what happened were also aware of it; it now seems likely that this was not the case."

Distilled to its essence, the committee defends its mistake as being excused by the need to protect the Hugo selection

process from a present danger of fraud. This might be a more persuasive defense had it meant, in practice, anything more than performing amateur handwriting analysis on ballots and postal money orders.

The latest press release makes the committee's avoidance of systematic fact-gathering -- that would allow them to make authoritative public comment about the true perpetrators of the bloc vote -- sound virtuous. They state, "...we made no attempt to contact the money-order voters themselves. In this connection, we have been attacked both for not attempting to contact them and for thinking of doing so. We in fact felt that for us to quiz the voters about their actions would have been both improper and futile. It must be remembered that we are not a law enforcement agency: we have no power to subpoena evidence or compel testimony. And if the voters in question were in fact involved in a conspiracy, there was no reason to think that they would admit it if we asked them. As we shall see, a number of the voters eventually contacted us on their own behalf...with interesting results. [Ellipsis in the original.]"

Granted that once the committee alienated the bloc voters with ballot-stuffing charges in a press release they had no reason to expect any cooperation. But the committee can hardly defend its original failure to interview the bloc voters by admitting they were too prejudiced to consider anything the voters had to say.

Before the first press release muddied the waters irreparably, it should have been very easy to call bloc voters on the phone (or, second choice, to write to them if a number was no available from information), asking (1) "Did you join Noreascon?" (2) "Did you cast your own Hugo nominating ballot?" Anyone whose name was submitted for membership without the individual's knowledge can hardly have cast a legal vote, but bear in mind that whether the individual being interviewed, his acquaintance, or a hypothetical conspirator bought his membership, the individual would be innocent of any rules violations therefore would have little motivation to be untruthful.

The purpose of question (2) is less innocuous, but within the limitations of the committee's powers would have yielded a decisive answer. Anyone who answered that he let his vote be cast by someone else must have his vote invalidated. Anyone who let himself be instructed how to vote should have his vote accepted, for that does not violate the rules. Anyone who answered that he cast his own vote (uninstructed) should certainly have his ballot accepted, regardless of suspicion about money-order memberships (if one is involved), given that the committee has no evidence to disprove such a statement and that it is not against the rules to be the recipient of a gift membership. The committee primary test should be whether

the one-person-one-vote principle is violated. At no point in this process is it necessary to ask a person why they put Hamilton (or anyone else) on their ballot, although the committee, Beese and Hamilton appear certain that it does. Everyone agrees that bloc voting does not violate the rules, therefore all that matters is that the voters have validly joined the con, and made out their own ballots.

(Whether the science fiction community desires to outlaw Hugo bloc voting, or has reasonable means to identify unallowable votes, is a question to be considered at another time.)

Having made no investigation, the committee received a godsend in the form of an unsolicited letter from SFWA member Michael Stackpole, of Phoenix, who told them in his letter of May 13, "I discovered, about six weeks ago, that I have a supporting membership to N3. This surprised me because I don't recall sending money to anyone. I also understand there has been something of a scandal involving supporting memberships that were voted in a block. Is mine of those?" Stackpole confirmed he neither paid for a membership nor cast the ballot bearing his signature. The committee captioned this section of the new press release, "A Letter Demonstrating Fraud", and leans very heavily on this evidence to justify its extraordinary actions.

But one letter is not an avalanche. Having failed to interview the bloc voters, the committee was left in a weakened position when there surfaced a letter, dated May 20, signed by 17 of the 25 money-order voters (all the ones with Illinois addresses) purporting to give an innocent explanation of the suspicious pattern in their votes. (Neither the committee nor Beese/Hamilton has released any of these names.)

In essence, the 3-page letter attributed the block vote to a group of friends who went to college together a decade ago and now pick a convention each year to attend as a group. They are avid Zelazny fans who chose this year's Lunacon for their reunion because he was 60H. It happens Todd Cameron Hamilton illustrated Roger Zelazny's Visual Guide To Castle Amber, released in November 1988, attracting the group's attention to the young artist, and eventually to his collaborative novel, The Guardsman. Their Lunacon vacation was about a week before the nominating deadline, and allegedly, "we decided to purchase postal money orders to pay for our memberships because we thought it would be a shame if our votes weren't accepted because our memberships were held up pending the clearance of our personal checks." The writer pointed out that in Noreascon's press release, "You did not state that each ballot was filled out by hand by a different person and in a different handwriting. You did not mention that the addresses were different, most being from different towns and even different states."

The letter recited detail about the group's activities and movements: looking without success for Zelazny Friday night of Lunacon then leaving the convention, etc. The Noreascon press release spent most of two pages applying the techniques of literary criticism to discrediting the story in the letter, pointing out inconsistencies -- like a reference to cold fusion, which was not reported until after Lunacon, and attacking certain actions as illogical (thus not credible) -- like failing to find Zelazny when his schedule was public information. The timing of the money-order ballots was also shown to be not fully explained by the Lunacon story. The committee likewise thought it a significant omission that the writers' affection for Roger Zelazny's Guide To Castle Amber did not translate into more than 3 nominations for Best Non-Fiction Book. (Of course maybe they didn't consider it a work of nonfiction: I know I don't.)

The committee's analysis of the letter, though it casts some doubt upon it, also re-enacts their bizarre aversion to calling anybody on the phone to ask questions. Perhaps they are afraid the authors will be able to persuade them they are telling the truth, which would be galling after they have leapfrogged to a series of conclusions!

This is not a situation where fans with competing interests know the facts and can be stimulated to bring them before the public, as you are accustomed to see in File 770. Here, for example, a concommittee's secretiveness about a sensitive issue may be defeated by someone who feels fandom will share his dissatisfaction after he shares the information. The committee will be moved to offer its side of the story, and the public is informed. In this case, neither Noreascon Three nor Hamilton/Beese knows the story behind the bloc voting. Only the voters -- a third party -- know the story behind the scheme.

When one bloc of people has a monopoly on a story, if you don't ask them questions before making accusations you won't get to hear what they have to say before it is influenced by defensiveness. (Especially in this case where most of the participants probably didn't feel they'd done anything wrong.) You also won't have any way to test the self-serving statements that will be made after the accusations are aired. Given that even a self-serving statement can be the truth, the truth is not served by guaranteeing that such statements emerge in an atmosphere of cynicism.

* * * *

Pure Editorialization: Beese and Hamilton's opinion about the "unacceptable precedents" being created by the Noreascon 3 Committee are quoted verbatim elsewhere in this issue. In brief they accuse Noreascon of adopting

something like its own set of Five Commandments: (1) The committee shall have the power to call a valid member's nominating ballot into question and force that member to justify his choices. (2) The committee shall have the power to remove any nominee they do not personally feel is worthy of such a nomination. (3) The committee may add individuals to the ballot regardless of how the members voted. (4) The committee shall have the power to decide if the ballots must be kept secret. (5) The committee need not give all members an equal voice in the Hugo awards process. Beese and Hamilton have good reason to be outraged at their treatment, but these particular opinions are expressed in a silly and argumentative way.

Beese and Hamilton are absolutely right that "the committee has the power", but their portrayal of that power is very silly, and quite untrue to the way committees have exercised that power. They very rarely exercise any discretion over individual Hugo nominees or voters.

Even without explicit license from WSFS Constitution, a WorldCon committee has the responsibility and intrinsic authority to validate every phase of Hugo voting. Twice in the 1980s WorldCons have seriously considered exercising that authority to deal with ballot-stuffing.

The 1983 ConStellation committee, according to Scott Dennis, intended to invalidate the Hugo nomination of Battlefield Earth if it received the minimum number of votes necessary to make the final ballot, in reaction to the bloc voting orchestrated by John & Bjo Trimble. In 1983 the Trimbles were associated with Bridge Publications whom they expected to subsidize their semiprozine "To The Stars". Dennis reports Battlefield Earth narrowly missed the minimum number of votes to make the final ballot, sparing the committee from having to take action. One cannot overlook that the ConStellation committee intended to reject the nomination because of bloc voting done partly, but by no means exclusively, by people who seemed to have no previous connection with fandom, not because of illegal ballots or fraud.

L.A.con II (1984) received memberships purchased by a prospective nominee for his friends and family, who dutifully filled in his name on their ballots. Although disgusted with the pro, the committee agreed this was not a violation of the WSFS constitution because each was a real individual and cast his own vote. The committee decided not to remove the nominee from the ballot, and as expected, he fared poorly in the final voting.

A WorldCon committee has sole authority to administer all phases of the convention as they see fit. Sometimes this autonomy has been critical to the survival of a year's convention, as when the intended 1977 WorldCon hotel in Orlando went bankrupt, and the committee moved the con to

Mjaii. The concon's autonomy is an inherent feature of our system of awarding and administering WorldCons, and has been ferociously defended against each attempt to give WSFS (whether Inc. or Uninc.) authority over its franchisees. The only real limitation on a committee is the amount of personal flack they're willing to take.

Is it the duty or right of concoms to defeat efforts at manipulating the final ballot?

Past WorldCon committees have been loathe to deal openly with Hugo voting irregularities, so my initial impulse was to congratulate Noreascon 3 for its willingness to boldly confront to bloc voting. Remember: convention committees are made of science fiction fans. They have very little incentive for risking the alienation of a pro -- plus all his friends, and any of his colleagues who resent fandom -- by calling into doubt what ought to be a high point in his career, a Hugo nomination. What fun is it to be a fan if you have to make decisions that piss off the people you admire? The WSFS Constitution does not instruct a committee how to preserve the integrity of the Hugo selection process, giving committees great leeway to do absolutely nothing, and the few we know have been confronted with suspicious voting patterns have managed to do just that. Regrettably, in Noreascon's case, their haphazard methods have eclipsed their good intentions.

Fandom's confidence in the convention administering skills of the 1989 (Noreascon Three) committee is such that a group could hardly enjoy greater credibility where Hugo rules enforcement is concerned. The Noreascon executive also being conservative and fanatically close-mouthed, one hardly expected the aggressive stance of their first press release to be based solely on coincidental patterns of nominations and money order memberships, unchecked with any voters, unsupported by any corroborative evidence of fraud. Pattern recognition is a useful tool in uncovering fraud, but it is the first step, not the last step, and by itself proves nothing. Let's face it: Bloc voting is not against the rules; money order memberships are not against the rules; gift memberships are not against the rules; and the Stackpole letter (proving one case of vote fabrication) did not come until after the first press release. So was anything behind Noreascon's first press release besides misdirected suspicion and righteous indignation?

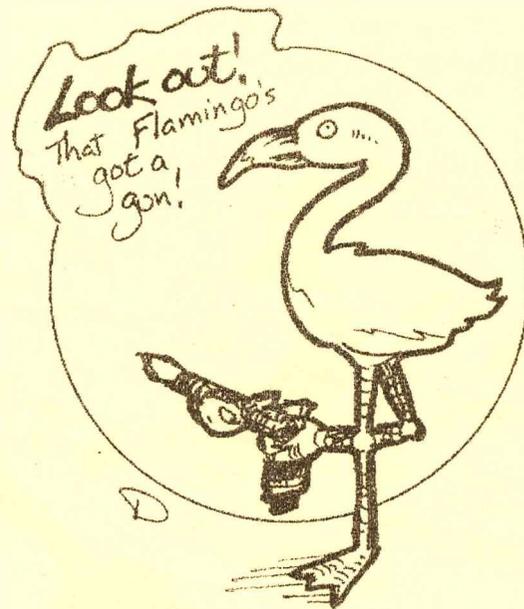
While the Noreascon officers are probably right in saying "...the consequences of this decision thus far are not likely to encourage such openness in the future" the fact is the committee wasn't very open to begin with, never intended to release the information we have before us, and have done so only to rebut Beese and Hamilton's accusations.

Unsolicited Advice To Future WorldCon Committees: There will come another day when Hugo voting fraud is suspected. A commonsense strategy for confronting it is needed, one neither paralyzed by lack of constitutional license, nor dictated by emotional outrage. Indeed, the broad outline of that strategy is not very difficult to conceive.

When the validity of someone's membership or vote is in doubt, a committee can ask the member appropriate questions about how they joined the convention and whether they cast their own vote. One never should, and never has to ask "Why did you vote for X?" If the member's answers reveal violations of the one-person one-vote principle, don't count the ballot. If they don't reveal such violations (because there are no violations, or they are lying, or they simply can't be reached for questioning), absent proof from another source the committee has no factual basis for invalidating the membership or ballot and should shut up and count the vote.

If some ballots are disqualified, a committee should not impugn the beneficiary of such votes without evidence of the beneficiary's responsibility they could confidently take into a court of law, for in our litigious society they may have to.

As the Noreascon committee says: "The integrity of the nomination and voting process must be maintained, or the Hugo awards will be meaningless."



BEESE/HAMILTON OPEN LETTER TO NOREASCON THREE

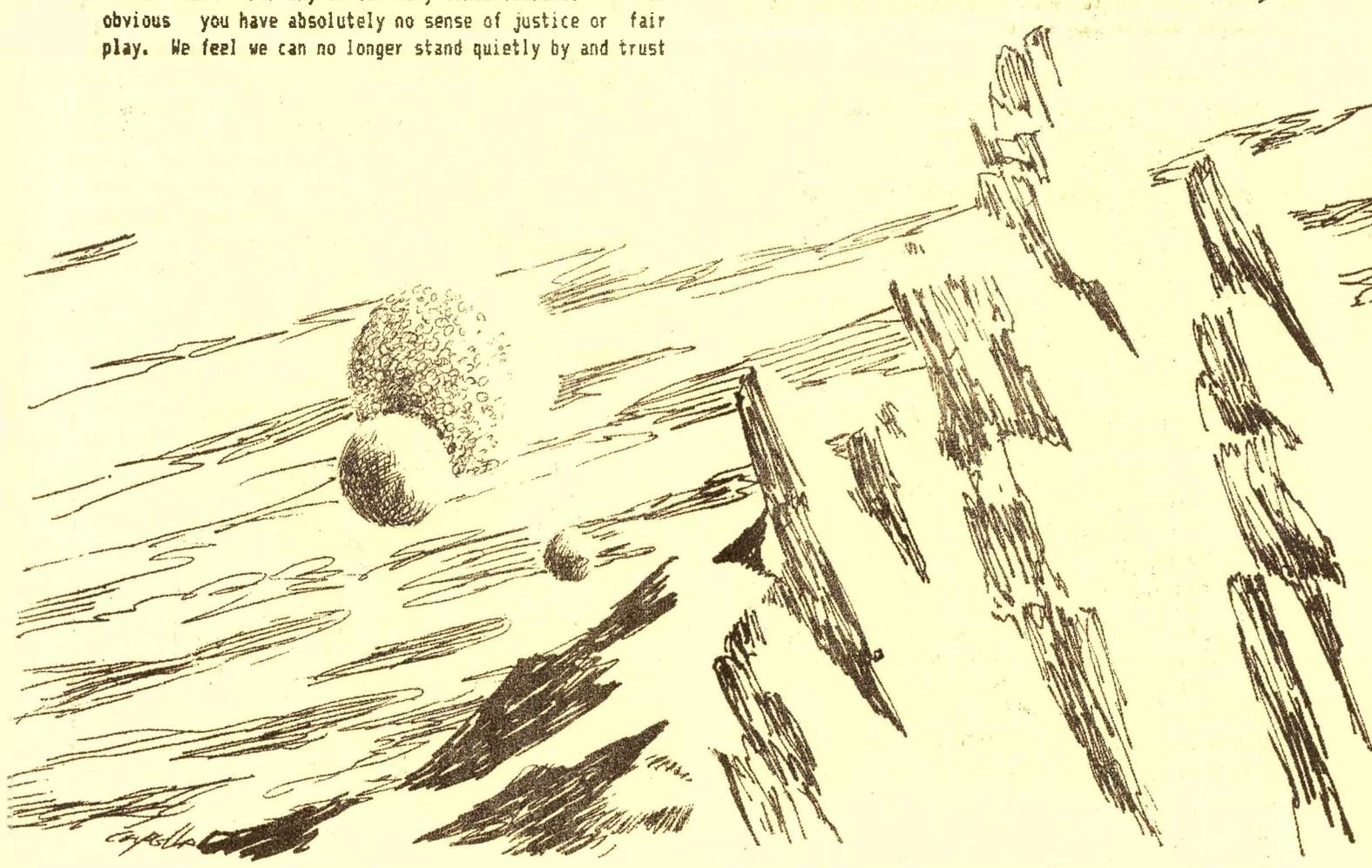
((PREFACE: Behind the scenes an emotion-packed exchange has been going on between P.J. Beese, Todd Cameron Hamilton and officers of the Noreascon Three committee. Recently the two writers circulated copies of the May 2 letter from chairman Mark Olson and attorney Rick Katze, along with the writers' answer. The committee's letter discussed several ideas for canvassing the members who participated in the bloc vote, sounding discouraging about the prospects of gaining any cooperation or truthful answers that would definitively clear the pair. The letter also stated, "Of the 55 ballots [in the bloc vote] about 25 of them were accompanied by new supporting memberships paid for by postal money orders purchased at a single post office in three lots with sequential numbers. These ballots showed a great deal of similarity among themselves. The other 30 or so ballots of the bloc were mostly cast by people who were already members of Noreascon Three. ...Seventeen of the 25 postal money order nominations came from Illinois."))

P.J. BEESE & TODD CAMERON HAMILTON: We received your letter...and have read it carefully. It offers no more satisfaction than any of our many conversations. It is obvious you have absolutely no sense of justice or fair play. We feel we can no longer stand quietly by and trust

you to rectify the unseealy situation you created.

Your refusal to do anything to either validate or invalidate the Hugo nominating ballots that you, in your sole judgement, decided were questionable, is at best, in itself questionable. We refused the offer referred to in the sixth paragraph of your letter. Quite frankly, we found the prospect of questioning anyone on the reasons for the choices they made on a secret ballot to be abhorrent. Even worse, we would have had to question those who supported us as to their reasons for supporting us, and their ethics. We're sure some might have felt that even their morals were being questioned. Your letter proposes an even worse situation in that we would be performing this inquisition in front of the entire Noreascon Three committee for your further "analysis" and any action you might choose to take. No, thank you.

It should be obvious to everyone knowledgeable in the Hugo nominating process that, in order to make the statements you have made, Noreascon Three has scrutinized the nominating ballots to determine who nominated whom. While this is disturbing, it becomes even more so when one realizes Noreascon Three does not have a Hugo subcommittee. This means that most, if not all, of the members of your large committee have access to some, if not all, of the nominating ballots. Your claim to be



protecting the sanctity of the ballots is beyond belief, especially when committee members readily leak supposedly privileged yet still inaccurate information.

Our purpose in sending copies of this letter to SFNA, ASFA, WSFS and other significant members of the science fiction community is to call attention to Noreascon Three's usurpation of powers beyond those granted by WSFS. If allowed to go unchallenged and uncensured, Noreascon Three will have established the following unacceptable precedents:

1. The host committee shall have the power to call any valid member's nominating ballot (and by extension any final ballot) into question and force that member to justify their choices.
2. The host committee shall have the power to use any means necessary to cause the removal from the ballot of any nominee they do not personally feel is worthy of such a nomination, regardless of how the members voted.
3. The host committee shall have the power to add individuals to the ballot that the committee feels should have been on the ballot, regardless of how the members voted.
4. The host committee shall have the power to decide if the ballots such be kept secret.
5. The host committee shall have the power to disregard the requirements that all members be given an equal voice in the Hugo award process.

With respect to the matter immediately at hand, there are many who believe we have been the victims of libel, slander and innuendo. Noreascon Three has taken the position that we are guilty unless we prove ourselves innocent. This is obviously the reverse of what the free people of the world feel should take place. We doubt anyone who might be nominated in the future would want this form of perverted logic to become common. Based on only the thinnest of circumstantial evidence, you chose to condemn us without even lifting a finger to check the facts. You decided we were guilty based on your feeling that our work couldn't merit a nomination. We wonder if any one of you, let alone all of those making the decision, even read the book you were so quick to judge. Worse yet, your committee members we spoke to confirmed that it was your intent not to give either of us any warning of the charges leveled against us. You wanted to ensure that we "got what was coming to us" with no chance to defend ourselves. Why or how anyone could have been this malicious to someone they had never even met is beyond our comprehension. The pain and anguish you have caused us is beyond description. The material damage to

our careers has already started. We're positive that when the members of the science fiction community entrusted you with the power you have they didn't envision you would misuse it in such a vile and perverse manner.

The withdrawal of our nominations was extracted from us with the unkept promise of a complete exoneration in a press release -- a press release that was modified without our knowledge so as to be more indictment than exoneration. This is yet another example of your questionable ethics.

We have steadfastly maintained our innocence. Further, we asked you repeatedly to correct the grave injustice you have perpetrated. You have maintained that we must prove our innocence to your satisfaction before you will take any action. You even insisted the proof of our innocence had to include the identification of a guilty party. Never has any Hugo nominee been forced to prove and then justify so much to so few.

In spite of communications to your committee from non-disputant parties indicating our innocence, you couldn't conceive of, and weren't willing to admit that, the ballots might have been cast by honest members attempting to nomination according to the rules. ((See editor's footnote.)) The subtleties of the politics and face-saving employed by Noreascon Three do not elude us. Your refusal to accept the explanation offered for the ballots still in question is cowardly in the extreme. Clearly, the only infraction of WSFS rules was perpetrated by Noreascon Three, as admitted in your own first press release. We are making this letter public because we no longer feel we can trust the Noreascon Three committee to deal in an honorable manner.

We feel the following actions should be taken by Noreascon Three immediately:

1. Issue a full, unequivocal public apology to us and to the members of Noreascon Three for the actions taken by the committee and the inability of your committee to maintain confidentiality.
2. Reinstate our Hugo nominations with all the rights and privileges thereto.
3. Issue a full, unequivocal public statement that our nomination for the Campbell Award was never in question.
4. Issue corrected Hugo ballots along with copies of the apology and an explanation of the wrong-doing of Noreascon Three.

The cost and inconvenience Noreascon Three will suffer is negligible compared to the suffering you have caused us. We feel it is entirely reasonable for us to expect you to

make this minimal effort to mitigate damages you have caused. There is nothing you can do to make us entirely whole.

If you refuse our reasonable request, we hope the science fiction community will judge you accordingly.

((The "communications...from non-disputant parties" refers to an alleged group of Lunacon attendees who contacted Hamilton with the claim they bought their memberships with postal money orders and all listed him and The Guardsmen on their ballots. The group's letter is discussed in the main article.

((As noted in the main article, the committee issued a 27-page response to the Beese/Hamilton letter. Chairman Mark Olson's specific reply to their demands is:

NOREASCON THREE COMMITTEE: "1. We believe that the Noreascon Three Committee has acted honorably and with the best intent. We do not see that the committee needs to apologize.

"2. We removed you from the ballot in the first place at your urgent request. If you had changed your minds before the ballot had been printed, we would have obliged. At this point, more than 5000 Hugo ballots have been distributed and over 150 Hugo ballots have been returned. Any further change to the list of nominees is impossible.

"3. We agree that your nomination for the Campbell Award was not dependent on the money order ballots and are pleased to say so publicly.

"4. This request is answered in the above three points.

"As we have stated to you in the past, we have no evidence that you were parties to the money-order-ballot fraud. We will state this publicly. However, we believe that you should focus your righteous anger at those who perpetrated this fraud, not at Noreascon for uncovering it and acting to protect the Hugos. /s/ Mark L. Olson, Chairman."

HUGOS GET STUFFED

GEORGE FLYNN: As I guess you already know from the second press release, the paragraph about Todd Hamilton is in addition to, not instead of, the original bloc-voting paragraph (except that on the actual ballot we had to edit both paragraphs to fit.)

The answer to Brad Foster's question is that the Fan

Artist Hugo was originally for work in fanzines only, but at L.A.con I it was amended to include "other public display", with the explicit intent of including convention art shows (as is also obvious from the fact that Bjo Trimble made the motion.)

And a belated comment on #78: It's very nice that there's so little "fannish inactivity in Alberta", but what does that have to do with Winnipeg? Perhaps you had Manitoba in mind? (I was astonished to find #79 had no cracks from Canada about ignorant Americans...)

HARRY WARNER JR. Of course, the information about bloc voting for Hugos is alarming. I no longer care in particular who wins the Hugo awards because not more than a few dozen potential voters see all the fanzines that might deserve a Hugo or all the fan writings that could be honored with a Hugo, and I doubt if the number of voters who read all the professional fiction published in a year is much greater. Still, if a thousand dollars or so gets spent to buy fifty or more supporting memberships for this purpose, it's more evidence that WorldCon circumstances are running amok.

I do think the WorldCon authorities owe us an announcement of who and what achieved nomination because of bloc voting in the categories were a sixth nominee was added. Obviously there is nothing criminal or immoral in bloc voting, or the committee would have refused to accept those memberships. So it shouldn't be libelous to reveal their identity, and in this way the other five nominees in each of those categories would be freed from suspicion. It isn't fair that the other five in each category should be left in circumstances that could cause some fans to assume they're in there because of bloc voting.

CATHERINE FITZSIMMONS: ((Editor's note: To conserve space Catherine's letter has been heavily edited where it raises questions already covered in the Beese/Hamilton letter appearing elsewhere this issue.))

In regard to the recent brouhaha concerning the Hugo nominations I am outraged by the manner in which the Nreascon III committee (N3) and George Flynn in particular handled this matter. While refusing to release sufficient information which would clear those involved, they have used rumor and innuendo to malign the characters of three very fine people. They have caused these people a great deal of pain and have almost certainly damaged, if not destroyed, the career of one of the three. All out of an overblown sense of self-righteousness.

....The N3 press release states that the committee was "highly disturbed" by the concept of such bloc voting. However, they also acknowledge that there is nothing in the WSFS Constitution prohibiting this. In fact, such bloc

nominating has been done in the recent past. Perhaps not so "blatantly" as was done here, but it has been done. The fanzine nominations at Atlanta are a good example. There, a group decided that their fanzine ought to be on the ballot and they nominated en masse. While there was a great deal of discussion about whether the fanzine in question belonged on the ballot, no one so much as implied there had been anything unethical in the way it was nominated. And, to tell the truth, here was talk in Texas for several years to "bloc nominate" and get Pat Mueller and The Texas SF Inquirer on the ballot. But because Pat and the Inquirer were "deserving" of the honor, no one seemed to think anything was wrong in such tactics. The only difference here is that (1) the bloc appears to have been paid for by a single person with consecutive money orders (in spite of the fact that the ballots can, as Mark Olson acknowledged to Marie Bartlett, be attributed to 25 very real individuals) and (2) Flynn and N3 apparently believe that the alleged perpetrators don't belong on the ballot because the caliber of their work is not "up to snuff".

....As a direct result of the N3 press release, comments flew across CompuServe and other networks, such as SMDF-BBS, maliciously maligning the integrity of the two and, by implication, the spouse of one. One message written by a relatively well-known, up-and-coming writer was blatantly libelous. (That is not only my personal opinion, it is my legal opinion.) (FitzSimmons is an attorney in Illinois.) The writer has since "apologized" for any misinterpretation of his comments, but how can you misinterpret a statement that two people "bought" their way onto the Hugo ballot? This writer, as well as others, seems to think that because he was merely "discussing" the issue that he is not subject to a lawsuit. Well, I have news for him: he is. That those he maligned have not decided to sue him speaks only of their good natures and the fact that they wish to put this behind them as soon as possible.

....All in all, I think Olson, Flynn and the rest of the N3 committee have handled this atrociously. They did not have to release this information in this manner. If they truly felt there was a problem they had several options, the worst of which was the making the problem known in the manner they did. At a minimum, they should have contacted the people involved -- not only the nominees affected, but also those people whose names were on the ballots. There certainly was not cause for them to go looking for more "patterns" in the balloting, since families and other groups often vote similarly. Obviously, patterns are going to show up. Will N3 tell us about any other patterns which don't involve these two writers? Hah! The fact is, N3 had absolutely no right to do what they did and I, as a member of N3, demand an explanation for their actions. In addition, I think SFWA and ASFA should ask N3

why it didn't even notify these two before branding them, since it could happen to one of their members again in the future. Surely, there should be some process by which the accused can confirm or deny the allegations of wrong-doing and I think SFWA and ASFA members (as well as nominees in other categories) should have the right to such a process.

FLASHBACK ON FILE 770:79

Laurie Mann: An ahem interesting issue of File 770. As the head of program for the last Boskone, Dawn Atkins' letter on her problems at Westcon struck a familiar chord. Doreen Webbert either should have told her the program was full to begin with, or should have backed her against Charlie Brown's wrath.

The problem we've had with several people over the years is their attitude that convention program is OBLIGATED to invite all comers (pros, BNFs, whoever). In fact, the people who run convention program have two obligations:

They should design/organize the best program they can for the sake of the attendees.

They should showcase the con's GoH as best they can.

When people ask to be on program, they should either be told yes or no. If they are told yes, then they deserve to be treated well by the concoa, and they need to attend their program items and participate appropriately. If they are told no, then they shouldn't press the issue.

I must say that I liked all the art in the last issue. I wasn't fond of the illos by Berislav Pinjuh until I noticed he said he was only 17. Not bad for a younger cartoonist.

David Thayer: I enjoyed Francis Hamit's Minicon report. It made me feel as if I was actually there. Wait a minute -- I was actually there!

Your reporting of the Hugo controversy had me wondering where P.J. Beese, co-author of The Guardsmen with Todd Hamilton, was during the discussion to drop the item from the ballot. Rumors from Marcon are that Hamilton, the Artist Guest, was uncomplimentary of the Noreascon concoa in his GoH speech. What's the whole story here?

Alexis Gilliland's fillos were entertaining and enlightening as usual. Those by Berislav Pinjuh indicate another manic fanartist in the making. Perhaps he should take Brad Foster's cartoon advice, "Kids! Don't try this at home!"

MICHAEL M. SINCLAIR: Mr. Guidry is a gentleman and as far as I know is neither an attorney nor an alumnus of "Head Start".

LLOYD PENNEY: Good for Berislav Pinjuh in finding fandom at 17....my finding fandom at 17 would have made my growing up much easier. Maybe Tadranka can get back at Berislav by drawing a picture of him.

LYNN MAUDLIN: The Mythcon XIX report was great; it's always fun to read a con report that makes you laugh while reminding you of absurd moments and makes you scratch your head in wonder over the ones you missed (like maybe that Moon Woman and Brunhilda didn't recognize the grey-haired lady because they didn't SEE the grey-haired lady? We were well-past the punch-drunk exhausted stage by then! I plead extenuating circumstances.)

The only "correction" is to point out that I was not chairman of the con but chairman of the Council of Stewards (the board that governs the Mythopoeic Society, a nonprofit organization). That sounds more hoo-de-hoody than it is: a rotating chairmanship at which we take turns. But you're absolutely right, NOBODY else got to chaffeur two such pulchritudinous females stewards to Mythcon and you definitely earned you Eagle Scout patch!

Finally, I want credit for the "Just say NOLAcon" line. About \$3.28 will be sufficient.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: Sarah Prince writes: "I have moved, to a little hole in the wall according to good fannish tradition... I like to say it's my reaction to having the worldcon in-state -- moving farther out into the sticks (my actual residence is in still a different town, north of Worcester, the unknown second-largest city in New England."

Mike Christie and Sherry Coldsmitth will receive mail at the address shown below after May 31. They will not be resident there between June 20 and August 10, so anyone with an urgent message should call the Coldsmitth phone (915) 949-4072. Between June 25 and August 6 you should call Mary Sheridan at (517) 353-6486. Mary is the manager of the Clarion East writing workshop in Michigan where they'll be.

Sarah Prince, PO Box 217, S. Berlin MA 01549
 Michael J. Walsh, PO Box 19951, Baltimore MD 21211
 Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden, 23 Winter Ave. First Floor, Staten Island NY 10301, (718) 442-4990
 Leslie Smith, 1209 Miller Ave., Ann Arbor MI 48103
 Mike Christie & Sherry Coldsmitth, c/o Coldsmitth 3502 Tanglewood, San Angelo TX 76904
 Tim Kyger, 100 N. Carolina Ave. SE #3, Washington DC 20003
 Michael Wallis, 1647 Willow Pass Rd. #161, Concord CA (zip?)
 Jeff Schalles, Toad Hall, 3444 Blaisdell Ave. S., Minneapolis MN 55408-4315 (effective July)
 Eve Ackerman, 3530 NW 30th Place, Gainesville FL 32605
 Skip Morris, 436 So Baboosic Lake Rd., Merrimack NH 03054



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1989 HOGU & BLACKHOLE FINAL BALLOT

1989 HOGU & BLACKHOLE FINAL BALLOT

These prestigious HOGU awards were created by Tom Digby, inspired by a rePlergbligan Typo occurring on a Hugo Ballot. In 1972 at LACon I, Mike Glycer, Elst Weinstein, and some other putrifans put on the first Hugu Awards Ranquet at a local McDonald's. An instant tradition (add water and serve...), the event outdrew the real banquet by 1974, so Ranqueteers stopped scheduling the whoop-ti-doo opposite the Banquet. Trufans knew the value of good entertainment and junque-food cuisine in the midst of plastic environs. But this started putristorians to dig through mounds of moldy fanzines to find out about Hugu Chabsnerg, the man behind the award. As founder of Modern Sinus Friction (never call it "Si-Fri"), he published the Golden Age Hoaxzines: Amuzing, Thrilling Chunder Stories, Weird Snails, and ANALFOG. Recently retired to the Old Hoax Home in Sonova Beach, CA, he has been active writing parodies of Battlefield Earth, collecting outdated store coupons, and conducting Sinus Friction courses at UC Sonova Beach. All his friends and supporters are still trying to get him a commemorative stamp, however the USPS chose to raise rates again instead.

Commercial announcement: **WEINSTEIN & GLYER'S DISCOUNT HOAXARAMA** is still available for the poultry sum of \$3.00 Just send this to Elst Weinstein 859 N. Mountain Ave. #18-G Upland CA 91786 and you will get nearly 100 pages of humor, hoaxes, articles and old Hugu ballots. A fantastic deal, you have my word on it...

VOTING PROCEDURE: Vote as often as you like. The Hogus and Blackholes are peer group awards; if you don't feel qualified to vote, just peer over a shoulder and copy. Ballot stuffing is mandatory, so stuff it! Please, make copies and distribute it all over your dorm (but use a protective covering so as not to spread it.) Include all typos, or eles! Voting is by the AUSTRIAN BALLOT SYSTEM: vote as often and as secretly as you want, then we decide the results independently in a closed caucus so as not to be unduly influenced by either the actual vote or political affiliation during WWII.

THE AWARD: The HOGU consists of a charred block of virgin pine, a fine romantic symbol of a rocket take-off. Was sponsored by APA-H (the APA for Hoaxes and Humor.)

HOGU RESULTS: File 770 may eventually carry the results. If you want to chance this, or read other important fannish news, send \$5 US to Mike Glycer 5828 Woodman Ave. #2 Van Nuys. CA 91401

VOTING DEADLINE: Send all ballots to the HOGU COMMISSION c/o Elst Weinstein 859 N. Mountain Ave. #18-G Upland, CA 91786 by August 25, 1989. Money and other financial donations are always needed to help continue this service. **Vote one in each category, rank in odor of preference...**

HOGU SCANDAL ROCKS HOAXDOM! This year the Hogus too have be ravaged by scandal. Some people tried to block vote without paying bribes! That will never do. Remember, a nominee gets a vote the old fashioned way: they BUY it! Set forth here are the nominees for a new category.

BEST BLOCK VOTE

___ Western Bloc ___ Eastern Bloc ___ Midwestern Bloc ___ Alphabet Blocks
___ Block Buster ___ Neighborhood Block ___ Around the Block ___ Hugo Committee Blockheads

THE DEROACH AWARD: given for putridity in every day life. Inspired by Edward DeLoach, LA City worker who held his testimonial dinner at McDonald's.

___ Frank Lorenzo ___ John Guidry III ___ Geraldo Rivera ___ Maggie Thatcher

THE ARISTOTLE AWARD: Commemorating the Geek Tycoon, Aristotle O. Nessus, the elusive founder of putridity and the originator of the phrase, "Ook Ook Slobber Drool!" For Grand Master Lifetime Achievement in Putridity.

___ Donald Trump ___ D. West ___ Robert Adams ___ Michael Wilson (Canada Finance Minister)

BEST NEW FEUD: Starting 1988 or later to qualify.

___ Bush vs. Congress ___ Hulk Hogan vs. Macho Man Savage ___ Hugo Committee vs. Hamilton & Beese ___ Apple vs. Microsoft & IBM ___ Gary Groth vs. Harlan Ellison

BEST TRAUMATIC PRESENTATION:

___ Rob Lowe in "Young Love" ___ Oliver North in "And Justice Forfall"
___ Ayatollah Khomeini in "Little Bookshop of Horror" ___ "Who Framed Todd Hamilton?"
___ Exxon Productions' "Oil Quiet on the Western Front"
___ U.S. Senate Films "Making Mr. Wright" ___ John Tower in "The Best Defense"

BEST RELIGIOUS HOAX: The Flavor-Aid Award. A lot of competition here, folks.

___ Oral Roberts ___ Satanism ___ Harmonic Convergence ___ Jerry Falwell

BEST HOAX AWARDS: Besides the Hogus, of course!

___ The HUGO Awards ___ World Fantasy Awards ___ TAFF ___ DUFF ___ Etrons

BEST TYPE FACE:

___ Velvetica Smooth ___ Palatable-ino ___ Pixyish with Blond Hair ___ Adobe Villa
___ Zapf Comix ___ Myopia ___ Zapf Dungbats ___ Flyspeck

BEST PROFESSIONAL HOAX: Hoaxing as a profession.

___ Cold Fusion ___ Congressional Payraises ___ Dianetics ___ Government Ethics Codes
___ Jacques Benveniste's Homeopathic Dilutions

BEST FAN HOAX:

___ Lasfuturians ___ Midstream Hugo Rules Change ___ Nolacon II ___ "The Sad 3 Party"

FANDOM'S BIGGEST TURKEY: (This award back by popular demand)

___ John Guidry III ___ Kevin Duane ___ Locus ___ Geri Sullivan

WORST FANZINE TITLE: The Aard Daze Award

___ Satanic Nurses ___ ZZZ-Zymurgy ___ Thrust ___ Freeze-Dried Wombats Dun Et My Settee

BEST DEAD WRITER: Must be living to qualify: The Battlecock Glacktica Award

___ Thomas Monteleone ___ John Shirley ___ Alan Harries ___ John Norman

BEST HOAX CONVENTION:

___ Miscon ___ DC in '92 ___ Sercon ___ Nolacon II ___ Future Science One

BEST PSEUDONYM:

___ Nesfadamus ___ User's Fees ___ L. Ron Plummer ___ Ura Phink ___ Judge Doom

DEVO AWARD: To who has done the most to HARM Science Fiction

___ Mary Mason ___ Rep. Newt Gingrich ___ Fritz Freiheit ___ Susan Allison

THE BLACKHOLE AWARDS

The Blackhole Award, first given in 1973 by Matthew Tepper, designed by Phil Lebow, was revived in 1979 to give all fans a chance to make nominations and vote. The distinctive award and its original purpose are lost in obscurity, but the feelings it engendered live on. THE AWARD: Consists of plastic spheres suspended on a wire, each sphere subtly different, depending on the award. The standard one is a black sphere.

BEST HAS-BEEN: (Deposed Dictator's Award)

___ Jim Gilpatrick* ___ Ayatollah Khomeini ___ John Guidry III ___ Ronald Reagan
*indicates last year of eligibility

BANGER AWARD: (Most Inappropriate Con Guest of Honor)

___ Terry Watt ___ David Brin ___ Andy Porter ___ Charles Platt

CUISINART AWARD: (Worst Editing TV, Movies, Fiction, etc.)

___ Dune vers. 2 ___ Jenette Kahn (DC Comics) ___ "Star Trek V" ___ NBC 1988 Bummer Olympics

SPECIAL GRAND BASTARD AWARD:

___ Robert Adams* ___ Ted White* ___ Jerry Pournelle* ___ Robert Sachs
* indicates repeat nomination to this category

MOST DESIRED GAFIATION: Winner to get Mid Atlantic Fan Fund (MAFF)

___ All Starfleet Chapters ___ Guy H. Lillian III ___ David Hartwell ___ Noah Ward

FREE FOR ALL:

___ "I Break for Mutants" ___ "Chains Required — Whips Optional"
___ "Entropy Isn't All It Used To Be" ___ "I May Be Slow, But I'm Ahead of You!"

SPECIAL BAGEL BASH AWARD:

___ Chinese Student Bodies ___ Secular Humanist Inspired Thinking ___ Ultrasonic Bug Machines
___ SF Cable Chanel ___ Drivers Against Mad Mothers

BEST NEW DISEASE:

___ Rice's Anemia (Vampire Fandom) ___ Toxic Schlock Syndrome ___ Commuter Viruses
___ St. Walden's Dance (Rushdie Rush) ___ Presidential AIDES

MOST BIZARRE HALL COSTUME Real or Imagined

___ Elvis Alive! ___ Asimov's String Tie and Whiskers ___ Slime-Gen

BEST ALIEN MUSIC VIDEO:

___ "Bad" by Michael Jackson ___ "Like A Little Prayer" ___ Morton Downey, Jr.'s
___ The Matamoras Voodoo Drug Satanist Murder Cult Mexican Tourism Video

MIXED MEDIA:

___ "Fat" Weird Al Yankovick ___ Ellison's Geo Commercials ___ "Murder by Moonlight"

CLOSEST ENCOUNTER OF THE FOURTH KIND

___ Priest and Choir Boys ___ Brigitte Nielson and Anyone ___ Rob Lowe and Young Thing
___ Senate Confirmation Hearings

SPACE GEEK OF THE YEAR AWARD

___ Dan Quayle ___ Bruce Sterling ___ Justin Winston ___ Ben Yalow ___ Herr Hobbs

BEST JESSICA RABBIT LOOK ALIKE

___ Laura Modine ___ Ruth J. Brosh ___ Kathy Saunders ___ Martha Soukup ___ Kim Mare

STANDARD BLACKHOLE: Vote for four of the following (here ONLY!)

___ Gary Groth ___ Harlan Ellison ___ Jim Bakker ___ Ted Bundy
___ Justin Winston ___ John Guidry III ___ Rich Jervis ___ Dennis Dolbear
___ Phil Donahue ___ Vanna White ___ Alan Harries ___ Willard Scott

INVISIBILITY AWARD: For conspicuous absence

___ Alan Moore ___ Michael Dukakis ___ William Casey
___ Dan Quayle ___ Fred Patten

INCOMPETENCE AWARD: Political Refuse Award

___ Sen. Tower ___ Sen. Proxmire ___ Rep. Coelho ___ Rep. Wright
___ Mrs. Mandela ___ Rep. Lukans ___ Mayor W. Wilson Goode

PUBLISHER'S AWARD:

___ Overlook Press ___ DC Comics ___ Bridge Publications ___ Pageant Books

GREED AWARD:

___ Exxon, Inc. ___ Walt Disney Studios ___ DC Sheraton ___ Warner Publications

HALF-ASSED CON OFFICIOUSNESS: The "Connie" Award

___ Nolacontest ___ Noreason 3 ___ Creation Cons ___ Confiction

BROWN HOLE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONALISM: Past winners of this award have included: Norman Spinrad, Roger Elwood, Alexander Haig, James Watt, E. Gary Gygax, Phyllis Schlaflly, Jon Estrin, Charles Platt, Edwin Meese, Andy Porter and Judge Bork.

___ George Flynn ___ John Shirley ___ Peter Heck ___ Geraldo Rivera
___ Oprah Winfrey ___ Jim Wright ___ Morton Downey, Jr. ___ Malcolm Edwards

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

White space is provided below so that you may have room to nominate or suggest categories not on the ballot. If suitably funny, they might even get used! If not, we will just disregard them anyway. Have fun. NOTE: Fanzine editors and con attendees are encouraged to duplicate this ballot and distribute it through fanzines and conventions. Please! The Ranquet will most likely be held at a suitably putrid New England Plastic Burger Joint or equivalent in Boston.