



Editor: Candace Pulleine

June 1996

Here it is: the fifth issue of MISSION ALAMO. Even though late, this issue is rather small. By the way, that is a (not-so) subtle hint to submit.

The last two weeks in May I was on a road trip. I arrived back home on June 2nd, returned to work on the 2nd and found out my hard drive had crashed on the 4th. Considering everything, the repair work was done relatively fast and reloading also. But this did put me behind and I did lose some of my email messages. If you notice any missing from the listing in this issue, please resend them to me.

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April 19-21: Controll, Houston - there was a panel with questions at the end about LSC2. It was well attended and full of info.

July 4-7: Westercon, El Paso - We have a LSCII table and a party Saturday night in the con suite.

August 3: Austin TX - annual pre-LA Con strategy meeting and BBQ at the Lisa Greene Building, 1204 Nueces. Starting about 2pm until dark.

Mugs for the HUGO nominees came in today and they look texan.

We can now accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover.

August 29 - September 2: WorldCon at LA - we will be partying on Friday nite (LSCII) and on Sunday nite for the post-Hugo nominees party. The LSCII table is very important and should be manned by as many different folks as possible.

October: Armadillo con is the place to meet.

January 18-19 (third weekend): San Antonio TX - Meetings at the Marriott on both Saturday and Sunday (rooms available to us from 10-6). We will be meeting at the Marriott, but probably staying at other hotels since this is peak convention season for San Antonio.

## On-line Messages:

96-04-07 - Subj: Postal changes - From: oswald@airmail.net - Dennis here. Just a reminder that the Post Office will be changing how bulk mail is handled, charged etc on July 1. Looks like I will be in a position to handle these changes when they occur, however we should strive to get the next PR out before then. That will save us money and give us enough time to get our mailing list in shape. Also, the requested disk from the office has not yet arrived. I spoke with Laura the day after Aggiecon and passed along what I needed to for the PR labels. Now that the rules are changing for bulk mail, it is important that I have enough time to work with the addresses so I can both get the labels correct and pass back to the office any fixes I make. Dennis

96-04-08 - Subj: e-mail for Meri and Dave Hazelwood? - From: shiva@io.com (Earl Cooley III) - Meri and Dave Hazelwood's old e-mail address at phoenix@pic.net no longer works. Does anyone have a current e-mail address for them? If so, please let me know. Thanks!

96-04-08 - Subj: e-mail for Meri and Dave Hazelwood? - From: pegasus@fastlane.net - try phoenix@cyberramp.net. Scott Merritt

96-04-08 - Subj: e-mail for Meri and Dave Hazelwood? - From: oswald@airmail.net - PHOENIX@CYBERRAMP.NET Try that, Shiva, for Dave and Meri Hazelwood. Dennis

96-04-14 - Subj: Minicon - From: peggyrae@access.digex.net (Peggy Rae Pavlat) - Candace: Thank you for adding me to the mailing list for Mission Alamo. We're still in the process of developing our ideas about exactly what we mean by our own "committee newsletter". I'm asking Perrienne Lurie, our newsletter editor, to add you and Karen Meschke to the mailing list for our own Committee Newsletter.

I thought I should respond, again, to a comment by Dick Smith which was printed in the fourth issue of Mission Alamo in response to Earl Cooley's passing along Chaz Baden's inquiry about whether there would be a formal LSC2 presence at Minicon. Chaz mentioned that both BucConeer and L.A.con III would be there. So that you won't have to go digging through your copy to find out what I'm talking about, I'll repeat Dick's comments here:

"Re: LSC2 presence at minicon?: Based on BucConeer's comments about Minicon in their bidzine, I'm surprised ... I presume that it's because someone wants to go anyway. I wouldn't bother. I've never understood why LSC2 needed to make any special effort to attend regional cons. Taking memberships, etc., at cons that committee were going to is one thing, but a special trip to Minneapolis, foey."

Michael Nelson and Bob MacIntosh attended the 1995 Minicon. They discovered lots of interesting things to see and do, renewed old friendships, met new interesting people and generally had a wonderful time. In our next bidzine, they reported, with heavy irony, that there were so many things for Minicon members to see and do that a mere Worldcon party and bid table weren't particularly strong attractions for Minicon members.

Minicon is a large, very fannish, convention. They deserve major points for retaining the fannishness of their regional convention, even under the pressure of increasing size. Would that we could all have such grace under pressure. Peggy Rae

96-04-15 - Subj: Postal changes - From: meschke@io.com (meschke) - I'll ask Laura on Wednesday about the labels/disk. meschke

96-04-16 - Subj: Minicon - From: meschke@IO.COM (meschke) - LSCII will be sending someone in 97 to MiniCon, I'm not sure who yet both Debbie Hodgkinson and I are interested. meschke

96-04-22 - Subj: San Antonio Astronomical Group - From: allston@io.com (Aaron Allston) - Here's a group I noticed on the NCSA "What's New" page. Since they're (a) San Antonio local and (b) scientific/educational, I thought maybe the programming folk would like to know about them. San Antonio Astronomical Association San Antonio, TX, US. A nonprofit organization promoting astronomy and education through lectures and star parties for the membership and the public. <http://www.stic.net/users/merlin/saaa.htm>

96-05-12 - Subj: Progress report - From: ChiliMomma - Hi, I have a letter from Bjo Trimble for the progress reports. Thanks. JUdith

96-06-04 - Subj: Hugo Losers - From: twb@apple.com (Tom Becker) - At 8:07 PM 6/3/96, Kent Bloom wrote, in response to Ben Yalow and Leah Smith: >... I'm not even sure why the party exists, except to make a >point of separating the Hugo Nominees from the hoi polloi.

It's tough to come to a Worldcon and lose. I like having the nominees at the con, on the program, and reasonably happy. If "it's an honor just to be nominated", someone needs to make it so. Also, having the next Worldcon sponsor the party makes sense when you consider they probably want to make friends with this year's nominees and get their favorites lined up for their program. As far as separating from the hoi polloi, well yes, that's a problem, but if was totally open, the nominees wouldn't stay very long, if they came at all. Welcome to the cold realities of large conventions and crowd control.

>>And, while I don't have a problem with them continuing to do so, I think >>it is vital that the Worldcon continue to be a fan-driven convention. >If >you want the publishers to run things, go to the Nebs. >>I agree with this.

I agree with a lot of the concerns that were stated, but I want to mention the Tor party at WisCon last weekend as an example of how publishers can do it right. Tor sponsored a suite on the party floor, so it was open to all, but they didn't have to bear the burden of hosting the whole convention. The suite had lots of posters of Tor books on the wall, lots of good food and drink, and several Tor editors and staff people were there. It was a great party and it was great publicity for Tor.

Another thing that I've seen work out well is renting booths to publishers. They pay the going trade-show rate, but they get a prime spot where they can hold autographings, meet their authors, and talk to fans.

There are a lot of things I'm not really keen on having publishers sponsor, like the Hugos, the masquerade, opening ceremonies, the official t-shirt. I think experience has shown those sorts of things should stay fannish.

If a publisher wanted to do the con suite for us, even for one night, I'd let them do it, and I think it would be ok for them to put up their advertising for the duration. That's more like throwing a party, only a really big one.

Maybe a publisher would like to sponsor a lounge area on the convention



floor. They would pay for renting carpeting and some nice couches, and they get to put up posters of their books and maybe have some of their books on display. I think this would go over really well with tired fans who want to relax at the con.

In my own department, if a publisher wants to pay for the duplication costs of the daily zine, I'd be happy to give them ad space.

I think this is a good discussion to have now, so we can figure out what we want, and be ready to line up sponsors at La Con. Tom

96-06-05 - Subj: FACT picnic/Retro Hugos - From: ybmcu@panix.com (Ben Yalow) - I had mentioned in previous mail that I would be at the picnic, and would be glad to bring copies of the Retro Hugo nominated stuff, if there was room in my luggage, and I had copies that were in good enough shape to travel. So far, nobody has sent me any requests. If people do want to send them, I'd appreciate getting them no later than early Thursday. Thanks. Ben

96-06-09 - Subj: Please Read This! - From: meschke@io.com (meschke) - As of June 5, 1996 we have received our tax exempt status from the IRS. Our 501(c)(3) ruling helps us tremendously!

Also, Fred has reserved space at the Marriott RiverCenter for the weekend of January 18 & 19, 1997. We will be bringing folks in for this mass meeting and planning/strategy session. Please plan to attend. Fred will be working with hotels in the area for a good room rate that weekend. San Antonio goes into full bloom for conventions after the first of the year and rooms at the two Marriotts will be in demand.

Thanks to all who attended the picnic yesterday on Lake Austin. The air was warm with a nice breeze coming off from the lake. Sitting around and just talking/visiting with each other was wonderful. meschke

96-06-09 - Subj: Sponsorships - From: leah@smith.chi.il.us (Leah Zeldes Smith) - Ben Yalow wrote: > Publishers do a lot, and have continued to do so for many years. What do publishers do today that benefits Worldcon members at large, rather than pros and selected BNFs and groupies? They buy a few ads, provide a few freebie books and hold exclusive parties. I don't see these as significant to the membership. At one time, SF publishers provided significant funding to SF cons, in the form of cash donations and donations of artwork and manuscripts to be auctioned. > And, while I don't have a problem with them continuing to do so, I think it > is vital that the Worldcon continue to be a fan-driven convention. I agree it should be fan-driven. I don't think that means it has to be entirely fan-funded. And I don't preclude the fact that publishers and pros can also be fans. Keeping them at arm's length on involvement in our institutions helps to encourage what I see as an unfortunate split between fandom and prodom that's getting wider all the time. If we use pros and publishers only to fill our programs we put them on pedestals above fandom.

From: Kent Bloom - > I think that SF publishers take Worldcon for granted. I think we go out of > our way to be nice to them, so that we can make a few people who are > invited to hobnob with the authors at the publisher's parties feel special. > For the most part, they return the favor by putting their parties and > authors off limits to most of fandom for most of the con. They drain off > interesting people for large portions of the convention. And they make > programming and events scheduling more complicated by often making large > numbers of people unavailable at the same time. I pretty much agree with this. I have to say that in more than 20 years in fandom I have never once been invited to a publisher's party at Worldcon. Not to blow my own horn, but I'm a reasonably prominent fan and if I've never received such an invitation, what chance does the average Worldcon goer have? > I think that Worldcons would

be smaller, cheaper, and more fun if they > weren't there.

I don't know that I'd go so far as this. I think Tom Becker's comments were pretty cogent. If we can convince the publishers to become involved with Worldcon in such a way as to benefit all or most attendees, it would be a good thing for everyone. -- Leah Smith

96-06-10 - Subj: Sponsorships - From: oswald@airmail.net - LZS wrote I pretty much agree with this. I have to say that in more than 20 years in fandom I have never once been invited to a publisher's party at Worldcon. Not to blow my own horn, but I'm a reasonably prominent fan and if I've never received such an invitation, what chance does the average Worldcon goer have? END QUOTE

Heh, <donning ten foot pole> Well, I've been invited to these things over the years, and I am not much of anyone. But that's really besides the point. Publisher parties are BUSINESS affairs. What you are saying imo is akin to sponsorship of a night of Con Suite. (There's a cogent thought in there someplace.) Aside from the corporate structure of today's publishers. Heh, make that today's PC publishers, as someone like BRIDGE may not be embraced as openly as say Bantam Double Dutch would be. It simply isn't in their interest to sponsor a wide-open party. Sure, sell ad-equivalent space to them -- banners and such at the ice cream social or whatever. But I can't see expecting them to foot a decent part of the bill just because they are corporations. Don't forget we charge everyone for a membership. So it's not like we are putting hte pros on a very high, fancy pedestal. And granted, a fan can be smarter, more knowlegable (and a better speller) than a pro, but a fan name on a panel / flyer doesn't draw them in the way a popular pro does. We should seek more funding for events and sponsorships, and I have little sympathy for the opinions of some of us that say such things pollute fandom. But I don't EXPECT the publishers to do it our way. Dennis

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Candace: Re: Postal Changes - The July 1, 1996 change does not (yet) effect Non-Profit mailings. Non-Profit mailings were changed as of October 1, 1995 and new changes are still being worked on. I received this information at a four (4) hour class on Classification Reform that I attended this month.

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The LSC2 office has moved to 1204 Nueces, Suite F, in downtown Austin. There's plenty of parking behind the building, and we're the first door to the left as you come in the back door. The office is open every Wednesday night from 6 until 9 PM. Everyone is welcome to drop by or call 512-472-9944, fax 512-472-4290. All mail should go to PO Box 27277, Austin TX 78755 or e-mail lsc2@io.com.

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