



Logos courtesy of Brad and Cindy Foster

Editor: Candace Pulleine

November 1996

MISSION ALAMO, Issue 7, after Armadillocon but before SMOFcon. Looking forward to seeing any of you who will be at SMOFcon, and you are more than welcome to hand me your reports in person, or mail them or email them.

My thanks to all of you who responded to my e-mail request for update information/verification of their names, addresses, and email address. Those of you who didn't get this request, either don't have an e-mail address or the one I sent your message to was incorrect. Could you either send me a postcard or letter with this information or call me. If you do have an e-mail address you can send it electronically. Thanks. Candace Pulleine, PO Box 980744, Houston TX 77098 or email CandaceVP@aol.com, or call 713-526-5625 (hm) or 713-226-3055 (8 a.m - 4:30 p.m.)

If anyone need past issues, please get in touch with me at the above address.

The new committee address list will go out with MISSION ALAMO, Issue 8, in early January. Assuming my computer doesn't develop another problem. I had to get a new hard drive for my notebook in June. And in September I bought a home unit. But recently, I've had several minor problems, just enough and at the wrong time. My modem (the external I had with the notebook) stopped working Sunday night (just when I need to retrieve my messages), but I bought a new internal that a friend installed on Monday, on Tuesday my printer and my computer stopped transferring information/or at least printing it, and on Thanksgiving Day I found that my mouse wasn't working. Fortunately, my notebook still talks to my printer and the programs I use the most (Lotus 123, dBase, and WordPerfect 6.0a) are all DOS versions. But I'll need a new mouse since I can't retrieve the rest of my e-mail messages without it. I'll miss playing solitaire (the only other program I presently use Windows for), but I'll live, especially since between now and SMOFcon I'll be non-stop busy.

***** CALENDAR *****

December 6-8: Smof Con - Seattle WA

December 14: Christmas Party- White Elephant Gift Exchange at Red Lion
Annual LSC2/FACT Christmas party will be held Saturday, December 16, 1995 at the Red Lion. White Elephant Gift (wrapped) giving once again. Some will be dining before the party at Threadgill's (6:30pm), RSVP to Karen so she can make arrangements for everyone interested.

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, and have a room rate of \$84 single/double if you mention LoneStarCon.

*****REPORTS*****

SIGNS, SIGNS, SIGNS [Sherlock, 7359 Canterfield, San Antonio TX 78240] November 5, 1996

If anyone needs specialty signs, speak not or forever hold your pizza... I should have received all sign requests (written!) at least six months ago but I may deign to fill requests if I get them ASAP! If you wish them in more than one language, I need the translations, too, or any other specifics should be listed (sizes, arrows, particular designs, etc.)

As of November 1996 my entire list consists of: "Registration," "Green Room," "Dealer's Room," "Daily Zine," 3 "LoneStarCon II Chili Cook-Off(s)," 2 "Judges' Table(s)," and "Chili Cook-Off Tickets."

The signs are to be auctioned off in the art auction (con souvenirs) so please bear this in mind - spread the word!! - and help keep them from walking off. Sometimes signs stray after cons, due to miscommunication, etc., which is understandable, but occasionally some go walkabout before the con starts - which is, put kindly, damn annoying. F.A.C.T. (I think) has signs from WesterCon which can probably be used to replace WorldCon signs when the latter go to auction (if still needed).

Use snail mail to contact me - I'm e-mail-less, or Judith/ChiliMomma can probably relay messages my way. Thanks!

*****ON-LINE MESSAGES*****

Disclaimer: These are all the email messages I received at my address (CandaceVP@aol.com). My apologies if I garbled any messages in cleaning out the unnecessary information or blank spaces.

96-09-27 02:39:16 EDT Subj: Re: TV Stations and Papers - ChiliMomma@aol.com (Judith Ward)
Dear Folks, Sometime last year I sent out a list of all of the radio stations, TV stations and the news papers in San Antonio to someone on the Alamo apa. I would really like to have that list e-mailed to me again. Someone in my house threw mine away and I don't have it on disc anymore. Thanks in advance, Judith

96-09-29 19:37:07 EDT Subj: Re: TV Stations and Papers - oswald@airmail.net (Dennis Virzi)
Doesn't ring any bells with me, but I'll look. Dennis

96-10-08 16:47:17 EDT Subj: I'm sorry! - Mark_Olson@bio-rad.com (Mark Olson)
My postings about budgeting seem to have killed traffic on this email list -- I didn't really mean to do that, honest! More seriously, it might not be a bad thing to think about giving Karen the information she needs to expand the budget to a little more detail and a little more reality. Have a chat about this at Armadillocon (which I wish I was attending!). -- mlo

96-10-08 19:26:58 EDT Subj: Meeting at Armadillocon? - dick@smith.chi.il.us (Dick Smith)
[Re: Mark_Olson@bio-rad.com wrote: My postings about budgeting] This reminded me of the meeting which I see in the Armadillocon program schedule, for early sunday morning (a rotten time, to my mind!). What size meeting is this? Who is going to be there? Why not? Is there an agenda? Why not? On a completely different topic, I'm sorry to read (in the food press) about the changes at La Fonda de San Miguel (which I have surely misspelled).... perhaps Leah & I will try to go to it on Sunday for brunch, since we won't be there early enough to eat there at any other time. See most of you shortly...

96-10-08 21:51:51 EDT Subj: Additions to the Technical Divition - wparker@bayou.uh.edu (William L Parker) Since LA Con III we have had some additions to the Technical Division for LoneStarCon2. First of all, the structure of the department will be: Bill Parker - Technical Division Head; ??? - Assistant Technical Division Head. Reporting directly to me will be: Jason Tibbits - Technical Sevices - tibbs@sina.hpc.uh.edu (Jason Tibbits); ??? - Assistant Tech. Services. Under Jason will be three Departments: 1) Events 2)Programming Tech 3)Film Room Tech. The Events Department Head will be Derly Ramirez - derly2@ix.netcom.com (Ramirez). As each of the other Department Heads and Assistant possitions are filled I will see to it that this information is posted here. -Bill P-

96-10-09 00:20:20 EDT Subj: Meeting at Armadillocon? -Reply - debbie.hodgkinson@dir.state.tx.us (Debbie Hodgkinson) - Geez, Dick, what a set of questions! The first pair is a non-sequitur and the second is awfully presumptuous. I'll be there and I don't know why not. Everyone else can answer for himself. Is there anyone in particular you wish to meet with? The early Sunday time is because most of the LSC2 staff at Armadillocon will be working on Armadillocon and that's the best time spot to avoid conflict with 'Dillocon duties. Debbie

96-10-09 00:26:59 EDT Subj: I'm sorry! -Reply - debbie.hodgkinson@dir.state.tx.us (Debbie Hodgkinson) Oh, Mark, you and Priscilla won't be here? I'm disappointed. Dennis has asked for budgets in more detail before the meeting. I don't guess that's all we'll talk about, though. Debbie

96-10-09 01:50:15 EDT Subj: Additions to the Technical Division -Reply - debbie.hodgkinson@dir.state.tx.us (Debbie Hodgkinson) Bill, did you notice in the Alamo Chronicles that Meri and Dave requested tech help with the anime room? Will you put that under Film Tech or Programming Tech? Per our budget discussion in LA, I put the equipment rental for film and anime in my proposed budget that I just sent Dennis. Give me an idea how much money we're really talking about, okay? Thanks-- Debbie

96-10-09 10:39:02 EDT Subj: Re: I'm sorry! -Reply - phoenix@cyberramp.net (Meri Hazlewood) I won't be able to make it either - medical bills have drained all the money away. DRAT! Meri Hazlewood, Chairman, Stellar Occasion & Project: A-Kon

96-10-09 10:49:11 EDT Subj: Re: I'm sorry! -Reply - Mark_Olson@bio-rad.com (Mark Olson) So are we -- we were planning to come, but some friends from the UK are in the US (vacationing) and are staying with us Thursday-Sunday before heading back. (They're fans, so we tried to persuade them to add Austin to their itinerary, but they couldn't understand that a little 1500-mile detour would be very fannish.) Enjoy yourselves --I'll miss seeing all of you (and I'll miss the great food /e/v/e/n /m/o/r/e too).

96-10-09 11:42:36 EDT Subj: Re: Additions to the Technical Division -Reply - phoenix@cyberramp.net (Meri Hazlewood) And if it's too much a pain in the butt to rent a vid projector down there, I can probably get a good deal from the guy I normally get my equipment from up here and just bring it myself. Most of my crew will already know how to operate one of those things. Meri Hazlewood

96-10-10 00:18:12 EDT Subj: Re: Meeting at Armadillocon? - meschke@io.com (meschke) I expect to have each division (or their representative) present a report, have the organizational chart available for folks to see where we are where they would like to volunteer. I would also like to raise awareness (ie education process) to some of the Texas fans on what a WorldCon is and how they can be involved. We will also be holding a "small" party in the con suite on Friday night after meet the Pro's. The Sunday "coffee and tea" will cost approximately \$100-150. This is an informal event, not a formal meeting and the fans in Texas will appreciate this. meschke

96-10-10 04:17:47 EDT Subj: Re: Meeting at Armadillocon? -Reply - dick@smith.chi.il.us (Dick Smith) I put it the way I did because there has been NO discussion on this mailing list about it... so I assumed that it was not a general meeting. On the other hand, the ball has been dropped before, and, if it *was* supposed to be a general meeting, we wanted to know, so we could plan to be there. It's embarrassing to try to attend a meeting which you're not supposed to be at. It's also embarrassing to miss a meeting. Which should I do? [Is there anyone in particular you wish to meet with?] Yes. You (that is, Debbie Hodgkinson). Last I knew, we were working for you. See you there. Best, -- Dick Smith

96-10-11 14:42:08 EDT Subj: LSC2 web site makeover done - shiva@io.com (Earl Cooley III) The web site looks completely different now. It's still at <URL:http://www.io.com/~lsc2/>

96-10-12 22:42:20 EDT Subj: Retro Hugo's - meschke@io.com (meschke) The Alamo Board of Directors voted today on the issue of the Retro Hugos. We will not be doing them at LSCII. meschke

96-10-13 17:39:16 EDT Subj: Retro Hugo's - CCWS74A@prodigy.com (MR TOM R FELLER)
May I print that piece of news in the SFC Bulletin? I'm hoping to put to bed this week and mail out by next week. Tom Feller

96-10-14 13:18:40 EDT Subj: Re: Retro Hugo's - meschke@io.com (meschke) Sure. meschke

96-10-14 19:01:29 EDT Subj: A special HUGO category - oswald@airmail.net (Dennis Virzi)
Dennis here. If we are to include the Hugo nominations stuff in PR4 (were we?) this matter needs to be settled in the next two weeks. So far as I know, the Hugo stuff was going in PR5, along the hotel info, in January.If they send it, we will print it.....

96-10-15 12:45:15 EDT Subj: Re: Retro Hugo's - Sjf1138@aol.com (Steve Francis)
I do not see any reason not to print the information. Sue

96-10-17 04:21:57 EDT Subj: Restaurant Guide - 76050.1300@compuserve.com (George Alec Effinger)
Sunday at ArmadilloCon, thanks to budget and transportation help from Lyn and Judith Ward, I went to San Antonio on a preliminary fact-finding mission for the LSC2 restaurant guide, which I am helping to compile. I stayed overnight at the Crockett and took a look at the other hotels we'll be using. I also covered a great portion of the Riverwalk, collecting menus from most of the restaurants I saw. I also had a very nice dinner at Paesano's on the Riverwalk ; they'll certainly get a recommendation from me.

When I told the managers of the many restaurants about the convention, showed them the flyer, and mentioned that we were expecting upwards of six thousand people, most were eager to co-operate. Notable establishments to the contrary included the Hard Rock Cafe and the Planet Hollywood; I've gotten the same lack of interest from their franchises in New Orleans, which is why I don't wax enthusiastic about them in my write-ups (although I've never had a meal in a Planet Hollywood).

I stumbled on what appeared to be a four-star hotel and restaurant, La Mansion (I don't have their menu handy to check the spelling). It was about the classiest dining room I saw on this first brief excursion. There are plenty of fast-food places handy to all the hotels, too. As with the NolaCon guide, I'll just list the latter in a separate section without comment other than address, hours, and other basic information.

I'd be very grateful to get opinions, good or bad, about any restaurants in San Antonio. I can't dine in most of them before the convention--not even many; but I have learned over the years to discern how ambitious a kitchen is by reading its menu. As always with big conventions, some people will just want to know where the McDonald's is, and others will want to know where to go to unlimber their expense-account plastic. Also, I'd like to get a recent issue of "San Antonio" magazine with their annual restaurant report; if on one has a copy for me to look at, I'll buy one from the magazine itself.

Thanks to three sites on the Internet, I've already compiled almost a complete list of all restaurants in San Antonio, from the Dairy Queens on up; I plan to sort them, and I'll send a letter with a self-addressed stamped envelope to all the middle-range and better establishments, asking for a copy of their menus. If they don't want to send a menu, they won't have a listing beyond the basic information. I'm wondering if it would be worth my while to contact the San Antonio tourist information bureau; does anyone have its precise name and address?

I realize that the restaurant guide isn't on the same level of importance as most of the topics discussed in this apa, but I do want to do a good job because the restaurant guide will be part of the general impression LoneStarCon will make on our attendees. Thanks in advance for your help.

96-10-17 08:30:50 EDT Subj: Re: Restaurant Guide - dick@smith.chi.il.us (Dick Smith)
Yes, George, it is. Probably more important. Keep up the good work. -- Dick Smith.

96-10-17 09:42:01 EDT Subj: Re: Restaurant Guide - lmann@telerama.lm.com (Laurie D. T. Mann)
George, thanks for all the research, etc., you've done on this so far. Do we plan to create an HTML version of this for the Web site? I'd be happy to do the conversion and include links to the restaurants themselves where appropriate.

96-10-17 15:32:49 EDT Subj: Re: Restaurant Guide - twb@fanac.com (Tom Becker)
George, Thanks for the excellent report on the restaurant guide. I'm looking forward even more to visiting San Antonio. One thing I hope you're planning is a map and index that makes it easy for visitors to look for restaurants they can get to on foot. Something simple such as numbering the restaurants in order of proximity to the convention center can help a lot. Usually, when I'm looking for a restaurant, we've already decided whether we're going to walk or drive. The last WorldCon I attended had a restaurant guide that was difficult to use because the numbers were not in any particular order and the nearby restaurants were mixed up with the far away ones. Also, I think it didn't even bother to mention the restaurants inside the convention hotels. Considering that most people refer to restaurant guides only when they're hungry, having a well researched and well organized one can make a big difference. Keep up the good work! Tom

96-10-17 17:56:53 EDT Subj: Re: Restaurant Guide - debbie.hodgkinson@dir.state.tx.us
George, you should probably ask Peggy for help with the map. She can prepare it in a format that Bill can use directly in the guide. Did you talk to Bill this weekend about th preferred format to prepare your text for him? Did you tell all the restaurant managers that we're a late night crowd and they should stay open? Every time we revised the New Orleans restaurant guide I wished we had done it in a database with a memo field for the review rather than a text file. I would have made all that formatting (bold or italic, flush left or flush right) of the header information a lot easier. Bill wil be doing all that formatting for you this time, but is still might be easier to change one piece of information without disturbing the surrounding text. It will be easier to sort either by name or location (like within 1 block, 2-3 blocks, 4-6 blocks, cab ride, Austin) or type of food served or how late they're open. Do you have a good Windows database you can use? PC File 5.0 could do it, but I don't think it likes Windows. Debbie

96-10-17 18:14:55 EDT Subj: Re: Restaurant Guide - shiva@io.com (Earl Cooley III)
We plan to webify as much as possible about the convention. For anyone who wishes to convert material for the web site, please make it as general as possible, so that I may perform the stylistic conversion needed to keep the site design esthetically consistent.

96-10-18 00:42:29 EDT Subj: Re: Restaurant Guide - meschke@io.com (Karen Meschke)
George, the hotel you spoke highly of La Mansion is one of our hotels. We have reserved a room block of 100 on Friday thru Sunday. This is one of my favorite hotels in San Antonio, the second being the Menger. Keep us updated, thanks to Judith and Lynn foar their assistance. BYW, one of the best things I remember from San Francisco is eating at the Stinking Rose, a place where garlic reigns high.

96-10-19 11:46:53 EDT Subj: Gophers, Weddings, and Suchnesses. - 76050.1300@compuserve.com (George Alec Effinger) ----- Forwarded Message ----- FROM: Alan Balthrop, INTERNET:alanb@onramp.net DATE: 9/1/96, 5:14 PM * Hello. My real name is Sylvia,not Balthrop, although it will be Balthrop by the end of September, unless he wises up. I was at the First Occaional LoneStarCon and Chili Cook-off and would like very much to attend this one. What info can you give me on gophering oppertunities (I have experiance in registration, security, and with computers. I am also a nurse (Registered), but would much rather play than Work work at a con. Any info you can send my way would be helpful. Much Tanks! Sylvia Colston (soontobe) Balthrop

96-10-20 08:34:10 EDT Subj: RE: Gophers, Weddings, and Suchnesses. - shiva@io.com (Earl Cooley III) InfoLaunch to Sylvia initiated.

96-10-22 22:35:16 EDT Subj: special Hugo - atc@arlut.utexas.edu (A. T. Campbell, III)
LoneStarCon folks, It's getting to be time to decide our special Hugo category for LoneStarCon 2. Several of us in Austin have come up with the following list of candidates, which I'm now e-mailing out to the APA for comments. Feel free to say what you like, what you don't like, and what you're willing to live with. If there's an obvious choice not on the list, go ahead and mention it too. Here's the list:
Potential Special Hugo Categories for LoneStarCon 2

Best Art Book

Best Black & White Illustrator

Best Children's Book	Best Convention
Best Critic	Best First Novel
Best Mega-Novel (over 400 pages)	Best Online Fiction
Best Original Anthology	Best Poem
Best Single Author Collection	Best Short Fiction of 1946
Best Television Series	Best Web Site

96-10-23 04:11:52 EDT Subj: LSC2 Guest relations? - shiva@io.com (Earl Cooley III)
Who is doing guest relations for LSC2? I'd like to try to get permission to webify Roy Tackett's 1976 TAFF summary trip report (published in Sticky Quarters 13, 1985). All I'd have to do then is find the actual hardcopy zine. heh.

96-10-23 12:44:14 EDT Subj: Re: LSC2 Guest relations? - dick@smith.chi.il.us (Dick Smith) If Roy doesn't have a copy to give you when you ask for permission, someone on Timebinders' certainly will.

96-10-23 05:59:38 EDT Subj: special Hugo - CCWS74A@prodigy.com (MR TOM R FELLER)
The Best First Novel seems redundant in light of the Campbell Award. The same for Best TV series and Best Mega-Novel. Best Critic might be changed to Best Reviewer

96-10-23 13:43:49 EDT Subj: LSC2 Guest relations? -Reply -
debbie.hodgkinson@dir.state.tx.us (Debbie Hodgkinson) Judy Taylor is the Guest of Honor Liaison.

96-10-23 08:26:00 EDT Subj: Re: special Hugo - jmann@transarc.com (Jim Mann)
[Best Art Book] Although this is perhaps a good idea, over the years (rightly or wrongly) art books have been nominated under Best Nonfiction Book. [Best Children's Book] How would you define this? In any case, the attempt to do a Best YA novel award was dropped due to lack of enough nominations. [Best Convention] Probably only about a half a dozen people would be really qualified to vote on this, because most of us don't go to enough cons to truly judge (and miss many we know or have heard are good). [Best Critic] Worth considering certainly. [Best Mega-Novel (over 400 pages)] No! This will just encourage some writers who already bloat their books. (Also, what do we do about books that we want to nominate for Best Novel that happen to be over 400 pages. I think Blue Mars is over 400 pages. It's my choice for Best Novel. If it's the best novel, it's certainly also the "Best Novel longer than 400 pages." [Best Online Fiction] There's not enough of this. [Best Original Anthology] Maybe, though there are only a couple of really good ones every year. I don't think there are enough good ones to merit this. [Best Poem] Good SF poems are really rare. [Best Short Fiction of 1946] Well, since I was sad that we dropped the Retro-Hugos, I wouldn't mind this one. [Best Television Series] We already have Best Dramatic Presentation. This year the good Dramatic SF has been dominated by TV. I can think of at least 3-4 episodes each of Babylon 5 and Deep Space 9 that are worth consideration. Thus, we don't need to give those shows another award. (This may have been a good thing 6 or 7 years ago when Star Trek: The Next Generation was producing lots of good episodes but no single episode could get enough votes to go up against the mega-movies.) [Best Web Site] Not a bad idea, though some might be eligible under Best Nonfiction. (And I think this would be another Babylon 5 award, because I think The Lurker's Guide is one of the best Web sites I've seen.)

96-10-23 08:17:15 EDT Subj: Re: special Hugo - jmann@transarc.com (Jim Mann)
[Tom Feller wrote: Best Critic might be changed to Best Reviewer] We need a word to cover both. We'd need to make sure that eligibility covers the range from Tom Easton (clearly a reviewer) to Norman Spinrad (somewhere in between; his column covers a handful of books, but he often does more than just review them) to Delany, Le Guin, and other writers of in-depth criticism. (Or, for those of you who want an analogy from the good old days, we'd need to make sure that the award covered P. Schyler Miller and Damon Knight.) Jim

96-10-23 23:33:23 EDT Subj: Re: LSC2 Guest relations? - meschke@io.com (Karen Meschke)
Judy Taylor, Robert's new wife. meschke

96-10-23 14:53:17 EDT Subj: Re: special Hugo - bep@deltanet.com (Bruce Pelz)

WTLW >Best Art Book	DL >Best Black & White Illustrator
WTLW >Best Children's Book	DL >Best Convention
DL >Best Critic	DL >Best First Novel
DL >Best Mega-Novel (over 400 pages)	DL >Best Online Fiction
LIKE >Best Original Anthology	DL >Best Poem
DL >Best Single Author Collection	LIKE >Best Short Fiction of 1946
DL >Best Television Series	DL >Best Web Site

96-10-23 20:49:10 EDT Subj: Re: LSC2 Guest relations? - rsbrandt@cris.com (Richard Brandt)

Frankly don't know if I have that particular SQ boxed somewhere but will certainly let you know if I turn it up. I am however planning on webifying Roy's zine DYNATRON and would be delighted to swap links with you.

96-10-24 20:53:35 EDT Subj: Re: special Hugo - oswald@airmail.net (Dennis Virzi)

[Potential Special Hugo Categories for LoneStarCon 2 - Best First Novel & Best Original Anthology] how do the numbers runs typically on these two? quantity to choose from? Dennis

96-10-24 23:19:18 EDT Subj: Re: special Hugo - Kent.Bloom@internetMCI.COM (Kent Bloom)

Here's my opinion, for what it's worth: [Potential Special Hugo Categories for LoneStarCon 2] It's usually not done unless there's a really good reason. [Best Art Book] Been done. I'm not fond of it. Much of this type of work is covered in other categories. [Best Black & White] Already covered by Best Artist. Why is B&W special? [Best Children's Book] Probably the most useful if we have to have a category, but is this really "Children's Book Adults Like Most"? [Best Convention] This is worse than Best Fanzine. Conventions are ephemeral, there are no standards or criteria, and very few people get to enough conventions to make an informed choice. No one can attend a convention which has already happened because it was nominated for a Hugo to find out if they like it. It would cause a lot of debate, though. [Best Critic] Who cares? Hugos are to recognize what we like. There aren't enough critics or enough people who enjoy reading criticism to justify this. [Best First Novel] We already administer the Campbell Award to cover this. [Best Mega-Novel (over 400 pages)] A novel is a novel is a novel. Maybe we should have a "Best Trilogy with Over Five Volumes" Hugo :) ? [Best Online Fiction] Not enough available cheaply enough yet, IMHO. [Best Original Anthology] Individual works and editorship are already recognized. What's left of an anthology after subtracting that? [Best Poem] Not enough interest or exposure. [Best Single Author Collection] All of the pieces are (or were) eligible on their own. I don't like having something eligible twice because of the format of its publication (except for the availability issues already in the Constitution). [Best Short Fiction of 1946] Why Short Fiction? Why 1946? I thought the Retro-Hugos had a lot of problems, but at least they were consistent with current practice, and reasonably comprehensive. If no one wants to put in the work to do the whole thing, why should we pick one aspect for special recognition? [Best Television Series] No such thing. It runs into all kinds of definitional and administrative problems. We've been arguing about the definition of TV Series for several years now. And it makes a category which includes as a proper subset a current Hugo category, allowing something a chance to win a second Hugo for the same thing. Maybe we can have a "Least Offensive TV Series" Hugo or a "Most Appropriate for Re-Runs on Sci-Fi" Hugo. [Best Web Site] Not yet, IMHO. Not enough people have seen enough Web sites, and artistic standards for Web sites are not mature enough. Maybe in two or three years electronic media should be represented, but it should start with E-zines first. Basically, I think we need to see a suggestion with a strong argument in favor which is either special to this year, or special to the SF community and unlikely to be repeated often, before I will support a Committee Hugo Category.

96-10-24 23:52:19 EDT Subj: Re: special Hugo - atc@arlut.utexas.edu (A. T. Campbell, III)

On the suggested categories of Best First Novel and Best Original Anthology, Dennis Virzi wrote: how do the numbers run typically on these two? quantity to choose from? Here are the figures from 1995, which I got from the February '96 LOCUS: First SF Novels - 16, First Fantasy Novels - 18, First Horror Novels - 9, TOTAL (SF/Fantasy/Horror) - 43, Original Anthologies - 79

To me, these numbers indicate we'd have a decent assortment from which to choose in either category.
A. T. Campbell, III

96-10-25 01:27:16 EDT Subj: Re: special Hugo - atc@arlut.utexas.edu (A. T. Campbell, III)
Here are my clarifications and responses to some of Kent Bloom's comments on the Special Hugo suggestions I sent out a couple of days ago: [It's usually not done unless there's a really good reason.] Agreed. However, discussion on the Special Hugo for LoneStarCon 2 seems to have been delayed pending the decision on whether to do the Retro-Hugos. Now that this decision has been made, we should take the opportunity to discuss Special Hugo categories while we still have a chance to create one. [Best Art Book] This category would be an attempt to separate Art Books from the other types of material typically nominated for Best Nonfiction. [Best Black & White Illustrator] Theoretically, this category does overlap Best Artist. However, for the past several decades all of the nominees in this category have been primarily (and sometimes exclusively) known for color paintings used for book covers. A special B&W category would acknowledge the artists who do fine interior illustrations for such magazines as Interzone, Analog, and Asimov's. [Best Children's Book] Probably the most useful if we have to have a category, but is this really "Children's Book Adults Like Most"? Good point. [Best Convention] I just tossed this one into the list to see if anyone was paying attention. Given the small amount of discussion it's generated on this list, I'd say most people aren't. [Best Critic] Obviously, opinions differ on this one. [Best First Novel: We already administer the Campbell Award to cover this.] This is a good point. Another problem with Best First Novel is that theoretically the same book could win Best Novel and Best First Novel -- by my count, this has happened 5 times in the past. Still, there is a lot of support for this award. [Best Mega-Novel (over 400 pages)] When this category was first created in the fifties, most novels were about the same size; finding one novel twice the length of another was rare. These days, it's easy to find a novel five times the length of another. It's really hard to compare a 200 page book to a 1000 page book. On the other hand, I like Kent's "Best Trilogy with Over Five Volumes" suggestion... [Best Online Fiction] OMNI Online would certainly have the edge in this category. [Best Original Anthology] Again, theoretically there could be overlap. However, it's very rare that a story from an original anthology makes the Hugo ballot. The recent trend toward releasing anthologies in hardback makes it harder for worthy stories from these books to compete with stories from magazines. Similarly, it's rare for a non-magazine editor to stand a chance at winning a Hugo. This category would allow at least some recognition for the fine anthologies that have been published recently. [Best Poem] Probably true. [Best Single Author Collection] This has been a successful category in the World Fantasy and World Horror Awards. [Best Short Fiction of 1946] This does have problems. I believe this category was suggested in an attempt to address the Retro-Hugo categories that had attracted the greatest general interest. [Best Television Series] This category has several things going for it: 1) there would be no shortage of nominations and votes; 2) it would recognize shows that have several strong episodes but no breakaway winner, and 3) it would recognize continued excellence. I don't think this would replace or reduce the stature of Best Dramatic Presentation. I would argue that the year ST:TNG won for "The Inner Light", it would not have been a shoo-in for the Best TV Series. That episode was way above the level for the rest of that show's season. [Best Web Site] I'm more Web-conscious than most people, so I don't know what the "typical" WorldCon member has seen. There seem to be dozens of good web resources ripe for nomination now, though. A. T. Campbell, III

96-10-25 12:33:21 EDT Subj: RE: special Hugo - shiva@io.com (Earl Cooley III)
[Best Web Site] I've been considering the establishment of an independent, juried award for SF & fannish web sites. The main problem with that is that most of the people qualified to be on such a jury have nominatable web sites themselves: the best jury would knock some of the best sites out of the running. There are hundreds of web awards now: a bunch of people have essentially set up awards seemingly just to make their own hotlists look more important, or as a mutual admiration society with their friends, or for any of a number of unfathomable reasons.

96-10-25 12:58:25 EDT Subj: Re: special Hugo - patty@teleport.com (Patty Wells)
[Best Original Anthology] I like the Best Original Anthology category best myself. I had not managed to articulate the thoughts as well as AT, but had nebulous pre-thoughts along the same lines. It also seems

to me to be a category well in keeping with the literary interests that Armadillocons represent so well. As much as I think a best web site Hugo would be great fun, I have to agree that its time has not yet come.
Patty

96-10-25 13:42:29 EDT Subj: RE: special Hugo - lmann@telerama.lm.com (Laurie D. T. Mann)
[Best Web Site] You also wind up with the "pro" vs. "fan" areas. The Dominion (the Sci Fi Channel site) can and often does blow most fannish sites out of the water. So do many of the SF-related TV/movie sites. Personally, I tend to stick to the more fannish sites, but it would be wrong to have a site with money and a staff compete against a voluntary effort.

96-10-25 14:11:17 EDT Subj: 16mm projector free for deserving SF group. (fwd) - allston@io.com (Aaron Allston) seen at rec.arts.sf.fandom, may be more pertinent to FACT than LoneStarCon 2...
----- start of forwarded message ----- Newsgroups: rec.arts.sf.fandom From: mrowland@cix.compulink.co.uk ("Marcus Rowland") Subject: 16mm projector free for deserving SF group. Message-ID: <Dzu9xz.D6@cix.compulink.co.uk> Date: Fri, 25 Oct 1996 16:03:35 GMT

I have an unwanted Elf NT-1 16mm sound (mono) cine projector; complete with speaker, cable, large self-thread spool. I'll give it to any bona-fide SF organisation that can arrange to collect it (Central London, England). Good working order last time used, but that was several years ago. Ex-school, but probably used only 15-20 times since new. Marcus L. Rowland mrowland@cix.co.uk
"Trust The Computer; The Computer is your GENERAL PROTECTION FAULT AT 002:0A0D"

96-10-25 16:08:19 EDT Subj: Re: special Hugo -Reply - debbie.hodgkinson@dir.state.tx.us (Debbie Hodgkinson) Consistent with current practice is one of the sticking points on which the decision was based not to do the Retro Hugos. If they could have been based on practice more reflective of the field AT THAT TIME (ie. four to six categories), we might have gone for it. Of course that wasn't the only objection, but for me it was a major one. But the way the rules are written, it was all of today's categories or none, with some dropping out hit or miss if there aren't enough nominations, but the real danger of not enough nominations in any one category to make a meaningful choice possible. There's a fudge factor available for moving fiction to different categories, but it's been "fixed" to make it less useful as a tool to eliminate whole categories off the ballot by merging two categories together. The discussion I heard was to make the special Hugo for Best Novel of 1946.

96-10-25 16:14:15 EDT Subj: SF Web awards (was RE: special Hugo) - shiva@io.com (Earl Cooley III)
[Best Web Site] I was considering several award categories: Best Author's Home Page, Best Convention or Club Web Site, Best Online Fanzine (archives of print zines would probably not be eligible), Best Fan site (archives of print zines would be eligible here), Best Pro site and perhaps design or technical achievement awards. Hmm... maybe this discussion should be done on the smofs mailing list? I'm not sure how much interest there would be in that venue, either.

96-10-25 16:39:22 EDT Subj: Re: special Hugo - twb@fanac.com (Tom Becker)
ConFrancisco tried to do Best Translation for their special Hugo. It was a great idea in theory, but it didn't work out in practice. I still like it as an idea, but I think it would take a concerted campaign over years to build up enough general interest in the category for it to work even as a special Hugo. Let this be a warning for other people with great ideas for special Hugos. In regards to the categories listed, the ones I like are: [Best Critic] I really like this category a lot, but maybe with some tweaking of the title. SF has a long-standing tradition of short non-fiction: reviews, criticism and essays. This corner of the field is alive and well with several active writers, but it is under-recognized. The Best Non-Fiction award usually goes to larger works. If we call the category "Best Non-Fiction Writer" then it clearly includes essayists and reviewers as well as critics. I don't know if we can call it "Best Short Non-Fiction" because I think the category should be applicable to a body of work over the year. [Best Poem] A good category with very little overlap with other categories. With Asimov's regularly publishing poetry, this could be a viable award. [Best Original Anthology] I like this because it recognizes an important tradition in our field. On the other hand, the really good original anthologies have been able to get recognition because the stories in them get awards. Some other category suggestions: Best APA, Best Letter-Hack, Best

Tie-In or Novelization, Best Merchandising; Best Shared-World Anthology; Best Denial of Genre Affiliation; Best Drive-In Dramatic Presentation; Best Cultural Treasure; Some of these are serious (you decide for yourself), but any award that truly recognizes what goes on in our field is bound to get a little silly sometimes. All the best, Tom

96-10-25 18:20:20 EDT Subj: RE: special Hugo - shiva@io.com (Earl Cooley III)
[Best Tie-In or Novelization] This category actually sounds pretty good, since more legitimate literary writers like K.W. Jeter have done this kind of thing recently. [Best Cultural Treasure] Ah, yes, the Howard Waldrop Award. heh.

96-10-25 18:31:14 EDT Subj: RE: special Hugo -Reply - shiva@io.com (Earl Cooley III)
[Best Short Fiction of 1946] To have some sort of 1946 award would probably go a long way towards satisfying both sides of the Retro-Hugo issue.

96-10-26 09:32:34 EDT Subj: Re: special Hugo - CCWS74A@prodigy.com (MR TOM R FELLER)
[Regarding Tom Becker's suggestions:] The Best APA award would have the same problems as the current fan awards, only more so. Only a small percentage of the WorldCon members have seen the nominated fanzines, read the works of the nominated fan writers, or seen the art of the nominated fan artists. (The last probably not as bad as the others. Many fan artists also do convention program book covers and t-shirts.) I only know a handful of people who have even seen copies of the majority of apas. Rather than Best Letter-Hack, we might consider a special award for Harry Warner. He would be the favorite anyway, because of his practice of writing letters to even the most modest clubzine. Best Denial of Genre Affiliation: Harlan Ellison already has several Hugos. Why not Kurt Vonnegut? Tom

96-10-26 12:59:56 EDT Subj: RE: special Hugo - shiva@io.com (Earl Cooley III)
[Regarding Tom Feller's comments in regard to Tom Becker's suggestions] [The Best APA award] APA's should be eligible as just another kind of fanzine. Haven't some of the major APA's won in that category in the past? [Best Letter-Hack] Anyone seriously considered in this category would already be eligible for best Fan Writer anyway. [Best Denial of Genre Affiliation] Lew Shiner would be another frontrunner in that category. heh.

96-10-29 17:36:47 EST Subj: Budgets - security costs - oswald@airmail.net (Dennis Virzi)
Just a reminder, that when figuring your budgets, if you need security inside the convention center, we must use off duty San Antonio police. This will be at least \$20 an hour, more on Labor day and Sunday. I checked this out, and it's tight, we can't get around using cops. As for any security needed in the hotels, I can obtain very good rates from Stanley Smith. Let me know your needs.

96-10-30 15:51:40 EST Subj: Re: SF Web awards (was RE: special Hugo) - dick@smith.chi.il.us (Dick Smith) [Earl Cooley III wrote proposing several categories for Best Web Site Hugo] The committee can only award ONE special Hugo, so that's out. Thank goodness!

96-10-31 00:13:04 EST Subj: RE: SF Web awards (was RE: special Hugo) - shiva@io.com (Earl Cooley III) [proposal for Best Web Site Hugo] Bzzzt! Nope. I was not at that time discussing a web site Hugo, but an independent, juried set of awards. Sorry for the confusion.

96-11-07 23:42:33 EST Subj: Treasure Hunt (fwd) - meschke@io.com (meschke)
Any comments who will help coordinate this? meschke

96-11-08 09:26:27 EST Subj: Best Dramatic Presentation - jmann@transarc.com (Jim Mann)
Over on the SF TV newsgroups (rec.arts.sf.tv and the Star Trek and Babylon 5 groups), the question of whether the whole season of Babylon 5 is a single "dramatic unit" and thus eligible for a Hugo is under discussion. The points in its favor seem to be that 1) it was all written by the same person (unlike your typical TV show) and 2) the episodes together tell a single story. I'm not sure that I buy this. I view it more like a series of closely related short stories in a series, since each episode comes to a dramatic

conclusion of its own. However, people are talking about nominating it and thus this is going to come up. J. Michael Straczynski, the creator/writer, has stated that he thinks it should be eligible, and it will probably get enough votes to put it on the ballot if it is. It think it would be worth discussing this in advance and ruling in advance whether it would be eligible. It will cause less pain and less bad feelings if we do this in advance (especially if we decide that it is not eligible). Jim Mann

96-11-09 00:25:48 EST Subj: Re: Best Dramatic Presentation (fwd) - lmann@city-net.com (Laurie D. T. Mann) Please note my new E-mail address and URL: Laurie D. T. Mann ** lmann@city-net.com *** <http://www.city-net.com/~lmann> *** As I maintain lots of sites, I have a file at <http://worcester.lm.com/lmann/coa.html> that lists the old sites and has links to the new ones (AwardWeb will probably move this weekend). I agree with Jim 100% on the this (the above message). (and no, not just because...) This is an area to be proactive on now rather than reactive on next spring.

96-11-09 14:50:06 EST Subj: Re: Best Dramatic Presentation - dick@smith.chi.il.us (Dick Smith) I would think that this matter would already be delegated to the Hugo committee, whoever that is. And the rest of the committee is out of it. That's the whole point of having such a committee. On the other hand, it's fascinating to discuss. I, for one, don't see anything badly wrong with the arguments for the series as a unit. I can't spot a "fix up" novel (that is, a "novel" made out of pieces which were previously shorter works, with new framing material holding them together) which won a Hugo Award, but we usually allow that they're novels. I'd also guess, given last year's experience, that if there are multiple B5 items nominated, that JMS will withdraw all but the one he feels (I don't know his motives, here) either has the best chance, or is his best work. That's what I'd do, and it's what it looks like he did last time. So, in the likely event that the whole series is nominated along with one or more episodes, the Hugo administrator will have a chance to work it out with him.

96-11-09 17:24:02 EST Subj: Re: Best Dramatic Presentation - rsbrandt@cris.com (Richard Brandt) [At 12:03 PM 11/10/96 CDT, you wrote: On the other hand, it's fascinating to discuss. I, for one, don't see anything badly wrong with the arguments for the series as a unit. I can't spot a "fix up" novel (that is, a "novel" made out of pieces which were previously shorter works, with new framing material holding them together) which won a Hugo Award, but we usually allow that they're novels.]

THE FOREVER WAR by Joe Haldeman.

DREAMSNAKE by Vonda N. McIntyre.

ENDER'S GAME by Orson Scott Card.

THE FOREVER WAR by David Brin.

THE VOR GAME by Lois McMaster Bujold.

All were either fixups, had portions previously published in one of the magazines, or expanded from earlier works published as novellas or novelettes (Haldeman's "Hero", McIntyre's "Of Mist, and Grass, and Sand", Brin's "The Tides of Kithrup", Bujold's "Weatherman"). Card won the JWC award on the basis of the novelette version of "Ender's Game." I believe the same applies to Miller's CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ and the Clifton/Riley book THEY'D RATHER BE RIGHT.

96-11-11 09:07:57 EST Subj: Re: Best Dramatic Presentation - oswald@airmail.net (Dennis Virzi) [Jim Mann: whole season of Babylon 5 is a single "dramatic unit" and thus eligible for a Hugo is under discussion. I'm not sure that I buy this.] Nor I. It isn't remotely like that short-lived Stephen King series a few years ago, that was a continuous connected story (That, I might add, we never learned how it turned out since it got cancelled.) Single eps, or clearly labeled "two parters" only.

96-11-13 05:34:28 EST Subj: Re: Best Dramatic Presentation - jmann@transarc.com (Jim Mann) [this matter would already be delegated to the Hugo committee] That certainly sounds reasonable. On the other hand, I don't see any reason why we can't ask the committee to make the decision in advance, rather than waiting until the Spring. ["fix up" novel] I see your point, though at least the fix up novel does generally have new material. We probably wouldn't allow a collection of related short stories (with no bridge material to knit them together) to be eligible for the novel Hugo.

96-11-17 02:50:02 EST Subj: Re: Treasure Hunt (fwd) - oswald@airmail.net [We would like to continue the Buccaneer Treasure Hunt during LoneStarCon 2 and wanted to check

with you, before we ask someone to coordinate this project. Please let me know if this is O.K. with you and your committee. Thanks, Peggy Rae] [meschke wrote: Any comments who will help coordinate this?] This sounds like something the next WC is doing / continuing. As long as someone from us reviews the hunt (I haven't the foggiest) rules for traps, I see it as another "bid" thingy. Imagine the buckaneers would run it. Dennis

96-11-17 09:42:35 EST Subj: Re: Best Dramatic Presentation - tim@smof.demon.co.uk (Tim Illingworth) [the question of whether the whole season of Babylon 5 is a single "dramatic unit" and thus eligible for a Hugo is under discussion.] Well, clearly labelled multi-parters. The intent of the rules is that individual stories compete, but not shows. Thus "The Cage" and "Castrovalva" are both eligible, but "Star Trek" and "Doctor Who" are not. To generalise: "shows" consist of one or more "dramas", which consist of one or more "episodes". A drama ends with a dramatic conclusion rather than a cliffhanger. So episodes n and n+1 are part of the same drama if and only if episode n ends with a cliffhanger rather than a conclusion. Only dramas are eligible for the Hugo. Jim states that the B5 episodes end with a conclusion (I haven't seen any of them, but I trust Jim), so I conclude that B5 third season is a show rather than a drama, and is not eligible. All the Best, Tim

96-11-17 15:33:52 EST Subj: Re: Best Dramatic Presentation - pegasus@FastLane.NET (Scott M. Merritt) Actually it's a moot question since season 3 of Babylon 5 has aired in excess of a one year period and hence is ineligible for the hugo as a whole.

96-11-18 08:30:18 EST Subj: Re: Best Dramatic Presentation - jmann@transarc.com (Jim Mann) [re: Scott's message above] Can you clarify what you mean by this? A novel that is serialized over more than one year is still eligible for Best Novel.

96-11-18 12:38:59 EST Subj: Re: Treasure Hunt (fwd) -Reply - debbie.hodgkinson@dir.state.tx.us (Debbie Hodgkinson) This looks like the kind of "weird fan stuff" that Priscilla Olson is supervising/organizing, isn't it? Priscilla? Debbie

96-11-19 12:52:39 EST Subj: Press Relations - First Press Release - lmann@city-net.com (Laurie D. T. Mann) I haven't had to do much on Press Relations yet due to the excellent work that Earl has done on the Web site. But now, it's time to start sending press releases to the local media, et.c. Enclosed is a my proposal for the first press release. Please send me feedback, corrections, etc. I have the local press list and will build it into a database soon. But I'd like to get the press release out by the end of November. Does anyone know if anyone has volunteered to help work on Press Relations for LoneStarCon 2? There are a few folks I plan to recruit from MagiCon, but I know I could use some more help. The Chili Cookoff sounds like great fun, and I'm looking forward to it.

LoneStarCon 2 Press Release

Contact: Laurie Mann
Press Relations Area Head
lmann@city-net.com
<http://www.io.com/~lsc2>

The 55th World Science Fiction Convention, LoneStarCon II, will take place in San Antonio, Texas, from August 28-September 1, 1997. The Worldcon is an annual gathering of science fiction writers, artists, publishers and readers, and attracts about six thousand attendees from around the world. In addition to the traditional art show, Hugo Awards, and costume contest, this Worldcon will sponsor a Chili Cookoff.

The guests of honor at the next Worldcon are Algis Budrys and Michael Moorcock, the guest artist is Don Maitz, the fan guest is Roy Tackett, and the toastmaster is Neal Barrett, Jr.

Membership Statistics: As of December 1, 1996, LoneStarCon 2 has ??? members:

The current membership rates are: Attending \$120; Supporting \$25; Children, 3-12 \$40 ; (publications not included). These rates are good through December 31, 1996.

From January 1, 1997-July 31, 1997 the rates will be: Attending \$135; Supporting \$25; Children, 3-12 \$40 (publications not included).

Full convention and day rates will be available at the door.

Chili Cookoff: LoneStarCon 2 will be the site of a chili cookoff that has been sanctioned by the Chili Appreciation society. The cookoff will have three categories: CASI-sanctioned chili (no fillers), fan chili, and commercial chili. This contest is only open to LoneStarCon members. The chili cookoff will take place the [THURSDAY] night of LoneStarCon. Funds raised by the Chili Cookoff will be donated to the San Antonio Public Library.

Hotel Reservations: Our hotels are the Marriott Rivercenter and the Marriott Riverwalk. Reservation forms going out in January with PR 4?????

Progress Report 4 and the Hugo nomination ballots will be bulk-mailed in January. They will go to all attending and supporting members of LoneStarCon.

Dealers' Room: For information about selling books or other items in the Dealers' Room, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Steve Francis, 5503 Matterhorn Drive, Louisville, KY 40216-1326.

Art Show: Space is still available in the Art Show - the main mailing should go out in January. To receive Art Show mailings, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Pegasus Management, 2501 W. Sublett #890, Arlington, TX 76017.

Volunteers Needed! LoneStarCon runs on volunteer labor. We need your help! If you want to help out at the next Worldcon, write to Volunteers c/o the LoneStarCon box or at lsc2@io.com, and let us know what you'd like to do.

Ways of Reaching LoneStarCon2: The address is: LoneStarCon2, PO Box 27277, Austin, TX 78755-2277. The LoneStarCon voice phone number is: 512-472-9944. The FAX machine is: 512-472-4290. The E-mail address is lsc2@io.com. The Web page URL is: <http://www.io.com/~lsc2>

96-11-19 15:21:14 EST Subj: A Translation Question & Corrections/Additions to Press Release - lmann@city-net.com (Laurie D. T. Mann) Is there going to be anything in the way of Spanish language program at LoneStarCon? Is it worthwhile to get a press release translated into Spanish for the local Spanish media? I've been making corrections/updates to the release, and already found the egregious spelling errors (groan). Instead of resending it around, I'm keeping a working copy at: <http://www.city-net.com/~lmann/sf/lsc2/pr1.html>

96-11-20 01:46:17 EST Subj: RE: Press Relations - First Press Release - shiva@io.com (Earl Cooley III) The Chili Cookoff is one of the best press relations assets we have. As I learned at ChariTech 96 (from the community relations director of one of Austin's local TV stations), a good way to deflect the magnetic influence that strangeness has on TV cameras at SF conventions is to provide compelling human interest stories such as the charitable work which conventions such as ours support. Another key is to have a designated "Speaker-to-Newsfolks" who can be available at short notice for interviews.

96-11-20 08:51:52 EST Subj: Re: Press Relations - First Press Release - lmann@city-net.com (Laurie D. T. Mann) Absolutely. One thing Worldcon Press Relations has done for years is to have a staff person in charge of each special event, just to deal with the press. That staff person works closely with someone on the event staff to make sure the press/publicity side of things comes off smoothly. Is the

Chili Cookoff early in the con (like on Thursday)?

96-11-20 17:44:35 EST Subj: Re: Press Relations - First Press Release - ChiliMomma@aol.com (Judith Ward) The Chili Cookoff is Friday night at La Villita. We will have a Chili Appreciation Society Internation (CASI) cookoff in the afternoon, we hope to have the professional cooks also in the afternoon and the fan cookoff will be in the evening with a dance. We will have three bands, a country western, a fifties rock and roll, and a Tex-Mex. We will have three seperate judgings and three separate prizes. Try reading the progress reports for the other information. Chilimomma

96-11-21 08:11:32 EST Subj: Re: Press Relations - First Press Release - lmann@city-net.com (Laurie D. T. Mann) I did - I just couldn't find the day listed anywhere!

96-11-25 07:40:45 EST Subj: Re: Press Relations - First Press Release - leah@smith.chi.il.us (Leah Zeldes Smith) It's not clear to me from this whether this release is intended for fan/SF or mundane media. As someone who reads hundreds of press releases every week, I have to say that this release, though fine for a fannish audience, is not suitable for mundane media. I really believe you will need separate releases for the fan/SF press and the mundanes, but if you only want to do one version, tailor it to the mundane media. The fans'll figure it out. I will address specific concerns below, but let me urge you to get hold of a copy of the AP Stylebook, available at any bookstore, and make your release conform to it. It's a minor point, but it will make your release more professional and editors will pay more attention.

[LoneStarCon 2 Press Release Contact: Laurie Mann Press Relations Area Head lmann@city-net.com <http://www.io.com/~lsc2>] Is this going to be on stationary with a snailmail address and your daytime phone number on it? If not, you must include them here. E-mail is really not as widespread among the media as you might think it is. If it is impossible for you to receive calls during the daytime, put your evening number with the hours during which you can be reached live. Or put the number and "voicemail" after it, so the editor knows he's not going to reach you on the first try. (But be prepared to return calls during the daytime.)

[The 55th World Science Fiction Convention, LoneStarCon II, will take place in San Antonio, Texas, from August 28-September 1, 1997. The Worldcon is an annual gathering of science fiction writers, artists, publishers and readers, and attracts about six thousand attendees from around the world. In addition to the traditional art show, Hugo Awards, and costume contest, this Worldcon will sponser a Chili Cookoff.] I would certainly mention discussion of books. The San Antonio media will want to know where in the city it's happening. You may wish to include such details on a separate fact sheet.

[The guests of honor at the next Worldcon are Algis Budrys and Michael Moorcock, the guest artist is Don Maitz, the fan guest is Roy Tackett, and the toastmaster is Neal Barrett, Jr.] Moorcock. Barrett. Spelling people's names right is critical. Proofread everything three times. Get someone else to read it again. You need to say who these people are, since most of the people you're sending it to will have no idea. "Author of such-and-such" will do. You can call Tackett a "fanzine editor" -- most people know what that is nowadays. Assuming you're sending this to a national list, you want to mention each one's hometown, too. It would be good to have a 1-page bio of each to include in a complete press kit.

[Membership Statistics As of December 1, 1996, LoneStarCon 2 has ???? members:] Leave this out. You've already said the approximate number expected, and they won't care about specifics before the con. You can put it on the fact sheet if you really want to.

[The current membership rates are: Attending \$120 Supporting \$25 Children, 3-12 \$40 (publications not included) These rates are good through December 31, 1996. From January 1, 1997-July 31, 1997 the rates will be: Attending \$135 Supporting \$25 Children, 3-12 \$40 (publications not included) Full convention and day rates will be available at the door.] You should explain what one gets for this. And where to send the money. Put it here, even though you have the address below. You also need to make it clear that anyone may join.

[Chili Cookoff - LoneStarCon 2 will be the site of a chili cookoff that has been sanctioned by the Chili Appreciation society. The cookoff will have three categories: CASI-sanctioned chili (no fillers), fan chili, and commercial chili. This contest is only open to LoneStarCon members. The chili cookoff will

take place the > [THURSDAY] night of LoneStarCon. Funds raised by the Chili Cookoff will be donated to the San Antonio Public Library.] I think it's Chili Appreciation Society International. Information about the entertainment and that the cookoff is open to the public for a donation should also be included.

[Hotel Reservations, Progress Report 4, Dealers' Room, Art Show, Volunteers Needed!] None of the stuff above after the chili cookoff part should go in a release to mundane press.

Somewhere you want to include that the Worldcon is a nonprofit org and run by amateur volunteers. Not only does the latter make it a more interesting story, but nonprofit status will also get you an in to some media who would otherwise expect you to buy an ad. You may want to include a paragraph or separate release about the history of the Worldcon and about the activities available. It's also helpful to include a list of people working on the con with the cities they live in and their zip codes. This enables editors to find people they can target for zoned editions. Later, when a program participants list is available, you could also include such a list for them. The easiest and most useful thing to do is a press kit with separate releases, to which you can add new things as they become available. For this, I would have a basic release with general info, a fact sheet with bare details, bios of the guests, lists of staff and program participants, a separate release with details of the chili cookoff, another one with the Hugo Award nominees when they come out, and essentially a separate piece of paper for each element of the con. Then you collate it together and send as much or as little as each news outlet needs. Don't forget to put together a Public Service Announcement for broadcast media and a brief, one-paragraph item for calendar listings. (Both should mention, somewhere -- though not necessarily in the body of the copy -- that this is run by a nonprofit.) As press clippings come in, make copies of them and include them in your kit. If you can get hold of clips from media coverage of last year's Worldcon, put them in too. The better a package of materials you can put together, the more likely an editor will be to use part of it. Leah Smith, leah@smith.chi.il.us, (a.k.a. Leah A. Zeldes, Managing Editor, Lerner Newspapers)

96-11-25 08:40:24 EST Subj: Re: Press Relations - First Press Release - lmann@city-net.com (Laurie D. T. Mann, GetOnline!) Thanks for the feedback. If you take a look at - <http://www.city-net.com/~lmann/sf/lsc2/pr1.html> - you'll see some of it implemented. Many of your comments were more appropriate for the lengthy press release that goes out in June. This initial release is kind of a "signal flare" just to alert mundanes that, yes, Worldcon is coming to Texas next summer. I thought your idea of listing some staff and pros by zip/postal code was a very good one - something I'll probably include in the big press release in June. The single biggest problem I had with the press at MagiCon was the fact that I didn't have a static phone number the week before the con. This time, I want to budget for a one-month cell phone rental (or loner), so I can publicize the phone number in advance of the convention. Press relations doesn't need a beeper nearly as much as a reliable phone number that people can access from the outside. As much as we love E-mail, the press still lives and dies by the phone and the press release.

96-11-25 09:19:04 EST Subj: Re: Press Relations - First Press Release - shiva@io.com (Earl Cooley III) [idea of listing some staff and pros by zip/postal code] I remember hearing that Moorcock prefers to be listed as a "Central Texas" author rather than by city or zip code, to reduce the number of fanboys who hunt down his house to bother him in person.

96-11-25 10:07:07 EST Subj: Re: Press Relations - First Press Release - lmann@city-net.com (Laurie D. T. Mann, GetOnline!) Obviously, we'd get permission first.

96-11-25 20:02:22 EST Subj: Re: Press Relations - First Press Release - twb@fanac.com (Tom Becker) [Leah Zeldes Smith provided some excellent feedback, including: *... Laurie Mann wrote: Full convention and day rates will be available at the door.* You should explain what one gets for this. And where to send the money. Put it here, even though you have the address below. You also need to make it clear that anyone may join.] We had a problem at Intersection where some locals came expecting something like the trek cons they were familiar with. Even though they got their money back, some complaints showed up in the press. I believe the headline was something like: "Wierdo Con

Branded a Ripoff". The press release is an opportunity to get across our message about what is special about WorldCon and LSC2. Imagine reporters and out-of-community guests and new fans showing up, knowing what they want to see and do, and having it all work out because their expectations were realistic and well informed. Here's my personal opinion of what is special: WorldCon: The premier gathering of fans from all over the world. Home of the Hugos. Noted especially for the quality of its literary discussions, art show, and costume presentation. Emphasis on participation. All-volunteer. Less commercial than other large conventions. LSC2: All those great Texas and South-Western writers. Strong local fandom that is community oriented. By the way, the press release is just one of many opportunities. Every one of us will be involved in one way or another in communicating with the public, even if it's just talking with friends and co-workers.

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.