

#2

# VOICE OF THE LOBSTER

Forty-eight pages of tax forms!  
Aaargh!

You poor thing!



About hotel relations...

Don't ask.

SUNCON 1977



Have a Fosters?

Thanks.



TORCON 1973



THE VOICE OF THE LOBSTER #2

is a fanzine produced by the Noreascon II committee to encourage discussion of topics related to the running of Worldcons. Price 50¢ for a single issue, \$2.00 for all issues published (including back issues as long as they last); at least one issue free for a published contribution. No trades as such, but zines with material of interest to us will be reciprocated. All correspondence to The Voice of the Lobster, c/o Noreascon II, P.O. Box 46, MIT Branch P.O., Cambridge, MA 02139.

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Edited by George Flynn

Mimeography by Tony Lewis

Covers by Mark Keller

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You are getting this zine for one or more of the following reasons: (1) You sent money (if you have a subscription to all issues, an "A" follows your name on the address label). (2) Something you wrote is printed or referred to herein. (3) You are a member of the Noreascon II committee, a newszine, a Worldcon bidding committee, or someone else with a need to know. (4) You are the sort of person we think likely to produce an interesting response (but we won't wait forever: see p. 2). (5) It still seemed the fannish thing to do. (In #1 I didn't indicate which of you fell in which category because I wasn't there when the envelopes were stuffed. Besides, you know who you are.)

Issue #3 may be out by the end of March: see editorial on p. 2.

(last stencil typed 2/3/79)

See #1-20-2/3/79

The Voice of the Editor

George Flynn

Those of you who noticed the 54¢ postage on VotL #1 will have deduced that we're not breaking even at 50¢ an issue. To begin with, #1 was bigger than originally planned (mostly because of the contributions from the committee - I was the worst offender). And then postage rates went up since we originally estimated the cost. It turned out that #1 would have cost 40¢ to mail third class, 48¢ book rate, and 54¢ first class. Since we were already a couple of weeks behind schedule, and the whole idea was for it to come out frequently, we decided to assume the extra cost and send it out first class. The zine was collated Nov. 19, envelopes stuffed Nov. 22, and most were mailed on the 23rd (Thanksgiving Day).

This issue, you will note, is even fatter than #1, mostly because of the 29-page lettercol. Maybe I should have been tougher in editing, but this is supposed to be a forum of opinion, and the readers have opinions on a remarkable variety of things! Don't know yet how it'll be mailed; as of Feb. 3 I have 99 full subscribers, which with the freebie list still isn't enough to send it out bulk rate.

There was supposed to be an article by Don Eastlake on "The Saga of the Ballots" in this issue, and the early pages even contain a couple of cross-references to it. But that was before I realized the lettercol had developed elephantiasis. It'll be enough of a job to get this issue produced as it is, since everyone in Boston fandom is working hard on Boskone (less than two weeks away as I write this); so Don's article had to go. However, I plan to include it in VotL #3, which will be produced as soon as possible after this issue, hopefully within a month. Under the circumstances it'll probably be another mostly-committee-written issue.

I had intended to cut off those people who were getting the zine on speculation and didn't respond after this issue. But with the schedule I've just announced, there'll hardly be time for much response before #3; so just about everyone who gets this issue will probably get #3. After that, however....

As for what is in this issue, there's the second installment in Leslie's "Planning for the Worldcon" series (the first was in Progress Report 1, which most of you should have received before this zine); a couple of excerpts from our news releases; and that huge lettercol. There are certainly quite a few provocative statements in the letters (though some of the best weren't printable), and I hope you find them interesting. I certainly did. On the outside of the package, Mark Keller gave me a choice of two covers, and with our famed decisiveness we chose to use both of them. Now all we have to do is get the damn thing printed, collated, and mailed....

Footnotes to #1: We've located 4 of the lost members listed on p. 10, and don't seem to have lost anybody else yet. Our projections for memberships at the end of the first period, i.e., as of Jan. 1 (#1, p. 11) turned out to be somewhat higher than the actuality (#2, p. 42); the best hypothesis is that the less steep scale is encouraging people to put off deciding to join. There were 14 locwriters in #1, 23 in #2, only 6 of them in common. And I am ashamed that not one loc said a word about Stu Shiffman's great cover.

Well, that's it until #3, which with luck will be out sometime in March. For 1¢, in the spring the voice of the lobster will be heard in the land.

Planning for the Worldcon - Part 2(Sept - Oct 1978)

Leslie Turek

In case you're confused, Part I of this series of articles, which covers the period before we won the bid, appeared in Progress Report 1, which was mailed to all Noreascon II members in January 1979. I plan to continue writing these articles until the actual work of running the convention becomes so overwhelming that I just can't squeeze in non-essentials like this. I have no idea when that will happen. (For the information of potential con chairmen, I have been putting in, on a regular basis, about 20 hours per week on Noreascon II business; I would guess the committed secretary, treasurer, membership records person, and progress report editor are working at about that same level. Consider this a warning.)

My purpose in writing these articles is to share our experience with future Worldcon bidders and other groups putting on large-scale conventions. I also hope to give the members who have no con-running experience some idea of what's involved in putting on a Worldcon. On the other hand, George feels that I'm telling you more than you ever wanted to know and threatens to start drastically editing me. So if these articles have been enlightening, entertaining, or useful to any of you, I'd appreciate hearing your comments.

The continuing title of this series of articles is not very appropriate for this installment, which covers the first two months after we won the bid. During those months we had very little time for planning, as most of our effort was taken up with membership processing, the preparation of our first publications (Progress Report 1 and Voice of the Lobster #1), and setting up our administrative procedures. Here is how it went...

Membership Processing

Don Eastlake's article on site-selection voting, "The Saga of the Ballots", describes how we received the ballots at Iguanacon and reconciled the ballot stubs against the voting fees taken in at the con or sent to Iggy beforehand. We also opened a sales table to sell new memberships and conversions. We returned from Iguanacon with 1160 Noreascon II memberships to be entered into our computer files. It was one of our major goals to get those memberships entered and acknowledgments sent out as soon as possible -- preferably within a month.

I won't try to completely describe the computer system we are using. I will mention briefly that we're utilizing a standard file-manipulation system; our record format includes fields for first name, last name, title, fannish name (if any), several lines of address, zip or postal code, country, membership number, type of membership, control number (explained below), total amount paid, type of payment (cash, check, internal transfer, or foreign currency held by an agent), and flags for Boston in 1980 pre-supporters, names with special characters, or deceased members. The system can select out or sort for fields of interest (such as name or zip code), and can print out the file in various formats to produce full listings, compressed listings, or mailing labels, as desired. Updates are done by appending new members; for conversions or address changes, the proper record is selected by membership number and the appropriate fields are modified.

By working like crazy for a couple of weeks, Ann McCutchen, who is responsible for our membership records, managed to get all the members from Iguanacon into the system. She produced a listing which was proofread by other committee members, and then entered the final corrections and printed out labels. At our Oct. 8 work session, we affixed those labels to envelopes, enclosed a form letter and copy of Progress Report Zero, and sent off the first batch of 1160 acknowledgments. The label gave the name and address in our records, plus the membership number and type of membership. The form letter urged supporting members to convert before the rates went up, and included a coupon to check off and send in.

Two other special mailings were sent out around this time. First there were the invalid ballots: those received without the voting fee enclosed. "The Saga of the Ballots" explains why there were so many invalid ballots. At Iguanacon we decided to give the people who sent them in special membership rates, letting them join up to the end of the year at the same total fees charged to valid voters. Once this decision was made, we had to send out a letter informing them of the situation. The second special mailing was to our pre-supporters and pre-opposers who hadn't voted or joined at Iggy, to inform them of the discounts available to them. Since there were very few pre-opposers, the letter was aimed at pre-supporters ("Thank you for your moral and financial support...") and suitably hand-edited for the pre-opposers ("for your ~~moral~~ ~~and~~ financial support...").

While Ann had been furiously entering the members from Iguanacon, additional memberships and conversions were coming into our post office box - about 50 letters all told during September. These were set aside until the main membership mailing was done and Ann had a chance to set up her files. Then, about a week after the main membership mailing, we were hit with the deluge of conversions that it generated. During the middle and end of October we received about 250 pieces of membership mail.

As each piece of mail arrived at our box, our secretary, George Flynn, assigned it a control number which uniquely numbered each piece and specified its date of arrival. Checks were removed immediately, and the letter was marked with the amount of money enclosed and what it was for. The checks were also marked with the letter's control number and the purpose(s) of the payment, and all checks were Xeroxed before being deposited. Thus we will have complete records of all monies received, if any problems come up.

At our work sessions (held roughly biweekly), the first step was to go through the letters to determine if the payment was correct, and to look up the membership number for conversions and CoAs. This was a very complicated procedure, because of the multiplicity of fees and special discounts. For each membership request, first one worker checked to see if the person was an invalid voter; another worker checked the name against the list of pre-supporters and pre-opposers; and a third looked it up in the current membership list. After all these checks were made, a fourth person determined if the fee was correct according to the following complicated rate schedule:

#### New Memberships

Supporting:	\$8 regular, \$7 if PS, \$6 if PO
Attending:	\$15 regular, \$14 if PS, \$13 if PO

## New Memberships for Invalid Voters

Supporting: \$5 regular, \$3 if PS or PO  
 Attending: \$10 regular, \$8 if PS or PO

Conversions for Voters: \$5 regular, \$3 if PS or PO

Conversions for Non-Voters: \$7

It was necessary to go through all these steps even where it wouldn't seem to be required: If a person didn't claim a discount, it was still a good idea to look him up in the invalid-voter and pre-supporting lists, since frequently people didn't know about the discounts and had to be sent a refund. One thing that certainly helped was the inclusion of a coupon in the main mailing, since conversions using the coupon were processed much more quickly than if the workers had to read and extract the significant information from a letter.

By far the most common problem we had was people who claimed the pre-supporter discount but were not on our list of pre-supporters. When the first few came in, I thought we might have some errors in our list. But when the number climbed to 50 or so, it was clear that people just didn't understand what a "pre-supporting or pre-opposing member of Boston in 1980" was. Apparently some thought it was anyone who voted for us, or who voted by mail ballot before Iggy, or who voted at all. Others thought that a "pre-opposing member of Boston in 1980" was anyone who had been a pre-supporting member of the opposing bid, Baltimore in 1980. Still others thought that a pre-supporting member of the bid would be made a full member of the convention even if he hadn't voted.

Here are some ways future bidding committees might handle this problem: (1) Don't offer pre-supporting memberships at all. (2) If you insist on doing it, don't call them "members", but "donors" or something else making it clear that a payment was made. (3) Keep things simple. Don't give them a discount on the convention. If you've got to give them something, make it a button or some other gimmick. (4) And if you do give a discount, it would be simplest to just mail refund checks to all pre-supporters. Processing thousands of memberships is a big enough pain that there's no point to making it even more complicated with special rates.

But back to membership processing. After the first pass through the membership letters, the good ones were given to Ann to be entered into the computer files, and I took the bad ones for evaluation and reply. Most of the latter were invalid pre-supporters, and we prepared a form letter to send to them. But even after receiving the form letter, some people were still confused and needed an individual letter to explain things to them. This took up a lot of time, of course. After the first month we were able to improve the form letter, based on some of the more common misreadings we had gotten.

After Ann entered the good memberships, she printed out a list of all the transactions, and it was proofread by someone else against the original letters. Corrections were made, and then mailing labels were produced for the members in question. A few weeks earlier we had bought 2000 postcards and had them printed with a general membership acknowledgment message; we also had 500 blank cards printed with the same message. Labels for conversions and CoAs went onto the postcards; labels for new members went onto envelopes, into which we stuffed a blank-backed acknowledgment card plus a copy of Progress Report Zero. To save postage, two members at the same address got their labels overlapped on the same enve-

lope and we tried to remember to stuff two copies of PRO instead of one.

By Nov. 1 we had gotten ourselves onto a schedule where each two weeks' mail could be processed at a work session, entered by Ann and proofread during the next two weeks, with acknowledgments sent out at the following work session. This meant a 2-4 week delay in response (depending on when a letter arrived); but when the response was sent, it went via first-class mail and had the same computer-printed label that would be used on later mailings, so the member could be sure we had his name and address correct. If we had chosen to acknowledge each membership letter by hand, we could have responded sooner; but the acknowledgment would be less meaningful, since the member would have no way of knowing if we made a transcription error later in the process.

### Progress Report 1

Our first task here was to find a printer. The original plan was to go with Halliday Press, a firm I had worked with before on The Noreascon Proceedings and other NESFA Press books. They are a large-scale book printer and do reasonably priced, medium-quality work. But they aren't really oriented toward producing books on a tight schedule (couldn't guarantee us a 4-week turnaround on the Progress Reports, for example), and they don't have facilities for doing some special jobs we had in mind, such as automatically wrapping the Progress Reports for mailing, or binding in perforated cards for ballots and hotel reservations. So Chip Hitchcock searched around a bit and came up with Eusey Press. This is a place that specializes in doing fast-turnaround jobs for engineering companies - things like computer manuals and technical reports. They guaranteed that they could produce a PR in 3 weeks, plus a few extra days if we wanted wrapping or other special processes. Their price was competitive, so we decided to go with them, at least for the Progress Reports. (As of this writing they've just delivered PR1 on schedule.)

The next detail was soliciting advertising. Peter Neilson pored through past Worldcon PR's and Program Books, assembled a mailing list of possible advertisers, and sent them all letters and copies of our PRO. (We wound up with 6 pages of ads in PR1.)

And of course we started to assemble material. Progress Report editor Don Eastlake wrote to various well-known fans and pros requesting articles about our Guests of Honor, and the people he asked responded in record time - Fred Patten on Bruce Pelz, Doc Lowndes on Damon Knight, and Pamela Sargent on Kate Wilhelm. Various reports from committee members were also assembled, plus the first installment of this series, "Planning for the Worldcon" (which covered the years before the site-selection vote).

The deadline for copy was Nov. 1; by that date most of the material had been typed into Don's computer, and he had started to edit it and insert typesetting commands. He had set up quite a sophisticated system to do this, which involved computer-editing the copy, adding typesetting commands, running a special program that created a paper tape, then running the tape through Typo-Tech's do-it-yourself charge-by-the-hour typesetting machines. It was still a lot of work, but using a computer-produced paper tape saved us money, since it was much faster to read the paper tape into the typesetting machine than to sit there and type the whole thing in.

### Voice of the Lobster

While Don was utilizing the forefront of technology, George Flynn was fannishly immersed in stencils and corflu, producing the lower-budget Voice of the Lobster. By November 1 we had about 50 subscriptions and almost another 100 people on the graft list (committee members, news-zines, letter-writers, and other interesting people). We had a lovely cover by Stu Shiffman, most of the material for the issue was written, and it was just a matter of getting a lot of stencils typed and run off. Collating and mailing would be no problem, since lots of willing hands had been appearing at our work sessions.

For running it off, Tony Lewis had volunteered his Gestetner, but it had a minor problem - it was set up to print in red ink. The committee voted to buy a color change kit for it on the assumption that we would be using the Gestetner a lot, particularly at the convention to run off the daily newsletter, so the investment would pay off in the long run.

### Stationery

One of the first things we did on our return from Iggy was to order stationery - lots of it. The mistake we made was ordering it from a mail-order house that had low prices and promised 5-day turnaround. The quality was quite acceptable, once we got the stationery, but the turnaround time was nowhere near the guarantee. They later claimed that the 5-day promise was only good for their stock designs, and didn't apply to orders with special requirements, like ours.

For the first batch of stationery, we used basically the same design we had used for the Boston in 1980 letterhead - "Noreascon Two" in shooting star type printed in blue along the side of the page. (The committee has split over the theological question of whether the letterhead should be oriented with "Noreascon Two" going up the left side of the page or down the right side of the page. Although the chairman is of the down-the-right-side persuasion, she has graciously allowed the members of the committee to orient their letters as their individual consciences dictate.) We ordered 1000 sheets of letterhead, 2000 #10 envelopes, 1000 multi-part speed letters with 1000 matching window envelopes, and 2000 9"x12" kraft envelopes for mailing Voice of the Lobster, back Progress Reports, the committee apa, etc. It will be interesting to see how long the supply lasts.

### Financial Systems

Around the same time, Treasurer Jill Eastlake was buying ledger books and other supplies and setting up the financial books of the convention with the advice of her father, a certified public accountant. In consultation with the committee, she established the initial income and expense categories (see Appendix), and designed and duplicated the basic financial-report forms for committee expenses.

We wanted to come up with a budgeting system that would not be so strict as to require approval of every minor expenditure in advance (because in the real world it's impossible to know every detail in advance), but would still control and keep track of expenditures within reasonably broad categories. To do this, each major item in the budget is assigned a purchase order number. Every expenditure reported to the treasurer must fall under one of these purchase orders, with the number specified on the report form. Some purchase orders are fairly broad, such as "001 - Officers' postage, phone, Xeroxing for 1978" or "018 - Special membership mailings", and some are fairly specific, such as "015 - Gestetner color-change kit". But all together they serve the purpose of



preventing random ad hoc expenditures, and allow us to keep track of where our money is going. The Appendix gives our operating budget as it stood at the beginning of November.

### Foreign Agents

As soon as I returned from Iggy, I sent our agents a series of packets to get them started: PRO's to distribute, financial-report forms, membership report forms, and lists of pre-supporters and invalid voters in their countries. We also sent supplies of some stationery we had made up with the names and addresses of all our agents in addition to our letter-head. Later, when it became available, we sent the computer listing of foreign members who had joined at Iguanacon. By the end of October, John Millard in Canada and Andrew Stephenson in England had succeeded in opening Noreascon II bank accounts, and had started taking in memberships.

Also in October we got a letter from Pascal Thomas, a French fan temporarily residing in the U.S. He offered to be our French agent after he moved back to France at the end of the school year. In the meantime, we would utilize his services as a French currency exchange and contact to French fandom. He wrote a letter in French to the major French fanzines explaining the convention and his role in it, and touting Boston as a city that most Europeans would find more "civilized" than the rest of the U.S.

### News Releases

To keep clubs and newszines informed of our progress, we decided to put out news releases on approximately a monthly basis. Jim Hudson assembled a mailing list, and Ellen Franklin volunteered to write the releases. Information from these that isn't duplicated elsewhere will be excerpted regularly in this zine. The first release, which went out in October, was mostly a summary of what had gone before, although it did contain our new policy on children's memberships, which has churned up a bit of controversy (see the lettercol last issue and this issue).

### Bulk Rate Mailing Permit

October was also the month when John Houghton went off to try to get the convention a non-profit bulk rate mailing permit. As reported in Part 1 of this series, our desire to have such a permit was one of the main reasons we went through the major hassle of applying for non-profit status from the IRS. Being eligible for non-profit rates would mean a big reduction in mailing expenses, and we were pretty much counting on it when we did our initial budgeting and set our advertising rates.

Unfortunately, it turned out that the person in charge of ruling on our application in the Boston district was an 82-year-old fossil who apparently took pride in refusing as many organizations as he could. His theory was that we weren't really "operating" as a non-profit corporation yet, and wouldn't be until after we had put on the convention. Big help. But John formally submitted the application, on the theory that when they turned it down in writing, we could go on and appeal it. We figured we would eventually win, but we didn't know whether it would be in time for printing the bulk rate imprint on the wrappers for PR1 (deadline around Dec. 1). (As you've probably seen by now, we did get the permit in time; more details on this in the next installment.)

### Committee Elections

According to the committee's bylaws, October is the month of our annual meeting, at which we must elect our officers. All the officers were re-elected by acclamation.

### Hotel Negotiations

We did have some discussions with our hotel during this period, but as of Nov. 1 no definitive agreement had been signed. There were two major points of discussion. The first involved the conventions that had been booked immediately before and after the Worldcon. There had to be some trade-off of rooms so we all would have time and space to set up and tear down without getting in each other's way. The first word we got from the hotel on this point was quite unsatisfactory, but further negotiations conducted by Tony Lewis reduced the infringements on our space to a minimum that we could live with.

Still, we have to face the fact that things won't be as they were in Phoenix, where the hotels were sitting completely empty before and after the con. In our case, the group before us is the Textile Workers Union of America, who will have almost all hotel function space through Wednesday night, the ballroom through 1 P.M. Thursday, and a few small rooms until 5 P.M. Friday. The group after us is the American EEG Society, and they don't start until Tuesday morning. In return for giving up some of our space, we will have a good-sized room for headquarters and storage from the Saturday before the con until (hopefully) a few days afterward. The details of this have yet to be worked out.

The second major point of discussion was the possibility that the Sheraton could handle the booking of our members into overflow hotels, so we could get all our complementary rooms in the Sheraton rather than scattered about. This turned out to be impossible, because the hotel was afraid such cooperation between hotels would be viewed in a bad light by the FTC. So we'll have to work out separate agreements with each of the overflow hotels.

### Program Planning

I don't plan to even try writing about every idea that we discuss. I have to limit myself to things that we have definitely taken action on, or things that are such neat ideas that I feel it's important to publicize them even if we can't do them. Thus my discussion of programming in this installment will be brief, since it's far too early to make definite plans.

The one definite commitment we did make was to ask Bob Silverberg to be our Toastmaster for whatever sort of Hugo Award ceremony we eventually decide on - be it banquet or assembly-hall style. Mr. Silverberg graciously accepted on those terms, mentioning that he used to strongly favor the banquet approach, but now felt comfortable with either option after seeing the other method work well at Iguanacon. (I get the impression that the committee would prefer to have the Hugos awarded at a banquet. However, the space we have available suggests that only a fraction of the convention members could be accommodated at a banquet, while there would be room for everyone at a theater-style ceremony in the Hynes Auditorium. And though hotels used to pressure conventions to have banquets, our hotel says the economics of the situation have changed and it's not as important to them as it used to be.

Another programming idea arose from our discussion of JoAnn Wood's letter on our children's membership policy (in VotL 1). It occurred to us that, if we planned to treat independent children as full members of the convention by charging them full rates to attend, we should also provide programming that would be of interest to them. And we're not talking about just entertainment (though that would be part of it), but about

serious program items. There are lots of people who could put together a talk of interest to children, if they were specifically asked to do so, in both the SF community and the scientific community. If anyone out there has any ideas along these lines, or would like to volunteer to do something specific, we'd like to hear from you.

### The Next Installment

This article covers our activities for only the months of September and October, 1978. Since then lots more has happened, and it will be covered in our next thrilling installment, scheduled to appear in VotL #3.

### Appendix

#### Operating Budget Nov. 1, 1978

Item (listed by account)	Estimated	Spent
<b>Administrative</b>		
Victory party at Iguanacon	263.12	263.12
Stationery (5500 items)	315.28	315.28
General postage, phone, Xerox, parking (78)	150.00	126.23
General office supplies (78)	150.00	149.90
Agents' expenses	75.00	14.90
Apa:80 Xeroxing and postage (78)	100.00	31.30
Advertising (78)	50.00	25.32
Filing fees (78)	10.00	10.00
Refreshments for work sessions (78)	30.00	13.48
<b>Total Administrative</b>	<b>1143.40</b>	<b>949.53</b>
<b>Registration</b>		
2000 acknowledgment postcards	250.00	187.00
Bulk mail and imprint permits	70.00	---
Mailing of PRO to initial members	250.00	227.95
Supplies (78)	75.00	17.66
Special mailings	50.00	31.47
<b>Total Registration</b>	<b>695.00</b>	<b>464.08</b>
<b>Publications</b>		
<b>General</b>		
Type-Tech overhead (78)	50.00	14.00
Advertising solicitations (78)	40.00	32.20
7000 PR mailing wrappers	700.00	---
Matting and fees for donated artwork (78)	50.00	2.90
<b>Progress Report 0</b>		
Printing 5000 additional	97.50	97.50
<b>Progress Report 1</b>		
Copy preparation	150.00	6.00
Printing	1800.00	---
<b><u>Voice of the Lobster</u></b>		
Supplies and postage	150.00	.33
<b>Total Publications</b>	<b>3037.50</b>	<b>153.01</b>
<b>WSFS (World Science Fiction Society)</b>		
Donation to WSFS Constitution Committee	50.00	50.00
Donation to Art Hugo Committee	30.00	30.00
<b>Total WSFS</b>	<b>80.00</b>	<b>80.00</b>

Item (listed by account)	Estimated	Spent
Capital Equipment		
Color change kit	126.50	126.50
Total Capital Equipment	126.50	126.50
Total Expenses	5082.40	1771.21
Income (to Oct. 1 only)		
Bidding Committee Pass-On*	-2155.90	
Administrative	27.18	
Registration	9895.00	
Registration Refunds	-69.00	
Progress Report Advertising	20.00	
Publications (Typo-Tech Credit)	20.00	
<u>Voice of the Lobster</u> Subscriptions	68.50	
Total Income	7905.78	
Cash balance	6134.57	
Balance if all estimates were spent in full	2823.38	

\*Footnote by George Flynn: The "Bidding Committee Pass-On" entry is made up of the following elements:

Bidding committee income	3216.46
Bidding committee expenses	-3259.02
Refund of assessments	-2274.34
Committee members' conversions	161.00
	-2155.90

The first two items are analyzed in greater detail in Leslie's article in VotL #1. As described there, the "assessments" paid by committee members differed from dues in being refundable; they can be thought of as interest-free loans to capitalize the corporation. (Note that the bidding committee and the Worldcon committee are the same corporate entity; the books of the former were closed as of Iguanacon, except for the settlement with committee members.)

\* \* \* \* \*

From Noreascon II News Release #2, Nov. 15, 1978:

The committee is soliciting artwork for use in the Progress Reports and other publications. The greatest need is for black & white line drawings suitable for headers, decorative edgings, or fillers, plus larger black & white artwork suitable for Progress Report covers. All artwork will be returned promptly after use; any artwork which is accepted will be used only in connection with the 38th World Science Fiction Convention and will remain the property of the artist. However, the committee is also offering to mat the artwork and enter it in the Boskone art show in February 1979, or in Noreascon II's art show, at the committee's expense. Noreascon II is also sponsoring a special award for BEST LOBSTER in the Boskone art show.

The Voice of the Locster  
(Letters)

((We have a pretty decent selection of letters this issue: about 15 directly intended as locs on #1, plus a few others of sufficiently general interest to quote. As in #1, remarks by the editor are indented and enclosed in double parentheses, and OFFICIAL responses - if any - will be so indicated.))

((This time I'm going to try a segmented lettercol, i.e., I'll break up the letters so as to group all the remarks on a given subject in one place. The order of topics will be roughly that in which they came up in issue #1.))

Bidding Expenses

Laurie Mann:

The amount of money used just in bidding really boggled my imagination.

((Ours, too.))

Seth Goldberg:

I was a bit shocked by the amount of money that goes into just bidding for a worldcon. I wish I could think of some way to lower the costs but I can not.

Ron Salomon:

\$3000.00 in bidding costs is truly mind-croggling. I certainly didn't realize all that such a bid entails in costs, but Leslie did a good job in explaining such matters to such ignorant types as myself.

((However, not everybody felt that our expenses were so croggling.))

Ben Yalow:

The bidding information, both financial and tactical, is a very useful item for anybody planning a bid. My personal feeling is that you under-spent for a highly contested election, but won out primarily not because of your bidding technique, but because of the overall superiority of (a) your committee, and (b) your space. At least, I know those are the criteria I used, and I feel I may have had some success using those arguments in trying to convince others. If so, it perhaps may be the start of a new and useful trend, voting for con-type reasons rather than because you like the city or the ads look nice, etc. Such conservative bidding expenses indicate a great deal of confidence that this trend is applicable. This may well be a point on which future bid committees should be cautious in applying your data, since the trend may not continue. (In fact, it may not even exist, and my interpretation of why you won could be all wrong.)

((While we did run scared all the way, we certainly didn't consider our expenses to be "conservative". Certainly we had the impression that we spent more than our opposition did; hard to say what we'd have done if this hadn't been the case. Ben is a member of the New York in '86 committee, and it should be interesting to see how their strategy differs from ours in this respect.))

The bidding income is less than the bidding expenses. Where did the extra money come from?

((From what we took in at Iguanacon, of course: see p. 11 for details. If we'd lost, we would have broken even by not having a victory party.))

You mention in the text that you spent money for gimmicks. Where is the budget line for them, or are they buried in some other expense line?

((Most if not all - the plastic lobsters in particular - are under "Advertising". We forgot to split this item off.))

Your decision to limit party spending was a very daring one. I suppose it goes along with your whole low-spending strategy. However, parties do serve a useful function in that they let the voters meet the bidders and try to get answers to questions not in the flyers, evaluate the people on the bid committee, etc. They also give the bidders a chance to convince voters on a one-to-one basis, which is often most effective. (Now if there were only a way to pick out the thousand or so voters out of the ten times that many who attend the Worldcon or some regional....)

((We may well have had more parties than Baltimore, when you count the ones paid for out of our own pockets rather than committee funds. But I was probably at more of these than anyone else, and I think hardly anyone comes to talk about the bid: most just want the free drinks. Here's an opinion that agrees with mine.))

Mike Glyer:

I go along with Leslie Turek's view of parties as a bidding tool. The first bidding party I ever had a hand in proved to my satisfaction that there was a big difference between the "fun value" of a party, and its ability to generate votes. Back at Torcon when two groups were bidding for NASFiC, the bid I was with managed to distribute an immense amount of beer and soft drinks at its party, yet all of two memberships were sold. 90% of the people who come to a bid party resist any effort to talk about supporting your bid (if the noise level allows you to attempt that at all), 9% will listen, then not vote, and 1% will happily spend hours baiting you with comments and questions if you're stupid enough to believe such fencing can win them over.

Consequently I go along with her inference that the bidding party's main justification is to quell any suspicions about your having a serious bid. However, faced with that mentality, one sees less and less separation between fan politics and mundane politics. As was pointed out, the Boston bid spent a couple of thousand dollars. Increasingly, the voters don't bother to become informed about their choices and behave as if that burden rested with the candidates. "What, no Boston party at this con? They can kiss off my vote!" Some fans feel they have been shortchanged if the bidders don't keep them constantly supplied with parties. Ook ook. But knowing that this attitude prevails, any group that really wants a worldcon has small choice in the matter.

((You mean Minneapolis in '73 is a "serious bid"? Yes, at a recent con a couple of us had been smuffing for hours, and someone said, "Listen to us: we sound just like real politicians!" Ben Yalow was one of the group....))

All I can say for the institution of the bidding party is that a group which can afford to truck all over the country tossing bid parties evidently has a better than average endurance ((or less than average sense?)), and the necessary financial backing to cope with a worldcon if they win it. But it is hardly the ideal way to find this out. Advertising one's qualifications and plans for a con, then relying on voters to check out these facts and ideas, comes closer to the process I feel comfortable with -- and it would have to be more effective than a hypothetical bid that put all its effort into parties.

Regarding what people look at before they vote for a bid -- undoubtedly the reason so many alternatives were listed in that article is that we've all heard individuals who claimed at least one of them as the deciding factor. It wouldn't surprise me if the two biggest blocks of votes came from people who were (1) voting on bidder competence, and (2) voting on which city they'd like to take a vacation in. The trouble comes if people start confusing typeset ads and expensive parties with bidder competence. I don't think as many do that as disregard the issue entirely....

((Well, we asked people to tell us why they voted the way they did, so let's print a few responses here. (I originally intended this to be a separate section, but the two topics were too intermingled in some of the letters, like the last two:))

Laurie Mann:

Why did I vote for Boston in 1980? For me, it was essentially no contest. A big part of it was sentiment. In 1975, the first big con I ever attended was Boskone, and I've been every year since, except for this year. I was very impressed by the convention, and by the people who put it on. ... This is not to say that I had anything against the Baltimore bid. ... If, for some reason along the line the Baltimore fans convinced me that they could put on a better worldcon than you could, I probably would have changed my mind. ... Someday, with the Baltimore convention center near completion, I hope Baltimore does have a Worldcon.

((I believe it's complete now, and I hope so too. Some of the omitted passages described Laurie's acquaintance with people on both committees.))

Another factor which influenced me in my support of Boston was the excellent facilities that the Sheraton-Hynes complex has. That is a super hotel, with lots of decent restaurants nearby, as well as more than adequate public transportation. I can't really say that anything from the bidding committee itself specifically had any impact on me. The parties, and the little lobsters were fun. For that matter, the Baltimore parties and "ray gun" gimmicks were fun too. These aspects of bidding may influence undecided people, but they really didn't influence me one way or the other. The slide show was informative, and that too may have helped to make a difference. Overall, however, your experience and facilities were your two strongest selling points.

I agree that the Noreascon ad in Iggycon PR 4 was impressive. I remember at MAC the LA bid had a joke ad, either at the con, or in the last PR before it, while Phoenix had a good ad, describing the facilities and the hopes of the committee for a smoothly run convention. This factor alone seemed to sway some voters away from LA.

Yves Bellefeuille:

The fact that impressed me the most was that your ads gave much more detail than Baltimore's (they only gave the names of the ConCom members, you gave short bios, info on the city and facilities) and - though I'm almost ashamed to mention it - the glowing recommendation you got from Spider Robinson. A minor factor was that when I wrote to both candidates requesting information, only you replied - though that is probably not a fair test considering the level of the Postal (Dis)Service.

Seth Goldberg:

For me personally all I look at is the most detailed advertising (the one

that gives the details of the concom and hotel and area) and check out some other fans' opinion to see how legitimate the group is (having not been active in fandom long plus being out here in Hawaii I have little personal contact with fans). I voted for Boston because of your 4 page typeset flyer (which impressed the hell out of me) and good words by Glycer and Bushyager in FILE 770 and KARASS. It also helped immensely that you had your detailed info sheet available over a year in advance I believe and I never saw more than a bunch of short ads from the Baltimore group until I was present at Iggy. Had I voted by mail as I usually do since I can rarely afford to attend worldcons, I would not even had considered Baltimore at all.

The blue stickers I did not especially go for (I do not like buttons either). Putting your name before the possible voters is indeed a good idea a year or more in advance of the voting and thus the short ad is good for this. However, when it comes down to voting, I like to consider the "issues". The favorite technique to get votes in Hawaii elections is to stand by the road, hold a sign with the candidate's name on it, and wave at the cars that go by. Frankly I do not like it as it makes the whole thing a popularity contest. It did not help that a person tried to put the blue sticker on my nametag without even trying to convince me of the superiority of the Boston bid.

((The theory is that the stickers go to people who are already for you, so that others will see them and ask their reasons. But it isn't always easy to convey this in the hectic atmosphere of a bidding party.))

Parties do not convince me either, but I must admit that they are fun and have gotten to be a deep seated tradition.

Victoria Wayne:

The question is put as to how voters decide which bid to choose. This is something with so complex an answer there isn't one definite thing I can pinpoint. Certainly the bidding committee's performances in the past in regionals has a bearing; but also the bidding com's work on the bid itself. Both BOSKONEs and BALTICONs have been regionals I've enjoyed, both have many things in their favour -- not the same things but the effects level out. But in the long run I picked Boston over Baltimore because the Boston bid had its shit together well before the Baltimore bid, which seemed to pick up momentum only at the last possible moment. On top of that, the last several worldcons have had so much committee hassle and turnover and snafus, it started to look mighty appealing to pick a bidding committee with a reputation for tightly run regionals with (what seemed to me from the viewpoint of a con attendee) relatively few screw-ups.

((Little do you know...))

For a hardcore fanzine fan the identities of the people forming the bidding committee may not always matter too much, because they may often be totally unfamiliar names. Thus, for me, the reputation of other cons put on by the same group would be more important. In the rare case that I do know people on the committee, though, their past performances and abilities as known to me would definitely have a bearing.

How early does a committee want to start bidding? As early as they can without danger of friendships and working relations changing or enthusiasm being lost so that the bid falls apart. That varies enormously with different groups. I would imagine that definitely at least a year before



the vote takes place, the bidding committee should be in the fannish eye. (Which was about right for you, since Boston in 80 was well in evidence at SUNCON, and I have a lobster sticker on my con badge to prove it.) Two years before the vote is perhaps the outer limit (unless the aim is as much to have fun and throw parties for their own sakes, pulling a Minneapolis in 73). Which brings me to idle thoughts that very little concrete has been said about 1982 bids so far. ... Even 1981 bids are not making themselves terribly prominent yet. ... Let's hope this starts getting noticeable early next year 1979.

((Well, Boston was "well in evidence" by Discon in '74. The committee did lose a few people over the years (and picked up others, including me), but it was so big that this made little difference. On the other hand, Iguanacon started bidding with only six months' lead time, and still won. It seems that you just can't generalize. I have omitted Victoria's specific remarks on '81 and '82 bidders, but I should note that three of them have ads in our PR1.))

((To close out the section on bidding, some remarks supplementing Leslie's article by another committee member:))

Don Eastlake:

I was in charge of printed advertising. One of my theories was that we should try hard to avoid the appearance of "fading". That is, once we started advertising in Worldcon Progress Reports and Program Books, we should appear in every one, and the size of our ads should not decrease except after a peak in Iguanacon PR4, which would accompany the mail site-selection ballots. Though we only paid for a half page, Discon II printed our first Worldcon PR ad as a full page, boosting the size of our following early ads.

The key to the gourmet jelly bean flavors was left out: white = coconut; blue = ice blue mint; light green = lemon lime; medium green = green apple; dark green = watermelon; red = very cherry; brown = chocolate pudding; tan = peanut butter; and dark red = baked apple.

((Yes, indeed, this is the zine that tells you more than you wanted to know about all sorts of things....))

### Membership Rates and Budgeting

JoAnn Wood:

I do not think a \$15 membership fee is at all out of line. Considering inflation, rising postal costs, etc. it seems cheap at the price and may prove a loss. I am happy to see that your committee has thoroughly thought over its expenses and income.

Avedon Carol:

yes, i think the \$15 rate is extortionate -- and yes, i'm enclosing my check for membership, which i cannot afford. bleh.

Laurie Mann:

When I first saw the huge increase in the memberships, I asked myself, "Do I really want to subsidize Jill Eastlake's trip to Tahiti?" Seriously, I attributed most of the jump in price to the Hynes Auditorium, which I knew would be expensive, but also knew it would be worth it because of all the extra space. Jim's article showed there was a lot more to the increase than just the use of the Hynes. One figure I'm really curious about is the \$3000 difference in estimating the Operations cost.

Why the variation? Do you expect salaries for the week to jump that much in two years? I can see where the figures for Membership and Functions could be (but weren't) really variable, since these costs appear to be much more dependent on attendance than do the Operations costs.

((The spread in the Operations figure (\$6790-\$9730) involves two main factors: (1) uncertainty as to how many guards we'll need; (2) the possibility of refunding membership fees for workers. Next we hear from another person who checked the fine print:))

Ben Yalow:

Thank you for including your tentative budget. It may prove very enlightening to those who may still somehow not realize that the Worldcon is not only a friendly get-together, but is also a hundred-thousand-dollar business as well. It will be interesting to see how it changes as the con approaches.

The high and low estimates on attendance are the obvious way to begin planning. However, in view of the 7000 or so who registered for Iggy, a con located far from large cities, college students, or any of the other usual sources of high attendance, it would seem that there would also have to be plans for the 8-10000 member range (and perhaps some omighod plans for the 12-15000 range). Obviously, these would have to cover both the operational aspects (where do you put the warm bodies, and how do you keep them happy) and the financial aspects (how do you spend the extra hundred thousand that just showed up).

((Iguanacon doesn't quite have a final attendance figure yet, but Tim Kyger writes that actual attendance was something like 4000+; the figure of 7000 includes non-attendees and one-day memberships. And there were a lot of Californians there. My contingency plan for the omighod range is to leave town.))

Some of the line items on the budget seem somewhat incongruous. There seem to be no contingency fund or general miscellaneous items. There is a \$17-18000 inflation allowance, which can only be a very rough estimate. Yet, at the same time as these large fudge factors are floating around ensuring that accuracy can only be to within a few thousand dollars, there are budget lines that have amounts quoted to the nearest \$10 - somehow, the significant digits don't seem reasonable. Also, the line items don't add up properly. For example, in Publications, you list a total of \$18800, and adding up the items gives \$18900.

((Sorry, the last item under Publications should be \$1300, not \$1400. There also seems to be a \$5 error in the overall total, but I'm not going to bother chasing that down. As for significant figures, we made the best estimate we could for each item and added them up as they stood; why add round-off error to the other uncertainties? Miscellaneous is covered in all those "etc."s; remember, we said this wasn't a real budget.))

In general, I agree with your policy on how to best determine rates. It may, however, be somewhat more fair to allocate at least some of the space cost to the non-attending members, since the Constitution requires you to have a hotel. However, that would not affect the final rates too much. Given the necessary fiscally conservative attitude used, it would be difficult to come up with rates differing that radically from yours. In fact, you made a rather optimistic estimate on what you would be losing on voters, since there are generally 1000 or so, and most of them have

ended up as attending members.

((Actually the Constitution requires "facilities", not a hotel (my suggestion at MAC). 1024 valid votes in '78, 993 in '76.))

I completely agree that you should have announced your policy on rates. It does differ from tradition, so the voters have a right to know. Even though you can give good supporting reasons, it may well cost votes, but it seems only fair to inform the electorate.

Seth Goldberg:

I was glad to see the article on how you set the membership rates. I was one who thought the rate to be a bit unreasonable at first. However, after thinking about it seemed more reasonable (worldcons are expensive propositions and I was surprised at how low the Iggy rates were in the beginning). This article has convinced me to agree with you entirely.

John Millard:

I don't know why it is, but it seems very ironic to me, that members complain very bitterly about a few lousy bucks for a membership, when it's only a very small part of the total cost of attending a convention. Costs for accommodations, transportation, food, etc., are far higher, but they don't seem to complain about these as much as they do about membership fees. They think nothing of going to the Huckster Room and spending 50 to 100 dollars for books and magazines, or the Art Show for art work, anywhere from 75 to 100 or more, or going out on the town for a great dinner and show.

((I can't altogether go along with this. I've known too many impoverished fans who drive to a con, sleep six to a room, never eat in a restaurant, etc. But certainly Worldcon fees aren't very high by mundane standards: \$4 for a first-run movie, \$50 or more for professional conventions, etc.))

Perhaps in the future we should consider a family-type membership. One full attending membership, plus associate attending memberships for Wife and/or Husband, plus offspring. This would entitle them to one set of Convention Publications, Program Book, Progress Reports, one Hugo and Con Site-Selection Ballots. The Associate would receive a membership card, ident. badge, and a pocket-type program only, plus the right to attend all functions. Price might be one half of the attending membership or maybe half between a supporting and attending membership. The main cost of servicing memberships, attending or supporting, is in the production and distribution of the Convention Publications. I think this idea has some merit, but it would require a fair amount of discussion before being implemented. Something for the future. Yes! I know it makes for extra administrative work, but I think it could be done, with the proper organization.

((This should be read in connection with the section on children's memberships. John's analysis of the relative costs doesn't agree with ours, which made publications only about 25% of the total cost. Another suggestion one sometimes hears would be to have a Hugo-only membership, for people who aren't interested in the current con but want to vote on the Hugos; one problem is that making the cost too low might encourage ballot-stuffing. And as the cost of even supporting memberships creeps up, one wonders if it's really necessary for site-selection voters to have to be full members of the current con. All these ideas deserve discussion.))

This is a good place to throw out a quotation of mine. "If you try to please everybody, you wind up pleasing nobody." Trying to please everybody is an impossibility, particularly in a group as diversified as Science Fiction Fandom. -The best a committee can do is to take a consensus and then act on it. It goes without saying that these critical judgments are given a lot of thought and no snap decisions are made.

((It should perhaps be mentioned that John is himself a former Worldcon chairman (Torcon 1973).))

Johnny M. Lee:

I like the way your group appears to be planning the WorldCon. If I was doing it I would of started off with dues at about thirty dollars and hang the gripes, people would come anyways and that old fear of going broke with these things is too true, all too true.

Also, I feel that any person who tries to put one of these things on should have the right to make a little pocket money from it, for their own use afterwards. They deserve it if the Con is good. If it's bad they would probably go broke anyways.

But then, I do tend (they say) to be a reactionary.

((Thank you for your concern for our pockets, but the WSFS Constitution clearly requires that any profits go for the benefit of "the Society as a whole" - and the proposal to require a CPA is obviously intended to tie this down. I don't agree with your analysis anyway: sometimes you don't know that the con is "bad" until most of the money's already been taken in.))

((Now let's turn to some of the topics in #1's lettercol.))

#### Name of the Convention

JoAnn Wood:

The con name strikes me as very good. Noreascon II will come down to the future and will not strike people as ridiculous. If Mr. ((Tod)) Levitt can think up a really scientific name, I am waiting to hear it. Faanish names ... ugh.

((One can of course argue that a Worldcon is ridiculous - running one certainly is. Here's another viewpoint.))

Tim Kyger:

The first thing I have to note is I'm disappointed. I thought that Flushing had won! Blast. At any rate, I'm glad that you all won, tho I wish that "Two If By SeaCon" had won. (I'm responsible for "IguanaCon" as a name, tho it wasn't my first choice for a name. My first choice was "One Hundred and Ten Degrees in the Shade Con". It lost.)

#### Length of the Convention

Laurie Mann:

I agree with Ronald Salomon that a five/six-day worldcon is better than a four-day worldcon. Your idea about touristy expeditions a day or two before the con really starts is a good one. When I've come up for weekend Boskones, I've never had the time to even get to Quincy Market, much less the more interesting things like the Museum of Science and things like that.

Ben Yalow:

Four days of official Worldcon is more than enough. For those who will be there longer, fandom should be able to amuse itself without needing a concom to babysit for the extra few days.

John Millard:

4 days, Friday to Monday, is plenty; extra days means extra work and extra expense. Philosophically and Sho-Biz-wise it's always best to leave them (the Members) wanting more, rather than satiate them. This doesn't mean that the Committee should not be ready to do registration before Friday, by all means be ready to do registration as early as possible, given the space; etc. If members want to come early, that is their business, but they should not expect the Committee to have functions available to entertain them. I don't think you can emphasize this too strongly.

((As mentioned last time, we probably will have early registration. The following letter isn't quite on the same topic, but it fits here as well as anywhere:))

Dawn B. McGhiey:

I am rather curious as to why they scheduled the Con after the school year started. The friend we were going to travel to Boston with is a school teacher and probably will not be able to attend now. Not to mention I will have to pull my Son out of school for the travel & Con time - if we get to come now.

((This is a case of an unexamined assumption. Every Worldcon in North America since 1949 has been held on Labor Day weekend (some earlier ones were on July 4th), which is before school starts in (I think) most but not all areas. Are there a significant number of fans for whom this date is inconvenient?))

#### Proliferation of Awards (Gandalf et al.)

George Fergus:

I agree with Ron Salomon's objection to proliferating awards on the Hugo ballot. I suppose that the Campbell award ought to be legitimized by being officially added to the Hugo award categories, but on the other hand I think the Gandalfs are redundant and should be eliminated. (There aren't many Grand Masters of Fantasy left to give an award to, either!)

Yves Bellefeuille:

I personally don't mind it if the Campbell and the Gandalfs are on the same ballot as the Hugos (though whether the Gandalfs should be given at the World SE Con is debatable); as a matter of fact, I think this should be in the WSFS constitution, to stop further bickering on the matter.

((I assure you that putting something in the constitution will have not the least effect in "stopping bickering". May even increase it, by giving people a target to shoot at.))

Paula Lieberman:

Why not let the sponsors on non-Hugoes count the non-Hugoes? Let the ballots for them be sent out with the Hugoes, but let the responsible authorities for the non-Hugoes count the ballots (i.e., separate ballots with different addresses for where to send the ballots).

((Want to bet a lot wouldn't get sent to the Hugo address anyway?))

Jack Chalker:

I am opposed to any Gandalfts with the exception of the Grand Master of Fantasy, which has at least as much legitimacy as the Campbell Award and does not duplicate any Hugos. They do not, however, belong with the World Fantasy Convention for the simple reason that the WFC has its own awards, the Howards, and certainly doesn't need a parallel set any more than the WSFC does..

I think they belong to Lin Carter and SAGA, and they should count the ballots themselves and give them out at their own con - and invent one if they don't have it. At least they shouldn't be at a Worldcon, where they cheapen the Hugos.

John Millard:

As I see it there are far too many awards in the Science Fiction Field, that it is almost meaningless. We have not only the Hugos, but also 2 John Campbell Awards, the Gandalfts, the Nebulas by SFWA, the FAAn awards by the fanzine fans, the Jupiter awards by the teachers of SF, and last but not least the Fantasy Awards, by the World Fantasy Convention. Then there are the individual awards, like First Fandom Award, the Big Heart Award, the Pilgrim Award by SFRA. The list is almost endless. Adding to the problem, of course, it is an area of great sensitivity and packed with high emotion, so one has to be very careful with comments, etc. - Personally, I would like to see the list greatly reduced, but I don't think it is possible.

Another point, I think we should put greater effort into separating the Hugos from the John Campbell and the Gandalf Awards, not only at the presentation, but also in the nominating, balloting, and the reporting afterwards in the Worldcon daily newsheet. The Bulletin of SFWA has a very nasty habit of lumping them all together as Hugos and also makes no mention of the Fan Hugo Awards. Someone made the comment that we should give the Gandalfts to the World Fantasy Convention. I think that would be a very good idea, but would they take them, probably not and it could be rather difficult to accomplish, unless someone could talk Lin Carter into doing it.

((I think part of this argument has gotten a bit off the track: It is really none of our business where the various awards are presented; that should be up to their sponsors. What legitimately concerns us is whether the Worldcon ought to be involved in administering them. My inclination at the moment is to say no, but I'm not sure just where to draw the line: distribute ballots to be counted by others, or wash our hands of the whole process?))

Ben Yalow:

I would personally favor a separate ballot, and perhaps a separate awards ceremony, for the non-Hugos. However, the administration procedure would certainly be complicated, and these additional details would have to be worked out.

#### The Fanzine Hugo

Laurie Mann:

What was the point of altering the wording governing the "Best Fanzine" award? It does not appear to change anything. Locus, Algol, and SFR will continue to undeservingly sweep the fanzine award on the basis of size alone and not merit.

((It wasn't intended to change the system, just to produce a rule capable of being administered. It's a democratic process, and the way to change the results is to educate the voters, not to manipulate the rules to thwart their will. As for that list of winners, depends on whether they'll accept; for instance....))

Andy Porter:

On the new fanzine Hugo rules, I still think that "a rose by any other name..." still applies, and that saying a fanzine is what I point to, to paraphrase Damon Knight's definition of SF, is not the best new rule around.

((The question is who's doing the pointing.))

Of course, knowing SF fans, this definition will be changed again in a couple of years.

I do want to say that I will refuse a nomination for best fanzine. ALGOL, which will be STARSHIP by the time this letter sees print, is a professional publication. I'd much rather be up against Ben Bova, Terry Carr, and Ed Ferman for an award than Dick Geis.

Seth Goldberg:

I have written more than one letter about my dislike of the pattern of voting for the fan Hugos (simply no way does SFR or Geis or Locus deserve all the Hugos they have received; not that they are bad but that so many more are better). Though I realize it is probably impossible, I wish there was some way to set qualifications on the voters. I do find the new definitions to be an improvement. You are right, amateur is a word no one can define.

((I think the Hugos are fundamentally the choices of the Worldcon membership at large, for better or worse. An award with voter qualifications just wouldn't be the same thing - and besides, there are already the FAAn Awards, which exactly fit that definition.))

Jack Chalker:

All these people griping about the fanzines always going to Geis and such are guilty of exactly the same thing themselves in the pro categories. Virtually no novel published first after May of the eligible year has a prayer; SF Book Club selection is also crucial. In the shorter works, you want an original anthology appearance prior to May or you want an Analog story, never mind F&SF, Asimov's, or the others. Check it out. The ones with the most and longest circulation are the ones nominated and particularly the ones that win. Can we blame others, then, for voting for the biggest circulation in fanzine?

The world's greatest SF novel, if published in November, won't get nominated.

((One can quibble over the details of Jack's statement, but there's much to what he says. On the whole the Hugo voters are an ill-informed and irresponsible lot - almost as bad as the voters who give us our governments.))

Ayedon Carol:

oh, the awards. yawn. maybe we could divide the zines up into those which are fiction-oriented and those ... naw, forget i said it. m'god, d'you think OMNI will end up on the ballot?

((Defining prozines as those which were mostly fiction was precisely one of the proposals being advanced in 1977. I talked the sponsors out of it, but I must admit I didn't envision a prozine that wasn't mostly fiction.))

### Art Hugos

Seth Goldberg:

In theory I like the idea of art Hugos for specific pieces. But I also worry how it would work in practice. I hope that the idea can be tested as I believe it does have some merit. In fact the more I think about it the better I like it. In some ways it would be easier to look up a given art nominee than a book nominee unless art that is only at con art shows gets nominated. However, I hope there does not end up being more art Hugos than literature Hugos. After all SF as an entertaining literature is what is at the core of all this. It is what brought the fans together in the first place.

((In practice anything shown only at art shows is unlikely to get enough exposure to be nominated.))

Paula Lieberman:

I'm ambivalent about the contemplated art Hugo change - like '78, I'd never see the proposed pieces, due to extreme inaccessibility.

((Paula has been stationed in Thule, Greenland, for the last year. Sorry, but that's all the comments we got on this issue.))

### Hugo Rules (Miscellaneous)

Eva Chalker Whitley:

With Iggy's membership now quoted to be in the neighborhood of 6000 or so, and the possibility of Noreascon 2 topping that without a lot of local publicity, I say we need a little more professionalism, and for that reason I would support paying a local CPA firm to count Hugo ballots. What's so strange about the Australian ballot system - don't they use the same system in awarding the Heisman football award?

((No, the Heisman Trophy voting is simply 3 points for a first-place vote, 2 for second, 1 for third. The Hugo system is much more complicated, what with votes being reassigned from one nominee to another until someone has a majority.))

Harry Andruschak:

You imply that Hugos under Article II section 12 are to be nominated by the membership. PLEASE make an effort, then, to publicize this fact in PRs, especially the one with the nominating ballot. I'll probably be running a small ad ((asking nominations for a particular candidate)).

((No, no, no. The "special Hugo" exists only if the committee votes to have a special category. If we do, it'll be on the nominating ballots, but don't count on it.))

Yves Bellefeuille:

As I was reading the WSFS Constitution, what struck me was the seeming contradiction between the "W" part of WSFS - "World" - and the fact that only works in English are eligible for Hugos.

((I have corrected Yves on this point: foreign-language works are in



fact eligible twice, when first published and when translated into English. But I have to agree that in practice they have virtually no chance, so let's go on with Yves's proposal.)

... what about languages, such as French or Spanish, which may have many speakers? The point I am trying to make is this one: if we have many members speaking a common language other than English, there is no reason whatsoever why we cannot give that language the same status as English, as far as Hugos are concerned!

What could be considered as a suitable number of speaking members to make a language co-official? Well, article II, section 14 seems to indicate that 25% of the membership is the minimum number required for a significant vote. So, given this fact, why not permit every language which at least 25% of the members speak, to be co-official? Works in these languages would be considered in the original tongue, while the others would have to wait to be translated. The proportion of speakers of languages other than English might vary from WorldCon to Worldcon, so that the 25% quantity would be required at every WorldCon for co-officiality.

((There's more, but you get the idea. I don't think any Worldcon has had 25% of its members speaking a given non-English language, though Heicon (in Germany) may have come close. I pointed this out in a letter to Yves. His response:))

In fact, this is exactly the tendency I wish to correct. Obviously, someone from (for example) Spain and who speaks only Spanish will not join the WorldCon if he knows that no works in Spanish will get a Hugo. That is why, for the first few cons, we would have to rely on internal strength, those members of the WSFS who, in addition to English, speak another language. ...

I realize that the great bulk of modern SF is published in English, but I believe that it is our duty to protect the other cultures from a too-big English monopoly. And, at the same time, we would be encouraging these languages to print more and better SF - a role the WSFS must surely play.

((I think this makes too much of the name, which is an aspiration rather than a practical reality. Suffice it to say that Yves's plan would be an administrative nightmare. But SF groups in various countries do give their own awards, and perhaps it might be possible for the Worldcon to find some way of recognizing these.))

### Shopping Bags, Bulletin Boards, and All That

Laurie Mann:

Elaine Stansfield's "paper bag" suggestion was a good one, if it were modified a little. Why not buy a bunch (several thousand) paper bags with handles, and put them on the freebie tables? After all the free magazines and books and flyers that were given out at Iggiecon this year, maybe attendees might even start to bring along their own bags.

JoAnn Wood:

You might approach the airlines or publishers who are looking for advertising on donating shopping bags to be given out with registration material. You might also approach future bidding committees.

((We like the idea.))

A bulletin board for rides, one for programming, another for daily dated messages, etc.

George Fergus:

I agree with Joanne Burger that there should be several types of bulletin boards. One for people looking for roommates, another for fans looking for rides back home (possibly even for people who'd like to share a taxi back to the airport at some odd hour when the limo isn't running), another for announcements of parties, games, & other get-togethers. But concerning the latter, I doubt one could get fans to write the date on the cards they tack up. Might be better to have separate columns for events on Wed, Thurs, & Fri. Then on Thursday the Wed. items would be removed and the space relabeled "Sat." Etc.

James R. Madden:

In your response ... you wondered how one could persuade anarchic fans to go by the rules of said board. Well, I would like to say a word or two about those of the anarchistic persuasion.

To begin with, your days are numbered! Back in the "Golden Age" of conventions when the attendance figures were in the realm of hundreds, it was possible to go your own way, violate rules, disturb others, off the hotel, and get away with it - there were too few of you to matter. But today, with convention-goers in the thousands, the days of free-wheeling anarchism are just about over.

WorldCons and a lot of the regionals are rapidly becoming big business with mucho bucks changing hands. Often, several hotels are required to handle the attendance. If we are to continue in the endeavor, we must protect our reputation (Don't laugh yet!) or it might not be feasible for the conventions to continue growing. Can any of you imagine having to turn away fans from the doors as the hotel management says, "We've heard about you people from our associates."

Just who am I speaking of? Those who feel they have the right to live their own way regardless. Those who feel they have the right to rip-off the hotels by crashing without anyone paying the bill. (That is theft.) Those who post notices on the walls (which usually damage the cheap wallpaper) in spite of hotel requests not to do so. Those who hold picnics in stairwells and endeavor to draw mustard murals to the chagrin of the under-paid staff who have to clean up after the infants.

If it sounds like I am a little upset, you are correct. Actions such as I have described reflect upon myself and the rest of the members of the conventions. Those who seek to present a positive picture of the science fiction fan are countered by the anarchist faction however small they may be.

Back to the issue of the bulletin board: Several writers of locs have suggested using a standard size, a 3x5 card say, for posted notices. Like as not, someone will arrive at the notice area with an 8½x11 announcement for a party, book, lost&found, or whatever. The notice will be posted and will cover about four or five of the 3x5ers. But, should anyone request of this person that they conform (Oh, a vile word to the anarchist!) to the rule of 3x5, watch out! "It's my right to post my sign. Don't you tell ME what to do!"

Rules, etiquette, and good manners are necessary for any society to function smoothly. And even if we in fandom like to think of ourselves as a large family, we still need table manners to get the food around.

((Who would have thought that bulletin boards would stimulate all

that? This letter was printed in full, and for once I resisted (with difficulty) the temptation to interrupt. I suspect there'll be considerable response; but let me cover some obvious points. What actually happens as conventions grow larger is that hotels grow more tolerant, not less: they don't want to lose the business. Fandom has a long way to go before becoming as destructive as some really notorious groups - like the police chiefs or the American Legion. (The Legion will be in Boston a week before Noreascon II; we'll give the hotels a chance to relax.) I think Mr. Madden's list of specific offenses varies considerably in reprehensibility, and most of us have probably engaged in some of them. Improving the image of fandom is an impulse with a very long and mostly dubious history. And finally, any bets on how long that 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x11 sign would stay up?))

Ben Yalow:

We used plastic shopping bags for the last few years of the Star Trek Convention (NY in Feb). They were not too expensive, were very convenient for members, almost indestructible, and made nice souvenirs.

### Programming

George Fergus:

At one time, programming consisted of the "main" daytime program items in an auditorium, with the remaining special-interest items squeezed into nooks and crannies here and there. However, this may not make sense any longer. At Iggycon the large Adams ballroom often had fewer attendees than a smaller function room. I would suggest that your programming be broken down into 3 or 4 general "interest areas", such as (1) hard science & space colonization; (2) genre SF & fantasy; (3) social questions & feminism; (4) writing & publishing - each of which would be organized and run by a separate director of programming, and would take place in a designated room. None of them would be the "main" program, but rather they would all develop simultaneously on an equal basis. This might allow the attendees a better chance to find their friends (or make them), even though the facilities won't be as physically segregated as Iggycon's were. It might also eliminate the tendency to eliminate items from the program because they wouldn't be of interest to the "average" fan. There might be other advantages - if one of the rooms appears to be too crowded, all of the programming in that category could be shifted to a larger room, since similar crowds could be assumed to show up for subsequent program items of a similar nature.

((A good idea in general, and we've received the same suggestion from others. Unfortunately, it won't work too well for us, since we don't have that many good-sized function rooms to play around with; we're OK on big and small rooms, but the medium-sized ones will be a juggling act. (There are advantages and disadvantages to having everything in a single hotel.) The idea of setting up that many parallel programs is also somewhat daunting. My guess is that we will have programming in various subject areas, but it won't all be going on at once and won't always be in the same place; since everything's close together, this shouldn't be a major problem.))

Ben Yalow:

Nothing opposite GoH speeches? What are you going to do with the people who don't care about the GoH, but who still like to be at programming? Certainly some discretion is needed (for example, GoH opposite the

masquerade would be a bit extreme), but you seem to be going to the other extreme. Also, depending on space considerations, you may want to be doing some counterprogramming to keep the crowd size from getting out of hand. It seems that you are now requiring that you get space large enough so that your big ballroom must be able to hold everybody at the con who attends programming at the same time.

((By "nothing" I didn't mean to rule out films, hucksters, etc., just programming in the narrow sense (panels, talks). Anyway, our observations are that very few people will attend programming just because it's there. And if they do... the Hynes Auditorium can hold an audience of over 5000.))

Avedon Carol:

definitely agree that programming should be far less competitive. one problem i had with iggy was that there were too many items i wanted to see scheduled at the same time - like a pro feminist panel scheduled alongside a fan feminist panel. i can't imagine whatever possessed patrick hayden, - why the hell didn't he schedule me opposite jerry pournelle?

((Well, we seem to have a clear dichotomy between the people who want less programming so they can see everything, and those who want an umpteen-ring circus. As usual, there's no way to keep everybody happy.))

I'd like to see more mixed pro-fan panels, actually. Just beside the fact that it might be interesting to see the writer and reader viewpoints contrasted together, I'm getting more and more used to the fact that some pros have nothing to say, and some fans can really liven up a panel. It's all very well and good to put Terry Carr on ye olde fan panel, but I think it might be worth a try to have a plain old reader of SF on a panel of writers - a sort of exchange of "this is what i'd like to read" along with the old "this is what/how i write".

and naturally, I agree with Rebecca Lesses about feminist programming. We had a marvelously successful panel early on at Iggy which ran over by something like an hour, and such panels are always well-attended.

((I should mention that Avedon's capitalization is sic..))

Laurie Mann:

Feminism will still be "current" in 1980, and there are a number of perspectives to examine it. The old stand-by "Women in SF" could be reexamined, comparing how men write about women, and how women write about women. The importance of women in fandom can be discussed; by 1980 the ratio of M:F in fandom could well be 50:50, which is interesting when you consider that, once upon a time, almost all the women in fandom were X's wife or Y's girlfriend. The entire issue of human rights would be a valuable topic....

((Well, I just picked a couple of pages of our membership list at random, and found 25-35% women; we aren't there yet.))

#### Meeting Authors.

George Fergus:

I think the overcrowded "Meet the Pros" party should be completely replaced by a ~~meet the pros party~~ series of autograph sessions like those at Iggy-con. That is, each pro would at some time during the con's daytime hours (10 AM-6 PM?) spend an hour behind a table signing autographs and meeting their fans. At the rate of 5 or 10 per hour, it should be possible to fit

in everyone who is willing to participate, even if sessions were restricted to Saturday and Sunday only. I can't see that anything would be lost by this, as anyone unwilling to merely sit behind a table for an hour would hardly be willing to go to a crowded "Meet the Pros" party either. Those ultra-popular pros who cause long lines to form might be asked to sign up again for another hour the following day, if not given a completely different forum instead.

Jack Chalker:

On the matter of auctioning off an hour of the author's time. This, called an Auction Bloch, was a staple of SF worldcons for years until it vanished for some unexplained reason. It began back in the fifties when Harlan Ellison was doing the general auction and ran out of things to sell while still hot and with an audience. Robert Bloch chose that moment to walk by, and Harlan quickly sold him. Bloch, in turn, sold Harlan, and so it began.

I, for one, wouldn't mind seeing it reinstated. It's fun and will give the people a one-on-one chance at a worldcon - providing strict rules are set up. First, it's an hour of time at a mutually convenient time at the convention. Some authors & artists would not volunteer for this, but many would. The money could go to faanish charities or whatever, which would make it slightly easier to get people to volunteer.

Eva Chalker Whitley:

Boy, I remember being a neo not too long ago (SUNCON was my 2nd con), and I can really sympathize with John Charles McCormack. But face it, Worldcons tend to be mob scenes. My suggestion ... is to sit down at your typer or whatever, and write that filthy pro. I finally got to meet John Varley at Iggy, and he said that damn few folks ever got to the point of ever dropping him a letter to tell him that he does a great job. Now scream at me if this strikes you as fannish naiveté, but wouldn't it be easier if John (and his/her club, if applicable) sat down to write a pro to arrange getting together at the con?

#### Publishing Voting Results

Laurie Mann:

I agree with Mike Glycer's strong suggestion that all voting figures be published. It's a good way to stop rumors about "who really lost" and besides, it's interesting. Some years, I think the committee only releases the top three winners in each category (Wasn't this done recently? Seems I saw it somewhere?) which is really ridiculous. As worldcon members, I feel we have a right to know.

((Iggy, Discon, and (I think) Torcon announced the top three names in each Hugo category; Suncon and Aussiecon gave the winners only; MAC released the complete order of finish. Nobody since L.A.Con in 1972 has given out actual numbers of votes.))

George Fergus:

Regarding Mike Glycer's query about giving out the actual figures on the Hugo voting, it seems to me that with our "Australian" ballot system this would really not be very easy or useful.

((It's easy enough, since you have to get the figures anyway to know the results; I've done this on a small scale for NESFA's straw vote the last several years. It's true the results are somewhat bulky: the ones L.A.Con released fill two pages in Locus 124. "Useful" is a

matter of taste, but I always find fascinating information in such tabulations; also, it's the only way to judge how well the "Australian" system works - as against first-place-only or other systems that might be used.)

Yves Bellefeuille:

I totally agree with Mike. I think both site selection and Hugo votes should be released, or in any event, certainly the order of finish. If necessary, I would like this to be in the constitution.

Ron Salomon:

I agree with Ace Reporter Mike Glycer on his quest for figures. Well, at least for site selection. As for the Hugo numbers, I'm leaving my mind ~~shut~~ open on the matter. I'm not sure if embarrassment is a valid excuse for secrecy, and I can't think of any other excuse, either.

Jack Chalker:

The reason for not releasing the order of finish or number of ballots cast for each person in a Hugo category is simply that to do so diminishes the nomination. You go from being one of the five best to being third or even fourth rate. The nomination itself means something - it should not be diminished.

Seth Goldberg:

I agree with you on the releasing of numerical results for site selection. It is insulting to the voters to do otherwise. I think it also goes for the Hugos as well. I do not see how the authors would be insulted except by fans making stupid conclusions or writers being overly sensitive. To me I consider it would be an honor for anyone to even be nominated. Since there is voting for the nominees, then anyone nominated is assumed to be good by a majority or large number of the voters. I would also like to see the number of nominations for each of the ones that do get nominated since this gives one an idea of what fans like and gives one lots of data to play with in proving all sorts of speculations on what the Hugo voters are like (i.e., lots of parlor discussion fun, tell Glycer he is not the only one). I suppose it would be somewhat insulting to discover one got less votes than no award, but that info is still available in some cases (like if No Award comes in third) and besides it really may just mean that the voters had very high standards.

((I wish I knew what more writers think about this. Not too many are on my mailing list, but I'll try putting out inquiries. More on the site-selection aspect of this question will be found in Don Eastlake's article, which may or may not make it into this issue.))

### Children's Memberships

JoAnn Wood:

Just a note to clarify my letter in VOL#1. Your policy on children's memberships:

You advised fandom that you planned to charge for children who would be at the worldcon with their parents and who planned to attend con functions unattended by their parents, after convention membership had gone up to \$15. If you had declared this policy before the vote, I would have purchased a membership for my son for \$10. Your executive decision is penalizing me \$5. In fairness, I think that you should allow parents to buy \$10 attending memberships for their children. Aside from this matter, which was one of the main points in my past letter,

and which was not too clear, the entire matter of charging for children should really have more consideration than you seem to have given it. Reading Dr. Lewis' response to my letter, I had the feeling that the Nor-eascon committee is theorizing about childish attendance without any regard to practical considerations. You are like a group of theoreticians discussing how to end starvation, who never seem to consider that a good first step might be to go out and put some seed in the ground.

Regarding past connish tradition, I have attended most North American cons since 1966, and none of them have charged children's memberships. My husband has attended cons since 1952 and cannot remember any charging for children. At LA, we attended with our son and did not pay a \$3.00 membership for him and he was under 12 yrs. Why do you find it necessary to charge for children when other worldcons have been able to struggle along without doing so? Most hotels do not charge for children accompanying their parents. Airlines, movies, etc. all charge lower rates for children. This policy would be of particular difficulty for large families.

((L.A. Con did publish the \$3 rate, but I assume Larry was then too young to be charged. This probably was the only precedent, though.))

Regarding the impractical nature of your suggestions, once again I repeat that even non-fannish children will not be attending functions in company with their parents. They may spend some time in their hotel rooms watching TV. They may then come down to the function rooms to find their parents. Dr. Lewis said "...can enlist the aid of a staff or committee member who would be overtly labeled." Let me point out that "...children who cannot cope with this method should probably not be running around unaccompanied" does not really deal with the situation. A child who is perfectly capable of taking an elevator down to a function room to find a parent may have great difficulty in finding a committee member in a crowd of pushing, talking adults. Remember, children are smaller than adults. Also, the overt marking usually consists of a ribbon and a badge. Even if you dressed your committee members in red white and blue Uncle Sam suits, it might be difficult for a 7 or 8 year old to find them at a con because of the somewhat unique dress of many of the fans and Anachronists. Some children (not Larry, of course) are shy and are afraid to approach strange adults.

((Of course, in a sufficiently thick crowd the child might also have a hard time spotting a parent, so there'd be a problem anyway.))

Returning to practicalities, I have attended many worldcons since 1969 with a small child, and I feel that I am in closer touch with the actual situation than your committee. I have helped set up babysitting at many cons. Mostly, parents bring their children to cons not because they cannot afford babysitting for 4 or 5 days, but because they cannot find someone with whom they would trust their children for 4 or 5 days. As you point out, parents are legally and morally responsible for their children. There are few paid babysitters with whom I would want to trust my child for long periods. Also, it seems an imposition to ask friends to look after your child for that long. Thus, we bring our child to conventions.

Now, we have one of the most fannish of children. He likes worldcons and attends much of their program. However, the only program items he likes are the film program and the game room. Of all the cons I have attended, I can say that I have found fewer than 25 children under their teens, who I would regard as fans. Most children attending cons are with their parents. If the parents and children are registered guests of the hotel, these children have the same right to use of the corridors and other public facilities

as other hotel guests. In other words, even tho they are getting in the way and taking up room in the corridors, they have a right as guests of the hotel to do so. Attending con functions is, of course, another matter. It does not strike me as toally unfair that a child like my son, who does attend part of a con, should pay something for that privilege. Still, I feel that a child's membership, which allows a child to attend con functions but does not give him voting rights, or include con mailings or a program book, would be a better solution than a full con membership (around \$5 for a child). It seems to me that that \$5 would adequately recompense your expenses since the functions are going to take place anyway.

((But if you're going to offer memberships without voting rights or publications, why limit it to children? We in fact gave some thought to a more general policy of this sort, but decided it could get too complicated: we've already had enough confusion over differing membership rates....))

For my part, you can skip children's programming. I don't think that it is particularly functional. We have puppet and magic shows here in Hartford, we don't need to go to Boston for them.

((We were thinking of more specifically science-fictional children's programming - talks or demonstrations on computers, space travel, robots, etc. Also, we plan to have a special children's area, including such functions as programming, lounge, message drop, etc. (which will also make it easier for parents and children to find each other). Babysitting will also be free to those children who are members of the convention.))

Harry Andruschak:

In reply to JoAnn Wood and all the other dear parents ... look, they are your kids, and I see no reason why you and they shouldn't pay extra since they will be using convention facilities and space. I am reminded of a small one day convention here in LA where I was unable, as a paying convention member, to watch DARK STAR because lots of kids who had not paid a membership fee were sitting with their parents and taking up seats.

Make children pay full adult price ... and maybe those worried parents will find some way of keeping them home, or with relatives, or at camp, or something.

((The editor wishes to state that he approves of children (in moderation), and has just about recovered from spending the holidays romping with his eight nephews and nieces (ages 1 to 9).))

Laurie Mann:

Overall, I agree with Tony's comments to JoAnn Wood. However, he does make one totally absurd statement, "A fan is a fan, whether 8 months or 8 years or 80 or more." I'd be the first to agree that infants aren't given credit for their intelligence, however, I can't call an eight month old infant a fan for very obvious reasons, and I'm not sure I'd call an eight year old child a fan either. Though children aren't as mundane as adults, deciding to be a fan is a conscious choice. A baby can't make that sort of choice, and therefore should not be charged a membership fee. Most kids attend conventions because their parents go, sort of like the way children are forced to go to church.

((I've seen fandom compared to a religion before, but never quite that way! Babies will not be wandering around the con unaccompanied, and therefore will not be charged.))



John Millard:

I think the Committee's policy on this is very reasonable. After all, if any individual can attend the films, the program, the huckster room, etc., without the assistance of a parent or an older person, then he or she is doing what any other member is doing and therefore should pay the full attending membership. I think the Committee is quite right in putting the responsibility on the parent to make the proper decision. JoAnn Wood's letter has some merits, but I think she is expecting a lot when she says the committee should have mentioned this policy in the bidding information. I think this sort of tactic is very unreasonable, because anyone could accuse the Committee of almost anything because it wasn't proclaimed in the bidding information. Tony's response is a good one.

Ben Yalow:

The announced policy on children seems to be a reasonable one. It also seems reasonable that it was not announced until after the bid was won. All policies cannot be announced before the voting, since some may not have been made, and others (such as this one, in my opinion) are trivial enough in general, although perhaps significant to a few, that if they were all published, you would not be sending out a 4 page flyer, but you'd be sending out a 40 page prospectus. When I vote for a committee, it is at least in part that I am indicating that I trust you to make the minor policy decisions you haven't announced beforehand, and to know which are major enough so that they should have been announced. The children policy seems to me to fall in the minor decision class.

((Thanks, but I think we were remiss in not thinking out this one beforehand.))

IguanaCon Business Meeting (General)

Ben Yalow:

I agree completely with the idea of publishing the details of what happened at the Business Meeting. Most of the reports I've seen are incomplete, and some very widely circulated ones seem completely wrong on some major points. However, I'm not at all sure I like the idea of including debate (even fair and balanced to both sides) concerning any pending items of business in a publication officially connected to an existing worldcon committee, and especially when it is written by a member of that committee. Just as the WSFS Constitution indicates that WSFS should stay out of the individual committee's business, I think that a Worldcon should stay uninvolved (except as a reporting mechanism) in WSFS business unless absolutely necessary. I'm not saying that debate on these motions should be suppressed throughout fandom. Many of the issues being raised are important enough so that debate should be encouraged. However, it seems to me that this is the wrong place to debate. Given that opinion, I will make no comments about any of the pending business.

((I found no support on the committee for this position. The trouble is that nobody else is doing the job, so if this zine doesn't carry the debate, who will? (Especially since the Worldcon membership has a relatively low overlap with the readership of most fanzines.) Most of the proposed changes would not directly affect us, so there's little conflict of interest. One reason I wanted to start this zine was my singular lack of success in stimulating debate on my own fanzine-Hugo motion in '1977-78.))

Don Eastlake (Secretary of the Business Meeting):

Originally proposed Standing Rule 18 was defeated after debate in which the following arguments were advanced against it: (1) it conflicts with the Constitution in that it appears to make a particular NASFiC site-selection procedure mandatory, and the Constitution allows the bidders to choose an arbitrary procedure if they all agree; (2) it seemed like a long rule which mostly rewords some parts of Robert's Rules and unnecessarily clutters things up for something which does not happen that often.

On item 3 concerning voters and membership fees, the original version did not, I believe, set a minimum conversion fee as such. It had nothing to do with conversions, but required that all voters be made supporting members unless they paid double the voting fee at voting time, in which case they were to be made attending members. This was a lot simpler than the maximum-conversion-fee amendment that got passed and will come up for ratification at Seacon '79.

((Having checked the original text, I agree, but the distinction's a fine one. Here's another comment on the same amendment.))

Kent Bloom:

As adopted and sent on to SeaCon, item 3 would limit the cost to voters for attending a worldcon to twice the voting fee. I think this is a bad idea. It would mean that if a committee wanted to put on a really expensive convention (for example, at a resort location or including "professional" entertainment), they would have a large number of "freeloaders". It also forces people to vote even when they are uninterested or have no preference, thus adding to the difficulties of site-selection balloting.

((Not if there's a "no preference" option on the ballot, as there was this year and as would be required by item 5.))

-Therefore, I suggest that instead, we should adopt a rule which requires that a bidding committee publish and make available, under the same conditions as they are now required to furnish their rules, their proposed fee structure, and that they be required to hold to that structure for at least six months after they win the bid. This would enable anyone who cares to submit a bid for a very elaborate Worldcon-the opportunity to do so, and would give us the information far enough in advance so that we could give it the consideration it deserves ~~and reject it~~. It also reduces surprise and indignation when the fees are announced, because everyone would have the opportunity to vote against a bid if they felt it was too expensive.

Victoria Vayne:

I agree entirely with the offering of a "no preference" and "None of the above" alternative on the site selection.

Ron Salomon:

I've never been to a business meeting but would like to sometime. I always seem to find something much more interesting to do or I'm asleep at the time. Can anything be done in the scheduling to increase attendance?

((Probably not. The alternatives are to hold it in the morning (when most fans are asleep) or later in the day (when it's opposite programming). The choice of a morning time at least assures that the attendees are dedicated.))

I wonder about rule 14, smofing and non-smofing sections. Oh, sorry. Smoking. Will there be signs and/or announcements made to limit it at Noreascon II, I hope? Or was that a typo and refers to SCA folk and smoting?

((Sure, we'll have the standard "Smokers on one side, nonsmokers on the other" rule at all sot-down events.))

Paula Lieberman:

I know what the Worldcon business meeting is - in a word, BORING. I suppose I'll eventually get around to reading the current version of the current rules, but, but, but....

WSFS, Inc.

Laurie Mann:

For some reason, whenever I hear a discussion of Worldcon politics at cons, I'm very interested. However, reading about the subject gets very boring. Generally, I think the idea of an elected body to oversee Worldcons is basically a good one. Of course, there is the possibility of "masochistic, power-mad" people getting control and really warping the original intent of such a committee. Perhaps having a rule against being reelected, or not being permitted to serve consecutive terms on the board, would deter that.

Yves Bellefeuille:

I think that the creation of a board of directors is an extremely tricky question. I would urge you to decide this matter, as far as possible, by mail poll and not simply at a business meeting.

((("We" don't decide anything, and the WSFS Constitution requires that the business meeting ratify amendments. The original version of the current constitution (adopted in 1974) had a provision for mail ratification of all amendments, but Aussiecon threw it out and it hasn't been proposed since.))

Jack Chalker:

On the proposed WSFS Inc., what we have here isn't the lack of an opposition to the proposals but a lack of information on which to base an opposition. The proponents, such as Smith & Hillis, can propagandize all they want for it, but until we have a concrete proposal offered there is little that can be said against it - face it, every time one brings up a point on the draft, he's told, "Well, that clause is still subject to debate and may or may not be in the final draft."

A case in point is those 15 Directors you mention. ((I did?)) A good number, geographically divided. What is never mentioned is that five directors constitute a quorum and three a majority. So let's say just three Directors want to revoke a Worldcon charter. Maybe the Chairman was mean to them, or maybe his committee is trying to be innovative beyond the imaginations of these 3 Directors. Well, all we have to do is call a Directors' meeting for, say, Columbus, Ohio, in early February. Three Directors, including the Ohioans, can easily show - and we can get two others there by hook or crook. The rest can't get there. Now you vote to revoke and do so, 3-2. Very democratic - and we've just had the Worldcon booted out the door. The conference-call concept is not obligatory - you can call the meeting at 1 PM EST and make sure nobody not there is home - and unworkable since it disenfranchises the 3 out-of-North-America members, in any event.

((The provisions Jack describes here were indeed in the draft circulated last year, and I believe were among the reasons for that draft's being recalled.))

This is only one of dozens of similar potential bombs in the draft documents shown to me. One more might be that Directors can still bid for

Worldcons (no conflict of interest there?) but Hugo nominees can not be Directors! That not only is absolute hypocrisy (one or the other but not both) but also says flatly that they have no faith in the security of their special committees - they want the one that concerns the bidding open ~~to~~ ~~XXXX~~, but feel too strongly about Hugos to do the same there.

I could go on, but why bother? Until we have a final proposal, along with enough time to study it and make these arguments, we are powerless to even know if we want to oppose it. In the meantime, the proponents just propagandize away....

The mere operation and manner of this committee indicates enough suspicion to reject the document without even considering its merits, since its merits can only be considered by proponents.

VotL, by the way, would be a nice place to print a final proposal and open it up to knowledgeable debate - if they get a final proposal in sufficient time to do so.

((If it's as long as the last draft, there might not be room for anything else in the issue. -- From a later letter by Jack:))

You can't debate a straw man; right now the only debate over WSFS, Inc. is whether or not the idea is good. I think it's good but impossible to put into practice - and so far every draft I have seen indicates this. Which is why only the proposal can be debated - prove to me it can be done fairly and without warfare and I might support the idea.

#### Worldcon Site Rotation

Laurie Mann:

I like the idea of including an "Outside North America" region in the Worldcon site selection cycle. I'm surprised, though, that this issue has already been voted down once in recent history. It appears to be a relatively fair and equitable system. Though Worldcons have been held off the continent regularly in the past decade, it would be a good idea to have this in the constitution. As for the question, "Is it fair to always vote for a NASFiC in a Western city?", I think the answer is yes, provided the current proposal is amended to allow voting for the NASFiC site by mail.

((But who would administer the voting?))

Seth Goldberg:

I am not in favor of the proposed change and not simply because it is a political maneuver. The major problem is that the voting for the Western zone would always be done in the Outside-North-America region and vice versa. This I feel is unfair to Western-region fans and somewhat to European fans (easier for Australians to get to a Western con and the Europeans would have to pay for a trip across continental US). As it is so far, the out-of-North-America people have done fairly well, and should Australia get the 1983 con then the last three out-of-North-America cons would have replaced Western, Midwest, and Eastern respectively, which seems fair to me. You might say that anarchy is working in this case. I get the feeling that part of the reason for pushing this is an anti-LA-fandom sentiment (make them go outside North America to bid, not us). I know there is an anti-LA-fandom sentiment in fandom (look at how Iggy won) so though I hope this is an unlikely reason, I would not be shocked to find it to be so (actually the most probable to me is that the DC people simply want the 1984 con).

((I agree with the last reason: conspiracy theories usually violate

Occam's Razor. Er, by the way, L.A. is about 2000 miles closer to Europe than to Australia.))

Yves Bellefeuille:

The choice to defer the creation of a fourth region to SeaCon was a wise decision. I would approve such a move, I believe it would be beneficial to the "worldliness" of the WSFS.

Don Eastlake:

On item 8, note that it took only a majority vote to postpone it to Seacon. A 2/3 vote was required, and obtained, to make it a special order at Seacon. This gives it higher priority than any new business at Seacon and the same level of priority as amendments that are coming up for ratification. All the overseas fans I have ever talked to support the current rotation scheme.

((Unfortunately, none of them have written to say so yet.))

Presupporters, Preopposers, ...

Seth Goldberg:

I am a little surprised to find that people did not know what a presupporting member was. Since there was already a separate discount for voters, what else could they have logically thought it was? But yes, it never hurts to explain too much.

((This is arguable: some of the letters we sent to explain the situation seem to have left people more confused than they were before. On the other hand, the fellow who called us "cheap chiselers" calmed down after an explanation, so his letter won't be here after all. The following certainly ought to be the last word on the subject.))

Marta Randall:

Oh, I get it now. Pre-supporting means supporting previous to the voting, which is not pre-supporting but only pre-attending, which is in turn different from non-attending in that it makes no assumptions as to the attendance or non-attendance of the pre-supporter. The voting fee, on the other hand, reflects simply a desire to cast a ballot and is not pre-supporting in that it supports nothing, but on the other hand it cannot be described as non-supporting (providing, of course, that the non-pre-supporter voted for the appropriate supportee); therefore it is only appropriate to refer to the voting fee as an a-supporting (as opposed to supporting or non-supporting) reflection of the interior desires of the party in question when examined in the light of the parties of the second, third, and fourth parts (who are themselves supportive, but of what remains to be seen). None of this, of course, bears much relevance when placed in contrast to the concept of a membership per se, which is either supporting or non-supporting, attending or non-attending, voting or non-voting, and whose principal place in the constellation of categories cannot be closely defined without an electron microscope. Taking the existentialist view of things, it is possible to consider that a pre-supporting stance, when not solidified by the reality of a pre-supporting check, is irrelevant to the entire matter at hand, as is much else. However, following the precepts of the Tao and of Mahayana, it is obvious that, as all things are identical and all identities are all things and yet the same thing, so too are all categories but a reflection of the Category, and are in and of themselves identical in their greater aspects, just as the numbers in a list may be, when considered

separately, separate numbers, but when viewed in the light of satori are all merely reflections of Number in its greater, or Platonic, aspect. Thereby proving that the pre-supporting non-attender is, in actuality, a re-supporting non-descender with ego-stress toward the pre-membership pre-attendant supra-voting, indicated by the marking of ballots in puce ink (due, undoubtedly, to childhood stress).

Figuring all this out is much harder than writing novels.

I owe you two bucks.

Enclosed herewith.

Don't spend it all in one place.

Yours for a more comprehensible tomorrow.

((Any questions?))

Miscellaneous

((including a couple of things I omitted at the right places))

Laurie Mann:

As many people do attend Worldcons early, it might be a good idea to have a registration/gopher area in some room somewhere in the hotel. It wouldn't even have to be a function room, as long as signs were posted, informing early arrivers of its presence. Will it be possible for people planning on staying at the hotel before or after the con officially starts to get a convention hotel rate?

((We haven't negotiated the details yet, but it's customary to extend convention rates a few days on either side of the con.))

I like the idea of voting for the piece of artwork, as opposed to the artist, although that appears to effectively do away with the amateur artist Hugo.

((No, the proposal is to replace only the present Pro Artist category (the words "professionally published" were left out because of the definition problem); Amateur Artist would remain unchanged.))

I think the addresses of people in the lettercol is much more helpful than the dates of their letters. If I wanted to write to someone about their comments, I would have to write to you, and you would have to write back to me before I could do so. Please include addresses next time!

((Not everybody here is a fanzine fan, and I wasn't sure if some would object to having their addresses printed. However, I'll include a list of those I'm fairly sure of.))

Harry Andruschak:

Newspapers ... given the fact that I have yet to see any newspaper write-up of a convention that was worth a damn ... the KumquatCon report by the Phoenix papers was certainly no worse than some others ... let's not have any press section. Keep the bastards out, or at least give no active encouragement to their antics.

((However, the writers often want publicity, and we want to cooperate with them. (The SF writers, that is.) Outside of that, there isn't much you can do; we'll have factual press releases if they want to use them. Actually, I've seen some newspaper stories on cons that weren't bad. (Others, however....))

Ron Salomon:

I thought Locster was a gangster who specialized in smoked salmon.

As for Joanne Burger's letter, I can't remember you folks issuing membership cards like (at least) the last couple of worldcons did, but I know before the early registration opened in Phoenix I had the ~~brilliant~~ idea to take my membership card and slip it in a spare cellophane badge/holder thingie I happened to have with me and I wore it. After all, a membership card is such an ID tag, containing the con name in large letters and room for the member's name too. But do you think members would tend to lose them before they got to the consite? ((Damn right.)) And of course the ID wouldn't be good for admitting the member anywhere once the con starts so would have to look visually different. Unfortunately the days seem to be long gone when you could visually identify all other members, so such an aid would be helpful.

((We haven't decided whether to issue membership cards: since we aren't using envelopes for our PRs, there'd be a problem in distributing them. If we do, it'll probably be with PR3 (which is about the usual time).))

John Millard:

The Awards have always been presented at the Annual Worldcon Banquet, ever since their introduction in the early 1950's, until very recently, when Kansas City in 1976 and Phoenix this year made non-banquet stage-type presentations. Personally, I prefer the Awards Banquet, because it does make a very fitting climax to the Worldcon and it is the only large formal function that we have and I for one would be sorry to see it go. I know there are some who don't care for the meal part of the Banquet, but almost everyone wants to be present for the program which follows and the announcement of the Awards. With the large attendance that can be expected at future conventions, it would not be a big problem to sell tickets for a banquet. The big problem would be sufficient space for those who would like to attend, plus all those who would like to see and hear the program afterwards.

((The Grand Ballroom at the Sheraton-Boston will hold 870 for a banquet. This can be expanded some by use of adjoining rooms (though the people in them couldn't see much), but it doesn't leave much space for non-diners to come in.))

Then there is the cost factor, any banquet is going to be rather expensive, even to have a turkey dinner won't be inexpensive. So it becomes a question of space and economics. The two non-banquet stage presentations at Kansas City and Phoenix were wholly inadequate as fitting climaxes to a Worldcon, in my opinion. There is really no reason why a presentation of this kind can't be a real bomb shell, but it will take a lot of imagination, organization, and a hell of a lot of work. To be effective it will require someone with "Sho-biz" experience to produce and direct it. It could use music and slide projection very nicely, but it could also be very costly. This, of course, would depend upon the Union situation. Hopefully, you will thoroughly explore the space and cost situation for an Awards Banquet and then consider the possibilities of a real production for the Awards presentation, if the Banquet is not feasible.

((The banquet is nice, but it'll be very hard to make it work at the current size of the Worldcon. Our Toastmaster, Robert Silverberg, has told us he'd be glad to handle whichever way we decide. How do other people feel about the banquet-versus-stage-show question?))

Jack Chalker:

On the proliferation of awards, I'd just like to say that if you have a separate awards ceremony then they're O.K. If you have a Hugo Awards Banquet, though, then it should be limited to the awards the people voted on with a more minor awards program for the separate awards of smaller groups maybe in the main programming.

Ben Yalow:

Overall, I think you have succeeded in producing your advertised minimal! ~~XXXXXX~~ fanzine. It is not boring to anyone who cares either about Worldcons in general, or this one in particular. Who knows, now that the Worldcon fanzine has come out twice, it may become a permanent institution. I certainly hope it does. One major criticism - the repro is dreadful. This sort of zine does not have to look good, since it's the information that counts, but that information must be readable.

((Thank you, I think. The mimeographer has been informed of your complaint. Many other people also commented favorably on the general idea of the zine and its contents; but this lettercol is ridiculously long already, and I'm not going to prolong it further by taking up space with personal egoboo. And I'm not sure if that "minimal" is true any more....))

Coda

((Finally we have a letter from a Man Who Knows, Tim Kyger, Chairman of IguanaCon. Tim's letter is pretty much of a piece, so I'm printing it essentially intact - except for the snippet I couldn't resist including on p. 19 - rather than splitting it up to various sections.))

Tim Kyger:

The speed with which you got your first VOICE out is to be commended, as well as your entire publications policy. I note, for example, your frequent press releases. This is something we tried to do, but that fell by the wayside due to lack of time, money, and personnel. The same goes for VOICE; it's great to see it being done, and I feel that it's a legit expense of the con. Greg Brown didn't have any money to do that second issue, and it languished on stencil, and then other things overtook him. I'm glad to see the concept alive and working the way it should have originally.

On other income issues, you'll probably be getting a lot of flak about your rates. Ignore the flak; the people bitching don't know what they're talking about.

It's expensive to run a convention these days ... \$15.00 per person is a bargain, no question about it at all. Don't listen to them, don't heed them ... just jack up the rates as you need to. At this point, due to SunCon and MAC, the WorldCon has a leery reputation with hotels (that Iggy has helped but only a little - we paid our bills, and we came out in the back, er, ah, black) and we need a string of cons with good hotel relations re the bills to get the convention's rep up to sniff again. Break even. Jack up your rates to keep pace with inflation and prices. I don't think you'll have to do so, but please don't hesitate to do it. The number one problem that Iggy suffered precon for two years was our Big Mistake of accepting all 1000 or so voting memberships at MAC as full attending memberships. For the next two years, we suffered under great financial burdens due to that.

A little note, that you should publicize in a



large manner should you decide to accept the recommendation: don't accept any memberships during the month of Aug. Period. Some will trickle in, of course, but this will enable you to process all the members that you do have, get your data base ready, get your paperwork for the con ready, etc. If a person wants a membership, they'll buy it at the door. This will save you all kinds of hassle, and let you concentrate on the convention proper.

((We haven't taken any kind of a vote on this, but I'd say it's very unlikely that we'll accept memberships in August. It's July that we're really undecided about.))

A few words about your publishing philosophy. I think that the direction that SeaCon '79 and NorthAmericon '79 are going with their Progress Reports are the way for a large convention to go - big fancy MAC-type PRs are for the birds. They cost too damn much, they take too bloody much effort to produce and mail - you're putting on a convention, not running a magazine. ((Two magazines. I must keep reminding myself of that.)) I hope that your PRs will be much smaller than ours, and I hope that the '81 site winner decides to do much smaller PRs. In your defense, I must say that I wish our ads had had the same rate structure that yours have. Again, it's inflation time. Costs. The cost of ads had to go up, and Iggy's ads barely paid for the page that they were on. I don't think that your ad rates are high, and I'd like to be a voice that speaks in favor of them.

((As most people have seen by now, our PR1 has 32 pages, which is bigger than Iggy's; well, there's a limit to how much shock you can ask fandom to take in one year. Haven't had any complaints about the ad rates yet.))

Your purposed PR schedule is great. Your idea for PR5 is wonderful - I wish that we had thought of it. And a final PR-related comment - your graphic design is great.

I note that there was an amendment to require a CPA for each concom. There was some argument about this, chiefly about the cost. Well, I'm more or less in favor of this idea, and the reason is that you, and probably all worldcons after this, are going to have to obtain the services of a CPA anyway. We're in the big time now. For good. Iggy grossed about \$130,000. I expect that Two-if-by-Seacon will do about, oh, \$150,000 to \$200,000. With this kind of money, over two years, and the various kinds of revenues and outgos, you'll need a CPA. Every con from here on out will be audited by the IRS, I feel sure. We're a rather large small business with about \$200,000 income a year (combined from the two concoms in existence at any one time) and we're going to have to accept the fact that we're going to have to run the bloody thing like a small business. This means books, audits, IRS, and CPAs. You do have a CPA, don't you??? I think that a concom retaining a CPA is in the best interests of that convention, and is far from being a luxury or a waste of money. It has become a sheer necessity.

((We haven't formally retained a CPA, but our treasurer's father is one, and he's advising her.))

I and everybody else will be more than happy to kibitz about Iggy and such things, tho for myself, I don't think that you'll hear anything you don't already know/haven't already done/ already know how to do better.

Close de box.

((and that closes the lettercol, which came to a mere 29 pages. And I originally envisioned this as a 24-30 page zine.... \*Sigh\*))

From Noreascon II News Release #3, Dec. 13, 1978:

#### PUBLICATIONS

Noreascon II's first progress report will be delivered to the printers on December 15, and is scheduled for bulk rate mailing to the membership on January 18.

((It went out exactly on schedule.))

#### FREE MEMBERSHIPS

The committee has announced its policy on free memberships, which is printed in full below:

If it is possible, the Noreascon II Committee would like to give free memberships to everyone who helps out on the con in any significant way. This includes people who appear on the program, people who run areas of the convention, and people who work for several hours or more. But we estimate that there will be roughly 300 people in these categories, and free memberships for all of them would cost about \$7500, which is an expense we can't be sure we can afford.

So, here is our proposal: we ask all of you who plan to participate to please join the convention and pay the membership fee on your own (preferably now, while the rate is still low). We will keep records of everyone who helps us out, and after the con, when we see what our surplus is, we will make refunds in full or in part to the extent possible.

In addition, all program participants will be given an identifying badge or ribbon which will entitle them to special privileges to be detailed later, such as free drinks at parties, special seating at certain events, admission to a special lounge, and the like.

There will be a few exceptions to this rule of "pay in advance and get refund later" (PIAAGRL?). The first exception is our Guests of Honor and their spouses, of course. The second exception will be people from outside the science fiction community who appear on the program, and who would not ordinarily be attending the convention. This second group will be given free admission to the convention, but they will not receive full memberships, and will not have the right to vote on site selection, the Hugos, or other WSFS business.

As we said earlier, we would much rather be generous and give free memberships in advance to all who deserve them, but we just can't be sure right now that our budget will allow it. We'll do our best to make it happen, and hope you will bear with us.

((This policy has already been misquoted in at least one fanzine, so please get it right.))

#### MEMBERSHIP LIST

The committee has received several inquiries regarding the availability of the convention membership and address list, and has decided that the list will be released ONLY for purposes directly related to World Science Fiction Society business, including (for example) the distribution of information by Worldcon bidding groups. For more details, please write.

((I should mention, by the way, that these news releases are written by Ellen Franklin and distributed to a mailing list of newszines, clubs, bidding committees, etc.))

From Noreascon II News Release #4, Jan. 18, 1979:

PUBLICATIONS

Noreascon II's first progress report has been mailed bulk rate to current members, with delivery expected over the next 4-6 weeks (and perhaps slightly longer overseas). Members not receiving their progress reports by March ! are encouraged to contact the committee. The ad deadline for Progress Report 2 is April 8, 1979, so write for rates.

MEMBERSHIP

All memberships received through December 31, 1978 have been processed and acknowledged, and Noreascon II has 1479 members, of whom 389 are supporting. There are STILL no members from South Dakota. Current rates (effective through June 30, 1979) are

Supporting: \$8                      Attending: \$20                      Conversion: \$12

((A South Dakota membership has since arrived!))

MAIL HANDLING

We have been receiving numerous bounces of mail from correct addresses, and also receiving complaints about mail sent to us which has bounced. So, when sending mail to us, please address it completely:

Noreascon Two, P.O. Box 46, MIT Branch Post Office, Cambridge, MA02139  
Please also send us full details of any mail sent to us which bounced, including if possible a Xerox of the envelope (or the original), so that we can complain in writing to the Postal Service. We will try twice on mail we send out, following up bounces with a postcard to see if that gets through.

SITE SELECTION

Any group which thinks at this time that they may be bidding for the Worldcon in either 1981 or 1982 (site selection at SEACON or Noreascon II) is strongly encouraged to write to us now. Bids that are already on our list include Denver, Los Angeles, and Seattle for 1981, and Chicago for 1982.

((I know Detroit and New Orleans are supposed to be bidding for 1982, but they haven't contacted us officially yet.))

COMMITTEE

The new members have joined the committee: Rick Katze and Peter Neilson. Both are active Boston-area fans who have been working hard on Noreascon Two planning for several months.

\* \* \* \* \*  
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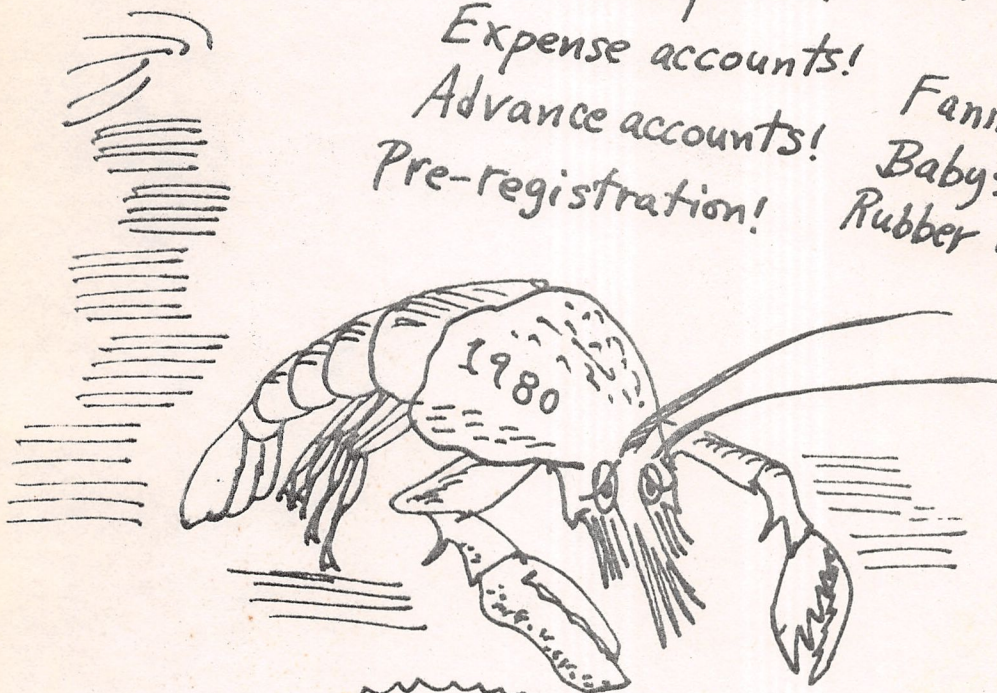
Damn it, not enough room left on the page for the list of letter-writers' addresses that I promised on p. 37. But I swear it will be included in #3, which will be out shortly (see my editorial); so please let me know if for any reason you don't want your address published. As a stop-gap, here's a list of the names of this issue's loccers: Harry Andruschak, Yves Bellefeuille, Kent Bloom, Avedon Carol, Jack Chalker, Don Eastlake, George Fergus, Mike Glycer, Seth Goldberg, Tim Kyger, Johnny M. Lee, Paula Lieberman, James R. Madden, Laurie D.T. Mann, Dawn B. McGhiey, John Millard, Andrew Porter, Marta Randall, Ron Salomon, Victoria Wayne, Eva Chalcker Whitley, JoAnn Wood, and Ben Yalow. See you all next time!

# VOICE OF THE LOBSTER #2

Tax-exemption forms!  
Expense accounts!  
Advance accounts!  
Pre-registration!

Wargames!  
Beer! More beer!  
Fannish beanies!  
Babysitting supplies!  
Rubber banquet chickens!

Whew!



Did we  
work that hard  
at Noreascon  
back in 1971?

Poor thing!



M. Keller  
© 1979