

1980 - Noreascon II: Chairing a Worldcon

What to say about Noreascon II? It was probably the hardest thing I've ever done. And it was probably the most rewarding thing I've ever done.

Let me just quote from what I wrote for the Noreascon Memory Book...

The beginning was at a party in July, 1974, which turned into an ad hoc organizational meeting when someone brought up the idea of having another Worldcon in Boston. This was followed by 4 years of bidding, 2 years of serious planning, one week of running a convention, and 5 years of trying to finish things up.

My own memories of Noreascon II are somewhat hazy... I was probably the only committee member who really got to see much of the convention at all, since I wasn't allowed to do very much work during it. My forte tends to be planning... Once the con started, I felt as if a giant wheel had been set in motion, and would keep rolling no matter what I did. Since it generally seemed to be rolling in the right direction, I just wandered around, watched it roll, and told each committee member that I encountered what a great job they were doing. Near the end of the convention, never having been beeped once (!), I was starting to feel totally useless. I tried to help pack up leftover art show artwork, and they had to drag me away..

The COMMITTEE

Chairman Leslie Turek has been active in fandom since 1965, having worked on Boskones every year since Boskone 1. In 1966 and 1967, she was co-editor of the MIT SF Society's fanzine, *Twilight Zine*, in 1969 she was chairman of Boskone 6, and she worked on Noreascon in 1971. Between 1973 and 1975 she ran the Boskone Art Show and transformed it from its modest beginnings into the largest and most popular east coast art show. Her most recent fannish project was editing and producing *The Noreascon Proceedings*. In real life, Leslie is a computer programmer at MIT's Lincoln Laboratory and has numerous hobbies, including horseback riding, gardening, and cooking and eating good food.

NOREASCON TWO

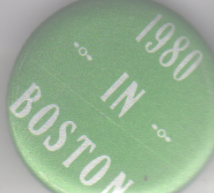
Mark L. Olson

Waltham, MA



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The 38th World Science Fiction Convention



Noreascon II Draws Record 6,000; Chicago Wins 1982 Convention; Clarke Wins Novel Hugo; Martin Nabs Two

Noreascon Two, held August 29 to September 1, 1980 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel and Hynes Civic Auditorium, was, to no-one's surprise, the largest world-con ever held. The unofficial final attendance was 5921 with nearly 2,000 people joining at the door.

Noreascon, without a doubt, was the best organized convention ever held. The committee consisted of 69 people directing a staff of nearly 300 full-time volunteers and nearly as many part-time workers. The general programming had 107 items with 300 people appearing plus 95 involved in autograph sessions and 25 reading their own material. The committee had to prepare 600 signs. The art show had roughly 3,000 pieces on 270 panels and tables. Art show sales totalled roughly \$75,000 (the highest selling item was a hand-crafted fantasy desk by Barkley Shaw. It sold to Harlan Ellison for \$4,000!) There were 198 dealers covering 258 tables plus twelve booths. There was even a waiting list. The jacuzzi stuffing record was set at thirty-five.

Alas, with a crowd this size, there was no way for everything to work out right. There were several robberies, muggings, fights, etc. Don Thompson was one of the mugging victims, and Terry Carr was hit with a bottle and required

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C.N. Brown

PROFESSIONAL GUESTS OF HONOR KATE WILHELM AND DAMON KNIGHT

1980 Hugo, Campbell & Gandalf Awards

The Hugo Awards were announced and presented in Hynes Auditorium, Boston, on August 31. Approximately 4,000 convention attendees were present. A record 1788 valid Hugo ballots were received (1003 after July 4). The total votes per category are listed below.

BEST NOVEL (1532 votes)

THE FOUNTAINS OF PARADISE by Arthur C. Clarke (Gollancz, Harcourt)

BEST NOVELLA (1253 votes)

"Enemy Mine" by Barry B. Longyear (IASFM 9/79)

BEST NOVELETTE (1320 votes)

"Sandkings" by George R.R. Martin (Omni 8/79)

BEST SHORT STORY (1228 votes)

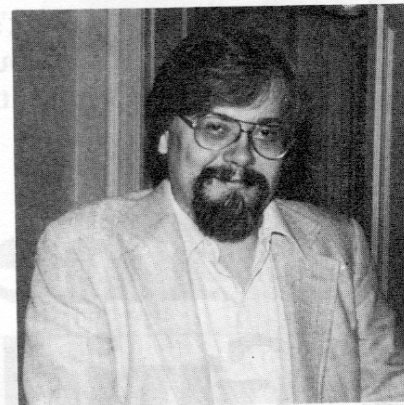
"The Way of Cross and Dragon" by George R.R. Martin (Omni 6/79)

BEST NON-FICTION BOOK (1406 votes)

THE SCIENCE FICTION ENCYCLOPEDIA edited by Peter Nicholls (Granada, Doubleday)

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Baen Quits Ace; Allison New Editor



C.N. Brown

James Patrick Baen, Vice President at Ace, has resigned his position and has joined the newly formed Thomas Doherty Associates.

Susan Allison has moved from Pocket to Ace to become Senior Editor in charge of science fiction.

Baen, 36, edited *Galaxy* from 1974 to 1977. He moved to Ace in August 1977 as a senior editor and became a vice president last year. He worked directly for Tom Doherty who headed Ace until earlier this year. Doherty and Baen are credited with turning Ace from a second class to a first class publisher of science fiction. It seems appropriate that

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C.N. Brown



GEORGE R.R. MARTIN



BARRY B. LONGYEAR AND GEORGE SCITHERS

SFT SOLD URE OF GALAXY/GALILEO IN DOUBT

e-month struggle to find
ital for *Galileo* magazine
g the collapse of newsstand
tion and concomitant fi-
losses has found the
near bankruptcy with
e for survival.

out through new invest-
ital or the outright sale of
azine, though still possible,
n frustrated by a tight
market, relatively high pos-
sk, and weak overall sales
nce fiction magazines in
ver the past year.

prior to the sudden with-
of Dell Distributing from
ssstand arrangement with
the publisher had negoti-
the purchase of *Galaxy*
e in an effort to make
e of underutilized produc-
ities and to cut costs by
g print orders. This, com-
th joint advertising sales
emotion potential might
aced both publications
the black.

entering its 30th year,
been in decline due to lack
cial support, and had
umerous issues in recent
the owner, Universal
g and Distributing, head-
rnold Abramson, unsuc-
sought a buyer for the

decision not to continue
distribution because of
urns on unsold copies left

Galileo with a large outstanding
debt after having spent all avail-
able funds on developing the
magazine for newsstand sales.
Poor sales were heavily influenced
by the practice of premature re-
turns by local wholesalers for credit
with the national distributor
against older bills. New publication
are the most easily abused by such
practices.

Without the support of *Galileo*,
funds for *Galaxy* were cut—cre-
ating an even larger overall deficit.
It would cost about \$20,000 to
produce a single issue of *Galaxy* for
the 44,000 subscribers alone. This
figure includes all costs: editorial,
printing, postage, etc. In order to
raise funds for future issues
through subscription renewals and
advertising, at least that sum again
would be necessary.

Though *Galileo*'s costs are es-
sentially the same as *Galaxy*'s, the
younger magazine is plagued by
the need for at least minimal pay-
ments against the debts created by
the newsstand fiasco.

The *Science Fiction Times*, be-
gun by the *Galileo* staff to fill the
need for a full-fledged newspaper
in the SF field as well as make use
of underutilized equipment and
large amounts of timely editorial
material of too temporary value to
be used in *Galileo*, has been profit-
able since its inception. Unfortu-
nately, revenues tended to be

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Convention For Doctor Who?

by Knutson

most famous science fic-
tional character in British television.
He made Time Lord, the far
through time and space.
of justice from the planet
the scourge of monsters
ins the galaxy over. The
only, the incomparable.
sing and bewildering Dr.
From Harlan Ellison's
ion to the *Doctor Who*

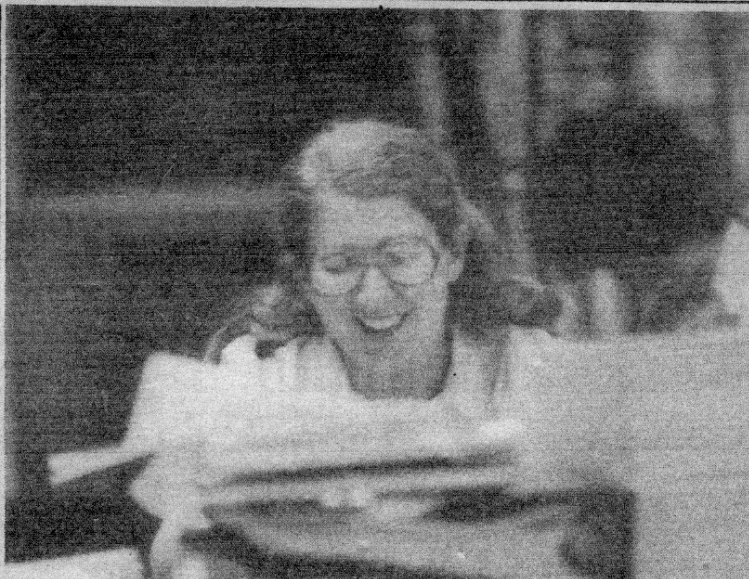
od doctor is evolving into
ure to Americans of all

vels in a time machine
EDAS (Time and Relative-
as in Space) which out-
sembles a phone booth
is roughly half the size of
minal Station. And he is



Time Machine, *Space 1999*, and
Star Trek. The Doctor is a
humanist sustained by a belief in
the dignity of mankind. He travels
at will through time and space,
righting wrongs and vanquishing
villains, both human and alien.

Terrance Dicks, one of the
show's writers, sums up the Doctor
this way, "Basically, The Doctor is
a moral hero. He thinks his way out



THE WOMAN BEHIND THE CONVENTION: Chairman Leslie Turek enjoys a moment of levity while typing correspondence.

WORLDCON DRAWS 6000

KNIGHT, WILHELM SPEAK

by N.C. Barnett and
Andrew A. Whyte

The average convention-attend-
ing science fiction fan is apt to be a
bit bemused by the "Gee, lookit-
that!" attitude of print, radio and
television coverage of events like
Noreascon II, the 38th World Sci-
ence Fiction Convention.

After all, it is well known that
science fiction conventions are qui-
eter than those of the American
Legion (less so as veterans age),
less demanding than the Shriners
(all those horses!), and certainly
less destructive than the neuro-
surgeons.

Noreascon II, held in Boston
from August 29 through September
1 at the Sheraton-Boston Hotel and
the adjoining Hynes Auditorium,
was typical of its genre. Except, of
course, that it was bigger (close to
6000 attending), better organized
(more than 300 staff members),
and more densely programmed
(four panel tracks and two virtually
continuous film programs) than any

SF convention in history.

Other than that, absolutely typi-
cal. Just a few friends getting to-
gether to talk, eat, drink, talk,
dress up, talk, buy, sell, talk,
party, talk.

While the local and national
media for the most part concentra-
ted their attention on the Saturday
night Masquerade and its nearly
200 entrants, ranging from a
Doctor Who (identifiable only by
the characteristic slouch hat and
immense scarf which comprised his
entire costume) to the splendid Az-
tec god and goddess of grand prize
winners, Kathy and Drew Saun-
ders, most Con members engaged
in a much broader span of
activities.

A report like this can only hint at
the complexity of a Worldcon. For
example, there was...

Dr. Robert Forward of Hughes
Laboratories, speaking to an over-
flow crowd on feasible methods of

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Fantastic, Amazing Merge

by William H. Desmond

Amazing Stories and *Fantastic
Science Fiction* have been com-
bined into one magazine as of its
November, 1980 issue. The new
magazine is titled *Amazing Stories
combined with Fantastic Science
Fiction*. It has commenced a bi-
monthly circulation as of this first

This new *Amazing Stories* will
also have a 'new' editor. Elinor
Mavor, formerly listed as "Edi-
torial & Art Director," is 're-
placing' Omar Gohagen as the
editor of record. Mavor has, in fact,
been editor of both of the Ultimate
Publishing Company's science fic-
tion magazines since their move to
Scottsdale, Arizona under publish-
er Arthur Bernhard. Mr. Gohagen,
it seems, was an expedient fiction
created (among other purposes) to
increase staff listings. Editor
Mavor continues as *Amazing's* Art
Director, while all other staff

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