NR_key_name: 7A980B792BCCC8FD852564C90012405F

SendTo: clakin@syspac.com;wcleere@best.com;FATBACK@aol.com;101514.116@CompuServe.COM;johnr@cyserv1.cybase.co.uk;DES3MILLSCC@ntu.ac.uk;johnc4@msn.com;kwpres@basic.net;EdwardsJ@mail.dec.com;ljg19@idt.net;cherylfl@ix.netcom.com;ACrane@NAIMA.ORG;wdevil@aa.net;robux@primenet.com;richdell@atlantic.net;SHARRECH@LANMAIL.SHU.EDU;EKasica@msn.com;trabucc@bridge.net;ColoState.EDU@foxtrot.worldcom.com;NetTom@ix.netcom.com;dekblads@overlord.edp.net;PMLAROS@VM.SC.edu;mca97isb13@mecn.mass.edu;janetjt@earthlink.net;jeff@CMG.Com;indiana@fox.nstn.ns.ca;drewisis@pond.net;rose@fredonia.edu;cindy.swearingen@Central.Sun.COM;Hunamotu@aol.com;JKelly1062@aol.com;STyler7@aol.com;rchapman@mem.net;braunte@ssd.bna.boeing.com;gus@starnet.com.au;jjcnoel@aol.com;schmidt@nevada.edu;CTA_WATSON@online.emich.edu;copa@nicom.com;driver8@scn.org;bwall@gbonline.com;RZita@aol.com;ragiolli@uci.edu;ChrisC@lr01.wpo.state.ks.us;oco112@msn.com;102707.60@CompuServe.COM;ARRB@jfk-arrb.gov;mickalops@webtv.net;pandora@enterprise.net

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From: copa@nicom.com

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DisplayDate: 07/02/1997

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Subject:

Body: Since you were on a list that was recently sent email directing you to readthe current issue of Fair Play on the web, I am sending this message to you.This is in part a reply to the recent critical review of our conference inFair Play, but also an update on our current work and plans. For yourinformation or reposting as you think appropriate. Thanks for your time.To Fair Play:In response to your coverage of the recent fourth annual COPA conference, Ihope to get back to a more serious point of view than was expressed in thereview of the conference you termed "gossipy". Obviously, we can't pleaseeveryone, though we do our best to make the conferences accessible,functional, informative and balanced. We had several purposes in holding theconference where and when we did this year, and we have an overarchingpurpose and rules of play that guide all our conferences.COPA's national conferences have been held in Washington, DC for severalyears now, where our offices are based. The primary reasons are that we haveaccess here to Congress, the Archives II collection, the AARC, and nationalmedia coverage. We have also been working closely with and monitoring theAssassination Records Review Board, also based here. Many of our conferenceshave been planned jointly to coincide with their board meetings or publichearings as well. This year, fearing that funding might end for the ARRB, wedecided to hold the conference in the spring, allowing a possible lobbyingresponse in Congress or media coverage of the issue. We didn't want to holdour meeting after the ARRB had already ended its work in September. As itturned out, the legislation that would guarantee a one-year extension forthe ARRB was already in progress in both House and Senate with littleopposition, and it now sits on President Clinton's desk awaiting signature(HR 1553, call 202-456-1111 to urge his support).We had also determined that the expense to registrants of holding theconference in the DC hotels was prohibitive for many, and we wanted toextend participation by meeting at a college campus or community centerinstead. That also required a meeting when school was out of session in latespring/early summer. Georgetown University had the most reasonable rates ofany local campus. Since the University charged for all meeting space, we hadto ask a reasonable registration rate, but participants saved money onrooming and meal tickets. We felt the academic atmosphere would lend itselfto our semi-professional conferences as well. We had made final arrangementsby the end of February, but we could not afford a mailing about theconference until April. Many people had assumed that we would be holding itin the fall as in other years, so attendance suffered somewhat. However,about 75 people attended and we videotaped presentations as usual. Thepresentations were content rich and informative as well.As long as people look at COPA from the outside, taking a critical stance as"consumers" of a product, our limited resources will probably not be able toplease them. COPA is an organization that depends on the input

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