



LEPRECON

P.O. BOX 26665

Tempe, AZ 85285

AN OPEN LETTER TO FANS OF SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY FROM THE CONVENTION CHAIRPERSONS OF LEPRECON 21:

First let us say that there will be a LepreCon 21, not a LepreCon 20 - that was cancelled. In fact, the LepreCon Inc board of directors has discussed renaming the convention since it no longer is representative of the name. There may be in the near future a contest to come up with a name representative of its artistic orientation.

LEPRECON 21 will be held at the Francisco Grande Resort in Casa Grande (same as CopperCon 14). It will be a four day convention Friday through Monday, May 26-29, 1995. We are in the process of finding guests at this time. Previously we ran LepreCon 17, and brought you Rowena, Melinda Snodgrass, and Carole Nelson Douglas. We hope to have more fine guests next year.

At any rate, we are taking this opportunity to apprise LepreCon fans of some con facts, and we will try to do so in as concise a manner as possible..

By this time you should all be aware of the fact that LepreCon 20 was cancelled. and why. The major problem that LepreCon and CopperCon are having is that there are few hotels in the valley willing to talk to us, and those that are are demanding large sums of money - more than either organization can reasonably afford. The truth is that hotels in Phoenix are no longer hurting for business and science fiction conventions don't have deep pockets.

Reactions from the board of directors to our situation are still in flux. Mandates which have come down for future LepreCons include:

1. No modern dance.
2. No large "beer bash" parties.
3. No weapons, real or unreal. Anyone carrying or wearing a weapon will be asked to remove it and put it in the car or room. Exceptions will made for masquerade contestants during the masquerade **only**.

4. A reemphasizing of the nature of the convention as an **art oriented** convention, placing a major focus of the convention on artistic activities.

It is the objective of the board of directors to set guidelines for the convention so that the attendees can have an enjoyable, and safe, convention. The convention chariperson(s) will have some latitude, but the final objective is to have a fun - and educational - gathering of like minded quasi-adults (Realizing that in some respects no SF&F fan has completely grown up, we can at least **try** to act responsibly).

We will be devoting a major portion of our programming to art discussion, art demos, and hopefully some hands-on workshops (may require pre-registration and/or additional money to cover materials). In addition we intend to have panels of a scientific nature, panels on books, films, magazines, and other subjects involving the genre. Programming suggestions are always welcome.

Now we would like to give you an idea of what our concepts are regarding science fiction conventions in general. It will hopefully give you a basis for deciding whether or not to attend. If you are looking for cheap thrills take your thirty dollars and go to a rock concert. If you are interested in science fiction and fantasy as art forms please come and share your views.

What should a science fiction convention be?

First and foremost a science fiction convention should be an opportunity for friends who have a common interest in science fiction and fantasy to get together, relax, let our hair down, forget the stresses that afflict us all in the mundane world, and catch each other up on what we have been reading, or watching, or writing, or hearing, or creating. Providing space for this should be the top priority.

Second, a science fiction convention should provide an opportunity for science fiction/fantasy phans to meet one or more of our favorite authors and/or artists, to find out what new books are coming out, and to mingle with "the guests".

Third, a science fiction convention should have a dealer's room and an artshow, with stuff to browse through and buy - stuff which isn't available on a year round basis.

Fourth, a convention should make an attempt to provide the congoers with information about the genre of science fiction and fantasy in books, film, tv, magazines, video, etc; and to provide updates of science for the layman to keep phans informed of new discoveries, theories, devices which will affect them in the future.

Memberships for LepreCon 21 are currently \$20.00. Thank you for your patience. Comments are welcome; address them to LepreCon, P.O. Box 26665, Tempe AZ 85285.

Sincerely,

David & Kim Hiatt

David and Kim Hiatt
Co-Chairs, LepreCon 21

