

MINNESOTA
SCIENCE
FICTION
SOCIETY

MINNESOTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY PRESENTS

minicon 38

\$70

18
April
2003



Writer Guests of Honor:
Robert J. Sawyer
and Carolyn Clink

Musician Guest of Honor:
Steve Macdonald

Fan Guest of Honour:
Sue Mason

April 18-20, 2003
at The Millennium
Hotel Minneapolis

www.minicon.org

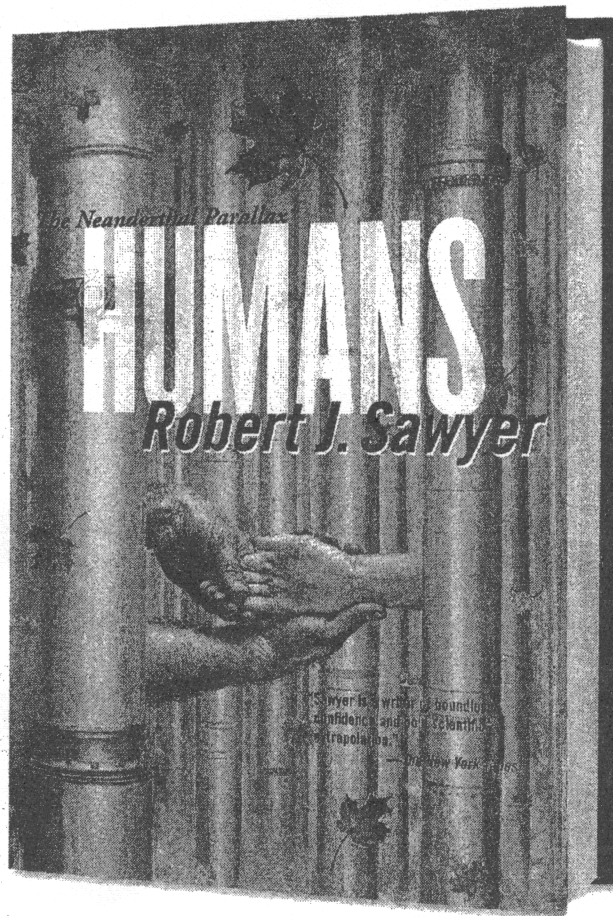
TOR CONGRATULATES MINICON 2003 GUEST OF HONOR ROBERT J. SAWYER

**"SAWYER
is a writer
of boundless
confidence
and bold
scientific
extrapolation."**

—*The New York Times*

HUMANS

0-312-87691-2



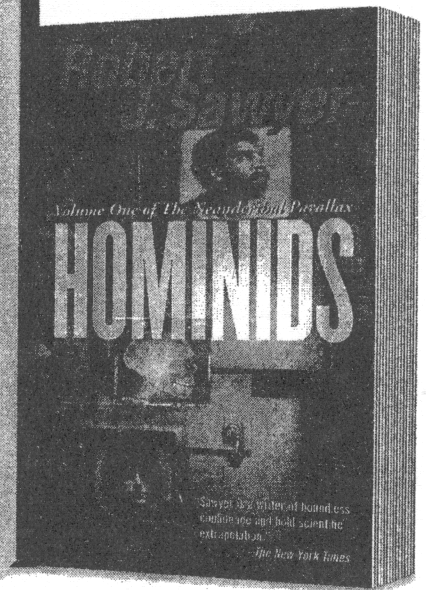
Award-winning author Robert J. Sawyer presents the second book of a major SF trilogy of parallel worlds.

"EXTREMELY WELL DONE. When complete, the Neanderthal Parallax should add significantly to Sawyer's reputation."

—*Publishers Weekly on Humans*

"It's hard to think of a modern science fiction author with dreams as vast as those of the internationally acclaimed Robert J. Sawyer."

—*The Toronto Star*



HOMINIDS

0-765-34500-5

Now in paperback,
the first book of the
Neanderthal Parallax



www.tor.com

Minicon 38

Sponsored by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society

April 18 – 20, 2003 • Millennium Hotel Minneapolis, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Guests: Robert J. Sawyer, Carolyn Clink, Steve Macdonald, Sue Mason

Artwork:

Sue Mason: Cover*, pages 6, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 19, 33

Glenn Tenhoff: pages 18, 26, 28

Ken Fletcher: pages 24, 25, 29

Alexis Gilliland: page 27

Photos:

Larry Sanderson and Laura Jean Fish provided their own baby pictures.

Robert Sawyer and Carolyn Clink on page 12, photographer: Andrew Bertke.

Steve Macdonald on page 13, photographer: Fred Levy Haskell

Minicon Ground and Flight Crew on page 35, photographer: David Dyer-Bennet

*Cover:

This book's cover features artwork by Sue Mason, our Fan Guest of Honour.

Sue shared with us this information about the artwork:

"The three witches were for the Scottish Worldcon in '95. I did all manner of illos for that con, including several t-shirts still doing the rounds. Some were very small print runs, including the gopher t-shirt of the gophers lowering Nessie from helicopter and a sassy red number of a teddy in a space suit (Major Ted, one of my recurring characters) for childcare services.

Look closely at the magical things going into the cauldron: lots of sf, fantasy, Scottish and fannish stuff including computers, dragons, books, Nessie, rockets, and beer (a very important British fannish thing, beer)."

Contents

Minicon 38	3
Welcome To Minicon 38.	
We Want You To Have An Incredible Minicon!	4
What Is MNStF?	5
Why I Go To Minicon	5
A Message From The Operations Head	6
Minicon Volunteers – Why We Need You	6
You Won't Want to Miss...	8
Minicon Policies	9
Performance Space	9
Art Show	10
Dealers' Room	10
Rob Sawyer: Ignore Him	12
Carolyn Clink — A Flintstones Bio	13
Steve Macdonald	13
Sue Mason: Her Part In My Downfall	14
Politics Makes Strange Gravefellows	18
Vegetology: Sowing the Seeds of a New Fannish Cult	24
Vegetology Forever	25
Program Descriptions	26
Minicon Crossword	30
Minicon Guest History	32
Minicon History	34
M38 Ground and Flight Crew	36

A Rune Press Publication. Copyright ©2003 by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society (MN-StF). All rights reserved. Published and distributed by the Minicon 38 Convention Staff for MN-StF — a non-profit, volunteer-run organization since 1968.

No portion of this book (except as noted below) may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording,

or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from MN-StF. Illustrations remain the property of the respective artists.

For further information about Minicon, The Minnesota Science Fiction Society (MN-StF), or any of our activities write: P.O. Box 8583, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408-8297; or visit <http://www.mnstf.org/>

You may also call the MN-StF Hotline at 612-824-5559.

Welcome To Minicon 38.

We Want You To Have An Incredible Minicon!

Minicon 38 is delighted to welcome Writer Guest of Honor Robert J. Sawyer and Poet Guest of Honor Carolyn Clink. We also welcome Musician Guest of Honor Steve Macdonald; he comes ready to play, sing, and have fun. Traveling a long, long way to grace us with her presence is Fan Guest of Honour Sue Mason. Sue is a long-time fan and member of the Plokta Cabal. Meet all of our Guests at panels and other special events throughout the weekend.

To celebrate our Guests, we've produced three chapbooks. The first chapbook features short stories and poems of Robert J. Sawyer and Carolyn Clink. Steve Macdonald's chapbook — a huge compendium of fannish songs — is being launched at a party Friday night. You're all invited. Sue Mason's chapbook features her fan art drawings. The chapbooks are available for purchase at the Bridge.

Since Minicon 37, the flight and ground crews have been working hard to bring you the best Minicon experience ever! We're bringing you quality programming, which includes some classic favorites: Ask Dr. Mike, Junkbox Wars redux. If you are already starting to mourn Buffy, you're not alone — there just might be a Buffy panel.

If our panels make you thirsty, head up to our Consuite where you can find soda followed by more soda and something to snack on. All of the Fannish Food Groups will be represented,, including milk and tea for our British Guests. You may even be able to find Peeps and Gedney pickles, if not their pickle hats.

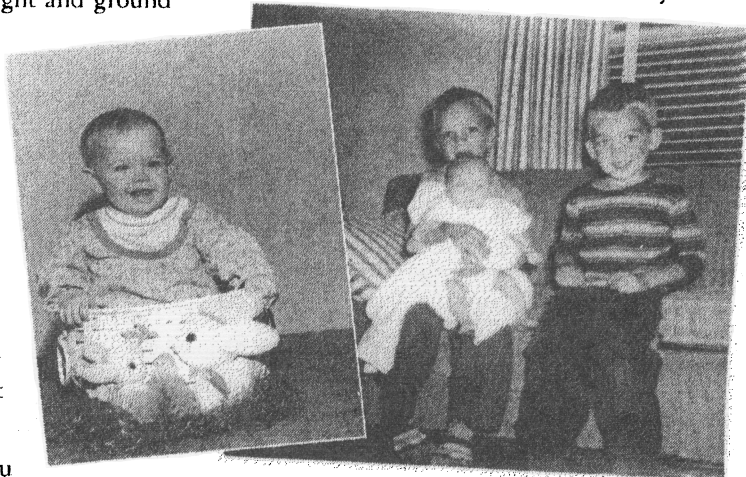
We have planned some other great special events and you're all invited! Friday, don't miss our Pool Party at Tranquility Base Splashdown. Formal beach attire requested but not required. Sit by the pool and sip blender drinks as the earth rises in the east. Beach balls and palm trees provided for your viewing pleasure. Saturday, begin the evening by joining us for dancing under the stars in the geodesic dome. No extra charge for the music and elegant ambiance.

Don't miss out! Our dealers offer a variety of books, collectables, and more jewels than our credit cards allow us to enjoy. It's a good place to purchase the works of our Writer and Poet Guests of Honor, as well as tapes and CDs from our Musician Guest of Honor. Remember to visit the Art Show, featuring the wonderful drawings and woodlore pyrography of our Fan Guest of Honour, as well as other fannish art both amateur and professional. If you see a piece that would fill in an empty wall, get your bid in early, and don't miss the art auction!

If you've ever considered life as a fruit, beware. We've heard rumors of the revival of an ancient religion — no, not Lovecraft's Cthulhu — Vegetology and the Fruitarian Heresy. We think it may be connected with peeling grapes, but we promise no small children will be sacrificed. See the bloody details in the BBT. Elf

boys who have missed the monthly training meetings should apply today!

Did we mention volunteering? This is a fan-run convention. And in order for it to be a fan-run convention we need you to volunteer to help. With your help, this can be the best Minicon ever! To volunteer, stop by the Volunteer table near the Bridge.



The Millennium may seem like a new hotel, but Minicon has been here before. Because we'd like to be back again, please do not break the hotel. The hotel is your friend.

Remember, we want you to have one hell of a good time!

Your Co-Chairs,

Larry Sanderson & Laura Jean Fish

Why I Go To Minicon

by Irene Raun

Every year, my family participates in this weekend-long party. It's a rite of spring; an event that transcends the multiple religions that permeate our family structure. I love the family reunion atmosphere: catching up with friends I don't see very often during the year and gasping at how much the children have grown.

Participating behind the scenes is lots of fun and I can do it dressed in costume. My favorite job is being a loyal minion of Minicon's Treasurer. That degree in accounting came in useful after all. But when I'm not helping the convention run smoothly, I look forward to several of Minicon's offerings.

Ask Dr. Mike.

Half the fun is audience participation. Year after year, people try to stump Dr. Mike with outlandish questions – such as “How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop™?” The immense brainpower at Dr. Mike's disposal doesn't allow the strange questions to out trump his strange answers. From “Assume you have a spherical cow of uniform density” to “Because you live in the western hemisphere,” you never know what Dr. Mike will say. You just know it will be hilarious.



Panels, panels, panels.

I'm a budding Science Fiction author and I have the aphids to prove it. I mean rejection letters. Minicon gives me an opportunity to get together with other writers and learn the craft of storytelling. I'm working on getting the final draft of my first novel, *Born Lucky* ready to share with publishers.

The assassination of the MNStF President.

Even as you read this program book, a fiendish plot grinds its way toward completion. The MNStF President is in danger. The only way for a new president to rise to the challenge of leading this diverse group is if the current president dies. Assassination could come from any quarter. You may be an unknowing pawn in this worldwide conspiracy. Only time will tell how the President will die. (See elsewhere in this book for how past presidents met their demise.)

The Consuite

There'll be lots of food, drink, Peeps, and duckies. We had a blast setting everything up. And yes, I'm the person who brought the butts.

Hope to see you around the con. Have fun!

What Is MNStF?

Put simply, the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, Inc. (MNStF with many different spellings) is the non-profit corporation that brings you Minicon.

Each year, the MNStF Board of Directors approves the chair(s) for the upcoming convention, looks after the continuing needs of the convention, and looks for new ways to enhance SF in the community.

MNStF consists of the following parts:

The Board of Directors, who are responsible for guiding the organization.

The officers, who do much of the work: plan meetings, pool parties, and picnics, and file taxes.

The Minicon Committee, chosen by the chair(s), who do all the hard and thankless work it takes to operate the convention each year.

The Membership, which includes anyone who has signed the Membership Book at a MNStF meeting.

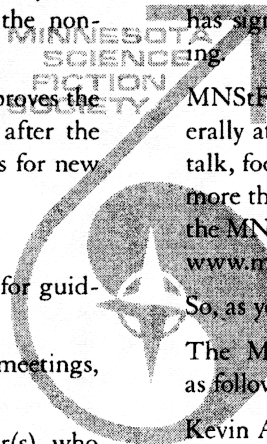
MNStF usually holds two social meetings a month, generally at members' homes. These meetings may involve talk, food, dinner expeditions, games, and music (some more than others). Meeting locations are announced on the MNStF Hotline (612-824-5559), in Einblatt!, and at www.mnstf.org.

So, as you can see, there you are!

The MNStF Board of Directors for 2003/2004 is as follows:

Kevin Austin
Dean Gahlon
Laura Jean Fish

Scott Raun
Larry Sanderson



A Message From The Operations Head

by Charmaine M. Burgess

Welcome to Minicon!

This year, the Bridge is located in the Horizons room on the top floor of the hotel. You can find us in the southern end of the main consuite. You can't miss us. Just look for the big sign with the big friendly letters that say BRIDGE.

We of the operations staff hope you enjoy your convention to the fullest. We exist to help you with the following (and so much more):

- Do you need a Band-Aid™?
- Do you need a sticky-note to write down the contact information of a long-lost or new friend?
- Do you have a sunburn? (For some reason the Bridge has a lot of sunburn ointment; don't ask.)
- Have you lost someone or something?

- Are you lost?
- Did you find a chair in the elevator that doesn't seem to belong there?
- Do you need to ask one of us crazy people working on this fabulous convention a question, but don't know who or where that person may be?
- Do you want to purchase one of the super cool Minicon 38 commemorative T-shirts?
- How about one of the chapbooks our wonderful guests of honor have created just for Minicon?

If anything even remotely like that mentioned above fits your needs, please stop by. We will do our best to make sure that you get the resolution you need.



Minicon Volunteers – Why We Need You

by Bill Christ

If you've been to a convention before, you've already heard the pitch — this is a fan-run convention; we need you; do your part; get involved; meet new people. These are catchy phrases, but don't quite capture the spirit of what makes volunteers so essential to a convention. A couple of months ago, Lydia Nickerson wrote something that beautifully summarized the role volunteers play in a fan-run convention. Lydia was kind enough to allow me to reprint her comments here.

"Conventions run because of a sense of community. Actually, almost all organizations run because of a sense of civic responsibility, but conventions are a particularly striking example because we don't use much else except individual willingness to act as part of the whole. Our volunteers are unpaid, and not infrequently entirely ad hoc. The reason conventions don't go down in screaming flames is not because of the brilliant organization or the fantastic management skills of the concom. We get by every year because random people keep on throwing themselves into the breach."

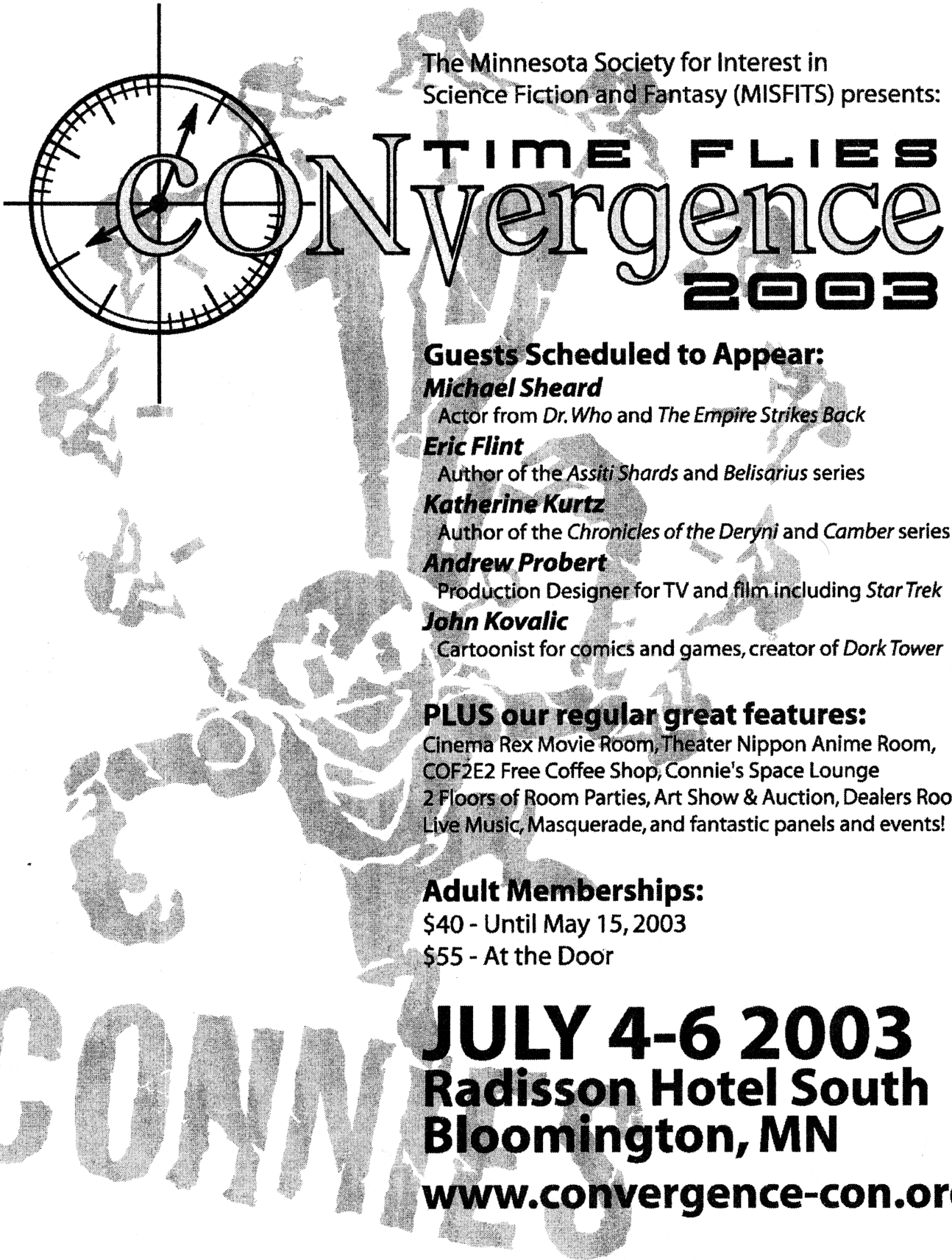


So that's the secret of a convention: we're a community and you are part of that community. Every position you see, from registration to the art show to the programming panels to the consuite, is staffed by volunteers who make it their responsibility to see that things get done and run smoothly. Without volunteers this convention would cease to exist. Now while it's true that you won't get paid to volunteer, we do have some gifts to say thank you. This year there are volunteer ribbons and alien stickers to affix to your badge, as well as stuffed fruits and vegetables to celebrate Vegetology (or, for the heretics among us, the Fruitarian Heresy). And for those of you who volunteer at least eight hours, we have some classic Minicon

T-shirts from previous conventions. There are a wide variety of positions and hours for you to choose from. Stop by the Volunteers table and see what's available.

CELEBRATING OUR FIFTH YEAR!

The Minnesota Society for Interest in
Science Fiction and Fantasy (MISFITS) presents:



CONvergence 2003

Guests Scheduled to Appear:

Michael Sheard

Actor from *Dr. Who* and *The Empire Strikes Back*

Eric Flint

Author of the *Assiti Shards* and *Belisarius* series

Katherine Kurtz

Author of the *Chronicles of the Deryni* and *Camber* series

Andrew Probert

Production Designer for TV and film including *Star Trek*

John Kovalic

Cartoonist for comics and games, creator of *Dork Tower*

PLUS our regular great features:

Cinema Rex Movie Room, Theater Nippon Anime Room,
COF2E2 Free Coffee Shop, Connie's Space Lounge
2 Floors of Room Parties, Art Show & Auction, Dealers Room,
Live Music, Masquerade, and fantastic panels and events!

Adult Memberships:

\$40 - Until May 15, 2003

\$55 - At the Door

JULY 4-6 2003
Radisson Hotel South
Bloomington, MN

www.convergence-con.org

You Won't Want to Miss...

...the following "Special Events" at Minicon 38:

Tranquility Base Pool Party

Minicon 38 starts with a splash on Friday afternoon. The Minicon 37 aliens brought some Hawaiian palm trees and other inflatable friends with them when they returned from ConJosé, the 2002 Worldcon. They invite all Minicon members to a pool party at Tranquility Base, Minicon's new swimming area in the basement of the Millennium Hotel. Come help build a beach ball tower *from* the moon...slurp non-alcoholic, tropical, grenadine-enhanced blender creations mixed by Ms. Sandra Childress, Ms. Laura Jean Fish, and friends...and frolic in the buoyant waters at Tranquility Base. 3-5:30pm.

Opening Ceremonies

Promptly at 7:00pm on Friday, don't miss Master of Ceremonies, David Levine, fresh from Portland, freshly published, and fresh from the properly fannish versions of "Whose Line Is It?" and "Iron Faned" officially start Minicon. Meet Minicon's Guests of Hono(u)r, Robert J. Sawyer, Carolyn Clink, Steve Macdonald, and Sue Mason. Expect a bloody good time! Also expect Dr. Whoopie to help start your weekend properly with pointers, flip charts, and even more. Yes folks, put your trust in vegetables.

Ask Dr. Mike

Immediately following Opening Ceremonies, Mike Ford has agreed to answer all the difficult problems that you can manage to invent during the latest installment of Ask Dr. Mike.

Steve Macdonald concert

Hear our Musician Guest of Honor Friday night, starting at 10:00pm. Steve has been to cons all around the world as a musician and is here to sing with us about it! Don't miss what promises to be a fascinating event!]

Junk Box Wars

Saturday, at 3:00pm, teams of fans will be faced with a small mound of junk and told to create some random object in 90 minutes. The efficacy of the object so created will be judged by an expert, and the object most like what it's supposed to be like will be the winner. Winners may have any of the items in the junk heap they covet as their prize.

Time Travelers Ball Under the Stars

Good evening, Mr. and Mrs. Fan, from border to border and coast to coast and all the ships at sea. Let's go to press.

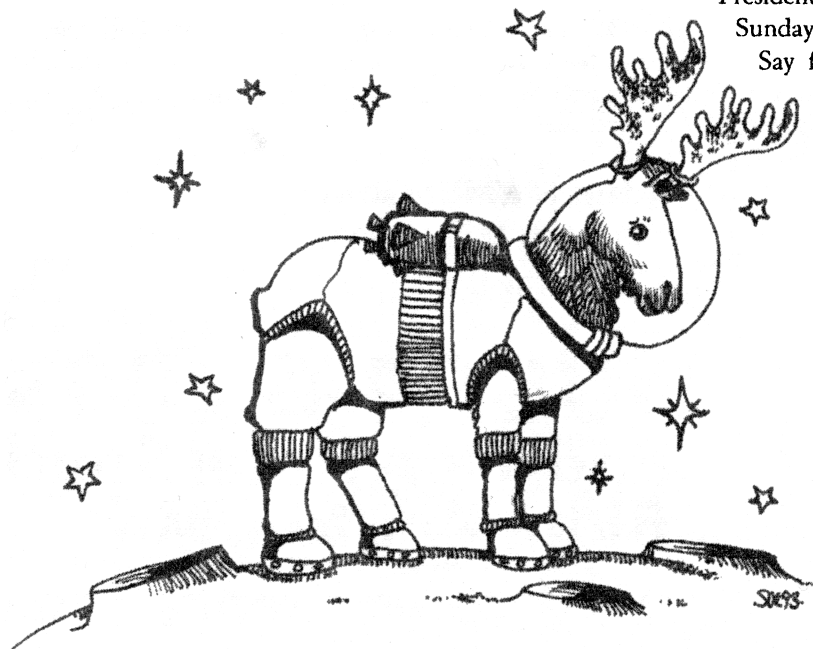
Saturday night, DJs Bob & Andy Berlien will take all interested time travelers to the 1940s to dance the night away under the stars in the

Minicon dome. You're welcome to wear party attire from your own timestream, or from the era we'll be visiting. Bartender Jack Targonski will begin serving Pink Ladies and Gin Bucks at sunset (8:03 pm), and the dancing begins as the stars rise an hour later.

Closing ceremonies

All weekend you've read how we "retire" MnStf Presidents, come to closing ceremonies at 4:00pm on Sunday and see how we retire our President this year.

Say farewell to Minicon's Guests of Hono(u)r, Robert J. Sawyer, Carolyn Clink, Steve Macdonald, and Sue Mason. Hear teasers about and register for Minicon 39.



Minicon Policies

The basics of Minicon's convention policies. Please take a moment to read them.

Reality Policy

Minicon complies with all federal, state, and local laws. Minicon encourages our members to do the same.

Badge Policy

Minicon uses badges to identify our members. Without your badge, you may be denied the benefits of membership; please keep it with you at all times while at Minicon.

If you find a lost badge, please bring it to the Bridge (in the Horizons room, southern end).

If you lose your badge, please come to the Bridge. If we have your badge, we'll return it to you once we've verified that it's yours. If we don't have it, we'll send you to Registration (outside of the Forum Ballroom on the first floor) to get a replacement badge.

Weapons Policy

Use common sense.

Actual firearms, class 3 or 4 lasers, and projectile throwing toys are not permitted at Minicon.

For everything else, have a sheath, sling, or other container for it, and keep it secured when you're in a public place.

The above notwithstanding, Minicon reserves the right to prohibit any prop or weapon at the sole discretion of Minicon.

You kill it, you eat it.

Signage Policy

Signs may be posted on the signboards and inside the meeting rooms. Please do not attach any signs to hotel walls, doors, windows, elevators, etc.

Please post only one sign per board per event.

Signboards will be strategically placed throughout the convention spaces. We don't know where at the time of printing, but they will be conspicuous.

Smoking Policy

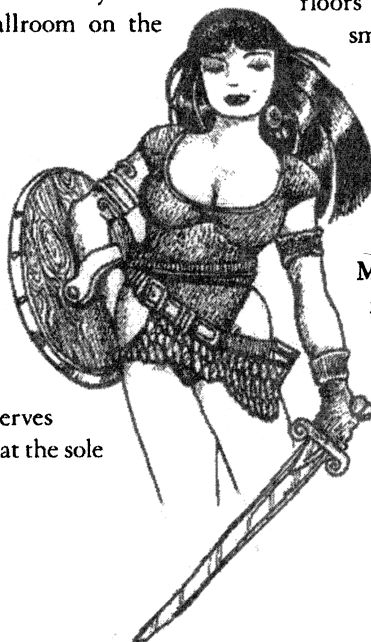
In accordance with the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act, smoking is permitted only in designated smoking areas.

Elevators, stairwells, and hallways, including those on floors with smoking sleeping rooms, are non-smoking.

The Minicon smoking consuite is on the top floor in Satellite 6. You can also smoke in the hotel bar and in your room if it is a smoking room.

Big Stick Policy

Minicon reserves the right to revoke any membership as we deem necessary, most likely in cases of extreme misbehavior.



Music has always been a big part of Minicon. Over the years the level of sophistication and quality of the musicians has grown to the point that Minicon began to offer a structured, scheduled performance space. This year we're just going to have music. Refreshments will be available right next door in the con suite.

Performance Space

Jeff Schalles & Glenn Tenhoff

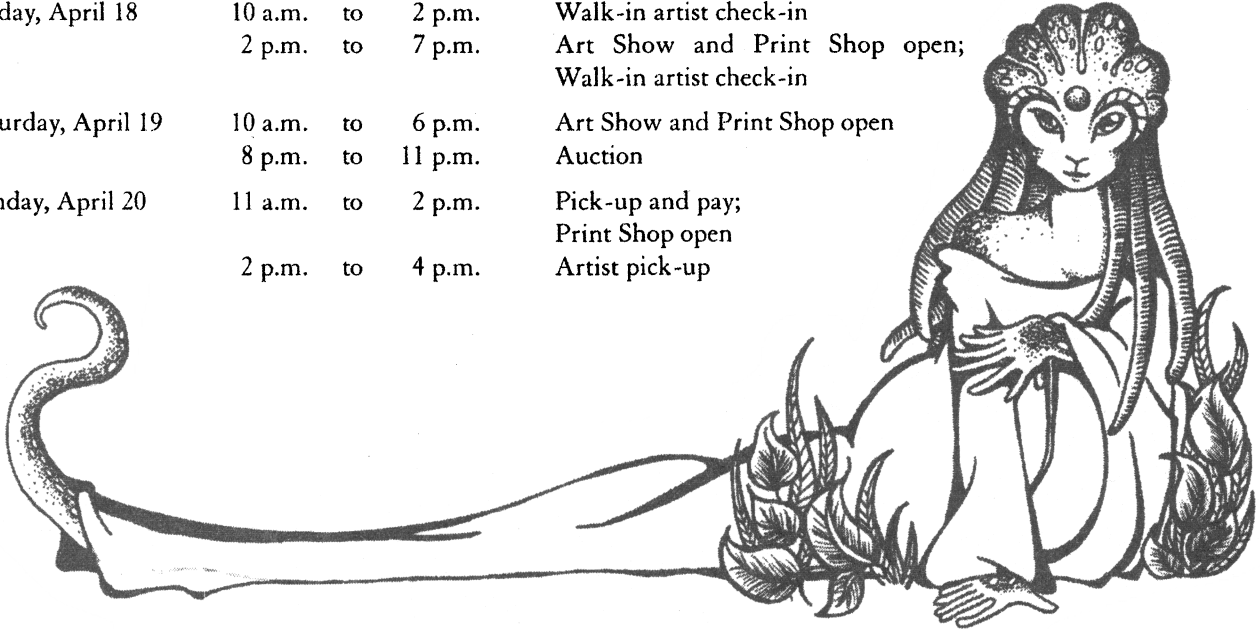
There will be shows on Friday night, Saturday afternoon, and Saturday evening. The performers are: Bob Berlien & Kathy Routliffe, Tramps & Hawkers, Musician GoH Steve Macdonald, Krissy & Lady Bear, Dandelion Wine, Sandy Andina, Riverfolk, Fred A Levy Haskell, and Blue Dylan. Please check the pocket program and Bozo Bus Tribune for the final schedule.

Art Show

If you're looking for the Art Show, it's in the first-floor ballroom next to the Dealers Room. Artists may check in on Friday from 10am to 7pm. Artist pick-up is from 2pm to 4pm on Sunday. Art on display is sold by bid, with three or more bids required to go to auction. Works sold in the print shop are at a fixed price. The Art Auction is on Saturday night from 9pm to 11pm.

Come and enjoy the talents of your fellow fen!

Friday, April 18	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Walk-in artist check-in
	2 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Art Show and Print Shop open; Walk-in artist check-in
Saturday, April 19	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Art Show and Print Shop open
	8 p.m. to 11 p.m.	Auction
Sunday, April 20	11 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Pick-up and pay; Print Shop open
	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Artist pick-up



Dealers' Room

By Lisa Freitag

If you're looking for the Dealers' Room, it's in the first-floor ballroom next to the Art Show.

Dealers List:

Dave Christianson:
books

Glen Cook Bookseller:
books (he signs books too)

Dodeka Records
(Bill Roper): *folk albums
and songbooks*

DreamHaven Books
(Greg Ketter): *books*

Rick Gellman:
used and new books

Eye of Horus
(Thraicie Hawkner): *magickal
supplies, books and art*

HedgeHog and Otter
(Phil Kaveny): *books*

Kyрил's Cavern
(Carol Stenstrom)

Lioness (Elise Matthesen):
jewelry

M'or Designs (Mark Abbott):
jewelry, crystals & antiques

Felix Needleworthy:
Renaissance costume

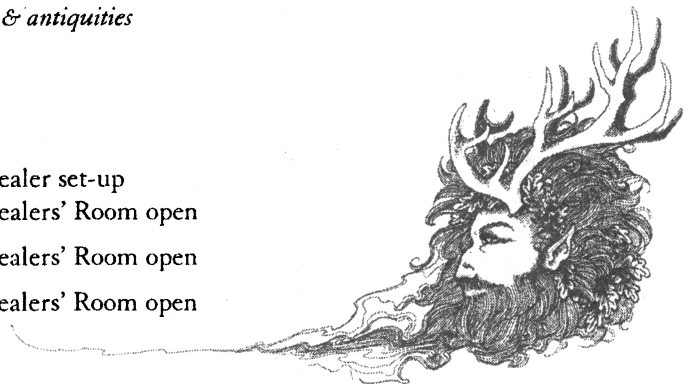
The Stars Our Destination (Alice
Bentley): *books*

Leo Watrin:
books, comics and stuff

Zare Baubles (Bettie Evanson):
jewelry and wine charms

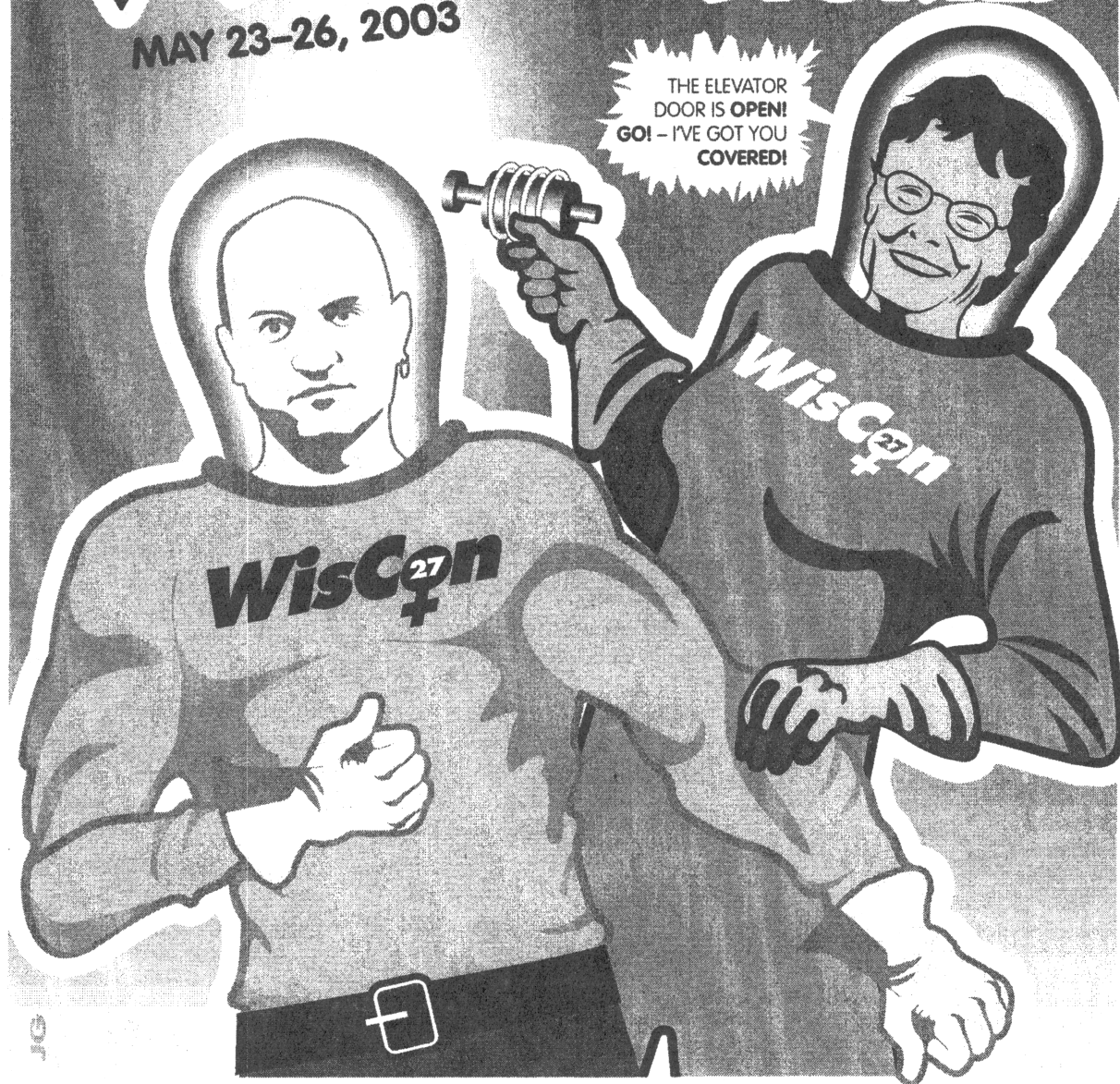
Set up begins at 10:00am on Friday. Hours are:

Friday, April 18	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Dealer set-up
	2 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Dealers' Room open
Saturday, April 19	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Dealers' Room open
Sunday, April 20	11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Dealers' Room open



THRILLING WISCON STORIES

MAY 23-26, 2003



Also attending:
 Brian Atteberry
 Elizabeth Barrett
 Suzanne Blom
 Lois McMaster Bujold
 Suzy McKee Charnas
 Ted Chiang
 Richard J. Chwedyk
 Bill Clemente
 Leah Cutter
 Beverly DeWeese
 L. Timmel Duchamp
 Carolyn Dunn
 Suzette Haden Elgin
 Karen Joy Fowler
 Jim Frenkel
 Gregory Frost
 Sally Gearhart
 Molly Glass
 Joan Gordon
 Angelica Gorodischer
 Hiromi Goto
 Gavin Grant
 MJ Hardman
 Jorjet Harper
 Anne Harris
 P.C. Hodgell
 Kij Johnson
 Pam Keesey
 Sylvia Kelso
 John Kessel
 Greg Ketter
 Paul Kincaid
 Ellen Klages
 Naomi Kritzer
 Ellen Kushner
 Justine Larbalestier
 Ursula K. Le Guin
 David Levine
 Kelly Link
 Laurie Marks
 Louise Marley
 Nick Mamatas
 Susan R. Matthews
 Elizabeth Matson
 Farah Mendlesohn
 Syne Mitchell
 Mary Anne
 Mohanraj
 Nancy Jane Moore
 Pat Murphy
 Debbie Notkin
 Susan Palwick
 Katya Reimann
 Carrie Richerson
 Kate Schaefer
 Lori Selke
 Delia Sherman
 Diane Silver
 Kristine Smith
 Midori Snyder
 Maureen Kincaid
 Speller
 Caroline Stevermer
 Amy Thomason
 Elisabeth Vonarburg
 Terri Windling
 Marsha Valance
 Joan Vinge
 Elizabeth Vonarburg
 Scott Westerfeld
 Laurel Winter
 Patricia Wrede

Register Now at www.sf3.org

Adult (age 13 & up): \$40 through 04/30/03; \$50 at-the-door

Youth (age 7-12): \$20 through 04/30/03; \$25 at-the-door

Childcare (age 0-6): Free if signed up through 04/30/03;
not available at-the-door.

Supporting (non-attending, receive publications only): \$15

Madison Concourse Hotel

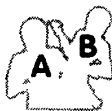
\$89/night for up to 4 persons;

Governor's Club \$114/night

1 West Dayton St. Madison, WI 53703;

1-800-356-8293 (Mention WisCon 27!)

www.concoursehotel.com



Guests of Honor
(A) China Miéville &
(B) Carol Emshwiller

WORLD'S ONLY FEMINIST SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION @ MAY 23-26, 2003

Rob Sawyer: Ignore Him

by Robert Charles Wilson

Let me explain.

I was asked to write a biographical piece about Rob. But information about Rob is easy to come by. See, for instance, the autobiographical addendum to his novel *Humans* (and read the book while you're at it: you won't be disappointed). Or check out his website, sfwriter.com. Rob has even been the subject of a Canadian TV profile, "Inside the Mind of Robert J. Sawyer." You can fairly readily discover that he's won any number of awards — the Nebula, the Aurora, the Seiun, *Le Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire* and the *Premio UPC de Ciencia Ficción*, some of these more than once. He's a serial Hugo finalist. All this is well-known.

And his literary career is easy enough to chart, from his first published novel, *Golden Fleece*, to the Neanderthal Parallax trilogy (*Hominids*, *Humans*, and the forthcoming *Hybrids*, all from Tor), with stops for short fiction and nonfiction along the way.

But I want you to ignore all that.

Ignore it, because the avalanche of honors and achievements can begin to seem intimidating. And that is precisely what Rob is not: intimidating. In fact he's one of the most approachable sf writers around.

Like many readers who came to sf at an impressionable age, I once believed that a published author must be an Olympian being — a wise (or at least worldly) philosopher-god who rises at noon, feeds his muse a diet of scotch/rocks, and debauches his soul into the keys of a rusty Underwood Noiseless while the rest of the world sleeps. Great, but how would you actually *talk* to such a creature?

Rob exists to defy these misconceptions. Wise he may be; but he's more earthy than Olympian, prefers chocolate milk to scotch, and writes from the comfort of a La-Z-Boy recliner. (I don't know what time he gets out of bed.) He'll talk to you about paleoanthropology, if you like, but he's equally at home reminiscing about *Thunderbirds* or *Josie and the Pussycats*. (He probably has a favorite Pussycat.) He possesses a well-developed sense of humor, but it's more generous than cutting. He enjoys meeting people and will usually give you the benefit of the doubt in a conflict; you can get on the wrong side of Robert J. Sawyer, but it takes work.



Robert and Carolyn at Con Jose 2003

He's also conspicuously Canadian, in a way those of us who wander the tenebrous nightland between nationalities (I'm an expat American, myself) can never be. I think this makes some Americans uneasy — the unspoken belief that Canada really is, as the beer ads say, "the best part of North America." It's hard to miss in his work. But Rob also practises that most Canadian of virtues, Looking at Both Sides of the Question, which means that his love for his native country never comes off as jingoistic or anti-American. And for those of us who *do* know Canada there's a pleasing resonance in Rob's writing — he's privy to the secret handshakes; he can tell the difference between Wendy Mesley and Peter Mansbridge, Uncle Bobby and Jerome the Giraffe, Jean Chretien and the Honourable Member from Kicking Horse Pass.

But again I have to emphasize, don't let any of this intimidate you. Rob grew up in suburban Toronto, went to school there, picked up some public-appearance skills at Ryerson College (which is why he's more at home at a podium than some of us reclusive schlubs and stammering poets), dabbled in journalism before turning to fiction full-time, married a wonderful woman named Carolyn Clink, and currently lives with her, his books, and a collection of hominid skulls in a penthouse condo in Mississauga. Want to know more? Ask Rob. As I said, he's approachable.

So ignore his laurels and plaudits, which is what I meant by the smartass title of this piece. But, please, don't ignore Rob himself — if you do, you'll miss an opportunity to meet one of the most interesting, outgoing, and thoughtful sf writers walking the earth today.

Carolyn Clink — A Flintstones Bio

by David “he’s her brother” Clink

Carolyn Jurassic Clink was born on a tar sand approximately 65 million years ago. People keep saying she looks young for her age. She does claim to be only 39 million years old, though. She moved around a lot when she was young, being a member of a nomadic tribe — this was what was done in those days, before a few started to plant crops and everyone else had to jump on the bandwagon.

Carolyn is an accomplished poet who now lives off berries and nuts, and cereals that come in bright boxes, just west of Toronto with her husband, science-fiction writer Rockbert J. Sawyer. They met October 17, 64 million BC (approx) in their high-school cave painting class, NASFA (of which Roc was cofounder), and were married on December 22, 60 million BC (approx) in a small ceremony at Carolyn’s parents’ mud hut. Carolyn is the oldest of twenty-five children; her brother David Living Stone Clink is also a widely published poet.

Carolyn has had two poems published in *An A Log*, the world’s number-one best-selling fire-making magazine. She has also had poetry in all five volumes of Canada’s acclaimed horror anthology series *Northern Frescoes*, in the science-fiction anthologies *Tesseract* &



Steve’s musical career, to the best of my recollection, began in the bathtub. He had one of those puppet wash cloths; it was an orange sea monster. He would have major conversations with it; and of course, sing to it.

As a matter of fact, around the 4th grade he took this stupid monster puppet to school and sang “Ben” (you know, before Michael Jackson hit puberty) to his music teacher. I was sooooo embarrassed!

Steve was a hit. Unbelievable. Steve continued to totally embarrass me throughout school with his ability to actually stand on a stage and sing.

How could he do that to me? And then people (usually adults) would say really cool things about him to me. (Bang head against wall.) Yuck! What did they see that was so great? I was the cool one here. He was always wandering. He was so gross and so annoying — he couldn’t find something even if it was staring him in

and 7, and in *Tales of the Antediluvian*, *Dinosaur Review*, *Poetry Pterodactyl*, *White Cave Wall Review*, and *Deer House Review*.

Her poems have also appeared in “main stream” publications, but then they were washed away. A few stayed longer, made it onto ground, and began to walk upright, but these were later subsumed by continental drift.

She was the \$500 prize winner in Rocklelland & Stone’s “Celebrate Our Pictograph” contest, honoring Toronto’s 150 millionth birthday, and the First Prize winner in Poetry Pterodactyls “Alpha Male’s Day” contest. Her poems are collected in two chapbooks: **Much Slower Than Neanderthals**, published by Who’s That Gargoyle? Press, and *Changing Brains*, published by Junction Slate Tablets in Toronto.

A few eons will pass before you can learn more about Carolyn at her website: <<http://www.sfwriter.com/carolyn.htm>>.

Steve Macdonald

by Nancy “she’s his sister” Mabile

the face. He was clumsy, and had absolutely no common sense. He wouldn’t talk for hours; but when he did open his mouth he wouldn’t *shut up*. The constant chattering nonsense was enough to drive anyone nuts. (Bang head against wall again.) Hello? He had a shirt pocket protector. He shoved so much crap into his double-knit polyester pants pockets that they all bulged. Ouch — my brother was a geek! And to top it off, when we were in college someone asked if he was my boyfriend!

I literally thought I was going to vomit and die.

(Cut forward about 20 years...)

We still don’t look alike. He’s still clumsy and runs at the mouth. And he still doesn’t go anywhere without a guitar or two and a song in his head. He even tolerates the fact that mom insists on calling him “Steven.”

But — Steven Macdonald is cool! His love for science fiction and fantasy will thrill you; his creativity will entice you; and the astounding talent and energy he projects will electrify you. And as you oooh and ahhh over his musical ability this weekend, just remember one thing:

He’s *my* brother!

Sue Mason: Her Part In My Downfall

by Alison Scott

I met Sue at my very first convention. Although I did a number of extraordinary and interesting things at Seacon '84, for some reason my conversations with Sue are amongst the most vivid. Not that very much is vivid through years of ongoing fannish abuse, but there you go. Gytha North, doyenne of the dealer's room, introduced us.

I was 18 and Sue was clearly rather older. More worldly, wiser in the ways of fandom. We started to chat and discovered that we both liked the X-Men, and in particular Nightcrawler. "He has a prehensile tail, you know," said Sue. "So?" I replied. In answer, somebody passed me a copy of a fanzine Sue had illustrated, entitled "All This and Blue Fur Too!" I skimmed through it. "Gosh. These are um, interesting... Um. I'm not sure that's... um. Yes, I suppose it does have possibilities."

If you're good boys and girls at Minicon, she might draw naughty pictures for you too. And she's *much* better at it now.

After that, we'd meet a few times a year, be vaguely friendly; Sue was already becoming one of those fans who everyone knows and likes. She did much of the artwork for Follycon, the first Eastercon I worked on. She sold beautiful boxes and plaques in con dealers' rooms. We'd find ourselves in late-night conversations on the stairwells of grand Victorian hotels. And then, at Novacon in 1989, everything changed.

"We need a bid for the fourth filk convention," said Gytha sternly. "Alison, you can run it. And you'll want Steve and Sue on the committee." We all looked at each other and shrugged. None of us were predominantly filkers, but we all quite enjoyed it. How much trouble could it be compared to disagreeing with Gytha? We roped in not-a-filker-at-all Mike Scott and world traveller Giulia de Cesare. And proceeded to have so much fun running Fourplay that we continued to hold committee meetings after the convention was over. This fannish collective has carried on working together ever since. Conventions, holidays, and 29 issues of *Plokta*. Not to mention almost limitless pictures of moose, drawn for the 1995 Eastercon. The first few looked a bit like unicorns with antlers where the horn ought to be. But she quickly got the hang of it.

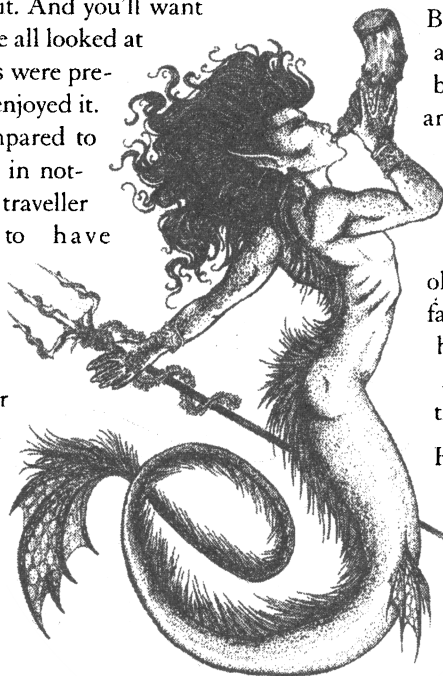
And over the years, I've learnt a few things about Sue.

First of all, she is the most reliable fan artist in creation. When I assembled a collection of art to support her TAFF bid, I rang her and explained that I needed a cover picture that typified her various artistic themes; so could she draw me a pregnant pagan mermoose with big wings and roses in her hair? It arrived in the post the following day.

Convention committees have a special reason to be grateful for that dependability; over the years, dozens of conventions have remembered at the eleventh hour that they've forgotten to buy their guest a present, and rung Sue up for realtime, live-action personalised pyrography. And she always comes through.

Fan editors adore Sue's work, because as well as being reliable and quick, she makes everyone look taller and slimmer than they really are. Claire Brialey described this process as "knowing what I look like *inside*." Even better, she invariably produces an illustration that's more elaborate and cleverer than the brief, with little extra jokes tucked away into the corners. This talent has put her art into convention publications and fanzines produced all over the world, and has garnered her several Novas and a batch of Hugo nominations.

And for several years, her Christmas cards have stood out on my mantelpiece as the ones most likely to distress my parents.



But Sue is so much more than just an artist. She's one of those people who brightens up a room with her presence, and spreads joy wherever she goes. Few of us travel through life without winding a few people up, but as far as I can tell, everyone adores Sue. (And if I'm wrong, you don't need to tell me, ok?) Vast numbers of sweet young male fans know her as "auntie Sue", and follow her around with puppy-dog adoration. Doesn't, as far as I can tell, do any of them any good at all.

Her interests in fandom are broad, too. In the warmer parts of the year, she hangs around Civil War re-enactment groups, acting like a trollop.

This has encouraged her already healthy interest in corsetry, certain to be in evidence at Minicon.

I wouldn't want to give the impression Sue is perfect. Due to long exposure to Spooky, the world's saggiest feline, she sheds cat hairs wherever she goes. And she does have the odd personality quirk. For example, she's petrified of buttons. It's those little holes, you know.

Such a large personality was unlikely to survive in fandom long without Tuckerisation, the system whereby science fiction authors immortalise fans and others in their work. Terry Pratchett only borrowed Sue's jewellery, colloquially known as the Full Amber Jacket, for Magrat Garlick. But Sue herself appears more-or-less completely unchanged as Zinka Fearon, a guardian of the universe who also draws dirty pictures, in Diana Wynne Jones' *Deep Secret*.

Over the years she's taken up writing, a skill that doesn't come to her quite so easily as drawing. Despite a life-long inability to distinguish left from right, and school reports that said "Sue has the largest vocabulary of any girl in the school, and cannot spell any of it," nobody had ever suggested she might be dyslexic until she discovered *Plokta*. Nevertheless, once we'd run her stuff through high-tension Englishing engines, we discovered that she had an interesting and distinctive writing style, and she's been amusing people in fanzines ever since with tales of her hobbies and her cats.

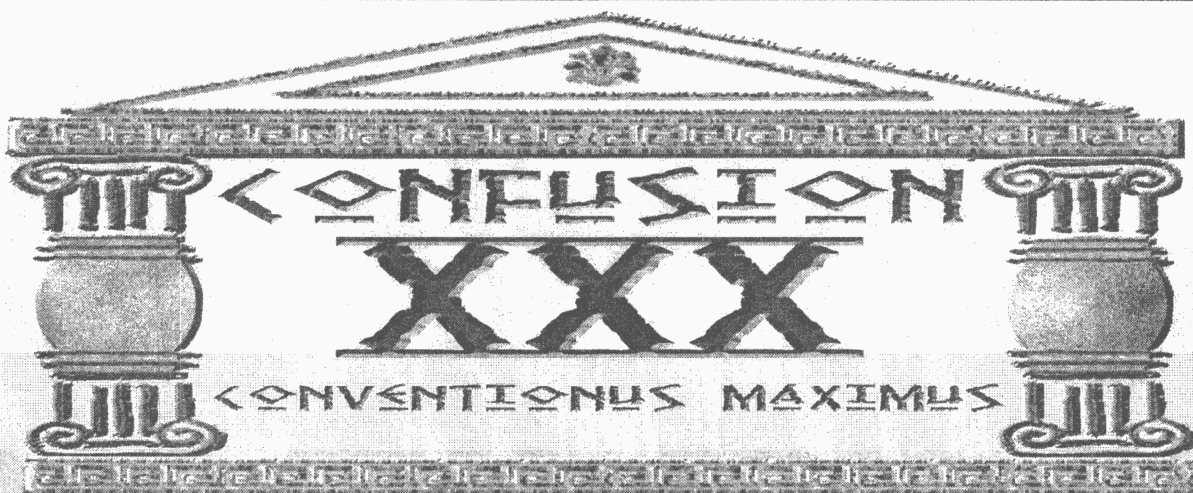
Back when we first started working with her, she knew exactly nothing about computers, but played an elven hacker in a *Shadowrun* game. A person less like an elven hacker it would be difficult to imagine, but there you go. Over the years, the malign influence of other *Plokta* cabal members has been so great that she now rarely goes anywhere without her laptop. Which is, of course, completely stuffed full of cat hair. Other people ask her for computing advice, which fills us with dread but seems to work out ok.

She represented Europe as the TAFF delegate in 2000, and made her first trip to the Midwest, attending the Minnesota State Fair. We kept getting e-mails from her, astonished at the interesting things it was possible

to do with butter. I'm not remotely surprised that the local fandom decided she was worth bringing back as a Minicon guest. I recommend you all take the opportunity to get to know Sue over the weekend; or perhaps purchase one of her wooden craft objects. To prove she's not perfect, each one comes with a unique cat hair embedded somewhere in the varnish.

And remember that she never quite lost that Nightcrawler fetish. When one sweet young fan made the mistake of turning up to Eastercon in 1991 in a skin-tight Nightcrawler costume, Sue, who had begun to make a habit of MCing masquerades, abandoned her post to chase the poor boy all over the hotel. Eventually she skinned him and returned with the costume over her shoulder. Anyone turning up to Minicon in blue fur should watch their back.





CONFUSION
XXX
CONVENTIONUS MAXIMUS

JOIN US AT CONFUSION
JANUARY 23-25, 2004
TROY, MICHIGAN

PRO GOH: BRUCE STERLING
ARTIST GOH: JULIE BELL
FAN GOH: GERI SULLIVAN
SCIENCE GOH: TO BE ANNOUNCED
TOASTMASTER: ROBERT J. SAWYER

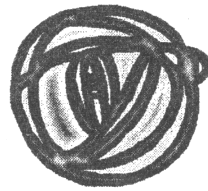
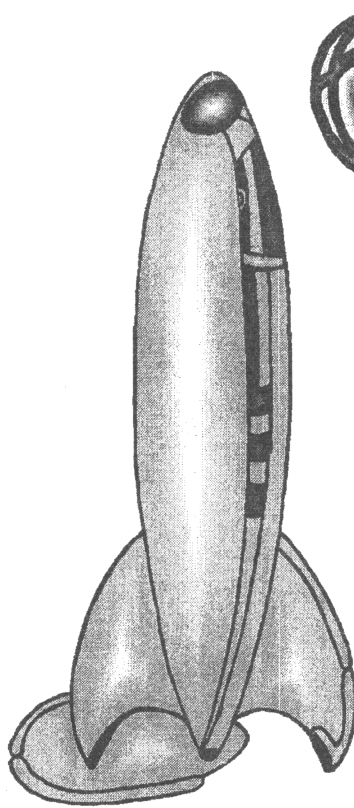
Science Fiction Literature - Media - Filk and Art Programming
A Writers Workshop on Saturday and Sunday
KidFusion: daytime programming for kids 4 to 12
Saturday Night Dance - Formal Masquerade - A diverse Dealer's Room
and Art Show

For more information visit <http://www.stilyagi.org/cons/2004> or email confusion@stilyagi.org

Hotel:
Troy Marriot
1 (800) 777-4096
\$79 Standard
Room

Membership:
Adults: \$25 till Sept 1st
KidFusion: \$15 pre-reg





i N T E R

A C T I O N

**The 63rd World Science Fiction Convention
4-8 August 2005
Glasgow, United Kingdom**

Guests

**Greg Pickersgill Christopher Priest Robert Sheckley
Lars-Olov Strandberg Jane Yolen**

**The Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC)
Moat House Hotel City Inn**

**Hundreds of Authors, Artists, Editors
Thousands of Fans**

**Art Show, Dealer Room, Exhibits
All in Scotland's Biggest City**

Membership Type:	Supporting	Attending	Child <small>(7-15 in August 2005)</small>	Infant <small>(0-6 in August 2005)</small>
Membership Rate:	\$45	\$115	\$50	Free

(Rates valid until 21st April 2003.)

For further information contact: Interaction, PO Box 58009, Louisville KY 40268-0009
General Enquiries info@interaction.worldcon.org.uk
Membership Enquiries memberships@interaction.worldcon.org.uk
Other Contact Details and Information <http://www.interaction.worldcon.org.uk>

“World Science Fiction Convention” and “Worldcon” are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.

Politics Makes Strange Gravefellows

A History of the Quaint Custom of the MINN-STF Presidency Passing by Assassination

By Denny Lien

If it's true that history is written by the survivors, it's fairly obvious why I've had so much difficulty compiling a history of the quarter-century-old tradition of Minn-STF assassinating its presidents: all of us concerned are dead. (Or at least not at all well.)

Ordinarily, talking to the dead should be a task of only medium difficulty, at least for us intrepid seance fiction fans. However, several of our formerly fearless former leaders have gone one step beyond death into the ultimate pit of gafiation and all my attempts at contacting them, via either the US mails (and its dead letter offices) or E-mail ("E" for ectoplasm, of course) came to Naught (a small town in North Dakota, I believe). Still worse, some of the undead who did rouse themselves to reply admitted to brain decay and had forgotten or suppressed the needed details, while others clearly remembered things which seemed to be contradicted by other testimony (truly, I was tempted to agree with the Mad Arab that "that is not dead, which can eternal lie, or at least can improve the truth a bit for the sake of a good story").

Even compiling a complete list of past Minn-STF presidents from the period in question proved impossible, at least without doing something desperate like unpacking all of the boxes in my attic to try to find a paper trail. (The last time we had one of those in the attic we blamed it on the squirrels, and plugged up the holes.) The first few years below are from my memory; the years from about 1990 on can be verified with old EINBLATTs to hand (at least after they also become to eyeball and to brain), but in between there are a number of years in which the Truth may be Out There, but if so it apparently has no plans to come In Here anytime soon.

Anyway—

In the early days after Minn-STF got (sort of) Organized, Frank Stodolka and Chuck Holst had served as presidents, and for one year (1974–75) the five members of the Board of Directors rotated the office among themselves. I got stuck with the job for two years starting in 1975 and, having carefully avoided doing much of anything for those terms (not a difficult achievement, since the Minn-STF president is essentially a figurehead whose only real duty is lining up locations for meetings), decided to at least go out of office with a bang. Or a sploooosh

anyway. I commandeered a few minutes of Minicon closing ceremonies for an Outaugural Message, did a bit of bad joke shtick including a Samson-like shearing of most of my facial hair, and concluded that a proper Fannish goal should be eliminating peaceful handing over of power(lessness) in favor of something more exciting, like assassination—at which point the incoming president, Nate Bucklin, rose from his front row seat with a clarion call of "Death to all tyrants!" and hit me with a shaving-cream pie, followed by a rousing cheer of "The king is dead! Long live the king!" over my rather sticky corpse.



Offing politicians is like eating peanuts: it's hard to stop with one. Nate did his year as presidential peanut and faced a Stern awakening at the end, as successor Jerry Stearns shot him down at 1978 closing ceremonies, then took guitar in (gun)hand and claimed that "Some Dumb Duke Did It." Few were fooled.

The next few years are a blur. Somewhere in the succeeding decade Judy Cilcain became president; a gentle soul, she found herself unable to pull the trigger on her predecessor (possibly Jerry) and had to accept the aid of trained assassin Steve Brust. The trigger may have connected to a water pistol—at least I recall one president being waterpistolized to death, but details are lost. (I don't think s/he claimed to be melting and cried "what a world, what a world," but it wouldn't have been a bad idea). Judy served two years and was presumably killed off twice (it being quickly established that even death isn't a good enough excuse to get out of the presidency if nobody else can be talked into the job), but remembers only one in which she was killed by an excess of kindness in the form of sweets and a toy boy.

Dean Gahlon also served two years sometime in the 1980s. Dean boasted a fine traveling drinks cabinet and a sense of adventure; Steve Brust attempted to kill him off with a series of ghastly mixed drinks modeled on those made infamous in MIDWEST SIDE STORY ("Everclear and Near Beer" and such), finally bringing him to his doom with "Perrier . . . Lite." It seems likely Dean's years were 1982–84. It seems semi-established that Geri Sullivan was president for 1984–85, but no memories of eventual offings have surfaced. David Cummer also served as president for one or perhaps

two years; noted pre-presidentially for his fundraiser schtick of hugging mass quantities of stuffed animals, he died at least once at the hands (er, paws) of a horde of said stuffed animals over-enthusiastically hugging him back.

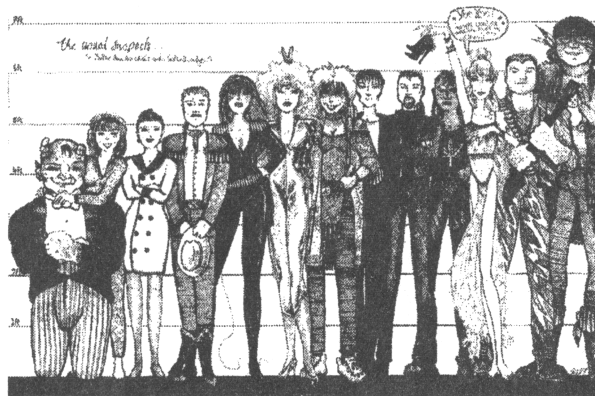
Bill Bader was president from 1989 to 1991, and remembers causing the death of David Dyer-Bennet to achieve that office, so DD-B presumably served 1988–89. Bill gave him apoplexy by explaining to him that as part of his presidential duties he would be expected to transcribe all club minutes — on a Mac — in COBOL. Bill also has a memory of a karate duel to the death with Steve Brust, which doesn't seem to fit in the chronology (but sounds-like fun. To have watched. From a safe distance.). This may have been the cause of his first death; like other two-termers he was restored to life (a process made easier, or at least more traditional, by Minicon's habit of being held over Easter) and sent back to the bureaucratic salt mines. For His second and final death (1990), he was punned to death by Ann Totusek and his own successor, Laura Krentz.

Laura was tragically killed the following year (1992) in an offstage cattle stampede, and was succeeded by Victor Raymond, who refused to be cowed by the dangers of office. Alas, no memory of his own demise (1993) have surfaced. His successor was Charles Piehl. My memory is that he served out his year and was killed off by treachery among an honor guard he brought out to closing ceremonies with him; another respondent is equally positive that he left office early (when he was ordained as an Episcopal Deacon) and wouldn't have been available for killing (unless Henry II had joined Minn-STF by that time). He was in any case succeeded by Ed Eastman, who served from 1993–94 and started a second term but resigned early for personal reasons; Ed's second term was filled out by Steve Brust, who by this time had become the usual Executive Vice President in Charge of Executions. If Steve was himself assassinated in 1995, no one seems to recall it.

Lydia Nickerson was stuck with the job for 1995–96, and was killed off in a poker table skit with Steve Brust whose point seems to have vanished. I think this is the one that involved the services of the Martian League of Assassins—when she realized being protected meant she would have to continue in office, she wound up paying the League to allow her to be killed instead. Don Bailey followed for one year, and at the 1997 Minicon was put in a box by Steve as part of a graphic demon-

stration of the Schroedinger's Cat problem. The box was trundled offstage and, when successor Scott Raun asked Steve when he would be opening the box to see if Don was still alive, got only an enigmatic smile and a questioning "Open it??"

Downsizing was the word of the day in 1998. In keeping with the new emphasis on a leaner, no-frills Minicon, Steve simply asked Scott to drop dead—which he did. Michael Pins followed for a year, dying in 1999 in another poker skit—of shock when Steve admitted, against all his well-known principles, to have been bluffing. Margo Bratton was the next president, but was in Europe at Eastercon when the 2000 Minicon rolled around. While this was a good example of How Not To Be Seen, it failed as far-flung European agents of the club carried out the assassination for us; attendees at closing ceremonies could hear the explosion at the other end of the international phone call.



Emulating Grover Cleveland, Lydia Nickerson was dragged back into office the following year, and died in 2001 in yet another poker sketch involving Steve Brust and a shocking revelation, this time of his political change of heart. Andrew Bertke followed: at opening ceremonies in 2002, he revealed that he had become so gung-ho for the job that not only

did he want to continue indefinitely, he was reviving the Minneapolis WorldCon bid. He was immediately rushed by Floundering Father Jim Young and an angry mob (all of whom just happened to be sitting in the front row), swept off, and trampled to death offstage. Minn-STF was thus prexyless for the duration of the con, but muddled through somehow. At closing ceremonies his body was returned to stage and computer whiz Steve Brust managed to reboot him. Using a real boot.

The 2003 Minicon closing ceremony is only hours away, and there's already a scent of blood in the air—an undercurrent of sinister whispers in the alleys—a ghastly event looming in the consciousness of the precogs. . . as yet another innocent Year King approaches the end of his reign. It's violent. It's frightening. It's nerve-wracking and bloody and in poor taste. But it's cheaper than pensions, and it's traditional, and for Minn-STF it's the Fannish Thing To Do (preferably with the candlestick, in the ballroom, by Colonel Mustard).

Next? "Room for one more, sir..."



KANSAS CITY IN 2006

A BID FOR THE 64TH
WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
LABOR DAY WEEKEND
AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 4, 2006

SOME REASONS TO COME TO KANSAS CITY IN 2006

- ✦ **Tradition.** 2006 will mark the 30th anniversary of Kansas City's last Worldcon, MidAmeriCon. Fandom followed the Republican National Convention and the Shriners and outpartied them both. While that kind of challenge can't be guaranteed, we think the time has come to do it again.
- ✦ **Great New Facilities!** Overland Park's new state-of-the-art convention center includes:
 - 237,000 square feet of function space in the Convention Center
- ✦ **The attached Sheraton hotel has:**
 - 25,000 square feet of function space • **Corkage and Forkage waived**
 - **Convention Hotel Room Rates from \$65.99 to \$99.00** • **All hotel and convention center parking will be free**
- ✦ **People.** Our Bid Committee includes fans from the midwest and throughout the country with experience working local and regional cons, as well as WorldCons. Our local group hosted the Nebula Weekend in 1997 and 2002. ConQuest (now in its fourth decade) is renowned as one of the finest (and most fun) cons in the midwest. Members of our committee are also part of the group hosting the 2003 World Horror Convention in Kansas City.
- ✦ **Convenience.** Kansas City is a major transportation hub with easy travel connections and a modern, spacious airport. The convention center is located directly adjacent to a major interstate and is easily accessible from any direction.
- ✦ **Attractions.** There are many activities awaiting your discovery, including the Kansas City Zoo, the Harry S Truman Library and Museum, the Nelson-Atkins Museum, the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, the City Farmer's Market and the Steamboat *Arabia* Museum, Union Station/Science City, the Liberty Memorial, Westport nightclub district, the Toy and Miniature Museum, Worlds of Fun/Oceans of Fun amusement parks, several riverboat casinos, the world-renowned Country Club Plaza shopping district and much more, all within thirty minutes of the convention center.

The Bid Committee believes we can make Labor Day weekend 2006 one of the most memorable in WorldCon history. We invite you to join us in the effort by presupporting our bid at one of the four levels explicated below. Support levels can be upgraded any time prior to the vote at this year's Worldcon in Toronto. Look for parties sponsored by "The Redheads from Hell" (it's not just a hair color, it's an attitude) at conventions across the North American continent until Labor Day to sign up. You can also use PayPal to presupport at our website. We thank you for your support, encourage you to vote (for more information, see the Torcon3 website: www.torcon3.on.ca) and look forward to seeing you in 2006.

Service Mark notice: "World Science Fiction Society," "WSFS," "World Science Fiction Convention," "NASFiC," "Hugo" and "WorldCon" are registered service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.

The benefits listed will be received if you vote in Toronto in 2003 and we win.

Presupport: \$20 US
\$30 Can, £13, €18, ¥2348
supporting membership
1/2 credit for conversion

Yardbird: \$50 US
\$74 Can, £32, €46, ¥5870
attending membership
listing in program book

Preoppose: \$25 US
\$37 Can, £16, €23, ¥2935
supporting membership
1/2 credit for conversion

Count Basie: \$100 US
\$148 Can, £64, €92, ¥11,750
attending membership
listing in program book; a bid t-shirt & more

For Up to Date Information on All Aspects of the Bid, see our Website: www.midamericon.org

Questions? Comments? Just want to chat? Our email address is: MidAmeriCon@kc.rr.com

**Make checks (in U.S. funds) payable to Kansas City in 2006 and mail to:
Kansas City 2006, P.O. Box 414175, Kansas City, MO 64141-4175**



Noreascon 4

The 62nd World Science Fiction Convention

September 2-6, 2004
Boston, Massachusetts, USA



We're charging forward... and looking back
Noreascon 4 will feature Retro Hugo Awards for 1953
and a retrospective exhibit of classic SF/F art.

Pro Guests of Honor:
Terry Pratchett William Tenn

Fan Guests of Honor:
Jack Speer Peter Weston

Noreascon 4

FACILITIES

- Hynes Convention Center
- Sheraton Boston Hotel
- Boston Marriott Copley Place

MEMBERSHIP RATES (Through Sept. 30, 2003)

Attending membership: \$ 160

Supporting membership: \$ 35

Upgrade existing supporting
membership to attending: \$ 125

Child's admission: \$ 105
(12 & under as of Sept. 6, 2004;
Child's admission does not include
publications or voting rights.)

Installment plan available; write
installments@noreascon.org

QUESTIONS

To volunteer, write to
volunteers@noreascon.org

For information about registration,
contact prereg@noreascon.org

To advertise in progress reports,
email progress@noreascon.org

For general questions, ask
info@noreascon.org

ADDRESSES

Noreascon Four/MCFI
P.O. Box 1010
Framingham, MA 01701-1010
United States of America

Fax: +1 617.776.3243

Web page:
<http://www.noreascon.org>

Online registration available

"World Science Fiction Convention" is a service
mark of the World Science Fiction Society, an
unincorporated literary society.

"Noreascon" is a service mark of Massachusetts
Convention Fandom, Inc. The Noreascon 4 logo
uses a picture taken by the Hubble Space
Telescope, made available by NASA and STScl.

LOS ANGELES IN 2006

**A Bid for the 64th World Science Fiction Convention
to be held August 24-28, 2006 in Anaheim (L.A. Area), California**

- The **Anaheim Convention Center**, and the **Hilton Anaheim** and **Anaheim Marriott** hotels - site of the 1984 and 1996 Worldcons. Locus described them as "An ideal facility for a Worldcon ... The best space I've ever seen."
- The proven track record of the **Southern California Institute for Fan Interests (SCIFI)**, Inc., sponsoring organization of L.A.Con II (1984 Worldcon) and L.A.Con III (1996 Worldcon), ConuCopia (1999 NASFiC), Conosaurus (1989 Westercon), ConoZoic (1994 Westercon), and Conagerie (2002 Westercon)
- **A fabulous location**, right across the street from Disneyland and close to beaches, restaurants and many other popular vacation destinations
- **A convention near the heart of Los Angeles...** the world's largest entertainment industry, home of countless authors, filmmakers, scientists, and other potential guests!

JOIN US FOR THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME!

MEMBERSHIP RATES

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Pre-Support \$20.00 • Pre-Oppose \$40.00
Pre-Dither \$60.00 • Friends Of The Bid \$75.00

Checks payable to "SCIFI Inc" in US Funds Only

CANADA

Pre-Support \$30.00 • Pre-Oppose \$61.00
Pre-Dither \$91.00 • Friends Of The Bid \$115.00

Checks payable to "Lloyd Penney" in Canadian Funds Only

UNITED KINGDOM

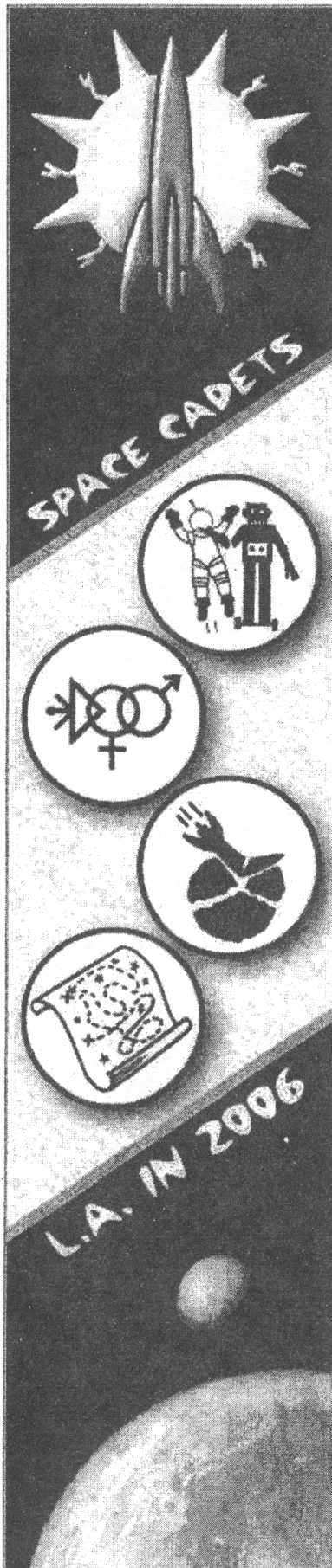
Pre-Support £14.00 • Pre-Oppose £28.00
Pre-Dither £41.00 • Friends Of The Bid £52.00

Checks payable to "John Harold" in UK Funds Only
(Additional Currency Rates are available at our table, our party, or
on the Los Angeles in 2006 Bid Website!)

JOIN THE SPACE CADETS LOS ANGELES IN 2006

c/o The Southern California Institute for Fan Interests (SCIFI) Inc.
Post Office Box 8442, Van Nuys, California 91409 USA
Website: www.scifiinc.org • Email: info@scifiinc.org

"World Science Fiction Convention" and "Worldcon" are service marks of
the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.



DreamHaven

Books & Comics

LynLake

912 W. Lake St., Mpls.
612-823-6161

- New, used, and rare SF, fantasy, and horror
- New and back-issue comics (lots of DC Vertigo, manga, and independents)
- TV and film books and magazines
- Erotic art, comics and fiction
- Free parking behind our store

Dinkytown

1309 4th St. SE, Mpls.
612-379-8924

- New SF, fantasy, and horror
- New and back-issue comics (lots of DC Vertigo, manga, and independents)
- TV and film books and magazines
- Role-playing games & CCGs
- One hour free parking at the Dinkytown Parking Facility

We do mail order all over the planet -
call 612-823-6070 for a free monthly book catalog

Visit our website at www.dreamhavenbooks.com
or email us at dream@dreamhavenbooks.com

Visit www.neilgaiman.net - our online Neil Gaiman
superstore with shopping cart and secure server

Visit our tables in the dealers room!

Vegetology: Sowing the Seeds of a New Fannish Cult

by Elise Matthesen

For behold, a prophet shall come forth out of the West... er, the Mid-West, that is... and she shall speak the words of the Great Prophet Burpee, and she shall gather unto her like-minded seeders of the True Path, and they shall clump together like cauliflower and their words shall be numerous; yea, verily they shall spake many things concerning vegetables and salvation. And all who hear them shall be amazed... or at least confused.

—First Kohlrabi 1, 1-3

I think it all started at a MN-Stf meeting, or maybe it was at one of those parties at Toad Hall... Sharon Kahn and I were standing innocently around making small talk, when suddenly we were talking vegetables. And not just talking, mind you—we were testifying. And thus Vegetology was born.

My recollection of the chronology is not accurate, but at some point we began turning to people and asking them, “What’s your vegetable?” The cult began to evolve; soon people had a vegetable, a spice, and a condiment.

“But how do I know what my vegetable is?” someone asked.

“You’ll feel it,” said Sharon.

“Yeah... and if you can’t find your vegetable—”

“— if it’s blocked—”

“—we can perform... a psychic weeding for you!” I finished triumphantly. Sharon and I dissolved into giggles.

“Hey, we’ve got a genuine New Age religion here!” I said.

Sharon seemed as enthusiastic as I. “We could go into business.”

“Right. We could give seminars... for \$.39 a pound!” And off we went again.

That’s sort of how it started. It picked up momentum at C’ntraction. When I got there, rather late into the night, people had already made Vegetology buttons, and were proudly wearing their patron vegetable. There were even rumors of a dangerous Fruitarian Heresy... Nothing like a schism to keep a new religion lively.

Vegetology seemed to find, er, fertile ground among our fellow fen. At the very first Vegetology camp meeting (we prefer to call them “Harvests”) Nate Bucklin found his vegetable, his spice, and his condiment immediately. Almost before Sharon had finished asking him the question, he knew.

“I’m a triple mustard,” he announced.

“OOOOhhh,” said onlookers, awed by such fervent certainty.

I asked him what his vegeto-spiritual identity meant. “And why mustard, Nate?”

Without a second’s pause for thought, he replied, “Because I’m present at the most elegant tables, yet I flourish in poverty. People may look down on me as a tiresome weed, but when they want me, nothing else will do.”

Such eloquence was, to me, the mark of a true religious experience.

Vegetology seems to be flourishing among local fans and their friends: we had a successful Harvest revival meeting at Lynn Litterer’s house, at which time we converted a number of local folk musicians, several of whom were heard performing overtly Vegetologan songs at the New Riverside Cafe several days later. At the party, there were chants of “Sanctified BROCCOLI! Sanctified BROCCOLI!” and much testifying. Meanwhile, over at Tumbolia, Juan has been lately heard singing “Vegetology Forever” from the direction of the kitchen. (He just stuck his head out and inquired if I were done typing “that VegeRune piece” yet... Hey! How about it? “It slices, it dices, it pubs its ish???”).

I’m not sure, myself, where Vegetology is growing... er, going. Perhaps if Sharon and I finish, I mean, discover the rest of the Scriptures, we can get tax-

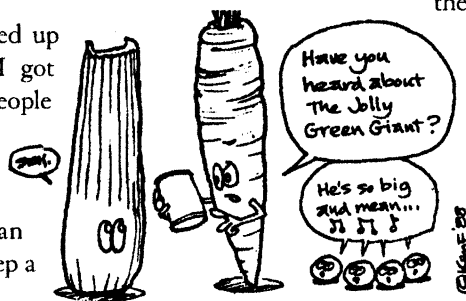
exempt status and continue doing the Good Work, fulfilling the Sacred Trust, yea, verily, broadcasting the very Legume of Life, the Word made Succotash, yes: Vegetology.

Isn’t it about time you had a balanced spiritual diet?

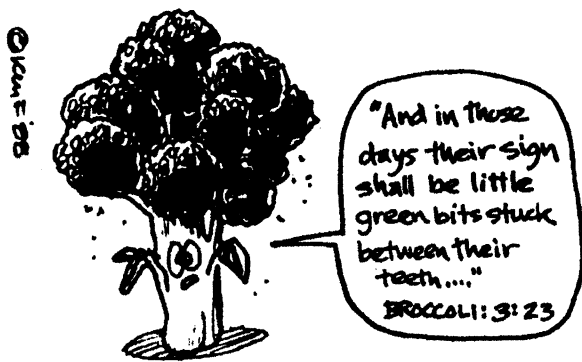
Think about it.

Yea, verily, I say unto you, brethren and sistren and othren, we live in troubled times. There are deficiencies in our diet... Our morals suffer from lack of fiber, and all the Raisin Bran in the world won’t help us if we turn our back on the Truth. I said, the TRUTH, friends — the truth of Vegetology.

Look around you here at the bright and smiling faces of those who have found their vegetables. Look at the



peace and contentment of those who have weeded their chakras, who have labored in the Garden of ThemSelves. See the Peas that Passeth all Understanding that can be yours, friends. For behold, the Ladle of Life is full to the very brim with the Corn of Contentment, the Beans of Bliss, the very Endive of Enlightenment. Who here will hold up their plate and say, "I'll bite!"



And lo, the winds blew and the snows fell and the Greenhouse Effect came in winter's wake alternately freezing and thawing and freezing and thawing every little corpuscle and synapse and then the ozone layer split asunder and as the last lingering intact MinnStf brain cell sizzled and popped its way to oozy extinction a great religion was born. In the East the First Vegetable sprouted and it cried out, "I Yam What I Yam!" For it was in that moment revealed that not only does each of us have Three Major Vegetologan (Vegetable, Condiment, and Spice), but each of us has also a slogan.

The slogan of this poor prophet is: "If it doesn't have onions in it, it better be dessert!" I know myself to be an onion by my many layers and lack of a definable center, by the fact that despite my strong flavor I go well in many dishes, and by the fact that I occasionally move myself to tears with my own oniony eloquence. My condiment and spice I know to be black pepper and chocolate sauce (divined by direct communion with my vegetable nature during a ritual weeding of the chakras). And by all of these things we know that my personality is not as integrated as that of the Great First Vegetable, whose condiment and spice (cinnamon and marshmallows) do complement and enhance her vegetable without requiring the making of Chicken Mole.

Those among you who have not divined your True Vegetable Natures may be enlightened at any time by undergoing weeding of the chakras, or the Sprouting Ceremony (to be performed in a bathtub of popcorn), or simply by sitting in a corner for long periods of time muttering, "Vegetate vegetate vegetate..." A payment of \$.39/pound to any handy vegetologan may hasten the process. Then again, maybe it won't.

The above was a Vegetology rant given at Lynn Litterer's party, as well as I can reconstruct it from the somewhat clouded memories I have of the event.

Elise Matthesen is a Twin Cities fan who has found the Truth of Vegetology. Her Vegetable is a Yam, her Spice is Cinnamon, and her Condiment is Marshmallow Sauce. Her only regret is that chocolate is not a vegetable.

Vegetology Forever

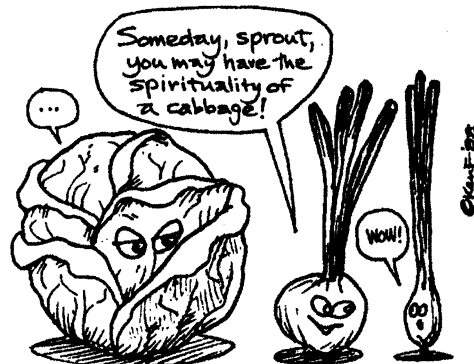
By Sharon Kahn

Vegetology is more (and considerably less) than a mere religion. It is a science, a system of guidance through the furrows of life, a source of endless boring small-talk at parties and gatherings.

Such gatherings can be recognized by typical vegetologan greetings such as "Is it soup yet?" Vegetologists are people of high moral fiber, the puree in heart (although some claim that they are not all they are sliced up to be). However, vegetology being the fertile theological soil that it is, heresies have been springing up like weeds. An all too frequent sight at vegetologan gatherings (or "salads") are small patches of vegetalians giggling and whispering in the corners. Other than general unwholesomeness, such heretics can often be detected by their choice of vegetables (cucumbers, zucchinis, and the like). They tend to have condiments like "latex" or "big fat cigars", and have more fun at their parties than we do (or so they claim). Other heresies to beware of include Fruitarians (double heretics tend toward fruits like the banana) and Botanists (those who look to Science to tell them whether or not the tomato is a fruit or a vegetable rather than trusting their souls to the tender, marinated ministrations of those of us who invented, er, discovered this religion in the first place).

The revelations spring up rapidly, spawning like unto zucchini. The only way to rid yourself of such revelations is to pass them on to your neighbors. Either that or compost them.

So, brethren, lettuce vegetate.



Program Descriptions

Art Show Tour

Sue Mason and cohort take us through the art show, telling us what's what, and why.

Artists' Jam

You've heard musicians jam. Watch artists do the same thing, borrowing each other's riffs, playing off each other's themes, one-upping each other's flights of fancy.

Ask Dr. Mike

Explaining the inexplicable to discerning audiences for many years, now. Physics and philosophy explained using everyday tools lying about the house. The Theory of Everything in a box. Space travel in your living room.

Asterisk Panel

Wouldn't it be nice if conversations had footnotes? Our panelists are willing to explain all their arcane references. Just raise an asterisk, and ask them to footnote. A Minicon tradition.



Attractions of Toronto

Toronto is a lovely city. There's more there than just the Worldcon. Our panelists will give you an idea of some of the other fun things to do there.

Australia in 2010: Why Fans Shouldn't Drink Late at Night

It's hard to explain. In fact, let's ask Erik and Geri to explain. Worldcon bids have this habit of sneaking up from behind and clubbing you over the head when you least expect them. Is there any chance that Minneapolis in '73 could do that to us?

Closing Ceremonies

Come see the wrap-up, hear about next year's guests, and see the Minn-stf president assassinated.

Columbia

What did happen to the *Columbia*? Is there any similarity to what happened to the *Challenger*? The disaster will affect our future space program, but how? Will it cost us the manned Mars mission? Will we get a better earth to orbit vehicle as a result of the things that we learn?

Connections Between Counterculture in the 1960s and Modern Fandom

Did you know that the Grateful Dead modeled their community on *More than Human* by Theodore

Sturgeon? That Timothy Leary was an SF buff and attended some conventions towards the end of his life? Fandom has complex ties to various pieces of the counterculture, and those ties influence the shape of fandom to this day.

Dinosaurs in SF

Was it all just cashing in on Jurassic Park, or did any real literature emerge from the dino glut? Do we now know so much about dinosaurs—why they died, how they lived—that they're no longer fun to write about?

Documenting Ourselves

We have always documented ourselves. As technology has advanced, the methods for doing so have advanced

as well: videotape instead of home movies, e-mail instead of handwritten letters, and now digital cameras instead of the Instamatic.

Why do we do this? Does the technology that we use change the way we document ourselves? Does how we document ourselves change how we perceive our selves?

DVD Commentaries: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Is it really a valuable extra, or is it shovelware? How do you tell before you buy the DVD? Which features are interesting, and which are a waste of time? We've got opinions, you probably do, too. Let's compare.

Fannish Hoaxes and Legends

Fandom is old enough to have a rich history of legends and hoaxes. Did you know that we almost ended up with a Worldcon in the Bermuda Triangle? Or who sawed Courtney's boat, and why? Or that the Antarctica Worldcon bid had a live TV feed? Come to the panel to hear some of the wild, silly stories that bind us together, and to tell us the ones that you know. And if you don't like crotled greeps, what did you order them for?

Fantasy and SF: the Instantiation of Metaphor

Concepts that would be mere metaphor in conventional fiction can be literal fact in science fiction or fantasy. Instead of prefacing statements like "I was a tiger" with a qualifier such as "It's like," the an author can write about the experience of being a tiger, of being a huge, beautiful, dangerous cat capable of introspection. The "real world" comprises what we already know, not the physical presence of our dreams and nightmares. This is one way in which fantasy and SF are unique.

Filk Around the World

Steve Macdonald on filk around the world. He will highlight similarities and differences in the ways filking is done in various places on the planet. There will be snippets of songs, including some from Australia and Singapore. Be prepared to be surprised.

Gardens in Speculative Fiction, Actual and Symbolic

In literature, gardens take on different roles. They often function symbolically as places of rest, concealment, and pastoral peace. They are growing and healing places. Sometimes, as in Sheri Tepper's *Grass*, they take on menacing and otherworldly shapes. What is the relationship (if any) between gardens, invented fantasy universes, and the *locus amoenus* of medieval literature?

Generations the Book, and Other Cyclical Theories of History

Sharon Kahn will do a 30-minute presentation on the theory of history as presented by William Strauss and Neil Howe in their book *Generations*. *Generations* proposes the theory that history is driven by a repeating cycle of four generational types. Following the presentation, there will be a discussion and critique of the material.

Intellectual Property, DMCA, RIAA, MPAA, and 4th Street USA

Intellectual property isn't like a baseball. You can't pick it up and say it's yours because you've got it. Technology is changing the centuries-old model of intellectual property. Will Microsoft and the Mouse own the world in fifty years?

Is There a Generation Gap in Fandom?

Many conflicts in fandom are modeled as generational, old vs. young. Is this really a useful model, or are there other models that make more sense, such as newcomers vs. established members, or too many shy people in the same room? Is it really about books vs. television, or is it about something else?

Is This the Golden Age of Animated Film?

Spirited Away just won an Oscar. Pixar has made several spectacular animated films. What has caused this sudden burst of animated creativity? Is anime a part of this phenomenon, or is a separate trend?

Junkbox Wars

Come play with our junk. We will provide tools, space, and a mound of stuff. Form a team and compete to build the best thingy. Compete for the glory of it all. Get involved because you like hand tools. Show off your creative genius. Do it for me, do it for you, do it for the convention.

Lady Poetesses from Hell

The Lady Poetesses from Hell will read erotic poetry, and Sue Mason will illustrate on the fly.

Lancelot — the First Mary Sue Story?

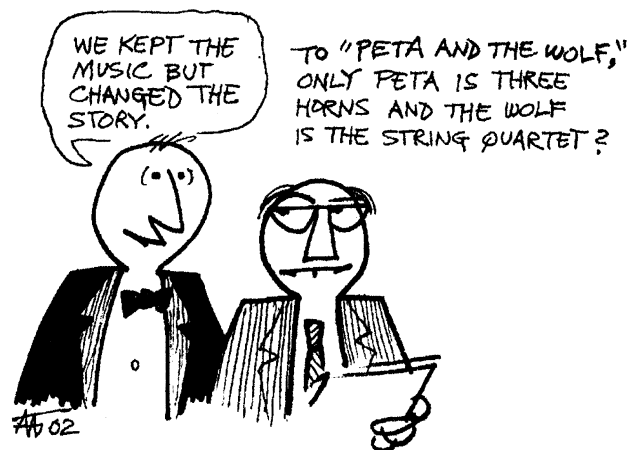
Le Morte d'Arthur is more than just a retelling of the Arthurian legend, it is a work of art in its own right. Why did Mallory bother? Could it be that he wanted to be Lancelot? Greek myth is a collection of contradictory stories set in a shared backstory. Could that be the reason all the gods seem to screw all the other gods—and everything else? What is fanfic, really?

Landscape of SF Fandom

An exploration of the landscape of fandom. Starting with Minicon itself, we try to explore as much as possible the various parts of fandom. We look at what there is to do if you're a fan, and what resources are available to find more.

Learning How to Write

Is it possible to learn how to write? Why does Clarion enjoy such a great reputation when the fact is that a third of those who attend it never publish a single word professionally? Aren't writers' workshops just the blind leading the blind? What should you look for in a creative writing course? Will you learn more about writing by reading the dozen or so good books out there on how to write SF, or by reading a dozen true classic novels, such as *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Catcher in the Rye*?



Literary Criticism: What Good Is It?

What good is literary criticism, anyway, and why would anyone want to apply it to SF/fantasy? Isn't it just something that academics use to obfuscate perfectly obvious points?

Lord of the Rings as Tragedy

The Lord of the Rings is many things, and one of them is a tragedy. All that is loved is lost; the world is changed and will never be the same. Even Gollum takes on the shape of a tragic hero. Why is this aspect of Tolkien sometimes ignored?

Magical Realism vs. Fantasy

Magic realism isn't fantasy, although they share many of the same elements. What distinguishes them from each other, and what role does culture play in those differences?

Make-a-Story

Round-robin story telling. The authors will start with elements submitted by the audience, and then tell a story round robin style. How weird can they get and still maintain something resembling a coherent story line?

Manderley Again:

Great Opening and Closing Lines

"In five years, the penis will be obsolete." "The first I knew about the civil war was when my sister Auriel poisoned me." What makes a great opening or closing? Why are they memorable? What are a few of your favorites?

Metaphors in Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Unlike most TV dramas, *Buffy* has made liberal use of metaphor and subtext. This multi-layered story-telling adds complexity and depth to what could have been a very stupid concept. When does *Buffy* make this work, and when does the subtext suddenly become A Message?

Minicon 38 Gripe Session

Come and tell us what you liked and didn't like while the experiences are fresh in your mind. Next year's con chair will be there, and listening attentively.

More Science Programming

Smart people talk about science in smart ways. Free-form discussion of cool stuff.

Music Workshop

Steve Macdonald conducts a two-hour music workshop.

New Crop of SF/Fantasy TV

What SF/fantasy TV shows are worth watching these days? What's in the offing for the future?

Online Communities

Many communities have been formed around the written word. In addition to APAs and zines, we now have online communities such as LiveJournal, listservs, weblogs, and Usenet. How are these communities the same? How are they different? What role does technology play in those differences?

Open Poetry

Open Poetry hosted by Terry Garey.

Opening Ceremonies

Here's where it all starts. Notables will be introduced. Silliness will transpire. Welcome to Minicon!

Privacy vs. Post-Privacy

David Brin talks about the Transparent Society. Robert Sawyer wrote of a society where everyone's actions are automatically recorded. Are we moving in that direction? Is that utopia or horror?

Religion in Speculative Fiction

Why does religion seem absent from speculative fiction? Gene Wolfe, J.R.R. Tolkien, Tim Powers, James D. MacDonald and Avram Davidson have religion woven deeply into their stories, but it doesn't play a part of most characters' everyday lives. Why is this? What purpose can religion serve in a story? How does it change when the religion is explicit?

Rob Sawyer Interview

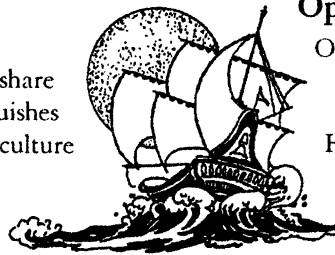
Interview of the writer guest of honor.

"Rocket Talk" with Fizz and Fuse, the Reactor Brothers

You've heard "Car Talk" on NPR? This is the same sort of show, only for people who want to get the best performance from their rocketships.

Second-Generation Fandom

A majority of fans find fandom on their own, usually coming from an alienated adolescence. Some fans, though, were born into fannish families and never had to find fandom—it found them. What are the differences in the experiences and perceptions of second-generation fans?



Self-Promotion for Writers

Modesty may be becoming, but it doesn't help your sales. Being known as someone who is pushy and arrogant doesn't help, either. How can you promote yourself without annoying people? What is appropriate behavior in social settings?

Steve Macdonald Interview

Our musician guest of honor talks about music, songwriting, and many other things.

Superhero Movies: Old, New, Borrowed, Blue

Superhero movies—from Superman to X-Men to Daredevil—have become more popular in the last couple of decades. What's the allure? Is it just that technology has caught up with what's needed to show them, or is there more to their appeal?

TiVos, PVRs, DVD recorders

Those who have them say they can't live without them. Those who don't have them tend to shrug. Cable company executives claim they're the equivalent of theft. What's all the fuss about?

Troubleshooter Game Show

What's the worst thing you can imagine happening at your convention, and how would you deal with it? Our panel of experienced troubleshooters will try to cope with real and imaginary scenarios.

Upcoming Conventions, Local and Not Too Far Away

Minicon is just one convention out of many. What are some of the others that are not too distant in time and space, and what are their attractions?

Value of Political Blogging

Political weblogs are one of the fastest ways to disseminate information and discuss current events. They have some similarities to traditional journalism, but the immediate feedback and linking set them apart. Is this going to be an important change in the way people get their information about the world?

Vegetology

What's your vegetable? What's your fruit? And what's your condiment? What, you mean you didn't know you had one? If you don't know how these attributes can affect your life, come to this panel and find out. Rated "V" for Very Silly.

What Do I Read Next?

So you read a book you liked, and now you want more books that punch the same buttons for you. These panelists will help you do that.

When Does Fandom Become a Toxic Lifestyle?

Obesity, diabetes, depression, under/unemployment... Are we just getting old or reflecting society as a whole, or does fandom encourage a lifestyle that keeps us from taking care of ourselves properly?

Why All These P.K. Dick Movies?

At least four P.K. Dick stories have been made into major motion pictures. How much of the true-quill Dick have they retained, and what makes those stories so amenable to being made into movies?

Why Do Panels About Heinlein Always Go Pear-Shaped?

Too many Heinlein panels turn into pitched battles instead of reasonable discussions. Why is this, and can we avoid it on this panel?

Working-Class Heroes in SF and Fantasy

China Mountain Zhang, Gully Foyle, and the characters in Allen Steele's series are all working-class blokes, but there are precious few of them in SF/fantasy. Why?

Sue Mason Interview

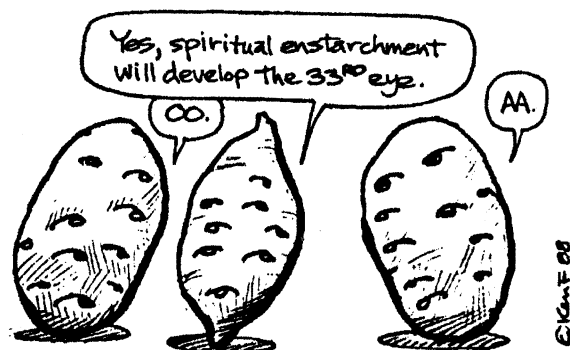
Our fan guest of honour talks about art, corsets, fanzines, and lots of other stuff.

Writer's Library

What books should be in a SF/fantasy writer's library? What other resources are available?

Year in Science

What's been happening this year in the world of science? Our panel of experts and talented amateurs will update you.



Minicon Crossword

Clues

Across

- 1 Corporation (abbr.)
- 5 Top cards
- 9 Trim
- 13 Tableland
- 17 ___ sex
- 18 ___ fide
- 19 Nun's clothes
- 21 Rebound
- 22 ___ Gravy
- 23 Decorative
- 24 Goodbye to Pierre
- 25 Nimble
- 26 Killed
- 27 Airport abbr.
- 28 Type style
- 29 Where you are
- 31 Drink for 29A
- 33 Foist
- 35 Mpls zine
- 36 Rowing device
- 38 Karen's collection
- 39 Steve sings these
- 40 ___ Major
- 44 Volunteer
- 47 Publisher
- 49 Inclined
- 50 Horse
- 51 Awful
- 52 Revise
- 54 Cartoon penguin
- 56 All of us
- 57 Handout
- 59 Broth
- 61 Levy
- 62 Where SF is
- 63 Compass point
- 64 Asimov
- 66 56A drink
- 68 Wheel connector
- 70 Lively dance
- 71 Passing fancies
- 72 Russian ruler
- 75 Ancient Indian
- 79 Region
- 81 Played
- 83 Way to get here
- 84 Ship initials
- 87 Need for autograph
- 88 Perfect Score
- 89 Wolfe
- 92 Retired

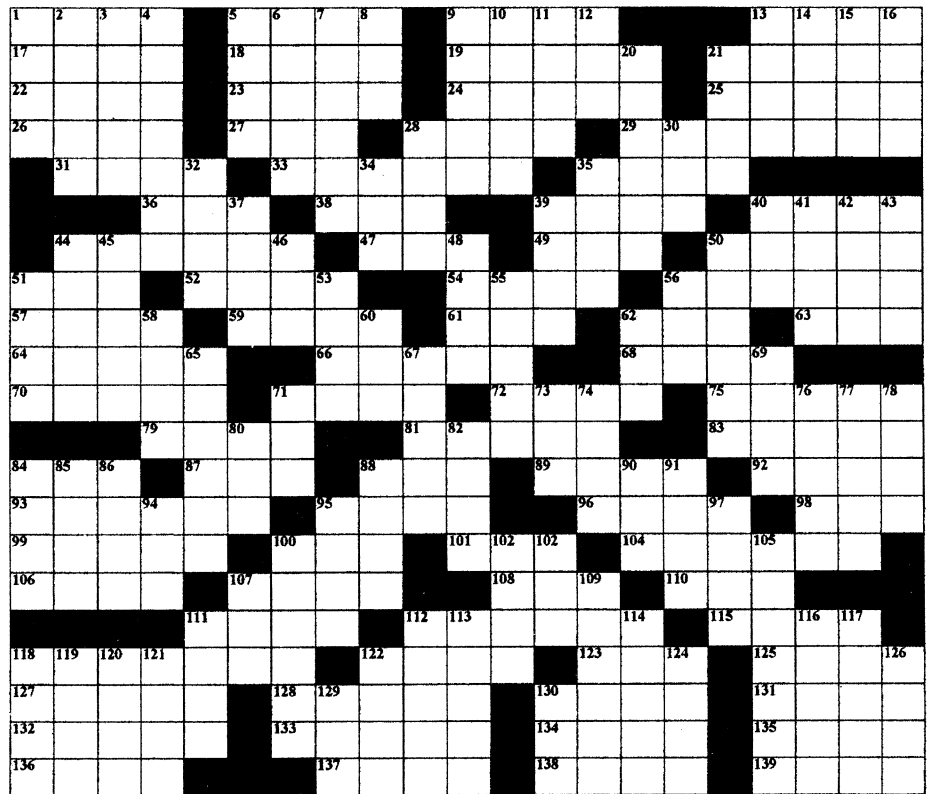
- 93 Across the river
- 95 Lopsided
- 96 At hand
- 98 Bard's before
- 99 Honeys
- 100 ___boo
- 101 Dozen
- 104 Lots
- 106 Church part
- 107 ___Irae
- 108 Not (prefix)
- 110 Female sheep
- 111 Cats, for example
- 112 Way to dress
- 115 Switch
- 118 Elongate
- 122 Ninth month
- 123 Little bit
- 125 Chirping sound
- 127 Drags
- 128 Eat away
- 130 Eye infection
- 131 Found in Consuite
- 132 Homer's first
- 133 ___ O'Reilly
- 134 Observed
- 135 Ready
- 136 Site of SCA wars
- 137 Not any
- 138 Goofs
- 139 Exam

Down

- 1 Wisconsin
- 2 Toothbrush brand
- 3 French composer
- 4 Building material
- 5 Qualified
- 6 Raccoon-like animal
- 7 Set up tents
- 8 Speak
- 9 LASFS principle
- 10 59A server
- 11 As previously cited
- 12 Throwing device?
- 13 Magicians
- 14 Idle Python
- 15 Fly alone
- 16 Prayer ending
- 20 Rumpus
- 21 Walking aid
- 28 ___ Bus Barn
- 30 Writing liquid
- 32 Type of plum
- 34 Stroke
- 35 Tears
- 37 Beatty movie
- 39 Fake
- 40 Vase
- 41 Poles
- 42 Snooty one
- 43 Coyote's company
- 44 Model wood

- 45 Publicist
- 46 Pedro's river
- 48 Memorization
- 50 Often sung
- 51 Lure
- 53 Brass instrument
- 55 Saturday night event
- 56 Phone transmission
- 58 Heroic tale
- 60 Degree
- 62 Vehicle
- 65 Habeus ____
- 67 Organic compound
- 69 Jewish scribe
- 71 Aren't you one?
- 73 Type of Buddhism
- 74 City in Yemen
- 76 High country
- 77 Each
- 78 Give
- 80 Long fish
- 82 Black stone
- 84 Government agency
- 85 Stair
- 86 Hot tubs
- 88 Couples
- 90 Tear
- 91 Leer

- 94 ___ you experienced?
- 95 Gets older
- 97 Cuts
- 100 This or that
- 102 Institution (abbr.)
- 103 Promissory note
- 105 City in R.I.
- 107 Last month
- 109 Fannish list
- 111 Diagnosis
- 112 Tree
- 113 Mimicry
- 114 Kind of hen
- 116 Eagle's nest
- 117 Marshmallow treats
- 118 Send
- 119 Story
- 120 Spoil
- 121 Flair
- 122 Found in Consuite
- 124 Bears lairs
- 126 Carolyn Clink is one
- 129 Dashed
- 130 Compass point



Boskone 41

February 13-15, 2004

Sheraton Boston Hotel - Boston, MA

Boskone is a Boston-area Science Fiction convention focusing on literature, art, music, and gaming (with just a dash of whimsy). Come join us on common ground.

Guest of Honor

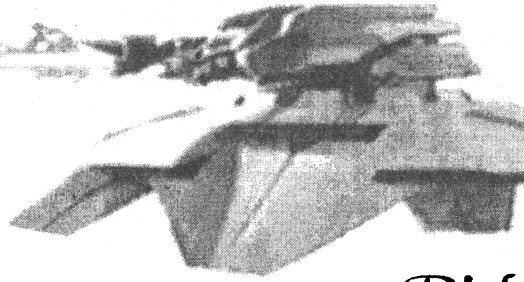
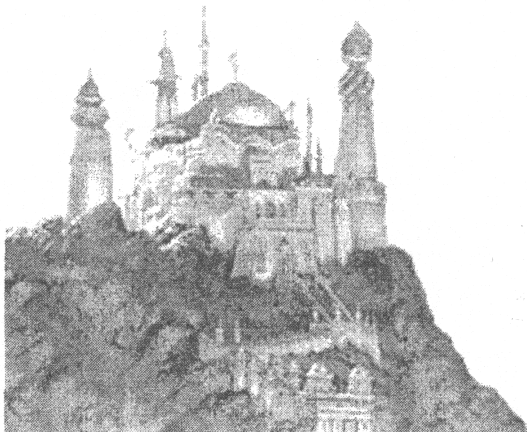
Stephen Baxter

He is the British author of the SF novels *Raft*, *Timelike Infinity*, *Manifold: Time*, *Manifold: Space*, and *Flux*, among others. His works have won several awards, including the Philip K. Dick Award, the John Campbell Memorial Award, and the Seiun Award (Japan), and have been nominated for many others, including the Hugo and Locus awards. He has written over 100 works of short fiction.

Special Guest

Betsy Mitchell

She has been managing editor of *Analog*, senior editor at Baen Books, and an associate publisher of Bantam Spectra. She founded the Aspect line at Warner Books, and joined Ballantine as Editor-in-Chief of Del Rey in 2002. She received a World Fantasy Award for co-editing the anthology *Full Spectrum 4*.



Official Artist

Richard Hescox

Richard Hescox's work spans both the areas of fine art and illustration, creating beautiful and memorable images imbued with a touch of the fantastic. He is a winner of both the Gaughan and Chesley awards.

Featured Filker

Brenda & Bill Sutton

Brenda is a singer, songwriter, and bodhranista who has been actively involved in the filking community for over twenty years.

Bruce is a singer and songwriter, and is an accomplished performer on the guitar, mandolin, flute, and penny whistle.

Together, Bill and Brenda are *Bed & Breakfast*, performing original compositions, Irish Pub, Celtic, Traditional and Contemporary Folk, and Country/Blues music. They have both won Pegasus Awards for their compositions, and they were inducted into the Filk Hall of Fame.

The pre-registration rate of \$41 is valid through January 10, 2004. Mail all inquires to: **Boskone 41, P.O. Box 809, Framingham, MA 01701**. For more information, see our website: www.boskone.org.

Minicon Guest History

Minicon	Name	Guest Type
1	Gordon R. Dickson	GoH
1	Charles DeVet	GoH
1	Clifford D. Simak	GoH
2	Gordon R. Dickson	GoH
2	Charles DeVet	GoH
2	Clifford D. Simak	GoH
3	Poul Anderson	GoH
3	Gordon R. Dickson	GoH
3	Clifford D. Simak	GoH
4	Lin Carter	GoH
5	Volsted Gridban	*Joke Moshe
6	Ruth Berman	GoH
7	Larry Niven	Pro GoH
7	Rusty Hevelin	Fan GoH
8	Kelly Freas	Pro GoH
8	Bob Tucker	Fan GoH
9	Judy Lynn del Rey	GoH
9	Lester del Rey	GoH
10	Poul Anderson	Pro GoH
10	Gordy Dickson	Fan GoH
10	Lester del Rey	Toastmaster
11	Edmond Hamilton	Pro GoH
11	Leigh Brackett	Pro GoH
11	Leigh Couch	Fan GoH
11	Norb Couch	Fan GoH
11	Jackie Franke	Toastmaster
11	Rusty Hevelin	Toastmaster
12	Ben Bova	Pro GoH
12	Buck Coulson	Fan GoH
12	Juanita Coulson	Fan GoH
12	Joe Haldeman	Toastmaster
13	Samuel R. Delaney	Pro GoH
13	Spider Robinson	Fan GoH
13	Bob Tucker	Artist GoH
13	Krissy	Toastmaster
15	Theodore Sturgeon	Pro GoH
15	Tom Digby	Fan GoH
15	Rick Sternbach	Artist GoH
15	Bob Vardeman	Toastmaster
16	C. J. Cherryh	Pro GoH
16	Jon Singer	Fan GoH
16	Ken Fletcher	Artist GoH
16	Nate Bucklin	Musician GoH
16	Wilson (Bob) Tucker	Toastmaster
17	Jack Vance	Pro GoH
17	Jerry Boyajian	Fan GoH
17	Kathy Marschall	Artist GoH
17	Reed Waller	Musician GoH
14	John Varley	Pro GoH
14	Cliff Simak	Fan GoH
14	Spider Robinson	Musician GoH
19	Larry Niven	Pro GoH
19	Pamela Dean	Fan GoH
19	David Dyer-Bennet	Fan GoH

19	Dave Sim	Artist GoH
19	Spider John Koerner	Musician GoH
19	Steven K. Zoltan Brust	Toastmaster
19	Nostradamus	Proxy GoH
18	Chelsea Quinn Yarboro	Pro GoH
18	Dave Wixon	Fan GoH
18	Steve Hickman	Artist GoH
18	Somtow Sucharitkul	Musician GoH
18	Rusty Hevelin	Toastmaster
18	Bob Tucker	Smooth GoH
20	James P. Hogan	Pro GoH
20	Permanent Floating Riot Club	Fan Group GoH
20	Stu Shiffman	Artist GoH
20	Bob Berlien & the White Women	Musician GoH
20	Kara Dalkey	Toastmaster
20	Jerry Stearns	Toastmaster
21	Damon Knight	Pro GoH
21	Kate Wilhelm	Pro GoH
21	Denny Lien	Fan GoH
21	Ken Fletcher	Artist GoH
21	Ann Passovoy	Musician GoH
21	Diane Duane	Toastmaster
21	Phyllis Eisenstein	Special Guest
21	Terry Windling	Special Guest
21	John M. Ford	Special Guest
21	P. C. Hodgell	Special Guest
22	David Brin	Pro GoH
22	Fred Haskell	Fan GoH
22	Erin McKee	Artist GoH
22	Jerry Stearns	Musician GoH
22	Robert Bloch	Toastmaster
22	Diane Duane	Special Guest
22	Jane Yolen	Special Guest
22	Ellen Kushner	Special Guest
23	Eleanor Arneson	Author GoH
23	Eric Heideman	Fan GoH
23	Frederick Pohl	Editor GoH
23	Crystal Marvig	Artist GoH
23	Richard Feynman	Science GoH
23	Jane Yolen	Special Guest
23	David Hartwell	Special Guest
23	Algis Budrys	Special Guest
24	Harry Harrison	GoH
24	George "Lan" Laskowski	GoH
24	Fritz Leiber	GoH
24	Barry Longyear	GoH
24	Patrick Nielsen Hayden	Special Guest
24	Teresa Nielsen Hayden	Special Guest

24	P. C. Hodgell	Special Guest
24	Larry Niven	Special Guest
24	John Sladek	Special Guest
25	Jane Yolen	GoH
25	Kim Stanley Robinson	Author GoH
25	Patrick Price	"Arthur" GoH
25	David Thayer a.k.a. Teddy Harvia	Artist GoH
25	David E Romm	Fan GoH
25	Earl Joseph	Science GoH
25	Dave Clement	Special Guest
25	P. C. Hodgell	Special Guest
25	Dr. Joseph Romm	Special Guest
25	Art Widner	Special Guest
26	George Alec Effinger	Author GoH
26	David Cherry	Artist GoH
26	Al Kuhfeld Ph.D.	Science GoH
26	Suzanne V. Tompkins	Fan GoH
26	Jerry Kaufman	Fan GoH
26	Jon Singer	Lunch GoH
27	Lois McMaster Bujold	Writer GoH
27	Ctein	Artist GoH
27	Dave Van Ronk	Musician GoH
28	Susan Allison	Editor GoH
28	Diane Duane	Author GoH
28	Peter Morwood	Author GoH
28	Kathy Mar	Musician GoH
28	Don Fitch	Bless His Sweet Heart GoH
28	John M. Ford	Interesting Person GoH
29	Tom Doherty	Publisher GoH
29	Jack Williamson	Author GoH
29	Rusty Hevelin	Fan GoH
29	Phil Foglio	Artist GoH
30	Vernor Vinge	Author GoH
30	Dr. Robert Forward	Science GoH
30	Jody Lee	Artist GoH
30	The Bhigg House	Fan Group GoH
30	Glenn Cook	Honored Guest
31	Suzette Haden Elgin	GoH

31	Ed Emshwiller	Memorial Artist GoH
31	Joe Siclari	Fan GoH
31	Edie Stern	Fan GoH
31	David Ossman	Audio GoH
31	James P. Hogan	Science GoH
31	L. A. Taylor	Honored Guest
32	Algis Budrys	Author GoH
32	C. J. Cherryh	Author GoH
32	Tom Doherty	Publisher GoH
32	Patrick Nielsen Hayden	Editor GoH
32	Teresa Nielsen Hayden	Editor GoH
32	Tom Lopez	Audio GoH
32	Michael Swanwick	Author GoH
33	Gardner Dozois	Professional GoH
33	Dave Langford	Fan GoH
33	John M. Ford	Toastmaster Mark Time Award Presenter
33	Phil Proctor	Writer GoH
34	Octavia E. Butler	Writer GoH
34	Mark Olson	Fan GoH
34	Priscilla Olson	Fan GoH
34	Dave Nee	Bookseller GoH
35	Maureen F. McHugh	Writer GoH
35	Lenny Bailes	Fan GoH
35	John Berkey	Artist GoH
35	Orson & David Ossman	Mark Time Award Presenters
36	Leslie Fish	Guest of Honor
36	Ken Macleod	Guest of Honor
36	Jo Walton	Guest of Honor
37	Will Shetterly	Writer GoH
37	Emma Bull	Writer GoH
37	Arthur Hlavaty	Fan GoH
37	Rick Berry	Artist GoH
38	Robert J. Sawyer	Author GoH
38	Carolyn Clink	Poet GoH
38	Sue Mason	Fan GoH
38	Steve Macdonald	Musician GoH



Minicon History

Number	Date	Members	Location	Theme
1	1968	60	Coffman Union (Men's Lounge) University of Minnesota	
2	1969	102	Andrews Hotel	
3	1970	130	Dyckman Hotel	
4	1971	150	Curtis Hotel	
5	1971	100	Andrews Hotel	
6	1972	175	Hyatt Lodge	
7	1973	220	Hyatt Lodge	
8	1974	350	Dyckman Hotel	
9	1974	190	Minneapolis Public Library, Dyckman Hotel	
10	1975	510	Holiday Inn	
11	1976	500	Leamington Hotel	
12	1977		Leamington Hotel	The Dododecacon
13	1978		Leamington Hotel	Nothing is as it seems
15	1979		Minneapolis Radisson	
16	1980		Minneapolis Radisson	Deja Vu
17	1981		Minneapolis Radisson	
14	1982		St. Paul Radisson	Forward Into the Past
19	1983		St. Paul Radisson	Backward Into the Future
18	1984	1450	Leamington Hotel	We know what we're doing and you don't. Trust us.
20	1985	1525	Radisson Hotel South	Let's you and I get normal for a change
21	1986	1600	Radisson Hotel South	Now we're just immoral and fattening
22	1987	1950	Radisson Hotel South	Still Crazy After All These Years
23	1988		Radisson Hotel South	Spring Forward Fall Over
24	1989		Radisson Hotel South	Zen and the Art of Fan Maintenance
25	1990		Radisson Hotel South	The Silver Edition
26	1991		Radisson Hotel South	Think of it as Evolution in Action
27	1992		Radisson Hotel South	Don't Ever Be A Dodo
28	1993		Radisson Hotel South	Suite Savage Minicon
29	1994	3300	Radisson Hotel South	It seemed like a good idea at the time
			Wyndham Garden Hotel	
30	1995	3500	Radisson Hotel South	Some Assembly Required or "Would You Like Fries With That?"
			Wyndham Garden Hotel	
			L'Hotel Sofitel	
31	1996	3564	Radisson Hotel South	Coming to a Galaxy Near You
			Wyndham Garden Hotel	
			L'Hotel Sofitel	
32	1997		Radisson Hotel South	Even Chaos has a Pattern
			Wyndham Garden Hotel	
			L'Hotel Sofitel	
33	1998	3431	Radisson Hotel South	Heisenberg Probably Slept Here
			Wyndham Garden Hotel	
			L'Hotel Sofitel	
34	1999	1500	Hilton Minneapolis and Towers	
35	2000	868	Hilton Minneapolis and Towers	
36	2001	620	Hilton Minneapolis and Towers	
37	2002	541	Hilton Minneapolis and Towers	
38	2003		The Millennium Hotel Minneapolis	

Space Station WindyCon

November 7-9, 2003
Hyatt Regency Woodfield
Schaumburg, IL

Come celebrate WindyCon's thirtieth year!

Author Guest: Gregory Benford

Author of Timescape, Cosm, Beyond Infinity

Artist Guest: Vincent di Fate

Editor of Infinite Worlds and author of The Science Fiction Art of Vincent di Fate

Publisher Guest: Tom Doherty

Publisher of Tor Books

Fan Guests: Mark & Lynne Aronson

Chairs of WindyCons I-III

Science Guest: John G. Cramer

Author of Einstein's Bridge and contributor to Analog's "The Alternate View"

30th Anniversary Guest: Phyllis Eisenstein

Author of The Book of Elementals and Born to Exile

Special Guests: Kathryn Cramer, David Hartwell, Christian Ready, Jeri Smith-Ready, Pamela Sargent, George Zebrowski, and more.

WindyCon is Chicago's longest running science fiction convention. To celebrate our thirtieth year, we plan a weekend of literature, science, media, and fannish panels, in addition to films, filking, fanac, gaming, art, a science fair, auctions, dancing and much more. We hope you can join us as WindyCon turns the big Three-O.

Pre-Registration: \$35 to 10/11/03
Childcare: \$35

Hotel: \$89 single/double
\$102 triple/quad
1-800-633-7313

WindyCon XXX
POB 184
Palatine, IL 60078-0184
www.windycon.org
847-677-WNDY (9639)



M38 Ground and Flight Crew

We'd like to thank the committee and volunteers for donating countless amounts of time and energy. Every year volunteers generate many great ideas for and about Minicon. We value everyone's input, for it shapes not only our convention but also our fannish community. Without caring fans who volunteer our convention wouldn't happen. It's not too late for you to participate in making Minicon a great convention for all of us to enjoy. Stop by the Volunteers desk if you'd like to volunteer over the weekend. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and bump into old friends.

Executive

Laura Jean Fish,
Co-Chair
Larry Sanderson,
Co-Chair
Scott Raun,
Treasury
Irene Raun,
Bookkeeper
Glenn McDavid,
Recording Secretary

Art Show

Peer G. Dudda, Head

Dealers Room

Lisa Freitag, Head

Guests

Carol Kennedy,
Liaison Liaison
Andrew Bertke,
Liaison (Robert Sawyer &
Carolyn Clink)
Mia McDavid, Liaison
(Steve Macdonald)
Rachael Lininger, Liaison
(Sue Mason)

Hotel

Susan Levy Haskell, Head

Insurance

Kay Drache

Official Happy Deadwood

Fred A. Levy Haskell

Operations

Charmaine Burgess, Head
Michael Burgess,
Significant Other
of Head
Shannon Leslie,
Sub-head
Michael von Maltzen, Sub-
head
Erik Baker, Staff
Corwin Brust, Staff
Nicole Emery, Staff
Dan Hasellius, Staff
Jen Manna, Staff
Operations would like to
thank: Michael Burgess,
Laura Jean Fish, Fred and
Susan Levy Haskell, Larry

Sanderson, Geri Sullivan,
the concom et al. and my
whole wonderful staff with-
out whom I would have
had a nervous breakdown.

Parties

Geri Sullivan, Head
Sandra Childress, Second
Joel Phillips, Bar
Jack Targonski, Staff
Tammy Coxen, Staff
Peter Hentges, Blog
Catherine Crockett, Staff
Richard Tatge, Games
Ken Fletcher & Jeff
Schalles, Intergalactic
Squash
Michael Burgess,
Continuity
Jeff Schalles & Process
Displays, Sparkle paper
Dan Fitzgerald, Puzzle Art
Lynn Anderson, Transport
Bob Zellmer, Kardboard
King
Jeff Schalles & Glenn
Tenhoff, Music Space

Programming

Beth Friedman,
Co-Head
Lydia Nickerson,
Co-Head
Laura Jean Fish,
Children's Programming,
Elise Matthesen,
Program Prep

Publications

David W. Schroth,
Figurehead
Andrew Bertke, Design/
Layout
Joyce Scrivner, Advertising/
Fannish liaison
David Dyer-Bennet,
Photographer
Karen Cooper, Procurer of
Biographies
Peter Hentges, Chapbook
(Robert Sawyer & Carolyn
Clink)

Mia McDavid, Chapbook
(Steve Macdonald)

Rachael Lininger,
Chapbook (Sue Mason)
Magenta Griffith, Official
Puzzler

Scott and Irene Raun,
Work Party Hosts
Larry Sanderson, Work
Party Host
Geri Sullivan, Work Party
Host

Magenta Griffith,
Proofreader
Mia McDavid, Proofreader
Joyce Scrivner, Proofreader

Beth Friedman,
Proofreader
Karen Cooper, Proofreader
James McDavid,
Comb Binding

Sharon Kahn, Bozo Bus
Tribune editor

Jeff Schalles, Bozo Bus
Tribune publisher
Elizabeth LaVelle, Patience
and forbearance

Registration

Fred A. Levy Haskell, Head
Joe Agee
Andrew Bertke, Badges
and Publicity
Sharon Kahn,
CONvergence party host
Richard Tatge,
CONvergence host

Larry Sanderson,
Diversicon party host
Don Fitch, Loscon party
host

Geri Sullivan, Loscon party
host

Peter Hentges, Marscon
party host

Doug Friauf, Worldcon
party host

Larry Sanderson, Worldcon
party host

Laura Jean Fish, Worldcon
party host

Volunteers

William Christ, Head

Web

Kevin Austin, Webmaster
David Dyer-Bennet, System
administrator
Lydia Nickerson, Request
Mail Wrangler

Thank you to everyone who
made Minicon 38 happen!

Your Co-Chairs,

Larry Sanderson
& Laura Jean Fish



MINICON 39

APRIL 9 - 11, 2004

Hotel: TBD

**Writer Guest of Honor:
Walter Jon Williams**

**Editor Guest of Honor:
Sharyn November**

Fan Guest of Honor: TBD

	Until 10/31/03	Until 3/8/2004	At The Door
Attending	\$35	\$45	\$70
Child	\$15	\$15	\$30
Supporting	\$15	\$15	*

* Supporting memberships may convert to attending memberships for \$30

For more information:

**Minicon 39
P.O. Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN 55408**

<http://www.minicon.org>

THE 61ST WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION **TORCON**

TORONTO • AUGUST 28 TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2003

Metro Toronto Convention Centre

Royal York Hotel, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Renaissance Toronto Hotel at Sky Dome

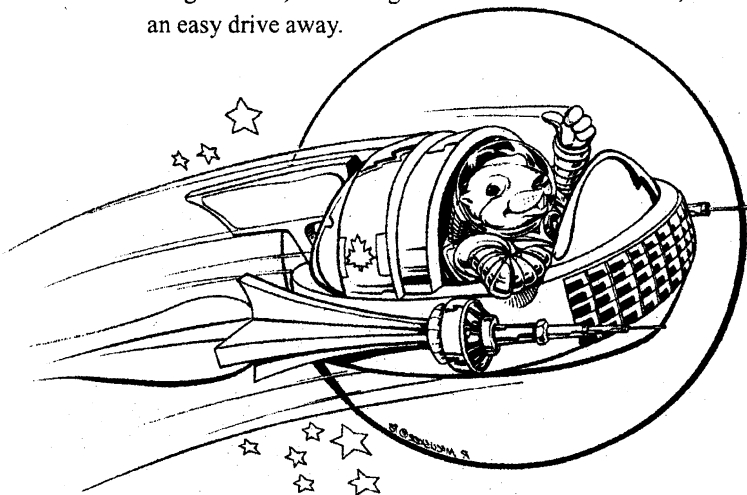
"Toronto is by official UN statistics the single most multicultural city in the world; it is also statistically the safest city in North America and, by the reckoning of many, the one with the richest literary culture."

Pico Iyer, Harper's Magazine

"Toronto is a wonderful city, and it has been far too long since I've had the chance to spend any time there, see the sights, visit with my friends, and of course sample that world famous Canadian cuisine."

George R.R. Martin

Toronto is a city that holds all the wonders of the world in one clean, safe, friendly place: a theatre scene rivaled only by London and New York, more than 80 cultures from across the globe, attractions that range from high art to rowdy family fun. Many of our most popular attractions are within walking distance of each other. In downtown Toronto, a short stroll is all it takes to travel between thousands of hotel rooms, great sports venues, the CN Tower, major convention centres, endless shopping, top theatre, the waterfront, and inspired cuisine. Beyond the cozy and quirky neighbourhoods of the city are more fabulous attractions, plus countryside, Niagara Falls, a wine region and outdoor adventures, all an easy drive away.



Guests of Honour

George R.R. Martin (pro)

Frank Kelly Freas (artist)

Mike Glycer (fan)

Spider Robinson (toastmaster)

GoHst of Honour

Robert Bloch, the spirit of Toronto Worldcons

Membership Rates	Canadian Dollars	US Dollars
Supporting	\$60	\$40
Attending	\$275	\$185
Supporting to Attending	\$215	\$145
Child	\$60	\$40

Register Online www.torcon3.on.ca

Torcon 3
PO Box 3, Station A
Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5W 1A2

Email: info@torcon3.on.ca
Website: www.torcon3.on.ca

"Worldcon" & "World Science Fiction Convention" are registered service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society