

Minicon 35
PO Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis MN 55408

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Minicon 35

April 21-23, 2000
Hilton Minneapolis & Towers
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Writer Guest of Honor

Maureen F. McHugh

Fan Guest of Honor

Lenny Bailes

Artist Guest of Honor

John Berkey

Mark Time Award Presenters:

Orson & David Ossman

Membership	Until 15-Mar-00	At-the-door
Attending	\$40	\$70
Child Attending	\$15	\$30
Supporting	\$15	N/A

(Convert to Attending at the door: \$25)

Hotel Reservations

Call the Hilton directly at 612-376-1000 (or the toll-free reservation system at 800-445-8667) to reserve a regular sleeping room. To reserve a suite, contact <hotel@minicon35.mnssf.org> or send your request to the Minicon PO Box. Room rates: \$72/night+tax, same as 1999! Suite rates also the same; see page 8.



Minicon's address:

Minicon 35
P.O. Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN 55408

<http://www.mnssf.org/minicon35/>
Email addresses: See page 13



Minicon is brought to you by...

Minnesota Science Fiction Society
P.O. Box 8583
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Minn-Stf events hotline: 612-824-5559

First Name _____ Middle Name/Initial _____

Last Name _____

Minicon Mailing ID (from mailing label) _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Prov _____

Postal Code _____

Country _____

☐ My address is *incorrect* on the mailing label; the correct information is entered above.

Optional Information:

Email _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell phone or Pager _____ Fax _____

Preferred time and method of contact _____

Optional Name Badge Information:

"Badge Name": _____
(see below)

If you'd like a nonstandard name badge, please indicate below what will go in the larger and smaller type fields on the badge. (The defaults are shown first and in **bold italics**):

Full name:

☐ **in larger type** ☐ in smaller type

• If full name is in larger type, smaller type should contain:

☐ **nothing** ☐ email address ☐ "badge name"

• If full name is in smaller type, larger type should contain:

☐ **first name only** ☐ "badge name"

Should printed "Full name" include middle name/initial?
(if one has been given):

☐ **no** ☐ **yes**

Examples of possible name badge format, illustrating full name in "larger" and "smaller" type fields:

Full name

Smaller type

Larger Type

Full name



Membership Form

Membership type: _____ Until 15Mar2000

☐ Attending \$40

☐ Child Attending \$15
(12 and under)

☐ Supporting \$15

Memberships are transferable, but are not refundable.

Please send me:

☐ Program participation info

☐ Art show exhibit info

☐ Child care info

Please Volunteer!

TIP: Not sure what to volunteer for? We ALWAYS need more help with setup and teardown, so if you can come early or stay late, and you're willing to work, let us know!

☐ Thursday Night work party

☐ Collating ☐ Hauling

☐ Consuite Setup

☐ Assembly of Art Show Panels

☐ At the Con

☐ Badgers ☐ Gophers

☐ Consuite

☐ Working the Tables (Registration, Volunteers, Info Desk, Art Show, etc.)

☐ Pretty much anything

☐ Teardown (dismantling, hauling, cleaning)

☐ Sunday

☐ Monday

When Does Minicon Start?

By Davey Snyder

Oh, about the middle of last July... oops, sorry, it just feels that way sometimes. Many many hours of advance work go into a Minicon before we ever get to the Hilton. (Sure, more help is always welcome — see “Volunteers” in this PR.)

We *do* get there, though. This year, we’re planning to get there in the late afternoon of Thursday, April 20, say, about 5pm. There won’t be much to see then, but there’ll be plenty to do — moving in from the truck to our hotel space, building the Art Show, setting up Hospitality, and other arrangements to make the Hilton look and feel like Minicon for the weekend. Later in the evening there’ll be a collating session to assemble the Pocket Program, and probably a few other projects. Program, the Art Show and Hucksters’ Room, and all of the “public” Minicon will start on Friday morning, but Thursday evening is a fine chance to meet people and start interesting conversations while working together.

If you’ve pre-registered (see the back of this PR for the form) you’ll be able to pick up your badge and materials at Registration that night, although membership sales won’t open until Friday morning. The Volunteers Desk will be open Thursday beginning at 6:00 pm for folks to sign in and find out what’s going on where.

The chart below is a *tentative* schedule of what’s planned for when. It is subject to change, but we hope not by much. Please check your Pocket Program when you get to Minicon (or at the Volunteers Desk on Thursday evening) to confirm particular times and events.



	Thursday (Set-up)	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Volunteers	6-10pm	9:30am-8pm	9:30am-8pm	11am-2pm
Registration	8-11pm (pre-reg only)	10am-10pm	10am-3pm	
Hospitality	setup 5pm	all day	all day	teardown
Art Show	setup 7pm	artist checkin 10am-2pm open 2-7pm	open 10am-6pm Auction: Saturday night	public pickup 10am-2pm artist pickup 2-4pm
Hucksters		hucksters noon-6pm public 2-6pm	10am-5pm	11am-3pm
Childcare		5-10pm	11am-9pm	noon-4pm
Program		3-11pm	10am-11pm	10am-4:30pm
Event Horizon Music		evening	noon-midnight	afternoon

Register Now!

**The pre-
registration
deadline is
March 15!**

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Programming

"The best piece of programming I attended at Minicon was a panel, or rather a lecture, by Karyn Ashburn 'Is there a fannish accent?'... It truly was the most interesting lecture or panel I've ever attended, and I can't recommend her too highly."

—Cally Soukup

"I'd given up on expecting a rational discussion of 'The Cold Equations' — and Minicon 34 had one."

—Dan Goodman

"I enjoyed programming. In what I consider to be perfect 'con' pattern, I would attend a few panels early on in the afternoon, intend to go to some others, and get distracted by a fascinating conversation. My only suggestion would be, well, an irritatingly vague one. I liked the depth of discussion at each panel, but I would like to see a bit more — well, variety. A larger proportion of science, for a start. I did like the variety of media covered in the panels."

—Sigrid Ellis

Our thanks and enthusiasm to everyone who's already sent in suggestions and their requests for programming participation info. We've received ideas for discussing everything from giants to girl power (anime style), the roots of fantasy, the aging of new writers, and the fannish food pyramid, with interesting stops and digressions along the way. If you've written to us, you can expect to hear back during February and March, as we put this year's program together. Here's a quick preview of what to expect:

Traditions Old and New

Minicon favorites include Jane Yolen's Bedtime Stories, with the requisite milk and cookies, and John M. Ford's "Ask Dr. Mike," with stranger ingredients. Mark Olson returns with the NESFA trivia contest, complete with flying prizes, and Gordy Dickson plans to regale us with tales from a lifetime in sf and the earlier days of fandom.

We'll be spotlighting our Guests of Honor, of course. Gender, identity, and cultural transformations à la Maureen F. McHugh. The eclectic fascinations of Lenny Bailes. Hard sf through an impressionistic paintbrush — John Berkey's approach to book covers, movie posters, and more.

Children's Programming returns, with Laura Jean Fish coordinating castle building and related sf & fantasy activities throughout the weekend. Parents, please accompany children who are under age 10 or who otherwise need individual supervision.

The Year in Science is expanding to two hours, per suggestions received last year. Mitch Bentley and Bill Roper have both volunteered to encourage fans to trade money (and more money!) for art at the Saturday night art auction. Plus new readings, author's roundtables, provocative panels and more — what will we all be talking about after the convention this year?

"Ptaw. Ptaw. Dance. Boogie."

If you've got a Furby, bring it to Minicon for the first ever (and only, we hope) Minicon Furby Dance. How many consecutive loud sounds will it take to get all of the Furbies dancing? What will happen after that? And just how many Furbies will talk to each other during the set breaks? (ID stickers available in case your Furby becomes paralyzed with delight and forgets who it is. Fresh batteries encouraged.)

Scheduled music performances return with the Event Horizon (see Hospitality, page 10), and filkers are welcome to play late into the night in the Marquette Room after the last programming item scheduled there each day.

And we're just getting started....

Already, over 60 writers, editors, publishers, artists, scientists, former GoHs, musicians, listeners, readers, viewers, and fans have expressed

interest in being on Minicon programming. We hope you will, too. There's also still time to send in your programming ideas, though we're definitely in "the sooner, the better" part of the time-frame. Email is fast — please write to <programming@minicon35.mnsth.org>. Otherwise, send us a letter but do include a phone number and times when we can reach you. Thanks!

Mark Time Award Presenters

By Jerry Stearns



Presenters for the 2000 Mark Time Awards for Best Science Fiction Audio Production, and for the Ogle Awards for Best Horror/Fantasy Audio, will be Orson and David Ossman.

David is one of the founders of the Mark Time Awards, and has substantial credentials as a member of the legendary Firesign Theatre, and as an audio writer and director. Orson Ossman was recently cast in a new work by Norman Corwin (the "Stephen Spielberg of radio"), and played scenes with Walter Cronkite. He is a very affable 11 years old. We are pleased to have David Ossman join his son, because this may be the last time he is able to come given the increase in his work schedule since he started coming to Minicons a few years ago.

Judges for this year's Awards are Jerry Stearns, Philip Proctor, Brian Price, Kara Dalkey and Richard Fish.

For those who would like to submit their work for consideration in the Mark Time/Ogle competition, you can see the Mark Time web site at <http://www.mtn.org/~jstearns/MarkTime.html>, or call Jerry at 612-722-2907. Also see Minicon 35 PR1.

We look forward to presenting another original SF audio work at Minicon 35, as part of the Mark Time Radio Hour on Friday evening of the convention.

Notes on Taking Your Furby to Minicon

Please do take your Furby to Minicon.

Please do not tape your Furby to the wall, or attach it to the wall in any way. This means any of the walls, including the ones in your room. Even if your Furby asks nicely. (And don't even think about the fire sprinklers.) Posters, signs, and Furbys with party announcements on them may be attached to the Minicon signboards and kiosks.

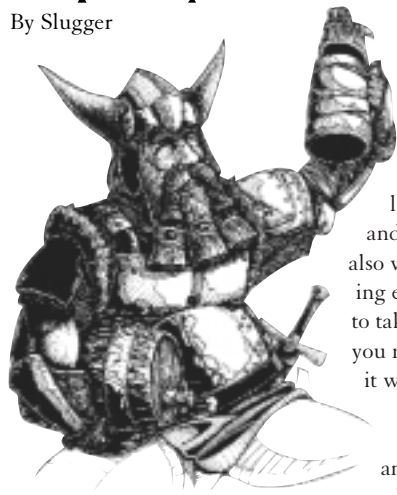
If your Furby wishes to leave the hotel for a while, there are in/out privileges available from the hotel parking ramp, as long as either yourself or your Furby is a registered guest at the hotel.

For those Furbys who are financially independent and who would like a bit of room to stretch their legs, there are still lots of rooms available at

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Hospitality and The Event Horizon

By Slugger



This Easter we're hoping to provide someplace you'll be able to enjoy traditional refreshments and good company. Someplace you'll enjoy talking about even after the Con is over. Aside from the Usual Suspects, be sure to come on up to the Presidential Suite for a little jump-start. (We will be bringing back espresso, and music performance, in the Event Horizon.) We are also working to schedule music and several other entertaining events for your enjoyment. We will be more than happy to take requests. If there's anything, or anyone, you think you might enjoy seeing or hearing at the Con, please, share it with us at <hospitality@minicon35.mnsth.org> or write to us at the address at the bottom of the page. We would love to hear any and all suggestions or ideas, and try to fit them in.

Planning on attending several programming items in a row? Got a really interesting conversation going that you don't want to interrupt with trips to get a cup of coffee or beer? Or just plain not interested in fighting the crowd (too often)? One of the things we would like to encourage, in effort to reduce the amount of waste and recycling we produce, is that you bring a mug or drinking jack of your own. Any size or shape. In fact, the bigger the better, as far as we're concerned. Funny cartoons or interesting designs appreciated. Bring it our way, and we'll fill it to the brim with the beverage of your choice.

Consuites

Hospitality will be providing the usual spread of drinks and munchies you've become accustomed to, in the consuites throughout the weekend. We will also be providing the usual continental breakfast and veggies for those looking for something a bit more nutritious. Breakfast will be from 7:00am to 10:00am on Saturday and Sunday. Veggies will be served in the afternoons.

We will be serving beer and cider in the 3rd floor consuites this year, until bar closing time, to make room for coffee upstairs. Beer and cider will then be available in the Presidential Suite after hours.

Event Horizon

Minicon 35 is once again proud to be hosting live, scheduled music. We will be providing a comfortable, informal setting for acoustic/lightly amplified music (BYO sound equipment) where individuals and small groups can play. (Performers will have 60-90 minutes to play, with 30-60 minutes between acts.)

The schedule will run from approximately noon to midnight on Saturday, with a few shows on Friday and Sunday, with breaks between sets for socializing, food and drink.

Confirmed performers include: David Emerson & Barb Jensen, Nate Bucklin, and Peggy O'Neil; also, there will be a guitar/Harmonica Jam, with Fan GoH Lenny Bailes and Bob Berlien.

If you're a musician or entertainer who would enjoy performing for fun and egoboo at Minicon 35, we'd like to hear from you, too. Please contact Dai Innes at <music@minicon35.mnsth.org> or write to him at Minicon PO Box for details or with questions or preferences.

This year we will again be hosting a gaming area with tables and games... Please feel free to bring games to share, or try your hand at Fluxx, Guillotine, or one of many other fannish favorites!

Volunteers are also welcome, as always.

Anyone with requests, ideas, or preferences should feel free to contact us at <hospitality@minicon35.mnsth.org> or write to us c/o the Minicon PO Box.

Signage

The hotel does not permit signs to be posted directly on walls or other surfaces. Signs can be posted on signboards and Minicon info kiosks like the ones we had last year. We plan on having lots of these in high-traffic areas, so bring your party flyers and other posters to amuse and enlighten fellow fen.

Hucksters

Greetings!

The Hucksters Room is full. We've started a waiting list; if you'd like to be added to it or to receive Hucksters information next year, please write to the P.O. Box or to <hucksters@minicon35.mnsth.org>. The selection in the Huckster's Room will include:

- 29% Books — new, used, & rare
- 24% Jewelry
- 17% Clothing — T-shirts, costumes, & more
- 30% Other cool stuff — meteorites, movie props, sculpture, swords, tarot, toys, & more....

Confirmed hucksters are listed on the Minicon web page.

Artists: This year we are borrowing a tradition from the cartooner's and furry conventions — **The Artist's Alley**. In the Huckster's Room we will have a limited number of tables where you can sell prints, be available to draw in sketchbooks or take commissions. Table space will be rented by the hour. Sign up now to reserve the time slot of your choice. Contact Giovanna Fregni at the P.O. Box or at <hucksters@minicon35.mnsth.org>.



Hotel

Suites

To request and reserve a suite, please contact Minicon (not the hotel). You can request a suite by sending us a note to the Minicon 35 PO Box address (Attn: Hotel) or by email to hotel@minicon35.mnstf.org.

Suite rates per night (+12% tax) are the same as the 1999 rates:

\$130	Executive King Suite
\$202	Exec. King + 1 connecting room
\$274	Exec. King + 2 connecting rooms
\$275	2-bedroom Parlor Suite

Open room parties will be given priority in suite reservations, but there are also some Executive King suites on quiet floors.

At this point we'll handle suite requests as they come in. Last year we were able to fill requests as late as three weeks before the convention. So if you would like a suite, please contact us; the odds are good we can meet your request.

Minicon 35 is returning to the downtown **Hilton Minneapolis & Towers** at 1001 Marquette Ave South (this is the block between 10th and 11th Streets South and between Marquette Avenue and 2nd Avenue South).

We encourage everyone to book their rooms **Now** — and certainly before our room block is released on March 31, 2000. To reserve a sleeping room, call:

612-376-1000 Hilton Minneapolis & Towers
800-445-8667 Hilton International toll-free reservations

Ask for the "Minicon" group rate. (If that doesn't work, ask for the "Minnesota Science Fiction Society" group rate.) Our room rate is the same as last year: \$72 per night (+12% tax) for 1-4 people in a standard guestroom. This rate is good Wednesday, April 19, 2000, through Tuesday, April 25, 2000. (Minicon 35 is April 21- April 23, 2000.)

The Hilton is taking guaranteed reservations only; you must guarantee your reservation one of two ways:

1. Guarantee it with a credit card number. By the terms of our contract, use of this method requires no further deposit. Your room will be held until 3:00 am the first night of your reservation, at which point the card will be charged for that night.
2. Guarantee it with a cash deposit. This deposit is due at the Hilton Minneapolis within ten days of making your reservation.

In either case, **if you need to cancel a reservation, you must do so at least a full day before your scheduled arrival.** If you have questions about the status of your reservation, check directly with the Hilton Minneapolis & Towers (612-376-1000).

If you want a quiet room, ask for a room below the 16th floor. The open room parties will all be located on the 16th floor and above, so **if you want your room to be on a party floor, ask for a higher floor.** Be sure to state any preferences for smoking or non-smoking room, king bed or double-double, and higher floor (party) or lower floor (quiet). Also, please let the reservations staff know of any special needs you may have, such as reserving one of their 25 handicapped-accessible rooms.

The Hilton's check-in time is 3:00 pm. Normal check-out time is 12 noon, but that has been extended until 4:00 pm on Sunday and Monday of Minicon. Pool hours have also been extended until 2:30 am throughout the convention.

Parking

Hotel guests have in and out privileges with the hotel parking, which is \$11.50/day. Otherwise, parking in downtown Minneapolis is neither expensive nor scarce, especially on a weekend. One option is the Leamington Transit Hub, which is between 2nd and 3rd Avenue, and between 10th and 11th Street (see sidebar for rates). It is connected by skyway to the Hilton. There is also an on-street lot that is across 10th Street from the Leamington. Saturdays and Sundays are \$2.50 each, and after 6:00 pm on Friday it will be \$2.50 as well. During a weekday, there is an \$8 maximum charge.

Directions to Minicon

Traveling to Minicon by car:

From the south, follow I-35W into Minneapolis. Once past MN-62, move to the second lane from the left, and follow the signs for MN-65. Exit on 11th St., follow 11th to Marquette Ave., and turn right on Marquette. The Hilton is on Marquette, on your immediate right, between 10th and 11th Sts.

From the east, follow I-94 to Minneapolis, exit on 11th St., and proceed as above.

From the north, follow I-35W into Minneapolis, and follow I-94 westbound. Exit on 11th St. and proceed as above.

From the west, you have several choices. If you follow I-94 to downtown Minneapolis, exit at Hennepin and Lyndale, and turn left onto Hennepin at the first light. (Yes, we know the sign at Hennepin says "Dunwoody Blvd".) Turn right on 12th St., then left on Marquette Ave. Or you can take I-494 south from I-94 to I-394, and follow I-394 east to Minneapolis. After MN-100, stay in the second lane from the left, exit onto 12th St., follow 12th St. to Marquette, and turn left onto Marquette.

To Minicon by rail:

From the Midway Amtrak depot, either take a cab to the *Downtown Minneapolis Hilton*, or take a westbound #16 MCTO bus to Minneapolis. Transfer at Marquette Ave. to any bus headed southwest on Marquette (against the normal flow of vehicle traffic) and get off at 10th St. The Hilton is on the other side of the street, between 10th and 11th Sts. Please note that as of this writing, rail service is every other day in each direction (east from Seattle, west from Chicago).

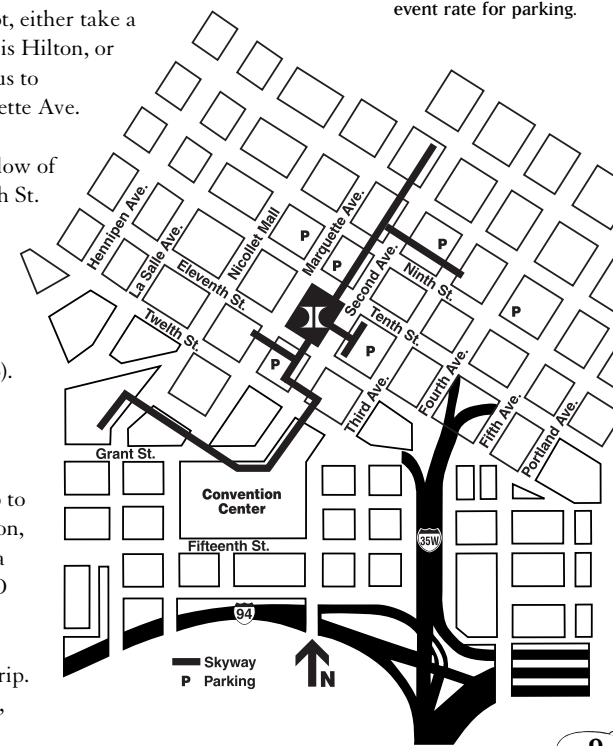
To Minicon by air:

From Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, take a cab to the *Downtown Minneapolis Hilton*, an Airport Limousine (actually a van), or a northbound #7 MCTO bus downtown and transfer at Marquette as above. The airport limo is \$11 one-way; \$18 roundtrip. Average taxi cost is \$25 one-way, including tip.

Leamington parking rates:

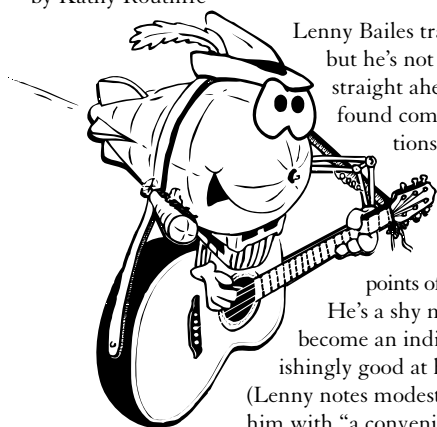
1/2 hour	1.50
1st hour	2.50
1-2 hours	4.50
2-3 hours	6.50
3-12 hours	8.50
12-24 hours	11.00
nights (4pm-2am/non-event)	2.50
sat/sun non-event	3.00
event	6.00

Minicon is not the kind of "event" that would cause them to raise their rates. However, there may be something else going on in the area that might cause them to charge event rate for parking.



Spiraling Upward with Lenny Bailes

by Kathy Routliffe



Lenny Bailes travels in spirals: he's going somewhere good, but he's not about to miss anything on the way by simply going straight ahead. Along the path he's followed so far, Lenny has found comic books, science fiction, fandom, fanzines, conventions, philosophies, paradigm shifts, music, gaffiation, and ultimate return.

But Lenny, Minicon 35's Fan Guest of Honor, is more than the places he's been.

A poll of people who know him comes up with these points of information.

He's a shy man who will ask if he can join the dinner party, then become an indispensable guest. He's a computer whiz who's astonishingly good at helping people with their Windows problems. (Lenny notes modestly that the advent of the personal computer provided him with "a convenient means to earn cat-food scrip without leaving the house." What he means is he's an award-winning writer in the field.)

More points: He's a musician who plays at Minicon music parties, happy to add texture to the tapestry. His first musical love was Gilbert & Sullivan, who he says taught him to question authority.

That's part of what he likes about fandom, too: "It's a learning process where I learn to question authority gracefully — not to scream, not use bad logical arguments, not insult people to get my points across."

Lenny found and loved fandom while growing up in New York during the 1950s and 1960s. It was a place where grown-ups didn't dismiss kids who read books and used big words, he says: "It told me there were other worlds out there, people who wanted to think and use their minds."

He read *Amazing* and *Astounding*. He and his buddy Arnie Katz published fanzines — not very good, Lenny remembers — and discovered other fans like Buck Coulson, Bruce Pelz and a 17-year-old Fred Haskell. After that, the flood.

The National Fantasy Fan Federation; New York FISTFA and Fanoclast meetings; decamping from New York to North Carolina and the Southern Fandom Press Alliance; becoming a charter member of APA-L, the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society weekly *apa*; surviving, he says, "a withering, but constructive review by Terry Carr of the latest Katz-Bailes production."

Production of the Katz-Bailes Quip, running from 1965-67 as Lenny crossed the continent to UCLA in Los Angeles; west coast 'zine work like co-editing *Shaggy* and joining FAPA; more fannish activities, more conventions, *After Lunch*.

For a time Lenny spiraled away from fandom. As he says, he switched paradigms in the late 1960s and spent the 1970s finding out about the world outside of fandom, "making the transition from words on pages to people." That meant moving to San Francisco, and discovering philosophy, politics and rock and roll.

Then in 1983 he re-discovered what he used to love about fandom when he ran across old fanzines at Constellation.

"It was a love affair with the ability to express all kinds of feelings; satire, humor, personal essays, parody. With the best fanzines, what you feel when they come in the mail is that 'I'm not alone today. Here are my friends and we can communicate through this.'"

Inspired, he published again himself, 'zines like *After Lunch* #2 and *Whistlestar*. He became active in running, programming and taking part in small cons like CORFLU.

More, he circled into the personal computer frontier. He jumped into the WELL and spoke out on GENie, earning kudos as a thoughtful, assertive spokesman for old-fashioned liberal values.

What do I know about Lenny Bailes? He's a Minicon regular. He's soft-spoken. He's slyly funny. He believes in things and he won't back down about them unless you convince him to do so with logic. He's a polite pit bull about those things he considers ethical and good.

Or, as Patrick Nielsen Hayden says, "He's a very focused, morally earnest, hardworking space cowboy."

Absolutely. Find him, meet him, talk to him, listen to him (talk and play). You won't regret joining him for a short time on his spiraling journey to something good.

Visit our GoH's webpages:

Lenny: <http://userwww.sfsu.edu/lennyb>

Maureen: <http://www.en.com/users/mcq/>

Maureen F. McHugh

by Anne Gay

Maureen F. McHugh doesn't (just) write conventional sf. Her award-winning *China Mountain Zhang* has been described as a coming-of-age novel, but it is a far departure from the space-operatic teen-changes-world-grows-beard-and-impresses-girl type of plot that such a label might bring to mind. *Zhang* is about a young man growing into adulthood. China is ascendant; his position as an American Born Chinese and an engineer gives him a precariously respectable position in a world that is officially repressive of people who, like him, are homosexual. Now, if you're looking for answers on how to transcend and fix ethnic and gender prejudice, you won't find them here. But as R.A. Heinlein once said about himself, an author might be "trying to shake the reader loose from some preconceptions and induce him to think for himself, along new and fresh lines." This is what you experience in Maureen's writing. You won't be disappointed. As Heinlein went on to say:

A rational human being does not need answers, spoon-fed to him on 'faith'; he needs questions to worry over serious ones. The quality of the answers then depends on *him*... (*Grumbles from the Grave*, p 246)

Our Writer Guest of Honor is good at posing critical questions. In a presentation to the PSFS <www.en.com/users/mcq/antisf.html>, she challenged many of the conventional dogmas of science fiction. "Science fiction and fantasy taught me that if I was an outsider, but a bright outsider, then if I waited a bit my destiny would come upon me. It didn't, of course."

I have no doubt that Maureen F. McHugh will be the center of some fascinating discussions at Minicon 35.



Volunteers

By Sharon Kahn, Volunteers Head



We want you to volunteer for Minicon for the same reason that we want you to come to Minicon in the first place—because it's fun. It's a way to meet new people, get together with old friends, and feel like an important part of the Minicon experience. There's also the fact that without bartenders, badgers, gophers, etc. there is no way that we could run a convention this size without charging hundreds of dollars for memberships. Minicon has no paid staff; it is a completely volunteer-run convention.

There are several ways to join our volunteer corps. In theory, any one of these methods will work. In real life, we're far from perfect, so if you don't get a response, please try again.

- ➡ Fill in the Volunteer section of your registration form printed inside the cover of this Progress Report.
- ➡ Submit a volunteer form online, and/or subscribe to the Minicon volunteers mailing list (<http://www.mnsthf.org/minicon35/volunteer.html>)
- ➡ Join us at the DreamHaven bookstore on February 26th, March 18th, April 1st or April 15th for our open meetings. DreamHaven is at 912 W. Lake Street and the meetings begin at 1:00 pm.
- ➡ Contact the head of the department that you interests you. (See page 13 for addresses)
- ➡ Send email to me at volunteers@minicon35.mnsthf.org
- ➡ Sign up at the convention at the handy Volunteers desk (which will open at the Thursday evening work party this year).

If you've already volunteered, or do so soon, you can expect to be contacted in March or April by someone hoping to schedule you for specific volunteer shifts. You will not be automatically scheduled for shifts. If you don't hear from us by mid-April, you can either contact a department head to remind them that you are available or wait until the con and sign up at the Volunteers desk.

Notes on Taking Your Furby to Minicon continued from page 5

the hotel. There are also plenty of suites available, for those Furbys in a hospitable state of mind. The Hilton has also indicated to us that they are also willing to rent these rooms to humans without Furbys, so act quickly before the rooms are snatched up by our fine electronic friends.

If your Furby is interested in meeting people, volunteering is a fine way to do this. Please contact the Volunteers Department, either before or at the convention. Please note that all Furbys who volunteer must be accompanied by a human during their volunteer shift.

Furbys must follow the common sense weapons and reality policies of Minicon, which will be specified in detail in the Souvenir Book you get at registration. Not having arms does not exempt them from this.

As long as we all (human and Furby alike) follow these policies, it should be a great convention for everyone. See you there!

Contacting Us

Minicon 35

PO Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis MN 55408

Email:

request@minicon35.mnsthf.org

We have an Official Announcements mailing list that carries occasional news about Minicon. To join, send email to minicon-announce-subscribe@mnsthf.org. To join the Volunteers mailing list, send email to minicon-volunteers-subscribe@mnsthf.org.

Minicon 35 Web Page: <http://www.mnsthf.org/minicon35/>

Departmental Contacts:

chair@minicon35.mnsthf.org
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hotel@minicon35.mnsthf.org
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MarkTimeAward@minicon35.mnsthf.org
programming@minicon35.mnsthf.org
publications@minicon35.mnsthf.org
registration@minicon35.mnsthf.org
volunteers@minicon35.mnsthf.org
webmaster@minicon35.mnsthf.org

Advertising Rates and Publishing Schedule

We hope you've enjoyed this Progress Report. Our next publication is the Souvenir Book, which will be given to all members at Registration. Copy and ad requests are already coming in! If you would like to place an ad, the reservation deadline is March 1, 2000, and the rates are as follows:

	Fan Rate	Pro Rate	Reservation Deadline
Souvenir Book full page (7.5" x 10.25")	\$ 150	\$ 300	1-Mar-2000
Souvenir Book half page (7.5" x 5")	\$ 75	\$ 150	

Fan rates are available for non-profit groups and other non-commercial fan-run conventions and activities. We are printing via CTP (computer-to-plate) and will get the best results from electronic files. Camera-ready art must be scanned and placed into the electronic layout; if it contains halftones or screens it will not reproduce properly. Contact Anne at publications@minicon35.mnsthf.org for details.

Art

Cover art by Glenn Tenhoff, who also contributed the illustrations on pages 3 & 10. Illustrations on pages 6, 7, & 12 by Charles Urbach. Blimp by Ken Fletcher; Minicon 35 type by Andrew Bertke.

Publications

By Anne Gay
Publications Head

Thank You!

Thanks to Jeff Schalles, perennial hero of the revolution, for layout on this PR, Doug Wickstrom and Scott Raun for mimeography, and to everyone who looked over the PR and made valuable suggestions. And a huge thank-you to those who helped with the PR: Printing, Collating, Folding, Stapling, Sealing, Labelling, Stamping "Mailing" Parties, which stretched over 3 days:

Kevin G. Austin
Peer G. Dudda
David Dyer-Bennet
Pamela Dyer-Bennet
Dean Gahlon
Fred A. Levy Haskell
Sharon Kahn
Lydia Nickerson
Mike Pins
Scott Raun
Mark Richards
Martin Schafer
Jeff Schalles
Geri Sullivan
Richard Tatge
Doug Wickstrom

Registration

By Fred A.
Levy Haskell
Registration Head
(Pre-con)



How to Register

Complete* a registration form and mail it, along with your membership check payable to Minicon (in US currency on a \$US account), to:

Minicon 35, PO Box 8297

Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408

The registration form is available in the progress reports, on the back of Minicon flyers at various other conventions, and on the Minicon web page <<http://www.mnstf.org/minicon35/>>. However, we do not have on-line registration, so if you go to the web page for the form you'll have to print it out and mail it with your check.

Minicon will send a confirmation of your membership to the address you provide on the registration form. We expect to mail confirmations electronically or by first class no later than April 1, 2000. If you have already registered, that is indicated on the top line of your PR2 mailing label.

Have you moved?

If this PR was forwarded to you, please let Minicon know your current address. The hippest way to do this is to register, but you may send us a change-of-address notice if you'd prefer. Remember to include your Minicon Mailing ID number from your address label!

Supporting Memberships

Supporting memberships can be converted to Attending for \$25 at the door. If you think you'll come to Minicon but are short of cash right now, a supporting membership is a good way to avoid the high at-the-door rate. And it helps Minicon better estimate how many members we'll have, so we don't run out of souvenir books or munchies.

Bounced checks

We expect to deposit all checks within one month of their receipt at the Minicon P.O.Box. Bounced checks are subject to a \$15 fee and must be cleared in order to pick up your Minicon membership badge.

*Registration Form Tricky Bits:

Filling out the Registration form should be pretty simple, but there are a few new features we'd like to point out.

1. **"First Name," "Middle Name/Initial," and "Last Name":** Please use the separate fields for your first and last names. You don't have to give us your middle name or initial, but it helps us distinguish quickly between similar names.
2. **Minicon Mailing ID (MMID):** If you have received a Progress Report, you'll see a string of letters and numbers on the first line of the label—this is your MMID number. It's a randomly assigned ID number, which we hope will help us keep track of people in the mailing list, ensure prompt address updates, and avoid duplication. If you would be so kind as to write this number on your registration form, it will help us a lot.
3. **Email address and all those phone numbers**—really are optional. However, it sure makes it easier for us to get in touch with you in a hurry if we have to. It's especially nice if you're volunteering for something, since communicating with volunteers is the first step in a happy and healthy relationship with them. Of course, surface mail will work, so you don't actually have to provide any of this information if you don't want to. Further, we'll do our best to respect any preferred time and method of contact notes you make.
4. **Name badge options**—please indicate how you want your badge to look. If you have additional requirements for your badge, please write & tell us.

Coming to Minicon from a foreign country?

Please send us your completed registration form so we'll know you're coming—we'll even get a membership badge ready for you. However, to save wear-and-tear on the international banking community, fans living outside the US may pay at the door at the pre-registration rate instead of sending money with your registration form. (Please bring proof of foreign residency and pay in US dollars or US-dollar travellers checks.)