



CHICAGO
The 70th World Science Fiction Convention

Chicon

2012

PROGRESS REPORT #1

NOTE FROM PRINTER:
We found this ahh,
"note" stuck in with
the masters of your
first Progress Report.
Didn't know what to
do with it so ... here
it is!

REPORT TO FEARLESS LEADER

Report from Isaac Yudovich on the selection of Chicon 7 cosmonaut/astronaut crew for the eyes only of Fearless Leader.

The mission controllers of the Chicon 7 have been very vocal about the crew for their new Mercury mission, neglecting all attempts at security or confidentiality. This makes it much easier for the mother country to acquire the information on this mission. It is noted that if we were running such a mission (which we well might be), our security would be much tighter and details freely available about this Chicon 7 would only be released after a successful mission.

Despite the typical looseness of Amerikan security which made the names of the astronauts readily available to any *debil* who cared to listen, I have, at great risk to life and limb, managed to learn a little more about the crew of Chicon 7. When I get back to the motherland, I will share the story of how I had to eat what they call an "Italian beef-wet" in order to gather the details of below.

The first of the six astronauts is **Mikhail Resnikov**. According to our research, he has been traveling to other worlds for more than fifty years. He is well known for opening up Walpurgis III, the planet of evil, has spent many years exploring the multitudinous worlds of the Inner Frontier, and frequenting the space stations Kirinyaga and Velvet Comet. A top secret briefing about Resnikov appears attached to this report.

Joining Resnikov is **Rowena Morrillovna**. She issues her reports in visual medium and has created illustrations for the reports filed by many other astronauts, including L'Engle, McCaffrey, Tolkien, Lovecraft, and the defector Asimov.

Jane Frankaya maintains an enormous archive of images depicting the exploration of other worlds by such artists as Hannes Bok, Chesley Bonestell, Bob Eggleton, Boris Vallejo, and more. In addition, she has written the definitive biographical dictionary of fantasy and science fiction artists as well as monographs on pioneers such as Powers and Berkey.

Peggy Rae Sapiensky served as chairman of the committee that ran the 1998 mission. She has been publishing mission reports in such places as ETWAS since 1960. Over the years, she has been involved with more missions than can easily be re-con-*ted*. A second generation mission specialist, her father helped manufacture the first generation of rockets at the Philadelphia Rocket Works in 1953.

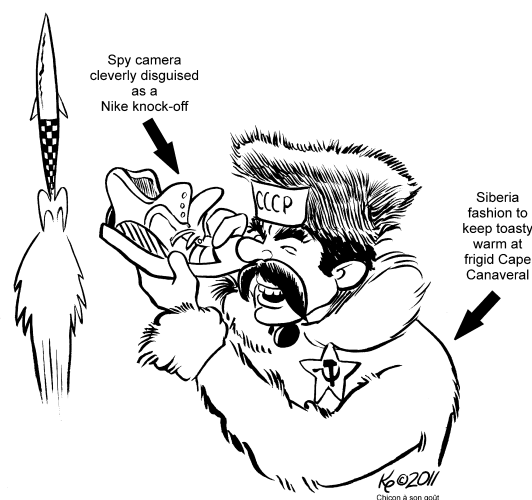
Story Musgrav has flown into space on six previous missions dating back to the first space walk on the first *Challenger* mission. He is the only person to have flown missions on all of the American space shuttles. Because of this, we expect him to be a wealth of knowledge and allow us to leapfrog technologically and launch a new generation of spacecraft.

John Scalziuk will ensure the rest of the astronauts perform their jobs accordingly, acting as the Flight Director for Chicon 7. He has provided the official record of the colony on Roanoke and compiled a chronicle of the devastation of North America and the resultant move to a more environmentally sound existence.

The Chicon 7 mission is to create a self contained community with a *Zócalo* where all sorts of goods and services can be bought, sold, and bartered. A cantina where the mission crew and support can arrange to have refreshments and conversations (we understand that the only druids that will be permitted entry are the hand-held variety), a galleria to display the works of astronaut Morrillovna and others, as well as the collection and those represented by astronaut Frankaya.

At this time, my research is still incomplete. I'm trying to track down many leads about what the mission planners intend to have happen during Chicon 7 although there are tantalizing clues. I hope to be able to discover more for you in the coming months without having to face the dreaded Italian beef-wet (although I may have to learn the difference between what they call thin crust, deep dish, and stuffed in my efforts, apparently three very different styles of the same food). I hope to report on this Chicon 7, and include detailed briefings on the other astronauts, more in the future if the Americans don't catch me and the food doesn't kill me.

Clearly Chicon 7 has put together a disparate group to complete their mission. It remains to be seen the successes they will achieve.



the 70th World Science Fiction Convention

CHICON 7

August 30 – September 3, 2012

Chicago, Illinois

Author Guest of Honor

MIKE RESNICK

Fan Guest of Honor

PEGGY RAE SAPIENZA

Artist Guest of Honor

ROWENA MORRILL

Agent Guest of Honor

JANE FRANK

Astronaut Guest of Honor

STORY MUSGRAVE

Toastmaster

JOHN SCALZI

PROGRESS REPORT 1

<http://chicon.org>

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LETTER FROM THE CHICON CHAIRMAN

Dave McCarty

We're just under 18 months out from the launch of Chicon 7! As I write this, our countdown clock reads 540 days. By the time you read this it will be even less—and we can't wait until it hits zero!

I want to start by thanking everyone who made this mission possible. First and foremost, our gracious donors whose support was vital to our campaign to bring this mission home to Chicago. It was a pleasure to meet and talk with so many great fans during the campaign. I want to also give my deepest thanks to the voters for honoring us with the opportunity to host the 70th World Science Fiction Convention.

Finally, I want to thank our pre-launch team whose tireless work over the last six years made all this possible. I have lost count as to how many tables we've sat at, parties we've thrown, smoothies we've served, but I know that our team poured their blood (stupid paper cuts...), sweat, and tears into it, and the end result is completely worth it.

Now, the "real work" begins! Our ground crew is already hard at work putting together an event we think will be filled with fun, excitement, community and hopefully more than a few happy surprises. We have some incredibly talented and creative people, and the ideas they are coming up with will amaze you!

We're always looking for a few more folks with enthusiasm to help this mission be a success, so if you have the inclination I invite you to visit our website and read up on how to get connected as a volunteer. We need volunteers for small jobs, big jobs, and everything in between. We are focused on our committee, staff, and volunteers having a good time putting together the mission, and hope that you will join us.

Once it's all said and done, we believe we'll all be able to look back on this mission as one of the most successful ever.

With our outstanding Mission Crew—Mike Resnick, Rowena Morrill, Story Musgrave, Jane Frank, and Peggy Rae Sapienza, plus our Flight Director John Scalzi—we believe we've assembled a team for the ages.

We welcome all of you to join us in celebrating our community, the year in Science Fiction and Fantasy, and this fine team. We look forward to you joining us at our Launch Facility for the five days of our Mission.

And the countdown clock rolls on...

Chicon 7 is coming to a convention near you!

Over the next several months, members of the Chicon 7 team will be at various conventions around the country. We hope you will stop by our table to find out what we're planning, and perhaps volunteer to get involved.

We are planning to have a fan table at the following conventions (subject to change):

Norwescon April 21-24 (Seattle, WA)
Minicon April 22-24 (Minneapolis, MN)
Eastercon April 22-25 (Birmingham, England)
Penguicon April 29-May 1 (Troy, MI)
Demicon April 29-May 1 (Des Moines, IA)
Gaylaxicon May 13-15 (Atlanta, GA)
Anime Central May 20-22 (Chicago, IL)
Balticon May 27-30 (Baltimore, MD)
ConQuest May 27-29 (Kansas City, MO)
Marcon May 27-29 (Columbus, OH)
Wiscon May 26-30 (Madison, WI)
Duckon June 17-19 (Chicago, IL)
Westercon July 1-4 (San Jose, CA)
ThinkGalacticon July 8-10 (Chicago, IL)
Cyphan July 29-31 (Chicago, IL)
Musecon August 5-7 (Chicago, IL)
RENOVATION (WORLDCON) August 17-21 (Reno, NV)
Dragon*Con Sept 2-5 (Atlanta, GA – Labor Day Weekend)
Archon Sept 30-Oct 2 (St. Louis, MO)
ConClave October 7-9 (Detroit, MI)
Windycon Nov 11-13 (Chicago, IL)
Midwest FurFest Nov 18-20 (Chicago, IL)

SFContario / Convention Nov 18-20 (Toronto, Canada)
Chicago Tardis Nov 25-27 (Chicago, IL)
LosCon Nov 25-27 (Los Angeles, CA)

Obviously we would love it if you wanted to join us and help out at our fan tables. If you are interested in doing so, drop us a line at ambassador@chicon.org and let us know which conventions you will be attending and are able to help us.

Wait! What's that you say? We're not coming to *your* convention? And we should be there? There's an easy way to solve that problem! Volunteer to be a Chicon 7 Ambassador! Ambassadors can help in several ways –

We'll send you a t-shirt or ball cap that you can wear around your local convention, plus flyers and other giveaways. Just spend some time at your convention walking around, giving people information, and talking up Chicon 7. Simple!

Take Chicon 7 flyers and other giveaways to local gaming, comic, or book stores.

Help us connect to your local school, university, or library.

Bring Chicon 7 information to your local SF / F book club or meet up.

You can help spread the word about the awesome event that Chicon 7 will be! If you are interested, email us at ambassador@chicon.org

See you around the world!

CHICAGO AND SPACE

Steven H Silver

Chicago (or at least Chicagoland) is home to three absolutely fabulous space museums. The best known is the oldest. The Adler Planetarium was built in 1930 and is the oldest planetarium in the Western Hemisphere. It has also undergone an amazing renovation since the last time Chicago hosted the Worldcon. Further afield, on the campus of Triton College in River Grove, is the Cernan Earth and Space Center, named for Chicagoan Eugene Cernan, the commander of Apollo 17. In between is the Henry Crown Space Center, a part of the Museum of Science and Industry.

At the Henry Crown Center, you'll have the chance to examine a full size mock-up of a lunar lander, see Borman, Lovell, and Anders's Apollo 8 capsule (the first manned spaceship to orbit the moon), Scott Carpenter's Aurora 7 Mercury capsule, and a variety of other space memorabilia and exhibits.

If the Henry Crown Center isn't enough to capture your interest, wander down the hall to the rest of the Museum of Science and Industry, housed in one of the few remaining buildings from the World Columbian Exposition of 1893 (the other one in Chicago is the Art Institute, just down the road from the Hyatt Regency Chicago). In the museum, you can see a captured World War II German submarine, silent film actress Colleen Moore's incredible fairy castle, explore a coal mine, and explore various other aspects of science and technology ranging from biology to computers.

OUR LOGO

Dave McCarty and
Helen Montgomery

*Freedom 7. Liberty Bell
7. Friendship 7. Aurora 7.
Sigma 7. Faith 7.*

For many of us in fandom, our love of science fiction is connected to our love of space—and space exploration. The NASA Mercury missions of the early 1960s are, for many, the purest representation of space exploration. Freedom 7—the first American in space. Friendship 7—the first American in orbit. Faith 7—examining what it is like to spend more than 24 hours in space.

Sense of wonder at its real life finest, which is really what science fiction is about for many fans.

**...all those 7's just
waiting for Chicon
to use!**

We wanted to incorporate that "Wow!" feeling into our convention and into our logo. Artist Rick Sternbach, who has done work for NASA, graciously agreed to design the logo for us. We think he did a bang-up job, and hope that you love the logo as much as we do.



In thinking about the Chicon 7 logo, the Mercury missions immediately came to mind—all those 7's just waiting for Chicon to

A black and white photograph of the London skyline at night, featuring the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, reflected in the water of the River Thames.

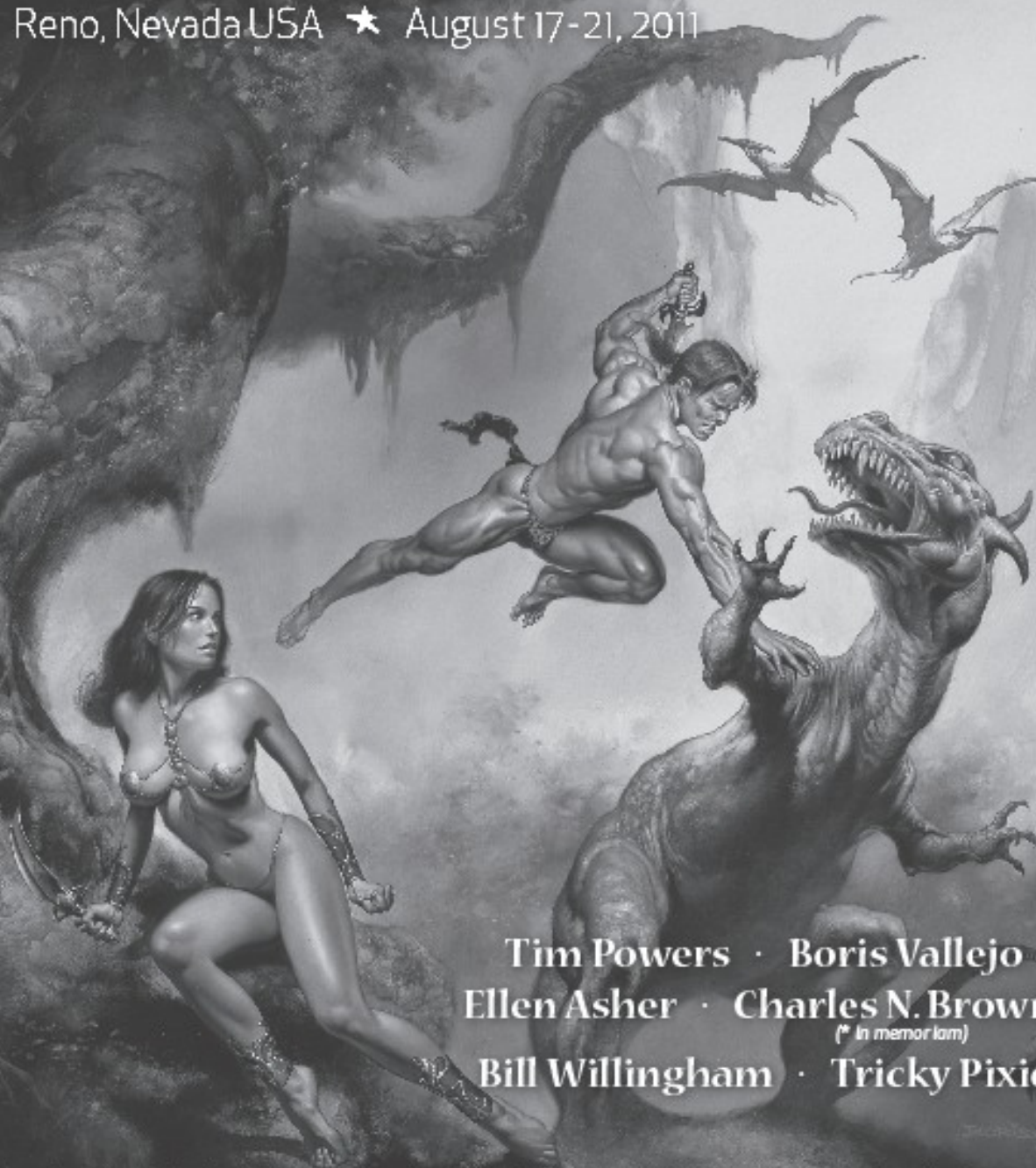
LONDON IN 2014
London Docklands, 14-18 August 2014
A bid for the 72nd World Science Fiction Convention

www.Londonin2014.org
Email: info@Londonin2014.org Twitter: @LondonIn2014

Renovation

The 69th World Science Fiction Convention

Reno, Nevada USA ★ August 17-21, 2011



Tim Powers · Boris Vallejo
Ellen Asher · Charles N. Brown*
(* In memoriam)
Bill Willingham · Tricky Pixie

Reno Convention Fandom, Inc. (RCFI) is an Oregon-based non-profit corporation. "WSFS," "World Science Fiction Conventions," "Worldcon" and "Hugo Award" are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.

"Savage Land" by Boris Vallejo. © Copyright 2000 • info@renovationsf.org • www.renovationsf.org

CHICON DIVISION CHAIRS...SPEAK!

Member Services

Leane Verhulst, Division Head

The Member Services Division is here to serve fans, from registration to volunteers, from info desk to operations, from childcare to disability services. We will be providing details on all of these services over the coming months on our website and in future progress reports. Please send a note to info@chicon.org with any general questions, or you can send a message to reg@chicon.org for questions related to registering, to volunteers@chicon.org for questions related to volunteering, or to disabilityservices@chicon.org for questions related to disability services.

Memberships

Individual memberships are available for Adults, Young Adults, and Children. We also sell Family memberships which reduce the cost of attendance for families of two adults with two or more children or young adults. In addition to these, we can place your purchase on an installment plan which will lock in the membership rate at the time you begin the installment plan.

The table below details the current membership rate. Note that these rates will expire on September 30, 2011. The base Family rate at this time is US \$500.

	Attending	Young Adult (17-21 year)	Child (0-16 years)	Kid-In-Tow	Supporting
New Purchase	US \$175	US \$100	US \$75	FREE	US \$50
Upgrade from Supporting	US \$125	US \$50	US \$25	FREE	N/A
Upgrade from Friend	US \$95	US \$20	FREE	FREE	FREE

Types of Membership

Attending: An Attending membership includes all publications, as well as voting and attending rights. If you voted in the 2012 Worldcon Site Selection election and you were a Friend of the Chicago in 2012 Worldcon bid, then you are automatically an Attending member of Chicon as a result of paying your voting fee.

Supporting: A Supporting membership includes all of the rights and privileges of an attending membership except the right to attend Chicon. You can always upgrade your membership from Supporting to Attending by paying the difference between the “New Supporting” and “New Attending” membership rates in force at the time of conversion. If you voted in the 2012 Worldcon Site Selection election, you are automatically a Supporting member of Chicon as a result of paying your voting fee.

Young Adult: A Young Adult (YA) Attending membership is identical to an Attending membership but it is only available to people aged 17 to 21 as of August 30, 2012. This class of membership carries the same rights as an Attending membership (see above) including voting rights and receiving all convention publi-

Continued on page 8

cations. Individuals in this age group can also be included in Family memberships (see below). YA memberships can only be transferred to people who also meet the YA age criteria.

Children and Kids-in-Tow: Child memberships are available for all children aged 16 or under as of August 30, 2012 and will include some hours of free professional childcare for children aged 12 or under. (Child care provisions will not be finalized until much nearer to the convention, but all children in any convention-provided child care facility will need to be registered members of the convention.) Children aged 6 or under as of August 30, 2012 may alternatively be registered free of charge as Kids-in-Tow. Although there is no charge, we encourage you to register your Kids-in-Tow as it helps us to understand the number of young children who may be at the convention. Kids-in-Tow memberships do not include child care. Children and Kids-in-Tow memberships include admission to Chicon under the supervision of an adult, but do not include publications or voting rights for the Hugo Awards or Worldcon Site Selection. Children and Kids-in-Tow may have Attending memberships (and thus have publications and voting rights) instead of Child or Kids-in-Tow memberships, but must still be supervised by an adult at all times.

Family Memberships: Family memberships can be purchased for 2 adults and any number of dependent children aged 16 or under as of August 30, 2012. Children under 12 will receive the same number of hours of free childcare as a separate child membership. The current price for a Family membership is US \$500, less any applicable voting/supporter discounts and this price is good until September 30, 2011. Young adult family members, aged 17 to 21 as of August 30, 2012 may be included in a Family membership for the additional cost of US \$25 for each young adult.

Membership Installment Plan

The Chicon Installment Plan enables fans to spread the cost of an Attending membership over a number of monthly or quarterly payments. Under the plan, you buy a Supporting membership first and then pay the fee for conversion to Attending membership in a series of installments. The total charge for your Attending Membership will be frozen at the time your application to join the plan is received and accepted. The benefits of the plan are the lock-in of the rate (protecting you against future rate increases) and the opportunity to spread your costs over an extended period. Minimum payment per installment is US \$50 (US \$100 for a Family membership). You can make your payments by credit card or by check (US\$ only, please) sent to our US office. Final payment must reach us no later than June 30, 2012. You can cancel your plan at any time and any payments apart from the initial supporting membership will be returned to you. Installment plan memberships are not transferable until the full amount has been paid. If you fail to make the minimum payment, the rate will be unlocked and you will need to pay the current membership rate. For more information, see our web page or contact us by e-mail at reg@chicon.org.

Volunteers

Chicon needs you! Every single person who works on Chicon—from the Chairman to the badge checker, from the person who maintains the website to the person who created this publication, from the Masquerade Director to the person handing out the programs for the Hugo Ceremony—everyone is a volunteer. Why do we do it? Those of us who volunteer reap a reward that is not obvious to the casual attendee. We love conventions, and want to create the best convention possible. By volunteering, you get to be part of that creative process. Would you like to join in? Send an email to volunteers@chicon.org if you are interested in learning what you can do to help.

Exhibits

John Donat

Yes, Chicon 7 will have exhibits! Lots of them.

We will have a dealers' room. Greg Ketter has graciously consented to run the dealers' room for Chicon 7. Procedures for applying for a dealers' room table should be published shortly after Renovation, in August or September. Before that, you can send queries about the dealers room to dealers@chicon.org.

Art show details will be formalized around the same timeline as the dealers' room. Any inquiries before that should be sent to artshow@chicon.org.

We are still doing our space plan, but we believe the dealer's room and art show will be in the same locations they've been in for the previous Chicons at the Hyatt Regency.

Other exhibits. You bet. We're planning to have some exhibits that will fit the Chicon 7 theme, more to come as things come together.

If you have any general exhibits inquiries, you can reach us at exhibits@chicon.org.

Facilities

Bruce Farr

We're using the **Hyatt Regency Chicago** for all of our hotel rooms and function space. We have a block of 1,800 rooms available to members as well as all 228,000 square feet of function space. This includes the Regency, Crystal, and Plaza Ballrooms and the Riverside Exhibition Center. Overall there are 63 meetings rooms. We plan to fit the entire Worldcon under one roof! The Hyatt has hosted the Worldcon several times in the past and is happy to work with us and is glad to see us back!

The sleeping rooms have recently been renovated and upgraded, including 37" plasma TVs. Room rates are \$145 plus tax for single through quad occupancy. Reduced rates are available for suites, which will need to be reserved through the committee for party areas. The hotel has 119 suites available. All room reservations to members will be through the hotel and will open in mid-January, 2012.

Hotel restaurants include the Bistro at 151, located in the East Tower Atrium Lobby and 6 other bars and restaurants. We're working on extended hours and special breakfast buffet pricing. Connected to the hotel is Illinois Center with 30+ fast food and sit down restaurants.

Less than a block from the Hyatt is a grocery store with party supplies. Corkage is waived for suites and hotel rooms as well as the con's own hospitality functions. We will have low-cost ice available to purchase on site as well.

Hyatt Regency is ADA compliant, except for: a restroom in the third floor West Tower function area as well as the Buckingham room (just over 1,000 sq ft).

For smoking, as of January 1, 2008, all indoor workplaces and public places (including bars/taverns, restaurants, private clubs, and casinos) are smoke-free in Chicago. Due to this law the Hyatt Regency Chicago has only specially designated smoking rooms available.

The hotel is next to Chicago's Magnificent Mile. It's a short walk to the Chicago Loop, shopping, entertainment, museums, and parks.

Programming

Bobbie DuFault

We are beginning to get the people and ideas in place for Chicon programming and the Programming team would love to hear your ideas. We are very excited by some of the ideas and technologies we are forming up to work with at Chicon. Especially exciting will be our collaboration with Dragon*Con, which happens to be on the same weekend in 2012. We have plans in the works to do some simultaneous paneling with professionals from both conventions interacting through a sort of virtual meeting, both with live audiences in the rooms at their respective conventions.

We hope to raise the energy and excitement of programming back up to the levels found when it was new. We want to enable you to be proud to be geek, to be a fan, to be a part of the long-standing traditions and the new traditions as well. We want to enchant and delight you at every turn, to keep you coming back for more.

With this in mind now is a great time to give us feedback on what you want to see at Chicon. What are your favorites, what new and exciting thing have we not yet done, how can we make it all new, fresh, and exciting again? We are in process of setting up our web links so that you can suggest programming ideas and let us know if you are someone who would like to share their expertise as a panelist. Please don't hesitate to drop us a line at programming@chicon.org.

Hospitality

Ann Totusek

Are you ready for the F.E.A.S.T? (Fans Eating All Sorts of Things).

Are you a fan of good taste? Do you know of that special dish you've got to introduce the Worldcon to? If you're a member of a fan group—be it a regional club, a fannish special interest group, or a convention, we'd love to have your group host a meal in the ConSuite at Chicon

Continued on page 18

MIKE RESNICK, MR. WOW!

Brenda Sutton

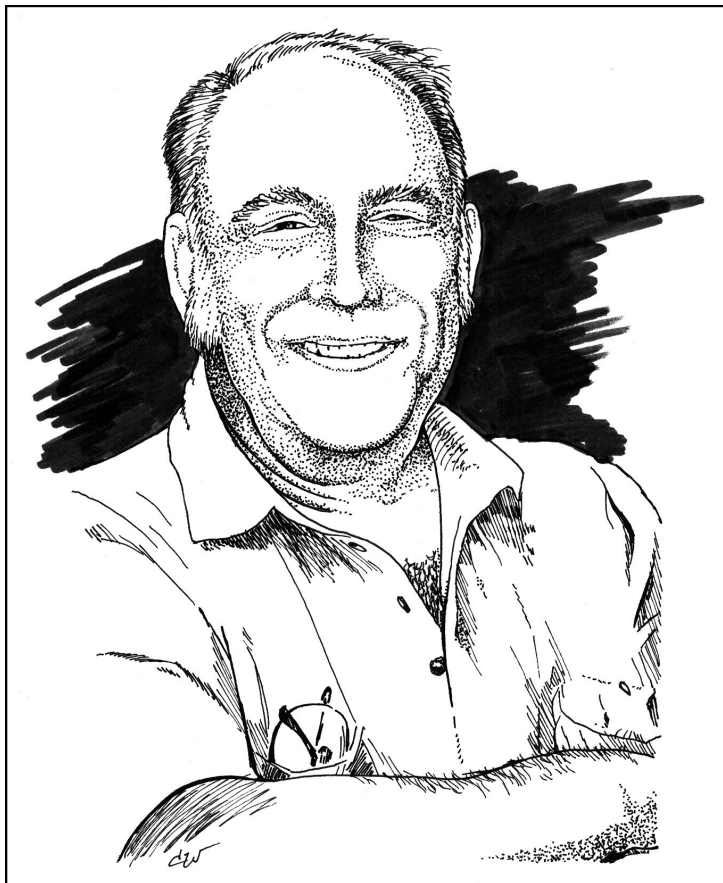
Mike Resnick was the natural Guest of Honor choice for a Chicago Worldcon. A native son of that toddling town, he's earned more awards for short fiction than any other author—ever. From 1989 to 2010, SF fans placed Mike Resnick's name on the Hugo nomination ballot a whopping 20 times, and they've sent him home with five of those silver rocket ships. Obviously, we love his stories. There are *so* many great Resnick stories, and fortunately for us, they keep on pouring out from this most prolific of writers.

He's taught us the fables of the Kiyuku people, taking part of Africa into outer space with his *Kirinyaga* story cycle, and returning us to Earth to chart humanity's extinction in his *Seven Views of Olduvai Gorge*. We've learned much from Ethan Owen's regret and Pricilla Wallace's passion in Resnick's "Travels With My Cats," and we've stalked the streets of alternate Manhattan alongside his private eye, John Justin Mallory.

It hasn't been all spaceships and aliens, though. Before writing science fiction, Mike labored anonymously in the "adult" writing field for a dozen years writing over 200 novels. "You may view my post-1980 career," he says, "as a public penance for my pre-1980 career. By the time I started writing serious science fiction, I pretty much had my own style and outlook. I suppose if any single writer had an influence on me it was Bob Sheckley, both for his accessibility, and for the fact that he was able to sell all the humor he could write. I love humor, and I've sold well over 100 funny stories and a few funny novels, which I probably wouldn't have attempted in such quantity without Bob's example."

When asked which of his stories means the most to him and why, Mike mentions two. His story "For I Have Touched the Sky" received nominations for a Hugo and Nebula and then won awards in other countries. That was when he finally knew

"I had something very special in the *Kirinyaga* stories, that I could mine them for many more meaningful stories, which was not immediately clear to me when I wrote the first one." In his other personal favorite, "A Princess of Earth" (which lost the Hugo to "Travels With My Cats"), a lonely widower rescues a naked man shivering in his snowy backyard who claims to be John Carter of Mars. "We entered fandom, back in 1962, through the Burroughs door," says Resnick, "and I was glad to repay the favor. More to the point, I am deeply in love with my wife, and I have a feeling that my behavior, if she dies first, would be as strange, as foolish, and as noble as the narrator's."



Whenever I get the chance, there are two things I ask great writers. First, whose writing makes them sit up and take notice. Mike Resnick's favorites in the field are C. L. Moore, Bob Sheckley, Alfie Bester, Jim White, Barry Malzberg, George Effinger, Olaf Stapledon, "and a handful of others. They're at the top of my list not only because they are brilliant writers, but because they are brilliant in ways or areas that I am not." For the same reason, his favorites out of the field are Robert Ludlum, Damon Runyon, Edward Whittemore, Raymond Chandler, Nikos Kazantzakis, Jim Ellroy, and a handful of others.

And I ask them to share the best and worst advice they ever received on writing and publishing. Take notes: for Mike Resnick, the best advice was "never do an editor's

work for him. Which is to say, never decide not to send a story or a book to a certain editor because you think, based on what you've gleaned of his taste, that he won't like it. Maybe he won't, but let *him* reject it; don't you do it for him." And the worst? "Slant your story toward an editor's perceived taste. It's hard enough to write a good story that excels in what *you* want."

Yes, he is a consummate pro SF writer, but if you ask him, Mike Resnick will tell you that he still considers himself a fan. What drew him and his wife Carol into fandom? "The first

fans we met, at the 1963 Worldcon, in the Burroughs Bibliophiles, and Chicago fandom, were endlessly interesting people whose companionship we enjoyed, so we decided to pursue this hobby and have never regretted it. To this day I still read fanzines, I still write for them, I still number as many fans as pros among my close friends.”

And of all the pros he knows, and Mike knows a lot, the one he “admired and [has] tried to emulate, not in his writing but in his relationship to fandom...is Bob Bloch, the best friend science fiction fandom ever had. If I can do half as much for fandom as he did, I’ll be well satisfied (and so, I think, will fandom).”

As a fan and a pro, Mike’s been to more than his fair share of conventions and Worldcons. “I hope that Chicon 7 will be my best, but to date I’d have to say my very first Worldcon was my best experience. It’s where Carol and I met most of our heroes and heroines for the first time, discovered our fannish family, and decided to go to that family’s annual reunion whenever possible. Chicon 7 will be our 40th.”

And his worst con experience? “I’ve often wondered,” says Mike, “why anyone who attended the 1968 Worldcon banquet, with its 95-degree heat, no air conditioning, and the rambling, endless Guest of Honor speech ever attended another—especially considering that most of us had to run a police cordon just to get to the Claremont Hotel (yclept the Transylvania Hilton) in the first place.”

When you spot Mike at the countless conventions he attends, it’s a good bet he’s working on panels—a *lot* of panels. So, if he could sit on a “dream panel”, who would be sitting behind the table with him? And what would they talk about? “I love the unwritten history of our field, the stories that have never been codified between covers. I’d like to be on that panel with Frank M. Robinson, Robert Silverberg, and Joe Haldeman.” And you’d better believe *that* panel would be SRO.

Amongst their many fannish accomplishments, Mike and Carol Resnick are Master Class costumers who have won four Worldcon masquerades. “Carol designed and made them all; I just wore them.” His personal favorite walks down the costuming runway were Chun the Unavoidable and Lith the Golden Witch from Jack Vance’s *The Dying Earth* (which was Most Authentic at Torcon 2), and The White Sybil and The Ice Demon from Clark Ashton Smith’s Hyperborean story cycle (which was Best in Show at Discon II). Carol’s favorite was The Avengers of Space, from the Henry Kuttner novella of the same name (which was Best in Show at the 1979 NASFIC).

And the worst aisle walk? “1976, at MidAmeriCon. We weren’t on a presidium stage, but on narrow tables that wound through the audience. Carol had been glued into her mask/headdress, had lost contact lens during the first run-through, and could barely see the tables.”

Unfortunately for us, Mike says there will never be another

costume in his future. First, you must know that animals have been an important part of his life. He’s stood the middle of a herd of African elephants where he “developed an unending love for these gentle giants.” He’s spent decades writing about horse racing and purebred collies. So, not surprisingly, there’s one costume he regrets never getting a chance to show. “We wanted to do Jenkins and the dogs from Cliff Simak’s *City* when the NASFIC was held in Louisville. We bred and exhibited our collies all over the country, and I wanted to go onstage as the robot with maybe half a dozen of my champions, whom I could control just with vocal commands. The Galt House [Hotel] was sure the dogs would panic in front of an audience and wouldn’t allow it. We explained that these same dogs had shown at Westminster and the International and other shows that all drew far larger audiences, that they were used to crowds and wouldn’t wig out when the audience cheered, but the hotel was adamant, so we went as The Avengers of Space instead.”

“You may view my post-1980 career as a public penance for my pre-1980 career. By the time I started writing serious science fiction, I pretty much had my own style and outlook.”

Granted, Mike Resnick is an inspiring writer on his own, but at the time of this writing, he also has worked with 45 credited collaborators. (He keeps begging his talented daughter Laura to collaborate with him, but she won’t. “She wrote the introduction to *With a Little Help from My Friends*, a collection of 26 of my collaborations, explaining why she *won’t* collaborate with her tyrannical father. (Me? Sweet, thoughtful, shy, retiring, *me*???)”

In addition to those 45, wife Carol Resnick (whom he has described as his “uncredited collaborator”) helped with hundreds of his solo stories, dozens of novels, and the screenplays for *Santiago* and *Widowmaker*. So what’s it like to collaborate with a spouse? “Carol [takes] the lead on the action scenes, as she’s much more visual than I am. I leave pages for her each night (well, early morning) when I go to bed, and when I wake up she’s line-edited them and/or written her comments on them. I do not always take her advice, but I have never taken it and had a story or book fail to sell the first time out of the box.”

And now, an exciting announcement. In keeping with his history of successful collaborations, Mike offers an opportunity to one very lucky new writer: **The Chicon 7 Collaboration Contest!** Mike plans to write the beginning of a story. Contestants must then offer their take on how the story should end. The winner, selected by Mike, actually gets to collaborate with him on this story! Watch for the next Chicon 7 progress report for more details on the contest.



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WRAPPING UP THE BID

(or, “Crackpot financing schemes and why we love them just as much as we hoped we would”)

Dave McCarty

So, everyone reading this remembers that Chicago ran for the 2008 Worldcon and lost, right? Lost by 12 votes, right? Out of like 1600 votes cast, right? Right? Alright, forget about that. The thing that is important is what did we learn from this experience? Quite a few things, actually...but the one that matters now is the cautionary tale. What tale might that be? I like to call it the “What happened to all the money?!” tale.

In their current form, Worldcon bids are advertising machines that are working on a two part sales process. The ultimately more important part is the “convince them to vote for you” process, but that really doesn’t have a bearing on the cautionary tale. The “convince them to give you money” process is the one that is relevant to the story. Getting people to give you money is important, no doubt. This is an advertising campaign and those take money. For the 2008 campaign, we raised just about \$45,000 over the 4 years of the bid and every dollar mattered. At the end, we’d spent over \$42,000 of it. If we hadn’t convinced a lot of other people to give us some of their money, the campaign wouldn’t have happened.

So, we raised all the money we ended up needing, plus a little...so we did OK, right? Many people would say yes, but once we got to the end of it and I looked at where we were, I didn’t think so. Had we won the vote, we’d caused ourselves a serious problem. I can sum up the largest part of the problem in one word, and that word is “Friends.” The “current etiquette” is that anyone who is a friend of the bid and votes in the site selection election has their attending membership...they have to pay no more money beyond the voting fee and what they gave to the bid. Now, being a friend of the bid usually involves giving a lot more money than just the base amount, so everything should be fine, right? Well...not really.

Bids are excellent machines for spending money, especially in a contested race. The money a “Friend” gives the bid *should* (by rights) be spent on the bid...giving more to help the bid do more and advertise better. That benefit the friend gets is pretty hefty though. The voting fee for the 2008 election was \$40. This means that each friend who voted gave the *convention* \$40. Their upgrade to an attending membership (\$80 for all other voters) was then complimentary. This process wasn’t unique to us, it was standard practice. Everyone

did it. This means that 100 “friends” created a liability to the convention of \$8,000, 200 would be \$16,000. From talking with a bunch of bids over the last 6 years...by the time you get to the vote, 200 friends seems a pretty frequent number. For 2008, we had a good deal more.

The exact liability we’d created still makes me queasy...I can’t bring myself to type it. I can only point out how easy it is to extrapolate the math. Now I remind folks to go back and look at how much income the bid hadn’t spent, which we could use to cover the liability we’d created. The math wiz’s will have already figured out it was somewhere over \$3,000. Not even close to enough. Our convention was in the hole for the cost of a car before a vote was ever cast. This promising away the convention’s income as part of the bid is rampant. Everyone did it.

In addition to the easily shown large liability for friends, there were also pretty usual give backs on the membership cost for anyone who had just been a regular pre-supporter. While this number doesn’t scale up as dramatically or as quickly as the friend number, it is the same problem. Money that was given to the bid, for the purpose of being **used** by the bid was then subtracted from the income of the convention. This was all a standard part of the expected behavior for purchasing a bid “pre-support”.

So, when it came time to start up the bid for 2012, one of my main goals for the bidding process was deal with the finances differently. The first change was dramatic and simple. We decided to only actively bid for 2 years and that gave us a projected budget in the neighborhood of \$20,000. So, to be safe, we set ourselves the task of raising \$25,000. After subtracting out the seed money from the 2008 bid as well as projections of bid dues and merchandise sales, we figured we needed to raise \$14,000.

This brings us to the next change, which was also dramatic, but not simple. I wanted to delete the word “pre-support” from the lexicon of the bid. Everywhere you turned with that word, you were creating liabilities for the convention in the form of lost revenue. I wanted to focus on the word “donation.” Since we needed to raise \$14,000, that meant we needed 700 people to donate \$20. This was my initial crackpot plan. I wanted to have the bid set up to only solicit donations for \$20 and

Continued on page 14

Wrapping up, continued

nothing more. We had a pretty animated discussion about it at one of our initial bid meetings.

The primary concern was that many people believed that the existence of “friend of the bid” was expected to such a degree that the loss of it would cause material damage to the bid. We fought about it in a manner that felt like tooth and nail for what seemed to be most of an afternoon. In this, I think there’s another object lesson about bidding. Fear of not meeting expectations is an intense pressure on bids that works really hard to keep them from changing any existing bidding behaviors. It is a tremendously frightening thing to think of dedicating as much of yourself as it takes to run a bid and come up short for want of not doing things “in the right way.”

In the end, we compromised when some brilliant person (*cough*Helen*cough*) suggested that we set a friend rate of \$100 and escrow \$80 of it. This worked perfectly. The bid could focus on finding 700 people and folks could be friends or not as they chose without a large negative impact to the convention. We still had a good deal of trepidation in the run up to our coming out party at Denvention, mostly focused around the anxiety involved in trying something this new. We needed to make sure that people understood they were *donating* and not *pre-supporting*...which we knew was unusual so we prepared ourselves for a cold reception.

The first public hearing of the crackpot plan was at the fannish inquisition at Denvention. I had a knot in my stomach as I went through the speech and prepared myself for a whole lot of “what do you mean?” kind of push back. We got applause. None of us really expected that. Actually, our entire coming out at Denvention was something none of us expected. For a bid, the Worldcon you announce at is likely going to be your best performance you will see. As such, I had this fantasy about how many donations we could take in at Denver. I shared my target with the team as we approached the convention and asked everyone to work hard to raise the money we were going to need. At the end of the convention, when we finally counted up everything we’d taken in...well, we’d tripled the fantasy number I had in my head. In fact, we’d taken in over half of the donations we’d need for the next two years. It was quite a warm reception.

Over the course of the two years of the bid...we did get some push back but we always tried to be honest and understanding. We frequently told folks if getting something off your attending membership was something they really required, they should not donate and just save their money for their attending membership and we would love them just the same for taking the time to talk with us. I think I can count the number of people who didn’t kick in without needing to remove my shoes. To my

knowledge we really only had one person actually get offended at our donation model. All told, it seemed to be received very well.

So, how did the bid do financially? Well, I think we proved exactly what we wanted to prove.

Our donation income was almost dead on our “700 at \$20” that we’d started this plan with and we kept our expenses almost dead on our napkin calculations from early 2008. It’s almost like we knew what we were doing, but that’s a bit much to assert...so I’ll merely say our lives were blessed. The astute among you will note that our escrow at \$80 a head doesn’t quite cover the \$95 conversion fee so our created liability is not entirely covered by the escrow. Well, yeah. We picked the number we thought would work at the start but when it came time for setting the voting fee and conversion rate, we just couldn’t hold it there. However, the \$3,435 shortfall that represents was covered by other bid funds that we passed along to the convention, so we figure you’ll forgive us our lack of foresight on that one.

So, at the end of all that, what did we learn? We learned that fans will still donate to bids, out of the goodness of their heart without expecting anything other than thanks and love from the bid and a truly excellent Worldcon in return. We also learned that as long as you work hard to be clear about operating on donations at the bid table, you don’t encounter many problems with misunderstandings or hurt feelings. Finally, we learned that the donation model can raise just as much money as the pre-support model and do so without putting any real financial burden on the convention should you win. We hope any prospective bidders out there can take what we learned and build on it. Personally, any bid that tells me all I get for my money is their thanks, a good bid, and a great Worldcon? They’ll get at least \$20 from me, maybe more.

Chicago in 2012 Bid Accounts

Bid Revenue

Pass-along from Chicago in 2008	\$3,621.99
Donation Income	\$14,242.75
Escrow Funds	\$18,320.00
Bid Committee Dues	\$6,124.87
Miscellaneous Income	\$976.00
	\$43,285.61

Expenditures

Bid Parties	\$11,197.09
Advertising	\$4,259.07
Administrative Expense	\$1,158.87
T-Shirts and Other Paraphernalia	\$1,731.00
Equipment	\$1,258.40
Meeting Expenses	\$314.49
Taxes and Fees	<u>\$30.00</u>
	\$19,948.92
NET REVENUE	\$23,336.69

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If you have a membership for Chicon 7 and your name is not shown on this list, it is because the membership is set to not be shown on publicly available lists. If you would like to change that, please e-mail registration@chicon.org and notify our registration staff.

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Continued on page 16

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A0860	Paul Olmsted	A1195	Bill Rowe	A0819	Henry Spencer	A1326	Don York
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A0682	Frank Olynk	A1012	Beth Rubin	A0746	Spike	A0839	Tony Zbaraschuk
A0380	Jeff Orth	Y1014	Elinor Rubin-	A1249	Jason A. Spitzer	A0795	Richard Zellich
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A1042	Christopher Parrett	C1013	Jordan Rubin-	A0747	Kevin Standlee	A1320	Michael Zipser



FIND THE SPACESHIP!

This spaceship  is hidden somewhere within this progress report! See if you find it! When and if you do, let us hear from you at publications@chicon.org. Each correct entry will be eligible to win one of five autographed books from Chicon's Guest of Honor Mike Resnick, in a drawing to be held at this year's Worldcon. Check the Renovation daily newsletter for details. You need not attend the drawing to win—just pass along your contact info with your entry. Where's the spaceship?

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Additional Taxation: Vlad Harkonnen

Events: EM Hologram
First Night: Sondra de Jong

Publications: Guy Lillian
Program Book: Rose-Marie Lillian
Production: Terrence Miltner
Web Site: Alex von Thorn
Content Management: Kate Kligman
Web Content: Mike McMillan
Proofreading: Teresa Jansen
Newsletter: Tom Galloway

Marketing: James J. Murray
Social Networks: Meg Totusek
Convention Tables: Marah Searle-Kovacevic

Continued on page 18

Chicon 7 Progress Report Breakdown

<u>Country</u>	<u>Mail</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Unspecified</u>	<u>Total</u>
USA	70	219	7	558	854
Australia	1	6	0	25	32
Belgium	0	0	0	1	1
Canada	7	9	0	25	41
Croatia	0	0	0	1	1
Denmark	0	1	0	0	1
France	0	1	0	0	1
Germany	0	4	0	1	5
Great Britain	2	14	0	5	21
Ireland	0	0	0	1	1
Italy	0	1	0	0	1
Japan	2	1	0	6	9
Netherlands	0	0	0	4	4
New Zealand	0	2	0	1	3
Norway	0	1	0	1	2
Sweden	0	1	0	2	3
Switzerland	0	1	0	0	1
UK	3	3	0	19	25
Totals	85	264	7	650	1,006

Staff list, continued

Flyer Distribution: Gary Blog

School Outreach: Sandra Levy

Hospitality: Ann Totusek, kT FitzSimmons, Marah Searle-Kovacevic

Hugo Loser's Party (Renovation): Marah Searle-Kovacevic

Facilities: Bruce Farr

Hotel Liaison (Hyatt): Raymond Cyrus

Space Allocation: Leah Farr

Staff: Diane Blackwood, Glenn Glazer, Dina Krause, George Krause

Division reports, continued

7. You'll be able to strut your culinary stuff with the help of our ConSuite staff and promote your group or convention at the same time! More information will be forthcoming in future PRs, but if you're as excited as we are and just can't wait, feel free to contact us at hospitality@chicon.org and we'll give you as many details as we currently have.

Publications

Guy Lillian

Chicon 7 Progress Report 1 is a collaborative effort of the entire Chicon committee. Special thanks to STEVEN H SILVER, HELEN MONTGOMERY, BRENDA SUTTON, and DAVE MCCARTY for their efforts, and to everyone involved in the convention for their support. A special shout-out to GERI SULLIVAN and several others for their eagle-eyed proofing.

ALAN WHITE is the genius responsible for the cover to this issue. He has worked his artistic magic on fanzines ranging from Guy Lillian's *Challenger* to John Purcell's *Askance* to many a publication in Las Vegas, where he hangs his hat.

Hailing from the Toledo area, KURT ERICHSEN (inside front cover) has won the William Rotsler

Award for his inspired cartoonery, and has spread his unique wit fandom-wide.

CHARLIE WILLIAMS (Resnick piece) has been adorning fanzines and doing superb commercial art in Knoxville, Tennessee for decades. His portraits of the Guests of Honor at Noreascon 4 were a highlight of that worldcon's souvenir book.

GUY AND ROSE-MARIE LILLIAN edited that souvenir book *and* this progress report. Though Rosy did all the work, Guy still claims it as GHLIII Press Publication #1093.

Future progress reports will each feature information about Chicago and an article/interview with one of Chicon's Guests of Honor. Our supervising "Flying Monkee," STEVEN H SILVER, editor of the Hugo-nominated *Argentus*, hopes to involve other members of the fanzine community in our PRs, so if you're interested in contributing artwork, text, or assistance of any kind to Chicon's publications, please contact us at publications@chicon.org. We'd be *ecstatic* to hear from you!

A personal note: Guy & Rosy have fond memories of Chicago, especially the aforementioned Museum of Science and Industry. During the 2000 Chicon, they visited that splendid edifice...and became engaged there! The museum, Chicago, and Chicon have a special place in their hearts!



DeepSouthCon 50: Lunar Party

Huntsville, Alabama, June 15-17, 2012

Guest of Honor: Lois McMaster Bujold |

Artist Guest of Honor: Howard Tayler

Toast Master: Travis "Doc" Taylor

Fan Guests of Honor:

Larry Montgomery & David Hulan

Special Media Guest of Honor:

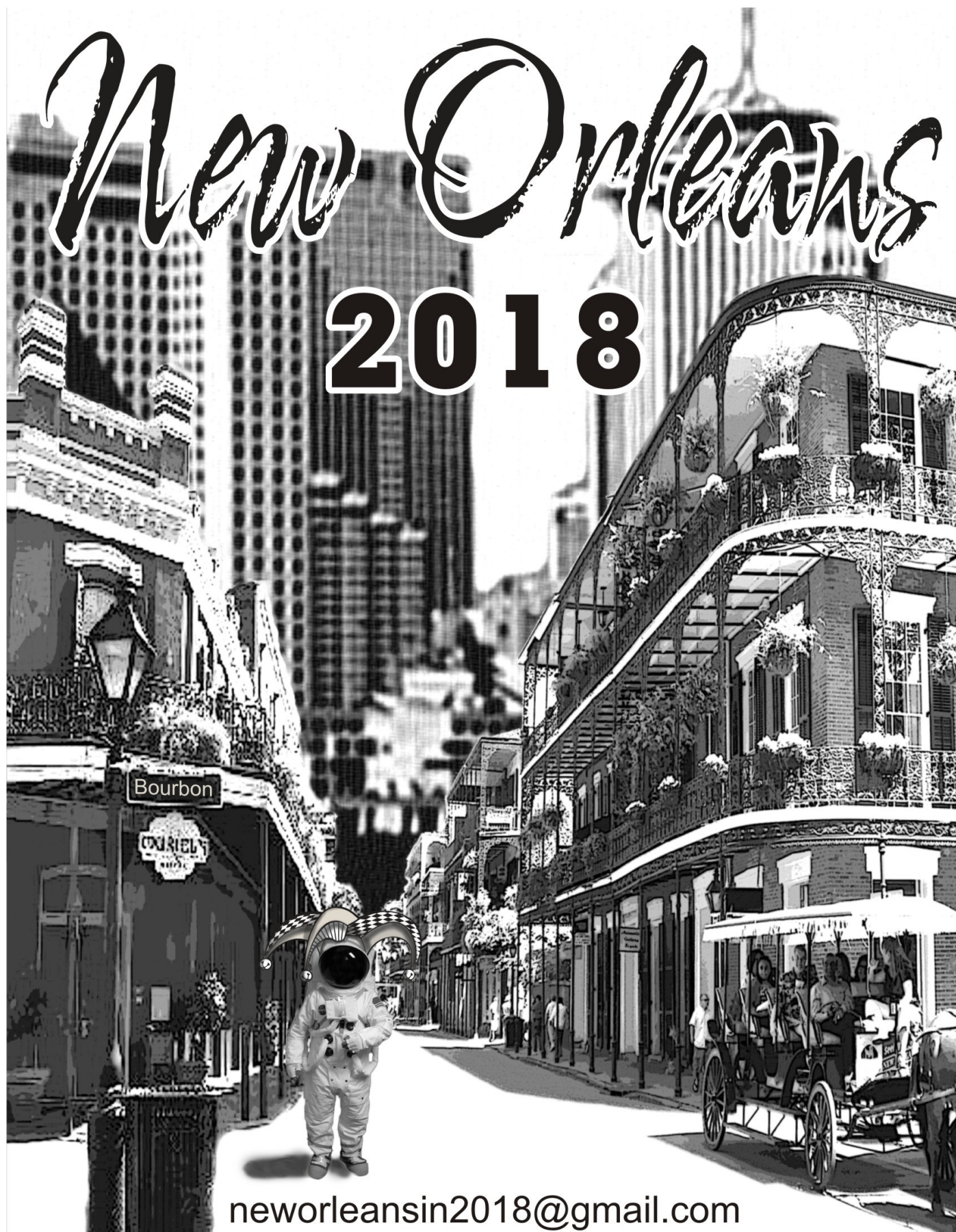
Dr. Demento

Also Attending: Lou Anders, Danny Birt, Stephan Euin Cobb, Linda Donahue, Bill Fawcett, Les Johnson, Lance Larka, William Ledbetter, Julia Mandala, Jody Lynn Nye, Stephanie Osborn, David Weber, Toni Weisskopf

DeepSouthCon 50 in Huntsville, PO Box 610430, Birmingham, AL 35261-0430 • info@dsc50huntsville.com • <http://www.dsc50huntsville.com/>

New Orleans

2018





ALAN WHITE