



presents...

Con†Stellation IX: Sagittarius 19 - 21 October 1990 University Inn Huntsville, Alabama

Guest of Honor

Lois McMaster Bujold

Mistress of Ceremonies

C. J. Cherryh

Artist Guest of Honor

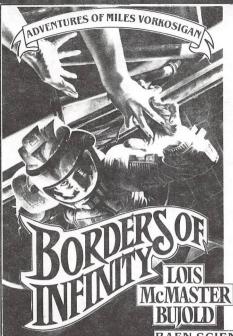
Tom Kidd

Susan Honeck

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BAEN SCIENCE FICTION

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Lois M^cMaster Bujold: Savior of the Universe

by Toni Weisskopf

My first personal contact with Lois Bujold was a phone call; I called to offer to have her baby. With noticeable aplomb, she declined, but I do believe she appreciated the sentiment. But let me backtrack a little.

Lois McMaster Bujold is a long time reader and fan of science fiction. A few eofans have faint memories of a young Lois McMaster making an appearance at a Star Trek con out on the West Coast lo these many years ago. But Lois McMaster became Lois McMaster Bujold, raised a family and, alas, gafiated.

Going from writing the occasional Star Trek story to creating your own fully realized worlds is a big step, but Lois took it, and in 1982 in the quiet of Marion, Ohio started writing science fiction. And began the lonely process of sending her manuscripts out and seeing them rejected. Then she sent a manuscript to Baen Books and the waiting was over. She sold *The Warrior's Apprentice* to Jim Baen and, sight unseen, two other novels at the same time on the strength of that first one.

These three had all been published by the time I came on the scene at Baen as an editorial assistant. I was a jaded reader then, convinced science fiction was dead, the thrill was gone, that nothing could shake me out of my ennui. The only thing left was to become a filthy pro and have done. Then I read *Shards of Honor*. And called the author up to have her baby, 'cause she did it

for me, brought back all the sense of wonder, all the *fun* that science fiction is supposed to be, and that I thought had died around 1965.

And I'm not the only one who appreciates Lois' work: Lois McMaster Bujold was nominated for the John Campbell Award for 1986, and has twice been awarded the Nebula given by the Science Fiction Writers of America, for her novel Falling Free and her novella "The Mountains of Mourning." This year she won a Hugo for that same novella. She also won the AnLab poll and the Science Fiction Chronicle poll for the story. Brothers in Arms and Falling Free were on the Locus recommended list simultaneously.

Lois Bujold writes hard SF of the classic sort. I don't mean the kind with schematic drawings, necessarily, but the kind Poul Anderson and Gordon Dickson and Robert Heinlein wrote and write. Pure and simple science fiction - not a "novel of the future," not a literary experiment using "the metaphors of the narrative" — but adventure itself. science itself... In other words. what we think of as the heart and core of SF. She writes humane science fiction without silly science (her people are strange enough). And she has a hand for a tricky plot like you wouldn't believe - until you read one of her books. Real science, real people, and a hell of a story: that's what she delivers.

It was a relief for me to find that hard SF is not only alive and well, but that it is changing and growing with the times — and



that there will be *more* from the active pen of the heir to Simak and Heinlein and the others, someone who will take her place next to them in the pantheon, your guest of honor: Lois McMaster Bujold.

Lois McMaster Bujold is a modest person though, and she won't even take all the credit for her success. To close this, I'll repeat the words Lois had me speak at the Worldcon this year in Holland, as I accepted the Hugo for her story "The Mountains of Mourning."

ALL-PURPOSE HUGO SPEECH

To me, writing is a two-player game. The end product is not the static print on the page, but rather the thoughts, images, and reflections passing through a mind upon reading that print. For re-creating Miles so splendidly in your heads as you must be doing, I thank you all most profoundly. And thanks for the rocket, too! It's truly a gift.

For getting this tale from me to you, I thank Stan Schmidt of *Analog* and Jim Baen of Baen Books. They have helped create much of the good luck I have enjoyed these last few years. Of late I've been developing a sort of weird reverse paranoia — I'm becoming convinced there are strangers out there plotting to do me good. This business is full of gifts to be grateful for, new friends best of all. I thank you all.

I never did get to have Lois' baby (she has two children already anyway with her husband John: Anne, 11, and Paul, 8) but I did get to act as mid-wife to her literary babies, and to stand in loco parentis in Holland to her first-born Hugo. Thanks to you Lois, for letting me share.

(About the author: Toni Weisskopf is a charter member of NASFA and is currently Executive Editor of Baen Books.)

THE CONTINUING ADVENTURES OF MILES VORKOSIGAN! Lois McMaster Bujold • The Vor Game Coming in September from Baen Books



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Jennan Bartlett is a lucky young woman: she's the first human to be adopted into an alien trade guild, and she's even given her own command. But now humans are swarming through Sagittarius, seeking trade—and doing things very differently indeed from the ancient, not-so-efficient guild. Soon she will be faced with a terrible choice—between her brilliant career among her new alien friends and her ultimate loyalty to the human race...





C. J. Cherryh: A Brother's-Eye View

by David A. Cherry

"Hello, David? We need an article on C. J. Cherryh, and we figured you were just the guy to do the job. You will? Great! Just several pages, and we need it yesterday. You might consider Federal Express. Great. See you later." Click.

Wonderful. Just who do these Con†Stellation-Concom-Types think they are anyway? And who do they think they are dealing with here anyway? The writer of the family? Paint her portrait, yes, no problem. I got a Blue Ribbon in an art show for "Best Use of Family" that way, but write about her? What are they looking for?

Somehow the 'do' and 'job' in "just the person to do the job" began to take on sinister connotations. Me do a hatchet job on my sister? Not me. Carolyn got her bluff in on me early. I value my life too highly.

I remember the last time I crossed her. I was about two or three years old. This was right around the time she had read her way through every book of science fiction, fantasy, and mythology in the Lawton, Oklahoma library system and, in her impatience for more, began writing her own.

Carolyn would come into the living room and change the television channel from Smiling Ed (which little brother just happened to be watching at the time) to Space Patrol ("Smoking Rockets, Commander Cory! What do we do now?" - you remember that one?). Well, I wasn't the one in the

family destined to be the lawyer for nothing. I knew injustice when it turned my television station. And I may have only been two or three, but I knew how to present a overpowering oral argument.

I screamed bloody murder and cried my eyes out. Mom came charging into the room (Ah! My plea had reached the ears of the Supreme Court!) and promptly smacked Carolyn on the side of the head, only then asking for her defense, "What did you do to the baby?"

"I never touched the little..." Carolyn replied indignantly, still holding her head to quiet the ringing.

"I... (sob, sob)... want to see (sob, sob)... SMILING ED!!!" (Here follows much wailing and gnashing of teeth.) I was always good at closing arguments.

Well, the channel got changed to Smiling Ed, my tear-streaked face gloated victory, and Carolyn went into her dark-asa-thundercloud mood. I flaunted my defiance by turning my back on her and concentrating on the TV, where Midnight the Cat was watching Squeeky the Mouse circling overhead in a toy airplane.

Midnight had the glazed look of the hunter as he concentrated on the mouse and said "Ni-i-c-c-ce!" in a way that was anything but. Had I but turned around I would have seen my sister gazing none too fondly at

me with that same hunter's stare.

But I was confident. I had rights, by golly, and I had exercised them. Let the Huns and barbarians threaten. I would withstand them all in the name of truth, justice, and *Smiling Ed.*

Who did this sister think she was anyway? Firstborn? Well, I had shown her I had a little recipe to fix that. I'd match her firstborn with a Momma's Little Boy, and raise her a Crying Fit. Yes, I was confident, way too confident.

It wasn't long until time, fate, and the television schedule saw us all back together working out the same scenario. At least it all worked the same until I started to howl. WHAP! My little head rang like a bell. I think I might have turned out handsome if that blow hadn't rearranged all my features.

When my eyes uncrossed and my senses cleared, except for the ringing in my ears, I saw that Mom had already entered, done her duty, and left. The TV was on Smiling Ed and Carolyn, hunter's gaze still fixed on me, was holding her head too. But there was this evil little smirk on her face that seemed to say, "Cry, little brother? I'll give you something to cry about!" Somehow my victory wasn't the same.

That's my sister in a nutshell. Strong-willed, quick on the uptake, and fierce when crossed; willing to take her blows, but letting nothing stand in her way.

What? That shy, pretty lady who laughs and giggles all night long with the fans at filksings, you say? Listen, Buddy, she may look like sweetness and light, but in another age she'd have a rapier strapped to her hip. I guarantee you, she already knows how to use one, even in this age.

Actually, there isn't much C. J. Cherryh hasn't done and done well once she set her mind to it. Sure, she is one of the most highly respected authors in the nation. Yes, she won the John W. Campbell award for Best New Writer in 1977, and a Hugo in

1979 for the short story "Cassandra," another Hugo in 1982 for *Downbelow Station* as Best Novel, yet another in 1989 for *Cyteen*, and numerous Hugo nominations for such stories as *Cuckoo's Egg.* She has over 30 novels and an equal number of works in short fiction out now with many more on the way.

But did you know that she has owned and trained her own falcon (his name was Maynard — almost pierced her ears before he learned his manners); played first-chair flute: owned her own horse (a stubborn beast named Cody); studied archaeology; taught Latin and Ancient History in high school (she was my teacher my senior year hardest and best I ever had); seen the first lift-off of Columbia: drawn her own educational comic strip; taught her brother the rudiments of drawing and painting; traveled Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Near East; studied archery; ridden camels and elephants: and fended off the amorous advances of a Turkish merchant in a tent bazaar while still managing to get a good price on an Oriental rug to take home as a gift for me?

She is a wonder. One day in May Carolyn dropped over for a cup of coffee and asked me to show her a few guitar chords. I did. A couple of months later she had a twelve-string and was writing her own songs.

If there were more hours in a day, I have no doubt Carolyn would have solved the Mid-East crisis, settled the nuclear arms race (by keeping them all at her house), developed an FTL drive, and founded the first colony in another solar system.

As it is, I know she already has definite plans to see this solar system in person. What? Is that a self-indulgent smile on your face? A hint of doubt?

Listen, Bud, I've already had to tell you once. You don't want to be standing in her way.

A Novel of the Sword of Knowledge

invades the lands guarded by the Order of the Sword disaster seems inevitable. But one of the scientistmages discovers the truth behind the invasion: the barbarians aren't the bloodthirsty raiders they first seemed, but desperate refugees in search of sanctuary from an enemy clan. When the raiders in turn learn that the Sword of Knowledge can be theirs, they take to the Order's teachings with enthusiasm-the future looks bright for both barbarian and scientist. But a traitorous Old Guard may rip these two new allies apart. Once again, the Sword of Knowledge cuts both ways ...



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Schedule

TIME	EVENT	ROOM
FRIDAY		
12:00N	Main Game Room	Briefing Hotel Lobby ooms 302 - 306 Columbia nini (416 & 418)
1:00P	Art Show open for hanging	Capitol
3:00P	Open Tournament Game Room Room 422	
4:00P	Open: Art Show Dealers Room	Capitol Briefing
5:00P	Reading: Lois McMaster Bujold	State
6:30P	Opening Ceremonies	State
7:00P	Science Program: Richard Dabney and Dr. Alianna Maren present "Neural Networks"	State
8:00P	Panel: The Huntsville Science Fiction Writers Group and Ca Appreciation Society present "So You Want to Be a Writer" — readings and advice for new writers	ake State
	Close Dealers Room	Briefing
9:00P	Open Filking Room Close Art Show	Room 414 Capitol
10:00P	Close Registration (signs will be posted for after- hours registration)	Hotel Lobby
10:30P	Dance: DJ Chris Thornton from WTAK	State
1:30A	End Dance	State
SATURDAY	7	
9:00A	Open Registration	Hotel Lobby
10:00A	Open: Art Show Dealers Room Video Room	Capitol Briefing Gemini
11:00A	Science Program: NASA's Les Johnson presents "Future Space Science Missions"	State
12:00N	Panel: Susan Honeck and others discuss "Making Your Ho Art Exhibit: David Miller leads SF artists in creating an "Ex Corpse." What's that? Come watch and find out!	bby Pay" State equisite Capitol

f Events

TIME	EVENT		ROOM
1:00P	Panel: "	Women Only Write Fantasy, Don't They?" is discused by Lois McMaster Bujold, C. J. Cherryh, Sharon Aherr and Jane Fancher	
2:00P	Panel: Richard Gilliam moderates a discussion of "Science Fiction and the Local Community" — with Anthony Scott King, Toni Weisskopf, Mike Stone, and (we hope) someone from the Huntsville City Council		
0.000	Madata		Capitol
2:30P 3:00P		re Painting Contest begins low, etc: "Are You Kidding?" Tom Kidd on his art (and no telling what else!)	State
	Reading	: C. J. Cherryh	Room 302
4:00P	Panel: "Developing Series Characters," with Bujold, etc. Photo Session: Local SCA members in garb pose for regional artists P		
5:00P	Close Art Show		
5:30P	Guest of Honor Speeches and Presentations Sta		
6:00P	Tarot Workshop with Charlotte Proctor (until 9:00P) Close Dealers Room Br		
7:30P	Art Auction and J. J. Johnson Memorial Auction		
9:00P	Open Filking Room		
9:30P	Masquerade		
11:30P	Dance (until you and/or the DJ drops): DJ Barry Jones Sta		
SUNDAY			
10:00A	Open:	Art Show Dealers Room Video Room	Capitol Briefing Gemini
11:00A	Round '	Table Discussion: Join the debate on "Cover Art and Content" — all our guests in a two-hour discussion or elationships between authors, artists, and publisher	State on the
12:00N	Close:	Art Show Tournament Game Room	Capitol Room 422
1:00P	Close Dealers Room Br		
2:00P	Close:	Video Room Main Game Room	Gemini Columbia

Tom Kidd: His Friends Think He's Unusual

by Nancy A. Cucci

I was first introduced to Tom Kidd in 1980 by Phil DeParto, then president of the New Jersey SF Association. Phil collects bright new talent like some people collect string or tin foil. Although Tom had just gotten his first big break from Tor, Phil thought him worthy of being collected. Phil is rarely wrong.

At the club meeting, Tom showed slides of his work and juggled four watches. At the diner after the meeting, he ordered a sandwich called a "Monte Cristo." He also returned the watches.

Twenty years later and I still don't know what a "Monte Cristo" is... and I'm still being surprised and impressed by Tom Kidd.

An "Air Force brat," Tom traveled the country with his family, returning to his birthplace, Florida, to attend high school with his friend John Pierard. Apparently no bio of Tom's is complete without mentioning John. I'm not sure quite why, but that's tradition for you.

After attending Syracuse University for two years, Tom decided to try his hand (literally) in the SF book cover field. He moved to New York City, where he met his wife, Andrea Montague. Soon after he arrived, Stu Shiffman recommended that he show Jim Baen, then with the brand new Tor Books, his portfolio. This was in 1980. Since then, there have been four Hugo nominations in the Michael Whelan division.

I remember visiting Tom and Andrea in their ratty NY apartment. I've also been to their nice home in Connecticut. I'd say that Tom has been successful in his chosen field.

Talented and ambitious are two words often used to describe Tom. Wiry and cute are two others. One needs to keep an eye on Tom. You never know when he'll decide something is safe to climb. My husband decided not to have a barbecue while the Kidds were over since the last time Tom climbed down the back porch. At Worldcon in Atlanta, he was physically restrained by Andrea from climbing down into the atrium.

A peek through Locus usually lets me know what he's been up to lately. Some recent bookcovers include the Garner Dozois Year's Best Anthology and Vor Game by our Guest of Honor, Lois McMaster Bujold. There's a Tom Kidd cover on The Ghost of Carmen Miranda is Haunting Space Station Three and on The Shadow Gate by Margaret Ball. He's just completed a cover for The Adept by Katherine Kurtz. But perhaps the most exciting thing Tom has done recently is the work he is creating for a young adult book. Written and illustrated by Tom, Gnemo is a series of zeppelin paintings done in the classic illustration style with incredible detail and depth. He recently received a Chesley Award from the Association of Science Fiction Artists for one of the paintings, his yet

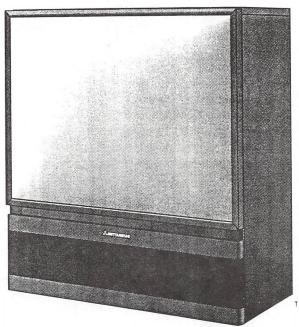
unpublished *Winsor M^cKay City*. Just wait till you see those illustrations! They are wonderful!

On the other hand, Tom has cat a reason.

stories. I've heard them. I don't believe half of them, but Andrea swears they are true. But then, his friends think he's unusual for a reason



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Susan Honeck: A Friends'-Eye View

by Nelda Kathleen Kennedy and Mike Kennedy

The first two things you notice about Susan Honeck are her stunning smile and her very-nearly-as-stunning art. They vie for your attention, but I do believe the smile wins. Her bright visage has been seen at science fiction conventions since the early 80's gracing dealer rooms, art shows, room parties, and the occasional hoax bid committee (ask her about the Canadian Deep-SouthCon 25 bid). She is best known for her bronze, opal-eyed dragons and fantastic multi-media pieces like "Magic Castle."

Her work really speaks for itself. Susan's first three dragons sold in less than an hour at the very first craft show she attended. She says that one of the highlights of her artistic career was selling some of her dragons to Jim Henson at that *other* ConStellation. While conversing they discovered that both of them had been introduced to dragons by Burt Tillstrom's Ollie.

Susan is nice, fun to be with and talk to, and sensitive. I have seen her listen to the self-centered ramblings of a fan whose only interest in life appeared to be writing (not too successfully it seemed). She was patient, understanding, and helpful even under those trying circumstances. This isn't surprising considering both her personality and her educational background — psychology, sociology, and social work. She is well into a Masters degree in the latter, which has kept her very busy lately. In that it decreases her creative time and increases the cost of

her work, this is fandom's loss. In that she is working in areas that are dreadfully important to the world (adult victims of child abuse, post traumatic stress disorder, adult children of alcoholics, etc), this is to the good of us all.

We are indeed fortunate that Susan's husband, Butch, is her collaborator in their bronze sculpture studio. He keeps the foundry fires burning while she studies, conducts her practicum, and fits in as much time for art as she can. ContStellation members unfortunately won't be able to meet Butch this weekend since he will be elsewhere selling their work. Susan says that she loves Butch's own original dragons because they are more muscular and masculine than hers. Coming from someone of Susan's talent this is high praise. I believe I also heard Susan say that their son, Conan, now 17, has inherited some of their artistic talent. By the way, Conan is named after neither A. C. D. nor C. T. B.

Con†Stellation IX is the first convention Susan has attended, in her own words, "just to have fun and not to worry about selling anything." She will certainly sell some things anyway, since she has promised to put some pieces in the art show. Go there and look at her work—be sure to bring your wallet. You also need to look for and speak to Susan herself. Even if you forget to bring your smile, I'm sure she will give you one of her own.

Con-Etiquette...

WEAPONS POLICY

Con†Stellation IX has a strict **no** weapons policy, with only two exceptions. Dealers may sell legal weapons, but these must be wrapped before leaving the Dealers Room and not opened in any public area of the hotel. Legal weapons may also be used in the Masquerade, if approved in advance by the Masquerade staff. Any violation of this policy will result in confiscation of the weapon or ejection from the convention, at the sole discretion of the committee.

SMOKING

A smoking area will be provided in the Con Suite; **ALL** other function rooms are no-smoking areas. The hotel does provide smoking areas in the restaurant, lounge, etc.

DRINKING AGE

Alabama's drinking age is 21; proof of age will be required to get an adult badge. Proof of age must also be presented upon request in the con suite before beer can be served. Those sponsoring room parties are encouraged to follow this policy. The staff reserves the right to refuse alcohol to anyone judged to be at their limit, whether they are driving or not.

Which brings us to: **DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE!** Huntsville police zealously enforce DUI and Public Intoxication laws and we support the police in every way possible. Remember that you must be an adult to be served alcohol, so please behave like one.

CO-OP BABYSITTING

Room 414 (just down from the Video Room) will be available during certain day-

time hours for co-op babysitting. Parents should see sign-up sheets in that room. Con†Stellation will try to provide some staff help also, but we are depending on parents to help each other.

ART SHOW AND AUCTION

Please help us protect the artwork by not bringing food, drinks, or cameras into the Art Show. A check-in table will be provided for these items as well as your purses and bags.

The Art Auction will be at 7:30P Saturday in the main programming room. At the auction, please use voice bids only. You may safely assume the auctioneer and runners are 75% deaf so adjust your volume accordingly.

MASQUERADE

We are very pleased that our Masquerade will be run this year by Sue Thorn of the Deep South Costumers Guild. Rules and entry forms will be available at the registration desk. Please check there for the entry deadline and for where forms should be turned in.

GAMING

The local Huntsville gaming group, H.A.G.A.R., will be running tournament games at Con†Stellation again this year. They have planned tournaments in AD&D, Battle Tech, and Talisman with more under consideration at press time. Qualifying rounds will be held Friday and Saturday with final rounds on Sunday — check the Game Rooms for sign-up sheets and game schedules.

Also, check the game rooms for signup sheets for possible card tournaments.

CON SUITE

The Con Suite will be located in the 300 building — rooms 302, 304, and 306. Some rooms of the Con Suite are subject to being closed in the hours from 4:00A to 7:00A for cleaning, but part of the Con Suite will always be open. We plan to serve beer from 4:00P to 2:00A Friday and Saturday nights.

AUTOGRAPHS

There are no formal book signing sessions scheduled this year, but time will be allowed at the end of readings by Ms Bujold and Ms Cherryh for autographs. Most authors will be happy to sign your books at other times, too, but please be considerate in limiting the number of books in one request to give everyone a chance.

DANCES

Con†Stellation IX continues the tradition of dynamite dances on both Friday and Saturday nights. The DJ for Friday night will be local radio personality Chris Thornton from WTAK. The DJ for Saturday

night will be Knoxville's own Barry Jones.

The conspicuous absence of Jeff Stringer from these festivities is due to the impending birth of his and Susan's heir.

AREA GUIDE

A guide to local restaurants, grocery stores, sites of interest, and other area businesses is included with your Pocket Program. If you need directions, or are just completely confused, ask any member of the con staff or inquire at the hotel desk.

VIDEO ROOM

The Video Room will be the Gemini Room, in the 400 building. It will be closed from about 2:00A to 10:00A Saturday and Sunday mornings. Look for video schedules at the registration desk and posted near the Video Room.

MINIATURE PAINTING CONTEST

Games Extraordinaire is sponsoring a miniature painting contest to take place in the Art Show from 2:30P to 4:30P Saturday. Get information at their table in the Dealers Room, or check at registration.

...and Information

THE

EYRIE



- -

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COAUTHOR: THE INVISIBILITY AFFAIR

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REGISTRATION

\$15 until DECEMBER 31, 1990. \$20 thereafter and at the door.

ART SHOW, AUCTION, PRINT SHOP

For rules, mail-in policy, and/or fees, send a SASE to the attention of the Art Show.

DEALERS

Tables are \$30 and include one membership. There are 28 tables, and they are moving fast!

VIDEO ROOMS

See U.N.C.L.E. Twin Peaks, Planet of the Apes, Star Trek, Star Trek bloopers, Beauty and the Beast, Blake's Seven, and more in our TWO Video Rooms (running 24 hours)!!

PANELS

Yes, we have Panels! Plan to come early, as Panels will begin at 1:00pm on Friday!

COSTUMES

Prizes will be awarded in the following oategories: BEST THEME, BEST MEDIA, BEST ORIGINAL, and JUDGE'S CHOICE.

CHARITY AUCTION

We will be auctioning off items to support our charity, (ISEC). DONATIONS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

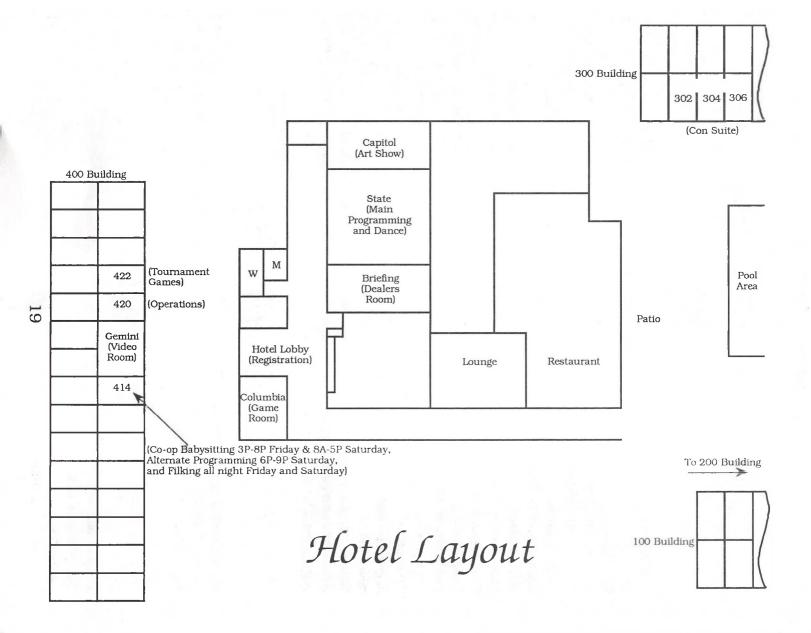
SCAVENGER HUNT

We're hunting for participants. We'll find you, you find the rest!

MUCH MUCH MORE!!
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Who to Blame

The Con† Stellation IX Committee

Co-Chairs

Mike Kennedy, Elaine Himman

Art Show

Lester & Karlene Price

Con Suite Pat Flynn

Dance: Friday Chris Thornton
Saturday Barry Jones

Dealer's Room Rich Garber, Nelda Kathleen Kennedy

Game Room & Tournaments Mike Stone

Hotel Liaison Nelda Kathleen Kennedy

Masquerade Sue Thorn of the Deep South Costumers Guild

Operations & Security Bob Buelow

Programming Nancy Cucci, Co-Chairs
Publications Mike Kennedy

Publications Mike Kennedy
Registrar Samuel A. Smith

Treasurer Ray Pietruszka

T-Shirt Design

Video Room

Jay Johns

Significant Others include: Robert Cooke, Naomi Fisher, Sunn Hayward, Geoff Hintze, Jim Kennedy, Jann Melton, Patrick Molloy, Mike Ray, Ann Robards, Uncle Timmy, Janet Ward,

Adrian Washburn, and H.A.G.A.R.

Front Cover, Page 13, Page 17

Art Credits

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Page 4, Page 6 courtesy of Silver Dragon Graphics

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Tom Kidd

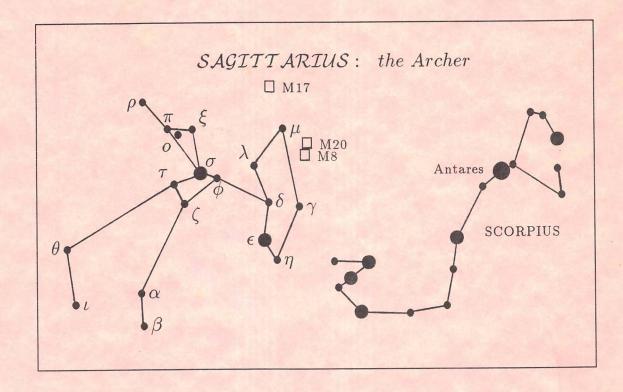
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Sagittarius, also known as the Archer, represents a mythological centaur. Centaurs were a race that were half man and half horse. The Archer is aiming his bow and arrow at Antares, the heart of Scorpius, the scorpion. It is not to be confused with the other more peaceful centaur Chiron better known as Centaurus. Sagittarius is a zodical constellation with the Sun passing through it from late December to late January. It contains rich star fields with many examples of star clusters and nebula most famous being the Lagoon (M8), the Omega (M17), and the Trifid (M20) nebulas. The center of our Milky Way galaxy lies 30,000 light years in the direction of Sagittarius.