

CONCAVE 24

February 28-March 2, 2003
Horse Cave, Kentucky



GRUMBLES FROM THE CAVE

If you are not familiar with Concave, it is a weekend of relaxed socializing between science fiction fans of all ages. Our mission is to continue the fannish traditions of bringing together SF fans of diverse interests, introduce new generations to the family of SF Fandom, and to honor some of the people who have contributed greatly to this vibrant sub-culture. You won't encounter many SF pros and panel discussions at Concave, but it is a great place to meet others who share your enthusiasm for the fantastic. With limited space and staff we probably won't be able to please everyone, but please bring problems to our attention. I am easy to recognize—just look for the guy in the strangest shirt!



It is great to hear from so many of you how much you enjoy Concave. We must be doing something right since we now seem to be filling two hotels! There will be many people working hard this weekend to make Concave a success. Some of their names are found on the back of the program, others just showed up and pitched in. Take time to thank them, or better yet, sign up for a shift or two to help us. I think you will find that it is fun and a great way to meet people. WE LOVE VOLUNTEERS! Helpers in the consuite, art show, art auction, and drivers are always extremely welcome. There will be a sign-up sheet posted in Room 114 for anyone interested in working.

Three years ago I was nervous about changing the location of Concave after 19 years at Park Mammoth. I needn't have worried. Our new location now feels like home and the staff here at The Hampton Inn feels more like family than ever. Unfortunately there will not be a banquet at The Bookstore this year. Their insurance company dropped coverage on the restaurant side and they were forced to close it. We may arrange a group meal at another location, so watch for announcements. One thing that should stay the same is the parties. Lots of groups have indicated that they will be running room parties during the weekend, so take advantage of the fun! So, go pull up a hot tub, pour a drink, find some friends, sit back, and enjoy!

Gary Robe

CARE AND FEEDING OF THE HAMPTON INN OF HORSE CAVE

The Hampton Inn does have some things in common with the old Park Mammoth Resort. It has guestrooms, a pool, a fireplace, a front door, carpet in the hallways, and a view of I-65. After that, however, the differences become too numerous to mention. There are some rules we expect all Concave members to respect if we are to get along here

1. The only smoking areas in the hotel are the smoking consuite in Room 141, the front unloading zone, the swimming pool patio, and in designated smoking guestrooms. ANYONE FOUND SMOKING IN THE HALLWAYS WILL HAVE THEIR CONCAVE MEMBERSHIP REVOKED! We are serious about this. There are few things that will displease the management more than having to fix cigarette burns in the carpet.
2. The hotel Continental Breakfast is for registered guests of the hotel only. You will be given an ID card for each person in a room. There is no sharing allowed, and a maximum occupancy of four people per room.
3. Even though it says 100% satisfaction guaranteed or your room is free on the keys, we cannot expect the hotel to support that promise on a group rate and a full house. We feel that you will find the staff of the hotel to be extremely supportive and helpful if there are problems. Gary Robe is the final arbiter for any hotel disputes.
4. Don't trash the hotel! There are several trash barrels on each floor and in the lobby area. Please do not allow trash to accumulate in the hallways. The better the job we do in housekeeping, the more welcome we will be next year.
5. Please report spillage as soon as possible! The sooner we are able to clean up a mess the lower the probability of damage!
6. The area from Room 224-241 is designated as the quiet zone. Please try to minimize loud talking and hall parties in this area. Many of the convention workers are staying in this area, so unless you like grumpy bartenders, keep the noise down in the upper end of the second floor.

We hope you all will join us in thanking the staff of The Hampton Inn in agreeing to host this madness. They gone out of their way to make us welcome here, so lets all try to make this as much fun for them as it is for us! A great way to show your appreciation is to leave a gratuity for the housekeeping staff.

Gary Robe and the Concave Committee

CONCAVE 24

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2003

- 12:00 NOON Registration Opens - Hotel Lobby¹
Consuite officially opens - Rooms 114, Lobby
Huxter Room opens for dealer setup - Meeting Room
Art Show Setup - Room 239
- 5:00 p.m. Huxter Room, Art Show, and Game Rooms (324 & 326)²
- 8:00 p.m. Opening Ceremonies - Lobby
- 11:00 p.m. Registration closes. Late registration is in Room 112.
- TBA: The pool will be closed only for minimum legal maintenance.

SATURDAY MARCH 1, 2003

- 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast - Lobby
- TBA Pool area re-opens
- 10:00 a.m. Registration, Art Show, and Huxter Room re-open
- 12:00 NOON Registration closes. Late registration in Room 112
- 6:00 p.m. Art Show closes for bidding
- 7:00 p.m. Approximate start of Art Auction - Lobby
- TBA: The pool will be closed only for minimum legal maintenance.

SUNDAY MARCH 2, 2003

- 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast - Lobby
- 7:00 a.m. Pool opens
- 10:00 A.M. Art Show Checkout - No sales after 11:00 a.m.
- 12:00 NOON Hotel checkout. Extensions may be available on request.
Gaming Rooms close
- TBA Huxter Room closes when the last dime is squeezed from the marks.
Dead Dog Party for the survivors.
Volunteers for teardown are invited to the Sunday Night Pizza Orgy.

¹ The hotel lobby, consuite, Huxter Room, Art Show, Gaming Rooms and especially the hotel corridors are NONSMOKING AREAS. Smoking is permitted in the front unloading zone, the swimming pool patio, and in designated smoking guestrooms.

² Opening times for these areas is approximate and depend on the speed of setup. Volunteers to speed things up are always welcome. The closing times for these functions are not set and will be determined by the people running them.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be ROOM PARTIES! Look for announcements!

GUEST OF HONOR: VINCE DOCHERTY

The Once and Future Worldcon Chairman



There are not many people who can say that they have chaired a Worldcon, one of those jobs that sound prestigious until you think about what it actually involves. Vincent Docherty took on the job of co-chairing the 1995 Worldcon, Intersection, in Glasgow, Scotland. If running a Worldcon is like herding cats through a catnip patch then running one in Glasgow is like putting the catnip patch in a minefield. Take the "normal" challenges of organizing a Worldcon—negotiating for facilities, lodging, program development, transportation, and logistics—and add in unknown factors such as an inexperienced local volunteer base, untried location, international travel, and untested infrastructure and you have a recipe for potential disaster.

Vincent learned the difference between a bad and a good experience early in his involvement with Worldcon running. He helped work on Conspiracy, the 1987 Worldcon in Brighton. Suffice it to say that all did not go well there. When it came time to take the reins for Intersection in 1995 the result was quite different. In Vincent's own words: "Before, during and after Intersection, I think we had at least ten staff or committee marriages with as many kids following (or so it appeared). The corollary is also true, as Conspiracy was known by some as the con, which launched a thousand divorces." It is high praise indeed to all those involved with Intersection that not only was the convention among the best received recent Worldcons, it was popular enough to be selected again as the Worldcon venue for 2005! While Vincent seems to be rational enough when you talk to him he has shown a masochistic streak in that he agreed not only to lead the UK in '05 bid and to chair Interaction, the 63rd Worldcon to be held again in Glasgow.

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A FAN'S GUIDE TO HORSE CAVE AND SURROUNDINGS

FOOD: Aunt Bee's Country Kitchen is open 24/7 and has a surprisingly diverse menu and some excellent deserts. We'll see if they managed to buy enough food to make it through the weekend this year! The Marathon Mart also includes a Pizza Hut and deli. In the Outlet Mall the Caveland Café serves sandwiches, plate lunches, and deserts. In downtown Horse Cave there is a new Main St. Restaurant that is as yet untried. Alas, The Bookstore Café is no more although the book side is still operating. About 5 miles to the south on I-65 at Cave City there are restaurants that range from Mickey D's to The Sahara Steak House. If you want something fancier, try Exit 22 in Bowling Green.

ATTRACTIONS: Just across I-65 is the Kentucky Down Under Park. Caves and Australian critters-down under, get it? Too bad it is closed for the season. Follow the road for another 2 miles and you are in Downtown Horse Cave. In the center of town you will find the National Cave Museum and Hidden River Cave. Check out perhaps the only place in the world where they had to consider a cave opening when they laid out Main Street. This is a must-see place for the eco-tourist. About 16 miles away at Exit 48 is Mammoth Cave National Park. If you want to tour the cave, the Hampton Inn receptionist can help you. Tours often sell out early even in winter, so plan your visit well in advance! For those who can't resist a peek at the old place, the Park Mammoth Resort still there 10 miles to the south on I-65. It is, however, closed until March 1.

PARTY SUPPLIES: The Houchins market in Horse Cave can probably satisfy your non-alcoholic party needs. Just take Highway 218 into Horse Cave. Turn left onto Highway 31-W. The store is one block down on the right. Store hours are 8-8 daily. If you need something more potent, you'll discover that the nearest watering hole is Exit 28 or 22 in Bowling Green. Since this is the only oasis within a 50-mile radius, there are liquor stores within sight of the exit ramps.

SHOPPING: We're not quite sure why they built an outlet mall in a cornfield in Hart County, but there it is. The only question is if there are any stores left open in it. It is theoretically within walking distance and may be just what you need to burn off what you did to yourself on Friday night! In downtown Horse Cave you can find The Bookstore, Dollar General Store and other shopping opportunities. For the city mall experience, there is Greenwood Mall in Bowling Green at Exit 22.

FUEL FOR MAN AND MACHINE: They may not be elegant, but the two convenience stores within walking distance of The Hampton Inn should provide what it takes to provision both you and your car for the weekend and the trip home. There is also an ATM machine located at the Marathon Mart.

Once and Future (continued)

Vincent comes by his affiliation with the Glasgow Worldcons legitimately through a long fannish history in the area beginning with his participation in the Strathclyde University SF Society in Glasgow from 1979-86 and cutting his teeth helping to run local conventions in Glasgow during that time. Vincent has held key positions on many of the Worldcons since 1987, and has been a familiar face at US conventions as the traveling spokesman for the '95 and '05 bids. Yes, Vince wears a kilt and is a connoisseur of single-malt scotch. He will probably indulge in both of these activities during Concave.

In the mundane world Vincent is an engineer for an obscure company called Royal Dutch Shell and lives in The Hague. In his professional capacity Vincent gets to travel to exotic and distant lands such as Oman and Nigeria. This may sound romantic and adventurous, but as a rule they don't put oil fields near tourist attractions. We hope his tour of Kentucky will be a bit more relaxing.

So why should Vincent Docherty be Guest of Honor at Concave? First of all, he deserves the recognition. He is not a SMOF (Secret Master Of Fandom), he's an KMOF (Known Master Of Fandom). There is nothing secret about Vincent's contributions to SF conventions. Just do a Google search on Vincent's name and see how many times it pops up linked to convention references. Second, Vincent is our kind of guy. In a recent psychological study of the UK it was found that only 18% of the passer's by on a London street will return a smile to a stranger. In Edinburgh, the heart of supposedly friendly Scotland the figure sinks to a dismal 4%. In Glasgow the figure is 68%. Finally there is poetic justice in inviting a guest of honor who is the chairman of the Worldcons in Glasgow, Scotland to a relaxacon in the vicinity of Glasgow, Kentucky. We've just got to get a picture of Vincent posing in front of the Welcome to Glasgow sign. Maybe we can get him to wear the kilt!

CONVENTION SPECIAL: 10% off for all Concave Members



Tom Chaney, Ann & Jerry Matera
(270) 786-3084
FAX (270) 789-3085

E-mail: bookstore@horsecave.com

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In Horse Cave - 2 miles east of I-85, Exit 58
At the Junction of U.S. 31 W & KY 218

CONCAVE 24 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CHAIRMAN: Gary Robe

HOTEL LIAISON: Naomi Fisher

REGISTRATION: Corlis Robe

CONSUIE COORDINATOR: Annette Carrico

HUXTER ROOM: Steve Francis

ART SHOW: Pat Molloy and Naomi Fisher

GAMING: John Hans, Patty Teague and James Tullis

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS:

LIZ WILLIAMS: *Chairman's Wardrobe*

NAOMI FISHER: *Program Book Cover*

SUE FRANCIS: *Consuite First Officer*

THERE IS NO ELEVATOR COMMITTEE!

And Many Thanks To Concave 24 Volunteers

Cokie Bailey - Stephen Boucher -- Dan Caldwell - Tony Cannon
Bill Cavin - Randy Cleary - Bob Embler -- Tom Feller -- Mary Franklin
Steve Franklin - Jim Gaines -- Rocky Halleron -- Shannon Hickey
John Hollis - Mack Humphreys - Julie Johnson-Tate -- Frank Kaliz
Millie Kaliz - Trish Krog - James Krog Mark Linneman - Jeff Lockridge
Lisa Lockridge -- Vance Martin -- Pat Minogue - Ken Moore - Sherry Norris
John Nunn -- Mike Pendleton -- Bryan Porter - Kenny Reasoner - Pat Sims
Roger Sims -- Dick Spelman -- Tanya Stinson -- Chris Tate - Julie Wall
Steve Washburn - B. J. Willinger -- Joel Zakem

And to all the others not named here who threw room parties and volunteered during the weekend, our deepest thanks and appreciation!

And Special Recognition to the
Staff and Management of the

HAMPTON INN OF HORSE CAVE

For Incredible Competence and Patience in the Face of Madness!