



REVISIONIST

Issue #4 • Saturday Evening • November 26, 1994 • Loscon 21 • The Changing Face of Science Fiction

FUTURE HISTORY

- 1936. The Last Ark of the Covenant unearthed.
- 1939. The Holy Grail found.
- 1954. First attempt to send a rocket to the moon
- 1957. January 1. The Last Trump sounds, for Resurrection Day, but is then retroactively/ instantaneously rescinded pending universal calendar reform.

- 1964. World War III begins, complete with atomic satellites
- 1966. Humans based on Moon find alien artifacts.
- 1987. Pittsburgh Pirates win their first World Series.
- 1992. Humans land on Mars.
- 1996. Discovery of first alien in Death Valley
- 1997. Destruction of the Earth

Loscon After Hours

Loscon at 4:30 a.m. is not quite dead, but it's getting there. Unable to sleep, at 4:30 in the morning I decided to get up and see if anyone else was up at that hour. There were a few as it turned out.

On the ground floor near the Con Suite the only people awake were two couples having a laugh-in by the Elevators. Even the filkers had gone to bed.

Wandering into the lobby, I found a serious Magic game still in progress in the game room, and a die-hard Japanimation film in the video room. The program was called Black Magic M-66 and featured a wrecking machine disguised as a boy robot (Mario-66). She proceeded to beat up a camp full of mercenaries, then trashed Tokyo.

Once that epic concluded I went wandering back into the game room. The Magic game was still going on and there was another couple playing something in the far corner. Someone was crashed out on the floor as well.

On my out way again I met a zombie that looked like Greg Bilan. I said Hello but he was so zonked he didn't know I was there. Apparently he was in charge of the video room and had been there all night.

Finally I went up to the Starquest Suite which was, and is, still open for those who want to talk or need a place to crash at night. Joe Fekete was up so we discussed the plans for his new magazine and my writing career.

Starquest by the way, will be sponsoring an autograph signing today. Everyone who has stories or articles in the current issue of Starquest will be signing copies of the zine if you like.

Don Wenner

All typos left 30 days become the property of the management.

Department of Corrections

Revision re: Costume Design, room item #3. Wrong English poet! A.A. Milne, not I.S. Eliot.

Department of Corrections

The bibliography for GoH Lois McMaster Bujold inadvertently omitted The Vor Game, a Hugo winner.

Marty Massoglia

Volunteer Want Ads

Portal Management Engineer

Observe and intercede in passages into commercial areas. Two hours per shift. No training or prior experience required. Report to Volunteers.

Food Wrangler

Must have experience with sharp instruments and be presently practicing good personal hygiene. Late night shifts available. Report to Con Suite.

Replacements Care Worker

Small replacement units need supervision during daytime hours. One hour shifts available. Report to Kid's Room (Parlor 125).

Disassembly Mechanics

Must be tool users with strong knowledge of lifting techniques. Shifts start Sunday afternoon. Report to Junior Ballroom (Art Show).

Noel Wolfman, Volunteers

You don't have time not to have time.

Vardo Murrell

<*>

Have you been noticing the <*> symbols posted around the con? Ever wonder what they really meant? Well, as it turns out, <*> is the international symbol of Babylon 5 fandom. It first appeared on the Usenet newgroup rec.arts.-sf.tv.babylon5 around July, 1994 from sources unknown, and have been spreading ever since. At Loscon, for example, <*> has been adopted as the official symbol for the Babylon 5 party bash on Saturday night. Watch out as the <*> spreads across the land, as we may see it on buttons, t-shirts, etc. worn by loyal B5 fans at future cons just to confound those who don't have a clue yet. (By the way, there is no pronunciation for this <*> symbol. As one fan jokingly commented, "It's sorta like a Vorlon thing, y'know?")

Party Listings, Saturday

P.M. = Post-Masquerade

Green Room, P.M., Dendarii Free

Mercenaries

344, 9:30, U.S.S. Alliance

347, 9:00, Australia in '99

352, The Artemis Society — Lunar Resources, Inc.

357, P.M., San Diego Westercon in '98,

Con-Dor '95

366, 7:00, Phil & Ed's Excellent

Convention 2

367, 8:00, Bridge Publications Party

369, 8:00, ConFurence/Furry Party

370, P.M., Babylon 5 Fans

426, 9:00, Atlanta in '98

464, 9:00, StarQuest

756, P.M., Klingons

Good Idea: to serve coffee at a convention
Bad Idea: to serve dry ice at a convention

Meals-Ready to-Eat

Sunday noonish in the Con Suite: There will be an auction of the last MRE* remaining at the convention. Profits will be donated to the LASFS. If the sale price merits such conspicuous consumption, Ed will consume it in front of everyone.

Ed Green

*MRE=Meal-Ready to-Eat. [New name for K-Rations. —ed.] There are twelve of them. They all taste repulsive, but they taste repulsive in different ways.

Ed Green

Trading Cards for Media Fans

Available at the info desk are promotional trading cards courtesy of Cornerstone Communications. These include four promo cards for Doctor Who series 2, two for Monty Python's Flying Circus and two for Masters of Japanimation: Robot Carnival.

Lee Whiteside

To our friends and customers:

We would like to apologize for the slowness of service at _____'s Deli in the past.

We have taken measures to expedite your order's speedily without giving way to quality.

Sign seen in a deli

Filking

The 'circle' continued in moderate force until 4:20am when our voices ran dry. Thanks to the @! party for bringing the cake by and the Con Suite for warning us when they were about to close.

This evening, filkers are eagerly invited to the Masquerade Post Mortem party by Gary and Janet Anderson. With such a good turnout Friday, I expect that we will have a good sized "Dawn Patrol" together when the hotel diner re-opens Sunday.

Heather Stern

Con Suite Notice

The Con Suite has leftover dishes. Please claim them before we sell them into slavery.

Con Suite Staff

Overheard in the Hall

"Christian, you're drunk."
"Whatever makes Kim happy."

Book Auction

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the first-ever Loscon Book Auction. A total of \$918.75 was raised to benefit the LASFS. Thanks go to Fred Patten for his donation of the books which were auctioned. Also, thank you to Ed Green for his work as auctioneer. And a thank you to Chris, Charles and Mel for their help in running the auction.

Robbie Cantor

Fred's Little World

Re: Issue #3

Hour 25: If Robbie started in 1964, which 20 years has she been a fan?

The ice cream social was short only for people that were late. I had 18 bowls but I was on time because I worked there. [Isn't he the guy who ate all the chill? — ed.]

Note to Magic players. Please leave your cards unattended. Remember: it is easier to allow theft than to put up with Magic.

Seen (maybe): half a clove filled with jars and a cinnamon stick.

Cows fly when you throw them. Monty Python

Fred's Law of Momentum Management: Don't sit down - you won't be able to get up.

Phreadster

Without ice cream, life and fame are meaningless.

Confidential to "A Friend": Which flavors? Chaz

When you don't know what you are doing, do it neatly.

Get Furry Tonight!

ConFurence, the Anthropomorphic Seminar/Convention once again hosts a gathering for fans of all things "animal" in Science Fiction, Fantasy, Comics, Animation, Art, Films and Literature. Everyone is welcome! Enjoy browsing our animal book library, see lots of fantastic art, and maybe even get a sketch in your "black book." Our video program tonight will include the origin episodes of Disney's new "Gargoyles" animated series. This show has all the quality one would expect from Disney, but in a darker, more serious vein. The party starts at 8PM tonight (Saturday) in Room 369, East Tower.

Sylvs

Who Reviews the Reviewers?

StarQuest's motto is "Finding Tomorrow's Stars Today," and although the first article is an interview with Jerry Pournelle, the rest of the magazine is a good mix of quality fan fiction, book reviews, and science non-fiction that is well worth the \$3.95 cover price.

The only problem I have is with the accompanying illustrations, and I expect the quality will improve as publication continues.

Writers' Guidelines for StarQuest are available from the SQ Hospitality suite, room 464, and deserve special mention for readability and encouragement of new writers and artists.

Andrew Rich

Conaphasia

...A state generated by attending SF cons, characterized by sleeplessness, inability to articulate, and failure to recognize your own name. There is no cure, but some symptoms can be temporarily relieved by attending Loscon on a regular basis. (Er, doesn't that sound more like an addiction than a treatment?)

Hare Hobbs & Michael Victor Kyle

Babylon 5 Meetpoint in Club 2000

About 200 people in a very small room with air-conditioning that was definitely not up to the task. Many were holdovers from the Star Trek meetpoint who weren't able to fight their way through the incredible crush coming through the door and simply resigned themselves to staying until the two or three Whovians showed up for British SF.

Andrew Rich

The *Future History Revisionist* is the Daily Newsletter of Loscon 21. Newszine stands may be found by the Art Show (West Tower lobby), down the hall from the Con Suite (East Tower lobby), outside the Dealers Room (West Foyer), by Information (Main Foyer), and near the Green Room (East Foyer). Material for the newsletter may be left at any of these locations, or brought to the newsroom (Parlor 123). You may also phone it in to house extension 7123. Stop by the newsroom for advertising rates.

Sinclair: Chaz Baden. Talia: Lynn V. Boston. Garibaldi: Shawn Crosby. G'Kar: Ky Moffet. Na'Toth: Colleen Crosby. Delenn: Kim Bergdahl. Kosh: Nola Frame-Gray. Vir: Don Wenner. Tech #1: Caroline Meier. Morden (the "What do you want?" guy): Andrew Rich. Ivanova: Danise Deckert. Hello Nurse: Pat Lawrence. Bester: Ed Green.

There may be a wrap-up issue produced after the convention. If you would like a copy of that issue mailed to you, just give us your address. If you miss any issue of the newsletter, or would like a complete set, send a large self-addressed envelope and a dollar. Chaz Baden, P.O. Box 1792, Redondo Beach CA 90278. Email: hazel@netcom.com

Heroes with Fears

Panelists: Lois McMaster Bujold, Barbara Hambly, Larry Niven

This was an unusual panel in that it was devoted to fictional characters. Though the panel's title promised it would deal with heroes' fears, that was used as a jumping-off point to discuss characterization in general—both good and bad.

Due to some technical problems with the sound system (and very bad room acoustics) the panel was a bit hard to follow, as the writers' voices didn't quite carry over the ambient noise. However, we came away with some good general concepts and relevant quotes. A somewhat randomly-gleaned assortment:

"There is a most perfect plot for every character; there's a perfect character for every plot." —Bujold

"Fear and emotion helps us identify with the character, to make the emotional connection. It's like Indiana Jones: 'Why did it have to be snakes?'" —Hambly

"The story should be told from the point of view of the character who has the most to lose." — After some debate, this was attributed to Theodore Sturgeon.

"If your character can't make interesting mistakes, you can't get the plot started." —Bujold

"I'm wrestling with the temptation of giving Louis Wu a vacation." —Niven

"You'll forgive a lot from a writer who writes in an interesting voice." —Hambly

The difficulties inherent in writing characters who are children also came up:

"A child shows more fear, but feels less." —Niven

If you want an adult who is essentially a child, then "You create a timeless child." —Niven

And on how characters become heroes:

"Is Strider here? Oh, God, I'm going to have to do it myself!" —Hambly

"If the story is flagging, kill off the hero." —Hambly
"Better than killing off the writer." —Bujold

Nola Frame-Gray & Michael Victor Lyle

Just Curious...

Does every woman in costume get rude comments from the men at the convention, or is it just me? To those "adolescent" jerks — Shame on you and grow up! If you can't say something nice, keep quiet, and if you do feel the need to make an appreciatory comment, do so tastefully.

Zarabeth

To Hordes of Geeks

You are all very sweet and thoughtful for the messages you've left me. They made my day, got me to smile, and gave a big goofy girl a reason to feel like a princess for a couple of days. Thanks for admiring me from a distance and for even noticing me in the first place.

Kanais

Dear Conozoic ConCom

I want to congratulate you all for your work on Westercon 47. The convention was a financial success and the reports I've received from fans have all been positive, in fact they've been very complimentary. It seems everyone had a great time!

This would not have been possible if it was not for the tremendous effort each of you put into this convention. It is especially noteworthy as I know many of you were going through Earthquake related repairs during this time.

Please convey my thanks and the good reports of the convention to your staff. They will most naturally be wondering about membership refunds. We will be refunding memberships at once. Please turn in your list of staff who should receive these refunds to Genny Dazzo before December 5th. This will enable us to get all the checks written and mailed before the end of the year.

Again, thank you for your work on this Convention!

Sincerely, Noel Wolfman, Chairman, Westercon 47

Loscon 21 Artshow awards

Judges Choice: Patricia Davis, "Gate of Space and Time"
Best 3D: Robert Beech, "Dracula Gargoyle"
Best Fantasy: Cheryl Sparber Freundt, "Now look who's making me late"
Judges Choice: Hung Mac, "The Last Stand"

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Lost Memory

While I was rubbing someone's back at Raiments in the Dealers Room, someone (surely mistakenly) picked up my program book containing a picture of Mr. Niven dancing with me (dark haired lady in a flowery dress.) Please drop off at Parlor 123 (at least the picture, although the whole program would be nice).

Thanks, Janis



The Changing Face of Science Fiction

Answers to Issue 21's "quiz"

- 1964: Fredric Brown, *Martians Go Home*
- 1964: Brown, *ibid.*
- 1971: H. Beam Piper, *The Edge of the Knife*
- 1982: Isaac Asimov, *I, Robot*
- 1992: *Star Trek*
- 1994: *Quantum Leap*
- 1996: *Quantum Leap*
- 1998: Gregory Benford, *Timescape*
- 1999: Ray Bradbury, *The Martian Chronicles*
- 2026: Bradbury, *ibid.*

ART CREDIT:
SHAWN CROSBY (See Art Slow)

USS Alliance Joyous Time Acceleration Party Room!

334 East Tower (same room as Phil & Ed are in), Saturday starting at 9:30pm.

The Theory: If you put some people in a room and throw a party, time will pass faster than for those not invited to the party. If you put a lot of people in a room and throw a really great party, time will actually go backwards.

The Experiment: We will have drinks, munchies, balloons, and plenty of friendly Alliance crewmembers as your hosts. We will try to generate the required quantity of fun (1.5 gigagrins) to go back in time to the beginning of the con so we can do it all over again!

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S.F. Magazine



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(These ads paid for to support this newszine.)