



POCKET PROGRAM

MINICON 35

The Minnesota
Science Fiction
Society, Inc.
welcomes you to...

MINICON 35

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

Writer GoH: Maureen F. McHugh

Fan GoH: Lenny Bailes

Artist GoH: John Berkey

Mark Time Award Presenters:
Orson & David Ossman

Table of Contents:

| | |
|---|--------|
| Convention Hours | 1 |
| Convention Services | 2 |
| Hotel Highlights | 3 |
| Minicon Station (<i>our own postmark</i>) | 3 |
| Programming Participants | 4 |
| Programming Information | 5 |
| Children's Programming | 6 - 7 |
| Program Descriptions | 8 - 19 |
| Event Horizon Music | 20 |
| Hucksters Update | 20 |
| Minicon 35 T-shirts with Berkey art | 20 |

Please note: Maps and program grids are on separate legal-sized pages, one for each day of Minicon. They fold to fit in every pocket!

Credits: Cover and blimp art by Ken Fletcher; page 20, John Berkey; Minn-stf logo, Jim Odbert; program data management, Mark Olson; layout, Jeff Schalles. With thanks to Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Priscilla Olson, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, and the rest of the program team. And to the Thursday night collators at Minicon!

Minicon is brought to you by...

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

Minn-Stf events hotline: 612-824-5559

Minicon's address:

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

Website: <<http://www.mnsthf.org>>



CONVENTION HOURS

Art Show

Minneapolis Ballroom, Salon E/F

Friday 2pm – 7pm

Saturday 10am – 6pm, auction Saturday evening

Sunday 10am – 2pm

Sunday 10am – 2pm

Bridge (Convention Services)

Directors Row 2

Continuous from Thursday evening setup through Sunday evening teardown, 24 hours/day

Childcare

5th floor Exec King, most likely (look for signs)¹

Friday 5pm – 10pm

Saturday 11am – 9pm

Sunday 12noon – 3pm

Consuite (Hospitality)

Duluth Room (non-smoking)

Grand Ballroom Salon G (smoking)

Presidential Suite (24th Floor/non-smoking, coffee)

Continuous from Thursday evening setup through Sunday evening teardown, 24 hours/day

Event Horizon Music

Directors Row 4

Friday 5 – 6:30pm, 10pm – midnight

Saturday 12noon – midnight

Hucksters Room

Minneapolis Ballroom, Salon D

Friday 2pm – 6pm

Saturday 10am – 5pm

Sunday 11am – 3pm

Programming

Second and Third Floors (see daily grids and maps)

Friday 3pm – 11pm, with a dinner break
from 7pm – 8pm

Saturday 10am – midnight, with a dinner break
from 6pm – 8pm

Sunday 10am – 3:30pm

Program Prep

Board Room 1

Open during programming hours; other times *ad libitum*

Registration

Coat Room (Third Floor)

Thursday 8pm – 11pm (pick up preregistrations only)

Friday 10am – 10pm

Saturday 10am – 3pm

Volunteers

Foyer (Third Floor)

Thursday 5pm – 10pm (pick up preregistrations only)

Friday 9:30am – 8pm

Saturday 9:30am – 8pm

Sunday 11am – 2pm

¹ "It is a wicked and idolatrous generation that looketh after a sign."

CONVENTION SERVICES

by Martin Schafer

If you need help, go to the Bridge (Minicon's traditional name for its headquarters) on the third floor, in Directors Row 2. Or call

ext. 3088

from a house phone at any time.

From an outside line, call 612/376-1000, ext 3088

The basics of Minicon's convention policies follow. Please take a moment to read them.

Reality Policy

- Minicon complies with all federal, state, and local laws.
- Minicon encourages our members to do the same.

Badge Policy

- Minicon uses badges to identify our members.
- Without your badge, you may be denied the benefits of your membership; please keep it with you at all times while at Minicon.
- If you find a lost badge, please bring it to the Bridge (Directors Row 2).
- If you lose your badge, please come to the Bridge. If we have your badge, we'll return it to you once we've verified that it's yours. If we don't have it, for \$25 we'll issue you a replacement.
- Minicon reserves the right to revoke any membership as we deem necessary, most likely in cases of extreme misbehavior.

Weapons Policy

- Use common sense.
- Actual firearms, class 3 or 4 lasers, and projectile throwing toys are not permitted at Minicon.
- For everything else, have a sheath, sling, or other container for it, and keep it secured when you're in a public place.
- The above notwithstanding, Minicon reserves the right to prohibit any prop or weapon at the sole discretion of Minicon.
- You kill it, you eat it.

Signage Policy

- Signs may be posted only on the signboards. Please do not attach any signs to hotel walls, doors, windows, etc.
- Only one sign per board per event.
- Signboards will be in the open area on the 3rd floor, and outside the consuite on the 24th floor. There may be signboards on each of the party floors.

Smoking Policy

- In accordance with the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act, smoking is permitted only in designated smoking areas. Elevators, stairwells, and hallways, including those on floors with smoking sleeping rooms, are non-smoking.
- The Minicon smoking consuite is on the 3rd floor in Salon G. The area just outside Salon G is also a designated smoking area.

HOTEL HIGHLIGHTS

Late Check-out

- Room check-out time has been extended to 4pm on Sunday and Monday. Check-out time is 12 noon on all other days.

Extended pool hours

- The swimming pool is open until 2:30 am during Minicon. No glass or alcohol in the health club/pool area, please.

Our third floor consuites

- The Hilton asks that we keep all beverages and munchies from the Minicon consuites in convention space, and not carry any of our drinks or other consumables down to the first floor of the hotel. Thanks for remembering this!
- Minneapolis liquor laws apply to the function space on the second and third floors, which means *Minicon has to stop serving on the third floor and remove all open containers of alcohol (including empty containers) before 1:00 a.m. each night.* We plan to have beer in the Presidential Suite on the 24th floor after hours.

In-out parking privileges

- Hotel guests who charge parking to their rooms have in-out privileges for the parking garage underneath the hotel. Ask about this at the front desk.

A friendly reminder

- Minicon encourages members to generously tip the maids and other hotel service workers.

MINICON Station

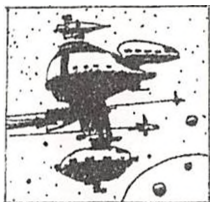
by Scott Imes

Despite U.S. Post Office cutbacks and difficulty staffing an

Easter weekend event this year, *the U.S. Post Office will provide a temporary philatelic station from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 21st only.* Minicon 35's pictorial cancellation features astronomical artwork by Artist Guest of Honor John Berkey, with Jeff Schalles providing design wizardry again this year. Additional thanks to Greg Ketter, Geri Sullivan and Scott Imes. The cancellation is also available after Minicon by mail. Since the Minicon 35 pictorial cancellation for U.S. postage can be obtained for only 30 days, requests must be postmarked by May 20, 2000.

Address requests to: Minicon 35 Station; USPS Stamp Shoppe; 100 South 1st St.; Minneapolis, MN 55401-9635.

As with other philatelic cancellations, the Post Office requires sufficient postage on articles to be cancelled to return them by mail. Enclose the stamped material to be cancelled inside another envelope addressed as above and include a cover letter requesting a philatelic cancellation using the Minicon 35 pictorial cancellation. The mail will then be delivered as addressed and will carry Minicon's cancellation.



April 21, 2000

**Minicon 35
Station
Minneapolis,
MN 55403**



PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Joseph Agee
Eleanor Arnason
Lenny Bailes
Alice Bentley
John Berkey
Bob Berlien
Ruth Berman
Andrew Bertke
Robert Blackwood
Suzanne Alles Blom
Janice Bogstad
Steven Brust
Nate Bucklin
Lois McMaster Bujold
Katie Clapham
Karen Cooper
Mary Cooper
Greg Cotton
Ctein
Kara Dalkey
Howard Davidson
Pamela Dean
Alan DeNiro
Gordon R. Dickson
Doug Drummond
David Dyer-Bennet
Tim Eisele
Craig Finseth
Laura Jean Fish
Rachel Fish
George Flentke
John M. Ford
Linda Reames Fox
Lisa Freitag
Pam Fremon
Jim Frenkel
Doug Friauf
Beth Friedman
Terry A. Garey
Anne Gay
Helen Gbala
Magenta Griffith
Jane Hanson
Eric Heideman
Bill Higgins
Butch Honeck
Dave Howell
Margaret Howes
Rebecca Hubbard
Douglas L. Hulick
Peter Johnson
Steven Vincent Johnson
Earl Joseph
Jordin T. Kare
Mary Kay Kare
Michael Kauper
Philip E. Kaveny
Greg Ketter
Laurel Krahn
Laura Krentz
Ellen Rose Kuhfeld
John Ladwig
Russell Letson
Michael M. Levy
Gavi Levy Haskell
Susan B. Levy Haskell
Anthony R. Lewis
Suford Lewis
Sandra Lindow
Tracy Lunquist
Laura A. Majerus
Jim Mann
Elise Matthesen
Dave McCarty
Maureen F. McHugh
James Minz
Lydia Nickerson
Patrick Nielsen Hayden
Teresa Nielsen Hayden
Kristopher O'Higgins
Mark L. Olson
Priscilla Olson
Woody Olson
David Ossman
Orson Ossman
David Perlman
Michael Pins
Pook
Brian Price
Sandra Rector
Katya Reimann
Neil Rest
John Rezmerski
Dave Romm
Joel Rosenberg
Vicki Rosenzweig
Kathryn J. Routliffe
Laura Runkle
Jeff Schalles
Bruce Schneier
Jon Singer
Susan M. Smith
Jerry Stearns
Geri Sullivan
Richard Tatge
John W. Taylor
Michael J. Ward
Brian Westley
Tom Whitmore
Doug Wickstrom
Michael Z. Williamson
Laurel Winter
Patricia C. Wrede
Jane Yolen
Jim Young

PROGRAMMING

Program Prep

Open during programming hours; other times *ad libitum*

Board Room 1 is Program Prep. This room combines both the functions of green room and programming operations in one room. This is the place to go to:

- Pick up your programming packet. Your packet will have your individual schedule, a label with a short version of the schedule that you can stick on the back of your badge, and anything we think of between now and then.
- Check with Programming if there's you need to let us know about. If you have a conflict with or question about a panel, this is the place to go.
- Check in before a panel. It's often a good idea to show up 10 minutes or so before your program item begins to meet briefly with your fellow panelists.

Programming Hours

| | |
|----------|---|
| Friday | 3pm to 11pm, with a dinner break from 7pm to 8pm |
| Saturday | 10am to 11pm, with a dinner break from 6pm to 8pm |
| Sunday | 10am to 3:30pm |

Author's Roundtables

Here's your chance to spend some quality time with the author or authors of your choice!

How it works: There will be sign-up sheets on the Bridge. Sign up for an hour with the authors you choose. If you sign up for a slot, you are making a commitment. There are only 18 chairs in Board Room 3, so only 17 places are available for each roundtable. To encourage people to sign up for early slots, coffee and tea will be available in the room.

GRENADINE OR A T-SHIRT?

Decisions, decisions...If you register for Minicon 36 before you leave Minicon 35, you'll have your choice of a genuine Minicon T-Shirt from years of yore or your very own bottle of grenadine fresh from the Minn-stf storage locker. Or, you don't have to take either; we'll still be happy to have you register early and often. Just drop your registration in the purple and yellow ducky box at the Volunteer's Desk. If you were pre-registered for Minicon 35, we hope you'll use the form you received with your name badge when you picked up your registration this year, updating any of the pre-printed information as needed. Simple, nu?

SEE YOU IN 3 WEEKS?

The Minicon 35 post-mortem will be on Saturday, May 13, starting at 1:30pm and finishing by 5:00pm, at the Hosmer Library, 347 East 36th St., Minneapolis. We'll review the convention's strengths, weaknesses, and outcomes. This meeting is open to the public, especially people interested in helping with Minicon 36.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS, TIMES, AND SUGGESTED AGES

Great Castles of Minicon

| Friday Program | Time | Age |
|----------------|------|-----|
|----------------|------|-----|

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|------|
| Creating A Castle | 3pm-4:30pm | 4-12 |
|-------------------|------------|------|

We will begin by talking briefly about what castles are and who lived in them. First, kids will pretend to build our cardboard castle by painting on bricks. Then they will get into small groups and paint the inside rooms. Afterwards, we will come together and discuss how castles are different from our houses. *Hosted by Laura Jean Fish and Rachel Fish. (Youth volunteer be appreciated. See volunteer table.)*

| | | |
|---------|---------------|------|
| Old Hat | 4:30pm-5:30pm | 4-12 |
|---------|---------------|------|

Come and create an enchanted hat or crown to wear. *Hosted by Karen Cooper and Pook.*

| | | |
|------------------------|---------|------|
| The People In A Castle | 7pm-8pm | 4-12 |
|------------------------|---------|------|

Children will briefly discuss the roles of everybody in a castle. Then they will draw titles out of a hat and take turns playing different roles. Afterwards we will come back together and discuss what it was like to be the king versus the cook. *Hosted by Laura Jean Fish, Rachel Fish (Youth volunteer appreciated. See volunteer table).*

| Saturday Program | Time | Age |
|------------------|------|-----|
|------------------|------|-----|

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|------|
| Royal Jewels | 10am-11am | 4-12 |
|--------------|-----------|------|

Create your own jeweled necklaces, pendants, and medallions with *host Mary Cooper. (One adult or youth volunteer would be appreciated. See volunteer table).*

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|
| Who Is Harry Potter Anyway? | 1pm-2pm | 6 & up |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|

Kids and Adults come talk about the Harry Potter craze. What does everybody like about Harry Potter? What might some people not like about him? *Panelists Laura Krentz and Richard Tatge. (One or two additional adult and one or two youth panelists still desired. See volunteering table).*

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Medieval Science and Engineering | 1pm-2pm | 8 & up |
|----------------------------------|---------|--------|

How did they make those stone castles so strong? Come build your own brick walls with sugar cubes and frosting mortar. While your wall is drying construct bridges and ladders with drinking straws. (If there's still enough time we may also make sundials.) *(One adult assistant still needed.) Please see volunteer table if you or someone you love is interested. Hosted by Laura Runkle.*

The Royal Banquet 2:45pm-3:45pm 4-12

Come to the castle for a taste of royalty. Children should feel free to dress for the occasion in any fun or appropriate costume. A pretend dinner will be served at 3p.m.. It will be a snack of bread, cheese, and fresh fruit with white grape juice and ginger ale. *Hosted by Laura Jean Fish, Rachel Fish, Susan Levy Haskell and Gavi Levy Haskell. (Three or four additional adult or youth hosts would be nice. See volunteer table.)*

Ingredients for a Fairy Tale 4pm-5pm 3 & up

Tentative: Panelist/Hosts needed to lead activity. Please see volunteer table if interested. Children and adults will briefly discuss the main elements of a fairy tale. Then everybody will make a list of characters and then create their own story. Then at the end there will be time for those who wish to share their stories. *Assisted by Susan Levy Haskell and Gavi Levy Haskell.*

The Castle Ball 7pm-8pm 4-12

Don't miss the best ball in town. Come meet and mingle with all the little Kings, Queens, Princes, Princesses, wizards, jesters, heroes, and villains. Be sure to wear your fashionable accessories and or costumes.* *Still need strolling minstrels, jugglers, fortune tellers, etc. If you or somebody you know has any of these talents or would just like to be a host with the most, please go directly to the volunteer table.*

Dungeons and Dragons for Kids 8pm-1am 6-12

Back by popular demand!

Gaming for kids will be conveniently located outside the Rochester room. Children must be able to read but gaming experience is not required. This is for the absolute beginner to intermediates. Must be accompanied by a parent to register in the game. *Hosted by Michael Kauper and Woody Olson.*

Sunday Program

Time

Age

Dragon Egg Hunt 10am-11am All Ages

Go on an archaeological hunt for rare dragon eggs hidden throughout the Queens land (Main Foyer). *Hosted by Anne Gay. (Four or five volunteers needed to hide the eggs at 9am. See volunteer table. *NOTE* if you hide eggs you will not be allowed to participate in the hunt. We apologize for any inconvenience.)*

How Myths Become Legend 1pm-2pm 8 & up

Tentative: Program has been added to the endangered list. Panelists needed, please see volunteer table if interested and help stop extinction. How did dragon's, fairies, king Arthur, Dracula to name a few, become legends? Are legends like these fact or fiction?

Notes:

Unless otherwise noted, all children's programming will be held in the Rochester Room.

Cancellations of tentative program/panels will be posted 2 hours prior to event on the door of the Rochester Room.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Friday

3:00 PM

What Do Those Crazy Editors Want?

Carver

Writers agonize over this to an amazing degree. Now you can get the jump on all of them. Come to this panel and discover the true, closely-guarded secrets of publishing.

Maureen F. McHugh, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Katya Reimann, Jane Yolen (m)

4:00 PM

What is it about the Civil War?

Hennepin

Chances are there's a whole section devoted to it in your local Barnes & Noble. It was the subject of the most popular mini-series ever aired on PBS. More alternate histories have been written about it than about any other event. And somehow, arguments about it never run out of steam. All you have to do is make one little inoffensive statement like "It was Lee's fault the South lost," or "Minnesota ought to give back that flag," and... *Steven Brust (m), Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Doug Wickstrom*

Overlooked Science Fiction Films and TV Shows *LaSalle*

Not Star Trek, not X-Files, not Buffy or Babylon-5. Let's talk about the shows and movies that get less ink and have fewer fan pages. Like, did you know there's a cool genre show on CBS on Friday night, of all things? If you're having a hard time following syndicated and made-for-cable series, we'll talk about misplaced shows, too. Because you can only watch *Star Wars* or *The Matrix* so many times. (Okay, that's not true; but *Pi* and *City of Lost Children* are definitely worth watching.) *Robert Blackwood, Beth Friedman, Bill Higgins, Laurel Krahn, Priscilla Olson (m)*

Talking About Cryptonomicon

Marquette

So many of us have been doing nothing but. It's big, it's juicy, it's a secret history of the 20th century, it's so full of the topical discussions of this exact moment in history that it just about bursts its boards. Is it SF? Do we care? Should you read it? (That one's easy: yes.) Bring your own deck of cards. *Lenny Bailes, Janice Bogstad (m), Bruce Schneier*

5:00 PM

Gordon R. Dickson: Writing and Living

Salon A

— *Not the Other Way Around*

The author of the Dorsai novels and *The Dragon and the George* series talks *ad libitum* about the art and craft of writing, and the life of the writer. *Gordon R. Dickson*

What Makes a Period of History Really Cool?

Carver

It's obvious that some periods are just Cool and some aren't. There have been roughly 5,271,009 dashing novels set during the English Regency, but very few set against the thrilling backdrop of the War of 1812. Why? Why not? And which ones? *Lois McMaster Bujold (m), Ellen Rose Kuhfeld, Jim Mann, Jim Young*

Who Thought of That, Why,
and How Come It's So Popular?

LaSalle

SF notions that don't make sense: A number of sf ideas that have become standard background elements make no sense at all when examined. Example: the use of cryonic suspension as a form of jail. This doesn't punish, doesn't rehabilitate, doesn't do anything except produce an ex-con with -really- severe social disorientation — not likely to turn the subject away from his criminal habits. We'll discuss a bunch of these, and the process by which they get established. Is it just that People Don't Think, or does it have to do with the particular ways our culture thinks about science and technology? *David Dyer-Bennet, Jim Frenkel, Russell Letson, Tom Whitmore (m)*

Reading
Laurel Winter

Board Room 2

6:00 PM

Death and Designation Among
the Westchesteri

Hennepin

Stories about an intrusion of the Weird into conventional life are common (The Twilight Zone offered a steady flow of them). But some writers have offered a view of "conventional life" as -already- Weird, if one only bothered to look — Avram Davidson ("The Sources of the Nile"), Ted Sturgeon (VENUS PLUS X), Fritz Leiber ("The Button Molder"), and to stretch the point, Charles Addams. List of all Items by time as of 18 April 2000 Arguably, these stories required a society with a particular consensus view of itself as stable and normative, which no longer seems to be dominant (not, as Alfred Kinsey pointed out, that it was -ever- accurate). Is this an obsolescent form in the post-Simpsons era? Has the broader acceptance of "mimetic fantasies" (THE X-FILES, the "Anita Blake" books) left no room for a tale whose main point is that the Weird is Out There, and it ain't even trying to hide? Or is it that the New Consensus View, and therefore the New Weird, aren't yet recognized for what they are, meaning that it may be just about Difference Engine Time for a new such cycle? Or what? *Maureen F. McHugh (m), Lydia Nickerson, Kristopher O'Higgins, Neil Rest, Vicki Rosenzweig*

Cool New Stuff about Computers

LaSalle

Live from the digital noosphere, our Fan Guest of Honor and a few other well-informed souls talk about what's recently struck them as new and interesting. *Lenny Bailes, John Ladwig, Jon Singer*

Minicon and the Box in the Basement

Board room 3

A Participatory Forensic and Archaeological Enquiry
With the help of audience members, distinguished expedition leaders Geri Sullivan and Jim Young will attempt to identify — and perhaps explain — the contents of the famous box of ancient jumbled Minicon records found in Margo Bratton's basement. Note: The expedition's report will be featured at Closing Ceremonies. *Geri Sullivan, Jim Young*

8:00 PM

Opening Ceremonies/Ask Dr. Mike

Salon BC

This is where it all starts. Come see the Guests of Honor introduced. Find out what's afoot this year. Hear some inspiringly brief opening remarks. Catch the early announcements. And stick around, because "Ask Dr. Mike" will follow directly after. *Lenny Bailes, John Berkey, John M. Ford, Maureen F. McHugh, Geri Sullivan, Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Jim Young*

Ask Dr. Mike

Salon BC

See *Opening Ceremonies* above

9:30 PM

The Mark Time Awards

Salon BC

The Mark Time Radio Hour! An annual highlight of Minicon, this year's Mark Time Radio Hour will begin with the presentations of this year's Mark Time, Ogle, and Grand Master awards for achievements in audio SF drama. We'll follow that with the live presentation of two new original radio plays, featuring David Ossman, Orson Ossman, Jane Yolen and other: Brian Price's "Cyber Bob and the Silicon Kid," and Jerry Stearns's "Drummer's Dome." The Mark Time presentation is one of the jewels in Minicon's crown, and we're delighted to welcome this event back for its fourth year. *David Ossman, Orson Ossman, Jerry Stearns, Jane Yolen*

The Future of Star Trek

Hennepin

Where can the franchise go from here, and should it try to get there? *Joseph Agee, Beth Friedman (m), Laurel Krahn, Priscilla Olson*

10:00 PM

Trivia Bowl

Carver

It's fun, it's fast, it's ballistic. To enter, just walk in the door. Our panel of master trivialists asks the questions; the first person to call out the answer gets a piece of chocolate candy thrown at him-or-her. When it's all over, the largest stack of uneaten chocolate wins. Let's get trivial! *Mark L. Olson, Priscilla Olson, Jon Singer*

Success and Failure in the Portrayal of Evil

Hennepin

Never let it be said Minicon doesn't tackle the big metaphysical questions. Does evil exist for its own sake? Is it an autonomous force in the universe, or a worm at the heart of all that's good? How do we credibly portray evil in fiction? When we give our evil characters motivations, do we tip our own individual beliefs about evil and good alike? Is to understand all really to forgive all? And, of course, why are the most evil characters often the most fun? Our panel of learned consuite banterers will scale the steep slopes of these questions. Bonus special guest appearance by St. Thomas Aquinas. *Steven Brust (m), Pamela Dean, Tom Whitmore*

Filking

Marquette

You know — Filking.

Saturday

10:00 AM

Magical Realism or Fantasy?

Hennepin

Some books by some authors get called "magic realism"; others, for no obvious reason, get labeled "fantasy." Is it just a matter of who publishes the book and where it gets reviewed, or do these labels actually mean something?

Alan DeNiro (m), Eric Heideman, Peter Johnson, Philip E. Kaveny

Butch Honeck slide show

Marquette

More than words can tell — on the subject of lost-wax casting techniques. *Butch Honeck*

Reading

Board Room 2

Jane Yolen

10:30 AM

Quick Check 1 (How are we doing?)

Reading room

10:30am–10:45am *Geri Sullivan*

11:00 AM

Autographing

3rd Floor Foyer

John M. Ford

Mainstream Perceptions of SF

Carver

Weird crackpots! Geeks and UFO nuts! People at conventions wearing funny ears! Right — we all know that's how they think of us. In fact, we know it so well, and cleave to that belief with such fervor, that it may be time to ask whether it's true. *Laurel Krahn, Elise Matthesen (m), Maureen F. McHugh, Kristopher O'Higgins*

Neat Superpowers and What to Really Do with Them?

Hennepin

Is there a comics fan in the world who hasn't imagined uses for a favorite character's superpowers that are undreamt-of in the stories that actually get published? Come and see our panelists swap notes on some of these long-cherished notions, as well as swapping theories about why mainstream comics don't often explore new possibilities. *Bob Berlien, Dave Howell, Priscilla Olson (m), Kathryn J. Routliffe*

Lady Poetesses from Hell

LaSalle

Once again, the Lady Poetesses from Hell don their best hats, buff up their best manners, and read their exceedingly unladylike poems. *Terry A. Garey (m), Rebecca Hubbard, John Rezmerski, Laurel Winter, Jane Yolen*

Reading

Board Room 2

Patricia C. Wrede

Roundtable (Desktop Music Audio Production)

Board Room 3

Steven Vincent Johnson

Autographing 3rd Floor Foyer

Maureen F. McHugh

The Singularity: Dangerous Vision, Carver
or Rapture of the Nerds?

Some people — most notably Vernor Vinge — have argued cogently that human technological progress is more and more a geometrical progression, and that beyond a certain near-future event horizon we literally cannot know what the human condition will become. It's a beguiling idea, much seized upon by radical Extropians and the like (and the unlike). Is this the ultimate Dangerous Vision, or just millennialism for geeks? Fight about it. *Jim Frenkel, Ellen Rose Kuhfeld, Mark L. Olson, Patrick Nielsen Hayden (m), Bruce Schneier*

The Much-Maligned Expository Lump Hennepin

As you know, Bob, for much of the twentieth century it's been widely believed that lengthy "infodumps" are a sign of bad writing inside the genre and out. Yet if readers hate undigested expository lumps so much, why was James Michener (for instance) one of the most popular authors of the century? Really, is it readers who dislike this stuff, or is it our gatekeepers of culture? In fact, isn't a certain enthusiasm for Explaining The Facts one of those things that makes SF permanently infra dig for some people? How on earth did we wind up with a mainstream literary culture like this, and what would our ancestors have made of it? Here, let us read you this brief passage from the *ENCYCLOPEDIA GALACTICA*... *Pamela Dean, Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Patricia C. Wrede (m)*

John Berkey Slide Show Marquette

An hour of great SF art, with commentary by a great SF artist. *John Berkey, Lisa Freitag, Greg Ketter*

Reading Board Room 2

Sandra Rector

Roundtable Board room 3

Philip E. Kaveny

The Works of Maureen McHugh Salon A

Author of *China Mountain Zhang*, *Half The Day Is Night*, *Mission Child*, "The Lincoln Train," "Protection," and a great deal more of the best SF of the last decade, Maureen F. McHugh is provocative, polemical, and yet hard to pin down. But for all that she casts a cold eye on the genre's dreadful simplicities, there's a lot of warm life and humor in her work as well. We could talk about McHugh's SF all day, but we'll try to cover the high points in an hour. *Eric Heideman, Patrick Nielsen Hayden (m), Tom Whitmore*

Autographing 3rd Floor Foyer

Jane Yolen

The Ways People Think Hennepin

How does thinking happen? Multi-intelligences, creativity? How do we learn? *Karen Cooper, Susan B. Levy, Haskell, Teresa Nielsen Hayden*

Shifting Narrative Paradigms in Comics *LaSalle*

There's been good writing in some mainstream comics for several decades. But lately there's been a new *_kind_* of interesting writing, a new set of techniques for telling stories without losing the effects that comics do best. Alan Moore, Kurt Busiek, Grant Morrison and a few others epitomize these techniques. What's happening here? *Lenny Bailes (m), Pam Fremon*

Reading *Board Room 2*
Katya Reimann

Roundtable *Board room 3*
John M. Ford

2:00 PM

John Berkey Interview *Salon A*
You've seen the pictures. Now meet the man. *John Berkey, Greg Ketter*

Autographing *3rd Floor Foyer*
Kara Dalkey, Patricia C. Wrede

The Year in Science: part I *Carver*
(Physics and Astronomy)
Keeping the science in science fiction — in this case, Physics and Astronomy. Come hear a mix of professionals and laypersons tell what's new. *Howard Davidson, Bill Higgins, Mark L. Olson (m)*

Program Items We Have Loved *LaSalle*
and Hated, and Why
A judicious mixture of abstract theories and lurid anecdotes from our opinionated panelists. *Alice Bentley, Andrew Bertke, Steven Brust, Elise Matthesen, Tom Whitmore (m)*

Reading *Board Room 2*
Maureen F. McHugh

Roundtable *Board room 3*
Jim Frenkel

3:00 PM

Bruce Schneier Speaks: Cryptography and its *Salon A*
Discontents: Digital Security in the Networked World
Founder and chief technical officer of Counterpane Internet Security, Inc. Inventor of Blowfish, Twofish, and other algorithms, including the "Solitaire" system used in Neal Stephenson's *Cryptonomicon*. Legendary crypto guy and entertaining Minicon regular. Come early if you want a good seat. *Bruce Schneier*

Autographing *3rd Floor Foyer*
Pamela Dean, Katya Reimann

Cross-Breeding Genres *Hennepin*
Of course, genres always crossbreed; you can't take your eye off them for a minute. Detective stories flirt with fantasy, SF slips off into the bushes with Regency romance. Maybe it's because, jokes aside, "genre" isn't just about the sets, props, and costumes; it's about different methods of storytelling and, most importantly, getting different effects. Our panel of experts wends its way down these mean slidewalks. *Lois McMaster Bujold, Douglas L. Hulick, Maureen F. McHugh, Jane Yolen (m)*

Mars: The Soap Opera

LaSalle

The current plan for a crewed Mars mission (to be launched around 2020) will require a three-year round-trip. During this time, much if not all of the astronauts' lives will be available to almost anyone on Earth who wants to watch or download it, and any crisis will instantly become Our Top Story 24/7. This is a new development in heroic exploration. Magellan's sailors didn't go stir-crazy inch by inch on CNN and Webcam. (Note: This is a sociological panel with an engineering foundation. It's conceivable that the actual flight might wind up taking less than three years—but that's not the point.) *Doug Drummond, Jordin T. Kare (m), Laura A. Majerus, Lydia Nickerson, Kathryn J. Routliffe*

Reading

Board Room 2

Steven Brust

Roundtable

Board room 3

David Ossman

4:00 PM

Art Jam (2 hours)

Salon A

If you're an artist, come and do it. Spacetime and working surfaces will be provided; bring your own materials.

Onlookers are more than welcome.

Autographing

3rd Floor Foyer

Lois McMaster Bujold

Groping Towards a Critical Language

Carver

If you've listened to high-end academic literary criticism, you know it can sound like it's left the English language behind. But if you listen to a bunch of friends having a really intense conversation about a book or movie they love, you know we still need language in which we can discuss the way we experience art. What's going on? Why have we developed such disjunct modes of discourse? Do they have any underlying similarities? Where did the academic stuff come from, and why is it so weird? And do these critical languages have anything to say to each other? *Steven Brust, (m) Jim Mann, Elise Matthesen, Patrick Nielsen Hayden*

Nonlinear Threads and Reminiscences of Fandom in the 60's

LaSalle

Nate Bucklin and Fan Guest of Honor Lenny Bailes discuss the secret history, inner truth, outer garments, shortstop to be named later, ways and means of a fascinating and under-documented period of fanhistory. *Lenny Bailes, Nate Bucklin*

Volcanos and Ice: The Last Days of the Galileo Spacecraft

Marquette

Galileo, orbiting Jupiter for over four years, has been pounded with radiation and is probably near the end of its life. Most recently, it has delivered close-up glimpses of Io's lava fountains and hints about the oceans that may lie beneath Europa's frozen surface. Bill Higgins presents the latest news from the neighborhood of Jupiter. *Bill Higgins*

Reading

Board Room 2

Suzanne Alles Blom

Furby Dance*Salon BC*

A participatory experiment in distributed processing amongst multiple interactive automata. Bring your own, or come alone. Virtual AI. Most scientific. Quant suff! *Jeff Schalles, Geri Sullivan*

Baroque Hard SF*Carver*

Time was, "hard SF" was staked out as the literary home turf of writers who explicitly rejected all that flaky hippie mainstream New Wave nonsense. Then the cyberpunks came along, and reminded us that technology is as radically transformative as acid or James Joyce. Now, two decades past "Johnny Mnemonic", "True Names", and WEB OF ANGELS, hard SF is exploding, taking on strange and outrageous forms — both on this side of the water, and overseas in the works of writers like Iain Banks, Greg Egan, and Ken MacLeod. Are we in the middle of a major flowering of the skiffy imagination? Where's all this coming from? *Howard Davidson, David Dyer-Bennet, Mark L. Olson (m), Patrick Nielsen Hayden*

Plot Coupons in SF and Fantasy*Hennepin*

It has been said (specifically by Nick Lowe) that what distinguishes fantasy-epics-by-the-pound is their reliance on an episodic quest structure. As our questing hero follows a twisty path through the mountains and vales of Middle-Map, he goes through an almost ritualized set of travails and challenges, for each of which he collects a Plot Coupon. When he accumulates enough Plot Coupons, he gets to cash them in on a Denouement. But is this what's actually going on in these books? And if so, why is it so enduringly effective? *Eleanor Arnason, Linda Reames Fox, Jim Frenkel, Jane Yolen (m)*

The Year in Science, part II — Biosciences*LaSalle*

Still keeping the science in science fiction — in this case, the glamorous, fast-moving (who'd have thought it?) field of Biology. Come and hear all the hot new science and the equally hot ethics questions that are under debate. *Ctein, George Flentke, Earl Joseph, Priscilla Olson (m), Susan M. Smith*

Art Auction*Salon BC*

If it was in the Art Show and it got enough written bids, you'll see it here. And if you show up and bid, it might even come home with you.

Powered Battle Suits*Carver*

As the man said, "A suit you just wear" — but tanks don't trip. The suit of powered battle armor is one of those science-fictional ideas that seem to have soaked into the collective unconscious: people just assume that future warfare (at whatever distance in time) will have infantrymen running around in these exoskeletal Freudian long johns. But does it actually make any sense? Argue the pros and cons. *Lois McMaster Bujold, Howard Davidson (m), Doug Wickstrom, Michael Z. Williamson*

9:00 PM

Round Robin Poetry Reading

Carver

The upteenth annual Minicon round-robin poetry reading, including (but not limited to) many Rhysling winners and nominees, and featuring a great deal of poetry. Come and read, or come and listen. *Ruth Berman, Terry A. Garey (m), Jane Hanson, Sandra Lindow, John Rezmerski, Laurel Winter*

Bedtime Stories, with Milk and Cookies

Con Suite

Stories, of course, told by Jane Yolen: a perennial favorite, and for good reason. *Jane Yolen*

Instant Masquerade (2 hours)

Hennepin

Interact and improvise! Can you become a convincing space pirate or barbarian princess in under 5 minutes? (And if not, how can you improve your costuming instincts?). Note: If you have any costuming "stuff" to share, this is the place to do it. Wear something neutral you can dress up (and/or around), and see the newsletter for more information. *Suford Lewis, Anthony R. Lewis*

10:00 PM

Advances in Digital Art

Carver

Computer-generated art: what is it, how to do it, where is it going? *Ctein (m), Craig Finseth, Steven Vincent Johnson*

Filking

Marquette

You know — Filking. Like last time.

11:00 PM

Kids, Don't Try This at Home

Carver

Mud volcanos, gasoline-powered tennis-ball cannons, chaise lounges hooked up to weather balloons, and a wealth of other experiments that'll never make it into respectable textbooks. Our panel of expert reprobates talks about loud, messy, explosive, high-yield science projects you can do at home with just a few simple ingredients, but probably shouldn't. (Note: panelists are encouraged to bring documentary evidence of past triumphs; but anyone attempting this stuff at the convention will be sold for scientific experimentation.) *Greg Cotton, Doug Drummond, Tim Eisele, Bill Higgins (m), Michael Pins, Jon Singer*

Sunday

10:00 AM

What Do I Read Next?

Carver

What should I go out and buy? *Eric Heideman, Russell Letson (m), Michael M. Levy*

Rebuilding Society, Afterwards

LaSalle

There are many SF stories that deal with rebuilding societies in some form of another. Sometimes this has to be done because society has been destroyed. At other times (for example, in Heinlein's *Tunnel in the Sky*) it's because people have been stranded and can't reunite with their own societies. In fact, there is a rich tradition of such books both inside and outside of the genre (*Robinson Crusoe, Swiss Family Robinson, and the Mysterious Island* are all examples). The panel compares and discusses the various ways these books have talked about rebuilding society. *Eleanor Arnason, Janice Bogstad (m), Suford Lewis, David Perlman*

10:30 AM

Quick Check 2 – What's up?

Reading room

10:30am–10:45am Geri Sullivan

11:00 AM

21st Century Science Futures

Salon A

This presentation is about a psychedelic tour of realistic 21st Century science futures to anticipate. It will answer such questions as: What physics and chemistry breakthrough scenarios can be forecast? Where will solid pixels take the Internet? What new creatures will we create from the knowledge of sequencing human and animal genomes — and much more. *Earl Joseph*

Harry Potter and the Chamber of the Baffled Genre Fantasists

Hennepin

You can hear the cries from Toledo to Timbuctoo: genre writers going “What the hell”? On the one hand, it's great that some out-and-out fantasy has become the most successful publishing event since Stephen King. On the other hand, why this particular fantasy? Is it just crazy luck, or could there be some special quality about these books that's made them accessible to a mass audience, in a way much of the field's best work isn't? And, most importantly, how can we use this to get more people reading *our* stuff? *Ruth Berman, Helen Gbala, Magenta Griffith, Laura Krentz (m), Jane Yolen*

Invented Languages — Cursing in Elvish

Marquette

Low-life alien smugglers, wifty magical creatures, Chiba City hackers, Klingons, and even Glaswegians: the genre is rich in characters who don't speak Standard English. Who's made it work, and who hasn't? What are the different ways to approach the problem? And why is Klingon more fun than Esperanto? *Katie Clapham, Kara Dalkey, Katya Reimann (m), John Rezmerski, John W. Taylor*

Roundtable

Board room 3

Joel Rosenberg

12:00 Noon

Autographing

3rd Floor Foyer

Margaret Howes

Computing Power and the Human Prospect

Carver

Yes, we're all tired of hearing about Moore's Law, and we're probably weary of SF writers who use computers as this generation's form of spray-on magic. (If Star Trek were being made for the first time today, Scotty would be a sysadmin crying out that the CPU canna take it any longer.) Nonetheless, some real smart people in the real world think that, after all the hype, this stuff really is going to Change Everything, and maybe not in entirely good ways. Do we *actually* want to do away with privacy and private property? Okay, do we want to do it next Thursday? Some people would answer “sure” to the first question and then be brought up short by the second. Some old SF gedanken experiments are starting to seem awfully pertinent. Time to talk about them. *Earl Joseph, Jordin T. Kare, Susan B. Levy Haskell (m), Dave McCarty*

What Remains to be Fictionalized? *LaSalle*

Each panelist will get ten minutes or so to discuss a scientific or technological (or even, a folkloric!) idea that hasn't been significantly exploited by the genre. Panelists aren't expected to actually work out a full-scale story (though a handful of story seeds are welcome), and need not be writers. Ideas are also not required to be bleeding-edge; neglected older concepts are at least as valuable. In the remaining time, panelists will play with each other's mud pies. *Anthony R. Lewis (m), David Ossman, Katya Reimann*

The End of History *Marquette*

Are SF writers temperamentally disinclined to believe in a democratic, liberal future of compromise and consensus, or is it just hard to invent and write about such a world? Who's gone against this grain, and with what kind of success? *Maureen F. McHugh (m), Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Neil Rest*

Reading (half of Jocelin Foxe) *Board Room 2*
Linda Reames Fox

Roundtable *Board room 3*
Laurel Winter

1:00 PM

Autographing *3rd Floor Foyer*
Joel Rosenberg

Giants *Hennepin*

Giants in Fiction: From Goliath to Jolly Green. Giants — whatever you call them, ogres, trolls, cyclopes, Ents, or just big muthas — are commonplace figures in folklore and fantasy. Sometimes they're figures of malign strength; sometimes they're protective or tutelary spirits. They're usually taken to be a bit dim, but there are subthreads of giants as builders, nurturers, protectors. What's this about? Our panel strains its collective neck to gaze upward and comment. *Eleanor Arnason, Ruth Berman (m), Laura Krentz, Patricia C. Wrede, Jane Yolen*

Reading for Pleasure *LaSalle*

It seems the easiest thing in the world, until you start having to read the same stuff for your work. How do writers, editors, and booksellers get back to that primal act of reading for fun? (And — what do they read when they don't need to do so?) And (taking this one step further) how can *anyone* enhance the enjoyment to be derived from reading? *David Dyer-Bennet, Tracy Lunquist (m), James Minz, John W. Taylor*

Genre-markers: What makes something SF or Fantasy or...? *Marquette*

What makes a genre? Is it the props (swords, blasters, the Holy Grail), and if so, which ones? Or is it less a matter of their furniture than the way they use it? Is there a distinction between genres that are defined by their content (mysteries, SF), and those that are defined by their effects (horror, erotica, humor)? Can we make sense of this tangle, or just make more tangle? *Steven Brust (m), Maureen F. McHugh, Teresa Nielsen Hayden*

Reading *Board Room 2*
Lois McMaster Bujold

Roundtable *Board room 3*
Lenny Bailes

2:00 PM

Autographing
Steven Brust

3rd Floor Foyer

How Do the News Media Look At
Science/Science Fiction?

Carver

No, really. Can we get a break from the usual stories about losers in Spock ears? Should we care? Are we just innocent bystanders to the media sausage machine, or do we more or less deserve the coverage we get? Sources close to the story venture informed opinions. *Mary Kay Kare, Tracy Lunquist, Vicki Rosenzweig, Kathryn J. Routliffe (m)*

The Internet and Bookselling/Publishing

Hennepin

On-demand publishing, downloadable e-text, self-publication, piracy, scams, quarterly announcements of The End of Publishing As We Know It, and strange opportunities yet unimagined. It's all a great froth, and you probably have views on it already. So do our panelists. *Dave Howell, Teresa Nielsen Hayden (m), Michael J. Ward*

The Twenty Year-Long Shockwave

LaSalle

Discussions and reminiscences on the twentieth anniversary of Shockwave Radio Theatre at Minicon; with illustrative examples. *Kara Dalkey, Doug Friauf, Dave Romm (m), Brian Westley*

Last Check —

Board Room 2

Looking Towards Next Year?

Most cons have 'em. We do too. Come with cogent observations and suggestions. We'll listen. *Geri Sullivan*

2:30 PM

Ladies' Sewing Circle and
Terrorist Society - open meeting (2 hours)

Board room 3

Costumers, knitters, cross-stitchers, etc. — bring your sewing or needlework projects to this informal gathering and work on them while talking with others who share these interests. Find out more about the local group, and when and where they meet.

3:00 PM

Closing Ceremonies

Salon BC

Trump Twenty-Three: The Closing Ceremonies. The Querent, seated on a hilltop, sees the Minicon Air Force passing overhead in formation. Meaning: Liminality. Assassination. Momentary insight. The Report on the Box in the Basement. Endings and beginnings. The giving of thanks. Closure. *Steven Brust, Lydia Nickerson, Geri Sullivan*

PACK IT UP; MOVE IT OUT!

We will start tear-down of Minicon 35 immediately following Closing Ceremonies. If you're around, please help repack everything into the truck, then into the storage locker so we can bring it all back again next year. How many T-shirts do we still have left? How many bottles of grenadine? Count as you pack, and you'll know all....

THANKS!

See you next year, and before then, we hope!

EVENT HORIZON - MUSIC SCHEDULE

Directors Row 4

Dai Innes, Music Host

Friday:

5pm *Fred Levy Haskell*

(break for Opening Ceremonies)

10pm *Nate Bucklin/Jensen, Emerson & Friends*

Saturday

Noon *Jordin Kare*

2pm *Todd Menton & Adam Stemple*

4pm *Sandy Andina*

6pm *Kurt Griesemer & David Perry*
(*"aka Borderlands"*)

8pm *"Bailes, Berlien, et al" (Bob Berlien*
& Lenny Bailes)

10pm *Moggnauff (The Fabulous Lorraine &*
Lojo Virago)

Performer times & order subject to change.

HUCKSTER ROOM UPDATE

Last minute changes to the Huckster Room map:

- Lodestone Audio Theatre is moved across the room to tables 34 & 35
- Bill Johnson is moved to tables 56 & 57
- Fantanimals is moved to the next aisle to tables 36 & 37
- Sandra Santara is entered into the fray at tables 58 & 59

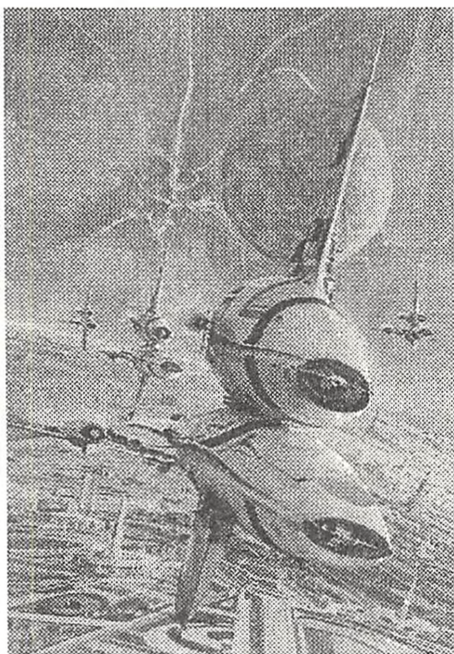
MINICON 35 T-SHIRT

On sale at the OffWorlds Minicon table at the front of the Hucksters Room.

Wearable Berkey & Minicon, too!

\$18 up to 2xl,
\$21 for 3xl
and \$24 for 5xl.

Minicon thanks John Berkey for his permission to use this art on the Minicon 35 T-shirt. Free shirt from a previous Minicon with every purchase. Help us find space in the Minn-stf storage locker!



Please join us for...



April 13–15, 2001

Hilton Minneapolis & Towers
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Writer Guest of Honor

Ken MacLeod

*Award-winning Scottish author of
The Stone Canal and The Cassini Division*

Fan Guest of Honor

Jo Walton

Outstanding online fanwriter and essayist

Musician Guest of Honor

Leslie Fish

*Singer/songwriter, anarchist, writer of "Hope
Eyrie," and multiple Pegasus award winner*

Attending memberships are \$30 through
November 15, 2000, then \$40 until March 15,
2001, and \$70 at-the-door. Child (under age
12) and supporting memberships are \$15.

Minicon 36 room rate: \$76 plus tax.

For more information:

<http://www.mnstf.org/minicon/>

Email: <request@minicon.mnstf.org>

P.O. Box 8297

Lake Street Station

Minneapolis, MN 55408-0297