

Minicon 26

It's Time to Pack a Bag and Set Out for the Tower of Trufandom

Minicon 26: Think of it as Evolution in Action.

There are some things that we hold dear about Minicons of the past, and that we hope will always be part of every Minicon. The part, for example, where

the convention seems to transcend the boundaries of time and space, and there is truly no better place to be. It's magic mix of: the genre; the creativity and the silliness that the atmosphere; fandom - just for being, and for all the old and new friends- (*As Uncle Fred once said, "Fandom is just a way to meet people"*); the chance to be hospitable and to enjoy our hospitality; it's Minneapolis in '73. We know what we want: we want Minicon to continue to be more fun than you can have in one weekend.

You've undoubtedly noticed that Minicon is going through some changes. We asked you to send us that little card letting us know if you still want to be on our mailing list. (*And thanks to all of you who did!*) We seem to have a mania about volunteering. (*And a special thank you to everyone who has already told us that you want to participate.*) We are - gasp! - changing. (*And, if we've stepped on your toes as we adjust, please accept our apologies.*) We haven't seen yet how the changes we are making this year will affect Minicon, but we know we have to change to thrive.

We want each of you to enjoy Minicon, and enjoy it in such a way that your good time enhances everyone else's good time. Certainly that's what people who are on panels or in the play or

doing Shockwave or playing music are doing, but it also means participating in other ways. The people who work the Art Show and run films and keep the ConSuite stocked are having fun too. The fact is, helping along someone else's good time can happen in a lot of simple ways. It's as easy as putting your trash and recycling in the appropriate receptacles, and maybe carrying some of those other abandoned cups there too.

Consideration is as obvious as not overcrowding the elevators so they will keep running all weekend long. (*It worked last year good going, gang!*)



It's as important as pre-registering this year so you don't get the shock of your life when you discover that our at-the-door rate is now \$50. We need the most accurate possible count of the number of fans to expect for publications, parties, et cetera, and we want to eliminate as much as possible the extra work of at-the-door registrations. We don't have a registration cap, but we are hoping for fewer than 3000 attendees and we need to know. If you can't preregister at our pretty reasonable \$20 rate, we encourage you to buy our \$5 Lay-Away membership, and pay the remaining \$15 when you arrive. Should you be unable to attend, your \$5 entitles you to a copy of the program book (*once again a nifty perfect bound book, "The Minn-STF Travel Guide to Minicon"*) and your keen, but alas unused, badge, mailed to you after the convention is over. So register now! Spend that check your granny sent you! Write the deadline (February 15th) on your calendar! Ask your mother to remind you! (*We won't; this is the last progress report before Minicon.*) Save that thirty bucks and spend it in the Dealers' Room! (Parents note: Children 12 and under are \$8 in advance, \$10 at-the-door.)

The Radisson South is doing everything in their power to ensure that we all have a good Minicon. Room rates are \$48, the same as last year - and the year before - and that reflects well on both us and them. The Radisson has also assisted in arranging once again for the Sofitel to be Minicon's overflow hotel. Do not send reservations to the Sofitel: they will not be accepted. Reserve rooms only through the Radisson. One thing the hotel would love to accommodate but cannot is the number of requests for suites. There are not nearly as many suites as one might think in a 22 story hotel (*less than 22, in fact*), and by the time the Guests of Honor, the consuite(s), and the Bridge, Childcare, and parties have been assigned, there's not much left over. If your group wants to host an open party, displayed on the Fabulous Parties Monolith and listed in the "Minn-STF Travel Guide to Minicon," write immediately to Victor Raymond and Elise Krueger at the Minicon P.O. Box.

On the other hand, the Radisson has expanded its function space, and Minicon will be taking advantage of this with programming on both the first and second floors of the North Tower. Watch for a more suitable gaming room, more readings, and other excitement. For sure, look for the wonderful first floor Poolside Consuite, the "no elevator" alternative to the familiar (*and still in place*) 22nd floor Consuite.

Finally, we want to tantalize you with news about something that has the power to add to everyone's enjoyment, not just of Minicon, but of other conventions and even of fandom in general. Walt Willis and James White have written a sequel to "The Enchanted Duplicator." "Beyond the Enchanted Duplicator...To the Enchanted Convention" and will be available at Minicon as a thank you for volunteering for at least four hours. Be the first on your block to read all about Jophan's new quest, and join us for what we hope will be an enchanted convention.

Look Up in the sky!

Northwest Airlines is the official air carrier for Minicon 26. Call and make reservations in our name, "Minicon 26" (Special Group # 06129), and you'll receive 40% off full-fare round-trip coach fare in the continental U.S. (25 - 40% off in Canada), or 5% off the lowest applicable round trip fare available at the time of your booking. For reservation and flight information, call Northwest Airlines toll free at 1-800-328-1111.

Minicon Hotel Information

Committee Heads: Jeff Peasley & Rob Ihinger

Radisson South Hotel
7800 Normandale Blvd.
Bloomington, MN 55435
Phone Numbers: 612-835-7800 & 800-333-3333

RATES: Single, double, triple or quad room \$48/night
For additional room rate information, write
Minicon /Hotel, P.O. Box 8297

Mention Minicon when making reservations.

We have received 30 requests for open party accommodations. If you are interested in any sort of special hotel room (suite, poolside cabana, a *specific* room, etc.), contact Victor Raymond & Elise Krueger *now*. If you have reserved a suite with the hotel *without* contacting Minicon, your reservation is not guaranteed! Contact us at our P.O. Box No. as soon as possible to ensure your request won't get "bumped." All requests must be received by January 31st, 1991 to receive *any* consideration whatsoever. Remember, if all you want is a room for the con, contact the Radisson directly.

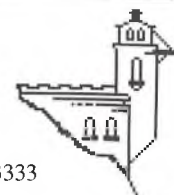
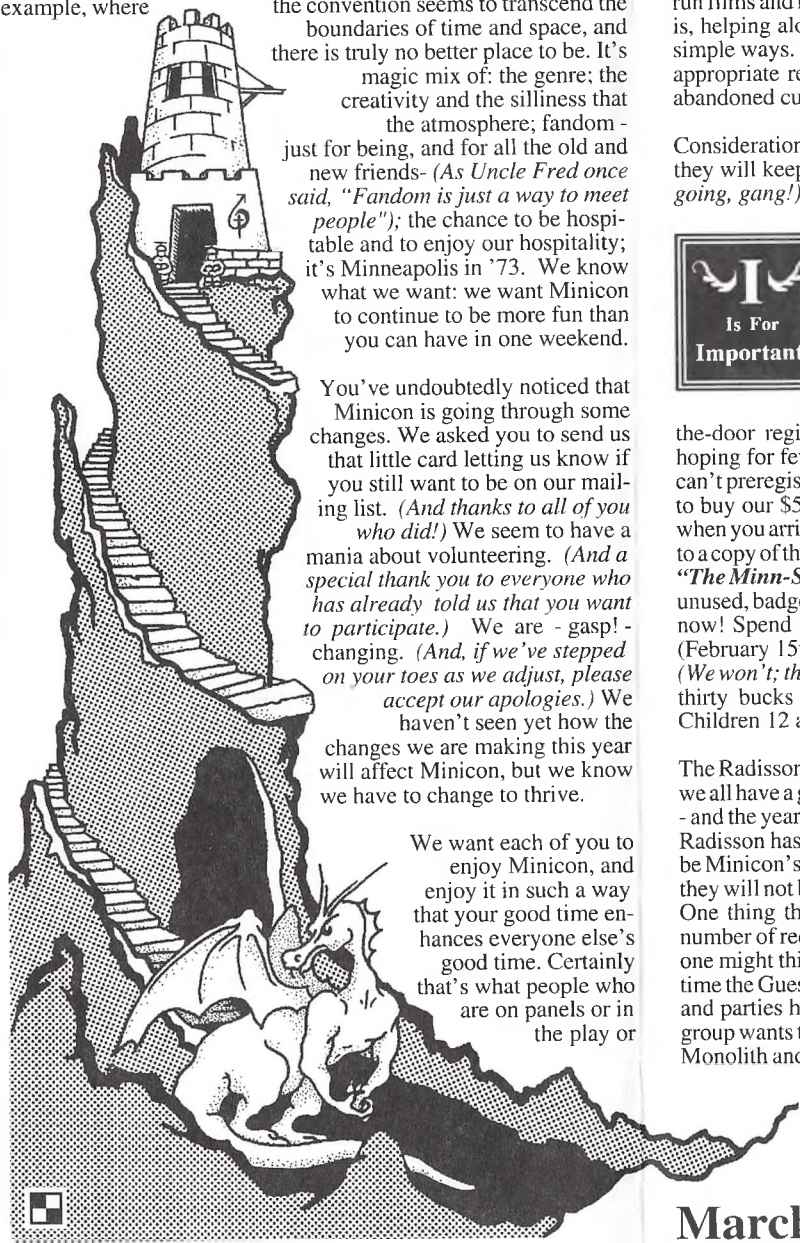
L'hotel Sofitel:

The Sofitel will not rent rooms to anyone under 21 years of age, no exceptions to this are possible. The Sofitel is also considered a "quiet" hotel, so if you want peace and quiet, please indicate that in your request to the Radisson.

Special Request

The Radisson will be holding their annual Easter Brunch on Sunday (March 31). Please do not use the Southeastern parking lot between the Radisson and the Sofitel during this function.

March 29th, 30th & 31st, 1991



Special Services

Committee Head: Sue Feltes

Do any of you planning to attend Minicon 26 have special needs? Please contact me at the phone number below if you require **physical** extras — accessible rooms, wheelchairs and so forth. I have an answering machine so leave a message.

The phone number is: 612-339-1028

Registration

Committee Heads: Scott Raun & Mitch Pockrandt

General

The pre-registration deadline for Minicon 26 is Friday, February 15th. Any registration received with the postmark dated after February 15th will have the registration held and be charged the at-the-door rate at the con. Please send in your registration as early as possible. If we can lessen the last-minute rush, everything will run much more smoothly.

The Complete Rate Structure Is:	Adult Pre-Registration (13 & over): \$20.00
	Lay-Away: \$5.00
	Final Payment: \$15.00
	Adult At-The-Door: \$50.00
	Ticket Price: \$250.00 *
	Child Pre-Registration (12 & under): \$8.00
	Child At-The-Door: \$10.00



You **MUST** have a legal I.D. to pick up your membership!

All rates are non-refundable. All memberships are transferable before the con - just give whoever gets **your** membership a signed letter saying "I transfer my membership to John Doe." Please make certain John Doe brings the letter and his legal I.D.

Something NEW This Year! **

This year we will be selling Lay-Away Memberships. You pay \$5.00 (postmarked by February 15th), and this purchases you the right to make the Final Payment on your Lay-Away at the door. So, you pay \$5.00 in advance, and \$15.00 at-the-door, for a total of \$20.00 (*Hey, this is the same as an Adult Pre-Registration! Isn't that a surprise?*); and you get to attend the convention. Layaways are not refundable, but they are transferable, as are all memberships.

Badge Names

Please have pity on the people doing data entry. If you want the name on your badge to be the same as the name you gave for registration, leave the badge name blank. Don't write "same", or "ditto", or anything else. If you want the badge name to be in upper and lowercase, write it that way. If your badge name uses non-English characters (i.e., Elvish), please provide a clean copy of what you want on the badge. The badges are prepared before the convention - if you don't make it clear what you want on your badge, it may not be printed the way you want it. If you want a badge name with more than 30 characters, we will do our best, but can make no promises.

* Only a joke folks! Ask us about it at the convention.

** O.K., so we just changed the names on Supporting and Converting Memberships. We've already converted enough people!

Programming

Committee Heads: Eric Heideman and Sharon Kahn

We've already received jillions of Programming ideas, most of them good. Here are some events we can't resist scheduling:


The Minicon Masquerade will be held Saturday, 7:00-9:00 p.m. If you'd like to volunteer, we need help in: Pre-show Organization; Backstage Crew; Lighting; Sound; Costume Description Writing; Onstage Performance (M.C.? Halftime Entertainment?); Wrangler; Video; and...Judges, Judges, we need Judges!! This is a specialized area, and we want our judges to be the best possible, so interested people please submit a letter or 'resume' listing your qualifications. To join us, contact Bill or Laura at 612-698-6540.

The Fan Fair returns 10:00 a.m.-noon Saturday. Table space will be available for participating fan groups and their literature. Interested groups should contact Art Johnson, 7694 170th St. W., Lakeville, MN 55044, 612-432-9014, by March 1.

"Artists in a Bunch" also returns, with tables for artists/craftsmen interested in demonstrating their work. Interested artists contact Programming ASAP; space will be filled first-come, first-served.

John Calvin Rezmerski and Terry A. Garey will conduct a "Science Fiction/Fantasy Poetry Writing Workshop" Saturday. Participants will meet to critique and suggest revisions of each other's work. Poets should send three pages of work they want discussed to Terry A. Garey (3149 Park Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55407) marked "Poetry Workshop," by March 1; participation limited to first 12 applicants.

Authors! Is the science in your stories sick and weakly? Dr. Kuhfeld's Miracle Cure will bring it up to snuff. Tune up those bosons. Tighten up those fermions. Winos dried up; universes unclosed. If you need scientific advice on a story, Al Kuhfeld will meet with writers (in front of an audience) for two hours during the convention. Send Programming your name and story problem; we'll make first-come, first-served appointments with Dr. Kuhfeld.

There will be a  ("Not eligible for National Endowment for the Arts") thread linking panels of a "controversial" nature. Minicon 26 and the Other Side Theatre Company will present a one-act play Friday night based on Howard Waldrop's short story, "Ike at the Mike." Krushenko's and Krushenko's Annex will provide a lively mix of scheduled science fiction/fantasy panels and discussions, and (we hope) spontaneous SF Conversations and discussions started by you.

Still more!

Panels and discussions on science, SF art, film/television SF, fanzines, and fan history; readings; filksinging; the "Meet the Pros Party" and the "Mass Autographing;" the "Pun-el" and "Perverts Panel II;" Shockwave; Troupe MonHarr Belly Dancing...Alas, we don't have many slots left, but if you've got an exciting idea, we'll try to fit it in. Write Minicon Programming, PO 8036, Lake Street-Station, Minneapolis, Mn 55408 (different from Minicon's main PO), or call Eric M. Heideman, 612-825-9353, or Sharon Kahn, 612-827-3228. Idea deadline: January 31. (Interested in a pre-con "Moderators' Workshop"? Call us.) And if you don't have specific ideas, but want to be a Programming participant, write us ASAP with your interests.

Childcare

Committee Heads: Carol Kennedy and Jonathan Adams

The childcare facility returns to Minicon 26 with more and better space, more toys, and more activities.

Most arrangements will be as they were last year. Use of childcare is limited to kids who have memberships. Planned hours of operation are Friday, 11 am to 1 am; Saturday, 11 am to 1 am; Sunday, 11 am to 3:30 pm.

We will limit the total number of children and the number of children of certain ages using childcare at any one time and the number of consecutive hours a child can be in childcare. Parents who **pre-register** their kids will have a chance to reserve a certain number of hours of childcare ahead of time, so that they can be guaranteed a place, for example, during dinner time or opening ceremonies. Parents who register their children **at the door** may find that a place in childcare is not available when they want it.

If you have any questions, comments, or complaints about childcare (whether this year's or previous years'), or if you are interested in organizing an activity or entertainment for the kids using childcare, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can consider the information in planning this year's childcare. Write to: Jonathan Adams and Carol Kennedy, 3336 Aldrich Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408; (612) 823-2784.

T-Shirt Art

Committee Head: Margo Bratton

We want T-Shirt art! We want T-Shirt art!
Send your submission to:

MINICON
c/o Margo Bratton
2624 Garfield Ave S.
Mpls, MN 55408-1331



This year's Minicon is Minicon 26. The theme for this year's Minicon is: **Think of it as Evolution in Action.**

The theme is a guideline for inspiration, not a requirement to the art work. As usual, we would like to receive a variety of art work. Don't delay, send in your ideas today!
Also remember to have the art work **camera-ready**, and the right size for putting it on the front (or back) of a T-Shirt. We pay a royalty for the art work selected.

If you want us to return your submission, send along a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Deadline for submissions is February 2, 1991.

Special Note: T-Shirts will be sold in the Dealers' Room this year — look for us there.

A Special Note To Artists

Minicon draws people with many different interests. They all appreciate the wide range of ideas that fill the realm of science fiction and fantasy. They like humor. They like imagination. They like the cosmic sense of wonder that comes from contemplation of the universe.

Recruiting

Committee Heads: Lisa Bah and Sarah Zoss

Minicon is run by volunteers. We work for many reasons, but most of all we want to make the convention more fun for all involved. To get the full flavor of Minicon, it is best to experience fandom firsthand by volunteering. **We need you; we want you.**

If you thought you had volunteered already and have not received a postcard from us, please send a note with your registration form and PLEASE print your name and address VERY CLEARLY.

A Plea for Help from Your Minicon Party Supplies

Committee Head: Jeff Ahlstrom

I am Spud, the spokesperson for the Minicon food and drink. Every year the best of us vie for the honor to go to Minicon where we can be consumed by happy fans and be reincarnated, hopefully, as a higher life form. This year, however, we have learned that Jeff Ahlstrom, Parties Head, is really an evil wizard who plans to imprison us behind a locked door to which he has the only key. We will be forced to stay there and rot, spoil or become tasteless and never have a chance of reincarnation unless you help. Jeff is looking for volunteers to help out at the consuite so that he can run the Evil Wizard Programming tract. If you volunteer, he will give you the key and you can free us. Not only would you be doing a good deed, you'd get first choice of the best of the eats and drinks. Don't let us down. Without your help, we're doomed never to be consumed.

Filmeo

Committee Head: John Garner

Yes Virginia, there WILL be Film and Video!



Minicon Weapons Policy

We want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable time at Minicon. We therefore have established the following policy on weapons at the convention.

- Use good judgement. Even if it complies with the remaining rules, if it is unsafe or would reduce the enjoyment of other con members, please don't!
- No projectile weapons.
- All weapons must be carried in a sheath, sling, or container of some kind at all times.
- With regard to lasers, only Class II or lower are considered safe and acceptable.

Definitions:

- Weapons include actual weapons (they do what they look like), facsimile weapons (close copies of actual weapons), anything actually used as a weapon (please don't), and anything an otherwise ignorant observer would have reasonable grounds to think was a weapon.
- Projectile weapons include devices that fire or throw particles or substances or are thrown themselves.
 - Note 1: Squirt guns with liquid are projectile weapons and should not be carried.
 - Note 2: An unstrung bow or crossbow with no arrows is not a projectile weapon.
 - Note 3: Peace bonding is strongly encouraged.

Gaming

Committee Head: Herman Schouten

Come and enjoy comradeship, pop, munchies and fun! We will be offering scheduled fantasy or science fiction related roleplaying or miniature games. Space will be set aside for spontaneous gaming.

If you have any special kind of games please write to me in care of Minicon: Gaming. (The address is elsewhere in this PR)

Dealers

Committee Heads: Steve Bond & Chad Eschweiler

Sorry, tables are sold out for this year. To be included on next years Dealers' mailing list, write to Steve Bond at Comics, Etc., 3952 Central Avenue NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421.

Publications/Ad Rates

Committee Head: Thomas (the Brutal) Juntunen

Here are the modest requirements for submitting an ad for the Minicon 26 program book (soon to be a collector's item):

- It will be one color, black on white. The MAXIMUM area permitted for the ad is 5 inches wide by 8 inches tall.
- Ad sizes are half-page and full-page. (A full page is 5" wide by 8" tall. A half page is 5" wide by 3 7/8" tall OR 2 3/8" wide by 8" tall.) The half-page size may be vertical or horizontal.
- I will try to resize ads **time permitting**, but I DO NOT guarantee it, especially if you do not have a proportionally sized ad.
- The ad needs to be **camera-ready** and NOT mounted on heavy cardboard or other card stock. We will be performing most of our own paste-up and it is difficult to get some ads cleanly off of heavy boards for paste-up.
- If you have screens or halftones of any sort, please make sure the screen is between 85 and 100 line per inch. Anything greater will turn out very muddy and dark, while anything below will merely be coarse (and we are very refined people).

I must have ads in MY hands by February 10th, 1991.

Prices: Professional rates are \$120 for a full page and \$70 for a half page. Fan/Otherwise rates are \$50 for a full page & \$35 for a half page.

If you have an announcement-type ad, this year I am devoting a couple of pages in the program book to short announcements that will be free, but subject to the following restrictions:

- If there are not enough to fill one page (or an acceptable minimum space), I will not run any of them. If there are enough to fill more than the maximum space I am willing to allocate, I will run them on a first-come, first-served basis, based on postmark or receiving date.
- They should be 30 words or less and legible: type written is best. You can also upload them to the BBS Fire Opal at 822-4812. Anything not legible, or too lengthy I will simply not run. I do not have time to perform extensive editing on this.
- I will not take ANY ads after February 10th, 1991. Send requests, ads and questions to me via the Minicon address (found elsewhere in this PR) or call me: 823-6267 (h) or 349-2743 (w).

The Perfect Convention

This excerpt is from "Beyond the Enchanted Duplicator...To the Enchanted Convention", by Irish authors Walt Willis and James White (and provided to us by Mpls in '73 Head Geri Sullivan).

"The Perfect Convention? A Convention where all your friends were? Where you met them at wonderful all night room parties about which nobody complained? Where every item on the program was the very best of its kind and started on time? Where every speaker and panelist spoke with wit and intelligence and knew when to stop doing it? Where all the evil forces of the hotel were completely routed by a Samurai-like Convention Committee? Where all the lifts worked, all the time? Which the press reported fairly? Where the food was varied in its excellence and excellent in its variety, with drink to match? Where all the awards met with universal approval, even from the runners-up? Which ended with everyone more friends than ever? And which instantly became a legend? Was it possible?

"It would be very difficult, Jophan thought. It would be like a sort of three-dimensional version of The Perfect Fanzine, only more difficult because it depended on the efforts of so many other people whose contributions you could not revise. But what a wonderful concept! What more could anyone want than to be part of its realization? What aim could be more worthwhile than to give your friends three days of happiness and a lifetime of pleasant memories?"

Just a few of the Fen you might see on the Steps of the Tower of Trufandom ...

Author GoH ... George Alec Effinger

Artist GoH David Cherry

Fan GoH's Jerry Kaufman &

Suzanne V. Tompkins

Science GoH Al Kuhfeld

Lunch GoH Jon Singer



Minneapolis in '73...An idea whose time has gotten silly

Committee Head: Geri Sullivan

Yep, Minneapolis in '73 will be back for Minicon26, and the Vermin Lord promised to return, too. (We're counting on you, Brad!) In case you're wondering, Minneapolis in '73 is Minn-stf's immortal worldcon bid. That's right, we're bidding for the 1973 Worldcon! If ever there was a Perfect Convention....

Hospitality is what we're about at Minicon 26. The Minneapolis in '73 Suite is a place you can stop by, party, converse, and immerse yourself in fannish customs and lore. Bring along pictures of conventions and fan-gatherings (in albums or slide carousels, please). We'll have slides from the Minn-stf Family Album and Minicon 25. (Thanks, David!)

Post-supporting memberships still available for -1¢. Get your new Airship Pass. (If you bought your membership before 1988, your airship pass has expired.) Genuine membership materials have standard KenFletch inspired art. Accept no substitutes! Park and lock it. Discover the unexpected at Minneapolis in '73.

Ideas? Suggestions? Write to Geri Sullivan, c/o Minicon.

NON-PROFIT ORG.

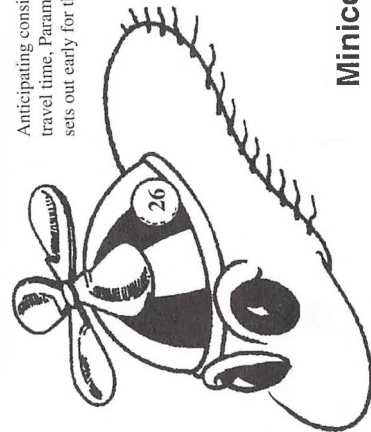
U.S. POSTAGE

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Minneapolis, MN
Permit No. 2164

Rev Elmshauser
1529 Gettysburg Ave. N.
Golden Valley, MN 55427

Anticipating considerable
travel time, Paramectum Joe
sets out early for the Tower.



Minicon
PO Box 8297 Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

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