

Minicon 27

17-19 April, 1992

"Don't ever be a dodo"



Guests

Writer Lois McMaster Bujold

Artist Ctein

Musician Dave Van Ronk

Chairman's Message

David Dyer-Bennet

All the good things to boast about belong to the various department heads, and I'm not aware of anything I need to grovel about.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Minicon 27!

Hotel Committee

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	\$ 48/night
Cabanas	59
Cabana suite 1-bedroom	109
Cabana suite 2-bedroom	149
South Tower 1-bedroom suite	99
South Tower 2-bedroom suite	139

For the eighth consecutive year, Minicon returns to the Radisson South Hotel. This is a world class convention hotel that the committee knows very well, and that enjoys having us each year. We are considered a pleasant challenge for them; they (and we) enjoy watching the reaction of new hotel staff to the group each year. Due to our choice of the otherwise moribund Easter weekend, we again have excellent hotel rates.

We have reserved every inch of function space and each sleeping room in the hotel. We will need it all. Last year's experiment with televising large events to the television sets throughout the hotel was considered helpful and we will be repeating that innovation. We are negotiating for additional channels, but they may prove to be too expensive. Check it out in the program book upon arrival.

Once again, we anticipate filling every room in the hotel on our peak nights. We have therefore made arrangements for the nearby Hotel Sofitel to serve as our overflow hotel. The Sofitel is rather more pretentious than the Radisson, and has rules (and restaurants) to prove it. The Sofitel will not rent rooms to people unless they are over the age of 21. They *mean* it when they say they do not want more than 4 people to a room. For these and other reasons, we are treating the Sofitel as quiet space. Reservation cards are being sent to the Radisson, but if you want a "quiet" room, or want the Sofitel in particular, please indicate that preference on your reservation card so that you can be placed there once the Radisson has filled. The Sofitel will be pricier than the Radisson and will not be connected to the Minicon TV channel(s). Their prices are \$65 single/double, \$75 triple/quad.

A low-cost alternative for those who have cars is the Select Inn across Minnesota Highway 100 to the east. The prices there range from \$33 to \$49. Their toll-free reservation number is 800/641-1000.

Parties

Charles Piehl

"Minneapolis fandom sees conventions the same way they see everything else . . . as a good excuse to have a party!"

— Fred Haskell

One of Minn-stf's Floundering Founders

Okay, let me see here. Posters, hotel notes, buckets, air cleaners, shopping list. We're getting there. We're moving into the final stretch towards April, and things here in Parties are really starting to take shape. What's on that shopping list, you ask? For starters, we're ordering roughly 2,000 gallons of soda, 20,000 cups, and a couple of hundred pounds of chips. A good start, and I hope we don't run out. Why didn't I throw parties like this in college?

The name is Charles Piehl and the job is to Head Parties. You are holding the last in a series of mailings to inform you about what we are doing, and this is your last chance to preregister, if you haven't already. It is also the last chance I get before the convention to ask you for your thoughts and/or help. First, let me invite you to join us at Minicon this year, and especially the Consuite.

The Parties Department is charged with throwing a party for the people attending Minicon. We intend to be guilty. What we are doing, all jokes aside (no, really!), is throwing a party for a couple thousand of our dearest friends. Now, I know that there are people who come to Minicon strictly to go to programming events, and that's just fine. Most people swing through the Consuite at least once or twice, and we'd like to see more of you. Mind you, spending *all* of your time in the consuite suggests a definite need for a hobby.

After all, people don't call me the *Director of Hospitality Services*, but Parties Head. I am the head of the department, but I am also your head host, working with a really exciting group of people. Sometimes so exciting that they make me nervous. It is these people, the Parties Sub-Heads, who really make the whole thing happen, and I am already starting to get antsy for the con to get going. Throwing a party is always work, but look at how much fun it is (and how good it feels when you finally stop). We're going to have fun, and hundreds of congoers will be having fun with us. Can you imagine a Minicon without Parties?

So, here we are. We are going to do somehow pull off three main objectives...

- 1) Throw some great parties next Easter.
- 2) Have lots of people join in the fun.
- 3) Continue the tradition of the Great and Glorious Minicon Consuite!

Okay, okay, so I have some more specific ideas too, but there have to be some surprises, right? Parties this year is going to be memorable. We are going to enjoy doing it as much as the congoers (that's you) will enjoy attending it. And they will have fun. We have ways of making you have fun.

Convention Services

Polly Peterson

*"Oh, I get by with a little help from my friends."**

There will be a convention. I would rather not have to create it single-handedly, however. I know that you are out there, all of you people who have had a great time helping at the convention in past years and all of you who want to know the convention from the inside out. Please write to me. I get lonely! We are able to be much more organized if we know ahead of time who can help (Of course we aren't going to turn you down if you show up at the con to volunteer). The recruitment table will be in the foyer somewhere between the registration area and the information center so look us up. Just think how you can increase the size of your button collection by volunteering for different departments.

OOTers! (That's "Out of Towners")

Northwest Airlines is again the official airline of Minicon. This means that you can save money if you are flying Northwest to the con anytime from April 14-22, 1992. Domestic fares will be 40% off of the round trip coach fare or 5% off whatever lower fare you find available at the time of booking. Canadians can save 25-40% off the full adult coach fare. To take advantage of this offer, you (or your travel agent) must book your ticket through Northwest Meeting Services (800/328-1111 from 7 a.m. to midnight CST) giving them Minicon's identification code, which is 11172. Happy flying!

Child Care

Child care will be run pretty much the same as in past years. The hours will be Friday, 2 p.m. to 1 a.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. to 1 a.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Your child must be a registered member of the convention, and there is a limited number of children that we can serve at a given time. Priority will be given to children who are preregistered and have reserved times when they will be in child care.

Recycling

Minicon (like science fiction) is committed to the future and would like to make it easy for you to recycle what you can from your parties and other uses of materials generated at Minicon. There will be recycling barrels on each floor of the hotel. Please *notice* what each barrel is for before you throw something out!

Information Center

Got a question about Minicon? We will again be running an information center in the foyer so that you can find out where the parties are and where to find what and who you need to find.

Voodoo Message Board

How do you find one person among thousands? We will again have the voodoo message board. This is a list of all members of the convention and you can stick a pin (metaphorically) into someone to let them know that they have a message. This

Minicon 27 Registration Form

17-19 April 1992

- Copy if you require additional registration forms -

- Adult Preregistration (13 & over) \$18.00 ea.
- Supporting Membership \$8.00 ea.

Were you born before 17 April 1971? Yes No
(Legal ID required at sign-in)

- Child Preregistration (12 & under) \$10.00 ea.
- Child Supporting Membership \$8.00 ea.

Accompanying adult's name (required for each child's registration) _____

I'm a professional _____

I've got a great suggestion! _____

Name: _____

Badge Name: Your real name; see text above

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov. _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Phone Number: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Envelope must be postmarked on or before 29 February 1992

Send registration form and check(s) in envelope to:
Minicon, P.O. Box 8297, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408

Minicon 27 Weapons Policy

Really, the whole policy boils down to "Don't be stupid," but there are those who prefer more explicit guidelines. With those folk in mind here goes, and remember that for the purposes of this policy, photons are waves.

1. Above all, use good judgment. If your gear would be unsafe, while complying with the remaining guidelines, please don't use it.
2. No projectile weapons of any sort. These are devices that throw particles or substances, or are thrown themselves. Squirt guns with liquid are projectile weapons and should not be carried. An unstrung bow or crossbow with no arrows is not a projectile weapon.
3. All weapons must be carried in a sheath, sling or container of some sort at all times. Peace bonding is strongly encouraged.
4. Only Class II lasers or lower are considered safe and acceptable.

For purposes of these guidelines, "weapons" encompasses: actual weapons (they do what they look like they do), 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.

If you are still in doubt, but unwilling to forgo your weapon, call Cat Ocel at 721-5465 or Tom Juntunen at 926-4735 evenings to inquire.

Art Show

Laramie Sasseville and Ellen Starr

There will be an Art Show. There will be an auction. There will be a few changes.

In order to streamline the check-in process, we are encouraging artists to preregister their work. Contact Laramie Sasseville at 2311 North 4th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55411 for control sheets, bid sheets and complete details on Art Show rules. Mail-in artwork should be addressed to Ellen Starr, c/o Ickler Co., 2832 South 1st St, St. Cloud, MN 56301, and must arrive by April 15, the Wednesday before Minicon.

There will be a Print Shop, but it will be run separately from the main Art Show. Prints on sale in the Print Show won't be displayed in the art Show; one print of a series may be displayed in the Art Show if it is not available through the Print Shop or the Dealer's Room. Artists who want to sell their work through the Print Shop will be required to help staff the Print Shop.

We intend to offer ribbons to honor exceptional work. There will be awards decided both by popular vote and a panel of judges. We are soliciting suggestions (from artists) of names of people they believe qualified to judge their work on the basis of artistic merit. We're also soliciting suggestions for categories in which artists would like to be recognized (e.g., most original? best illustrative rendition? best technical rendition? humor?).

Dealer's Room

Chad Eschweiler

Setup Friday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. (closed to public)

Open Friday 2 p.m. – 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
at least

The Dealer's Room is a nonsmoking area. Please do not block aisles.

To be on next year's Dealer's Room list, please mail your mailing address to Charles Eschweiler, 3308 Stevens Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408-3216.

Publications/Ad Rates

Beth Friedman

Wouldn't you like to put an ad in the Minicon program book? You will be reaching almost 3,000 people, and will be contributing to a genuine collector's item. Here are the requirements:

- The program book will be one color, probably black on white. The maximum area permitted for the ad is 8 1/2 inches wide by 11 inches tall.
- Ad sizes are full-page, half-page or quarter-page. The half-page size may be vertical or horizontal.
- 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 lines per inch. Anything greater will turn out very muddy and dark, while anything below will turn out coarse (and as Tom Juntunen pointed out, we are very refined people).

I must have ads in MY hands by March 15, 1992.

Prices: Professional rates are \$120 for a full page, \$70 for a half page and \$35 for a quarter page. Fan/nonprofessional rates are \$50 for a full page, \$35 for a half page and \$20 for a quarter page.

If you have an announcement-type ad, there will be a couple of pages in the program book devoted to short announcements at no charge, subject to the following restrictions:

- If there aren't enough to fill one page (or an aesthetically acceptable minimum space), I won't run any. 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.
- They should be 30 words or less and legible. Typewritten is good. (Zapf Dingbats for text, however, are right out.)

Please send requests, ads and questions to me via the Minicon address or to 2630 Pleasant Ave. S. #301, Mpls., MN 55408, or call me at 612/334-4431.

MINICON 27
P.O. Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN 55408
USofA

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Minneapolis, MN
Permit No. 2164

Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Bev Elmshouser
1529 Gettysburg Ave. N.
Golden Valley, MN 55427