


# Minicon 31

COMING SOON TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU!

Guest of Honor: Suzette Haden lgin

Fan Guests: Joe iclari & Edie stern

Memorial Artist Guest: Ed Emshwiller ()msh)

Audio Guest: David ssman



MINICON 31 PROGRESS REPORT 2

RADISSON SOUTH

7800 NORMANDALE BLVD, BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA

APRIL 5-7, 1996

## OVER ART

*This PR's cover features an unpublished spot illustration by Emsh (Ed Emshwiller), our Memorial Artist Guest. For more information on Minicon 31's unprecedented retrospective of his works, see page 5.*

## APRIL ISN'T VERY FAR AWAY!

This Progress Report has lots of information to help you plan ahead for Minicon 31. You'll get so excited about our guests (page 4) and some of the special events that are already scheduled (page 6), that you'll want to rush to send in your registration form (page 19) and get a hotel reservation (page 18).

Many aspects of participation in Minicon require advance communication with the committee. If you are a dealer, artist, musician, costumer, videotaper, game planner — or simply an idea person — check out page 8. If your

group is part of the larger fan community and wants a presence at Minicon, see page 14.

And, of course, the committee cannot do it alone. There are many tasks that need volunteers. Check out pages 11 through 13, choose some fun stuff, and send us the volunteer form on page 10. Note that Ops and Medical Support, in particular, need advance commitments from volunteers to get training.

The center spread of this PR includes reminder stickers for your calendar. We hope they help you meet our deadlines and increase your anticipation.



## FROM THE EXEC

As grateful as we are for volunteers, and all they do, just as important is your feedback. Tracking the opinion of the membership helps us set our policies, arrange events and anticipate problems. We can't deal with your comments, suggestions, complaints and compliments if we don't know about them.

If you have a suggestion, we want to know about it — really! But please understand our situation: if you tell a busy staff person about your great idea, they will likely forget it before it gets passed on. Even if they don't, the idea may not be transmitted exactly (remember that game where a simple message whispered from person to person changes dramatically?). Help both of us out — write it down.

If you have a problem during the convention — someone is bothering you, something is wrong in the hotel — it is imperative we know about it. I'm here to beg you, please go to the Bridge. It's our communication center for the people who can help you, and our convention log is recorded there. The log is our principal means of reviewing our performance. Too many items mentioned at the Minicon 30 post-mortem were not brought to the Bridge and so we had no record of them.

If you have an idea — don't wait! Tell us, but please, tell us in writing, by email or postal mail. Or attend a meeting of our rather sprawling committee. They're open to anyone who wants to contribute! (see page 10).

— Thomas Juntunen

# HOW TO CONTACT MINICON

## BY MAIL (THE P.O. BOX!)

Minicon 31  
PO Box 8297  
Lake Street Station  
Minneapolis, MN 55408  
USA

## BY PHONE

You may leave a message on the Minicon hotline, **(612) 333-7533**. This hotline does not include announcements of news and changes. When you call, please specify the department to send your message to, and allow a lot of time for us to get back to you! In addition, many department heads have included phone numbers in this PR.



## BY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Minicon now has a Internet web page at <http://www.mnstf.org/minicon31>

If you wish to send email, either:

- (a) get the basic information by sending to: [info@minicon31.mnstf.org](mailto:info@minicon31.mnstf.org). This is an "answer-bot" that will not read the contents of your message, but will simply send you a standard reply. It's fast (and it's not there yet as we write, but we hope it will be when you read this).
- (b) send general comments and questions to: [request@minicon31.mnstf.org](mailto:request@minicon31.mnstf.org)
- (c) send to a specific department's email address (seen throughout this PR).
- (d) check the web page for updates (more addresses for departments).

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# Guests

Our guests are highly talented individuals with broad appeal in many different areas of science fiction. This will be an exciting convention, and programming with our guests will be excellent. What's more, there are still some surprise guests in the works!!

## SUZETTE HADEN ELGIN — GUEST OF HONOR

Heading our cast of guests this year is author Suzette Haden Elgin. Among her many works are the Native Tongue trilogy, the Communipath Worlds trilogy, the Ozark trilogy, and *Yonder Comes the Other End of Time*.

Suzette is an expert in the field of linguistics, which inspired her famous title, *The Gentle Art of Verbal Self Defense*. She may be just the person to consult about

whether language is gender-free or whether they spoke English in Camelot. Suzette has proven to be a multifaceted guest. She will be participating in programming and will have works in the art show. She can be spotted in the dealers' room as well, selling books and other goodies. She will be speaking about both her fiction and non-fiction as well as sharing her varied experiences with the science fiction community.

## #1 FAN FACES: JOE SICLARI & EDIE STERN

Minicon welcomes Florida fans Joe Siclari and Edie Stern, our Fan guests of honor. Joe and Edie are active in the South Florida Science Fiction Society and help run Tropicon each winter. They were chair and programming division head, respectively, for Magicon, the 50th World Science Fiction Convention in 1992. They have a keen interest in all things science fictional — especially fan history, small press publishing, and sf bookstores. And they're great people to have dinner with in any country!

Joe and Edie will be at Minicon with their son, Dan, who knows how to have fun at a convention — he volunteers anywhere and everywhere help is needed. When he's not busy being a gopher or helping out in the art show, Dan likes to game. He's also grand dinner company.

Can you tell I enjoyed dining with Joe and Edie and Dan at the end of Worldcon? Fun as it was, we'll like having them at Minicon 31 even more!

P.S. Dinner was at Frogi's, a French restaurant in Glasgow, Scotland. Eclectic, just like Joe and Edie. Yummy, too.

— Geri Sullivan

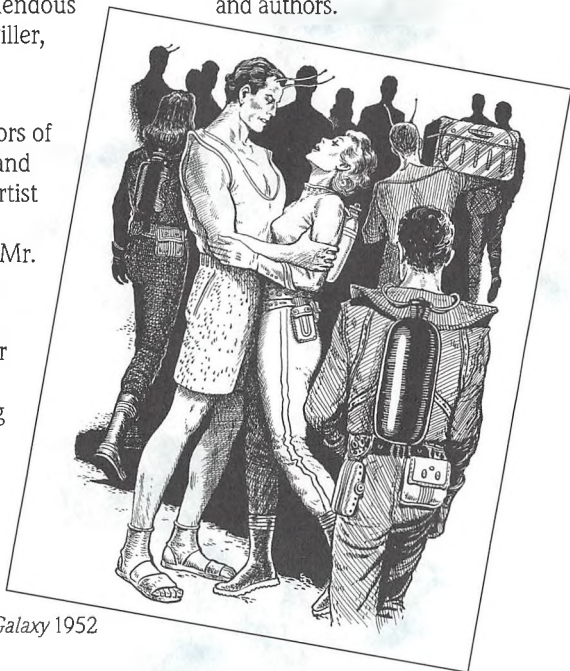
## EMSH RETROSPECTIVE ART EXHIBIT

Fans are doubly lucky in the art arena this year because in addition to the traditional art show, Minicon will be displaying a tremendous collection of the art of Ed Emshwiller, also known as EMSH. He is our Memorial Artist guest of honor.

Emsh was one of the top illustrators of science fiction during the 1950s and '60s. He was the primary cover artist for the ACE Double paperbacks which are now collectors' items. Mr. Emshwiller won 5 "Best Artist" Hugo awards during his lifetime.

Alex Eisenstein is pulling together a major showing of rarely-seen sf masterworks, probably exceeding in scope and quality any such exhibit of Emsh art previously mounted.

The exhibit will display a hundred or so of his finest original paintings for SF covers, and you'll recognize many legendary titles and authors.



Emsh illustration for  
"Education of a Martian," *Galaxy* 1952

## PULLING IN ON THE BOZO BUS—DAVID OSSMAN

David Ossman is known to many of us as a founding member of Firesign Theatre (1966–1985), to which he returned for a 1993 national tour and a new album now in development. He's written, directed and/or produced many science fiction radio plays through his work with Boston's WGBH, the Midwest Radio Theater Workshop in Columbia, MO, and his family production company, Otherworld Media (Judith Walcutt, its executive producer, is his wife).

Some of David's radio scripts star George Tirebiter, a Firesign character, and he's now working on his second Tirebiter mystery novel, some of which takes place at a science fiction convention. The first one is *The Ronald Reagan Murder Mystery*. In the 1950's, David produced a library of interviews on the "beat poets," and he's published several books of poetry himself. At Minicon, we expect readings from his novel in progress as well as some participation "on the air."

# Sneak Previews

The Minicon 31 committee has been busy lining up events and planning for the logistics of over 3,000 people and three venues. Here's the results of some of the latest decisions. Start planning your convention now!

## THIRD HOTEL NAMED

The second overflow hotel this year (our third hotel for the convention) will be the **Holiday Inn**. For more information, see page 18. Bye-bye, Wyndham Gardens!

## FESTIVAL OF FILMS AT THE HOTEL SOFITEL

Minicon 31 is proud to introduce the **Picture Palace** in the Hotel Sofitel, an old movie buff's paradise. Attend any or all of **Bob DeFlores'** wonderful three-day classic film festival and symposium. Mr. DeFlores is a film restorationist and archivist. He has appeared as a special guest at film festivals across the U.S. and internationally, provided film clips for innumerable retrospectives (including Carmen Miranda's) and toured with W.C. Fields' grandson. He has agreed to provide us films from his personal collection of over 6,000!

## GOOD VIBRATIONS COMING TO MINICON

The first **Theremin** concert at a science fiction convention in decades will be hosted by Minicon 31, in conjunction with the Pavlek Museum of Broadcasting of St. Louis Park, MN. One of the very first electronic music instruments, the Theremin was extremely popular at the world cons of the '40s and early '50s. Newer technology ended the era of fandom basking in its eerie tones.

Heard on the sound tracks of those wonderful "Grade B" SF thrillers throughout the 40s and 50s, Dr. Theremin's creation influenced a generation of musical tastes and talents, including those of a certain Mr. Moog....

This Minicon will be **YOUR** chance to see this bit of movie and music history in action! Hear **one of the first 200 RCA Theremin instruments** ever built — played right on our very own main stage! History buffs, don't miss the panel on the restoration of this Theremin. Or visit the Pavlek while you're in town and see the collection of hundreds of phono, radio and early TV gear. You're gonna love it!

## MAINSTAGE CONCERTS

We're in the midst of negotiations with several great bands, and the extravaganza area will be hosting several concerts at Minicon. The Twin Cities' own **Sneaking Suspicion** has already confirmed that they'll be at Minicon to entertain their fans.

## THIS WAY BACK TO KRUSHENKO'S!

Krushenko's, a gathering place for people who like to **talk about SF**, is returning soon to a galaxy near you. This year it will feature a combination of programmed discussions, parties hosted by SF groups, and unscheduled time for spontaneous SF conversations.

## LET YOUR EAGLE EYES FIND A BARGAIN AT THE CHARITY AUCTION!

Every year at Minicon's Art Show a few artworks are tragically abandoned by their purchasers. We have now accumulated an interesting mound of **artwork** that we no longer want to store, so we're auctioning them all off for charity. All **proceeds will go to the University of Minnesota Raptor Center**. Swoop down to the Art Show and make a bid before all the cool stuff flies away!

## HONORING THAT 1973 BID

The **Minneapolis in '73** Zeppelin continues its cruise around the Radisson South, with plans to moor at the Plaza Tower (the short one) for Minicon 31. It's an intimate hospitality area sponsored by Minicon and hosted by fans near and far.

**Network '73** will once again be aired over the closed-circuit system at the Radisson. The text channel has a new look this year and will feature an audio background mix of music and radio plays... a great background for your parties!

## BLOOD DRIVE

There will be a Blood Drive again this year on the **Friday** of the convention from 12:30 – 5:30 pm.

## A NOTE ON MINICON 32

Yes, Minicon Thirty-two – as in 1997. The Executive Committee for Minicon 32 has already been appointed (and yes, I'm on it again).

So what does this have to do with a Progress Report for Minicon 31? Simple. I want to hear from you, the convention member. One long-range process is lining up guests of honor, so make suggestions.

## COMING TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU! THE MINICON INFORMATION STATION

Minicon is doing some exciting new things to make your convention experience even more enjoyable than in the past. Minicon 31's "Information" area will be **your key to where things are, when they are, and what they are all about**. We will be prominently located in the second floor grand ballroom foyer at the Radisson. We will have information, data, knowledge, answers, corrections, explanations, clarifications, news, postings, changes, and even some of those highly elusive facts on everything from the smallest panel to the largest extravaganza. So, if you have a query, or need some direction, stop by for a theory, or the latest updates. We're your one-stop information shop.

## WHAM!

### ("WASTE HANDLING AT MINICON")

In response to many requests, as well as environmental awareness, Minicon will be introducing a **recycling** program this year. Please participate.



Didn't like something at Minicon 30? Don't like something planned for Minicon 31? Did like something? Let me know!

Send email to **request@minicon32.mnstrf.org** (note that "32"!), or use the Minicon P.O. Box or hotline.

Thank you!

— Thomas Juntunen

# Show, play, sell, speak...

## PROGRAMMING IDEAS WELCOME

If you have an **idea** for a panel or other programming event, please let us know! Submit it by **January 31, 1996** (or Yesterday if it has technical requirements such as projectors).

Once again we'll be having lots of **events for kids** (and discerning adults) at Minicon; magic, juggling, storytelling and crafts. If you have any cool ideas or would like to volunteer for children's programming, please write to Hillary Posner c/o this department.

Write to the Programming department at the Minicon P.O. Box or send email to [programming@minicon31.mnssf.org](mailto:programming@minicon31.mnssf.org).



## GAMING PROPOSALS SOUGHT

Gaming plans this year include greater control of the space, so that a variety of games can continue to be played throughout the convention. **Proposals for programmed gaming events** can be directed to Mike Heinsohn at 722 36½ Avenue NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418, or at (612) 789-8698 after 2 pm on weekdays.

## COSTUME COMPETITORS NEED TO PLAN AHEAD

Planning to compete in the Masquerade this year? You can **pre-register**. For more information, after January 1st write to Kathy "Kat" Pepmiller, 8224 W. 30½ Street, #310, St. Louis Park, MN 55426.

Registration for the masquerade will also be available at the convention, but the cut-off will be 10 am Saturday. We'll require

your presence at a rehearsal during the afternoon, and the show is at 7 pm.

The **awards** will follow the same pattern as last year, including Director's Choice and the ever-popular Dumper award. We will have five categories; Young Fan, Novice, Journeyman, Recreation and Master. Entries will be judged both on performance and workmanship.

The **stage setup** will be the same as last year, with a wheelchair ramp to enter the stage and wide platform stairs to exit. Should you have any other special needs, please contact Kat and she will take these concerns to the Tech Support department.

## NETWORK '73 WELCOMES VIDEOTAPES

Have you **videotaped authors, artists, or conventions**? Network '73 would love to see them, with an eye to airing some of them. Send them to the Minicon P.O. Box! VHS, SVHS, 8mm, 3/4 or even PAL — we can play 'em all.

## MINNEAPOLIS IN '73 ZEPPELIN SEEKING HOSTS

Minneapolis in '73 is an intimate hospitality area sponsored by Minicon and hosted by fans near and far. Suite hosts change every 2 to 4 hours, so something unusual is usually happening. Some hosts promote a specific theme; others don't.

If you've got an idea for **an event you'd like to host** in the suite at Minicon 31, write — pronto! — to zeppelin co-captains Karen Johnson and Geri Sullivan at the Minicon P.O. Box or send email to [gfs@toad-hall.com](mailto:gfs@toad-hall.com).



## DEALERS' ROOM FULL (?)

**B**y now the Dealers' room is probably very close to full. But, if things are running as normal, not quite full, so hurry to get your registration in.

If you haven't received a confirmation card you should check now to be sure we've received your information. You may leave a message for Kelly O'Donoghue on the Minicon hotline.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARTISTS

### ART SHOW SUBMISSIONS

Minicon's Art Show welcomes art from sf&f artists. Plan to bring (*or send*) framed originals or glass or jewelry or prints or 3D items or.... We offer an information packet on how to submit artwork.

To receive your **information packet**, send email to [artshow@minicon31.mnssf.org](mailto:artshow@minicon31.mnssf.org), or write to Kris Spiesz at the Minicon P.O. Box, or (for faster results) at 4733 2nd Ave S, Mpls MN 55409 (DO NOT SEND ARTWORK TO EITHER OF THESE ADDRESSES).

*If you can't attend the convention but wish to display your art:* get an art show packet, then mail artwork to Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction Book Store, 2864 Chicago Ave S, Minneapolis MN 55407. Mark the packages clearly *Attention: Minicon Art Show*. **All artwork must be received by Friday, March 29, 1996 or it will be returned unopened.**

to a Galaxy Near You." Use of the theme in your design is strongly encouraged (but not necessary). Send quality black & white PHOTOCOPIES of camera-ready art or digital art on a 3.5-inch disk to T-Shirt at the Minicon P.O. Box. The **deadline is February 14, 1996.**

Art selected for Convention T-Shirt will receive 10% royalty, based on unit price, for T-Shirts sold at the convention. Art used on volunteer T-Shirts will also receive monetary remuneration. Art not selected may be used in Minicon publications without payment. Art will not be returned. (Sorry.)

### PUBLICATIONS WELCOMES "FILLOS"

If you have one-color **artwork** that could fill spaces in **Minicon 31 publications**, please send it to the Publications department at the Minicon P.O. Box. We don't promise to use it, we won't pay you, and we won't return it (so don't send originals!), but we will credit you if your art appears.



### T-SHIRT ART SOUGHT

Minicon 31 is looking for you ideas and artwork for this year's t-shirt! This year's convention theme is "Coming Soon

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUSICIANS

**D**ark Star need musicians to entertain the caffeinated masses. To receive a scheduled time slot, musicians should sign up by **March 15,**

although open mike time will also be available at the convention. To find out more, please write to Jody Wurl at 458 Warwick Street, St. Paul, MN 55105.

volunteer form

# I WANNA BE A STAR IN M31!

If you fill out this volunteering form and send it in to the Minicon P.O. Box, then we will contact you to let you know your volunteering assignments. *(Please Print)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**I'd like to make the following specific contribution to running the convention:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I'd like to help in the following areas:** *(Please number them by your preference)*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art Show            | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Support            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bozo Bus Tribune    | <input type="checkbox"/> Operations                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Convention Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Parties / Consite          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Star           | <input type="checkbox"/> Programming                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dealers' Room       | <input type="checkbox"/> Publications               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emsh Exhibit        | <input type="checkbox"/> Registration               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Film / Video        | <input type="checkbox"/> Tech Support / Network '73 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gaming              | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Krushenko's         | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know / care?       |

**I'd like to help:**

- BEFORE the Con  
(Now through April 4th, 1996)
- DURING the Con (April 5 - 7th, 1996)
- BOTH! I'm a workaholic.



Minicon 31  
Are you ready?

1996

Coming Soon to a  
Galaxy Near You!

7	<b>JAN</b> 8	Write for M31 masquerade info	11	12	13
14	send in M31 volunteering form!	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30	M31 Programming ideas due	Suite Request forms due	<b>FEB</b> 2
4	5	6	7	8	9
Preregistration Cutoff 2/14/96			T-shirt art due	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	1
only 6 1/2 weeks til Minicon!	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15
17	Coming Soon to a Galaxy Near You!	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29
31	<b>APR</b> 1	2	3	4	5
M31 Day Three	no foolin'	Real Soon Now!	M31 Day One	6	M31 Day Two

# Volunteer!

M31 is composed of thousands of bodies, but none are so heavenly, shining so much brighter above the rest, than the celestial host of volunteers that bring Minicon to life. Bring your energy, your light, to M31 in the form of volunteering. These pages (11-13) list many of the jobs you can sign up for. Thanks!

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

If you are local to the Twin Cities and interested in working on the convention, come to a committee meeting and get involved. Open to the fannish public.

Selected Sundays, 2 pm, at the Radisson South (7800 Normandale Blvd., 835-7800)

January 21

February 11, February 25

March 10, March 24

## MEDICAL SUPPORT PLANS TRAINING AND NEEDS QUALIFIED STAFF

Minicon's Medical Support department (formerly Life Support) will be offering **CPR and First Aid Classes** this winter. Tentative dates for CPR classes are January 27 and February 10. Both classes begin at 9 am and are eight-hour classes. For more information, call Linda Paul at (612) 777-6351.

If you are an **EMT, First Responder or other Medical Person**, and would like to volunteer for shifts during Minicon, call Page Appelbaum at (612) 929-4445 or send email to ops@minicon31.mnsthf.org.

## OPERATIONS VOLUNTEERS: ADVANCE TRAINING PLANNED

The Operations department is responsible for providing a communications network to facilitate the traffic of critical information between convention departments, services for disbursing necessary information to the attendees, and coordination of

emergency and security resources for the Convention.

The one resource that is crucial to Operations' success is volunteers. Operations is working to improve volunteer contact and expand the training we provide our volunteers, therefore we need volunteers willing to **commit in advance** to Operations.

To volunteer for Operations, please fill out the volunteer form. For detailed questions or suggestions, call Loren Botner at (612) 869-9388 or call Linda Paul at (612) 777-6351 or send email to ops@minicon31.mnsthf.org.

## YOUR CHANCE TO BE "ON THE AIR"!

Tech Support Services are looking for a few good Fen.

Can you change the tape in a VCR? Load a CD player? Set up a slide projector? We could use your help as a **tech librarian**.

Can you operate theater style lighting? Operate a video switcher? Operate studio-style cameras? The **news tech** team needs your help.

Can you wright da gnues beter tehn dis? Read cold copy in front of a crowd? Ask people you don't know questions? You could be a **TV reporter**.

Can you introduce radio plays and recordings? Read into a mike? Type and spell? **Radio Clarabelle** wants you.

To volunteer for Tech Support Services, please fill out the volunteer form.

*continued on next page*

*Volunteer!—continued***GAMERS HELPING GAMERS**

Volunteers are needed to assist with even distribution of gaming types to tables, maintain decorum and general cleanliness and to monitor usage and return of supplied gaming materials. To volunteer for Gaming, please fill out the volunteer form.

**ART SHOW IS LABOR INTENSIVE**

The Art Show will need help on Friday from noon to 10 pm, Saturday 10 am – 5:30 pm, and 11 pm – Midnight, and Sunday 10 am – 3 pm. Some of those hours are **check-in and checkout**; you could **monitor the Print Shop, handle sales of art, and check bags and badges** at the door. You could also help set up for the auction Saturday evening, **assist the auctioneers** with displaying the artwork during the auction, and/or shift artworks back to the Art Show after the Auction.

To volunteer for Art Show, please fill out the volunteer form. For detailed questions or suggestions, send email to [artshow@minicon31.mnstrf.org](mailto:artshow@minicon31.mnstrf.org) or write to Kris Spiesz at the Minicon P.O. Box.

**UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY:  
WORK ON THE EMSH EXHIBIT**

The Emsch art retrospective (see p. 5) needs room hosts and coat check staff. To volunteer, please fill out the volunteer form.

**TAKE A RIDE ON THE  
BOZO BUS TRIBUNE**

Minicon publishes a convention newszine (fanspeak for **news-oriented fanzine**) throughout the weekend. This is a fine old science fiction convention tradition that still works well at informing, updating, and unifying today's diverse attendees.

Not everyone carries around a laptop computer with which they can instantly access the Minicon 31 Web Page (yet), so we try to keep piles of Bozos available throughout the weekend. To do this, of course, we need volunteers!

The Bozo Bus Tribune is looking for associate **editors**; designers and **layout artists** who can work with QuarkXPress on a Macintosh; **writers, reporters, artists, and proofreaders**; and **printer's devils** (runners and general helpers who will have a chance to learn a bit about desktop publishing). To volunteer for the Bozo Bus Tribune, please fill out the volunteer form.

**CONVENTION SERVICES**

The Convention Services department covers Information, WHAM! (Waste Handling at Minicon), dockwork, and signage. We need the following volunteers:

**Informants** help con attendees with questions, handle new information submitted, deal with signage requests, keep track of supplies, assist the Volunteers Department, and answer phone questions.

**WHAM!** volunteers check & empty the trash containers and recycling bins, remove trash/recyclables to collection locations, and replace can liners.

**One-hour shifts!**

To volunteer for Convention Services, please fill out the volunteer form. For detailed questions or suggestions, write to Cindy Barwin & Derrick Dasenbrock at the Minicon P.O. Box.

**LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD JERKS**

**DarkStar** is a coffee house with live music (two rooms!) and without cigarettes or other combustibles. The only smoke is from our steaming coffee and espresso.

(Well, okay, and the puff of smoke Elvis arrives in nightly...) To get there, go to Graceland, take a sharp left, drink three cups of Cafe Latte, click your heels together three times and mutter, "There's no place like DarkStar.." etc. Or, come to Minicon. We need **espresso jerks** to serve up the caffeine and **beanies** to provide all manner of support (cleaning, running, etc.) for the jerks.

To volunteer for Dark Star, please fill out the volunteer form. For detailed questions or suggestions, write to Jody Wurl at 458 Warwick Street, St. Paul, MN 55105.

### **SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COSTUMERS**

Interested in helping out at the masquerade on Saturday night? We have a number of jobs that need to be filled, from **Den Parents** and **Green Room runners** to **form talliers**. If you are interested in being a **Judge**, we'll need a short bio with your qualifications.

To volunteer for the Masquerade, please fill out the volunteer form. For detailed questions/suggestions or to apply to be a judge, write to Kathy "Kat" Pepmiller, 8224 W. 30 $\frac{1}{2}$  Street, #310, St. Louis Park, MN 55426.

### **CONSUIITE NEEDS PEOPLE, TOO!**

The Consuite will once again be located on the second floor, pool end, of the garden court and will be open throughout the weekend. Consuite needs help with **set up and tear down**, **bartenders** (must be at least 18 years old), **twinkies** (help with

clean up, putting out supplies, etc.), **room hosts**, and **relay people** to fetch and carry assorted supplies from storage/coolers to the suite.

To volunteer for Consuite, please check Parties on the volunteer form.

### **KRUSHENKO'S KRUE**

Krushenko's needs help with its programmed discussions and parties.

To volunteer, please fill out the volunteer form. For detailed questions or suggestions, call Eric M. Heidemann at (612) 825-9353.

## **I WANT YOU** (Yeah, YOU, right there.)



AS A  
**MINICON VOLUNTEER**

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

In addition to coordinating volunteer needs, the Volunteers department also needs volunteers of their own during the convention.

**A Volunteers subhead** helps to coordinate immediate individual department needs with list of available volunteers, acts as contact person for

individual department heads and as the decision-maker when Volunteers heads are not in the immediate vicinity.

**A Volunteers registrar** answers questions regarding available volunteer positions and records information.

To volunteer for Volunteers, please fill out the volunteer form. For detailed questions or suggestions, send email to Kimbo Snyder or Rod Marshall at [peyote@marilyn.marilyn.mn.org](mailto:peyote@marilyn.marilyn.mn.org).

Artwork above © 1995 Derrick Dasenbrock

# Your Group at Minicon

## HOW SUITE IT IS...

The Suite Ghods control the allocation of suites in the Radisson to room parties. You must send in a Suite Request form (*facing page*) to be considered. As in previous years, we will try to accommodate everyone's requests. But (also like previous years) this is a physical impossibility. We'll do our best to meet your request, but we imagine you wouldn't want to share space with strangers just to fit everyone in the most popular spots.

Please be patient. Around the end of '95 Minicon will start sending out confirmation letters letting you know what you suite you are in. If it proves to be horribly at odds with what you requested, drop us a letter or give us a call and we'll see what we can do. However, we would appreciate it if you did wait to get your confirmation letter before contacting us.

If you are sending us a **Suite Request form** there are some very important things to keep in mind. **First**, THIS IS NOT A ROOM REQUEST. **Second**, we absolutely need the name of the person that the reservation is under. **Third**, please note your smoking preference. **Fourth**, if you want a party pack please let us know. There'll only be about fifty, just like before. Please fill out the form completely and use extra paper. We would much rather have too much information than not enough.

The only way to send in a **request** is to the Suite Ghods' own mailing address: **Minicon Suite Ghods, PO Box 58-3184, Minneapolis MN 55458-3184, USA**. If you have **questions** about this program, you can write to that address, or send email to [hotel@minicon31.mnsthf.org](mailto:hotel@minicon31.mnsthf.org), or call Shannon Leslie at (612) 869-9388, or call Ishmael Williams at (612) 291-8943.

## SIGN UP FOR TABLE SPACE IN THE FAN FAIR

Minicon will be sponsoring a Fan Fair again for all interested clubs, groups, and associations wishing to have a table to promote their group. Held from 10 am to noon on Saturday, this is a great opportunity for all

fans at Minicon to find out about how much fun your club is!

For more information write Art Johnson at the Minicon P.O. box or send email to [programming@minicon.31.mnsthf.org](mailto:programming@minicon.31.mnsthf.org).

## ADVERTISE TO THOUSANDS OF SF&F FANS

Fans may purchase advertising space in the Minicon 31 program book. The cost is \$50 for a full page. We are not selling partial-page ads. We hope to print the book in two colors again, and

can work with you on a two-color ad. For ad specifications, write by **February 15, 1996** to Publications at the Minicon P.O. Box or send email to [pubs@minicon31.mnsthf.org](mailto:pubs@minicon31.mnsthf.org).

# MINICON 31 SUITE REQUEST

Deadline: February 1, 1996

RESERVATION NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

*Forms lacking a reservation number will be ignored.*

Do not fill out this form until you have read the Suite Ghods story (facing page).

Answer all the following questions. Please print clearly. Be clear, be concise, be amusing. Attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Send this form to: Minicon Suite Ghods, PO Box 58-3184, Minneapolis MN 55458-3184, USA

Name\* \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\* Name you gave for your Radisson Hotel reservation.

**1. What, exactly, do you want?**

What kind of room do you want?  Suite  Poolside room  Other: Specify \_\_\_\_\_

Where in the hotel would you like to be? First choice: \_\_\_\_\_  
Second choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want your room to be a smoking area?  Smoking  Non-smoking

Other comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Why?** Tell us about your group: \_\_\_\_\_

Why should you get what you want, and why should we care? (We can't make everybody happy. Tell us what's special about your group.) \_\_\_\_\_

**3. What are you planning?** Is it an open party or event?  Yes  No

Briefly describe your party or event: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. When?** Nights and approximate times: \_\_\_\_\_

If not both Friday & Saturday nights, are you willing to share space with another group?

Yes  No If yes, who? \_\_\_\_\_

**5.**  Check here if you would like Minicon to provide a party pack.



# Important

## SMOKING POLICY

If you smoke, please be considerate of other attendees and State statutes. Smoking is permitted indoors only where clearly posted as a designated smoking area. Smoking areas can be found in the hotel bar and lounge, designated rooms, parts of the Consuite, and other areas as posted.

Remember: ashtrays are provided at the elevators for you to conveniently snuff your combustibles.

Take a look at Ken Fletcher's artwork here—these two characters will be your guide to designated areas.



## MEDICAL SUPPORT (FORMERLY LIFE SUPPORT)

Medical support will be available at Minicon. If you have a need, let us know. At the convention, we can be contacted through Operations and/or the Bridge.

## ANIMAL POLICY

Pets and other animals (guide dogs, etc. the exception are **NOT permitted** in any of the hotels. **DO NOT bring** your cats, dogs, reptiles, ferrets, goats, birds or other animals. If you ignore this convention policy you will be asked to leave without refund from the hotel or convention.

# Announcements

Brought to you by Operations

## ADHESIVE POSTS (STICKERS) POLICY

Whether the Radisson nor Minicon will tolerate the application of “Stickers” to hotel surfaces. Incidents of this kind will be treated as vandalism. You can still post signs that aren’t

adhesive-backed. Signs are a tradition of fandom and Minicon; we’d like to keep it that way. Please use only low-tack tape, and post only on surfaces that won’t be damaged when your sign is removed (tile and metal – good; wallpaper – bad).

## 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.

- 1) Use good judgment. Even if it complies with the remaining rules, if it is unsafe or would reduce the enjoyment of other attendees, please don’t do it.
- 2) No projectile weapons.
- 3) All weapons must be carried in a sheath, sling, or container of some kind at all times.
- 4) Lasers: only Class II or lower are considered safe and acceptable.

### DEFINITIONS

- I 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 is a weapon.
- II Projectile weapons include devices that fire or throw particles or substances, or are thrown themselves.

**Note:** Squirt guns with liquid are projectile weapons, and are not allowed. Bubble makers are not considered projectile weapons.

**Note:** Peace-bonding is required on all weapons.

## FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS

That which applies outside, applies inside the hotel and the convention.

# Where to Sleep

The Radisson is more than full. Inexpensive bribes will no longer work. We are sorry if you don't have a room at the Radisson for 1996.



There are still rooms available at our overflow hotels. The Hotel Sofitel is right across the parking lot. The Holiday Inn is right across 494 (with a Minicon shuttle running between it and the Radisson).

To make a room reservation, contact the hotels directly. These two hotels are for sleeping, not parties! (If you're planning a room party, see the Suite Ghods on page 14.)

## HOTEL SOFITEL

The Sofitel is right across the street from the Radisson and is a four-star hotel. It is also a quiet hotel. The rooms at the Sofitel have two phone lines and a modem port, as well as voice mail. The Sunday Brunch is wonderful, as are the three restaurants there.

5601 West 78th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55439  
Phone (612) 835-1900  
Fax (612) 835-2696

Single, double     **\$69.00/night**  
Triple, quad       **\$79.00/night**

If you want a suite in the Sofitel (for lodging, not for parties!), please get a reservation at that hotel and then write to Victor Raymond at the Minicon P.O. Box to get the convention room rate.

## HOLIDAY INN

The Holiday Inn is located just south of 494 (in its shadow) on Highway 100. A shuttle service will be available.

5401 Green Valley Drive  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
Phone (612) 831-8000

Room rate is **\$59.00/night**.

To get to the Holiday Inn from the Radisson, go south on 100 under the 494 overpass in the far right lane. Exit on the service road; it leads to the door of the Holiday Inn. (If you miss the service road from 100, go to the stop light and then around the block to the right.)

## RESERVATIONS FOR MINICON 32 (1997!)

For next year's rooms at the Radisson, there will be reservation forms available at the front desk of the Radisson during Minicon 31. Fill

one out completely and give it to the front desk staff, and you're done.

There will be a limited number of forms due to demand problems this year. So submit yours quickly or you may miss out!

# MINICON 31 REGISTRATION FORM

*Please print.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please select one:**

- Drinking **\$30\*** (*must be 21 on or before 4/5/96*)
- Non-Drinking **\$30\***
- Child **\$12** (*age 12 and under*)
- Supporting Membership **\$12** — *Convert at the door for \$20 more (total \$32)*

**Note:** Failure to specify one of these options will result in a Non-Drinking badge being issued. There will be a replacement fee of \$5 to convert badges at the con.

**\* Rate increases to \$60 after 2/14/96.**

**Minicon should know that...**

- I plan to use childcare
- I am new to Minicon
- I have moved since last Minicon

**I am an SF/Fantasy**     Author     Dealer     Editor     Artist

*Please make check payable in U.S. funds to Minicon 31. There will be a service charge for returned checks. Mail check and form to:*

**Minicon 31, PO Box 8297, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408.**

Photocopy for additional registration forms.

# Preregister by February 14, 1996!

Minicon 31  
PO Box 8297  
Lake Street Station  
Minneapolis, MN 55408  
USA

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

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PERMIT NO. 2164

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COMING SOON TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU!

MINICON 31 PROGRESS REPORT 2  
JOIN US IN MINNEAPOLIS

APRIL 5-7, 1996

REREGISTRATION CUTOFF: FEBRUARY 14, 1996



BEV ELMSHAUSER  
1529 GETTYSBURG AVE N  
GOLDEN VALLEY, MN 55427-8251