

# RIVERCON XVIII



**July 31 -  
August 2, 1992  
Louisville, Kentucky**

The blockbuster sequel to the breakout  
hardcover bestseller, **WINDS OF FATE**

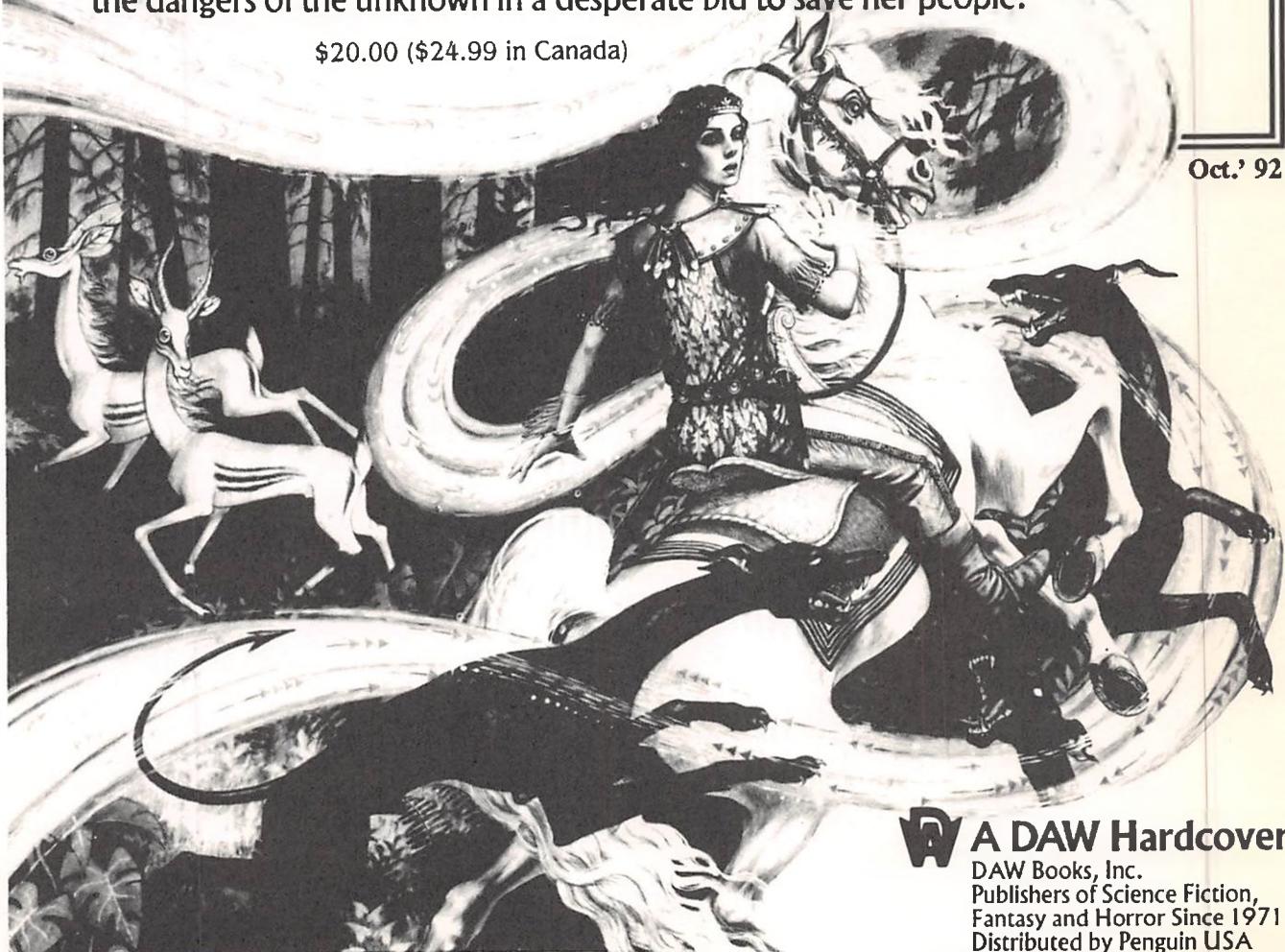
# MERCEDES LACKEY **WINDS OF CHANGE**

Book Two of the *Mage Winds Trilogy*

The kingdom of Valdemar is imperiled by the dark magic of Ancar of Hardorn, and Princess Elspeth, Herald and heir to the throne, has gone on a desperate quest in search of a mentor who can teach her to wield her fledgling mage-powers. But instead she is whirled into a maelstrom of war and sorcery as the Clan she has sought is attacked by a mysterious Dark Adept from out of the "Uncleansed Lands." And Elspeth must struggle to remember long-forgotten magics, abandoning old ways and risking the dangers of the unknown in a desperate bid to save her people.

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Louisville's Annual Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention · July 31 - August 2, 1992

# RIVERCON XVII

Guest of Honor

**Mercedes Lackey**

Fan Guest of Honor

**Laurie Mann**

Artist Guest

**Doug Chaffee**

Toastmaster

**Bruce Pelz**

## Steve Francis & Sue Francis, Co-Chairs

### Art Show & Auction

Lynn Harris  
Clif Reichle  
Gail Walker  
Bill Burt  
Denise Chalmers  
Lisa Chalmers  
Mike Chemreys  
David Francis  
Archie Harper  
Eden Kuhlenschmidt  
Danny McDole  
Ginger Melton  
Shae Morris  
Ed Reck  
Marcia Reichle  
Sally Rose  
Chris Selvage  
  
Filksing

Murray Porath

Alan S. Babcock

Henry A. Roberts, Jr.

### Gaming Program

Eric Currier  
Coleman T. Fluhr  
Chris Howard  
Jake Lovell  
Evan Roberts  
Tom Stevens  
Joe Swanson  
Jennifer A. Wilson  
  
Hospitality Suite

Susan Young

Judi Lundy

Harold Drake

Andrew Garner

Mike Lalor

Rick Lundy

Sean Reck

Jann Melton

Bob Waters

John Wiedeburg

Jim Woosley

Jack Young

### Huckster Room

David Francis  
Steve Francis  
  
Masquerade

Linda Wyatt

B.J. Willinger (M.C.)

Richard Wellinghurst

Lois Wellinghurst

Jennifer Adkins

Michael Baugh

Cync Brantley

Bob Clark

Jennifer Clark

Cindi Gayheart

Marie Gutherie

Dan Lance

Jeff Lockridge

Danny McDole

Thomas Samples

Chris Stuber

Robert Wellinghurst

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Kira Tash  
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Grant McCormick  
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Thea  
Joel D. Zakem  
  
Publications

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Connie Byrne  
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### Roberta Jordan

Gloria Nugent-  
Edwards  
Christa Sinclair  
Trubie Turner II  
Malinda Wickham

### Video Program

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Jeff Lockridge  
Chris Tate

### Volunteer Coordinator

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Erinn Baugh  
Jennifer Clark

### Program Book Cover

Doug Chaffee

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# Welcome Aboard...

RiverCon turns 17 this year and, as the song says, just keeps rolling along. We'd like to welcome all those of you returning from past years and issue a special hello to those fans who are here for the first time. We hope you enjoy yourselves enough to keep on coming back.

Speaking of coming back, we're now in our third year at the Hyatt Regency, so those of you who were here last year should have no trouble finding your way around. We've kept everything pretty much the same, with just a few changes, most notably the Conference Theatre is now being used for some programming and the video program is now being shown through the hotel closed circuit TV and can be seen in any hotel guest room.

## Badges

Everyone: WEAR YOUR RIVERCON MEMBERSHIP BADGE! Any time you are in a convention area of the hotel, please don't forget to wear your badge in a conspicuous place on your person. Not only does this have the obvious benefit of identifying you to other convention members, but you will be refused admission to certain areas and activities if you are not wearing your badge. Plus, the easier it is to see your badge the less likely the convention staff is to stop and ask if you're a RiverCon member. Try not to lose your badge, either; the cost for a replacement is \$20.00. Membership badges remain the property of RiverCon during the course of the convention. RiverCon reserves the right to refuse memberships to, or revoke from, persons who engage in disorderly, disruptive, or unlawful behavior at the convention.

## Hospitality Suite

Since the Keeneland Room made such a great hospitality room last year, we've kept it pretty much the same. Now that the con suite is on the same floor as most other activities, it's no longer necessary to wait for an elevator to travel just one floor. Please keep in mind, though, because the Keeneland cannot be divided, the entire room must be a non-smoking area. However, the seating area just outside the room on the mezzanine near the bar area is designated as for smokers' use. Food and drink may be taken into this space. Also, we are using fountain drinks again this year instead of cans, in the interests of cutting waste. To that end, please be conservative in your use of paper cups and please dispose of them properly.

## Convention Newsletter

In order to keep you informed of any last-minute news, not to mention party reports and idle gossip, we'll be publishing two or three issues of *The RiverCon Report*, edited by those FOSFAX stalwarts Tim Lane, Grant McCormick, and Joe Major. If you have any news you'd like included in the newsletter, either give it to one of the editors personally (they'll be roving the convention), or leave it in the box marked for such at the volunteer table in the con suite. Deadline for each issue is 9:00 p.m. each evening.

## Information Tables

Electrical Eggs will have representatives at RiverCon at a table on the Mezzanine near registration during most of the convention. If you need any type of access services, please see them and they will help to arrange it.

Also in the registration area will be representatives of several worldcon bids, who will be happy to provide you with any information you need in order to make an informed choice in the site selection voting.

## Babysitting Service

RiverCon's babysitting is staffed by licensed, professional sitters and is located in Room 312. The hours of operation are listed in the schedule. This service is free of charge for all children holding RiverCon memberships. Children left at the service must be picked up by closing time (no exceptions) and will be turned over only to a parent or to persons designated in writing by a parent (again, no exceptions).

## SF Jeopardy Tournament

We have room for nine contestants for this year's SF Jeopardy tournament. We will be drawing names for the three players for the first round on Friday evening from those who submitted their names in advance. You can add your name at RiverCon for the drawing for the second and third rounds. The names of three contestants plus one alternate for each game will be posted in the registration area at least two hours before game time, so if you have entered be sure to check to see if you've been chosen. The winners of the three preliminary rounds will receive a cash prize of \$20.00 each and the winner of the championship game on Sunday will

receive an additional \$25.00.

#### Weapons

We're reminding you again that weapons, either real or realistically simulated, may not be worn or carried in the convention areas of the hotel (and we strongly discourage wearing them outside the hotel, too). Dealers may sell weapons in the Huckster's Room provided that they are wrapped securely for removal from the room. Absolutely no demonstrations of weapons in the Huckster Room aisles are allowed.

Weapons may be worn or carried during the hours of the masquerade Saturday night (approximately 10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.) if part of a stage costume or bona fide hall costume. This exception applies only to the masquerade time period and only to those in full costume. However, please exercise extreme caution when navigating crowded hallways, stairways, and elevators. We ask you to refrain from wearing weapons in the first floor lobby area.

#### Belle of Louisville Cruise

A Sunday afternoon cruise up the Ohio River on our own fabulous riverboat, the Belle of Louisville, is still a relaxing way to wrap up the convention. We'll be selling Belle tickets at the RiverCon registration table throughout the convention for \$5.00, which is a discount from the regular price at the wharf. If you buy a ticket and change your mind, you can return the ticket at any time for a full refund. Although the Belle will be departing around 2:00 p.m., it's a good idea to arrive a little early, since we'll be part of the public excursion and space is not guaranteed. If the weather is a little on the cool side this weekend, you may want to take a sweater, as temperatures and wind on the river can be a bit chilly. You cannot take food or alcoholic beverages with you, but you can buy them on board (a fully-stocked bar is available). It's easy to get to the Fourth Street wharf from the Hyatt, too, since the Toonerville Trolley stops at the front entrance of the hotel every five minutes. The trolley is handicapped accessible.

#### Children Members

As a reminder to parents, we'd like to ask you that you carefully monitor your children's behavior. If a committee member observes a child seriously misbehaving to the extent that the child is endangering him- or herself or others (e.g., playing on escalators or elevators), or is damaging hotel property, then that child's membership badge will be taken and must then be claimed by the parent at the volunteer table in the con suite in the Keeneland Room. If this happens a third time, the child's membership will be revoked and he or she must be removed from the convention area of the hotel.

Enjoy RiverCon XVII!

# Join the Fan Club with Southern Hospitality!

**News · SF Club Roster  
Fanzine Guide  
Convention Listings  
and Lots of Southern Fans!**

## The Southern Fandom Confederation

Membership in the Southern Fandom Confederation puts you in touch with the clubs, the conventions, the fanzines, the news, and the people that make up the diverse population of Southern Fandom. Dues are still only \$10 a year, running from DSC to DSC, and gets you two fact-filled issues of *The Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin*.

**YES!** I want to keep in touch with Southern Fandom! Please enroll me as a member of the Southern Fandom Confederation--and send me the next two issues of *The Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin*. I have enclosed my check or money order for \$10. (No cash, please; make checks payable to Southern Fandom Confederation.)

**Southern Fandom Confederation**  
c/o J.R. Madden, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 25167, University Station  
Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5167

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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# Schedule of Events

This schedule is correct and complete as of program book press time. Please check your pocket program and the registration area for posted changes and/or additions.

The RiverCon Hospitality Room is the **Keeneland Room** on the second floor. It opens Friday at 12:00 noon and remains open throughout the convention. The smoking area is just outside the room on the Mezzanine near the bar. Please remember that only non-alcoholic beverages are available in the hospitality suite.

## Friday, July 31, 1992

12:00 noon - 12:00 mid. *Registration and information.* **Mezzanine.**

12:00 noon - 8:00 p.m. *Art Show and Print Shop.* (Artists may begin checking in their work at 10:00 a.m.) **Park and Kentucky Suites.**

12:00 noon - 8:00 p.m. *Huckster Room open.* **Regency South.**

12:00 noon - *Games program.* Check program grid or game room for specific games and starting times. Participants are limited; please sign up in advance. **Pimlico Suite.**

4:00 p.m. - *Video Program.* Check the program grid in the pocket program for specific titles and starting times. **Hotel TV only.**

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. *Opening Ceremonies.* Toastmaster Bruce Pelz introduces our honored guests, as well as other notables in attendance. Followed by a slide show of past RiverCons. **Regency North.**

8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. *Across the Bounds of Space and Time: The Past Present, and Possible Future of Dr. Who.* Clay Evans, Jane Deitz, Alan Brandt. **Regency Center.**

8:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. *Babysitting available.* Children must be picked up by closing time by authorized adult only. **Room 312.**

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. *SF Jeopardy.* Round 1. Players chosen from advance registration. To be considered for rounds two and three, enter at the registration table before 12:00 noon Saturday. Contestants' names will be posted in the registration area in advance of the game. **Conference Theatre.**

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. *Who Are These People and Why Are They Singing?* An introduction to filking for those who've always wondered. With Murray Porath, Juanita Coulson, Henry Roberts, and all other filkers present. **Churchill Downs.**

10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. *Artists Reception.* Attendance limited to artists exhibiting in the art show only and their guests. **Kentucky Suite.**

10:00 p.m. - *Filksinging.* **Churchill Downs Room.**

11:00 p.m. - 12:00 mid. *Night Gallery.* Missouri Smith takes you on a

late-night tour of the art show, telling you the "true" stories behind many of the artworks.

## Saturday, August 1, 1992

8:00 a.m. - *Video program continues.* Check program grid for specific titles and starting times. **Hotel TV only.**

8:00 a.m. - *Games program continues.* Check program grid or game room for specific games and starting times. **Pimlico Suite.**

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. *Babysitting available.* **Room 312.**

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Registration and information.* **Mezzanine.**

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Huckster Room open.* (Hucksters are allowed in room 15 minutes early for set-up.) **Regency South.**

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. *Art Show and Print Shop open.* **Park and Kentucky Suites.**

11:00 a.m. - 12:25 p.m. *The Candid Stuff XII.* Dr. Bill Breuer, RiverCon's space expert, takes you on a multi-media guided tour of the space program, NASA lore and equipment, Voyager, and much more. Lots of new material. **Regency North.**

11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. *SF Jeopardy. Round 2.* Contestants' names will be drawn and posted in the registration area prior to the game. **Conference Theatre.**

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon *The Mainstreaming of SF.* Are attitudes changing towards those of us who read "that stuff," or is SF being made palatable to the masses? Jim Mann, Carolyn Clowes, Mike Resnick. **Regency Center.**

12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m. *Wear My Face: A Maskmaking Workshop.* Create a face to wear on its own or in combination with a costume assembled in the Create-a-Character workshop. (Masks and costumes are eligible to participate in the Masquerade in a special category. (Children under 6 must be accompanied by an adult) **Churchill Downs.**

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. *New Writers Panel.* What the neo's are writing, and how they break into the market today. Steve Antczak, Lynn Hightower, Diann Thornley. **Regency Center.**

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. *Music Theory 101.* Jack McKenty tells you all you've wanted to know about music (and what label Madonna sings for). **Conference Theatre.**

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. *Son of Stupid Fan Tricks.* More true fannish stories we hoped had been forgotten. **Regency Center**

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. *The Seventh Annual Great RiverCon Scavenger Hunt.* Participants should meet in the **Pimlico Suite** to receive the Official

List Rules and entry forms are available in advance at the registration table.

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. *Writer's Workshop I: Creative writing*. Chet Vittilow. (Attendance limited.) **Board Room**.

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. *Random Readings*. Authors read from their work. Mike Resnick, Dianne Tghornley, Lynn Hightower. (Schedule TBA) **Conference Theatre**

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Deus Ex Machina: The God in the Machine*. Do religion and SF mix? And if so, how well? Carolyn Clowes, Juanita Coulson, Robert Don Hughes, Mike Resnick. **Regency North**.

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. *One Man's Trash...* The hows and whys of collecting. Jack L. Chalker, Bruce Pelz, Frank M. Robinson. Bob Roehm, moderator. **Regency Center**

2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. *Babysitting* available. Children must be picked up by closing time by authorized adults only. **Room 312**

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. *The 'Zine Scene*. Fanzines—who writes them, who reads them, and why. Bruce Pelz, Dick and Leah Smith, Hawk, Rob Sommers. **Regency North**.

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Lord Valentine's School of Juggling*. Eddie Tash, Esq., Director. Learn to juggle with the best of 'em. Recommended for ages 6 to 600. **Churchill Downs**.

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Children's Scavenger Hunt*. Seek out items cached somewhere in the hotel. Prizes for all who finish within the hour. Recommended age: 6-12. (Parental assistance required for the very young.) **Churchill Downs Room**.

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Who Forsaw This Brave New World?* From the birth of the "Pill" to the fall of the Soviet Union—could (and did?) anyone in SF foresee this? Andrew Offutt, Jim Mann. **Regency Center**

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Access for Everyone: Fandom and the ADA*. The effects of the Americans with Disabilities Act on fandom and conventions. Samanda b Jeude, Larry Dixon, Joel D. Zakem. **Regency North**.

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Random Readings II*. Laurie Mann reads from her work. **Conference Theatre**

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Writer's Workshop II: Publishing*. (Attendance limited.) **Board Room**

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Create-a-Character/Spontaneous Expressions*. Let your imagination be your guide as you create a costume eligible for the masquerade. Finish the work you started in "Wear My Face" (optional). Masquerade sign-up will be available during the workshop. (Children under 6 must be accompanied by an adult.) **Churchill Downs**.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. *But Is It PC?* SF, fandom, and the politically correct. Allen Steele, Steve Antczak, Mercedes Lackey. Laurie Mann, moderator. **Regency North**

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. *Making the Dragon Sit Still*. Where the picture comes from when the model doesn't exist. Doug Chaffee, Larry Dixon, Darryl Elliott. **Regency Center**.

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. *A Woman's Place (is on the concom)*. Is fandom (still) a man's world, or are femme fans getting equal time? Sue Francis,

Laurie Mann, Bruce Pelz. **Regency North**.

5:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Did You Hear the One...? Fannish oral history*. Nancy Tucker. **Regency Center**

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Looking Out/Looking In*. The effects of working outside the genre on SF writers. Mercedes Lackey, Mike Resnick, Lynn Hightower, Robert Don Hughes. Frank M. Robinson. **Conference Theatre**

6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. *SF Jeopardy. Round 3*. **Conference Theatre**.

7:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. *Babysitting* available. **Room 312**.

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. *Guest of Honor Presentations*. Remarks by GoH Mercedes Lackey, Fan GoH Laurie Mann, and Artist Guest Doug Chaffee, with introductions by Toastmaster Bruce Pelz. Plus other presentations and announcements. **Regency North**.

9:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. *Art Auction*. **Regency Center**.

10:00 p.m. - *Filksinging*. **Churchill Downs Room**.

10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. *Masquerade Pre-judging*. Masquerade participants, judges and staff only. **Regency North**.

11:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. *RiverCon XVII Masquerade*. **Regency North and Center**.

1:00 a.m. - *The RiverCon Post-Masquerade Dance*. Bop til you drop. **Regency North**.

## Sunday, August 2, 1992

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. *Video program*. Check program grid for specific titles and starting times. **Hotel TV only**.

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. *Games program* continues. Check program grid for specific games and times. **Pimlico Suite**.

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon *Art Show* open to pick up purchased art. **Park and Kentucky Suites**.

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Huckster Room* open. **Regency South**.

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. *Registration and information*. **Mezzanine**.

11:00 noon - 12:00 noon. *Masquerade Round-up*. Come give your opinions on this year's masquerade and suggestions for the future. **Churchill Downs Room**.

12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m. *Art Show* open to artists only for check-out. **Park Suite**.

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. *SF Jeopardy championship game*. **Conference Theatre**.

1:00 p.m. Boarding begins for *Belle of Louisville cruise* leaving from Fourth Street wharf. Advance tickets required (available at registration table). Trolleys leave the entrance of hotel every five minutes for the riverfront. Belle departure time is 2:00 p.m.

## Kubla Khan Proudly Presents

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**ANDREW J. OFFUTT**

Special Guest

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Frank R. Paul Award Winners

**ALAN CLARK**

**KEVIN WARD**

Fan Guests of Honor

**DAN CALDWELL**

**JOHN HOLLIS**



Each year, RiverCon presents the above awards. The Pegasus, the winged horse of mythology, is given to RiverCon's official guests. The Ming Award, named after the *Flash Gordon* villain who has been the subject of many a masquerade costume, goes to winners in the RiverCon masquerade. The Mings were designed and first created by Shelby Bush in 1977. Both the Mings and the Pegasus have been hand-crafted in blown glass since 1980 by artist Steve Scherer. (Photo by Eric Currier.)

# CONTEXT V

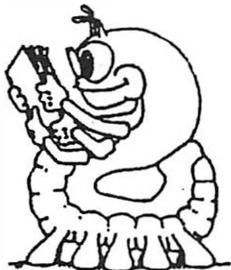
Oct. 2 - 4, 1992

Hilton Inn North, Columbus, OH

**GoH: George Alec Effinger  
Editor Guest: Martin H. Greenberg**

*Other guests: Joan Slonczewski, Buck and Juanita Coulson,  
Dennis McKiernan, Debbie Hoginson*

Art Show, Masquerade, Filking, Short Story Contest, Writers Workshops  
and Seminars, Literary and Scientific Programming



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# Guest of Honor Mercedes Lackey



by Juanita Coulson

Photo by Jennifer Wilson

By her own account, Misty has said that she writes because she couldn't *not* write. And like many of us, she got hooked on reading -- as well as wanting to write SF and Fantasy -- at a tender age, in her case, about nine years. She created Andre Norton pastiches and dreamed of a career as an author, but realized very few actually make a decent living at that. So she earned a B. Sci. from Purdue, graduating in 1972. Then she found out Science grads don't necessarily make a lot of money in their field, either. Over the next few years she tried out a variety of jobs here and there in the Midwest, eventually ending up with American Airlines in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Oddly enough, it was with that employment shift that she at last had the time to start working on writing in

earnest. Flight benefits enabled her to meet one of her long-time role models, Marion Zimmer Bradley, which really set the hook -- as if it wasn't already. Misty didn't come to her chosen calling unprepared. While living in South Bend, she'd been active in the Society for Creative Anachronism and a costuming group, giving her a solid background in the sort of weaponry and clothing styles needed in creating a fantasy universe. She resumed polishing those Norton pastiches, practiced, perfected, and soon made her first professional sale, the short story, "A Different Kind of Courage," to *Free Amazons of Darkover*.

During that period when Misty's natural talent was developing into the nova it was going to prove, she was making her mark in yet another branch of our microcosm: Songwriting. I met her at Chicon IV and was deeply moved by her elegy to Astronauts Grissom, Chaffee, and White, "Memorial." Later, at Bayfilk II -- one of the dedicated filking conventions -- I got to listen in while she honed to her satisfaction a ballad detailing one of Tarma's and Kethry's adventures, the now-classic "Threes." (It was also at Bayfilk II that Misty personally demonstrated to me that it isn't just her characters who can take charge and help people. Through a scheduling foulup, I discovered when I got to the airport that my departing flight had already departed -- an hour earlier. Misty, waiting in line at the next counter, took over like a rescuing Herald; she drew on her American Airlines expertise, swept behind the counter, performed magic with the reservations computer and got me booked on a later flight at no charge. Whew! Saved my finances -- and my sanity. I still remember, Misty. Thanks again!)

To anyone who had been watching Misty's rising star, what followed her first short story sales was no surprise. In her own words, the Heralds of Valdemar series arose from a dream of Companion Rolan's Choosing Talia -- and a complete and most fulfilling trilogy found an enthusiastic readership. Then came the *Last Herald-Mage* books, the *Vows and Honor* duology, *By the Sword*, and the first volume in the *Mage-Winds* series. Her urban fantasy works -- featuring Diana Tregarde, occult investigator -- show she's in no way limited to medieval-style fantasy. And she and her husband, artist Larry Dixon, have

addicted large numbers of new fans with the SERRATED Edge novels. Misty confesses to enjoying collaborations and promises we can look forward to many more of these, as well as her solo productions. Just one of the upcoming treats is the book she and Larry Dixon are writing together, the high fantasy, *The Black Gryphon*.

No end seems in sight -- happily for us. Eager readers are already asking hucksters, "When is the next book in the *Mage-Wind* trilogy coming out?" I know; I'm one of the hucksters they nag. We're all waiting impatiently for the future short stories, novels, and musical treasures which will issue from Misty's PC. Anticipation almost makes the impatience bearable. Almost. Her record guarantees we won't be disappointed.

And when is the next book in the *Mage-Winds* trilogy due, huh?

Juanita Coulson, author and singer, is currently writing songs set in Mercedes Lackey's Velgarth universe, the *Mage-Winds* series. (And when is the next *Children of the Stars* book due, huh, Juanita?)



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# CONTACT X



September 25-27, 1992  
Ramada Inn, U.S. 41 North  
Evansville, IN

Guest of Honor  
**Kim Mohan**  
(Editor/Amazing Stories Magazine)  
Fan Guest of Honor  
**Judy Eudaly**  
Science Guest of Honor  
**Dr. Bill Breuer**  
Special Guest  
**Jay Tummelson**

## X Marks The Spot

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Or call: 1-812-473-3109

# A Mercedes Lackey Bibliography

Titles are listed chronologically in order of publication. Series titles and collaborators are noted in parentheses.

## Novels

- Arrows of the Queen*. DAW, 1987.  
*Arrow's Flight*. DAW, 1987.  
*Arrow's Fall*. DAW, 1988.  
*Oathbound*. DAW, 1988 (Vows and Honor, Book 1)  
*Oathbreakers*. DAW, 1989. (Vows and Honor, Book 2)  
*Burning Water*. Tor, 1989. (A Diana Tregarde Investigation)  
*Magic's Pawn*. DAW, 1989. (The Last Herald-Mage, Book 1)  
*Reap the Whirlwind*. Baen, 1989. (with C.J. Cherryh)  
*Magic's Promise*. DAW, 1990. (The Last Herald-Mage, Book 2)  
*Knight of Ghosts and Shadows*. Baen, 1990. (with Ellen Guon)  
*Magic's Price*. DAW, 1990. (The Last Herald-Mage, Book 3)  
*Children of the Night*. Tor, 1990. (A Diana Tregarde Investigation)  
*By the Sword*. DAW, 1991.  
*Winds of Fate*. DAW, 1991. (Mage-Winds, Book 1)  
*Jinx High*. Tor, 1991. (A Diana Tregarde Investigation)  
*The Elvenbane*. Tor, 1991. (with Andre Norton)  
*The Lark and the Wren*. Baen, 1992. (Bardic Voices)  
*Born to Run*. Baen, 1992. (SERRATED Edge) (with Larry Dixon)  
*Summoned to Tourney*. Baen, 1992. (with Ellen Guon)  
*Castle of Deception*. Baen, 1992. (The Bard's Tale) (with Josepha Sherman)  
*The Ship Who Searched*. Baen, 1992. (with Anne McCaffrey)  
*Winds of Change*. DAW, 1992. (Mage-Winds, Book 2)

## Forthcoming

- Wheels of Fire*. Baen, 1992. (SERRATED Edge) (with Mark Shepherd)  
*When the Bough Breaks*. Baen, 1992. (SERRATED Edge) (with Holly Lisle)  
*Beyond World's End*. Baen, 19--. (with Ellen Guon)  
*Triangle Park*. Tor, 19--. (A Diana Tregarde Investigation)  
*Arcanum 101*. Tor, 19--. (A Diana Tregarde Investigation)  
*Winds of Fury*. DAW, 1993. (Mage-Winds, Book 3)  
*The Robin and the Kestrel*. Baen, 19--. (Bardic Voices)  
*The Eagle and the Nightingale*. Baen, 19--. (Bardic Voices)  
*Sacred Ground*. Tor, 19--.  
*The Black Gryphon*. DAW, 19--. (Mage-Wars) (with Larry Dixon)

## Short Fiction

- "Turnabout" *Fantasy Book*, September, 1985.  
"A Different Kind of Courage" *Free Amazons of Darkover*,

- DAW, 1985.  
"Blind Desire" *Fantasy Book*, March, 1986.  
"Balance" *Fantasy Book*, September, 1986.  
"Should Old Acquaintance" *Fantasy Book*, December, 1986.  
"Fiddler Fair" *Magic in Ithkar 3*, Ace, 1986.  
"Sworn Scorn" *Sword and Sorceress III*, DAW, 1986.  
"A Tale of Heros" *Sword and Sorceress IV*, DAW, 1987.  
"The Last One of the Season." *American Fantasy*, Winter, 1987.  
"Keys" *Sword and Sorceress V*, DAW, 1988.  
"Werehunter" *Tales of the Witchworld*, vol. 1, Tor, 1987.  
"Deathangel" *Merovingen Nights: Festival Moon*, DAW, 1987.  
"A Plague on Your Houses" *Merovingen Nights: Fever Season*, DAW, 1987.  
"A Tangled Web We Weave" *Merovingen Nights: Troubled Waters*, DAW, 1988.  
"More Than Meets the Eye" *Merovingen Nights: Gentlemen of the Trade*, DAW, 1988.  
"Turning Point" *Merovingen Nights: Body Politic*, DAW, 1989.  
"Object Lessons" *Free Amazons of Darkover*, Vol. 2, DAW, 19--.  
"The Enemy of My Enemy" *Friends of the Horseclans*, Vol. 2, Signet, 1988.  
"Balance and Power" *Bardic Voices One*, Hypatia Press, 1988; and *Spellsingers*, DAW, 1988.  
"A Friend in Need" *Blood of Ten Chiefs, Vol. 3: Winds of Change*, 1988.  
"The Phantom of the Dreamberry Patch" *Blood of Ten Chiefs, Vol. 3: Winds of Change*, 1988.  
"Don't Look Back" *Merovingen Nights: Divine Right*, DAW, 1989.  
"Friends Like These" *Merovingen Nights: Divine Right*, DAW, 1989.  
"SKitty" *Catsfantastic*, DAW, 1989.  
"The Making of a Legend" *Sword and Sorceress VI*, DAW, 1990.  
"The Talisman" *Sword and Sorceress VII*, DAW, 1990.  
"Nightside" *Marion Zimmer Bradley's Fantasy Magazine*, Spring, 1990.  
"Roadkill" *Marion Zimmer Bradley's Fantasy Magazine*, Summer, 1990.  
"Satanic, Versus" *Marion Zimmer Bradley's Fantasy Magazine*, Fall, 1990.  
"Don't Look Back" *Merovingen Nights: Flood Tide*, DAW, 1990.  
"Set a Thief" *Renunciates of Darkover*, DAW, 1991.  
"Stolen Silver" *Horsefantastic*, DAW, 1991.  
"Wings of Fire" *Sword and Sorceress VIII*, DAW, 1991.  
"Proving Ground" *Merovingen Nights: Endgame*, DAW, 1991.  
"A Woman's Weapon" *Sword and Sorceress IX*, DAW, 1992.

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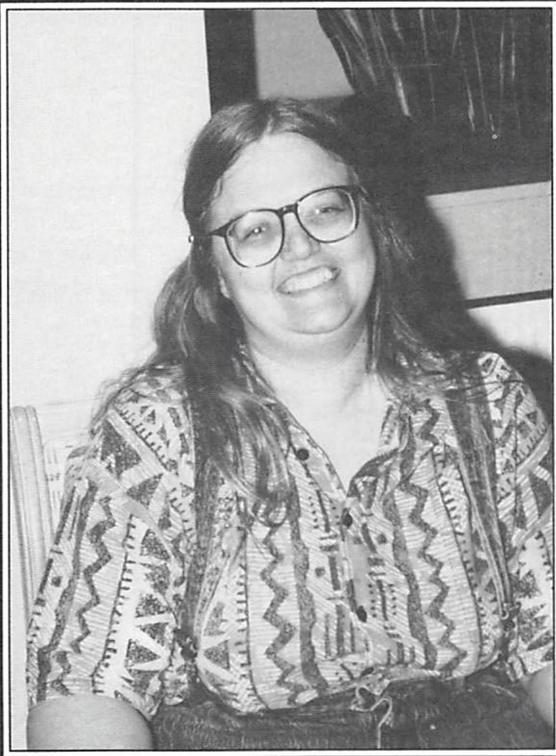
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# Fan Guest of Honor Laurie Mann



by Leslie Turek

Photo by Alexis Parsons

Have you heard the story about the six blindfolded fans and Laurie Mann? No? Well, here's how it goes.

Six blindfolded fans were asked to describe Laurie Mann.

The first fan was a fringe fan who knew Laurie in the mundane world. Born in Vermont in 1957, Laurie Trask grew up on the banks of the Wachusett Reservoir in West Boylston, Massachusetts--a small town on the outskirts of Worcester. She encountered fandom while in high school; her first con was Technicon, run by the Worcester Polytechnic SF club. Then she went west to college, where she joined the Carnegie-Mellon SF club. Since they already had a member named Laurie, they took a lead from Monty Python and called her "Bruce." They also had a member named

Jim Mann, whom she married in 1977. Their daughter Leslie (whose first words were "book" and "beer") was born in 1980, after working at Noreascon II *in utero*. The Manns now live in suburban Northborough, Massachusetts, where Jim and Laurie both work at Stratus Computer. Laurie started her career as a T<sub>E</sub>X typesetting whiz and is currently a technical writer.

The second fan was a convention fan and knew Laurie as a hot-shot convention organizer. Starting with PghLANGE when she lived in Pittsburgh, she's gone on to run almost every area, including Program, at Boskones, and has held many important Worldcon positions. Laurie and Jim originated Children's Programming at Worldcons for Noreascon II, and together were division head of Services at Noreascon 3. Laurie's natty attire (featuring rainbow suspenders) made her easy to spot: N3 chairman Mark Olson claimed that he could tell when Laurie was moving quickly by how fast her propeller beanie was spinning. She still hasn't learned to say "no"; she will be running Press Relations for Magicon this year and is the Assistant Division Director of Programming for ConFrancisco in '93.

The third fan was a fanzine fan and knew Laurie as a long-time APAhacker and fanned. She's participated in *Minneapa*, *Woof*, *Apaloosa*, *APA:O*, *Scalpa Flow*, *Mishap*, *APA:89*, among others, and was OE of *APA: NESFA*. Her letters have appeared in the leading zines such as *Outworlds* and *Lan's Lantern*. She originated the idea of the Hugo-winning fanzine *The Mad 3 Party* and published its first issue. Most recently she is editor of NESFA's genzine, *The Proper Boskonian* and has been publishing it on a suitably fannish "Real Soon Now" schedule.

The fourth fan was a network hacker and knew Laurie electronically, through her contributions to Usenet, GENie, and America Online. Her interests are wide-ranging, including not only SF, but areas such as women's issues and films. As a reader of Usenet, I've personal knowledge of her thoughtful and illuminating film reviews.

The fifth fan was a literary fan and knew Laurie through her love of books and writing. Laurie and Jim have an awesome book collection, including mainstream and historical works along with science fiction. For the past several years Laurie has begun to get serious about her desire to become a published author by attending workshops, giving readings, and collecting rejections slips. These efforts recently paid off when she recently sold her first story to *Midnight Zoo*. Look for it around the end of the year.

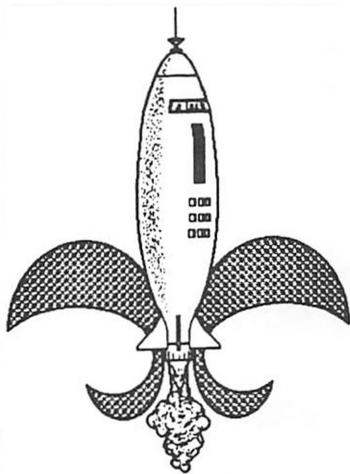
The sixth fan was a party fan and knew Laurie as a fun-loving soul who just loves parties, perhaps because her formative years were spent with Pittsburgh fandom who threw parties at every convention they attended. Her never-ceasing efforts to bring levity to Boston fandom made the Boston in '89 bid parties creative and fun. And when she doesn't have a legitimate Worldcon bid to provide her with parties to run, she finds a hoax bid to support. Starting with Pittsburgh in 2100, she's been active on bids like Flushing in '80, Trantorcon in 23,309, Brighton (MA) in '89, and Hawaii in '93 (at least she *thought* it was a hoax). True to her nature, Laurie will be throwing a party at Rivercon, so you'll have a chance to meet her in her natural habitat.

The moral of this story, of course, is that your fan guest of honor is not any one of these things--she's all of them combined. She's a convention fan, a fanzine fan, a network hacker, a reader, a writer, a fun-loving party fan, and a real person with a real life outside fandom. So take advantage of this chance to meet one of the most interesting and many-faceted people you're likely to encounter.

(And if you'd like to see one of the world's all-time outstanding beet-red blushes, just ask Laurie exactly what she was doing with those six blindfolded fans, anyway.)

**Leslie Turek** was chairperson of Noreascon 2, and she was Fan Guest of Honor at last year's RiverCon.

# NOTA



The NOTA Science Fiction Club is sponsored by the Louisville Free Public Library. NOTA meets at the Okolona Branch Library, 7709 Preston Highway, on the third Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. For more information, call 964-3515.

The August 16 meeting will feature a discussion of *Faithful Traitor* by Louisville author Robert Don Hughes, who will be NOTA's special guest for this meeting.

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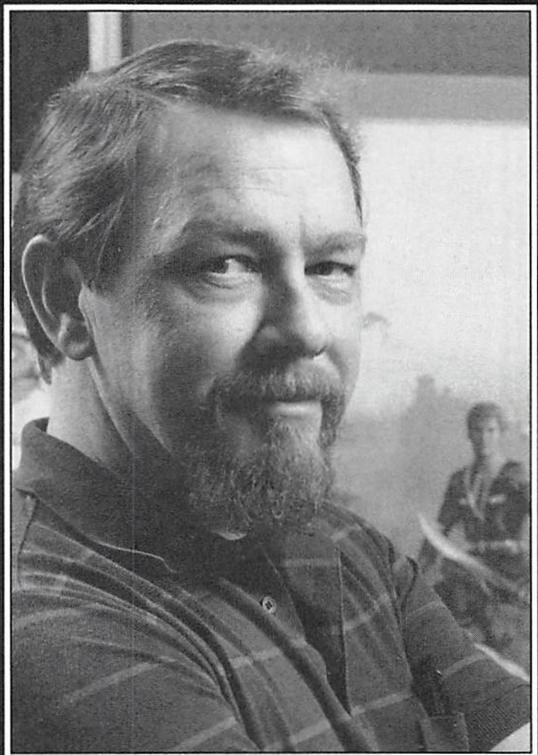
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**Artist Guest**

# Doug Chaffee



**by Maurine Dorris**

Photograph by Maurine Dorris

I first met Doug Chaffee at the DeepSouthCon in Atlanta in 1980. We were both waiting in line for a table at the hotel restaurant. Since they seemed to be seating couples faster and since we both had convention name badges on, we decided to band together to share a table and get food before we both starved to death. It was during this lunch that I discovered Doug was an artist. After eating we went to the art show room so he could show me what we had talked about at lunch--his paintings.

I recognized several paintings from covers I had seen on *Amazing Stories* and other magazines in the 60's and 70's, but it sure is different seeing the

original picture. The colors are so much brighter and sometimes the publisher crops the picture so you don't see all of it on the printed cover. We had a nice long talk about all the SF and fantasy paintings he had done and the ones he was working on. It is always fun to have an artist tell you of future works, so you can look for them at the book store and tell your friends to look, too.

I had also often wondered who was the model was for the beautiful women in Doug's paintings. Then I had the pleasure of meeting his lovely wife Melba, and the answer was obvious.

Doug has been working as an artist for over 30 years. He has sold hundreds of paintings, along with several thousand line art drawings. We of the SF community tend to forget that a lot of "our" artists do art for the mundane world as well. Doug has done a lot of military art that has been featured in national magazines and at international shows like the Paris Air Show. He has painted the Trident submarine, the official program paintings of the U.S. Navy, and helicopter and ship paintings featured in such magazines as *Surface Warfare*, *All Hands*, and *U.S. Navy Proceedings*. His military art has been seen all over the world.

His artwork has appeared in *Strategy and Tactics* magazine as well as many game books and module games covers and interiors. He painted the official poster for the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, as well as a mural for the Knoxville Airport. Doug also created a mural for IBM's Washington, D.C., headquarters. He is currently doing a series of paintings and interiors for TSR, Inc., a sampling of which is shown on the facing page.

Doug Chaffee really is a nice person and loves to talk to fans. So please do yourself and him a favor and talk to him this weekend. I promise you'll both have a good time.

---

**Maurine Dorris** chaired the 1987 World Fantasy Convention in Nashville and is the founding chairperson of the World Horror Convention. She has also worked on worldcon masquerades and is a member of ASFA.

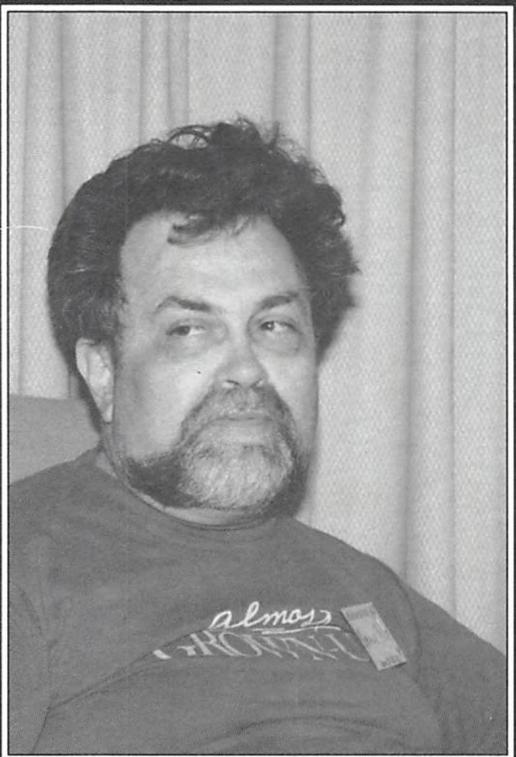


## A Doug Chaffee Gallery

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artist.



# Toastmaster Bruce Pelz



by Craig Miller

Professional Writer

Yes, you say, but just what *has* Bruce Pelz done to deserve all this?

A good question.

And a good answer? Well, that's not quite as simple as the question.

Bruce Pelz has been active in science fiction fandoms for over three decades. You might note that I said fandoms and not fandom. These days we seem to compartmentalize fandom into numerous sub-groups. Back then, we were all one big happy family.

Bruce was active in fanzine fandom. Over the years, he's published one or more genzines, newszines, and untold apazines. In fact, at one time Bruce was what was known as

an "omniapan," someone who was a member of every existing apa. I don't think that such an achievement is possible any longer -- no one has that much stamina. But he managed to do it.

Bruce also has what is quite probably the largest collection of fanzines in the world. His collection overflows his converted garage and a storage building in his backyard. Bruce has spent an accumulation of hours numerically equal to or surpassing the national debt in an attempt to sort and catalog his collection. One of his many plans for "after retirement" is to finish said task.

Bruce is also one of the original members of Filk Fandom from back in the 60s. While not active recently, he's written the lyrics for many popular filksongs as well as having published four filk songbooks filled with words and music by a variety of fans.

Costume Fandom has also known his familiar form. Of late he's made only an occasional appearance as part of a costume group for a Worldcon or Westercon masquerade, but in the 60s and 70s he was a regular.

Bruce is, of course, an active member of Club Fandom, having come to Los Angeles in late 1959 (*very* late -- he arrived in L.A. on December 31st, 1959) and almost instantly became active in the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (LASFS). Over the years since then, Bruce has been one of the prime forces behind LASFS. He's been president, of course, but most of his official activity has been as treasurer or (on a corporate level) comptroller. He was the spearhead of the club's Building Fund, which bought the organization a clubhouse (the first in fandom) in 1972. And (along with his wife Elayne) he's one of the group's major party givers. Just ask him about playing a game Mah Jong.

Bruce is perhaps best known for his involvement with Convention Fandom. He was co-chairman of the 1969 Westercon and the 1972 Worldcon. He was also Fan Guest of Honor at the 1979 Westercon in San Francisco and the 1980 Worldcon in Boston. He's chaired a Loscon (the LASFS's own local convention) and even chaired the first Bouchercon, now also known as the World Mystery Convention (last year he was Fan Guest of Honor there). And he's been treasurer or dealer's room coordinator or whoknowswhat on countless other cons -- including the 1984 Worldcon which I chaired and for which he was treasurer.

There's a bit of fannish argot, SMOF, that's an acronym for Secret Master of Fandom. These days you more often hear a backformation of it--"smofing" --to describe any

discussion of club business or convention politics. At one time, the word had more meaning. It was always something of a joke, of course. How secret a master can you be if everyone knows you're doing it? But the people to whom it was applied were the movers and shakers of fandom. Bruce was one of those people.

He still is. \*Wink, wink.\*

But why is he your *toastmaster*?

Because he can tell an amusing anecdote, get off a good bon mot, be polite (when required), raise a glass with a sentimental toast (his preference, by the way, is for a wine probably sweeter than anything you'd want to drink, one of those German wines with an agglutinative name like Trockenbaronauschlassa or unpronounceable syllables to that effect), and otherwise keep things moving and entertaining.

Overall, I'd say he's a pretty good choice.

---

Craig Miller chaired the 1984 Los Angeles worldcon, and has been pretty much wrapped up in conventions ever since. He's currently running the 1996 Los Angeles worldcon bid, and he can meet a deadline under very adverse conditions.

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# CANWOLD'S CHILD'S



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## What Hasn't Bruce Done?

Bruce Pelz has been an extremely busy fan for many years. Bruce has done everything. He's run clubs, fanzines, cons, bids, and even a Worldcon. He edited the fannish Tarot deck. He's been a guest or a toastmaster at lots of cons, including Noreascon II.

However, our Bruce has not done it all. Here are just a few things that Bruce has *not* done over the last twenty years:

In 1971, Bruce did not pose for the centerfold of *Cosmopolitan*. Rumor has it that he was asked, but as the staples would be inserted in the page in a very awkward location, he declined to recline.

In 1972, Bruce was not amused by the Australian University sketch on *Monty Python*.

In 1975, Bruce did not accept one of Bob Tucker's "natural insemination" cards.

In 1976, Bruce did not start a computer company in his garage.

He thought about it, but the file cabinets of fanzines were in the way.

In 1978, Bruce did not move to Seattle. He didn't want the number of fanzine fans there to reach critical mass.

In 1982, Bruce did not answer the phone in Chicon Ops that announced the impending bomb threat.

In 1984, Bruce did not take a vacation.

In 1988, Bruce did not run as a Democratic nominee for president. Mike Dukakis called and begged him to reconsider, but Bruce declined.

In 1991, Bruce did not pose for the cover of *Vanity Fair*. Or *Spy*.

In 1992, Bruce did not announce that he was going to edit an anthology about science fiction anthology editors called *Alternate Resnicks*.

--Laurie Mann



# Other Guests

**Dr. Bill Breuer** marks his 12th year as RiverCon's resident space expert. Bill's activities are numerous, ranging from sports medicine to aspiring historical novelist, as well as his widely acclaimed and appreciated efforts to publicize and educate on behalf of the space program.

**Jack L. Chalker** is a prolific author whose fannish roots are never denied. Among his many novels are the *Soul Rider* series, *Jungle of Stars*, *The Four Lords of the Diamond* books, and recently the *Quintara Marathon*, the third book of which, *Ninety Trillion Fausts*, was just published. Jack is the co-author and publisher of the long-awaited and monumental *The Science-Fantasy Publishers: A Critical and Bibliographic History*, a Hugo nominee in the non-fiction category this year.

**Carolyn Clowes'** first published novel, *The Pandora Principle*, a *Star Trek* novel, was a national bestseller. Carolyn lives in Louisville and is now working on a non-*Star Trek* novel.

**Juanita Coulson** writes, edits, and sings, and she does each equally well. Her folk-singing fame is justifiably widespread, and she is now working on a series of songs set in Mercedes Lackey's Mage-Winds universe. She is the author of a number of novels, among them the Children of the Stars series. Her latest novel is *Star Sister* (Del Rey Books).

**Robert Coulson**, better known as "Buck," has co-edited with his wife Juanita, the Hugo-winning fanzine *Yandro* for many years. He also has several novels to his credit, among them *Charles Fort Never Mentioned Wombats* and a couple *Man From U.N.C.L.E.* novels, all co-authored with Gene DeWeese. Buck currently writes a regular review column for *The Comic Buyer's Guide*. Buck and Juanita were RiverCon's first fan guests of honor in 1975.

**Larry Dixon** is well known in the fantasy art field, but he has now joined the ranks of the writer. His collaboration with his wife Mercedes Lackey, *Born to Run*, the first SERRATED Edge novel, is just the first of more books to come.

**Darryl Elliott** is an Atlanta-area artist who has exhibited at numerous art shows throughout the region, as well as producing an increasing amount of professional work. Although he has had no formal training, he has been interested in art since elementary school and entered the professional field after graduating high school in 1979. When not illustrating, he writes and produces radio and television commercials and has been nominated for an Emmy for this work.

**Lynn S. Hightower** had her first novel, *Alien Blues* (Ace) published to critical and popular acclaim. A sequel, *Alien Eyes*, is forthcoming. Her next published novel, however, is *Satan's Lambs*, a mystery to be issued by Walker in December. Lynn lives in Lexington, Kentucky.

**Robert Don Hughes**, though he was born and grew up in California, has made Louisville his home for several years. He is the author of the *Pelman the Powershaper* series and the *Wizard and Dragon* series, the second book of which, *The Faithful Traitor*, was published earlier this year. When not writing, Bob teaches communications at a Louisville seminary.

**Andrew J. Offutt** is familiar to nearly all RiverCon members. Even before he was the convention's first toastmaster way back in 1975, Andy was known for his diversified range of fiction, from Howardian swords-and-sorcery to slam-bang space opera to his work in the *Thieve's World* series. He is also a past RiverCon guest of honor.

**Jodie Offutt** has been a prolific fan writer in the

past, but much of her time in recent years has been taken up with completing her college work. She has taught in the Upward Bound program, as well as working in the correctional field. Both Jodie and Andy are no doubt proud that their eldest Offuttspring, Chris, is following the family tradition and publishing his first book, *Kentucky Straight*, this fall.

**Mike Resnick** has been a RiverCon regular for many years. He has served as both fan and guest of honor (the former with the ever-lovely and charming Carol), and has appeared on numerous panels and has never been at a loss for words on a single one. Along the way, he has become one of science fiction's important writers and, incidentally, gathered a number of Hugo and Nebula nominations and wins. Among his recent work are the novels *Soothsayer*, *Second Contact*, and the short fiction "Winter Solstice" and "One Perfect Morning, With Jackals" (the latter both Hugo nominees this year). Mike has lately turned to editing and has produced the anthologies *Alternate Presidents*, *Alternate Kennedys*, and *Inside the Funhouse*.

**Frank M. Robinson**, perhaps best known outside the SF field for being the co-author (with Thomas Scortia) of *The Glass Inferno*, returned to science fiction after an absence of too many years with *The Dark Beyond the Stars*, which won a Lambda Literary Award this year. Frank has lived in San Francisco for many years.

**Allen Steele**, the one-time bad boy of Nashville fandom in the seventies, has grown up to be one of the nineties' most promising new writers. His first novel, *Orbital Decay*, was acclaimed by Gregory Benford as reading "like Golden Age Heinlein." He has since then published *Clark County, Space*; *Lunar Descent*; and his newest, *The Labyrinth of Night* due in October from Ace. Allen and his wife now live in St. Louis.

**Diann Thornley** hails from Ohio and is just entering the professional scene. She is the author of several short stories, and her first novel, *Ganwold's Child*, was published earlier this year.

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# Magic's Author

an autobiographical essay by

## Mercedes Lackey



As far as I can tell, I started out as a child, and set about immediately to rectify that situation.

But seriously, folks . . . I'm a middle-class WASP suburban brat, suffering no more than the usual tribulations of one too damned smart for her own good, and too damned dumb to pretend I wasn't. I never dated until I got into college; I (gasp, horrors!) never even went to the senior prom. This is evidently supposed to scar females for life. I haven't noticed that it deformed my character, but then I've always been a little warped (Warp Factor 4, Mr. Sulu).

What I did do was read-- science fiction, almost entirely, with a scattering of medieval works, Shakespeare, and historical novels. I began reading sf because my father read it, the books were lying around the house, and the covers looked interesting. My first sf book was *Agent of Vega* by James Schmitz; my second, *Beast Master* by Andre Norton, thus beginning a love affair with Norton's books that has continued to this day. One of the most exciting things to happen in my career as a writer was to be invited to write a "Witch World" story for the first of her "Friends of Witch World" anthologies. It was literally a dream come true, since back in the dark ages, when I was a Kid, I wrote (handwrote, and illustrated) many Norton pastiche stories when I couldn't find any new books to read.

I wanted to write professionally -- but was perfectly well aware that writers don't make any money -- so I chose instead a career in science, getting my B.Sci. in biology from Purdue University in 1972. I then discovered that B.Sci.'s don't make any money either. As a result I ended up in a variety of jobs, from waitress to security guard to artist's model. I finally ended up in a job which started out as telephone survey work, and ended up as a "programmer" doing some very simple "cookbook programming" for Indiana University at South Bend. From there I went into a computer programming training class for Associates (those wonderful

people who want to lend you money at exorbitant rates of interest). I stayed there for three years, then took a job with American Airlines, where I am today.

I began writing as a result of that job. I had been very active in the Society for Creative Anachronism in South Bend, as well as an sf costuming group. When I arrived in Tulsa I found myself with a great deal of time on my hands. So I began writing again, going back to what I'd begun with, Norton pastiches, for an amateur fanzine called *Shadowstar*. I had also joined the Friends of Darkover, a correspondence fan club for Marion Zimmer Bradley, and as a result of that and the fact that I had flight benefits with my airline job, got to know Ms. Bradley personally. She encouraged my attempts, and actually bought my first professional story sale, "A Different Kind Of Courage," for the anthology *Free Amazons of Darkover*. And in the meantime, I had begun also writing filk ....

Let me explain filk; it is sf folk music, usually performed at science fiction conventions. Frequently songs are written about books, films, or events (such as milestones in the space program, for example) that mean a great deal to sf fans. In the past five years one of the filk small press companies has begun producing themed tapes. They were kind enough to think my lyrics (I only write lyrics, not music) were good enough to go on some of these tapes, and began soliciting poems for these themed tapes. One of these was "Horsetamer's Daughter," for which I wrote a lyric called "Signy Mallory" about the main character of C.J. Cherryh's Hugo Award-winning novel, *Downbelow Station*. This led directly to my being introduced to her -- and for her, on learning that I lived in the same state as she, to ask if I wrote prose. When I said "yes, sort of," she offered to help me. Which she still is -- I used to pass every book I wrote past her, and she has been instrumental in (occasionally forcing) my growth as a writer.

My family background -- I'm divorced (amica-

bly, from Tony Lackey, who is still a good friend; we had no children), and I married my partner, artist Larry Dixon, in December of 1990. I have one brother, Scott, who got married to one of my best friends, which I find very convenient! My father was one of the first commercial computer programmers, so there are a lot of reasons for me to be in sf! Both my father and mother encouraged me to read anything I could get my hands on, and to think for myself.

I write *now* because I have to; I couldn't *not* write. It's an addiction, fortunately one that brings money in rather than costing money! I write out of a deep need to tell a story, a good story, one that will touch people the way the books I read touched me. I'm not entirely certain that writers have much of anything in common with each other except for that addiction. Certainly all the writers I have met have had personalities as wildly varied as any random group of people. My primary influences are C.J. (obviously), Marion Zimmer Bradley (equally obviously), Andre Norton, Theodore Sturgeon, and Anne McCaffrey. I don't think I've written any "major" works as yet -- the one I think is best is always the one that isn't published yet. I try to keep my style simple; the emphasis should be on the *story*, on the *characters*, and not on any fancy song and dance act with language. All of my writing starts

with the characters --and how *they* react to the situation I put them in, and the problems they face. And they *have* to face problems, they *have* to grow and change as a result of those problems, or you don't have a book. You have a stale intellectual exercise, a sterile dead-end

But by the same token, a writer can't ever come to the point where she feels *she* can't learn anything. Every book has to be better than the one before it in some way. The writer has to learn something from the book, and from the problems it poses to her.

I like to write lyrics while I am writing a book, particularly if I seem to have gotten stuck in a particular scene. I find that writing a lyric crystallizes the motivation of the scene for me; having found the motivation, I can go back to that scene and make it work properly. C.J. tells me that she draws the scene, or the pivotal moment from that scene, or even a portrait of the main character; she says that does the same thing for her. I also like to create the "folk songs" of the time and place. I find it gives an added feeling of realism to the work, both for myself and for others.

My very first book -- which turned into three books! -- began with a dream. The dream was quite



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short; it began with Rolan Choosing Talia, then moved directly to the scene where Talia meets the Queen and accepts the position of Queen's Own. There was some implied knowledge there -- I "knew" something of the history of the Heralds, and was told the entirety of the Arrow Code which is used in the third book. All the rest came from asking myself why all this was happening, what the background could have been, and what this youngster would find herself doing now that she was in this position. The "Herald Mage" books developed from a few bits of "history"--and the fact that my editor wanted "magic" in the first chapter of the first book, and there *is* no real magic in Talia's time. So I was forced to have Talia do what I used to do -- to daydream herself into a time of legend (in my case, the England of Arthur and his knights) as she is reading a book; partially to make the book last longer, partially because she has a very active imagination, partially as escape from her dreary life. From that scrap of the last moments of Vanyel's life has come an entire set of three books --probably well over 300,000 words.

I am fortunate in having been able to create this world -- and it *is* a world, with a history as long and varied as that of our own. I doubt I am going to run out of ideas at any time soon! The *real* problem is in choosing which story to tell next.

I am equally fortunate in the other world I've been able to create -- the one for my horror/occult series about investigator Diana Tregarde, which is also the one in which the urban fantasy series I am writing with collaborator Ellen Guon is placed, as well as the one in which the SERRAted Edge series is placed. It's "our world"--plus. It's fun--and very much wide open to all sorts of possibilities (including a tentative Di crossover into the collaboration) because we are literally working with the *whole world*. Writing with a collaborator is one of the most exciting things I've ever done. It's a lot like writing only the "good parts," because in a good collaboration you build on each others' strengths.

Currently I'm doing more collaborations with other folks. These include a sequel to *Knight of Ghosts and Shadows* called *Summoned to Turney* with Ellen Guon; the SERRAted Edge series with Larry Dixon, Mark Shepherd, and Holly Lisle; a "brainship" book with Anne McCaffrey; and the latest project, a major dark fantasy-mainstream crossover novel involving Native American mysticism with mystery--kind of Tony Hillerman with magic. It will be called *Sacred Ground*, and I am very fortunate to have several Native American folk helping me make sure I stayed on track with it.

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22

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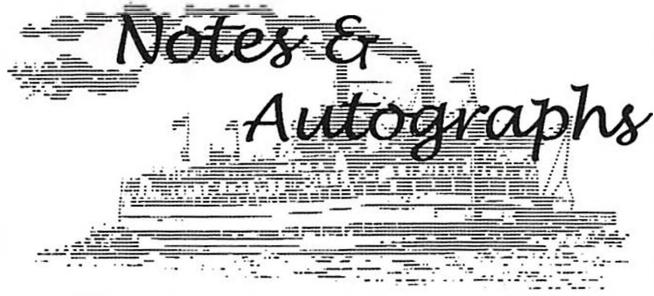
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