

SMOFCON 8

**"If This Goes On"
The Future of Science Fiction Conventions**

December 13-15, 1991

**Shilo Inn/Portland Airport
Portland, Oregon**

PROGRESS REPORT TWO

WE'RE BACK!

Yes, we're waking from our long Summer nap, and starting to get the place ready for you. (As well as thoroughly enjoying not having to put on a Westercon **this** summer.)

With this progress report, you'll find a programming questionnaire and resume form. Please let us know as soon as possible what you'd like to be doing. The information from the resume form will be included in the manual distributed at the convention, so other conventions will know where to find you.

There will be one more progress report, which will contain the program schedule. It should be in the mail by mid-November (or come to OryCon, and pick yours up in person).

PUBLICATIONS

As usual, we expect to have a well-packed manual to distribute to members at the convention. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, please let us know. While we will have a copier on-site, it gets tired easily. So, if you have a large contribution (more than a half-dozen pages), you can: (a) send it in in advance; (c) bring copies with you; or (c) head off in search of a Kinko's once you arrive. Obviously, (a) is the preferred choice. Contributions can be sent to our PO box, or care of Wrigley-Cross Books, 8001A SE Powell, Portland, Oregon 97206. If you prefer to send it in electronic form, we can read ASCII or Wordperfect discs in either 3½ or 5¼ format, text files on Mac discs or send it via e-mail to the address on the next page. Please send it at least three weeks for the con.

We also have high hopes of video-taping the sessions each day, with copies mailed after the convention. There will be more information about this at the convention.

read. 9/1/91
(Obison)

RATES

\$40 until 11/30/91
more at the door

Subscribing (all publications
& video tapes)—\$20 anytime

Children 12 and under -- free

Information -- (503) 283-0802

Registration info -- (503) 774-7592

or contact John Lorentz through CompuServe at 74007,3342

HOTEL UPDATE

First of all, the Shilo Inn/Airport has a new toll-free national number, 800-334-1051 (their local number is still 503-252-7500). We suggest you call soon to make your reservations. We do have a block of rooms being held for us, but you know how you always put things off until the last minute—and it would make the hotel so happy to start getting some room reservations.

Hotel prices at the Shilo Inn are a flat rate of \$83 a night (plus tax), for up to four people in the room. (The original contract had a surcharge for more than two people, but that's no longer true. You may get a reservation clerk who still has the old information, but this supposedly has been cleared up.) To reach the hotel, the Shilo Inn has a shuttle that runs every 30 minutes 24 hours a day. Just call from the bank of phones in the baggage claim area of the airport.

The Shilo Inn has a well-stocked Sunday brunch. For \$13.95, you'll get crab, prawns, smoked fish, prime rib... And for another \$2, you'll get champagne. Let us know ahead of time (or as soon as you show up at the con) if you want to partake of this, as we are hoping to have the restaurant set aside a table(s) for us.

There are also two standard motels nearby. We don't have a special rate with them (nor are any rooms blocked), but they are both a little cheaper. Across the street is the **Days Inn/Portland Airport**. They currently have a weekend rate of \$65 for a double room. Their number is 503-252-3200, (national reservations 800-325-2525). Like the Shilo Inn, they also have a free airport shuttle. Just down the street is the **Super 8/Portland Airport**. Their current price is about \$58 for a double room. Their national reservation number is 800-848-8888, locally 503-257-8988.

OTHER ITEMS

THE FANNISH INQUISITION

This year, we will be splitting the traditional Saturday night Inquisition into two sessions. On Saturday, it will be limited to current **bids** for Worldcon (1995, 1996 and 1997), Westercon (1994 and 1995) and Smofcon (1992 and 1993), as well as any other biddable convention during those periods. There will be time limits on both presentations and Q & A sessions, so start getting ready.

Friday night's session will be intended to allow you to grill current **conventions**, such as the 1992, 1993 & 1994 Worldcons, and the 1992 & 1993 Westercons. There's also will be time available to short presentations by bids for years further out than the Saturday night sessions.

THOSE BYTES CAN BE DEADLY!

Bring along that great software you've written for running Registration & the Art Show, scheduling panels and whatever else. We will have both IBM compatibles (with Windows) and Macs available to demonstrate them. (Of course, it would help in advance to know what you'll need, especially in the way of disc space.)

August 1991

Dear Smofcon Registrant,

We're happy to have you joining us in Portland for the 8th annual Smofcon. As you know, the theme for this year's Smofcon is the future of SF cons. Much, but certainly not all, of the programming will be slanted towards this view of convention running. Everyone who attends a Smofcon is a fanatic enough convention runner to be an expert on some aspect or aspects of the subject. So all of you are cordially invited to participate in the program.

Based on feedback and suggestions from last year's Smofcon attendees, the program will include the following:

The usual mixture of panels (see attached questionnaire for some suggested topics). Please feel free to suggest additional topics as well as suggesting questions or sub-topics to be covered during a specific panel.

Computer demos of registration and programming software. Volunteers are eagerly being solicited for these demos.

Two to four small group discussions. This is a particular style of program I want to try at Smofcon. There are topics that, like computer demos, are not of general interest, but are critical to those involved with them. The two I am currently pursuing are "Children's Issues at Cons" (i.e. safety, programming, raising readers) and "Tech Equipment Issues" (i.e. cost containment, changes in equipment formats, rental vs. purchase). Again, suggestions of other topics are welcome.

An exercise in marketing a bid/convention. We all market our cons to some degree. We all can use practice in presenting this information creatively, effectively and briefly.

We have the equipment and the desire to offer a chance for individuals to have portions of their bid presentations videotaped and then critiqued. However, that kind of training and analysis is not a skill available in our group. If this is at all related to what you do professionally, I would love to talk with you about how to make this a useful exercise.

Enclosed is a questionnaire for your perusal. Please fill out and return. We will attempt to use as many people as are interested on the program while still getting as much geographic and experience diversity as possible on the program.

Thanks for your help,

Patty Wells
Smofcon 8 Program

SMOFCON 8 PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL: _____

DAY/TIME OF ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE: _____

We want to collect some demographic information on our attendees. This will be used in two ways. First of all, we want to compile a listing with everyone's qualifications and experience. This will be helpful for folks who are looking for possible recruits for their convention. Secondly, as part of our effort to recruit hotel chain representatives to speak at the convention, we'd like to be able to indicate to them just how many conventions are represented by Smofcon attendees. Please indicate which conventions you work on each year, as well as any current one-shots, their average attendance, location and specialization (if any).

<u>Convention</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Duties</u>
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Whether you wish to appear on the program or not, I would appreciate your input on which panels you would like to see on the program, questions you would like to see addressed on these panels and which subjects are too boring for words.

I was impressed by the suggested subtopics listed for Smofcon 8 panels. It seemed to add focus to the panels. Use the space below to add questions you would like to see addressed on this panel if it occurs. Feel free to use this space to suggest additional topics, silly ideas, questions or your entire theory on what a smofcon should cover if you are so inclined. We'd like to make the program as useful as possible. The more information we have from you, the better a chance we stand of accomplishing this.

Please check the appropriate items for each proposed topic below.

Proposed Panel Topic	Like to see	Willing to be on	Willing to moderate	Don't bother
Program Trends: What's Hot/New--What Would You Like to Try	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effects of email: Communication, Gossip, Rumor Control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Budget Tracking and Mid-course Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Convention Cultural Differences: i.e. What Should a Con Suite Be?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Censorship of the Arts: Will SF be too Radical for the new Supreme Court?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Bidding/Convention Marketing Strategies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recruitment and Training of Con Runners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Convention Size: Growth vs. More Small Cons - Pros and Cons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Liability: Uses of Insurance, Policies on Minors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Media vs. Literary Cons: Are Fans Becoming Less Literate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travel Industry Trends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Where Have We Come From: The Trends So Far	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Working with Convention Bureaus and Other Community Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Theories of Hotel Space Allocation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OTHER COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS:

The following ideas seem to lend themselves to small discussion groups, rather than the general group.

Proposed Topic	Like to Participate	Willing to Moderate	Don't Bother
Children' Issues in Fandom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tech Equipment: Effective Use, Trends, Budgeting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Publications/Fannish Desktop Publishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moving the Worldcon to a 4 Year Rotation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Contract Negotiation Strategies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bidding Video Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have software you'd like to demo at Smofcon? If so, please indicate what it is used for, what computer it runs on, what operating system it runs on, how much disc space it needs, what language it's written in and any special peripherals necessary. We plan on having at least one Macintosh and one IBM-compatible (with Windows) computer at the convention for demonstrations.

Please return this questionnaire by October 10 to: Smofcon 8 Program
PO BOX 5703
Portland, OR 97228

SMOFCON 8

"If This Goes On" The Future of Science Fiction Conventions

December 13-15, 1991
Shilo Inn/Portland Airport
Portland, Oregon

Where are conventions heading? Can we still have the "everything for everybody" conventions (no matter how large they become), or are we faced with the need to split into "sub-genre" conventions? And what are we going to do for the next generation of fans who are now appearing? These questions, along with more standard topics, will give us plenty to talk about throughout the weekend, as this annual gathering of convention-runners comes to the Pacific Northwest for the first time.

The site is an all-suites hotel, conveniently located near the airport, and a short distance from several restaurants, including a good one of its own. Each room contains either a King bed plus sleeper couch, or two Queen beds, with a bedroom and a separate living room and kitchen facilities. This will give us plenty of meeting space in addition to the main programming track. Hospitality will keep people supplied with good food and the best of the Pacific Northwest beers to keep the discussions going.

We invite people to come early, and make Friday a West Coast meeting day for Magicon, ConFrancisco and other conventions.

Regular programming will start Friday evening.

For information:

SMOFCON 8
PO Box 5703
Portland, Oregon 97228
(503) 774-7592 or (503) 283-0802

Rooms:

Shilo Inn/Portland Airport
11707 NE Airport Way
Portland, Oregon 97220
800) 334-1051 or (503) 252-7500
\$83 single/double/triple/quad

REGISTRATION FORM

MEMBERSHIP RATES

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____

\$40 until November 30, 1991
more later

SMOFCON 8 is sponsored by Oregon Science Fiction Conventions, Inc, a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation.

THE REST OF THIS PAGE CAN ONLY BE READ BY
TRUE SMOFS!

THE CAST SO FAR
(through August 22, 1991)

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