

ST LOUIS IN '88 WORLDCON BID COMMITTEE PO BOX 1058 ST LOUIS, MO 63188

To support the bid, send \$5 for a pre-supporting membership, which will get you a periodic bid-progress newsletter and, if you vote for site selection at the 1986 Worldcon, a matching reduction in the price of a membership when we win the bid. For a bid t-shirt (S/M/L/XL), send \$5 plus \$2 P&H. For our multi-page bid statement, send a #10 SASE.

# Welcome to TROPICON III,

We're glad you could join us this weekend to celebrate Mark Twain's birthday, talk about speculative art and fiction, view classic films like "King Dinosaur," and mainly just have fun. This is your opportunity to get to know our Guests of Honor, Forrest J Ackerman and Vincent DiFate.

As portions of the hotel are under renovation, please excuse the occasional hammerings and sawings, and stay out of areas that are being remodeled. Hopefully, your bedroom is not one of them.

During the weekend, talk to our guests, attend some of the programming, and visit the con suite. If you're from South Florida, this is a great time to get information about the South Florida Science Fiction League (and maybe even join the club).

At any rate, remember the mottos of Constellation, the 41st World Science Fiction Convention. To wit:

> DO GOOD. AVOID EVIL. THROW ROOM PARTIES (BUT ONLY ON A PARTY FLOOR).

Have fun, and never give a punster an even break.

# TROPICON III COMMITTEE

Co-Chairman & Hotel Liason	Joe Siclari
Co-Chairman & Publications	Gail Bennett
Co-Chairman	Lee Hoffman
Secretary/Treasurer/Registration	Nancy Atherton
Program	Edie Stern
Art Show	Becky Peters
Film/Video	Sam Williams

Staff K. DiTursi, Judy Bemis, Tony Parker, Sabrina Jarema, Doug Wu, Kathy Wu, Allison Colliston, Jack Weaver, Cecilia Friskie, T.M. Wald Sove to Linaweaver

Long before there was discussion in various circles of Academe over "the cinema of terror," there were monster movies. Eons before serious attempts were made to find "the boundaries of SF," there was the hoary pleasure of sci-fi. Always before the coming of the connoisseur, there must be wine to put in the bottles.

Forrest J Ackerman, tee-totaler that he is, holds the record for the most complete cellar of vintage science fiction, fantasy, and horror memorabilia. Not a small portion of that vast accumulation is the result of his own work as editor, writer, agent, journalist, columnist, actor, anthologist, and public spokesman for the field he has made his own.

Forry is, among other things, a popularizer. Ray Bradbury has called him "the most important fan/ collector/human being in the history of science-fantasy fiction." He is the necessary figure, the complete librarian, a man able to cross-reference highly diverse material as though a real life psycho-historian.

He has met virtually everyone in the field but those few giants who passed away before he had the opportunity, one such case inspiring the title of a proposed book by Ackerman: <u>I Never Met Jules Verne</u>. But he did meet H. G. Wells!

Born in 1916, Forrest J Ackerman didn't waste much time. By 1923, he had seen his first Lon Chaney film; by 1929, he had started reading <u>Amazing</u> and had seen what was to become the favorite film of his life: Fritz Lang's <u>Metropolis</u>. (Forry being Forry, he would eventually meet Germany's greatest director, as he always seeks out those who inspire his admiration.) Like all those who are to be eternally young, he was the kind of child who allowed himself to be impressionable in the most total way: science fiction became the center of his life.

FJA was in the right places at the right times for this monomania to result in an unparalleled series of "firsts,"

the flavor of which is captured by the following: he wore the first costume at the first worldcon in 1939, thus setting in motion the masquerade balls; had the first fan letter published in the first issue of Science Wonder Quarterly in 1929; received the first Hugo from the hands of Isaac Asimov in 1953; wrote the first article in the first fanzine, The Time Traveler, in 1932; founded the first exclusively SF-oriented fan club in 1929; published Ray Bradbury's first story in the fanzine, Voice of the Imagi-Nation; was polled as First Fan in 1941; received, along with Boris Karloff, the first Ann Radcliffe Awards from the Count Dracula Society; published the first Fancyclopedia; was Guest of Honor at the First International SF Con; was the first Big Name Fan to make cameos in SF films; started the custom of nicknaning conventions; and last, but hardly least, was editor of the first filmonster magazine, Famous Monsters of Filmland in 1958, and the first science fiction film magazine, Spacemen in 1960. (The absence of an Ackermonster publication these past few years has been remedied by New Media Publishing bringing out Monsterland, the first issue of which will premiere at this convention.)

Of course, Forry is especially famous --- or infamous, according to some --- for coining the term "sci-fi" in 1955. Since then, the neologism has caught on to the extent of appearing in modern dictionaries and being used on the cover of Playboy. Although many identify "s ci-fi" with the worst of SF (an argument used by Harlan Ellison, usually accompanied by an example of a giant insect movie), the term is yet another example of short-hand for the entire field. That it has caught on with international journalism is eloquent testimony to Forry's impact as a popularizer.

Many a fan spends a lifetime collecting without having an effect on the subject of his interest. Forry is the collector who influences. He has made no small contribution to the continuing popularity of the films of Lon Chaney and Lang's <u>Metropolis</u>. Recently, he has published <u>Lon of 1,000 Faces</u>, a definitive photographic record; and the most recent release of <u>Metropolis</u> carries a well-deserved credit for him. Who but Ackerman could, at a moment's notice, write a script for his favorite actor that became the performer's most complete oral record (pun intended) of his own career: An Evening with Boris Karloff and his Friends? Who but Forry could appear in films with such a diverse cast of characters as Basil Rathbone, Dick Miller, Kirk Alyn, and Robbie, the Robot? Who but FJA could turn years of interest in comic books into as popular a new character as Vampirella? Who but 4e could have been on the receiving end of criticisms from sources as diverse as H. P. Lovecraft and Harlan Ellison? Who? "Mr. Science Fiction," that's who, the man they also refer to as "the poor man's Vincent Price."

Anthony Boucher wasn't kidding when he said, "If Forry Ackerman had not existed, it would have been necessary to invent him."

Finally, if a man's wealth is ultimately judged by his friends, then Forry is one of the richest people in the world. Many a person has been glad of such a relationship, as when Forry befriended Bela Lugosi in the late year of 1954, when the world was pretty much ignoring the Count. Forry did a lot for Bela in the closing years. The man who gives out the Big Heart award at worldcons has the biggest heart, himself. He never forgets anyone or anything, because he won't even consider the possibility that someone who has made a genuine contribution to the Imagi-Nation could become a "has-been."

Despite all that may be assigned to the ever-lasting credit of Forrest J Ackerman, there is a fly in the ointment, one dire aspect of his character that must be mentioned if the portrait is to be complete. He is a punster. A complete and total punster. When I attended one of his birthday parties, I heard that old standby: "Here we are in Karloffornia, and I'm sure it won't Boris." It was to be expected. But the most chilling evidence of all comes from his friend, Robert Bloch, who says that, as a punster, Forry is second to none. That's Robert Bloch talking! The mind reels.

One is tempted to say, "Gosh wow!"\*

\*Not to be confused with Ackerman's 561-page anthology of Golden Age science fiction.



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#### FOREST J ACKERMAN: A Selected Bibliography

#### Fanzines:

IMAGINATION, edited with others, 14 issues, 1936-1938
VOICE OF THE IMAGINATION (VOM), editor, 50
regular issues plus 3 special issues, 1939-1947
DISCOVERY OF THE FUTURE, with Robert A. Heinlein, 1941
FANCYCLOPEDIA by John Bristol (Jack Speer), publisher, 1944

#### Magazines:

Famous Monsters of Filmland, editor (190 issues)
Spaceman, editor (6 issues)
Perry Rhodan, editor (200 magabooks)
Amazing Forries (autobiographical material)
Monsterland, editor, first issue premiered at TROPICON III
Weird Tales, editor, forthcoming

Fiction and articles have appeared in numerous science fiction magazines, including Fantasy Stories, Other Worlds, Marvel Science Stories, Fantasy Book, Amazing Stories, Planet Stories, Astonishing Stories, Nebula, Autumn, Imaginative Tales, Gamma, Science Fiction Digest, Worlds of If, Fantastic Universe, Book of Weird Tales, Fantastic Stories, and Spaceway.

#### Books:

The Frankenscience Monster A. E. Van Vogt's Monsters, ed. Science Fiction Worlds of Forrest J. Ackerman and Friends, ed. The Best From Famous Monsters of Filmland, ed. Son of Famous Monsters, ed. Famous Monsters Strike Back, ed. Best Science Fiction for 1973, ed. Mr. Monster's Movie Gold Lon of 1000 Faces Gosh! Wow! (Sense of Wonder) Science Fiction, ed. Metropolis by Thea von Harbou (introduction)

#### FORRY ACKERMAN'S FILMOGRAPHY

HEY, ROOKIE (1944), as self, "Sgt. Ack-Ack" THE FARMER'S DAUGHTER (1947), heckler behind Loretta Young in auditorium THE HOMESTRETCH (1947), extra in winner's circle THE TIME TRAVELERS (1964), Technician #3 in Android Factory QUEEN OF BLOOD (1966), Basil Rathbone's assistant DRACULA VS. FRANKENSTEIN (1971), Dr. Beaumont SCHLOCK (THE BANANA MONSTER) (1973), popcorn eater KENTUCKY FRIED MOVIE, juror #3 HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD, "To Hollywood!" toaster THE HOWLING, self as bookshop browser THE AFTERMATH (1982), curator of last museum on Earth after World War 3 has destroyed civilization MICHAEL JACKSON'S THRILLER (1983), popcorn eater behind Jackson's girl

#### Forthcoming:

THE WIZARD OF SPEED AND TIME, crowd scene THE LUCIFER CHEST, self in Ackermuseum TROLL, Invasion of the Pod People from Mars film-within-a-film sequence IN 10 THE NIGHT, cheesecake eater

#### Technical Advisor: THE WIZARD OF MARS

Dialog for John Carradine soliloquy: JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF TIME

Telefilm: STARSTRUCK, alien astronaut

Amateur Films: THE GENIE, THE RETURN OF

FRANKENSTEIN, sequel to WAR OF THE WORLDS

Technical Advisor & Additional Dialog, TV:

HORROR HALL OF FAME

Script polisher: HELL IN THE HEAVENS (unproduced), MAD MONSTER PARTY, VAMPIRELLA

# TROPICON III PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Fridayı Saturday:	12 Noon - 6:00pm 10:00am - 6:00pm		12 Noon - 6:00pm 9:30am - 6:30pm
Sunday:	10:00mm - 4:00pm	9 Sundayı (	9:00am - 11:00pm
TIME	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
10:00 am		Dismembered SF (Sand Dollar) (Print SF adapted to media)	Artist's War (Rm 137) Gail Bennett.
10:30		Dismembered SF (Sand Dollar) (Print SF adapted to media) Vince Miranda, Joe Siclari Wendayne Ackerman, Brad Linaweaver	Sarah Clemens, Phil Tortoricci
			Art Auction (Re 137)
		Dr. Robert Collins, Lee	Joe Siclari
12:30		Brad Linaweaver (Sand Dollar)	Author's Reading: Sarah Clemen (Room 137)
1.00		Electida Candes (Cand Ballar)	A Thushasil History of Science
1.10		Nancy Atherton, Paul Cordsmeyer Phil Tortoricci, Edie Stern	Fiction Art (Rm 137) - A Slide Presentation by Vincent DiFate
2:00		Author's Reading: Gary Alan Ruse (Room 137)	Author's Reading: Brad Linaweaver (Room 137)
0.70		Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Vincent DiFate - But	Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Forrest J Ackerman But Didn't Know Who To Ask - A group interview (Ro 137) led by Roger Hurlbert
7 66		Didn't Know Who To Ask - A group interview (Sand Dollar) Lod by Inc Siclari	
3.30			
4.00		SF Around the World Wendayne Ackergan, Vince Miranda	Con Artists
			Vince Niranda, Ron Zukowski. Gail Bennett
-3.10		(Sand Vollar)	(Roon 137)
5:30		Panel/Debate/Non-Contact Sport:	Closing Cereponies (Roon 137)
6:00	These Are A Few Of My	Stern (Ro 137)	Afterthoughts: Compliments
6:30	Least Favorite Things Nancy Atherton, Lee Hoffman, Vince Niranda, Sarah Clemens, Becky Peters (Room 137)		and Cooplaints (Con Suite Discussion)
7:00			
7:30	Opening Ceremony & Introduction Of Our Guests	Banquet (Sand Dollar)	
8:00	Trivia Free-for-All (Rp 137)		
8:30		Guest of Honor Speeches	
9:00		(Sand Dollar)	
0.70			
10:00	Mark Twain Birthday Party (Room 137)	Costupe Party (Roon 137)	
10:30	(Room 137)		
	Bardic Circle	•	
11:30	(Room 137)		
12:00		Honster Hania Panel	
12130	Filas/Video	Forrest J Ackeroan, Vincent DiFatt Brad Linaweaver, Joe Siclari, Vince Miranda (Sand Dollar)	2
4.00		Consist File Deservateding.	
1:30		with additional narration by - Brad Linaweaver	
2:00			

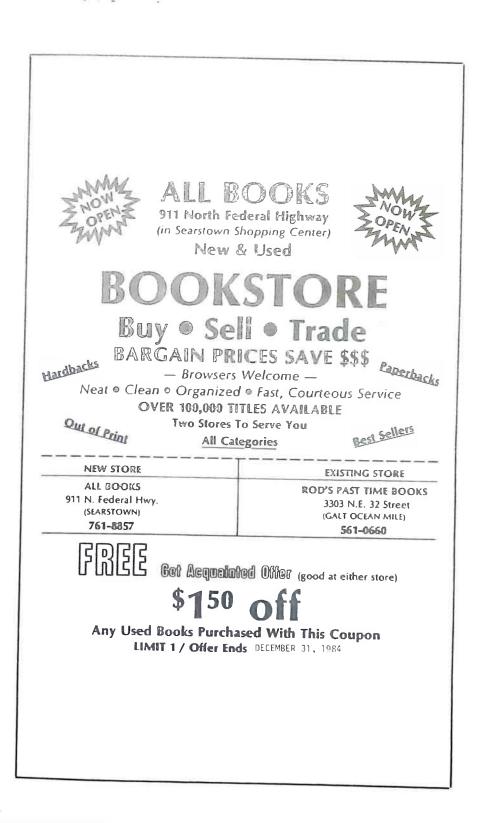
76 Edie with fine ( but it's denote VINCENT DiFATE

According to Peter Nicholls' Science Fiction Encyclopedia (1979):

> DI FATE, VINCENT (1945 -American SF illustrator. He attended the Phoenix, the Pratt, and the Art Students' League, among other schools. He has worked as an animator for Ralph Bakshi and as a photo-engraver. He began illustrating in 1969 and sold his first professional work to Analog. The majority of his paintings have appeared on the covers of paperback books. He is particularly good at painting technological artefects; . . . He has been nominated for five HUGO awards but has yet to win; . . . VDF has written an interesting column about sf illustration, "Sketches," in the semi-professional fanzine Algol since 1976. [JG]

It is easy to continue listing facts and figures about Vincent DiFate, as they did in the <u>Science Fiction</u> <u>Encyclopedia</u>. I could, for example, tell you that he won the Hugo as Best Science Fiction Artist in 1979; that, in his fifteen-year career, he has been nominated for the Hugo award ten times; that he has raised business standards for science fiction artists to new professional levels; that his knowledge of art extends to the history of fantastic art, as demonstrated by his numerous articles on the subject in reference books and other publications; that, for a man who possesses alarmingly low tastes in disreputable films, he's an all-right guy.

Vincent DiFate is one of the most influential and imitated artists in science fiction history. He is



recognized as THE hardware artist, as exemplified by Ian Summers' decision to do <u>DiFate's Catalog of</u> <u>Science Fiction Hardware</u>. His talents are not limited, however, to "artefacts" (sic). DiFate's portrayal of humans and aliens is sensitive and skillful.

For DiFate, "science fiction art" is a contradiction in terms that must be visually reconciled. To paraphrase his own thoughts on the subject: science is a search for truth, while fiction is never entirely true. Art deals with truth (science) by deceptively making a falsehood (fiction), "mimic the appearance of the 'real' world." In his <u>Catalog of Science Fiction Hard</u>ware, DiFate states:

> The credibility of the SF painting, as well as the SF story, depends on how carefully the artist or author has arranged his information and how smoothly that arrangement follows from the factual to the fantastic.

DiFate's paintings feel real. Standing before them, you get the feeling that you should catch the next shuttle to one of his space stations and walk aboard. Science Fiction Art --- where deception becomes reality.

#### \*\*\*\*\*

Despite all this artistic stuff, Vin is a remarkably nice guy who will talk *lottevet* for hours on many topics besides Art. Surprisingly, for an artist, he can even talk intelligently about them. Some years ago, we had both been invited to dinner at a friend's house. Since we were all interested in films, that became the main topic of discussion throughout the meal. Several hours later, Vin and I looked up to discover, much to our surprise, that we were the only ones still at the table. The man has the rare ability to draw you deeply into a conversation --- so enjoy it. And remember, after all this, that when you're in a bookstore and feeling low, you can always go to the science fiction section. Pick up one of the paperbacks with a DiFate cover, think about the artist who painted it and what a swell guy he was at this convention, and do what he gets paid to tempt you to do: BUY THE BOOK!

VINCENT DiFATE: A Selected Bibliography

DiFate had had well over 1000 of his works published in books and magazines. He is particularly well-known for his vividly colored "spaceships" on paperback and magazine covers. It would be impossible to list his complete credits here.

DiFate's Catalog of Science Fiction Hardware, with Ian Summers.

"Science Fiction Art," a chapter in the <u>Science Fiction</u> <u>Reference Book</u>, edited by Marshall Tymn. "Sketches," a column on SF art, 1976-1981; ALGOL/ STARSHIP, edited by Andrew Porter.

# OTHER SPEAKERS: LEE HOFFMAN WENDAYNE ACKERMAN BRAD LINAWEAVER GARY ALAN RUSE

#### WENDAYNE ACKERMAN

Wendayne Ackerman is not only the wife of Mr. Science Fiction, she is a well-known afficionado of the field herself. Her article "Rocket to the Rue Morgue" is one of the most authoritative articles on science fiction in the cinema. She was also the translator on many of the Perry Rhodan books, of which 200 have been published in the United States. LEE HOFFMAN

Lee first came onto the science fiction scene in 1950, with the highly-praised fanzine Quandry. From there she went on to write over a dozen novels. Her SF works include <u>Always the Black Knight</u>, <u>The Caves of Karst</u>, <u>Telepower</u>, and Change Song.

#### GARY ALAN RUSE

Gary has contributed to the SF world as both an author and an illustrator. His short stories and novelettes have appeared in Analog and his novels include Houndstooth, <u>A Game of Titans</u>, and The Gods of Cerus Major.

### VINCENT MIRANDA

As the former editor for Curtis Publications, Vince edited Fantasy Voyages: Great Science Fiction from the Saturday Evening Post. A co-founder of Bar Sinister Press, he has also served as a lecturer at the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts.

#### BRAD LINAWEAVER

From Los Angeles comes talented author Brad Linaweaver. whose credits include the novel Moon of Ice and the short story, "The Competitor " which appeared in Fantastic magazine. Recent sales include a story for Forrest J Ackerman's new magazine, Monsterland, and one for a new collection edited by Andre Norton.

#### TROPICON HIGHLIGHTS

Friday: TRIVIA FREE-FOR-ALL. Come to the Trivia Contest and win tokens toward your purchases in the Dealer's Room. For every question which you answer first, you will WIN a token (a little card with two dragons and the word TROPICON). That token is worth 10¢ when used to purchase something in the Dealer's Room ONLY. The convention will reimburse the dealers at the end of the con. REMEMBER: FOR EVERY QUESTION YOU CORRECTLY ANSWER FIRST, YOU GET ANOTHER TOKEN.

Mark Twain's Birthday Party. Celebrate with us --- and our "Sam" "Clemens" stand-in(s) --- at a party in honor of a superb fantasist --- and have a piece of our Comet Cake!

Bardic Circle. Whether you come to perform or to watch, we hope you'll join our circle after the party as we gather to share stories, songs, and a few surprises!

Saturday: BANQUET. Enjoy speeches from our guests of honor and some special entertainment while you indulge in our all-you-can-eat feast.

Costume Party. Nothing formal --- just a friendly gathering, with everyone invited to come in costume. Judges will be circulating and prizes will be awarded throughout the evening. All of our guests will be at the

## TROPICON III

Film & Video Program

This year we have greatly expanded the film and video program. The complete schedule will be posted by the Video Room. This year's planned program includes:

Films with appearances by our Guest of Honor, Forrest J Ackerman.

Films specially selected as part of "The Subterranean Depths of Vincent DiFate."

- KING DINOSAUR
- PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE
- MESA OF LOST WOMEN NIGHT OF THE BIG HEAT THE TIME TRAVELERS SHLOCK THE DUNWICH HORROR THE BLOB INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS (1956) THE LAST WAVE A BOY AND HIS DOG WAR OF THE WORLDS WIZARDS

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL I MARRIED A WITCH THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW THE CREEPING UNKNOWN FIVE MILLION YEARS TO EARTH A CLOCKWORK ORANGE DARK STAR FANTASTIC ANIMATION FESTIVAL BEDAZZLED BLITHE SPIRIT SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY MONTY PYTHON & THE HOLY

GRAIL

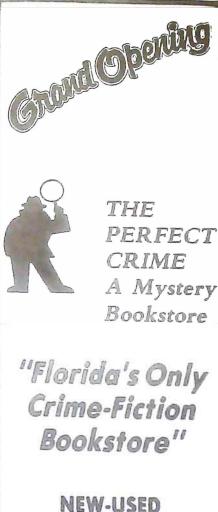
DR. WHO.

THE LAST UNICORN Television shows will include

episodes from the OUTER LIMITS,

TWILIGHT ZINE, BLAKE'S 7, and

SAPPHIRE & STEEL, STAR TREK,



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party, so this is the perfect time to meet them and get their autographs.

\*King Dinosaur\* In conjunction with Saturday night's Midnite Monster Mania panel, dredged from the depths of the celluloid cellar, with Brad Linaweaver's inimitable narration, and the chance to earn an "I Survived King Dinosaur" button --- you won't want to miss this . . . unique experience!

ART SHOW: Some pieces will be available at a quick sale price --- which entitles you to immediate removal of the item (if at all possible, we would prefer you to leave the item on display through Saturday afternoon). The ART AUCTION will be on Sunday from 11 AM to 1 PM (Room 137). You must be present to bid, and you must pay by cash or check at that time. WE DO NOT ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS. Art Show Rules:

No food or drink is allowed inside of the room.
No photography is permitted unless the artist is present or has given written permission.
All bags, large parcels, and so forth must be taped shut or checker' at the door.

**DEALER'S** ROOM: The TROPICON III Dealer's Room may have exactly what you're looking for. Dealer's Room rules:

- -No food or drink is allowed in the room (except for dealers).
- -No smoking by ANYONE. This is for your safety and the safety of the dealers' merchandise.

CON SUITE: By popular demand, the Con Suite will be open extended hours, starting at 3 PM on Friday. All are welcome. For those of you who require more than mere munchies, there is a very good restaurant in the con hotel and many more are nearby, including excellent Japanese, British, and other cuisines.

VOLUNTEERS: If you'd like to lend a hand "behind the scenes" at Tropicon III, please let us know. With your help, we can make this the best Tropicon ever!



