

**Richard S. Russell**  
2621 Kendall Av.  
Madison, WI, 53705-3735

608+233-0326

1987 January 31

Laura Spiess  
4224 W. Juneau Av. #4  
Milwaukee, WI, 53208

### **Greetings!**

I've agreed to organize 1 of the panels for WisCon 11 (1987 Feb. 20-22 at the Concourse Hotel), and you have kindly agreed to be on it. WisCon and I thank you for your participation. The purpose of this letter is to let you know a little bit more about the panel in advance of the convention.

### **A Brief Description**

The description of the panel which will appear in the WisCon 11 program book will probably bear a strong resemblance to the following rough draft that I submitted to the PB editor (and, with any sort of luck, the panel will bear some sort of resemblance to the description):

**Cheating the Reader.** Moderator: Richard S. Russell; Panelists: Phil Davenport, Laura Spiess, Peter Winz; Time: 55 min.; handouts. The panelists will contend that readers have certain reasonable expectations when they pick up a new book, and that books which fail to meet those expectations have cheated the reader. Examples include conclusionless books, inadequately researched books, and remakes.

### **Ambience**

I've found that panels, once they get rolling, tend to take on a life of their own, and nobody ever gets unduly concerned if they don't match the PB descriptions all that closely. It's more important to make the panel lively and interesting than to have it meet some pre-established expectation.

For whatever it's worth, I'm a strong believer in the value of audience participation, and the audiences at WisCon are usually more than happy to chime in at the least provocation.

## Handouts

I'm planning on distributing the enclosed handouts at the panel. I thought you'd like to get an advance look at them.

You are certainly welcome to distribute materials which you deem appropriate to the panel, tho you must be personally responsible for acquiring and paying for them and transporting them to WisCon.

## Green Room

WisCon has a "green room", a place set aside for panelists to gather in advance of their events, meet each other, compare notes, plan tactics (speaking order, length of presentations, etc.), relax, drink coffee, and draw a deep breath before going on. I encourage you to take advantage of the green room prior to our panel. I'll be there. (Check the Pocket Program, which you will receive upon your arrival at WisCon, for the location of the green room and the time of the panel.)

Thank you!

*Richard S. Russell*

## CHEATING THE READER

### Conclusionless Books

Burroughs, Edgar Rice, *Gods of Mars*, 1918, McClurg  
Cherryh, C. J., *Chanur's Venture*, 1984, DAW  
Cherryh, C. J., *The Kif Strike Back*, 1985, DAW  
Dickson, Gordon R., *Home from the Shore*, 1978, Sunridge  
Elgin, Suzette Haden, *The Grand Jubilee*, 1981, Doubleday  
Farmer, Philip Jose, *The Dark Design*, 1977, Berkley  
McCaffrey, Anne, *Dinosaur Planet*, 1978, Del Rey  
Rice, Anne, *The Vampire Lestat*, 1985, Ballantine  
Wolfe, Gene, *The Shadow of the Torturer*, 1980, Timescape  
Zelazny, Roger, *Trumps of Doom*, 1985, Arbor House

*Wolfe, Gene: Soldier of the Mists*

### Remakes

Bradley, Marion Zimmer, *The Sword of Aldones*, 1962, Ace;  
and *Sharra's Exile*, 1981, DAW  
Clarke, Arthur C., *Against the Fall of Night*, 1953, Gnome;  
and *The City and the Stars*, 1956, Signet  
Laumer, Keith, "Test to Destruction";  
and *The Ultimax Man*, 1978, Berkley  
Pournelle, Jerry, *A Spaceship for the King*, 1973, DAW;  
and *King David's Spaceship*, 1980, Timescape

### Switcheroos

X Dickson, Gordon R., *Time Storm*, 1977, Bantam  
X Heinlein, Robert A., *Glory Road*, 1963, Berkley  
X Heinlein, Robert A., *The Number of the Beast*, 1980, Ballantine

*THE STARRY KIFT*

### Beginningless Books

Bear, Greg, *The Serpent Mage*, 1986, Berkley

### Inadequately Researched Books

Elgin, Suzette Haden, *Native Tongue*, 1984, DAW  
McCaffrey, Anne, *Moreta: Dragonlady of Pern*, 1983, Del Rey

*Harry Harrison: The West of Eden*

### Reader's Aids Arrive Too Late

Cherryh, C. J., *Hunter of Worlds*, 1977, DAW (glossary)  
Herbert, Frank, *Dune*, 1965, Chilton (map)

This list was first assembled for a panel of the same name at WisCon 11, 1987 Feb. 20-22. It is being continued as a public service to SF fans. If you have a nominee for the above list -- or for a new category -- please send it to Richard S. Russell, c/o SF<sup>3</sup>, Box 1624, Madison, WI, 53701-1624.

*Publisher Teasers -  
McCaffrey/Drayson*

CHEATING THE READER  
INTRO TO AUTHOR / AUTHOR'S NOTES  
ST BOOKS

TEASER FOR NEXT BOOK IN SERIES  
AT END OF BOOK

McCaffery / Dragonsong

TOO MUCH OF MADE-UP FOREIGN LANGUAGE  
CAST OF CHARACTERS

UNESSECARY MAPS

HARRY HARRISON - EAST OF EDEN  
CLAIMED EXPERT CONSULTATION BUT STORY IMPROBABLE

BAD SCIENCE

QUOTING BOOKS / MUSIC FROM 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY  
GO CLASSICS 300 years later

AUTHORS WHO CREATE GREAT POETS + THEM QUOTE  
EXTENSIVELY - OF COURSE THE AUTHORS OWN MEDIOCRE