

Mad Moose Gazette

WisCon 12 February 19, 1988 Jeanne Gomoll, editor with lots of other people helping #1

Welcome to the first issue of WisCon 12's newsletter, the *Mad Moose Gazette*. Contained in this issue you should find a list of changes for program items. Mark these changes on your pocket program book so as not to miss an event you've been waiting all your life to see. You're welcome. We do try to make your life happier. Also, you will find other things in this zine. To some extent, what you find will be a result of what you put into your newsletter, at least it will in the second issue (scheduled out Saturday night). If you submit articles, news items, or letters of comment, *MMG* will resemble what we call a *FANZINE*. If you do not care to participate in its production, the second issue may very well resemble the *Wisconsin State Journal*, and you wouldn't want that to happen would you? It's up to you: straight, misspelled news...or lively, fannish literature. So drop your contributions off in Room 200, or drop yourself by and sit down at a typewriter or drawing tablet and create your contribution on the spot! Let's pub an ish! As it were.

Video BY REQUEST

You, yes you, can request a film you'd like to watch in the video room. There are two (2) catches to this incredible offer.

(1) The time slot for "Videos by request" is set at the slightly unusual hours of 2 am - 4 am.

(2) The good news, however is that you make your choices from the vast SF³ library, which includes the following videos:

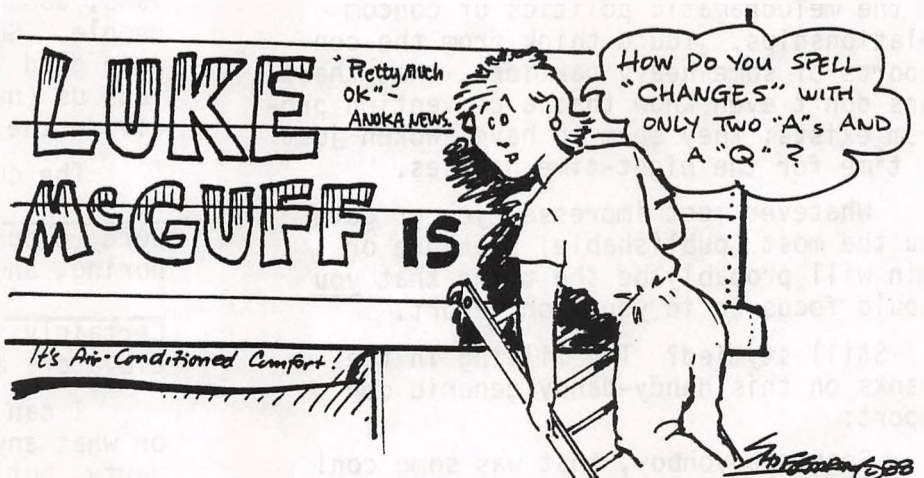
Alien
Aliens
The Day the Earth Stood Still
Fantastic Planet
Horror Hotel
Invasion of the Bodysnatchers (original)
Little Shop of Horrors (original)
Metropolis
Night of the Living Dead
Spooks Run Wild
The Thing (from Another World)

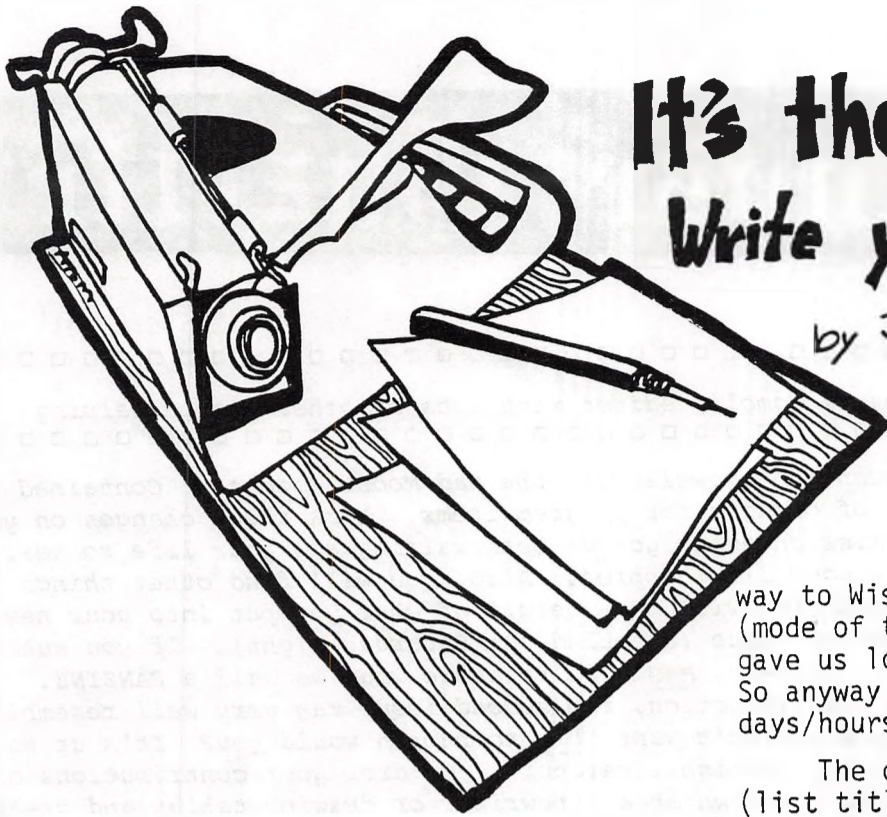
To place your votes, just write legibly on a piece of paper of your choice, and leave it (the piece of paper that is) with an attendant in the video room (Seminole). In case of a tie vote between video votes, the media department head will exercise his dictatorial nature and cast the deciding vote.

Changes KEEP ON CHANGING

Ellen Kozak, Milwaukee SF writer, will participate in two panel discussions, "Future Histories: How and Why" (#17), and "What's New in Alternative History" (#56). Victor Raymond has also joined program #56. Due to impending professional deadlines, Minneapolis artist Ken Fletcher will not be at WisCon. Taking his place on "The Graphic Novel: Haven't We Seen This Dark Knight Before?" (#19) is Maggie Thompson, co-editor of *COMICS BUYERS GUIDE*. Kim Nash will replace Ken on "The Works of Philip K. Dick" (#50). Dave Benton, guitar player for rock 'n roll bands Spooner, and Waterdogs, will join Emma Bull, George R. R. Martin and Luke McGuff on the music and SF program, "Music in a Future Key" (#32).

Author readings will be held in the bar (designated Pilsner Pub on your pocket program). A schedule will be posted at the "garden" entrance to the pub. Author autographing will take place in the large foyer outside the Walnut Grove, Maple Bluff and Fair Oaks rooms. A schedule will be posted in that area beginning Saturday morning.





It's the **LAW!**

Write your con report

by Jeanne Gomoll

Did you realize that every person who attends WisCon is required by fannish law to write a **convention report** about their experience? You say you haven't ever heard of that law before? Well we haven't exactly enforced it strictly up till now, but it's been 12 years now, and we think that's enough of a grace period. From now on you must describe your experiences at the convention and commit that description to paper. You will not be absolutely required to publish it (though you will receive extra points for doing so), but you must submit your con report to a fanzine or include it in an apazine. Any fan who neglects this duty will be sentenced to lingering guilt.

Perhaps you'd like some help? What should you put into a con report you ask? Well, the main thing is that there aren't any real rules for writing a con report. For instance, some people write their con reports about how they got there, and never do manage to get there in the actual reports because the events of the trip are so entertaining. Others focus on just one episode of the convention, sometimes because they've forgotten what happened during all the other times. Some people avoid the problem of fun-soaked memories all together and simply make up the whole thing. Some fans talk about the programming and hotel relations. Others dwell upon the melodramatic politics of concom relationships. You'd think from the con-reports of some heavy partiers, that these fans don't even know that a convention program exists; they seem to have awoken just in time for the night-time parties.

Whatever most impressed you or gave you the most (publishable) pleasure or pain will probably be the thing that you should focus on in your con report.

Still stymied? Try filling in the blanks on this handy-dandy generic con report:

Goshwowboyohboy, that was **some** con!

I can't begin to tell you about all the incredible adventures we had on the

way to WisCon, but to begin with the (mode of transport) _____ gave us lots of trouble. It _____. So anyway we got to the con (number) _____ days/hours late.

The only programming I attended was (list titles) _____. _____ was the best. I got into a great discussion with (name of panelist) afterward and we talked about _____. I'm thinking about writing a fanzine article about it.

There was so much going on and the parties were so great that I hardly slept a wink. In fact, by the end of the con, it turned out that I only slept (number) _____ hours. Boy was I burnt out by Sunday!!

These are the parties I went to Friday and Saturday night _____.

There was a great deal of food and liquid refreshment and much of it was consumed by your's truly. Boy was I burnt out by Sunday!

Lots of people talked to me at the parties, including Big Names like (drop names here:) _____.

But I think I enjoyed my conversation with _____ the most. In fact this person and I may end up (choose one) co-editors/correspondants/married/masquerade partners by next WisCon.

The best meal of the convention was the one we ate at (name restaurant or food function:) _____. I ate with a small, intimate group of fans, about (number of dozens:) _____ people. Gosh, I bet the waitpersons were glad to see the last of us! It took us (number:) _____ minutes to divide the bill.

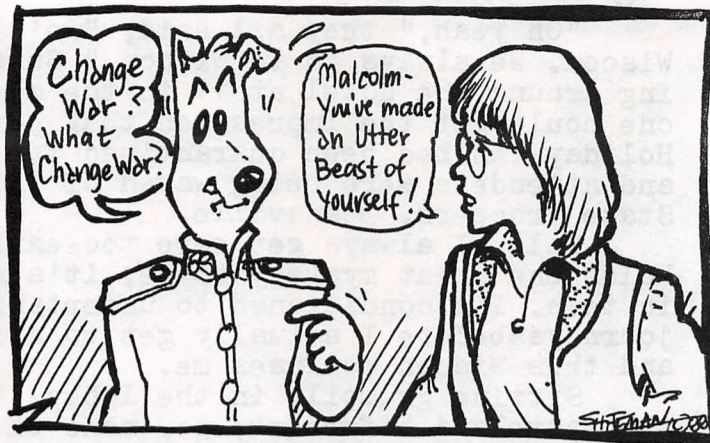
The concom was (adjective here:) _____ because the panels were (choose one:) good/on time/different/boring, and the hotel was (adverb here:) _____ than the Brighton Metropole. Certainly there was no problem with elevators at this convention.

I can hardly remember who attended or what anybody said at the dead dog party, but I'm sure it was great. Now I can't wait till next year's WisCon. I plan (choose one:) to/not to attend.

continued →

THE LAW, continued

Do you really want to turn out such a boring, carboncopy conreport just like the one everyone else is going to write? No, I didn't think so. Ignore this fill-in-the-blank generic con report, and write your own. Skip descriptions of the things that you think "are supposed" to be described because that's what is "supposed" to be included in every con report. Remember there are no rules— (Other than the one that requires you to write a con report, of course). And tell the story of the part you liked the best.



Alledged Notorious SMOEs under investigation!

The Fannish Board of Inquiry will be holding an inquiry in Room 298 Saturday into the activities of a certain Greg Rihn and Jim Rittenhouse. It is urgent that anyone wishing to testify please attend.

The time of the inquiry will be posted throughout the convention by early Saturday. The FBI hearing will take place in the evening. We are in urgent need of testimony from anyone or anything willing (or stupid enough) to come forward and perform this important and necessary public duty. Please check Registration, and other areas, for further information -

FBI Information Officer

MY FIRST TIME by Bill Bodden



I came to WisCon 12 with some trepedation. I had never before been on a panel, and this year I was slated for three. I've spoken in public before, but only as the announcer of rules at a local theater's presentation of the Rocky Horror Picture Show. That, however, is quite a different thing, because generally, I tell sex-crazed teenagers what they cannot do in the theater, or occassionally boot someone out of the building. This time, at WisCon, would be my first experience speaking in front of "polite society."

It all turned out to be a classic case of making much ado about nothing. The panel went well, particularly due to the helpful prodding of Jeanne Gomoll, Hope Kiefer, and Julie Shivers. The title was "Godzilla vs. the Ninja Death Squad," and involved a discussion of the film program presented at this year's WisCon. As the panel progressed, it became more like a conversation than a stuffy, I-know-it-all-so-you'd-better-listen type of panel. I wouldn't have volunteered for it normally, but I had to be there since I was the person who had chosen the films.

All things considered, I would have to say that it was a worthwhile effort, but now my fifteen minutes of fame are over, so you won't be hearing from me ever again.

PARATIME PARADIGM

some mild mischief on the alternate alternative history panels...by Stu "Common History Point" Shiffman of that ilk.

Well, you might well ask, why does a convention--even one so decidedly sercon as this--so petite and cuddly--need to have two items on the subject of alternate or divergent history? Or l'uchronie, as we urbane cosmopolitan types say. Heck and pshaw, I dunno...they just do. Good Old Phil Kaveny, satrap of this year's "What's New in Alternative History" panel, is a Big Man and we could deny him nothing. What's a guy to do? So Phil has his panel, where many good and important points will be made in excruciating detail on the whys and wherefores and whithers of the historical divergent sub-genre. Will it be politically correct? You can bet on it... I'm sure I'd be there in the audience if I hadn't been scheduled on something opposite it.

Andy Hooper, another Big Man, is our Fearless Leader of the Insurgents on the panel on "Classics of Alternative History"...or "Thirty Seconds Over Cibola" as it's known to us fun-loving cogniscenti. While well-grounded in the essentials of the sub-genre, and grokking its fullness, we are also bold explorers in the Unknown (or even F&SF)! We band of slans are, in Reality, the Plucky and Resourceful Brainstormers In Paratime! As seen on TV! Yes, from out of the 33-and-a-third Chorp Dimension, we are come to save your last shreds of goshwow fannish enthusiasm for the wonderous world of What If. Do you want to know what Cleopatra said when the brave Aegyptian troops marched through Rome? Holy Saint Paradox, so do we!

NEW COKE: "What's New in Alternative History". Saturday 9pm Foxridge.

COKE CLASSIC: "Thirty Seconds Over Cibola". Saturday 11am Fair Oaks

CHERRY SEVEN-UP: "Mad Victorian Fantasies" The steam-punk panel. Sat. 1pm in Maple Bluff. related material.

JOLT COLA: "The Graphic Novel: Haven't We Seen This Dark Knight Before?" Saturday 4pm Maple Bluff. Will probably mention Watchmen.

Doin' That Hallyway Boogie Again

by Andy Hooper!

"Oh yeah," they all said, "we'll be at Wiscon. We always go to Wiscon." Sure. Wandering around the hotel at 11 in the morning, one could get the impression that perhaps the Holiday Inn had been quarantized for Anthrax, and attendees were being waved of the site by State Troopers. Deadsville.

Well, I always get here too early. Wiscon holds one great mystery to me; it's right here in town. I'm conditioned to undertaking epic journeys before I actually get to a convention and thus Wiscon confuses me.

Sitting grumpily in the lobby, I survey the wasteland before me; no, none of my friends have shown up. I'm forced to carry on conversation with some fellow here to sell watchbands at a trade show, before Cathy Burnett shows up to save me. And then we're off on the grand tour of the convention hallways with perhaps the green room in mind. I have business there with Spike, the point guard of programming.

I say to Cathy, "Let's run down this way, I haven't seen this part of the con yet." And as we near the huckster room, Stu Shiffman, that debonair star of stage and screen, steps out into our path. A dilemma. I want to hang around with Stu, but I must speak to Cathy about our panel on SteamPunks; Ghu knows, I'll probably never see her again, if I let this chance pass by.

With daring and grace that put the lie to my advanced years, I spin the both of them to port, stepping neatly through the Pool Terrace door. "Stu this is Cathy Cathy this is Stu Have you read any Sherlockiana As I think that's where I want to start things off Oh look there a pinball machine."

"And a Pool table," adds Cathy.

Looking about, I notice that I have lost Stu on the Hi-G turn into the room. But as we make our way to the shallow end of the room, He re-emerges from the other doorway. "Yeah," he says, "they had a fandom all there own back then."

"After the war. William S. Baring-Gould, and that whole mob, the forties, the fifties, do ya wanna shoot some pool?" I intone.

Cathy asks, "Is this some of that Alternative history stuff, or are you guys on drugs?"

"No, no, dead serious. Do you have any quarters?"

We slip the silver darlings into the slot, and the balls fall, with an appalling clatter in the echoing space. I let Stu break. A small crowd begins to collect, including a brown and white dog that seems to have wandered out of a DeSica film.

"Some of the material I want to cover in the panel," I say, stroking the 9-ball into the side pocket, "has to do with the overall meaning of SteamPunk and parenthetically the meaning of Cyberpunk as well."

"Victorian values?" asks Stu, pushing his balls aimlessly around the table. "Your shot."

"Yeah, something like that. Something about it's being a preserve for young male wirters who don't want to have to write about progressive, egalitarian societies."

"I can comment on that at length," says Cathy. "Sounds like fun."

I let my concentration waver for a moment; the most difficult part of the negotiations are past. Trying to bash the 11 ball off three rails, I strike a little too hard; the cueball describes a low arc away from the table, bounces once, and goes Be-loit!, into the pool.



MESSAGE FROM THE CO-ORDINATOR (with subtext)

Hello and welcome to WisCon 12! (Thank god you came! As coordinator I was hoping the con wouldn't go bankrupt.) I feel confident that things will all take place according to plan at this point (my fingers are crossed and I'm holding my breath and trying to look cool) so you can trust your Pocket Programs and Program Books. (It's thier fault if there's a problem from now on.) That is as ammended by your Mad Moose Gazette here and the one you will see tomorrow --well maybe not exactly according to plan. (Don't try to pin me down. Everything's dynamic.) I'm promising myself a good time and I hope you'll have one too. As a favor to me, I hope that you will also fill out your WisCon 12 Surveys (That way I can ask for a raise.) and attend the WisCon Wrap-up panel on Sunday. We can use your help (oh boy do we need help!) and input. Thanks and have a good convention! (really!)

--Pete Winz, WisCon 12 coordinator (subtext by anonymous typist)

There is much rejoicing. The ball rolls down into the deep end. The little dog barks and leaps and our heels. Jeff Ford strips to the waist, and plunges after the ball, which is completely unnecessary; There is a wicked hook-like apparatus, with which I am in the process of extricating the thing.

We get the ball back; but the news spreads like wildfire through the convention; I am an instant laughing stock again. No one mentions a thing as Stu scratches on the 8-ball and I win the game. Onward to the green room.

But here is Bill Hoffman, reading a very thick volume of Lovecraft's collected letters, and we undertake a brief consideration of HPL as a great Apa-Hack, in fact one of the prototypes of the field. Then we sing "My Darling Clementine" to the tune of "Freunde Schoenen Gotterfunken," and I am again on my way to the Green room.

But again I am waylaid, this time by Jerry Kaufman, who tells me, "Hey. There's a box of good fanzine's under X's table in the Huckster room, and she's lettin' em go cheap. Old Rataplans and stuff." So I have to run back down the hall, into the huckster room, where I sit on the coldest concrete floor in the Tri-State Area, and rummage through the lovely old things. I spend too much money.

Zang! Nothing can stop me now, as I haul on by registration listening to the dialogue as I roll past:

"Well, I'm sure I sent it in...I'm sometimes known as Fathead Foamswallower, is it under that name?"

"Yes, I heard about the hotel thing... they're calling it "NaziCon 1" in Chicago..."

"Wow!"

"Rilly!"

"Completely Gnarly Hall Costume!"

"Thanks a lot. I made it myself, with aluminum pull-tabs, y'know?"

The green room is in sight! I can see Spike in the room itself, looking beckoningly toward me. People must be trying to change their program times, because she has that mad gleam in her eye...

But again I'm swept by. Mike DuCharme drags me into Con Hq with him, demanding to know what I want to do with all these signs -- "These things we worked on for hours and hours last week" -- for the Autographing. My sister Margaret is there, lashing some scruffy people into rolling Beer Kegs up a steep grade to the ConSuite...she has a real gift for finding these people. There. Put them there. Now. Can I go now?

At last, I step into the comfortably tacky little room, where Spike is quietly gnawing off her left foot. "Hi," she says, "Anything going on out there?"

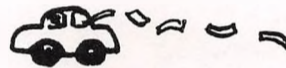
"No," I reply, "It's too early still. Nothing going on."

RESTAURANT INFORMATION

Yes, we're holding our convention in the middle of nowhere. But don't despair, there is hope yet. There is even Hope. Four Pizza places deliver to the hotel: Rocky Rococo (221-3818) Pizza Pit (222-4145), Dominos (221-9666), and Pizza Oven (222-8722). Pizza Oven delivers more than just pizza! They have chicken, shrimp, fish, subs, fries, and more. Call Pizza Oven and your stomach just might thank you. You can find coupons for the Pizza Oven on the information table

For more information on restaurants, telephone numbers, and locations, pick up a copy of the Restaurant Guide from the information table or the freebie table.

Just keep in mind that the person responsible for that list, one Hope Kiefer, likes Pepsi Cola better than Coke.



FICTION IN TRANSIT

Amazingly, Suzette Haden Elgin (who is a past GoH of several WisCons) wrote a story on the way up to WisCon 12. She didn't write on her lap in the car, however (she urges me not to exaggerate on this count). But she did complete it during the trip. I imagine her bending over a pad of paper at Perkins, maybe, a cup of coffee steaming next to her pen.

In any case, she finished the story and titled it "Tornado," and will be reading it aloud at noon on Saturday. Then she will donate it to SF³ and the manuscript will be auctioned off during the art auction for the benefit of the Madison group and the fine projects it sponsors.



Contributors to the Mad Moose Gazette fanzine were (besides a real wild and crazy bunch): Jeanne Gomoll, Stu Shiffman, Andy Hooper, Bill Bodden, Pete Winz, Hope Kiefer, John Montgomery, and some guy in a hat who didn't want to give his name.

