

May 24-27, 1996

WisCon 20

P R O G R E S S R E P O R T

WELCOME!

So you're planning to attend WisCon 20, you've sent in your registration, and now all that's left is to show up and enjoy the weekend, right?

Well, we expect that you may have some questions about the convention, about Madison, about transportation, about lots of things. Here is all the information you need! Maybe we've forgotten to include something important (and we haven't answered the big questions like What does It all mean? and Where do all the missing socks go?) so please contact the Concom if you're still looking for answers. See you at WisCon!

Schedule of Events

Opening ceremonies start at 8 pm Friday night. The ceremonies will be fun and lively in the best fannish tradition, welcoming the guests of honor and officially kicking off the weekend, kidding everyone involved in the process (including the scriptwriters!).

Guest of Honor **Ursula K. Le Guin** will be feted at a special event on Saturday morning at 11 am.

Sunday night is Tiptree Awards night. The **hors d'oeuvres reception** will be held from 4 to 5 pm. All WisCon members are invited to come meet the winners and the judges, but you must order a ticket. If you haven't already made a reservation

when you sent in your registration, you can order a ticket now by sending \$10 per person and a note confirming that you are ordering Tiptree tickets to the WisCon address.

Tickets may be available for purchase at the con, but we urge you to order them now.

The **Tiptree Award presentation** ceremony is open to everyone, and will follow the reception, starting at 5:30 pm.

The traditional **Dead Dog Party** will also serve as our Memorial Day picnic. Stick around on Monday to join the WisCon staff on the Memorial Union Terrace for a chance

to unwind after the con. Relaxing will begin at about 3 pm and will last until we drop.

The Madison **Farmer's Market** isn't an official WisCon event, but you should definitely add this to your schedule. On Saturday mornings in the summer months, the Capitol Square becomes a fresh-air market for local produce and other tasty food items. You'll find pastries, coffee, cheese (of course!), apple cider, and more for breakfast.

Programming

Programming is scheduled to run from:

6 pm to 1 am on Friday night

10 am to 1 am on Saturday and Sunday

10 am to 3 pm on Monday.

There will be **filking** on all three nights, a **drumming circle**, an **open mike poetry reading**, and an **open mike fan reading**. We'd like to make it possible to do more formal artistic presentations: if you're interested in singing, playing music, dancing, showing slides, or anything that can be done in a programming room, let us know.

The Tiptree Winners!

WisCon 20 is extraordinarily proud to host the fifth annual James Tiptree, Jr. Awards. The award will be presented to **Elizabeth Hand** for *Waking The Moon* and **Theodore Roszak** for *The Memoirs of Elizabeth Frankenstein*. The judges also rec-

Contacting WisCon

phone: 608-233-8850

wiscon.concom@cs.wisc.edu

http://www.cs.wisc.edu/wiscon/

WisCon 20, P.O. Box 1624

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commend the following shortlist: *Food Man* by Lisa Tuttle, *Little Sisters of the Apocalypse* by Kit Reed, "And Salome Danced" by Kelley Eskridge (in *Little Deaths*, edited by Ellen Datlow), and *The Armless Maiden* edited by Terri Windling.

Complete bibliographic information on these works, and a fuller discussion of the Tiptree Award past and present, will be published in the WisCon 20 souvenir book.

Retrospective Tiptree Award

To celebrate the Tiptree's fifth anniversary, Karen Joy Fowler and Pat Murphy, with the authority vested in them as Founding Mothers™ of the award, decided to create a list of stories and novels that might have won the Tiptree Award, back before the Tiptree Award existed. Pat says that they "colluded in this endeavor with Debbie Notkin, the illustrious chair of the first Tiptree Award jury."

Nominations were made by the past Tiptree judges. Five works by three authors clearly emerged at the top of the list: *The Left Hand of Darkness*, by **Ursula K. Le Guin**, *Motherlines* and *Walk to the End of the World* by **Suzy McKee Charnas**, and *We Who Are About To...* and *The Female Man* by **Joanna Russ**. Look for a complete summary of the Retrospective Tiptree Award, with a long list of other works, in the WisCon souvenir book.

Auction and Bake Sale

The Tiptree Award raises funds through both auctions and bake sales. You can help support the awards before the convention by donating items for sale. Of course, you can also participate by bidding on auction items (unfortunately, we can't take credit cards at the con).

Many of the writers included in the *Women of Wonder* anthology, edited by Pamela Sargent will be attending WisCon (Eleanor Arnason, Suzy McKee Charnas, Karen Joy Fowler, Nancy Kress, Ursula K. Le Guin, Rosealeen Love, Katherine MacLean, Judith Merrill, Judith Moffett, Pat Murphy, Rebecca Ore, Joan D. Vinge, Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, and others still making arrangements). A Room of One's Own (317 W. Johnson—a short walk from the Concourse; 608-257-7888) will hold a **reception and signing** in honor of the anthology on Thursday evening before WisCon (May 23). Everyone is welcome!

Expected to attend: Eleanor Arnason · Catherine Asaro · Brian Attebery · Mary Kenny Badami · Freddie Baer · Wilhelmina Baird · Marleen Barr · Martha Bartter · Ruth Berman
 Maya Kaathryn Bohnhoff · Lois McMaster Bujold · Avedon Carol · Suzy McKee Charnas · Bryan Cholfin · Flynn Connolly · Samuel Delany · Beverly DeWeese · Candace Jane Dorsey
 L. Timmel Duchamp · Suzette Haden Elgin · Kandis Elliot · M.J. Eng · Kelley Eskridge · Karen Joy Fowler · Valerie Freirich · Jim Frenkel · Greer Ilene Gilman · Colin Greenland
 Nicola Griffith · Eileen Gunn · Meg Hamel · Jojet Harper · David Hartwell · Gilbert Herdt · Patricia C. Hodgell · Rachel Holmen · Steven Vincent Johnson · Gwyneth Jones · Sylvia Kello

Auction

The deadline for arranging to contribute material to the **Tiptree Auction** is May 1, 1996. We are most interested in materials directly related to James Tiptree, Jr., Ursula K. Le Guin, Judith Merrill, and high-quality, hand-crafted, or unique goods.

Do not send items to WisCon at this time. Instead, send a description of the item containing your Name, Address, Phone, Fax, E-mail Address, a short (25- to 50-word) description of the item, and your best estimate of the market value.

Fill out one page for each item and send to: Scott Custis, c/o WisCon, P.O. Box 1624, Madison, WI 53701, or to "artbrau@aol.com" with the subject line TIPTREE AUCTION ITEM.

We will contact you and give you instructions on how to get your material to the convention. We cannot accept items for auction after the May 1 deadline, so please do not send or bring items to WisCon for the auction if you did not contact us before May 1.

Bake Sale

What better way to sponsor the Tiptrees? If you'd like to prepare some **baked goods** or other treats for the bake sale, please call the WisCon Hotline (608-233-8850) to get information on where to bring goodies. And come to WisCon ready to munch! (See "Fitness Center," below.)

Child Care

We are pleased to have **professional child care providers** hired to give daytime child care for infants and toddlers whose parents or guardians register them in advance. This service is subsidized by WisCon, and made possible by the large attendance of WisCon 20.

Parents or guardians must register for child care in advance! We cannot promise child care services to members who do not contact us in advance because we need advance notice to arrange enough providers and space. If you can use child care and you do not find a Child Care Registration Form enclosed with this Progress Report, please contact WisCon.

Child care will be open Friday, 4 pm-8 pm; Saturday, 9 am-7 pm; Sunday, 9 am-7 pm; Monday, 10 am-1 pm. Your child can be in child care any time the room is open, as long as the number of children is within the room's capacity and the legal limits of the providers (we'll offer advance sign-up at the convention for the busy periods, so you can be sure your child will have space when you need it).

Parents or guardians will be responsible for removing their children from the child care room for meals, or for providing bottles for infants. Snacks will be available in the child care room. WisCon will require that parents or guardians sign a release form to waive responsibility from SF³, the hotel, and the child care providers in case of accident. (This is a standard day care requirement in Wisconsin.)

Child Care memberships are \$25 per child, in advance only, by the preregistration deadline of May 1, 1996. Child care space will be filled on first-come, first-serve basis. We will not sell Child Care memberships at the door.

A friend wants to register? The membership rate is \$35 until May 10. Please contact WisCon for a registration form!

Hotel Information

The Concourse (1 W. Dayton, Madison, WI 53703; 1-800-356-8293 or 608-257-6000) is the main convention hotel. The room rate is \$75 for up to four people. Check-in time is 3 pm; check-out is 12 noon. The room block is filling fast, so please make your reservations (mention "WisCon 20, 1996" when you call) as soon as possible! The hotel block will closed on May 1. The Concourse does have a **swimming pool** (open to 1 am!) so bring your suit. There is also a whirlpool, steam room, massage/tanning room, games arcade, and a fitness center (see "Tiptree Bake Sale," above).

The hotel has one bar (called "The Bar") and two restaurants. The Dayton Street Café and Bakery is open from 6:30 am to 2 pm serving reasonably priced breakfast and lunch. The menu changes over to lunch at 11 am. The Bistro is an upscale dining room with prices for entrées starting at \$12.50. It is open from 5 pm to 10 pm. There are lots of other places to eat within easy walking distance of the Concourse, including a bazillion **espresso** joints and two good **brewpubs**; a printed **restaurant guide** is planned for the con (<http://infi.net/madison/dining/>).

We also have a 25-room block at the **Inn on the Park**, just two blocks away from the Concourse across the Capitol Square (22 S. Carroll St., Madison, WI 53703; 800-279-8811 or 608-257-8811). Rooms are also \$75. Rooms with attached suites for parties are available at \$122 per night. Contact the hotel for information.

A ten-room block has been reserved at the **Edgewater** (666 Wisconsin Ave., Madison, WI; 800-922-5512 or 608-256-9071). Rooms are \$95 per night.

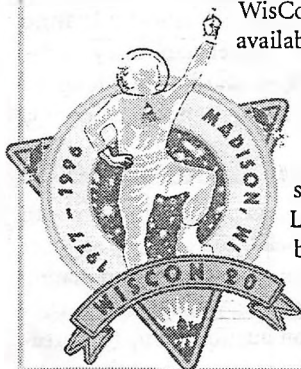
Get a WisCon T-shirt!

The official WisCon 20 t-shirt portrays one of Ursula Le Guin's Hainish Envoys wearing an ansible logo upon her chest. Set against a field of distant galaxies, the image is printed on deep purple, 100% cotton Beefy-T shirts, using green, peach, white, and lavender inks.

The t-shirt costs \$13. You may order one or more shirts ahead of time and assure yourself of the sizes you prefer, or you can wait until

WisCon and buy one at the convention. Shirts available at the con will, however, be limited in quantity and sizes. Only the most popular sizes, Large and X-Large will be available on the weekend of the convention.

If you order ahead of time you may specify any size. The XX-Large and XXX-Large shirts are only available in a 50/50 blend and cost an extra \$2 per shirt. We will have your special-order shirts made in time for the convention and they will be waiting for you in the Showcase room.



All advance orders for WisCon 20 t-shirts must be received by May 1, 1996, or we won't be able to provide your size. Checks received after that date will be returned. Send your order in today to:

WisCon 20 · P.O. Box 1624 · Madison, WI 53701-1624.

(facsimiles are fine if you don't want to rip)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please send me _____ t-shirts.

No. of t-shirts @ \$13 each: Youth S ___ M ___ L ___

Adult S (34-36) ___ M (38-40) ___ L (42-44) ___ XL (46-48) ___

No. of t-shirts @ \$15 each: XXL (50-52) ___ XXXL (54-56) ___

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____.

Please contact WisCon if you are told there are no more rooms available at the three hotels listed above.

Parking

Free underground parking is available to all registered guests. You can unload in the hotel parking garage and take the elevators up to the lobby. Clearance in this ramp is low! Additional parking for vans and other vehicles is available in the public parking ramp a half block down Dayton St. at Carroll St.

Getting to Madison

By Air

This is easy, since Madison has only one airport. There has been no discount arranged for air travel to WisCon. Commercial airlines serving Madison are American, Delta/ComAir, Midwest Express, Northwest, TWA, United, and Skyway. Ask your travel agent whether Midwest Express has flights from your airport—it's a smaller company that provides excellent, comfortable service.

Flights into Milwaukee (90 miles away) or Chicago (150 miles away) are often much cheaper, but you'll need to take a bus into Madison. (See "By Bus" below.)

The **Madison airport** is small, with eight gates plus a commuter gate for the puddle-jumpers. There are two baggage claim carousels right next to each other. Outside the baggage claim area and slightly to the right is the taxi rank. See the section below ("Getting Around Madison: Cabs") for, you guessed it, information on cabs.

By Bus

Van Galder (800-747-0994) runs regular service from Chicago's O'Hare Airport and from the Chicago Amtrak station to the Memorial Union in Madison (which is about 10 blocks from the Concourse Hotel). The bus also stops along the way in Rockford, Ill., Beloit, Wis., and Janesville, Wis. Tickets can be purchased from the bus driver.

Badger Coaches (608-255-6771) make trips from the Milwaukee airport (Mitchell Field) and Madison, dropping off at both the Memorial Union and the Badger Bus Depot.

Once at the Union you may call the Concourse to catch a ride on the hotel's courtesy shuttle (257-6000). This service is usually only for guests arriving at the airport, but they will pick you up if they are not busy. If you feel like walking one mile up State Street to the hotel, follow the map on the next page.

By Car

In Wisconsin there are only two seasons: winter and road construction. Over Memorial Day weekend (which can still fall during "winter") the exit from Hwy 90 onto Hwy 30

If you arrive by plane and are staying at the Concourse, use the express courtesy phone in the airport baggage claim area to call for the **hotel's courtesy shuttle**. Allow 15 to 20 minutes for it to arrive; meet the shuttle directly outside the baggage claim. Runs from 7 am to 11 pm.

west will be closed. Travelers arriving from Chicago will need to follow alternate routes.

From **Chicago**: north on Hwy 90 to Hwy 12/18 West (also called the "Beltline"). Take the John Nolan Drive exit north. Stay on John Nolan—you'll get a nice view of the skyline and eventually pass underneath the new **Frank Lloyd Wright Convention Center**. At the first traffic light after the Center, continue straight through the light onto Blair (look at the street map on the next page). After two blocks turn left onto East Washington Ave....

From **Minneapolis**: south on Hwy 90/94 to Hwy 151 South, which becomes East Washington Ave....

From **Milwaukee**: west on Hwy 94 to Hwy 30 West. Follow signs for Hwy 151 South/Capitol/Campus (it's a tight right-hand exit off Hwy 30). Hwy 151 South becomes East Washington Ave....

From **Iowa**: East on Hwy 151 to Hwy 12/18 East (also called the "Beltline"). Take the John Nolan Drive exit north. Stay on John Nolan—you'll get a nice view of the skyline and eventually pass underneath the new Frank Lloyd Wright Convention Center. At the first traffic light after the Center, continue straight through the light onto Blair (look at the street map on the next page). After two blocks turn left onto East Washington Ave....

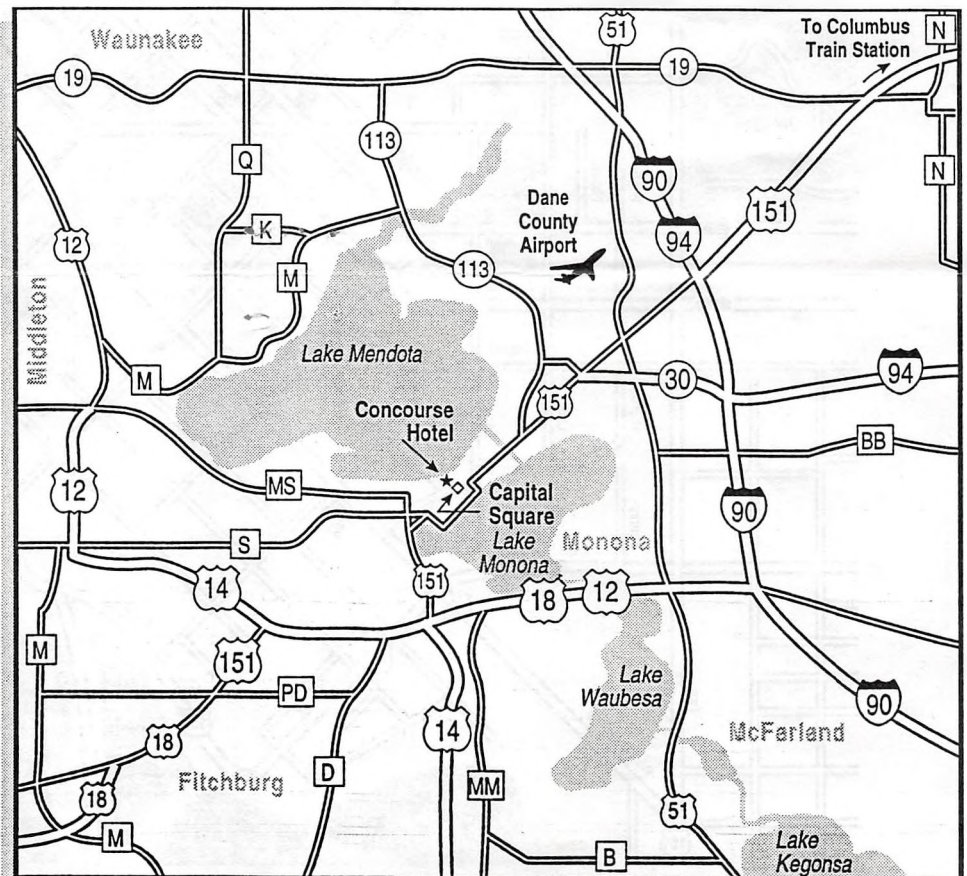
...head down East Washington Ave. toward the Capitol building. Admire the skyline. Look at downtown map on previous page. Two blocks before the Capitol Square turn right on Webster St., after two blocks turn left at traffic light onto Dayton St. (90° angle to Webster; don't take Hamilton which is a 45° angle to Webster); the Concourse is on your left after two blocks, between Wisconsin Ave. and Carroll St.

By Train

The nearest Amtrak station is in Columbus, 25 miles north of Madison on Hwy 151. There is no direct transportation from there, so be sure to make plans to have someone pick you up in Columbus.

(continued on back page)

See you at WisCon!



Address Correction Requested

Getting Around Madison

There are plenty of **restaurants** by the hotel (<http://infi.net/madison/dining/>). The downtown area has plenty of shops, including drugstores for necessities. Generally speaking, you won't need to rely on extra transportation unless you are planning to sightsee or need to shop for an evening party.

Cabs

Cabs from the airport to the Concourse will cost \$7 to \$10. Madison is famous for having cabs driven mostly by liberal arts Ph.D.s, so feel comfortable taking any company's cab. Just make sure you bone up on your Derrida.

Badger Cab..... 608-256-5566
Union Cab 608-242-2000

Metro Buses

The Madison bus system channels most of its routes within a few blocks of the Concourse. The immediate downtown area is designated as a free-fare zone between 10 am and 3 pm Mon.-Sat. For routes and schedules call 608-266-4466 (TDD 608-267-1143); see also pages 24-25 in the Madison phone book.

