



# Vintage Times



The newsletter for the convention legal in any state

Number One: Friday 5/23

## Tiptree Auction Goes Guerrilla

Since so many of you are planning to leave Monday morning, the Tiptree Auction has been re-scheduled. However, we're not going to make it easy on you! When you least expect it, an auction may break out! After or even during Opening Ceremonies, for instance, an auction may occur. After the Guest of Honor Speeches, or at any big event, there is the possibility that you may turn around and find Ellen Klages pointing her finger at you, demanding that you bid on a bottle of Raccoona Red, or a Freddie Baer print. You'll never know when the auction might strike. Play it safe. Carry your wallet everywhere!

## New and Improved Party Schedule!

### Friday evening

- Room 607 Turbo-Charged Party Animal Apa
- Room 611 Fat Feminist Fans and Friends
- Room 619 First Contact & Milwaukee Children's ComicCon
- Room 629 Vampires (Pam Keesey & Toni Armstrong)

### Saturday evening

- Room 607 MCFI/Boston 2001
- Room 611 Chicago in 2000
- Room 619 First Contact & Milwaukee Children's ComicCon
- Room 629 TOR Publishing
- Room 634 Diversicon



### Sunday evening

- Room 611 Steve Swartz
- Room 619 First Contact & Milwaukee Children's ComicCon
- Room 629 Minicon in '73/ Not-A-ReinCONation

### Publish or Perish!

The Vintage Times will appear daily (or more often) during WisCon 21. We'll take your book recommendations, panel reviews, and scurrilous gossip and make you famous convention-wide. Knock on the door of the VIP office or slide your submissions under the door, and, space permitting, you'll be in print the next issue!

## Spontaneous Programming

Even with the wealth of programming at WisCon, we're sure we left out topics you were hoping to talk about – not to mention topics that arise from panels at the convention, and panels that just don't want to end.

So we've reserved Conference Room 1 for spontaneous programming. Drop by, pick a time and a topic, and fill in a slot on the easel by the door. Or, when the panel is going strong and the five-minute placard is breaking up the discussion, lead the group over to spontaneous programming. We'll try to put the times and topics of reserved slots in the daily newsletter... but be sure to drop by the room and see what's happening. You never know what you might find. But this is WisCon, so you know it will be good.

*Debbie Notkin*

## Writer's Workshop Off and Running

The first-ever WisCon Writer's workshop is off to a great start: 11 writers submitted manuscripts! We'll be meeting on Sunday to critique each other's work and get The Word from you guest star critiquers Eleanor Arnason and Suzanne Feldman (a.k.a. Severna Park).

We're planning to do this again next year, possibly adding in a second session to talk about marketing issues. Keep an eye on the web page and progress reports for details. The deadline for manuscripts next year will probably be in late April.

In the meantime, a huge thank-you to everyone who is participating this year. Since the workshop was organized a bit at the last minute, no one had much notice for manuscript submission, and manuscripts arrived with only about a week's lead time for critiquing. You've all been great and I guarantee a more leisurely pace next year.

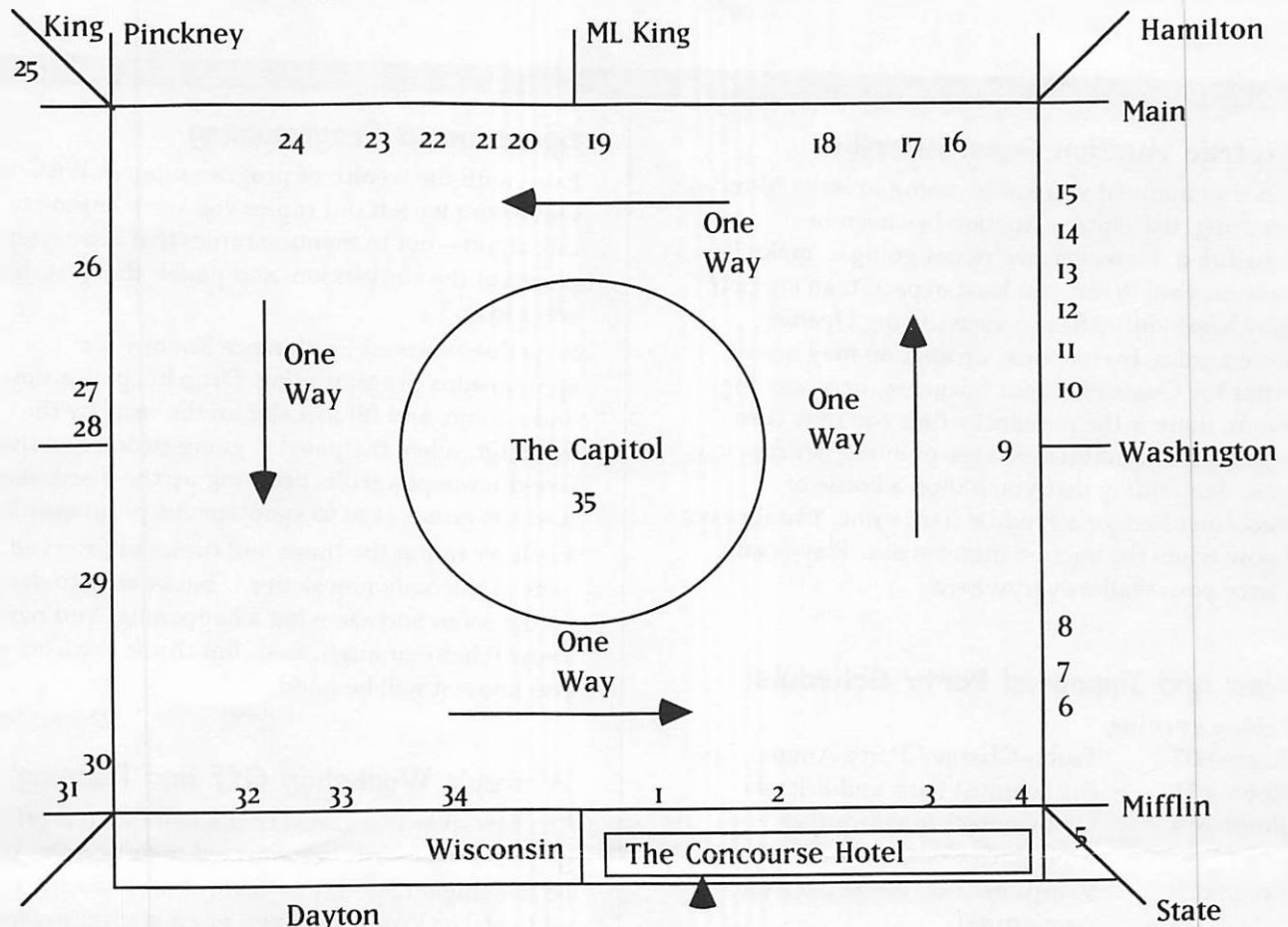
By the way, I'd love to hear from anyone who might be interested in being a guest critiquer next year.

*Amy Axt Hanson*

## Don't Forget...

Mark your schedules for Saturday at 8 P.M. for "The Man Who Walked Home," a play based on the Tiptree short story. Not to be missed!

# Olivia Picklejar's Guide to the Farmer's Market



1. Shittake mushrooms (but look for morels)
2. Gloria Gardens, good value for annuals and perennials
3. **Stella's bakery.** Try a spicy cheese empanada or a rhubarb turnover, or just talk like a duck.
4. The most political of the political corners. Statue of Ms Forward.
5. Breadsmith, fresh excellent bread.
6. **Bleu Mont dairy,** our favorite cheeses
7. Homemade doughnuts
8. Cheesecake. Bring some back to share
9. Our second favorite Honey (and a real beehive when it's warm enough).
10. Our favorite **smoked trout** vendor
11. Nature's Bakery Organic baked goods
12. Roses and other large plants
13. Fantome goat cheeses and spreads
14. **Renaissance Farm pesto.** Little jars to travel well
15. Out of our gourd – peppers and chili oil (and free samples). Hot!!!
16. Oak House bakery. There are crowds, but it's not our favorite. More sugar than taste.
17. Some of the most interesting garden plants
18. Best morels last weekend
19. Summer Kitchen jams & jellies. Alphabetical order.
20. **RP's Pasta.** There are lots of cool kinds.
21. Forgotten Valley. The second best cheese
22. **Maple Syrup.** Try the grade A dark, or grade B for real flavor
23. **Honey,** our favorite (Marsden's)
24. Cut flowers, make the convention prettier
25. **Ancora Coffee Roasters.** A few doors down the block, but the best coffee at the market
26. **Real Popcorn.** Try some of the black.
27. Venison. It's Bambi! (Thumper's at another stand)
28. Berries, berry plants, and juices.
29. The best pies are from the Amish
30. **Buffalo. Sausage, meats, jerky.** The best.
31. **L'Etoile's croissants.** Have these and you'll decide you **can** afford to go there for dinner. Our pick of the market for baked goods. Worth crossing the street.
32. **Harmony Valley Farm.** We get 37 boxes of vegetables from them a year. We like them.
33. Herbs for your garden
34. Tom's Coffee Toffee. Wake yourself up.
35. Walk through the Capitol. The dome is gorgeous.



Created by Ariel



# VINTAGE GAMES

The news for the con brought to you by the letter W and the number 21—No. Two: Saturday 5/24

## Registration Numbers

Total WisCon 21 registration (including walk-ins) is 540. As of noon Saturday, 38 pre-reg have not been picked up. All the dessert buffet tickets (120) have been sold! (This info courtesy of our own Man in Black, Richard S. Russell.)

## Programming Miscellany

**Repeat:** Jorjet Harper's program *Lesbomania* will be repeated Saturday night at 10:00 P.M. in University CD.

**Welcome to our new program speakers!** Thanks go out to John D. Berry, Barbara Karlburg, Jane Kurtz, and Rhonda Lee for their help!

**Absent without leave:** we've been informed that Donna Simone will not attend WisCon 21. Paul Racchia will be late as he was held up in traffic Friday night (from late-breaking email) but should arrive sometime Saturday.

**Uncontrolled growth:** In their Sunday 11 AM panel in Conference Room 5, Ellen Kushner and Delia Sherman will be discussing *The Horns of Elfland* as previously planned, but will also read from and discuss their collaboration "The Fall of the Kings" from *Bending the Landscape*, a new queer fantasy anthology.

**Panel News:** Women Authors You May Not Have Heard Of—The lists of recommended authors and books from the WisCon signature panel are available on the freebie tables. The annotated lists will appear on the WisCon web site ([www.sf3.org/wiscon/atcon.html](http://www.sf3.org/wiscon/atcon.html)) soon.

**Expanded Explanation:** "Author reading" with Elise Matthesen and Mary Pearlman isn't an author reading—it's letter writing by kids to authors. We'll draw pictures or write fan letters and suggestions to people who write what kids read, look at, and hear. Yes, we're really going to send these letters! Come and communicate! 3:30 Sunday in the Kid's Programming Room, 634.

## Spontaneous Programming

Saturday, 6-9:30 AM

**Magic: The Gathering** play session. (Players, please coordinate with other gamers in Room 619.)

Saturday, 9:30-11 PM

Babylon 5 discussion with Ligia Abuabara, Jennifer Nissen and Michael Hannemann

Sunday, 11 AM

"How to Relieve Con Stress Using Only Your Hands and a Glass of Water" with Mici Gold

Sunday, 9:30 PM

The Cards of Fortune: a friendly poker game. See Alan Bostick (in the black hat) for details, or just drop by.

## Reminders of This and That

**Vote for the winners of the Art Show "B\*rb\*\*" awards.** Voting ends Saturday at 6:30 P.M. (The Art Show is in University A/B.)

**Request a Tiptree or WisCon t-shirt.** Put a form in the box near the gender stickers by 6:30 P.M. Saturday, check the list in the same spot on Sunday morning, and—if your name is chosen—buy your shirt in Room 627 across from the consuite during the continued **Tiptree Bakesale, 12:30 - 2 PM.** We only have about 35 Tiptree shirts and about 20 WisCon ones, so this is your only chance!

**Auction:** You've heard about the movable auction, but did you know you could see all the Tiptree auction items in the Art Show room, University A/B, 9:30-6:30? Bid forms for the items will be available at the auction display in the Art Show on Sunday morning. Please stop in, look things over and bid on items you are interested in.

**Compliments?** We know you'll tell us about any problems, but please let the

convention committee know about any hotel staff who do especially helpful things. We want to give them the recognition they deserve.

**Volunteer!** We can still use you! Sign up at the Gopher Hole on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, at Registration, or in the specific areas where you want to work. The main areas that need lots of people are the Con Suite, the Art Show, Films, and teardown on Monday afternoon. You can get a refund of \$20 of your membership fee if you work (we'll send it to you after the convention). And if you work teardown, we'll even give you a coupon for a brat





and a soda or beer at the Dead Dog party, Monday 5 P.M. at the Memorial Union.

**Surveys:** Your feedback means a lot to us! Please fill out your survey and drop it in the box near the reg desk, or mail it to us after the convention.

**Outlook:** WisCon 22 memberships are available at Registration throughout the con for only \$30.

**Party Correction:** Sunday night's party in room 629 is hosted by 7MPLS3/Not-A-ReinCONation.

### Computer Gaming

That big honking computer monitor you saw when you checked in at registration will be turned over to the computer gamers at 9:00 P.M. Saturday. The game du jour is Marathon Infinity, in which you get to play the role of a security officer on a spaceship filled with potential hamburger. There are also more pacific games available, some of which may actually engage portions of your brain other than the endocrine system.

### A Few More Words About the Play

On Saturday night the Coming Home players are presenting an adaptation of the James Tiptree Jr. Short story, "The Man Who Walked Home." The dramatic presentation is based very closely on the text of Tiptree's story. With sound, pictures, light, music, choral reading, and drama, we are attempting to illuminate Tiptree's narrative.

—Jae Leslie Adams

### Your Basic Restaurant Suggestion

Mexican family restaurant LA HACIENDA is located out of the immediate downtown area, only about a mile distant from the Capitol dome. Straight down West Washington Avenue from the capitol, past the park, to the stoplight at the end of Washington and then to the left just a block down Park Street, you'll find a restaurant

that reminds me of the family-operated establishments in north Baja California. It's missing only the garlands of plastic flowers. La Hacienda offers choices from *carnes asadas* and *parrilladas* to the usual tex-mex a la carte offerings that vegetarians can enjoy. The menu mentions the real stuff you don't find at ersatz American Mexican places (*menudo*, *lengua de res*), and the fruit plate includes jicama. The servings are generous, in the economical (\$2-\$12) range. The Spanish rice is the best I've had in Madison, without having to make it myself.

—Jae Leslie Adams



### Have You Read...

**Godmother Night**, by Rachel Pollack: This odd bird of a book is not so much a genre fantasy as a New Age Lesbian feminist novel. The fantastic elements—mainly the characters' interaction with Death incarnate—are interwoven with a strong, realistic story. The bliss of first love, the agony of graduate school, the exhaustion and misery of caring for a colicky baby—all are vividly portrayed. In the fantasy segments, Pollack evokes wonder and terror. The novel is beautifully, even poetically, written, and, if it is a bit short on explanations for the rationalist genre reader, it should satisfy those who do not insist on tidy answers.

**The Penguin Book of Modern Fantasy by Women**, edited by A. Susan Williams and Richard Glyn Jones: This essential—as well as interesting and entertaining—book uses a broad definition of fantasy, encompassing everything from science fiction through horror and magic realism. The stories are arranged historically, from Elizabeth Bowen's 1941 ghost story "The Demon Lover" to Lucy Sussex's 1994 literary fantasy "Kay and Phil." The overall level of quality is very high, though I question the inclusion of Anne McCaffrey's "The Ship Who Sang," which is far from her best work and displays a careless sexism. While several of the stories are less than subtle at making their political points, men reading this anthology are unlikely to get the feeling they are under attack, and may emerge with a deeper understanding of some aspects of female existence. The book includes an interesting, but too brief, introduction by Joanna Russ.

—Janice Eisen



# VINTAGE GIMBZ

The news for WisCon, Queen of Conventions

Number Three: Sunday 5/25

## Art Show Winners

Art Show viewers on Saturday had the opportunity to vote for their favorite pieces, as well as bid on them. Winning artists receive special B\*rb\* awards, which are on display in the Art Show room, University A/B.

### The winners of the Art Show:

**Best of Show:** Amy Edgington for "When the Meek Inherit" (Collage: Acrylic Paper & Found Materials, \$250 minimum bid)

**Most Feminist:** Marie May for "Pele & the Lava Hounds" (Etching: Hand Pulled Limited Edition, \$395 minimum bid)

**Honorable Mention for Most Feminist:** Lauri Toby Edison for "April Miller" (Photograph, \$450)

**Most Alien:** Steven Vincent Johnson for "The Seeding" (Digital, Not For Sale)

**Most Politically Incorrect:** LA Williams for "Rear Guard" (Limited Edition Print, \$15 minimum bid)

Buyers of winning art will receive B\*rb\* tokens too, and there's plenty of time to place your bids!



## Sound Bites

"I've been the Lizard Queen for years, but I don't want it on my badge... I don't know whether I'll feel like being the Lizard Queen *here!*" — overheard near the con suite

"You know, Jeanne, if the literature about WisCon included stuff like 'held at the peak of morel and lilac season,' it would add to the excitement considerably..." — Elizabeth Willey, from the Fem-SF mailing list.

"We would still have unplanned pregnancies, because people wouldn't eat their vegetables." — unknown.

## Auction News

The *creme de la creme* of the Tiptree auction items will be auctioned off after the Tiptree re-enactment ceremony this evening.



## About the Wrap-up

The Wrap-up on Monday will be right after the auction. We'll do the usual stuff—thank everybody, introduce the committee, listen to your complaints and suggestions. But there are lots of ways you can help us learn to do things better. You can e-mail to [wiscon.concom@lists.best.com](mailto:wiscon.concom@lists.best.com). You can join the committee. You can fill out your survey. You can come to the wrap-up session two weeks from today on June 8, see our web page or call 608-233-8850 for the time and directions.

So we want to hear more from you, like

- What common themes did you hear in the programs and conversations?
- How did they change your thinking?
- Were things too silly, too serious, both, neither, or just right?
- What was the most fun?

Those are a whole lot more interesting to us, as convention coordinators, than whether the con suite should have more chocolate fruit of the Art Show B\*rb\*\* award for Most Alien needed more makeup. Come prepared to talk about what matters, and leave the little stuff for e-mail, the survey, and the other ways you can give us advice.

— Jim Hudson and Diane Martin





## The Spectrum of Respectability

as determined at WisCon 21

This spectrum places works of fantasy and science fiction in order of relative respectability. That is to say – which would you rather be caught reading on the bus by your sixth grade teacher: pornography by Anne Rice or *The Sword of Shannara*? If your mother were looking in your sock drawer (though of course she wouldn't be), which would you rather she found: tickets for "The Tempest" or videos of "Batman" (the TV show)? Our elite panel (Pat Murphy, Eileen Gunn, and Ellen Klages) established the extremes of the spectrum: "The Tempest" (it's British, it's live theatre, and it's by a dead, white, famous guy) and "My Mother, The Car" (it's American, it's TV, and it's bad). By a show of hands, our impassioned audience established the relative position of each item between those extremes.

### Acme

- *The Tempest*
- 
- 
- 
- *Frankenstein* (the book) by Mary Shelley
- *The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K. Le Guin
- *Orlando* by Virginia Woolf
- *Herland* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- 
- 
- *The Lottery* by Shirley Jackson
- *The Female Man* by Joanna Russ
- 
- *The War of the Worlds* (the book) by H.G. Wells / *Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- 
- 
- *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- *The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury
- *The Wizard of Oz* (the book) by R. Frank Baum
- *Dhalgren* by Samuel R. Delany, Jr.
- 
- 
- *The Wizard of Oz* (the movie)



- "The Prisoner" (TV Show) / *The Mists of Avalon* by Marion Zimmer Bradley
  - 
  - "Twilight Zone" (TV Show)
  - 
  - *The Foundation Trilogy* by Isaac Asimov (the neutral center of the spectrum)
  - 
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  - 
  - 
  - "The Avengers" with Diana Rigg as Emma Peel
  - 
  - *Calvin & Hobbes* by Bill Waterson
  - "Star Trek – The Next Generation"
  - "Star Trek" (the original series)
  - *The Shining* (the book) by Stephen King
  - 
  - Dr. Who
  - 
  - *Podkayne of Mars* by Robert Heinlein
  - 
  - *Batman* (the movie) / "Xena, The Warrior Princess" (TV show) / *Batman* (the comic book)
  - 
  - *Rocky Horror Picture Show* / *The Story of O*
  - 
  - Pornography by Anne Rice / *Sword of Shannara* by Terry Brooks
  - *Barbarella* (the movie)
  - 
  - "Batman" (the TV show)
  - 
  - 
  - 
  - *Tarnsman of Gor* by John Norman
  - "My Mother, The Car" (TV show)
- Nadir

## Barbie Stories

Two stories about that doll among dolls

### Barbie Story

by Toni Armstrong Jr.

My friend Bonnie, a women's studies professor at George Washington University (in Washington DC), attended a workshop at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival entitled "Reclaiming Barbie." Assuming it would be a feminist analysis of how Barbie and her pals are used to systematically brainwash our young sisters into embracing objectification and unhealthy anorexic body images (etc. etc.), she settled in. Imagine her SURPRISE when it turned out to be a gathering of Barbie "fans" (read: women with obsessive-compulsive disorder, one of whom had already spent \$50,000 on Barbie memorabilia) and Barbie "liberators" (read: women who use Barbie dolls for S&M toys). The best: using Barbie as a strap-on dildo.

### My Barbie 'SAGA' or 'It was the Happiest Moment of my Entire Life... As of 6 Years'

Anonymous

I *desperately* wanted a Barbie. I was 6. I went to a Catholic school and my mother didn't approve of Barbie — I kept getting Raggedy Annes.

Then at the annual church picnic (in the gym) I arrived with my 3 big brothers and Mom & Dad. My big sister, who is 12 years older, was working the 'Wishing Fishing Well' where you pay to throw a clothespin on a string with a bamboo pole over a wall painted to look like a wishing well. You either got a prize or rubber worm to Try Again!

A bunch of my sister's friends giggled over and got my brother to buy me a 'try'. I was *delighted* to rig my pole and fling that clothespin over. I was praying, actually *praying* for anything but a worm. It took forever and they finally told me to pull **HARD**.

Lo and behold it took 2 of them to help get it over and to *this* day I can recall the *glowing aura* surrounding that *giant* hot pink box as it banged and clattered through the air almost magically into my arms. It was crisply wrapped in cellophane with



4 compartments holding *stunning* Barbie outfits (complete with *shoes* I tell you!!!)

*Most* incredibly in the middle of it all lay an actual Barbie with a long black pony tail. I ripped her out and opened *all* four outfits and Mom said I would lose the shoes and *Yes* I lost 3 of them but it didn't matter... It was a perfect answer to a little girl's wish.

Years later I realized my sister had probably rigged it to get me my contraband because Mom couldn't say *no* if I *won* it fair and square! My sister is the Ultra Ultimate.

## Have You Read...

by Janice M. Eisen

*The Ice House*, by Minette Walters: This one isn't SF or fantasy, but a mystery novel. Though the setting is a large manor house in the English countryside, this is not your usual cozy little parlor mystery. The book is a first novel, and it shows — the writing is occasionally rough or confusing, and Walters too often relies on false suspense — but those flaws are easy to ignore, with plot twists and turns occurring right up to the end of the book. At the center of the novel are three women who are vividly and boldly depicted, and the book is worth reading just to meet their characters. Dead bodies, caddish husbands, and nasty policemen may come and go, but these women are survivors. (Walters has published two novels since, and I recommend them sight unseen.)

*The Wall of the Sky, the Wall of the Eye*, by Jonathan Lethem: This collection by probably the hottest young writer in the SF field includes the Tiptree-short-listed "Five Fucks," which is also the best story in the collection. None of the seven stories is less than interesting, and some are brilliant. I particularly recommend "The Happy Man" and "Forever, Said the Duck." Lethem manipulates the tools of mainstream literature with such ease that some critics have claimed that he is not really a science fiction writer (with the subtext: he's too good to be one). Fortunately for those of us who love the genre, he is a writer of remarkable talent.

# VINTAGE GAMES

The last dregs of news for a vintage year of WisCon

Number Four: Monday 5/26

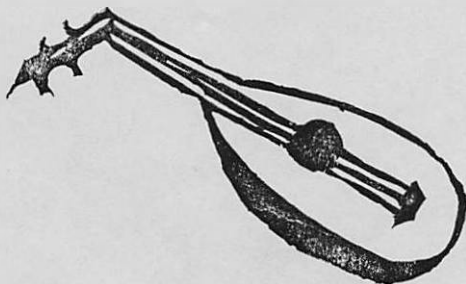


## Auction's Klages has Midas Touch, Tiptree Bakesale Rolls in Dough

Last night's auction to support the Tiptree fund was a wild success, raising over \$1000 for the fund. Auctioneer Ellen Klages held the spectators in her

mystic sway as they bid such odd amounts as \$123.45. Items sold ranged from a "cut up" version of Pat Murphy's *The Falling Woman* (only a few hundred words) to the unedited manuscript of Mary Doria Russell's *The Sparrow* (complete with three-ring binder). The enthusiastic audience also broke their piggy banks for such items as Raccoona Red beer and scarce-as-hen's-teeth Freddie Baer T-shirts. The pinnacle of the show was the 6-person human pyramid featuring the Tiptree Founding Mothers Karen Joy Fowler and Pat Murphy (and a duck).

Fans also munched their way steadily through the Tiptree bake sale this weekend, consuming calories with vigor. The sale raised another \$300 or so for the award – and the sale of this year's T-shirt was also a huge success. All this bodes well for the continued solvency of the Tiptree, and for the newly-proposed "fairy godmother" award for up-and-coming writers in the Tiptree tradition.



## Sound Bites

"Science fiction is a field based on theft." – *Eleanor Arnason.*

"War is a poor conflict resolution technique." – *ibid.*

On writing: "Avoid irony at all costs!" – *ibid.*

On marketing: "Never be ahead of the curve." – *ibid.*

"Who is gender control?" – *Tom Becker*

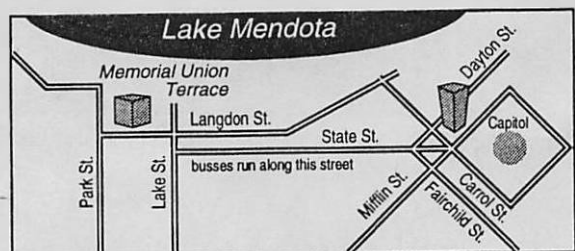
"Air Twister!" – *Spike Parsons*

"As long as I'm spending four days in a feminist utopia, the least I could do is bring back some beef jerky." – *Vicki Rosenzweig*



## Dead Dog Party!

Wind down with us at the University of Wisconsin Memorial Union today at 5:00 P.M. Hanging out at the Union has been the coolest activity possible on campus for at least fifty years; come try it out, and eat Memorial Day-picnic-type food, including the famous Wisconsin Bratwurst. We have the Tripp Commons on the second floor reserved in case it's chilly outside. The Union is a mile down State Street; walk, get a ride with one of the local members, or hop on the bus. **Help with teardown and get a coupon worth \$3 toward beverage and a brat at the Dead Dog!**





## Panel Review

"Solidarity Forever" was a lively and well-attended panel, asking the question: where are the unions in SF? Some examples were given: Allan Steele's *Orbital Decay*, Glen Cook's fiction, an episode of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* about an organizing effort in Quark's bar, and an episode of *Babylon 5* with a dockworkers' strike. But it was glaringly obvious that SF has, for the most part, simply ignored labor issues—both as a major theme and even as background material. The absence of unions is especially obvious in cyberpunk and other SF that assumes corporate and capitalist dominance.

All this led the panelists to ask "why?" Writing by and for middle-class professional technocrats is at the root of it. Other factors include the emphasis in SF on the heroic individual as opposed to collective action; the devaluing of daily life and ordinary struggle; and the lack of economics in SF. Panelists and audience concluded that as long as there is hierarchy and "haves and have-nots" that unions of some sort will be needed. To represent this in literature, an anthology was suggested. Contact the moderator, Michael Lowrey, or panelist Fred Schepartz if interested in more discussion on the subject.

—Laura Quilter

## Separated At Birth?



Laughton looks better than ever in the face of Marlon's Moreau turn.



Andrew Hooper gazes soulfully out the window at Mt. Ramier.