



THE TALK

by Doug Moe

Science fiction draws conventioners

IN REAL LIFE, Jeanne Gomoll says, she is an artist for the Department of Natural Resources. This weekend, she will be one of 550 people immersing themselves in science fiction — particularly the role of women in the genre — at the WisCon 22 convention, which runs through Monday at the Concourse Hotel.

Gomoll was one of the founders, in 1976, of WisCon, which in years past has billed itself as the largest feminist science fiction convention in the world. "It's really exciting that in a real sense we were there first," Gomoll said Friday. "Now the field is really taking off." Local science fiction author **Joan Vinge** will be on hand at this year's convention, which includes 120 programs. Gender-bending is at the heart of feminist science fiction, so much so

that the genre's top award, the Triptree, is named for author **James Triptree**, who was really a woman, **Alice Sheldon**. "She worked for the CIA," Gomoll said. "Under the name Triptree her writing was often compared to the masculine prose of **Ernest Hemingway**." When Sheldon "came out," she couldn't get published under her own name, until a note came from "James Triptree" urging publishers to take a closer look at Sheldon. You can still register for the conference at the Concourse. . . .

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EDGEWOOD COLLEGE professor **Phil Martin** was at his desk Thursday morning "doing some polishing," he said, on a new musical he's written that goes into rehearsal Monday. The Sesquicentennial Commission provided some funding for "The Wisconsin Story," which Martin described as "a musical dramatization of the events and people throughout Wisconsin's history." Performances begin here June 12 and then the show will tour to

nine state cities before winding up July 3. . . . Whatever money driver **Bob Wilberg** and car owner **John Fahey** earned Friday night at the NASCAR event at the Madison International Speedway will go to a fund set up at Park Bank to help 11-month-old **Tyler Pavlik** of Madison and his family. Others may wish to help the young boy as well, for he needs a bone marrow transplant due to a rare immune deficiency, and even with insurance, the costs associated with the surgery are staggering. To help — and the Pavliks need a variety of assistance, including in-home day care — you can contact Tyler's folks, **Dave and Ann Pavlik**, at 277-9158. . . .

Living well is the best revenge: **Al Reichenberger**, recently retired after a grueling career spent watching beautiful young women take off their clothes, was sipping a beer on the Edgewater Pier Thursday, musing about taking up golf, and laughing about a bumper sticker he'd seen in the politically correct 6th District: "Annoy a liberal —

work hard, be happy." . . . One liberal who is working hard is gubernatorial candidate **Ed Garvey**, back from a recent trip to Washington. Garvey noted the contrasting social styles of **Tommy Thompson** and himself. "He hosts parties at the Madison Club or Maple Bluff Country Club. In our case, **Betty Garvey** hauled 30 pounds of bratwurst and cheese to Washington, fixed the vegetables, handled the decorations." The Garveys met the Wisconsin Democratic delegation at Mott House, next to the Supreme Court. . . .

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MOE KNOWS: Honored with plaques and applause Tuesday by the City Council, one of the girls who heroically helped the bus fire victims, **Tiffany Riles**, stole a page from **Yogi Berra** and said, "If I had to do it again, I would do it again." . . .

Heard something Moe should know? Please call 252-6446, e-mail him at dougmoecaptimes@captimes.madison.com or write to PO Box 8060, Madison, 53708.