

THRILLING WISCON STORIES

MAY 23-26, 2003

PROGRESS
REPORT #2

THE ELEVATOR
DOOR IS **OPEN!**
GO! - I'VE GOT YOU
COVERED!



AND WE'VE GOT
YOU COVERED TOO!

...SURVIVAL TIPS INSIDE →



China Miéville, Guest of Honor

China Miéville's official website

<http://www.panmacmillan.com/Features/China/>

Attending Luminaries

Brian Atteberry
Elizabeth Barrett
Suzanne Blom
Lois McMaster Bujold
Suzy McKee Charnas
Ted Chiang
Bill Clemente
Leah Cutter
Beverly DeWeese
L. Timmel Duchamp
Suzette Haden Elgin
Karen Joy Fowler
Jim Frenkel
Gregory Frost
Sally Gearhart
Molly Gloss
MJ Hardman
Jorjet Harper
Pam Keesey
Sylvia Kalso
Paul Kincaid
Ellen Klages
Naomi Kritzer
Ellen Kushner
Justine Larbaestier

Is this the sexiest man in British politics? That was how the *London Evening Standard* headlined a two-page article about China Miéville in the run-up to the 2001 General Election where he was standing as a candidate for the Socialist Alliance or, as he put it, the "pissed off tendency." He polled 459 votes, which wasn't bad for the Socialist Alliance in that election.

His parents were hippies, hence the name, but he favours a more modern uniform of shaven head, spiral-bound ear, black t-shirt and black leather jacket. During the 2001 election campaign he joined a group of mothers in his constituency protesting about the closure of a nursery school; guess who was targeted by the police as the ringleader? So familiar is this outfit now that when he turned up to present the 2002 Arthur C. Clarke Award wearing a suit and tie it became, to his evident exasperation, one of the biggest topics of conversation during the evening.

Science fiction is lucky to have him. He studied at Cambridge, the London School of Economics and Harvard, and he is completing a thesis on the philosophy of international law. But in among all that he wrote *King Rat* (1998), an urban horror story that plays with the theme of the Pied Piper of Hamelin. It was snapped up by publishers in both Britain and America and was one of the most talked about debut novels of the last few years. Yet even that, nastily accomplished as it was, gave few clues as to what was to follow. Anyone expecting another contemporary horror was in for a shock.

Perdido Street Station (2000) is a vast, sprawling novel of fevered imaginative power. It is part horror, part fantasy, part science fiction, and part a recasting of Charles Dickens's London into a new and potent realm. New Crobuzon is a city of dark streets and alien grotesques where anything may happen but what always holds the attention is the rich and vivid life with which it teems. Here all Miéville's political sensibilities—class struggles, the battle to survive, the pursuit of happiness—are given dramatic edge by being played out in a setting vaster and more exuberant than we have seen in fantastic literature for years. It was no surprise when, in a particularly strong year, *Perdido Street Station* won the Arthur C. Clarke Award.

Miéville stayed in the world of New Crobuzon for his next novel, *The Scar* (2002), but though it follows on from the events of that first novel it is not strictly speaking a sequel. It follows a minor character from the first book outside New Crobuzon and to a very strange new city. Armada is one of the more unusual creations in modern fantasy, a city composed of countless boats of every description and every age lashed together and sailing where the tides take them. It is yet another

example of the powerful hold that cities, their character and constitution, have upon Miéville's imagination.

Is this the sexiest man in British politics? Well, frankly, there isn't much competition. Is he the most exciting new talent in British science fiction? The competition is fiercer, but if you're a betting person it would be worth putting your money on China Miéville.

—Paul Kincaid



Carol Emshwiller's official website

http:
[//www.sfwa.org/members/emshwiller](http://www.sfwa.org/members/emshwiller)

More Attending Luminaries

Ursula K. Le Guin
Laurie Marks
Louise Marley
Susan R. Matthews
Elizabeth Matson
Farah Mendlesohn
Synne Mitchell
Mary Anne Mohanraj
Nancy Jane Moore
Debbie Notkin
Carrie Richerson
Kate Schaefer
Lori Selke
Delia Sherman
Diane Silver
Maureen Kincaid Speller
Amy Thomson
Elisabeth Vonarburg
Liz Williams
Terri Windling
Joan D. Vinge
Laurel Winter

Carol Emshwiller, Guest of Honor

Carol Emshwiller's writing is brilliant. Rich, funny. Incredibly funny. Wry. Sad. Angry but in a controlled beautiful way (and not always, of course).

She began writing in the 1950s, under difficult circumstances: she was married, with small children, and it was the 1950s. Sometimes she would pick up her typewriter and sit with it inside the children's playpen while her children played and raged around her. She sat and wrote, ignoring them as best she could.

In the short story "Autobiography" from the collection *Joy in Our Cause*, she writes, "Most of my life is spent not writing." She was in her forties then and her husband Ed was still alive. Most of her life now is spent writing. She has a set of writing rules that she likes to break. The rules are the sorts of thing writing teachers routinely tell their students: begin with a bang, show don't tell, work out your plot ahead of time. Carol prefers to sneak up on you, to figure out the plot as she goes along, and she'll tell and show and tell whenever and however she wants to.

Carol has written stories ranging from straight-up science fiction to experimental pieces. Her novels are just as varied. *Carmen Dog*, in which women turn into dogs and dogs turn into women, is the funniest battle-of-the-sexes novel ever written. *Ledoyt* and *Leaping Man Hill* completely transform the western genre. Her most recent novel, *The Mount*, is another role reversal set in a future in which humans are bred for speed and beauty and ridden by their alien masters. It's a beautiful book, at once a cracking good adventure and a meditation on slavery and power.

Carol lives in New York City in the winters and spends her summers in the California mountains. Her most recent writing is filled with mountains and rattlesnakes.

—Justine Larbalestier

What happens when?

All events at the Concourse Hotel unless otherwise noted.

Packet Stuffing.....5 P.M. Thursday

Room of One's Own reception
307 W. Johnson St.....6:30 P.M. Thursday

Writers' Workshop & Respite
.....9 A.M.-2:30 P.M. Friday

Registration opens.....2:00 P.M. Friday

The Gathering2:00-5:30 P.M. Friday

Regular programming

10 A.M.-1 A.M. Saturday & Sunday

10 A.M.-2 P.M. Monday

Lunch breaks.....11:30 A.M.-1 P.M.

Dinner breaks5:30-7:30 P.M.

Opening Ceremonies.....7:30-8 P.M. Friday

Tiptree Auction8:30 P.M. Saturday

Dessert Salon.....7:30 P.M. Sunday

GoH speeches.....8:30 P.M. Sunday

Dead Dog Party.....5 P.M. Monday

NEW!

The Gathering

What's the first thing you want to do when you arrive at WisCon? For most veteran attendees the answer is to say hello and catch up with friends. WisCon attendees want to watch for new arrivals and favorite authors. We all want to join the gathering of the feminist science fiction and fantasy community as it comes together for its annual celebration in Madison. Maybe that's why the lobby around the registration table is the busiest place in the hotel on Friday afternoon!

Traditionally, programming has tried to tempt you away to panels on Friday afternoon, but most of us prefer the more spontaneous programming going on in the lobby. So, the programming department has decided to join us ... with a new event—"the Gathering." Along with plenty of space for chatting, you will find authors set up in the central area of the ballroom, available to sign their books for you. Also, fun and instructive micro-programming booths will be set up around the perimeter of the ballroom.

You could make a bead necklace for your nametag, hear Suzy Charnas read your Tarot Cards, get writerly advice from author Pat Murphy as she makes balloon squids, play Barbie Ring Toss,

and watch a bookbinding demonstration. Some festival activities will require the purchase of a ticket. All money raised will be donated to Broad Universe or the Carl Brandon Society.

Or you could hug the friend you haven't seen since WisCon last year, grab a couple chairs and sit down and catch up with one another over tea and cookies. Or you could stroll around the booths, look at the displays, watch people and listen to the music. What a great way to get into the WisCon mood!

The event is organized by the amazing Broad Universe group. Make sure you arrive early on Friday so as not to miss the Gathering (2-5:30 P.M.).

Where does WisCon get all its (programming) ideas?

From you! Through December and January we've been collecting ideas for panels and other programming events from past and future panelists, and from WisCon attendees with good ideas. Programming events and especially panels are central to WisCon. We typically have five tracks running throughout the convention and around 150 panels total. That's a lot of panels for a convention with about 600 members. But WisCon attracts a lot of enthusiastic program attendees and

we have no problem acquiring lots of great ideas.

Very soon, we will contact everyone who sent us program ideas as well as everyone who tells us they'd like to participate on panels. We'll be asking which panels interest you the most. We'll also collect information about your availability and preferences. If you want to make sure we contact you when the program questionnaire goes on-line, make sure you check the box on your registration form indicating that you want to be a panelist. It is very important that all panelists complete this questionnaire.

After we've collected panel ideas and panelists' names, we will narrow down the number of panels which will actually be scheduled. Panelists will receive a list of programs they have been tentatively assigned to in early April. A program schedule (subject to change) will be published on line in mid-May.

All program participants are eligible for \$20 refund of their membership fee. Register at the regular rate and a refund will be mailed to you after the convention. Panelists should make sure they check the refund box on their program questionnaire.

NEW! Readings

What would you rather attend, a reading entitled "Ecofeminist Rants of the Post-Apocalypse" or one called "One author you've heard of and two you haven't"? Probably the former. So this year at WisCon, rather than grouping readers willy-nilly, our objective is to create reading sessions with themes, with catchy titles, with pitch lines that would make a Hollywood producer sit up and listen. We want to juxtapose stories of related genre, subject matter, and theme, to illuminate each other, inspire conversation between authors and listeners, and draw bigger crowds.

This experiment aims to get more people down to the readings and create some new and unexpected connections. If you want to participate in the thematic readings, please contact us at readings@sf3.org.

WisCon Academic Programming

WisCon has a single stream of academic programming open to undergraduates, graduates and scholars inside and outside the academy. Over the years people have presented papers on fantasy, horror, and science fiction literature, media and fandom, examining (among many others) questions of race, sexuality, sex, religion, politics, and class. The papers have ranged from historical accounts to ranting polemics.

One of the aims of having academic programming at WisCon is to strengthen the links between the feminist science fiction community and those students and scholars working on feminist SF and fantasy and related fields.

The due date for proposals of 50–100 words is the second Friday of March. They should be sent to the convenor of academic programming, academic@sf3.org. We invite papers and presentations on science fiction and fantasy, with an emphasis on issues of feminism, gender, sexuality, race, and class. We especially welcome papers on the work of the guests of honour.

At WisCon 27 the first special WisCon issue of the science fiction journal *Extrapolation* will be available. We're aiming to make this an annual issue and hope to make available the best papers of the previous year's WisCon.

About Madison

According to the 2000 Census,
208,054 people live in Madison.

NEW!

Book Signings

Author signings will be handled a little differently this year. The first opportunity to get your books signed by their authors will be at the Gathering. Authors will be visible, ready and willing to autograph your books. Also, some authors will sign up for book signing sessions in the Hospitality Suite. The signing schedule will be posted outside the room, at the registration desk, and in the newsletter. Current and former GoHs will be available to sign in the lobby; the schedule will appear in the Pocket Program Book. And remember! Fans are encouraged to seek out other authors to sign after panels, and at parties too.

Respite for Writers & Artists

The Respite is a unique part of the WisCon weekend that focuses on the needs of writers—novelists, short story writers, and poets. There are two parts of the Respite, the Workshop and Living Rooms.

The Workshop takes place Friday morning before the convention gets rolling. Participants work in small groups with one pro: a published writer, an editor or an agent. The submission deadline for chapters and short stories is April 1st. For poetry, the deadline is April 30th. For submission guidelines and more information about the Workshop, check the Respite box on the registration form, or send email to respite@sf3.org.

About Madison

Also happening on WisCon Weekend:

Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 26, 2003, 10:00–11:00 A.M.

Monona Dr. & Pflaum Rd.

<http://www.monona.com>

About Madison

Also happening on WisCon Weekend:

Farmers' Market

Saturday, May 25, 2003, 8 A.M.–2 P.M.

Capital Square (one block from the Concourse)

A Madison tradition! You'll find the season's best bounty of vegetables and homemade, home-grown Wisconsin products, from over 300 participants.

Free and open to the public.

Living Rooms

The Living Rooms are informal discussions with pros about the challenges and rewards of writing. They are programmed during the convention and are open to anyone who would like to learn more about the craft of writing.

How long do these programs last?

Programs run for one hour and 15 minutes (75 minutes). Every program is followed by a 15-minute hiatus between it and the next program. Well, except for the last program of the day, of course, which is followed by a somewhat longer hiatus. And the last program of the convention on Monday, which is followed by a really, really long hiatus that will last until next year's WisCon. But anyway, each program lasts 75 minutes. No one is going to actually kick anyone out of a program room during the 15-minute hiatus, but if you don't have any time to use the restroom, or run up to the Con Suite for a beverage because you (or someone) kept talking... well, it's just not our fault!

Child care, Kids' & Teens' Programming

Child care is baby-sitting for little kids—ages 0–6. It's free to children in the care of any registered WisCon members during daytime programming hours. Use as much or as little as you want. But you must contact WisCon by May 1, 2003 and get your name on the child care list! WisCon hires professional child care staff, and they need to know the number and ages of children to expect.

Kids' Programs are for older children—ages 7–12 and teens. Children who are not yet 12 or in sixth grade need to be signed in and out by a parent or responsible adult. Older kids and teens can come and go without parents. This is a separate track of WisCon programming aimed especially at kids. Expect craft activities, supervised swimming, story-telling and games. We also plan to have some discussion groups and interaction with the teens.

Teens are welcome to participate in the kids' programming but also have a separate room for more complicated activities, puzzles, gaming, videos, music, and video games. Teens will help develop the schedule of activities for their room. The teen room will be open from 8:30 to 11 P.M., as well as during the regular kids' room hours.

The Teen Room provides space for teens, and, except for the room moderators, is off-limits to both adults and younger kids.

Should I make my hotel reservation soon?

Yes! In recent years, the hotel has always filled up before the convention. Here's the information you need:

Concourse Hotel, 1 W. Dayton Street, Madison, WI 53703, 1-800-356-8293.

Room rates are a flat \$89 per night for up to four persons. Governor's Club rates are \$114. Remember to mention "WisCon 2003" when you call. The Concourse is a handicapped accessible hotel; call for specific information about accessibility. Smoke-free rooms are available upon request. For more information, go to:

<http://www.concoursehotel.com/>

The hotel's Internet reservation system is unfortunately *not* set up to take group reservations on-line. If you check for vacancies on line, the system may tell you that the hotel is "full" on WisCon weekend. In order to find out if there is space in the WisCon room block or to make a reservation at WisCon rates, you must telephone the hotel.

Can I volunteer at WisCon?

There's a deep dark secret about volunteering, and that is: it's fun. Especially at WisCon, where you like almost everyone you meet and you wish you could have more time just to catch up with old friends and make new ones, volunteering often provides the chance for long cheerful chats while getting something done—or for that rare commodity, time alone to reflect without feeling like you're Missing Something. So you not only help build the community and take the load off the organizers, you also get very personal benefits. Plus, you get a \$20 refund after the convention. Please register at the regular rate and check the volunteer box on the registration form. Or send us an email and let us know you're interested in volunteering.

About Madison

Also happening on WisCon Weekend:

The Narnia Chronicles:

The Magician's Nephew

Friday, May 16, 2003–Sunday, June 8, 2003

Madison Civic Center, Isthmus Playhouse

<http://www.theatreforall.com/seasonshows.html>

How can I get a parlor for my party?

Sign up now for one of the free party parlors on the 6th floor. There are a limited number of party rooms available each night. WisCon assigns them to groups and individuals that want to throw parties open to all attendees of the convention. You get the use of a large parlor for one night (Friday, Saturday or Sunday) on the "Party Floor" at no cost to yourself or your group. Check off the Party box on your registration form and let us know which night would be best for you!

Teachers: get credit for attending WisCon.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has certified WisCon to offer up to 30 continuing clock hours for teachers, librarians, psychologists, etc., who attend programming. For more information, please check the box on the registration form.

About Madison

The four lakes region was formed by the glaciers when they retreated about 13,000 years ago. Between 300 and 1,300 AD Native American "mound builders" occupied the area. By the time the Yankee settlers began to arrive, the Winnebago Nation called the area home and continued to camp near the lakes into the 1940s.

James Duane Doty, a territorial Judge and land speculator, traveled through Madison's Isthmus in 1829 and liked the site so much that he bought 1,200 acres for \$1,500 and platted a grid of streets. In 1836, he persuaded the territorial legislature to designate Madison as the site for the new capital. Doty named the city Madison for President James Madison, and he named the streets around the capital square for signers of the U.S. Constitution.

Art Show

The WisCon 27 Art Show and Tiptree Award items will be displayed in the same room.

Artists, please request art show information NOW. You need to reserve space as soon as possible in order to guarantee a place to hang your work.

Convention members will be able to make written bids on all Art Show items Friday through Sunday. Art Show items will be sold by written bid and available for "pick up and pay" on Sunday evening and Monday morning.

Convention members will have the opportunity to vote on the Art Show awards again this year. WisCon 27's Art Show will continue to focus on feminist art, art by women, and art by Midwestern artists. For art show information please check the box on the registration form or visit the WisCon web site.

Tiptree Bake Sale

"World Domination through Bake Sales!" That's one of the slogans at Tiptree Juggernaut Headquarters. The Tiptree Award supports gender-bending SF/F, publishes, auctions, and loves chocolate chip cookies! A wide variety of cookies, breads, cakes, pies and delectables are baked and donated by Tiptree supporters. If you'd like to prepare some baked goods or other treats for the bake sale, please check the box on the registration form or contact WisCon and we will tell you where to bring your goodies.

Baked goods can be purchased by-the-plate at the Tiptree Bake Sale starting at Saturday, 11:30 A.M. All proceeds are donated to the Tiptree Award. Yum!



Tiptree Display & Auction

Tiptree auction items are handled differently than Art Show items. Tiptree items will be held over for a future auction if they are not sold at the Saturday night auction. If we run out of time, or if only minor interest is shown in an item, it may not be sold, even if it has a written bid.

There will also be some non-auction Tiptree items available for direct purchase. Look for t-shirts, books, Space Babe tattoos, and Tiptree Award publications.

You won't want to miss another in the amazingly entertaining series of Ellen Klages' Live Auction Performances. The Tiptree Award will receive all proceeds from donated items in addition to a commission on art show items. Donations to the Tiptree auction can be mailed to Scott Custis, 2825 Union Street, Madison, WI 53704, to arrive at least one week before the convention. If you wish to bring an auction item to the convention with you, please let us know as soon as possible what you are bringing.

Will WisCon 27 host the Tiptree Ceremony?

The James Tiptree, Jr. Award ceremony will *not* take place at WisCon this year. Season 03 will host the 12th annual awards ceremony in Hinckley, England, April 18–21, 2003. For more information about Season go to:

<http://www.seacon03.org.uk/>

More news on Tiptree-related events and the winner of the Tiptree Award will be published on the Tiptree web page: <http://www.tiptree.org/> and in *eCube*.

Getting Here from There

Flights to Chicago or Milwaukee are sometimes easier to get and almost always cheaper than direct flights to Madison. If your airline of choice flies into Chicago or Milwaukee, there are two excellent bus routes: Chicago O'Hare Airport to Madison (Van Galder, 3 hrs), and Milwaukee General Mitchell International Airport to Madison (Badger Bus, 1.5 hrs.). Buses operated by both these companies make only a few stops and are comfortable and inexpensive. Check out schedules on their web pages when you make your travel plans.

<http://www.vangalderbus.com/>

<http://www.badgerbus.com/>

The last progress report will contain extensive, up-to-date specifics about ways to travel to and around Madison.

About Madison

Madison is a place where used bookstores thrive, ethnic restaurants outnumber the chains, bikers have their own lanes and Ralph Nader won the election. It's a city where a local movie theatre books the director's cut of *Thelma and Louise*, and two homeless guys sit on a park bench trading insights about the media's political coverage. It's a city where the daily paper quotes the opinions of anarchists. It's a city that hosts the only feminist science fiction convention in the world. Former Republican Governor Lee Sherman Dreyfus remarked that Madison was "70 square miles surrounded by reality." Madisanians took that as a great compliment.

Register with PayPal

NEW!

WisCon is pleased to offer PayPal as a registration payment option. Yes indeed, this means you can register online! Our online registration is very similar to many familiar shopping carts. The only difference is that we use PayPal to handle our secure payment transactions. PayPal is free, easy to use, and a safe way to make payments online. With PayPal, you can pay using a credit card or bank transfer. If you don't already have a PayPal account, you'll find it simple and painless to setup an account. We recommend that you register for WisCon soon. To register online, simply go to our registration page.

<http://www.sf3.org/registration.html>

Or, if you prefer, mail us the registration form enclosed in this mailing. To find out more about paypal, go to

<http://www.paypal.com>

WisCon₂₇⁺

Stay up-to-date with WisCon news.

Do you want to be reminded that a program participant deadline is approaching or get updates on the list of attending luminaries? We will publish this information in progress reports, but you can get more information, quicker, if you subscribe to the electronic WisCon newsletter. We call it **eCube** and it's absolutely free. Just go to:

<http://www.sf3.org/wiscon/news.html>

WisCon 27
Box 1624
Madison, WI
53701-1624
608-233-8850
concom@sf3.org
www.sf3.org/wiscon/


WisCon 27 Registration Form

If registrants have different postal addresses, please copy this form and complete separate registrations.

Name — person #1 _____
 Name — person #2 _____
 Name — person #3 _____
 Street address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip/Postal code _____ Country _____
 Phone (day) _____ Phone (eves, weekends) _____

Badge name (person #1) * _____
 Badge name (person #2) * _____
 Badge name (person #3) * _____
 Email address (person #1) _____
 Email address (person #2) _____
 Email address (person #3) _____

* Optional badge names. Normally we print your first and last names on your badge in large type. If you have a special name or "handle" you would like instead, please provide in "badge name" field. We can only accept standard alphabetic characters.

Person #1	Person #2	Person #3	PAID memberships: Please fill in the correct amount for each attending person listed above.	Person #1	Person #2	Person #3	FREE memberships: Please check appropriate boxes. (We need this info to prepare your name tag.)
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	Adult (age 13 & up): \$40 through 04/30/03; \$50 at-the-door	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Former WisCon Guest-of-Honor <i>Free</i>
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	Youth (age 7-12): \$20 through 04/30/03; \$25 at-the-door	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kid-in-Tow (age 0-6) <i>Free</i> (kid stays with parent); available anytime.
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	Supporting (non-attending, receive publications only) \$15; available anytime.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childcare (age 0-6) <i>Free</i> if signed up before 04/30/03; not available at-the-door. <i>Please fill in the age of each child to be enrolled in childcare.</i>
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	Dessert Tickets (Sunday night) \$9 each	years old	years old	years old	
\$ _____	Dealers' Room table(s) \$25—1 table; \$55—2 tables; \$90—3 tables (Dealers must have WisCon memberships.)		Subscribe to eCube and receive WisCon updates via email. Get yourself onto the eCube mailing list at: http://www.sf3.org/ecube				
\$ _____	Total Amount		 Mail before April 30, 2003 to: WisCon 27, SF3, Box 1624, Madison, WI 53701-1624				
\$ _____	Tax-deductible donation						
\$ _____	Total Payment						
Please make checks payable to WisCon							

Please check those items that apply:

- I would like to volunteer.
- I have already arranged to volunteer at WisCon with _____
(name of department or concom member)
- I would like to participate in the Respite. (Deadline April 1, 2003.)
- I would like to be part of programming.
- I would like to display my artwork in the Art Show.
- I would like to advertise in WisCon publications.
- I would like to receive teacher's clock hours (approved by the WI Dept. of Public Instruction).
- I will bake something for the Tiptree Bake Sale.
- Please sign me up for one of the *free* 6th floor party suites for one night. I would prefer _____
(Friday, Saturday or Sunday).



SF³

WisCon 27

Box 1624

Madison, WI

53701-1624

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