



# WISCON 9

## 1985 FEBRUARY 22-24

### AT THE CONCOURSE HOTEL

1 W. Dayton St. Madison WI 53703  
(608) 257-6000



Alicia Austin



GUESTS OF HONOR  
**ALICIA AUSTIN AND LISA TUTTLE**



\$13 Advance Membership till Jan.31

Hotel Rates

\$18 At the door  
\$7 Supporting

\$49 Single \$61 Triple  
\$57 Double \$65 Quad

Lisa Tuttle

### READ WHAT A FAN SAID ABOUT WISCON 8...

#### WISCON REPORT -Robert Taylor

The 8th WisCon was held February 24-26 at the Concourse Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin. Sponsored by SF3, the convention drew over 700 fans. With Elizabeth Lynn and Jessica Amanda Salmonson as Guests of Honor, a full schedule of programming and events, and a very energetic concomm, WisCon was a convention with intelligence, variety, and lots of zest.

I had promised Jeanne Gomoll (Armadillo-Con's first Fan Guest of Honor and a founder of WisCon) that I would attend the convention. It took me five years to work up enough courage to brave the February weather of Wisconsin, and now I wish I had been coming all along.

WisCon is an excellent convention. Subjectively speaking, it's my kind of con. The programming has a strong emphasis on the literary tradition of the field and on fanzines; there is a definite focus on a specific theme (in this case, feminism); and there is a very pleasant air of fannishness about everything. Also, I loved the city of Madison, probably because it is so similar to Austin. Both are state capitals, both have major universities, and both share a common

attitude in lifestyles and culture. Even the geography was similar - especially the capitol building and the university campus.

Pat Mueller (a veteran of Wisconsin winters) and I arrived to enjoy some unexpected warm weather and sunny skies. Texas luck. Signing on as a worker, I spent most of Friday gofering and helping out where I could. When I don't know many fans at a convention, I find gofering the best way to meet folks - and I certainly met some pleasant ones. After all the years I had read *Janus / Aurora*, it was nice to put faces to names, like Richard Russell, Patricia "Spike" Parsons, Gregory Rihn, Kathi Scheller, Jan Bogstad, Tom Porter, Peter Theron, and many other enjoyable fans.

While collating and stapling the *Mad Moose Gazette* (the con's newsletter), Jeanne Gomoll and I caught up on things and I was introduced to several other fans. Plans were made for dinner (one of the two excellent meals I would enjoy in Madison, thanks to Jeanne and Joyce Scrivner), which Pat and I almost missed due to my poor sense of direction. (Madison has an interesting warehouse district.) The restaurant was tiny and the eight of us, including Jessica, Jeanne,

and Spike, made up a third of the diners, but the food was superb and the conversation was lively. Following dinner there were other events: The opening ceremonies, and a mixer with good rock-n-roll and lots of dancing. I'm glad to see this at cons. A dance is a great way to party and bring fans together.

I spent most of Saturday preparing for our NASFiC party, but was able to enjoy several panels and visit the art show and movie room (again, a lack of "bad cinema," but still a good line-up). The dealers' room was impressive for the number of books and magazines on sale, plus the wide selection of fanzines available. The masquerade was almost surreal; in one sense it was quite poor, but it was also highly entertaining. I don't know how it was intended to turn out, but I found it most enjoyable and definitely different. Don't change it; it was great.

While I worked on the NASFiC party, Pat tried to smof at the Women's Apa get-together. Once again the chili and beer and peppers were out and about. Quite a few folks dropped in to sample a taste of Texas and it was great to be throwing a party and getting to chat with fans.

Cy Chauvin came by, along with Stu Shiffman, Candice Massey, and Joyce (who has me nearly talked into darning the weather again and traveling to MiniCon).

WisCon has a curious reputation and I would like to dispel some of the rumors about it. I had heard that it was a very "Serious" convention with little fannish programming and few parties. I had also heard that due to the strong feminist influences, men were barely tolerated. As I suspected, I found these rumors to be without foundation. This is a great convention! The programming does emphasize the literary (thank goodness), but there are *Dr. Who* panels, a comics panel, a costuming and makeup panel, plus gaming and many other things - something for everyone. WisCon does emphasize women and SF (again, thank goodness), but I hardly equate that with intolerance of males. At the feminist panels I attended (some of which were humorous as well as serious) I noticed an overriding theme of tolerance, especially toward other people, cultures, and lifestyles.

My tolerance of cold weather is still rather low - but I don't think it will be another five years before I attend WisCon again.

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☆ REGISTRATION FORM ☆

\_\_\_\_\_ attending memberships  
                                  @ \$13 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(available 'til 1985 Jan 31)

\_\_\_\_\_ supporting memberships  
                                  @ \$7 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(non-attending: you only get  
publications--and our ever-  
lasting gratitude)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Make checks payable to SF3)

NOTE: Please make sure your  
name and address are correct on  
the other side of this form. List  
additional names below.

Thank You Very Much! ☆

To those of you who signed up for WisCon 9 at WisCon 8. We know who you are, and will keep in touch. (One of the purposes of this mailing is to clean up our mailing list.) More information will be sent out this fall & winter. Stay tuned.

(608) 251-6226  
Days

WISCON Box 1624 Madison, WI 53701

(608) 233-0326  
Evenings