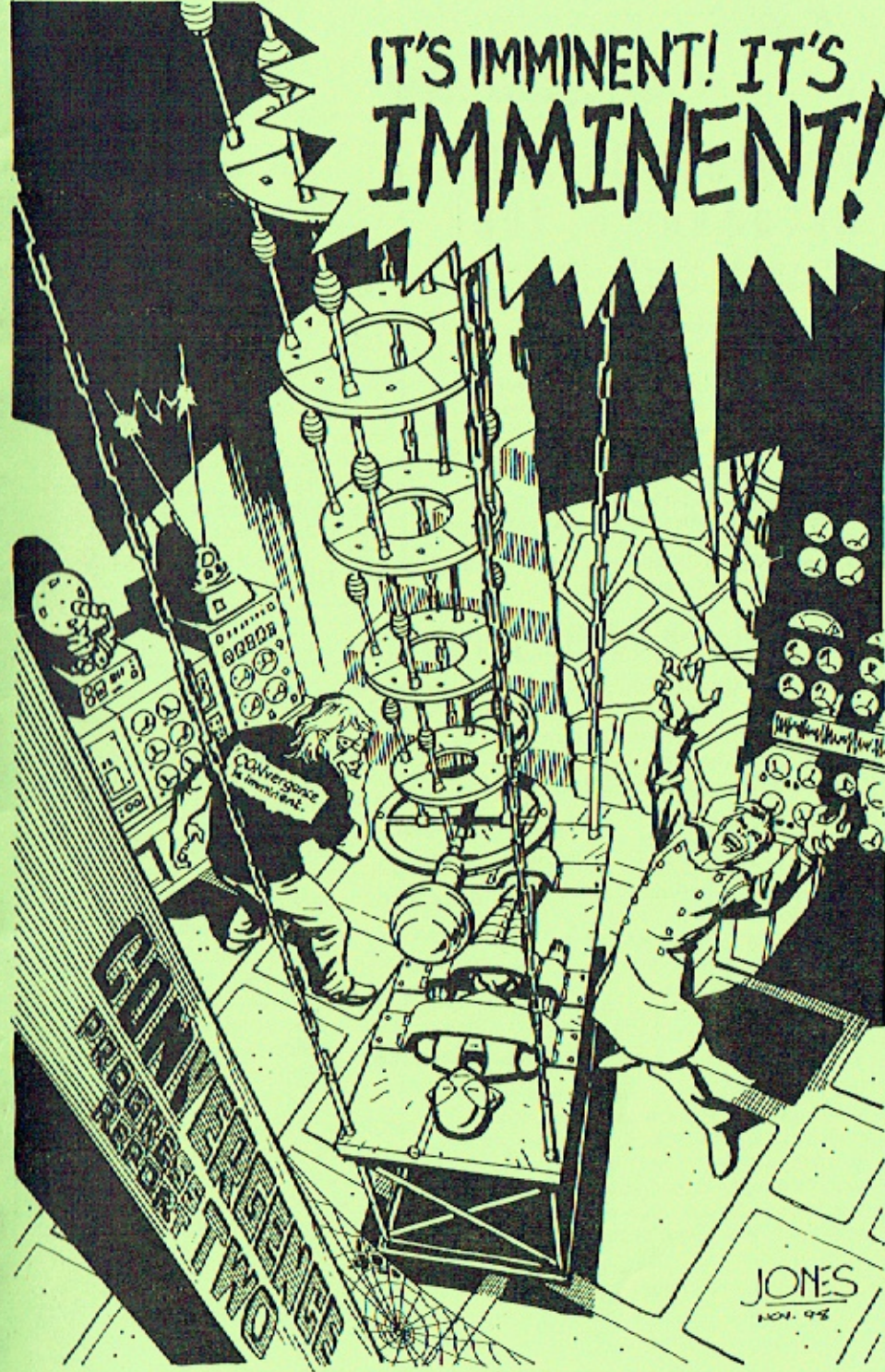


CONvergence

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Minneapolis, MN 55414
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Web: www.convergence-con.org

CONvergence is imminent.

NOTE: If you have the "©" symbol on your mailing label you are **officially registered** for CONvergence and this mailing acts as your written notification. If this symbol does not appear you are **not** registered. If you feel you have been omitted in error, please contact registration@convergence-con.org. If you wish to register for CONvergence, look for our registration form on our web site.



CONVERGENCE

July 2, 3, 4 1999

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Progress Report 2 November 9, 1998

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Summing Up CONvergence

If you've heard this before, bear with us. We want to repeat it for any newcomers because we are always trying to expand our audience and bring more people into the fold.

CONvergence is a celebration of diverse science fiction and fantasy coming to the Radisson Hotel South in Bloomington, Minnesota July 2-4, 1999. We enjoy the diversity of science fiction/fantasy, and are reluctant to confine it solely to its literary form.

We understand and recognize that science fiction and fantasy are also on television, in the movies, in the games that we play, in the way we see the world through art and science, in how we dress; they even have a bearing on how we interact with each other.

That doesn't mean we're denying books a place. At CONvergence, the

books stand *with* the other expressions of science fiction and fantasy.

In short, we're committed to the diversity that the genres of science fiction and fantasy have achieved, and to showcasing that diversity in a positive and fun way... for everyone.

CONvergence will feature panels and other programming on science fiction and fantasy in several programming tracks: Movies, Literature, Television, Comics, Anime, Gaming, Hard Science, Art and Artists, and Youth Programming.

In addition to national and local guests, CONvergence will exhibit a film room (*Cinema Rex*), a 24-hour Anime room, gaming, an SF-themed coffee shop, room parties, and live music featuring *Lojo Russo and Funks Grove*. And of course, CONvergence is proud to present the *Masquerade!*

"Let me explain.
Wait, there is too
much. Let me
sum up."

— Inigo Montoya, *The Princess Bride*

The CONvergence '99 Convention Committee

"A committee is a cul-de-sac down which ideas are lured and then quietly strangled."

— Sir Barnett Cocks

Administration Division

Derrick Dasenbrock .. Director

Publications Division

Christopher Jones Director

Yuk Ki Lau Support
Bonnie Glander..... Support
Mary Ellen Weber..... Proofing
Corey de Danann..... Proofing
Elliott Proofing
Paul Comeau..... Web Page
John Dassow Web Page

Financial Division

Pat Wick Director

Bethany Davidson..... Support
Sheree Rumbaks Support
Bruce Yoder Support

Facilities Division

Ishmael Williams..... Director

Leslie Powell..... Support
Jess Hajicek Support
Mary Switras Support
Greg Johnson Teamsters
Laura Lochen Operations
Dave Potter..... Operations
Ishmael Williams Hotel
Michael Alexander..... Hotel
Sub-Head
Jules Raberding Hotel Support

Marketing Division

Jeremy Stomberg..... Director

Renee Balazs..... Dealer's Room
Michael Fanslow..... Concessions
Perrin Klumpp Fundraising

Communications Division

Windy MerrillDirector

Kelly Pope.....Support
Ryan AlexanderRegistration
Cindy Barwin.....Information
Charles PiehlVolunteers
Rob Withoff.....Video

Events Division

Tim Wick.....Director

Diana StebenSupport
Shannon Fairbanks...Programming
Dayna WolterMusic, TV Prog.
Matthew Gress.....Hard Science Prog.

Michael KentAnime Prog.
Ron Patire.....Anime Room
John Grams.....Cinema Rex
Eric KnightCinema Rex
Zvie RazieliCinema Rex
Bill LochenMainstage
Peter Verrant.....Mainstage Tech
Kat Peppmiller.....Masquerade
Corvus Elrod.....Masquerade Emcee

Nick PostComics Prog.
Marc SoderburgGaming
Kevin McColl.....Gaming Prog.
Mat Brener.....Youth Prog.
T.J. Starbuck.....Parties
Michelle Clark.....Parties Sub
Linda Petersen.....Parties Sub
Shannon LeslieConsulte
Gypsy.....Consulte Sub
Jody WurlCOF²E², Lit.
Judy Byers.....COF²E² Sub
Perrin KlumppPhule's Club

CONNIE SEZ:

Things are beginning to get exciting! We've got new information for you on Guests and making Hotel Reservations for CONvergence.

Read on to find out about all that and more.

Isn't this fun?



Registration Rates Changing Soon!

There is only a short time left to pre-register for CONvergence at our \$20 rate. After the end of this year the rate will go up to \$25.

Supporting memberships are \$10 with an additional \$15 payable at the door. This saves you \$15 over the at-the-door rate! Of course, until our rates go up at the end of 1998 it would be cheaper to actually register. But if you don't have the funds, aren't sure if you'll be able to attend, or just want to support us, then by all means become a Supporting Member.

"How are the twins?"
"Triplets."

"My, how time flies."
—Sam Lowry & Jack Lint, Brazil

Until Dec. 31, 1998	\$20
Until May 31, 1999	\$25
July 2-4, 1999 at the Door	\$40
Until May 31, 1999 Kids Ages 10 and Under	\$10
Supporting Membership	\$15
Kids 5 & under	Free

See our registration form at the back of this booklet for further information. It's in your best interest to pre-register in 1998, but you can also look for us at our Minicon 34 room party. We rocked the house at M33, what'll we do at M34???

Hotel Update

Status of Hotel Agreements

CONvergence is proud to call the Radisson South in Bloomington, Minnesota its home. Over the years, the Radisson has proven to be eminently capable of hosting an event such as ours.

Our first few years will be challenging. Conventions are big business for hotels, and many conventions book their hotel space two to three years in advance. This can leave new conventions scrambling for hotel space, or compromising to get what they need. CONvergence is no different.

In 1999 we will be centering our activities in the Radisson South. Our panels, events, parties and ConSuite will be located within that building, and as with other conventions held there, we are centering our hospitality around the Garden Court. Because there is another convention booked into the Radisson for that same weekend, we have a very limited number of sleeping

rooms available within the Radisson proper.

Our plan, therefore, is this: We will book as many people into the Radisson as we can. Our room block there numbers 75 rooms. We have managed to book our block in the Garden court, occupying all of the cabanas around poolside. In order to accommodate as many attendees as possible, we will be allocating the second-floor cabanas for sleeping and allocating the first-floor cabanas for parties. That will leave us a small number of rooms elsewhere in the Radisson.

Our primary overflow hotel for sleeping rooms will be the Wyndham Gardens Hotel, located just a few minutes east of the Radisson. The Wyndham is excited to host our attendees, and we are pleased to open up an arrangement with them. It is our anticipation that most of our attendees will be using the Wyndham for their sleeping rooms. And we are talking with the Wyndham about the best way to provide shuttle service.

That's our hotel story in a nutshell. We hope you'll bear with us through the first years, and help us build the most successful convention possible.

How to Reserve Your Room for CONvergence

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find our hotel reservation form. The CONvergence Hotel Department will be allocating all of the rooms in the Radisson and making the bookings for the Wyndham Gardens Hotel. In order to secure a room for our convention, please submit the enclosed form anytime after November 15th, 1998. Once received, your request will be submitted to the appropriate hotel, which will in turn mail you a reservation confirmation.

Please keep in mind that the hotels will be looking for a guarantee on the room that you reserve. Rooms can be guaranteed either by providing a credit

card number to the hotel in question or by sending a check for the first night's stay. If using a credit card, no charge will be made for the room until check-out. Checks will be deposited right away. Should a reservation be canceled 48 hours or more prior to scheduled check-in, the hotel will refund any deposits.

That's all that's needed to reserve a room for CONvergence. If you have any questions, please be sure to send us an e-mail at hotel@convergence-con.org or contact us through any of the other channels listed in this book.

"Gentlemen, welcome to my underground lair."

—Dr. Evil, *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery*

Kat Peppmiller to Produce Masquerade

Masquerade is looking for a few good people.

The following are positions available for those who wish to volunteer: Masquerade registration, Judges Coordinator, Lead Wrangler, Head Bean Counter and of course Judging. If you are interested in any of these positions please e-mail us, contact us through the CONvergence website or snail mail. The addresses appear throughout this booklet.



We realize that it is quite early for many of you to be thinking about Masquerade registration, but in an attempt to turn over a new leaf we want to make this

information available to everyone as soon as possible.

Most of the work for Masquerade won't really gear up until February, but it is important that you know you can ask questions; for example, what size the stage is, or where the Greenroom will be, or how long a presentation with 22 people will be allowed to take. Let us know what you need to know.

If we can't answer your question we'll find someone who can.

Also, we expect to have the Masquerade Registration Forms available on the Web. In fact, you will be able to submit all of your forms for the Masquerade via the Web except the liability release. Since this is a legal document it must be mailed to us prior to the convention or delivered at the convention.

We are looking forward to working with all of you in the next few months, and to a great show in July.

Confirmed Guests for CONvergence '99

From the beginning, one of our goals for CONvergence was to find guests who would be exciting, active participants in the convention and who would cross media boundaries in their contributions to Science Fiction and Fantasy.

Now that we have our first confirmed guests, we are happy to say that we feel we have delivered on those intentions. So with no further ado, we are pleased to announce our first confirmed guests for CONvergence '99!

Guests of Honor

Forrest J. Ackerman

— Sci-Fi Editor/Collector/Historian/Legend

Hugo Gernsback called him the "Son of Science Fiction."
Steven Spielberg called him "A hero in his own time."
John Landis, Joe Dante & Rick Baker called him "Our Mentor."
H.P. Lovecraft called him "Peculiarly ridiculous."
And Harlan Ellison wished him "A speedy, ignominious death."



Who could be characterized this way by such a legendary group of talents? A legend of Science Fiction and Fantasy himself, the man who coined the term Sci-Fi: The one and only Forrest J. Ackerman.

CONvergence is very proud to announce Forrest J. Ackerman as our first confirmed Guest of Honor for 1999. Winner of the very first Hugo Award, Forry is truly a legend, having founded *Famous Monsters of Filmland* in 1958 (which he would continue to write and edit for over 30 years), and having written and edited countless Sci-Fi-related articles and books.

Forry has known and worked with a host of legendary figures in Sci-Fi film and literature, and his California home, the "Ackermansion," houses what is arguably the largest collection of science fiction and fantasy memorabilia in the world.

Forry has had cameo appearances in over 50 films including *Amazon Women on the Moon*, *The Howling*, *Beverly Hills Cop III* and the Michael Jackson video *Thriller*. He even co-created *Vampirella* with Jim Warren.

Forrest Ackerman's other credits and accomplishments are too numerous to mention here, but if you want to know more about this legend of science fiction and fandom we highly recommend that you check out Forry's fun and informative website at <http://www.best.com:80/~4forry/foyer.shtml>. It's a scream.

Forry has called himself "A sci-fi sponge that should be squeezed for information and anecdotes as long as I'm here." Toward that end, CONvergence is pleased to announce that Forry plans to host a number of panels and readings during the convention weekend. Check out our website (<http://www.convergence-con.org>) for more details.



Gary Russell — Doctor Who author

Gary Russell is the author of several *Doctor Who* novels and has enjoyed a long association with all things *Who*.

Gary's *Doctor Who* novels and contributions to the *Short Trips* anthologies include adventures of nearly all the Doctors, as well as an adaptation of the 1996 *Doctor Who* TV movie shown on the Fox Network. He has been an editor for and contributor to *Doctor Who Magazine*, and produced twenty issues of his fanzine *Shada* from 1979 to 1995.

For more information on Gary Russell and his works, check out his website at <http://www.gary.dircon.co.uk/>.

CONvergence would like to thank the Minnesota Doctor Who Viewing Society (MNDWVS) for sponsoring Gary Russell as a Guest of Honor, and for making it possible for us to have him at CONvergence 1999. For more information on the MNDWVS check out their website at <http://www.gronet.com/mndwvs/>.

Featured Guests



Pam Keesey — Author / Editor

Pam Keesey is enjoying a growing reputation as an authority on women's roles and themes in modern fiction. Her first book - *Daughters of Darkness* (Cleis 1993) - and its follow-up - *Dark Angels* (Cleis 1995) - are collections of short stories focusing on lesbian themes in vampire fiction. 1996 saw a third book from Cleis entitled *Women Who Run with the Werewolves*, which focused on... well, you get the idea.

In 1998 Pam released *Vamps: An Illustrated History of the Femme Fatale*. This book traces the Vamp figure from silent film to modern movies such as *The Hunger* and even *Basic Instinct*.

Pam has also written a variety of articles, reviews, and essays including an introduction for *Dangerous Dames* (11th Hour Productions, 1998) and an afterword for the Lovecraft/Willy Wonka pastiche *Feaster in the Fudge Room* (Sidecar Preservation Society, 1998). She is also a Spanish Editor at Llewellyn Worldwide.

Currently, Pam is working on *Ackerwomanthology: Classic Science Fiction Stories by Women* with Forrest J. Ackerman, and the forthcoming *Out of the Shadows and Into the Night* with Rick R. Reed (Design Image Group, 1999).

CONvergence is pleased to welcome Pam and have her share her insights with fans at our 1999 convention. For more information on Pam Keesey and her works, check out her website at <http://www1.minn.net/~pkeesey/>.



Gordon Purcell — Comic Book Artist

Comic book penciller Gordon Purcell has a long list of credits to

his name, and has found particular success in the area of comics licensed from movies and TV. His work includes *Star Trek*, *X-Files*, *Xena*, *Lost In Space*, *Godzilla*, *Young Indiana Jones*, *Barb Wire*, *Terminator* and others, plus illustrations for *Star Trek* young peoples' novels from Pocket Books and *Star Trek* coloring books. Gordon has also pencilled traditional super hero fare for DC, Marvel and Image Comics.

CONvergence is very happy to welcome Gordon to our inaugural year, and we look forward to sharing Gordon's unique perspective not only on comics but on dealing with some of the hottest properties in Science Fiction and Fantasy today.

CONvergence is in negotiations with additional guests for both our 1999 and 2000 conventions. We will continue to announce additional guests as they are confirmed.

COF₂E₂ HOURS SET

The Radisson has been kind enough to allow us to run our coffee shop without the corkage fees that would normally be charged for such an event. In return for this, we have agreed to close COF₂E₂ between the hours of 11A.M. and 7P.M. During those hours you can still obtain coffee from the Radisson coffee shop, but it won't be free.

But never fear! We will continue to offer free coffee when you really need it: Late at night when the Skittles have run out in the Consuite. We're just kidding, of course... the Consuite will never run out of Skittles.

Video Help Wanted

We plan to create a visual archive of CONvergence through the years and are looking for help! We want to document CONvergence-related events before the convention (Room parties, fundraisers, community events, etc.) and events at the convention itself (including Masquerade, Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Parties, Panels, and more).

Magic
Marmot
Studios

Audio
Video
Multimedia
Photography

Robert J. Withoff
Big Kahuna

3632 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409-1104
<http://www2.wave-tech.net/~marmot>



(612) 823-2141



"I beg your pardon, Mr. Wilson, your camera will pick up nothing but a black fog."
"Oh, it's a Goldstar."

—Exeter, Tom Servo,
MST3K The Movie

We need photographers, videographers, sound operators, and editors to help document these events. We also plan to document goings-on in the halls and around the convention. Anyone with a video camera willing to shoot footage and share

Programming



Programming letters will be coming out in late November, but just a reminder: WE NEED YOUR IDEAS!! We can't make this happen without you... well, we could, but we don't think you'd have as much fun!

The deadline for programming ideas is still January 1, 1999, but we reserve the right to take ideas after that if we like them and they fit in a particular track. Also, if you want to be involved with one or more items, please start thinking about it now... we're taking volunteers to participate in panels, to

give talks, and generally to help out as needed. Deadline for volunteers is set for April 4, 1999.

CONvergence Programming is looking for a general sub-head. Previous experience in a programming department would be helpful, as would computer literacy, but organizational skills and good attitude are most important. If you're interested, please let us know soonest!

Movies Programming needs HELP (and a track head)! We're looking for a volunteer to help organize. Programming that deals with the movies that will be shown in Cinema Rex. You'll need to work closely with the guys running Cinema Rex (not too hard, they're great guys, and are very easy to work with!), and will need to be at least fairly responsible and semi-organized.

Youth Programming



Youth Programming at CONvergence isn't just focused on children. We want youth programming to include programming aimed at the teen fans as well (hence the name "youth").

Youth Programming is looking for people to help with programming items that cater to pre-college age fans. We are also seeking a departmental sub-head for Youth Programming and donations of supplies for craft activities. If you'd like to help, contact programming@convergence-con.org.

Anime



Japanese animation will be at CONvergence in tsunami force.

Not only will there be a 24-hour Anime video room at CONvergence (provided by Twin Cities Anime and Manga Society (TCAMS)) but there will also be Anime- and Manga-based panels (primarily provided by TCAMS).

What? You want to know more? Well, all right, but don't come back and complain about how we spoiled it for you. Currently, TCAMS is putting together a top-notch lineup of the best science fiction and fantasy (well, it is an SF/F convention, after all) that Japanese Animation has to offer. TCAMS will also mix in a few classic pieces in hopes that even the most hard core *Otaku* can find something that interests them. And, in the interest of those who don't enjoy reading subtitles at least a third of the videos shown will be dubbed.

As to confirmed titles, we can not announce any at this time, but we are considering showing the complete run of *Neon Genesis Evangelion* TV, both *Evangelion* movies (*Evangelion Death/Rebirth* and *End Of Evangelion*), and the classic mockumentary *Otaku No Video*.

This doesn't require any special knowledge of science fiction movies to run, though it would be cool if you've seen a few and are interested in how movies are made, creature shops, FX, that kind of thing... interested? (please, please, please!)

We'll be releasing more details on all of our tracks in the programming letter next month, but we want to make sure that we have things set before we don't announce them, because we don't want to disappoint all of you. If you have questions or suggestions on Programming, please either snail mail or e-mail us at programming@convergence-con.org.



What... you want more?! Well, TCAMS is also planning to provide about six Anime- and Manga-based panels. The currently proposed panels include:

- **Anime 101** (a primer for all of you who are new to Anime or who would just like to know a little more about it)
- **Science Fiction and Fantasy in Anime** (a discussion of science fiction and fantasy in Anime, what titles to look for, and what the real differences are)
- **Subtitling vs. Dubbing** (a discussion of the pros and cons of each, and why people prefer one over the other)
- **Fan Sub-titling and Fan Dubbing** (what is a fan sub/dub, what are laws concerning them, and what are the mystical "fansub ethics" which surround them)
- **Anime Video Games** (why are there so many games based on Anime and vice versa)

Yes, we know we said about six panels... well, five is about six. All right, we'll tell you, but this is the last secret we're going to reveal: There are currently plans to hold two sessions of *Anime 101* to make it easier for more people to attend.

Parties

At press time CONvergence has sixteen parties confirmed and is considering several more.

Here's a sampling of what's in the works:

Club Neo-Tokyo: A futuristic multimedia nightclub. Music will include Techno, Industrial, Goth and campy retro, featuring DJ Andrei of SubMedia.net, Rev105, First Avenue, Minicon and Cage. Special Guest DJ's include Dr. Boom (The Roxy, Saloon) and DJ Noise (Nachtmusik), and there will be plenty of hi-tech surprises.

Temple of the Jell-O Twister: The basic game of twister but with Jell-O as the colors. Set in a temple atmosphere; it should be messy but fun (swimsuits required). There may also be Jell-O Bingo. Some alcohol served.

The Sock Party: Fun party whose highlights include the sock mating pit (bring your own odd socks and try for a match), a sock hop and sock-puppet theater featuring some of your favorite SF movies. Make your own sock puppet and join in the fun.

"I quit! No more job hunting for me! If Otaku are going to be discriminated against, then so be it! I'm gonna become a *total* Otaku! I'm gonna be not just an Otaku, but the *Otaku* of Otaku... *OTAKING!*"

—Kubo, *Otaku No Video*
(*Otaku is Japanese Slang for Obsessed Fan*)

Club Adventure: If Life Is What You Make It... Why Not Make it an Adventure? Come join us at the Club Adventure Speakeasy where the gin is dry and the guest list is... colorful. Get into the swing of things and participate in our *Adventurer of the Millennium* contest for some great prizes. We look forward to seeing you.

R.O.G.: This party will be doing the usual alcohol & decadence.

The Restaurant at the End of the Empire: This party will feature their customary array of strange and unusual foods plus; they may be talked into serving their very popular drink "Hot Sex" again.

Talon's Portal: A phantasy yavvern run by Talon the Dragon. He graciously serves imported wyne and Mjalden's Cherry (for those not imbibing), hot tea in the morning and afternoon, and Griffon's Stew around midnight. Occurring throughout the weekend are songs sung by proprietors and patrons alike, tales of adventure, and debates on various topics to rival any formal panel.

Tarnis: They will be running the Portside Dock Bar, which is based on the Star Trek universe, with all the unusual drinks that go with it.

At this time CONvergence has only 9 open spots left and space is going fast,

Fundraising

Amazon.com

Want to help CONvergence raise some much-needed capital without having to spend an extra dime yourself? Our website now features a link to Amazon.com, the online source for books, music and more. We hope you support local booksellers like Uncle Hugo's and Dreamhaven, but for your other needs the convenience of shopping over the internet via Amazon.com is hard to beat.

If you link to Amazon.com from our site, five percent of any purchases you make while visiting there will go to CONvergence! You'll be funding our convention without spending an extra penny beyond the cost of your purchase. So if you were thinking of doing some book buying (Christmas is coming), consider shopping in the virtual bookstore of Amazon.com and helping CONvergence be a success in 1999.

Chocolate Bars

Ah, chocolate, the balm for all that ills us. First used by Incas, chocolate has been sought after for centuries, and



now CONvergence has it! CONvergence will be raising money by selling a variety of candy bars (Cookie, Almond, Chocolate Krunch, and Caramel bars). For each sold, CONvergence makes a profit of fifty cents. "But what if we don't like chocolate?" we hear you say (how odd!). Well, we are looking not only for the chocoholics among you to buy this nectar of the gods, we are looking for help selling them as well. If you would be willing to take a box of these bars to work, set it on your desk and bring back an envelope of cash, we'd love to hear from you!

Target Center

You may or may not know this, but all of the food and drink stands at the Target Center are staffed by non-profit organizations that get a percentage of the sales that they make. At the NHL exhibition game, CONvergence earned about \$300. We have also staffed stands for two Garth Brooks concerts and the WCW Wrestling event. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to help us with this excellent fundraiser.

We have actually had fun working at the Target Center and look forward to having you there. Additionally, if you have a fan group that needs to raise money (to host a party at CONvergence, for example) you can put a group together to work at the Target center through CONvergence. For more details, e-mail Perrin Klumpp at aardvark@skypoint.com, or call the CONvergence hotline at (612)996-9224.

"Hi, I'm Candy."
"Of course you are..."

—Candy, *The Kurgan, Highlander*

Magic: The Gathering Tournament

Hey all you *Magic: The Gathering*® fans, we want to hold a tournament for you! CONvergence is planning on holding a *Magic: The Gathering*® tournament sometime in early 1999.

There will be more announcements as the details are worked out, so keep checking the website, reading the Nexus Points and coming to open meetings for more information, or contact us via e-mail.

Merchandise

Here's a quick reminder of all the nifty stuff you can get to show your support for CONvergence:

"The next time some eight-foot-tall, wild-eyed maniac taps the back of your favorite head against the barroom wall and asks if you've paid your dues, well, you just do what old Jack Burton always does at a time like that. You stare the sucker right back in the eye.

"Have you paid your dues, Jack?"

"Yes Sir, the check is in the mail."

— Jack Burton, *Big Trouble in Little China*

Advertising

If you have a business or just want to reach the local fan community, why not advertise with CONvergence? CONvergence is currently accepting advertising for our on-site program book as well as for our Progress Reports. Friday, March 12 is the ad deadline for PR3, which will be distributed on April 19th. That will be our final Progress Report before CONvergence '99. For rates and more information on advertising with CONvergence, check the advertising FAQ on our website.

CONvergence News

Registration

We're at over 500 pre-registrations already, and we've still got over half a year left! Some of you have already been nice enough to volunteer to help with data entry, and it was *very* appreciated. We still have a lot to get

CHEAPSKATE WEASEL SPONSORSHIP BUTTONS

The Cheapskate Weasel Button is not merely a CONvergence button design, it is actually our lowest sponsorship level. One Cheapskate Weasel button can be yours per \$5 contribution.

Cheapskate Weasel buttons are available at CONvergence events, or can be obtained by sending a check or money order (no cash, please) made payable to CONvergence to: CONvergence, P.O. Box 13208, Dinkytown Station, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

We'll even pay for the postage to send you your button(s), because after all, you or someone you know is too much of a cheapskate weasel to want to pay for it themselves.

T-SHIRTS

One of the best ways to show your support for CONvergence is by wearing a CONvergence T-shirt. Both T-shirt designs ("CONvergence is Imminent" on a black shirt and the "Independence Day" design on a gray shirt) are available for sale at CONvergence events for \$15 each. Contact us for information about ordering by mail.

done and we're going to need help on convention weekend. If you would like to volunteer, or if you have any questions about our registration(s), please contact us at registration@convergence-con.org.

E-mail Policy Change

We've had a change of policy regarding our use of e-mail communications (and the crowd goes wild!). Our previous policy as stated in PR1 was to wait for a specific, individual request to be added to our e-announce list.

The reasons for this policy were logical and relevant, but due to community feedback and communications feasibility, we have revised our policy. If we have your e-mail address in our database, you have already been informed of this change.

The new policy is as follows: If you provide us with an e-mail address, we will add that e-mail address to our e-announce list until you ask to have it removed. In brief, rather than assume you *don't* want our fun and informative e-mails, we are now making the assumption that you *do*.*

Volunteers

Just a brief note from Volunteers: As you know, things won't really start to gear up until the first of the year. But

if you REALLY want to help out if — you're just rabid about your need to volunteer — then, yes! We can most certainly use the help! Good help is always needed at fundraising events, as well as at the usual mailing parties, and there are even some Department Head positions available. Open positions include:

- Marketing Division Support
- Art Show Department Head
- Visual Media Department Head
- Media Liaison
- Guest of Honor Coordinator
- Administrative Division Support
- Archivist
- Publications Division Support
- Advertising Department Head
- Mailings Coordinator
- At-Con Publications Dept. Head
- Con Program Coordinator

So if you haven't been contacted already and really wish you had been, please contact us. Leave a message on the hotline (612/996-9224) or send e-mail to communications@convergence-con.org. We promise we will get back to you promptly!

WOULD YOU ACCEPT JELLY BABIES FROM THIS MAN?

The Minnesota Doctor Who Viewing Society meets once a month to watch videos from the series.

Our next party is Sunday Nov. 22 which is one day before the 35th anniversary of the series.

Highlights include:

- The Five Doctors
- The Missing Years (Documentary)

Christmas-themed party is December 20th
We meet at the Southdale Library, 7001 York Ave S.

Our Party Hours are Noon – 5pm

Contact Greg: 612-781-7726 e-mail: wav@visi.com

www.gronet.com/mndwvs





CONvergence at ICON

CONvergence was at the SF convention ICON in Iowa City October 16-18. We held a room party, the theme of which was "CONvergence: The Curiously Strong CONvention." Yep, it was an Altoids party.

CONvergence Variety Show

Our Variety Show was held on October 24 at Anne Simley Theater on the Hamline University Campus. More than 3 hours of entertainment included *Lojo Russo and Funks Grove* and *Soylent Theater*, both of whom will be performing at CONvergence next year. Check out our website for more details on the Variety Show or our ICON room party!

Upcoming Events

Next Open Meeting

The next CONvergence open meeting will be held on Saturday, January 16 from 2:00-4:00P.M. at the Merriam Park Library - 1831 Marshall Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108. Call them at (651)642-0385 if you need directions. This is your next chance to hear the latest news about CONvergence, to have the Board of Directors answer your questions, and to get involved in the process. You can even pick up T-shirts, buttons and other CONvergence merchandise. You'll probably have fun, too! Don't miss out. We hope to see you there!

CONvergence Karaoke Night

OK, just how brave are you? This will be a free event held in the Edina Room of the Radisson South (7800 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington, MN) on Saturday, November 21 from 7:30 to 11:00P.M. Our KJ (Karaoke Jockey) for the event will be Robb Roloff. We will be holding a raffle, and prizes will be given for the best performances of the evening. So if you want to show up and sing, or just want to point and laugh, be sure to stop in. We dare you!

"Sing.
Sing a song
Sing out loud.
Sing out strong!"
— *Sesame Street*

Timeline

Mon, Nov 9: PR2 Distributed
Sat, Nov 21: Karaoke Night
Sat, Jan 16: Open Meeting
Fri, March 12: PR3 Ad Deadline
Sat, March 13: Open Meeting
Fri-Sun, Apr 2-4: Cabana Party at Minicon34

Sun, April 11: Open Meeting
Mon, April 19: PR3 Distributed
Sun, May 2: Open Meeting
Sun, June 6: Open Meeting
Fri-Sun July 2-4: CONvergence '99
Sun, July 25: Post Mortem

We have additional events planned which are not yet scheduled. Check our web page or get on our e-mail announcement list for further news and information as it develops.

"Whoah - let's stop this crazy whirligig of fun. I'm getting dizzy."
— *Xander, Buffy the Vampire Slayer*

Registration Form

This form has been reduced to fit the format of this booklet. To return the form to its original proportions, enlarge to 165% of its current size.

Please Print Clearly • One Registration per form • Please feel free to make photocopy duplicates of this form



WHAT: A Celebration of Diverse Science Fiction and Fantasy
WHEN: Friday July 2 - Sunday July 4, 1999
WHERE: The Radisson South, Bloomington, Minnesota

Complete this form and send it (with check or money order, US funds only) to: CONvergence, P.O. Box 13208, Dinkytown Station, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Registration Rates

Until Dec. 31, 1998	\$20
Until May 31, 1999	\$25
At the Door July 2-4, 1999	\$40
Until May 31, 1999 Kids Ages 10 and Under	\$10
Kids 5 & under	Free

I am a fan of:
(Check all that apply)

- SF/Fantasy Movies
- SF/Fantasy TV Series
- SF/Fantasy Literature
- Star Trek
- Star Wars
- Babylon 5
- X-Files / Millennium
- Highlander
- Xena / Hercules
- StarGate
- MST3K
- Role-playing
- Dr. Who/British SF
- NASA/Space Science
- Anime
- Animation
- Comics
- Film

Required - These fields MUST be filled out for us to process your registration.

Full Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, ZIP Code, Country (if not USA) _____

Phone (Home and/or Work) - at least one is required _____

Badge Name (If Different from Full Name) _____

Check One: Adult Badge (21 & over) Non-Adult Badge (under 21)
You must specify Adult or Non-Adult status. People wishing adult badges will be asked to show a picture ID showing that they are at least 21 years old at the time they pick up their badge. That means that if you're not 21 now but will be by the time the convention is held, you can still request an adult badge.

An E-mail address is not required but will speed up the process of confirming your registration.

E-Mail Address _____

I would be interested in volunteering... (check all that apply)
I would be interested in volunteering for the following areas (check all that apply):
 General Operations Registration
 Before the Con Art Show Parties Risk Management (Security/First Aid)
 During the Con Masquerade Programming

Do you possess any other skills or resources that you would be willing to lend the use of to CONvergence? Please explain (use the back of this form if necessary): _____

Thank you for your interest in and support of CONvergence, to be held July 2, 3, 4 1999 at the Radisson South in Bloomington, Minnesota.

If you provide us with an e-mail address, your registration confirmation will be sent to you via e-mail as soon as it is entered into our database. If we do not have your e-mail address, confirmation will be sent upon our next scheduled US Mailing cycle. Any confirmation given is pending the clearing of payment.

Please note that we keep our information private and will not share your personal information with anyone. If you have questions or need to contact us for any reason, please use the contact information below.

CONvergence

US Mail: P.O. Box 13208, Dinkytown Station
Minneapolis, MN 55414
Phone: (612) 596-9224 (24-hour hotline)
E-Mail: convergence99@aol.com
Web: www.convergence-con.org

CONvergence is imminent.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE CON!



Hotel Form

This form has been reduced to fit the format of this booklet. To return the form to its original proportions, enlarge to 165% of its current size.

Please Print Clearly • One room request per form • Please feel free to make photocopy duplicates of this form



July 2, 3, 4 1999

WHAT: A Celebration of Diverse Science Fiction and Fantasy
 WHEN: Friday July 2 - Sunday July 4, 1999
 WHERE: The Radisson South, Bloomington, Minnesota

hotel reservation form

Complete this form and send it to: CONvergence, P.O. Box 13208, Dinkytown Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

Please fill out the following contact info:

Full Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City, State, ZIP Code, Country (if not USA) _____
 Home Phone Number _____ Work Phone Number _____
 E-mail address _____

Room Requirements:

Check One:	Check One:
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 King Bed	<input type="checkbox"/> Smoking
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Double Beds	<input type="checkbox"/> Non Smoking
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't Care

Check any requirements that apply:
 Low Floor Rollaway Crib
 Wheelchair Access

Number of People in Room: _____
 Other Responsible Party: _____

Check-in Date: _____
 Check-out Date: _____

JULY 4 th WEEKEND 1999					
WED JUNE 31	THUR JULY 01	FRI JULY 02	SAT JULY 03	SUN JULY 04	

Once received, your form will be processed and you will be assigned a room in the Radisson Hotel South, or Wyndham Gardens as they are available.

Please note, convention activities will be centered in the Radisson, but the majority of sleeping rooms will be in the Wyndham Gardens.

Room: Radisson - \$99/night
 Rates: Wyndham - \$84/night

Important Hotel Information (Please Read):

- CONvergence assigns all rooms, cabanas, parlors, and other hospitality areas.
- If you want to host a room party (regardless of location), you must also fill out a Parties Request form.
- Please note CONvergence will only accept TWO CONvergence '99 room request forms from any one person.
- CONvergence will attempt to return unprocessed any form considered illegible or incomplete.
- Please inquire about exact check-in/check-out times when contacted to confirm your reservation.
- If you would like your room to be near a particular group, indicate name here: _____
- CONvergence will accommodate as many people as possible, but not all requests can be fulfilled.

- Check-out time is 12 noon for all hotels unless otherwise specified.

For more general information on CONvergence, visit our web site or contact us through the channels listed below.

Direct all inquiries to the address below or email:
 hotel@convergence-con.org.



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 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414
 Phone: (612) 955-9224 (24-hour hotline)
 E-Mail: converge99@aol.com
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Programming Information Form

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Please Print Clearly • One Participant per form • Please feel free to make photocopy duplicates of this form



July 2, 3, 4 1999

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 WHERE: The Radisson South, Bloomington, MN

programming information form

Complete this form and send it to: CONvergence, P.O. Box 13208, Dinkytown Station, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Participant Information

These fields MUST be filled out for you to participate in programming.

Full Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City, State, ZIP Code, Country (if not USA) _____
 Phone (Home and/or Work) - at least one is required _____
 E-Mail Address (not required) _____
 I'm willing to do at least _____ items, but no more than _____.

I have interest in the following programming tracks:

<input type="checkbox"/> Anime	<input type="checkbox"/> Art and Artists	<input type="checkbox"/> Comics	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature
<input type="checkbox"/> Gaming	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard Science	<input type="checkbox"/> Movies	<input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous
	<input type="checkbox"/> Television	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth-related Programming	

What kinds of items would you feel most comfortable participating in? (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Seminars (One speaker, audience listens)
<input type="checkbox"/> Panels (3-5 Experts, Audience asks questions)
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshops (Participants take something home, tangible or otherwise)
<input type="checkbox"/> Roundtables (Moderator leads discussion, everyone contributes)
<input type="checkbox"/> Readings (Author reading from works)
<input type="checkbox"/> Autographing (Author or artist autographing works)
<input type="checkbox"/> Show / Demo (Group show or demonstration, i.e. Stage Combat)
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (please describe) _____

Thank you for your interest in and support of CONvergence, to be held July 2, 3, 4 1999 at the Radisson South in Bloomington, Minnesota.



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Programming Idea

Please describe a programming item you'd like to see at CONvergence. Please note which programming track you think your idea might fit into, if any.

I would like to produce this item myself:
 Yes No Only with help

What times are you available to be on Programming Items? (Check all that apply)

Fridays:
 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000
 2100 2200 2300 2400

Saturdays:
 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400
 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900
 2000 2100 2200 2300 2400

Sunday:
 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400
 1500 1600

NOTE: Programming will at least to follow these preferences, but cannot guarantee that participants will not be scheduled outside these times.

I'd rather not be scheduled AGAINST the following items: (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Opening Ceremonies	<input type="checkbox"/> Lojo Russo Concert
<input type="checkbox"/> Closing Ceremonies	<input type="checkbox"/> Masquerade



Dealers Form

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Please Print Clearly • One dealer registration per form • Please feel free to make photocopy duplicates of this form



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dealer information form

Complete this form and send it (with check or money order, US funds only) to: CONvergence, P.O. Box 13208, Dinkytown Station, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Please fill out the following:

Name of Business _____

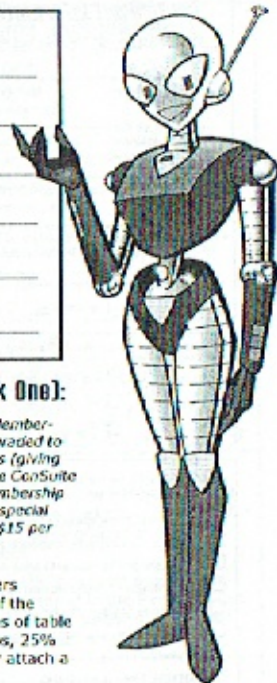
Street Address _____

City, State, ZIP Code, Country (if not USA) _____

Phone Number _____ Fax Number _____

E-mail address _____

Primary Contact Person _____



What amount of table space would you like? (Please Check One):

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | One Table | \$60 | Two free Dealers' Room Membership Badges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Two Tables | \$110 | Three free Dealers' Room Membership Badges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Three Tables (Maximum) | \$160 | Four free Dealers' Room Membership Badges |

Dealers' Room Memberships can be upgraded to Full Memberships (giving you access to the ConSuite and all other Membership privileges) for a special Dealer's rate of \$15 per upgrade.

CONvergence hopes to populate its dealers room with a diverse blend of dealers featuring a wide array of merchandise. Please provide us with a description of the types of merchandise you plan to offer. If possible, try to indicate percentages of table space you plan to dedicate to different types of merchandise. (E.g. 50% videos, 25% CDs, 25% cassettes) Please write this information on the back of this form or attach a new sheet when sending the form in with your payment.



Thank you for your interest in and support of **CONvergence**, to be held July 2-4 1999 at the Radisson South in Bloomington, Minnesota.

For more general information on CONvergence, visit our web site or contact us through the channels listed below.

For more information on the CONvergence dealers room, contact the Marketing Department directly at marketing@convergence-con.org.

CONvergence

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CONvergence is imminent.

A LETTER FROM MISFITS



Hello. My name is Bethany Davidson and I am excited to represent you as the new President of the Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy (MISFITS).

I would also like to introduce MISFITS Vice-Presidents Kat Peppmiller and T.J. Starbuck and Treasurer Perrin Klumpp.

MISFITS is the non-profit parent organization sponsoring CONvergence. Our mission includes education, literacy and community building. MISFITS is a forum and foundation for members of the fan community, a chance to celebrate our diversity and our common bonds, and an opportunity to promote the appreciation of and interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy within the greater community.

During discussions at CONvergence open meetings you have already given us many good ideas for community service and fandom activities in which you feel MISFITS should be involved — but we need your continued input. If you have ideas for activities you would like MISFITS to sponsor, if you would like to volunteer, or if you would like to help us with our special events and fundraising activities, please send us e-mail at misfits@winternet.com or attend the next CONvergence open meeting.

I look forward to meeting you and talking with you soon.

Bethany Davidson
 President, MISFITS

In Closing

Many thanks to everyone who helped bring CONvergence's second Progress Report together. I think this one has been an improvement over PR1, and hopefully PR3 will be even better.

Thanks to you for taking the time to read PR2. Please share it with your friends and anyone who might be interested in becoming part of CONvergence. Your comments and suggestions are always appreciated.

If anyone would like to contribute something to future progress reports or to the *Nexus Point* (the Official Newsletter of CONvergence), please write us.

If you gave us your information to be added to our mailing list but have not yet received anything from

CONvergence (and got your hands on this PR through other means) it is possible that there is an error in our records. If you think this may be the case, please contact us so we can get the problem fixed.

We also want to make as much use of our e-mail announcement list as possible. If you want to be added to the list, please e-mail us at communications@convergence-con.org and say "YES! Add me to your e-mail distribution list."

See you on April 19, 1999 for PR3!

Christopher Jones
 Publications Director
 CONvergence

And Remember:

CONvergence is Imminent!