


CONvergence 2000

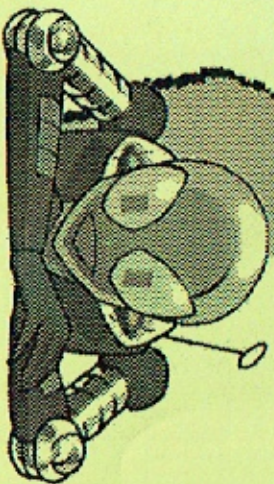
PROGRESS REPORT 1



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CONvergence

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Phone: (612) 996-9224 (24-hour hotline)

E-Mail: info@convergence-con.org

Web: <http://www.convergence-con.org>

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.



I GOT TO
KEEP THE
RING!

Who is that in the *Green Lantern* costume? It's our beloved mascot *Connie!* Look for more of Connie in this publication and on our web site! If you look closely, you may even spot her in DC Comics' *Day of Judgment* #4!

Green Lantern and Day of Judgment © DC Comics, Inc.

CONvergence Contact Information:

P.O. Box: PO Box 13208, Dinkytown Station
Minneapolis, MN 55414
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Web Site: <http://www.convergence-con.org>

CONvergence 2000 - Progress Report 1

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CONvergence 2000 Progress Report 1 was designed by Christopher Jones for CONvergence Publications. Cover artwork and all interior artwork (unless otherwise noted) by Christopher Jones. Special thanks (as always) go to our proofreaders.

We always welcome feedback and suggestions, and ask that any comments be directed to any of the channels above.

CONvergence is a convention for fans of science fiction and fantasy coming to the St. Paul Radisson in Saint Paul, Minnesota on July 7-9, 2000.

This Progress Report provides an overview of many CONvergence features and events, but if you don't find what you're looking for, just ask us! For more information or to contact us for any reason, please use any of the contact channels listed at left on the inside front cover.

Registration Rates and Deadlines

There is only a **short time left** to pre-register for CONvergence at our **\$25 rate**. At-the-door registration is \$50, so pre-registering can *save you money!* We kept our registration rates extra-low for CVG 1999 since CONvergence was an unproven commodity then. Those rates have gone up slightly this year, but we now hope to have these rates hold steady for some time to come.

ADULT MEMBERSHIPS

July 5 - December 31, 1999 \$25
January 1 - May 15, 2000..... \$35
At the Door..... \$50
Supporting Membership..... \$15 (+\$20 at the Door)

KIDS AGES 6-12

July 5 - May 15..... \$15

CHILDREN AGE 5 AND UNDER are FREE.

If you want to know how to **pre-register** or **reserve a hotel room**, check out the forms at the back of this Progress Report. They should tell you everything you need to know, but if you still have questions, contact us!

Have you people gone **MATRIX HAPPY** or what?

Our cover art and our usual sprinkling of fun quotations in this PR are all homages to *The Matrix* for two reasons. First, it was the source for this year's CONvergence slogan ("No one can TELL you what CONvergence is, you have to EXPERIENCE it for yourself"). Secondly, the MISFITS Board of Directors agrees that *The Matrix* was the best Science Fiction film of 1999. *Do you disagree?* We'd be happy to hear arguments to the contrary...

Table of Contents

Section	Page
Convention Committee Listing	2
Guests of Honor	3
CVG 2000 Hotel	5
CVG 2000 Features and Events	
Art Show and Auction	5
<i>Cinema Rex</i> (Our amazing movie room)	6
<i>COFFEE</i> (A free coffee shop and live music venue).....	6
Dealers Room	6
Gadgeteer's Petting Zoo / Science Display Area	7
Gaming and Roleplaying	7
The Masquerade	7
Music	7
Parties	8
Phule's Club	8
Programming	8
Silent Auction	9
<i>Soylent Theater</i>	9
<i>Theater Nippon</i> (Our Anime room).....	9
Volunteers.....	9
CVG 2000 Publications Schedule	11
MISFITS	11
In Closing	12
Hotel, Parties and Registration Forms	14



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 Ron Patire..... Theater Nippon

Just because a department of CONvergence already has a department head doesn't mean they don't need your help! If you want to help with a certain department or just help out at CONvergence in general, please contact our Volunteers Department (see page 9).

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Guests of Honor

Last year's Guests of Honor were Sci-Fi legend **Forrest J Ackerman**, Doctor Who audio series producer **Gary Russell**, and **Harry Knowles**, creator of the *Ain't-It-Cool-News* web site and movie guru. Harry attended with his dad, Jay "Father Geek" Knowles, who also contributes to the *AICN* web site. In addition to sitting several panels, Harry and Jay held court in their poolside cabana suite, sitting up until all hours of the night talking to any fans who wanted to visit. Needless to say, the room was typically packed.

Jay recently sent us an e-mail after receiving a copy of our *CVG 1999 Post-Mortem Report*. We just had to share some of these quotes from Jay, speaking for himself and Harry Knowles:

"We loved your Con and all its attendees. We both agreed that we had more pure fun at your event than at any other we have ever attended."

"The single best experience of the show for both Harry and I (we've talked of this several times) was having the space and time to entertain and informally visit with fans and your great staff. The parties in our suite that lasted 'til 5am every day were nothing short of fantastic!!! A great experience neither of us will ever forget. We still get many e-mails from people that hung out with us in the room on those fun-filled nights."

"Programming/panels met our expectations and beyond. The Art Room was cool. The Auction room was likewise. The live concert was loads of rockin' fun, a great show. Socializing in the hallways was tops! COF2E2 was a necessity that really helped stretch those nights in an enjoyable way."

"We experienced no tech problems other than the fact that our days were only 24 hours in length and our 5 days among you were indeed just only 5 days. We hated having to sleep and we didn't want to leave so soon."

Wow!

We were, of course, very flattered by Jay and Harry's comments, and are pleased to announce that we plan to have both of them back as guests in the near future. Harry Knowles just co-hosted the Halloween edition of Roger Ebert's movie review TV show, and is developing a movie news/talk show of his own with Merv Griffin Enterprises that may be on the air next year.

This year's Guests of Honor are shaping up to be equally exciting!

"Have you ever had a dream, Neo, that you were so sure was real. What if you were unable to wake from that dream? How would you know the difference between the dream world and the real world?"

— Morpheus, *The Matrix*

Neil Gaiman: Creator/Writer of Sandman, and Neverwhere, writer of Comics, TV, Short Stories and Novels

With an introduction of Neil Gaiman and a personal perspective, here's Jeremy Stomberg...

I didn't take the bullet for Neil.

Maybe I should be more clear. There was no bullet in the first place, so there was no need for me, standing next to Neil at his appearance at DreamHaven Books last September, to take this non-existent bullet. But he told the crowd of about 200 that if there were any bullets heading his way that I was the one that would jump in front of said bullet, this saving his life, and more importantly, the signing. Wouldn't be fair to those further back in line if Neil were unable to continue, would it?

Neil Gaiman knows a lot about a lot. When he writes about a person, place, thing or idea, he gets a big stack of information about it and



"It's a very exciting time. We've got a lot to do. We've got to get to it."



So, Morpheus, I don't mean to complain, but could I get a little variety? The electric sheep are getting pretty old...

tries to know it inside and out. Therefore, he's able to make you think he's known this person or lived in this place for an exceedingly long time, and he knows them better than they know themselves. He's able to take you on a walk through present-day London or the Baghdad of a thousand years ago. He can let you meet Augustus Caesar, Emperor Norton I, or William Shakespeare.

Most widely known for his **Sandman** series for DC/Vertigo Comics, Neil has also written the BBC miniseries **Neverwhere**, and a novel based on that miniseries. He has written two short story anthologies (**Angels & Visitations** and **Smoke and Mirrors**). He has written two versions – illustrated and non-

illustrated ("For people who aren't mature enough to read books with pictures", he says) – of **Stardust**, as well as a **Babylon 5** episode, a **Duran Duran** biography, and numerous comic book scripts, chapbooks, short stories. He has also scripted Disney's English-language version of the Anime film **Princess Mononoke**.

Neil's also a great storyteller in person, whether he's reading one of his works of fiction or telling an aghast crowd how Morpheus is packing heat in the latest draft of the **Sandman** film. His convention panels are always lively, and he'll answer any question put to him with humor and sincerity.

Not only that, but he does a mean Harlan Ellison impression.

You ever have that feeling... where you're not sure if you're awake or still dreaming?

— Thomas Anderson, *The Matrix*



Ruth Thompson: Fantasy Artist – Book covers, Fantasy Games, Medieval Renaissance Festivals

CONvergence is proud to feature award-winning fantasy artist **Ruth Thompson** as a Guest of Honor in 2000. Through her company, **Tarnished Images**, Ruth has created artwork depicting elves, wizards, warriors, heroes, heroines, wolves, dragons, fairies, unicorns, as well as many other mythical creatures and subjects. Ruth Thompson's artwork has been featured in trading card games, fantasy games, and many major publications.

Some of the companies Ruth has worked for include **Wizards of the Coast** (for *Magic the Gathering*), **TSR**, **Iron Crown Enterprises** (ICE), **Royal Fireworks Press**, **Dragon Magazine**, **Palliard Press**, **Steve Jackson Games**, and many more. Ruth can be seen at Science Fiction / Fantasy Conventions and Medieval Renaissance Festivals around the country.

Ruth's first book cover contract came in January of 1996, and she has been painting book covers since then for **Royal Fireworks Press** (a children's book publisher in New York). In addition to averaging more than a cover per month, Ruth creates 10-15 new works for self-publication each year along with commission paintings and other contract work for card games, fantasy games, and magazines.

For more information on Ruth Thompson and her work, check out her web site at <http://www.tarnishedimages.com>.

More guests to be announced soon!

CONvergence 2000 Hotel

"You believe that you are special. That somehow the rules do not apply to you. Obviously you are mistaken."
— Mr. Reinhart, *The Matrix*

As happy as we were with the **Radisson Hotel South** in Bloomington for our 1999 convention, that space was committed to other groups and was unavailable for any viable weekend for CONvergence in 2000. As an alternative, CONvergence 2000 will be held at the **St. Paul Radisson** in downtown St. Paul, Minnesota.

The St. Paul Radisson is different in a number of ways from the Radisson South in Bloomington, but it does have a similar arrangement of poolside cabanas, which contributed greatly to the enjoyable party atmosphere found at CVG 1999.

We are currently in the process of making space allocation decisions regarding our use of the St. Paul Radisson's event space for the various CONvergence features. A space allocation map will appear in **PR2** in the spring.

We are continuing to investigate food and parking options in downtown St. Paul. Currently, the Radisson St. Paul is charging \$9.00 per day for parking. Their normal rate is \$9.00 for parking Monday-Friday, and \$12.00 for parking Saturday and Sunday. They are planning to build an additional parking lot immediately across the street from the hotel. If this plan succeeds, then parking rates may go even lower. **PR2** will have extensive coverage of area parking options and any special rates we have been able to arrange.

Food, as you know, can become somewhat scarce in downtown St. Paul after about 6:00pm. We will be putting together an eating guide for downtown St. Paul, which will include **Cosetta's**, an excellent dining establishment; the **St. Paul Radisson's** own **Carousel**

restaurant; **Sakura**, a wonderful sushi restaurant; and of course, the local numbers for **Dominos** and **Pizza Hut**. In addition, we are talking with the St. Paul Radisson about opening their sandwich bar in the evening for those who don't want to leave the hotel.

Central City Theatre and Phyllis Productions, Ltd. a company for performers

The Central City Theatre is located at 343 Lake St. in Minneapolis. It is a community-based theatre and is available for rental by small theatrical or music groups. For information on rental prices or upcoming shows please contact Judy Cooper-Lyle at:

5812-11th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55417

voice: 612/869-5080 or fax: 612/869-2425

Paid Advertisement

CONvergence 2000 Features and Events

What will there be to do at CONvergence 2000? Most of what there was at CONvergence 1999 to enjoy will be returning, some of it new and improved!

Art Show & Auction

"Have you ever stood and stared at it? Marvelled at its beauty... its genius?"
— Agent Smith, *The Matrix*

We have a whole new crew running the CONvergence Art Show and Art Auction this year. **Michael Byrne** and **Amy McInroy** are Art Show co-heads, and **Eric McInroy** is our Head Auctioneer. Other Art Show team members include **Andy Murphy**, **Charlie Horne**, **Teresa Chaney** and **Jeri Byrne**. Many of the wonderful tips, suggestions, and ideas that were received during the CONvergence 1999 Art Show and Auction will be incorporated into CONvergence 2000.

We are in the process of updating our **Artist Database**. If you are an artist or know someone who is (and we know you are out there) and would like information about showing artwork at the CONvergence 2000 Art Show please contact us at:

E-Mail: mjbyrne1@uswest.net

US Mail: CONvergence Art Show
c/o Michael & Jeri Byrne
6131 Regent Avenue North
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

Cinema Rex (Movie Room)



"Buckle your seatbelt, Dorothy, 'cause Kansas is going bye-bye."
— CIPHER, *The Matrix*

One of the greatest successes of CONvergence 1999 was the launch of **Cinema Rex**. Cinema Rex showed a wide variety of crowd-pleasing SF and fantasy films on a 10-foot screen, most in a **widescreen format** from DVD or Laserdisc to ensure a sharp image. And did we mention the surround sound?

Who wants to sit through a movie in a hard chair? Well, you don't have to. Rex has brought in a truckload of comfy couches, chairs, and love seats for your beleaguered bottoms. While he was at it, he scooped up armloads of lamps so you won't be blasted out of your seats by fluorescent lighting between films, and coffee tables and end tables so you'll have a place for your drinks, food, and feet during the films.

Fresh made popcorn (yum, yum) and candy will adorn our concession stand. Of course you won't have to trudge all the way to the ConSuite to get a beverage; we'll have our own. And did we mention cookies? Who could ask for more?

In the end, a film room can only be as good as the films it shows. We hope to have as good a selection of movies as last year, but again we won't be able to announce the playlist prior to the convention due to copyright agreements. Check out our web site to see a listing of last year's movies.

COF₂E₂ (Free Coffee and Espresso)



"It's a single-celled protein, combined with synthetic aminos, vitamins and minerals. Everything the body needs."
— Dozer, *The Matrix*

COF₂E₂ will be back by popular demand. (Surprise, surprise, people like **free coffee!**) We expect to have a better handle on staffing this year, and will know soon if we will have similar restrictions on our hours of operation this year as we did last year. "F2-E2" will again be a **music venue** this year, and we plan to announce a partial line-up of musical acts in PR2.

Dealers' Room

The CONvergence 2000 Dealers' Room will have **more tables** than at CVG 1999, and we hope to also have a **wider variety** of dealers and merchandise available.

Space in the Dealers' Room is available at a rate of \$65 for the first table and \$55 for each additional table, with a limit of four tables total.

Dealer's memberships can again be **upgraded** to full memberships for \$20, either at the time of the purchase of the table space or at the door on convention weekend. You get up to 2 free Dealer's memberships with the first table and 1 for each additional table, up to 5 Dealer's memberships for 4 tables.

For further information on Dealers' Room space, contact the Dealers' Room care of CONvergence (see inside front cover) or email marketing@convergence-con.org before December 31, 1999.

Gadgetsers' Petting Zoo / Science Display Area

"Throughout human history we have been dependent on machines to survive. Fate, it seems, is not without a sense of irony."
— Morpheus, *The Matrix*

The Gadgetsers' Petting Zoo at CONvergence1999 was a good start on what we hope will be an ongoing tradition at CONvergence, but one thing it lacked was gadgets. The **Minnesota Space Frontier Society**, the **Minnesota Astronomical Society**, the **University of Minnesota Geology Department**, the **Minneapolis Planetarium**, and **Jeff Claussen** did a great job of filling out the room, but we want more fun, fantastic and goofy gadgets next year.

If you are interested in seeing this unique offering continue and have gadgets of your own to add to the display, contact Gadgetmaster **Richard Caylor** care of CONvergence (see inside front cover).

Gaming

"What is 'real'? How do you define 'real'?"
— Morpheus, *The Matrix*

In addition to a track of gaming-related programming, CONvergence will feature an open gaming area and many organized games of various kinds. Look for more detailed information in PR2. If you would like to offer to run a game or otherwise help with CONvergence gaming, contact **Richard Brantley**, **Lisa Pepin**, or **Chris Mortika** are of CONvergence (see inside front cover for contact information).

The Masquerade



"Your clothes are different... your hair is different. Your appearance now is what we call residual self-image."
— Morpheus, *The Matrix*

Kat Pépmiller will return to produce the CONvergence Masquerade. Anyone who saw the CVG 1999 Masquerade knows that Kat's tradition of excellence in Masquerades is alive and well at CONvergence.

The Masquerade will be held Saturday night on **Mainstage**. It promises to be a fantastic show and a great opportunity for regional costumers to display their abilities in costuming and presentation in Novice through Master divisions.

All Masquerade registration forms will be available on our web site except the Liability Form, which needs to be filled out and signed at the convention. We encourage everyone planning to participate in the Masquerade to register prior to the convention so we can better plan volunteer needs.

Music



As with CONvergence 1999, we will be featuring live music again this year. We will have two bands Friday and one band or a DJ dance on Saturday night. Although the timeslot is not yet set, we have our first confirmed musical act for CONvergence 2000:

Psychopop will play Mainstage at CONvergence 2000 after their popular appearance at CONvergence 1999 in our COF₂E₂ venue.

We are still in the process of negotiating with bands and as soon as more are confirmed, we will be announcing them on the web site and on our e-mail announcement list.

We will also be having music again in our COF₂E₂ venue and we need your help. We need small acts that have minimal amplification needs to perform in our coffee shop. Any type of music is welcome, but we need to know you are out there. Please contact us at info@convergence-con.org if you are interested in performing.

Parties

Are you one of those people who like to have fun? Do you enjoy parties? Then why not host one? All it takes is some great ideas, some planning, and a place to have it. We will supply the place; it's up to you to supply the ideas and the planning. Our helpful Parties staff will even assist you with those.

How do you sign up to host a party? Just fill out the form located conveniently in this Progress Report and send it to the address listed.



Phule's Club



Phule's Club was popular at CVG 1999, but we think it will be even better at CONvergence 2000.

What *is* Phule's Club? Why, it's The Greatest Gaming Establishment and Smart Bar in the Known Galaxy™. Phule's Club is a fast-paced, fun-filled game emporium and high-tech smart bar set in that best of all Ancient Egyptian times, the Cyber Era. (Surely you're familiar with the Egyptian Cyber Era. There was a special on the Discovery Channel just last week...)

Programming



"I know Kung Fu."
"Show me."

— Neo and Morpheus, *The Matrix*

CONvergence 1999 introduced a rather unique model for programming, and our survey results said you enjoyed what we did last year. We hope to do even better this year, so we are continuing to fine-tune and tweak that model for CVG 2000. We are keeping the "campus" approach (programming broken out into several tracks, with all programming for a specific track in a specific room), as well as the format of 60-minute panels separated by 30-minute breaks for setup, breakdown, discussion spill-over, etc.

We are making some changes to the programming tracks this year: The **Comics** track has merged with **Art and Artists** track, and the **unCONventional** track is now known as the **Sci-Fi Hot Dish** track ("Ya never know what will be in it, don'cha know").

Anna Bliss and **Stephanie Lindorff** return as Programming Department Co-Heads this year. The sub-heads for CONvergence 2000 Programming are:

Literature: Jody Wurl

Hard Science: Matthew Gress

Gaming: Kevin McColl

Television: Elizabeth Jones

Art and Comics: Charlie Home

Youth: Anton Peterson

Movies: Albert Choy

Sci-Fi Hot Dish: Anna Bliss and Stephanie Lindorff

We want to hear **your ideas** for panels, events, single person presentations, and the like. Better yet, how about sitting that panel yourself, or helping recruit other panelists for it? Please send your suggestions or contact us to get involved in CONvergence programming. The Programming Department can be reached at programming@convergence-con.org or care of CONvergence through any of the contact channels listed on the inside front cover.

We hope to start scheduling the panels and programming events for our **Guests of Honor** very soon, and will be posting that information to the web site as it is finalized. If you want a GoH to be part of your programming event, tell us soon.

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction was a great success, raising over \$1,000 for the **Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy (MISFITS)**! We plan on making this an annual fundraiser for MISFITS and we are already looking for donations to our auction for next year. Please contact us if you have something that you would like to donate.

Soylent Theater

The boys are back! **Tim Uren, Kelvin Hatle, Joe Scrimshaw** and **Josh Scrimshaw** return with a new show full of "geek chic" comedy. If you saw **Soylent Theater** at CONvergence 1999, either their Masquerade halftime show or their full-length Main Stage show, you know what a riot these guys are. Featuring hysterical sketch comedy rich with a knowledge and love of the best and worst of Sci-Fi, **Soylent Theater** is not to be missed. Sketches last year included a parody of Episode One and a fair helping of Dalek humor. What will this year bring? **NO MAN CAN SAY.**

Theater Nippon (Anime Room)



As the immortal bard might have said, "An Anime Room by any other name still shows videos with a lot of Japanese school girls and giant robots."

OK, he would *never* have said that. But the point is that the Anime Room is back, freshly dubbed **Theater Nippon**. (A freshly sub-titled version is not currently available.) Once again, the good folks at the **Twin Cities Anime And Manga Society (TCAAMS)** are hosting and operating the CONvergence Anime room, and we're sure they'll do the same great job. A listing of titles being shown at **Theater Nippon** will be made available closer to the convention.

For more information on TCAAMS, check out their web site at <http://people.mn.mediaone.net/deedle>.

Volunteers

"I know what you're thinking, 'cause right now I'm thinking the same thing. Actually, I've been thinking it ever since I got here: Why oh why didn't I take the BLUE pill?"

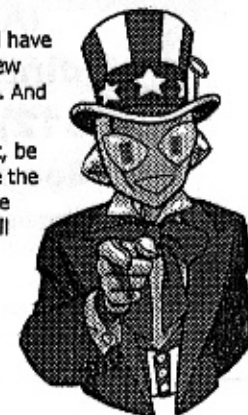
— Cipher, *The Matrix*

Any experienced convention attendee will tell you where the real fun is to be found: **Volunteering!** Get that "behind the scenes" thrill. Witness embarrassing anecdotes that will become part of fan legend. Most importantly, earn the love and respect of your fellow con-goers. Because everyone loves a volunteer!

The Volunteers Department did not run as smoothly as we would have liked last year, but please, be patient with us! We've got some new ideas and new department heads, **Eve Kramer** and **Kelly Pope**. And they believe they can pull order out of chaos.

If you have offered to volunteer but have not been contacted yet, be patient. The department work shifts usually get filled right before the convention. And of course, you can always present yourself to the Volunteers Table at the convention and we GUARANTEE there will be grateful people begging for your help.

Much of our volunteer need is staffed at and during the convention. Yes, those unsung heroes: **Badgers, Twinkies,** and **Gophers.**



Badger, n. – 1. A small furry mammal. 2. A convention volunteer who visually checks badges at convention sponsored events, such as the Dealer's Room or Art Show. This volunteer is indispensable to the smooth running of the convention. Perks include getting to sit down, chatting with your fellow badgers and passing attendees, and reading amusing badge names.

Twinkle, n. – 1. A spongy snack cake with a half-life of 437 years. 2. A ConSuite volunteer who maintains an even distribution and flow of snacks and munchies. Perks include being cheered by attendees and sorting Skittles.

Gopher, n. – 1. A bumbling purser on an '80s Aaron Spelling series. 2. An all-around volunteer whose mere presence makes life better for stressed individuals around them.

And of course, there are the many department-specific needs that will be filled by the department heads. If you would like to volunteer for CONvergence, check the box on your registration form. Or snail mail, email or voicemail us! Let us know what you'd like to do and what you're good at — it really does help.

Remember, offering to volunteer does not mean an all-weekend-long commitment. You can volunteer for just an hour or two. You can volunteer and still have plenty of free time to spend any way you want. Thanks for your help and support, and we'll see you at CONvergence!

Farewell to Marion Zimmer Bradley

We are saddened by the death of Marion Zimmer Bradley, author and creator of the *Darkover* world and series, and editor of *MZB Fantasy Magazine*, the popular *Sword and Sorceress* anthology series, and the best-selling *Avalon* books. Ms. Bradley's work is most notable for featuring women in central roles, and for presenting pagan themes in a positive light. She suffered a major heart attack on Sept. 21 which led to her passing on Sept. 25, 1999. Funeral services were held on Sunday, Oct. 17, 1999 in California.



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CVG 2000 Publication Schedule

Feb 27, 2000: Advertising / Submissions Deadline for **PR2**
Mar 28, 2000: **CVG 2000 Progress Report 2** Distributed

May 15, 2000: Advertising / Submissions Deadline for
Souvenir Book and Programming Guide

July 7-9, 2000: **CONvergence 2000!**
Souvenir Book and Programming Guide Distributed



The Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy

US Mail: PO Box 2879, Loop Station
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0879

E-mail: misfitsNP@aol.com
Web: www.misfit.org

The mission of the Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy (MISFITS) 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.

In addition to being the parent organization of **CONvergence**, MISFITS also sponsors many ongoing clubs, events and programs, including:

2nd Annual MISFITS Team Trivia Challenge

"Listen to me, Coppertop. We don't have time for Twenty Questions."
— Switch, *The Matrix*

On Saturday, April 1st, MISFITS will host the Second Annual **MISFITS Team Trivia Challenge**. This competition will be open to **eight teams** of up to **four members each** who will compete in a game show-style format for prizes and the title of MISFITS Trivia Champions. Our first Trivia Challenge was a lot of fun last year, and we've been working to make sure that this year is even better.

Diversity of knowledge will be an asset, as questions will cover a broad range of Science Fiction and Fantasy in TV, film, literature, and other media. There is an **entry fee of \$20** per team; the top two teams will receive a variety of prizes, and the champions will have their names inscribed the Champion's Plaque. This event will be held at the **Radisson Hotel South** and is definitely a spectator sport. It's free to watch and there's a cash bar, so come join the fun! Space is limited, register soon!

MISFITS Writing Contest 2000

MISFITS will be holding its second annual Writing Contest with both **Youth** (16 years or younger) and **Open** (all ages) Divisions. There is a \$10 fee per entry in the Open Division, and no fee for entries in the Youth division.

Prizes will be awarded in both divisions, and the winning entry in each division will be published and distributed at **CONvergence 2000**. Entries must be unpublished short works of science fiction, fantasy, horror, or supernatural fiction of **3500 words or less**.

If you have questions contact us at misfitsNP@aol.com or

MISFITS Writing Contest, PO Box 52088, Loop Station
Minneapolis, MN 55402-5088

Contest guidelines are also available on our web site at <http://www.misfit.org>.

Project Happy Holidays: 1999

Project Happy Holidays is an opportunity for us to help a family in our Fan community whose year has been unusually difficult. Through nominations provided by our members, a family is selected. We then attempt to fulfill their holiday wish list.

We will be accepting family nominations until Thanksgiving. Please contact us if you would like to nominate a family, donate your time, or help to fulfill the wish list. Help us make their holiday happy.

MISFITS Sci-Fi Movie Night

MISFITS is pleased to sponsor **MISFITS Sci-Fi Movie Night** in partnership with Nathan Block of the Plaza Maplewood Theater, 1847 East Larpenteur Ave., Maplewood. (651) 770-7969 (Hit "4" for Sci-Fi Movie Night Info.)

Movies will be shown on **Friday** and **Saturday** nights on the third weekend of each month. **Tickets are \$4** and showings are at **11:30pm**. Upcoming movies include *Big Trouble in Little China* (Nov. 19, 20), *Close Encounters of the 3rd Kind* (Dec. 17, 18), and Ridley Scott's *Legend* (Jan. 21, 22).

In Closing

"I don't know if you're ready to see what I have to show you, but unfortunately, we have run out of time."
— Morpheus, *The Matrix*

Thank you for taking the time to read PR1, and thanks to everyone who helped produce it. Please share PR1 with your friends and anyone who might be interested in becoming part of CONvergence. Your comments and suggestions are always appreciated. See you at CONvergence!

*No one can TELL you what CONvergence is...
you have to EXPERIENCE it for yourself.*



Sandman: The Dream Hunters Neil Gaiman & Yoshitaka Amano

SIGNED by both \$29.95

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Out of town? Call our mail order dept. at

612-823-6070 (shipping extra)

www.dreamhavenbooks.com

Minicon 35



Music! Parties! Mark Time Award! Programming!
Art Show! Hucksters! Silly games! Dr. Mike!

April 21-23, 2000

Hilton Minneapolis & Towers
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Writer Guest of Honor

Maureen F. McHugh

Hugo-winning author of *China Mountain Zhang* and *Mission Child*

Fan Guest of Honor

Lenny Bailes

Fanwriter, galactic explorer, and help-desk to the masses

Artist Guest of Honor

John Berkey

One of the greatest living SF artists, in his first-ever GoH appearance

Membership	Until 15-Mar-00	At-the-door
Attending	\$40	\$70
Child Attending	\$15	\$30
Supporting	\$15	N/A

(Convert to Attending at the door: \$25)

Hotel Reservations

Call the Hilton directly at 612-376-1000 (or the toll-free reservation system at 800-445-8667) to reserve a regular sleeping room. To reserve a suite, contact <hotel@minicon35.mnssf.org> or send your request to the Minicon PO Box. Room rates: \$72/night+tax, same as 1999! Suite rates: \$130/night+tax and up.



Minicon is brought to you by...

Minnesota Science Fiction Society
P.O. Box 8583
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Minn-Sf events hotline: 612-824-5559

Minicon's address:

Minicon 35
P.O. Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN 55408

<http://www.mnssf.org/minicon35/>
<request@minicon35.mnssf.org>

CONvergence YEAR 2000

Programming Form

To volunteer to participate in programming events.

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

Required Information

We cannot guarantee that your programming suggestion will be used, but providing us with your contact information helps keep your ideas in consideration.

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 _____

I'm willing to do at least _____ items, but no more than _____.

I have experience or interest in the following SF/F-related areas:

- Anime Art and Artists Comics Television
 Gaming Hard Science Movies Cons / Fandom
 Literature / Literary Criticism Youth-related Programming

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

- Seminars (One speaker, audience listens)
 Panels (3-5 Experts, Audience asks questions)
 Workshops (Participants take something home, tangible or otherwise)
 Roundtables (Moderator leads discussion, everyone contributes)
 Readings (Author reading from works)
 Autographing (Author or artist autographing works)
 Show / Demo (Group show or demonstration, i.e. Stage Combat)
 OTHER (if you have another type of event, let us know)

Thank you for your interest in and support of CONvergence 2000, to be held July 7-9 2000 at the Saint Paul Radisson in downtown St. Paul, Minnesota.

See
you
there!



CONvergence Contact Info

US Mail: P.O. Box 13208, Dinkytown Station
 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414
 Phone: (612) 996-9224 (24-hour hotline)
 E-Mail: info@convergence-con.org
 Web: www.convergence-con.org

No one can tell you what CONvergence is... you have to experience it for yourself.

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. (Write on the back of this form or attach another sheet if needed.)

What kind of item is your suggestion? (Choose from types listed in bottom left box below)

- I would be willing to (mark where appropriate below):
 ... help plan the event. Yes No Only with help
 ... recruit other panelists. Yes No Only with help
 ... moderate this event. Yes No Only with help

I would like to help in Programming Ops. Yes

I would like to be part of the Ace Programming Team! Contact me! Yes

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

- Friday:**
 3:00-4:00pm 4:30-5:30pm 6:00-7:00pm 7:30-8:30pm
 9:00-10:00pm 10:30-11:30pm 12:00-1:00am
- Saturday:**
 9:00-10:00am 10:30-11:30am 12:00-1:00pm 1:30-2:30pm
 3:00-4:00pm 4:30-5:30pm 6:00-7:00pm 7:30-8:30pm
 9:00-10:00pm 10:30-11:30pm 12:00-1:00am
- Sunday:**
 12:00-1:00pm 1:30-2:30pm

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

- Opening Ceremonies Friday Night Music Event
 Closing Ceremonies Masquerade

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

CONvergence YEAR 2000

Parties Form

To register room parties for CONvergence 2000

Parties Staff

Your Parties Staff consists of Parties Head, Linda Petersen, and Sub-Heads Brian Hugel and T.J. Starbuck. They are in charge of making the parties at CONvergence memorable and fun.

We hope to entice you to throw a party yourself and help us put on an incredible batch of parties at CONvergence 2000!

Courtesy:

There are a few courtesies that we would like you to extend to the fans to avoid confusion.

- A Theme:** Just to let the fans know what your objective is. It can be silly (toasting SF with a toaster). It can be obvious (a World Con bid party). It doesn't have to be an SF theme at all, just something that pulls your ideas together.
- Sign/Banner:** We encourage banners and signs to let the fans know what you're about.
- Post Hours of Operation:** Let the fans know that the people lounging around at two in the afternoon are actually lounging and that your party doesn't start until eight that evening.
- Host/Hostess:** Someone should greet your guests when they enter your party. Let them know they're welcome and what's going on.

Some of the things CONvergence will do for you:

- Listing in CONvergence Party Guide:** We will distribute a party guide to all attendees of the convention that will list a name, description, hours of operation and a schedule of any special events for every registered party at the convention.
- Party Pack:** We will distribute a limited amount of pop and munchies to registered parties to supplement your own supplies.
- Buttons:** We will provide buttons for the hosts of the party.
- Signs:** If you provide us with the artwork we will print up your signs/flyers for you.

No one can tell you what CONvergence is... you have to experience it for yourself.

Expectations in return:

There are a few things we do expect every registered party to do.

- We expect you to register your party with the Parties Staff. The form is attached below.
- We expect your party to be open and staffed with friendly people during your posted hours. The Parties Staff will check. If we find a party closed during the posted hours the flyers will be taken down.
- If you are serving alcohol we expect your bartenders to check I.D.'s not just the badges.

Important things to remember:

- Check out times for the hotel are 12:00 noon. If a later checkout time is needed you must contact the hotel itself.
- CONvergence is NOT responsible for removal of furniture from your hotel rooms. Period.
- You will need one hotel room form for each room you will be using.

Make Money for your Party!

In exchange for staffing concession stands at Target Center events, the Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy (MISFITS) gets to keep a percentage of the take. You can volunteer to your time to help at one or more of these ongoing and important fundraising events for MISFITS. If you are part of a fan organization planning to hold a room party at CONvergence, you can even earn money for your group to spend on its own party!

For further information on helping with these important fundraising events, contact Kathy Repmiller at krepmiller@hotmail.com

CONvergence Contact Information

US Mail: P.O. Box 13208, Dinkytown Station
 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414
 Phone: (612) 996-9224 (24-hour hotline)
 E-Mail: info@convergence-con.org
 Web: www.convergence-con.org

Please fill out the information below (print neatly):

Primary Contact Name _____ Full Mailing Address (including City, State, and Zip Code) _____

Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____

Party Name / Theme: _____

Will you be serving alcohol? Yes No Room Party or Poolside Cabana (Check Preference)

Name(s) for Host/Hostess Badges: _____

Days/Hours of Operation: Friday July 7 _____ Saturday July 8 _____ Sunday July 9 _____
 Hours _____ Hours _____ Hours _____

Complete this form and send it to CONvergence Parties, c/o CONvergence, P.O. Box 13208, Dinkytown Station, Minneapolis, MN 55414

CONvergence
YEAR 2000

Hotel Form

For the reservation of hotel rooms for CONvergence weekend

This form is for reservation purposes only. **SEND NO MONEY** for hotel purposes at this time. Payment for your room is arranged between you and the hotel.

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:

- 1 King Bed
- 2 Double Beds
- Don't Care

Check One:

- Smoking
- Non-Smoking
- 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: _____

CVG WEEKEND 2000

WED JULY 05	THUR JULY 06	FRI JULY 07	SAT JULY 08	SUN JULY 09
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Once received, your form will be processed and you will be assigned a room in the *Saint Paul Radisson* as they are available.

Room Rates:

- Single/Double – \$98 per night
- Triple/Quad/Cabana – \$108 per night
- Front Parlor Suite – \$189 per night
- Whirlpool suite – \$295 per night

Important Hotel Information
(Please Read):

- CONvergence assigns all rooms, cabanas, 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 CVG 2000 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 or person, indicate name here: _____
- CONvergence will accommodate as many people as possible, but not all requests can be fulfilled.
- Check-out time is 12 noon unless otherwise specified.



See you there!

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 send E-mail directly to hotel@convergence-con.org.

CONvergence Contact Information

US Mail: P.O. Box 13208, Dinkytown Station
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414
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Web: www.convergence-con.org

No one can tell you what CONvergence is...
you have to experience it for yourself.

please print clearly • one pre-registration per form • please feel free to make photocopy duplicates of this form.

CONvergence
YEAR 2000 July 7-9

A convention for fans of Science Fiction and Fantasy in all media.
At the Saint Paul Radisson in St. Paul, Minnesota

pre-registration 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

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 _____

NOT Required – An E-mail address is **NOT** required but will speed up the process of confirming your registration and providing you with information about the convention. Badge names are also not required.

E-mail address _____

Badge Name (If Different from Full Name) _____

Registration Rates for CONvergence 2000

Until Dec 31, 1999	\$25
January 1 – May 15, 2000	\$35
Supporting Membership until May 15, 2000 (\$15 now plus \$20 at the door)	\$15 / \$20
Kids Age 6-12 (Pre-reg ends May 15)	\$15
At the Door July 7-9, 2000	\$50
Kids 5 & under	Free

Make checks or money orders payable to **CONvergence**.

Check One: Adult Badge (21 & over) Non-Adult Badge (under 21)

You must specify Adult or Non-Adult status. People wishing their 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.

<p>I would be interested in information on: (check all that apply)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Dealers' Room Tables <input type="checkbox"/> Masquerade Entry <input type="checkbox"/> Art Show / Auction <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising <input type="checkbox"/> Programming <input type="checkbox"/> Working with MISFITS 	<p>I would be interested volunteering in the following areas: (check all that apply)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Phule's Club <input type="checkbox"/> Publications <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Mainstage <input type="checkbox"/> Masquerade <input type="checkbox"/> Put me wherever I am needed (our favorite kind). 	<p>I would be interested in volunteering... (check all that apply)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Badgers/Gophers <input type="checkbox"/> Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Art Show Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Programming Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Programming Panelist
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Do you have any other ideas, skills or resources that you would like to lend the use of to CONvergence? If so, please explain on the back of this form.

Thank you for your interest in and support of **CONvergence**, brought to you by the Minnesota Society for Interest In Science Fiction and Fantasy (MISFITS).

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
YEAR 2000

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Phone: (612) 996-9224 (24-hour hotline)
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Web: www.convergence-con.org

CONvergence is imminent.

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

