CONVERGENCE 2000

PROGRESS REPORT



THE CONVENTION SO FUN, IT'S UNCANNY!

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A convention for fans of Science Fiction & Fantasy. July 7-9, 2000 at the St. Paul Radisson in downtown St. Paul, MN

CONvergence

PO Box 13208, Dinkytown Station Minneapolis, MN 55414 (612) 996-9224 (24-hour hotline) info@convergence-con.org http://www.convergence-con.org

CONvergence is a production of The Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy (MISFITS)

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CONvergence 2000 PROGRESS REPORT 2

This is the FINAL progress report before the end of CONvergence 2000 pre-registration and the convention itself.

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CONvergence 2000 - Progress Report 2

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CONvergence 2000 Progress Report 2 was designed by Christopher Jones for CONvergence Publications. Cover artwork and all interior artwork (unless otherwise noted) by Christopher Jones, Special thanks to Elliott for his assistance with this publication.

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

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Shannon Leslie	ConSuite
Cheri Thompson	ConSuite Sub-Head
Richard Caylor	Gadgeteer's Zoo
Richard Brantley	Gaming Room
Lisa Pepin	Gaming Room
Chris Mortika	
Kat Pepmiller	Masquerade
Matthew Dahlquist	Mainstage/Music
Christin "LeXi"	
Erwin-MacDonald	Mainstage/Music
	**

Mainstage/Music
Mainstage/Music
Mainstage/Music
Theater Nippon

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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, just e-mail that department or info@convergence-con.org and we'll get in touch with you regarding any volunteer needs.

"I calculated the odds of this succeeding versus doing something very stupid, and I decided to go ahead anyway."

— Crow, Mystery Science Theater 3000: The Movie

Introduction

OK, let's get down to brass tacks.

Why are we putting out these Progress Reports? Because we want to make sure you decide to come and be a part of CONvergence 2000 this July. We're going to tell you about the great guests we have coming and all the fun and exciting things we have planned for the convention, and provide you with forms to pre-register for the convention or reserve your hotel room if you haven't already.

If you were at CONvergence 1999, you know we throw a great party, and already know why you want to come to CONvergence 2000. If you weren't at our convention last year, find someone who was and ask them about it. They shouldn't be too hard to find, as there were **over 1,400** of them!

If you want more information about any aspect of CONvergence, our web site is a great resource for information, but feel free to contact us directly! Our contact information can be found in the inside front cover of this Progress Report.

And remember, you've only got until May 15, 2000 to pre-register for just \$35!

"I love deadlines. I especially like the whooshing sound they make as they go flying by."

Douglas Adams

CONvergence 2000 Guests

We're very particular about our guests. We don't just want someone who is going to show up, do a required panel or two and then hide out in their hotel room. We want CONvergence guests to be real participants in the convention, available to fans over the convention weekend.

Our guests of 1999 got us off to a great start, and we hope to continue that tradition with our Guests of Honor and Featured Guests in 2000 and beyond. For more information on any of our guests, visit the CONvergence web site.



Neil Gaiman

Guest of Honor

Neil Gaiman first became a blip on the radar for many of us with the creation of his groundbreaking comic book series *The Sandman* in 1989. While Neil still finds time for the occasional comics story (including the recent *Sandman* graphic novel *The Dream Hunters* with Japanese illustrator **Yoshitaka Amano**), he has been spreading out with increasingly diverse efforts in various media.

His works include the novels *Neverwhere* and *Stardust*, many short stories and journalistic essays (collected in 1993's *Angels* and *Visitations* and the recent *Smoke and Mirrors*),

children's books (*The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish*), audio plays, and screenplays. Neil scripted the English translation of **Hayao Miyazaki's** animated film *Princess Mononoke*. He co-authored the novel *Good Omens* with **Terry Pratchett**, and **Terry Gilliam** is now developing that story as a feature film.

For those who would like more information on Neil Gaiman and his projects, CONvergence recommends *The Dreaming: The Neil Gaiman Page* at http://www.holycow.com/dreaming/.

Ruth Thompson

Guest of Honor

Ruth started out drawing the characters of her college AD&D group, and after "escaping" the University of Alabama she began her own business, **Tarnished Images**. In 1996, Thompson accepted her first book cover contract, and has continued painting book covers since then for **Royal Fireworks Press**, a New York publisher of children's books.

Ruth's work 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, and Steve Jackson Games. Ruth can be seen at SF / Fantasy conventions and medieval renaissance festivals around the country.

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



Regina Pancake

Guest of Honor

Regina Pancake is the co-owner of **Applied Effects**, and has years of experience supplying props, gadgets, armor and weaponry for some of the biggest science fiction productions on film and television.

With her previous company, **Proper Effects**, and her current business, she has produced props for **Star Trek: The Next Generation** including the **Sword of Kahless**.

Regina and her studio have created original props for all the Star Trek movies beginning with Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country, and for Ripley's latest adventure in

Alien Resurrection, and created weaponry and armor for Starship Troopers. She even helped to equip Jim Carrey's Riddler in Batman Forever.

Recently, Regina has been finishing work on the weaponry that will be seen the upcoming **Arnold Schwarzenegger** picture, **On The Sixth Day.** She also has props appearing in **Paul Verhoeven's** recently completed Sci-fi movie, **The Hollow Man.**

Regina is both a professional and a fan, and we expect her to be a fantastic addition to CONvergence 2000.

Featured Guests

Peg Kerr

Peg Kerr has written two novels: *Emerald House Rising* and *The Wild Swans*. *The Wild Swans* has been nominated for the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Book Award for its "writing quality and the originality Kerr employed in using a fairy tale to discuss a modern issue of concern (AIDS)." The **SF Web Site**, the Internet host for *Asimov's Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, called *The Wild Swans* "an unexpected masterpiece" and ranked it as the fourth best novel of 1999. See for yourself at http://www.sfsite.com/columns/best00.htm.

Erik Haraldsted

Erik Haraldsted is Guest of Honor **Regina Pancake's** partner and co-owner of **Applied Effects**. He will be joining Regina at CONvergence, with plenty of stories of his own about his adventures designing and creating all kinds of nifty props, tools, armor, and weaponry for TV and film.

Keith Topping

British author Keith Topping's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* episode guide ("*Slayer*") is already out in Britain and will be on US shelves in May. He has also written *Dr. Who* novels; his newest (*The King of Terror*, a Fifth Doctor/Tegan/Turlough book) is set for release in January of 2001. For more information on Keith Topping and his work, check out his web site at http://www.keithtopping.com.

The Cast and Crew of Go to Hell!

Go To Hell' was the best low budget action-comedy film about religion, tabloid journalism, wrestling, assassination, and the Marquis de Sade to come out of the Twin Cities in 1999. Writer-Director Michael Heagle and star Rock & Roll Ray are just two of the many folks who worked on this film that will be at CONvergence 2000 offering panels on low-budget filmmaking, computer effects, and other topics relating to independent filmmaking today.

Of course, you'd probably like to see the film they'll be talking about, so we plan to have a screening of the film. When your friends ask you if you saw anything fun at CONvergence 2000, you can answer: *Go To Hell!*

Registration



Registration is ready and set to GO! The **registration desk** will be located downstairs, right next to the bottom of the escalators. Please refer to the space allocation map on **page** 6 to see the exact location.

Our Registration Hours for this year's convention are:

Friday: 12:00pm-10:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am-2:00pm and 4:00pm-6:00pm

Yes, there is a break in there! Just be patient, and Registration will re-open! Late night registration will be handled by the **Engineering Department**. Just go to the Bridge in Room 205 and ask.

Official Plea: If you expect to arrive after registration closes, PLEASE consider pre-registering, or at least pre-supporting. This means that you will be in our books and you will have a swanky pre-constructed badge waiting for you, making things MUCH easier on Engineering. A pre-registration form is included in this booklet.

As usual, if you would like to pre-register at this year's convention for CONvergence 2001, just go to the **Information Services** desk. You can pay by check or exact cash all weekend long. For those of you who will need change, we will have cashbox services available on Sunday from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

If you just can't wait until CONvergence weekend to get in on the fun, the Badge Party will be June 24th. Collating, laminating and alphabetizing, oh, my! What could be more fun? (Don't answer that.) For more information on the Badge Party, e-mail registration@convergence-con.org or leave a message on our voicemail hotline, (612) 996-9224. A lot of help will be needed and appreciated! Also feel free to e-mail or call if you have any questions, have a new address, or just need a quick CONvergence fix!

St. Paul Radisson Hotel

"If the Martians land, they're gonna need a place to stay! Just like everybody else!"

- Art Land, Mars Attacks

As happy as we were with the Radisson Hotel South in Bloomington for our 1999 convention, that space was unavailable for CONvergence 2000, which will instead be held at the **St. Paul Radisson** in downtown St. Paul, Minnesota. The St. Paul Radisson is different in a number of ways from last year's hotel, but it does have a similar arrangement of poolside cabanas, which contributed greatly to the enjoyable party atmosphere found at CONvergence 1999.

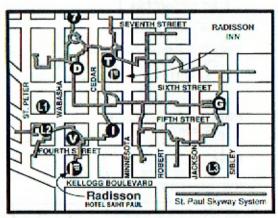
To reserve a room, please forward your room request to the CONvergence Hotel Committee either through the post office box or via e-mail (https://montescore.go.org), but SEND NO MONEY. Payment for your room will be made directly to the hotel on the weekend of the convention. We will be forwarding requests to the hotel as quickly as possible to expedite confirmations. Changes to or cancellations of your reservations need to be transmitted to the CONvergence Hotel Committee. Any other needs you may have for your room can be forwarded directly to the St. Paul Radisson (800-333-3333 or 651-292-1900).

For those throwing **room parties** in either the cabanas or other sleeping rooms, you must speak directly to the hotel if you have any furniture removal requirements. Please be aware that there is a \$50.00 flat charge for this service. The charge covers removal and replacement of beds and other furniture. **Note:** This is a change from last years policy regarding furniture removal, and is required by the hotel.

Parking

Pending a final confirmation,
Llewellyn Publications
(http://www.llewellyn.com/)
is extending the use of their
parking lot to CONvergence
attendees! Llewellyn is a leading
publisher of New Age, Occult
and Alternative Religion
material, and they are located
at the far end of the Wabasha
Bridge (across from the St. Paul
Radisson) at 84 S. Wabasha St.

On CONvergence weekend, convention attendees are free to park in their lot from 5pm Friday until midnight Sunday. We ask that you do NOT park there prior to 5pm Friday as a courtesy to the Llewellyn staff. Our thanks to Llewellyn Publications for this service to our members.



St. Paul Radisson Area Parking Lots and Ramps

- Seventh Street Ramp
- D Dayton's Ramp
- T Town Square Ramp
- L1 Lawson Ramp
- L3 Lowertown Ramp
- V Victory Ramp I Imperial Lot
- G Galtier Ramp
- L2 Lowrey Ramp
- r Radisson Ramp

Space in the Llewellyn lot is limited, and you may prefer something closer, so you'll want to be aware of other parking available in downtown St. Paul, including the Victory and Lowry ramps, as well as the ramp attached to the hotel. Parking rates for Victory and Lowry are \$14.00 per day. Please keep in mind that leaving the lot and then re-entering will entail a new parking charge. The Radisson Hotel is extending a special \$9 per day rate to CONvergence attendees, from Wednesday, July 5 through Sunday the 9th. Please watch the web site for further parking updates.

Another option would be to park farther from the St. Paul Radisson and either walk or bus to the hotel from there. Buses 8, 9, 11, 16, 21, 948, 94C, & 94D all go to the St. Paul Radisson. You can get more information on bus routes and schedules at http://www.metrotransit.org.

Downtown St. Paul Food

Contrary to popular belief, there is a lot of night and weekend life in downtown St. Paul. Area restaurants are plentiful, and provide a variety of delectables from sushi at Sakura, to Italian from Cossetta's and the St. Paul Radisson's own Carousel restaurant. We will be providing a weekend restaurant guide at the convention that will include the above restaurants and more, as well as the numbers for various delivery options including the local numbers for Dominos and Pizza Hut. Between the dining options that will be detailed in the guide and a ConSuite fully stocked with snacks and soda, rest assured you won't go hungry on CONvergence weekend.

Space Allocation

The following maps show how we plan to use the St. Paul Radisson's facilities for convention space. Any changes made between now and the convention weekend will be reflected in maps that will be posted at the convention.

Two important locations not visible on these maps are the Bridge and the Smoking ConSuite. The Bridge is the headquarters for our Engineering Department: The central nervous system of CONvergence in-progress. The Bridge will be located in Room 205. We wanted a Smoking ConSuite separate from our Non-Smoking ConSuite and other non-smoking areas for the comfort of our members who don't smoke. We don't think our smoking members will complain, though. The Smoking ConSuite will be located on the 20th floor in the Presidential Suite, with a beautiful view of downtown Saint Paul.

CONVERGENCE 2000

SPACE ALLOCATION MAPS

ST. PAUL RADISSON HOTEL

FIRST LEVEL

Poolside & Garden Court Suites

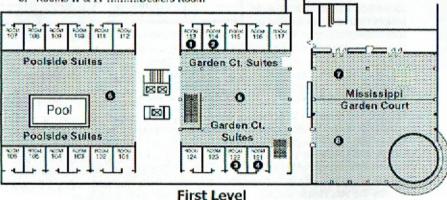
- 1. Suite 113.....MISFITS Room
- 2. Suites 114-117......ConSuite
- 3. Suites 122-124COF2E2
- 4. Suite 121LARP Headquarters

Mississippi Garden Court

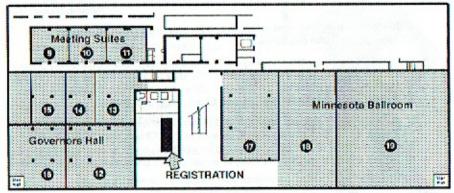
- 5. Garden Court East.....Socializing space
- 6. Garden Court West ... Socializing space

Great River Ballroom

- 7. Rooms I & IIIArt Show
- 8. Rooms II & IVDealers Room



The most important location for you to be aware of prior to the convention weekend is the **Registration Desk**. It's the first place you'll want to go when you arrive at the convention, so you can check in and pick up your program book and other materials. The registration desk will be located downstairs, right next to the bottom of the escalators. There will be signage posted in the hotel to help you find your way.



Lower Level

LOWER LEVEL

Meeting Suites

- State Suite Phule's Club
- Senate Suite Gadgeteers Petting Zoo
- 11. Congress Hard Science / Mil. Sci-Fi Programming

Governors Hall

- 12. Governors I Gaming Room
- 13. Governors II Movies Programming
- 14. Governors III Prog. Ops / Panel Green Rm.
- Governors IV Television Programming
- 16. Governors V Gaming Programming

Minnesota Ballroom

- 17. Capitol Ballroom Literature Programming
- MN West Masquerade Green Room
- 16. Pily West Plasquelade Oreen No
- MN East Main Stage

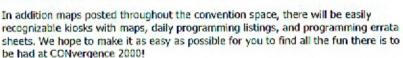
LOBBY LEVEL

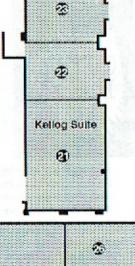
Kellogg Suite

- Kellogg I Cinema Rex
 Kellogg II Youth Programming
- 23. Kellogg III Theatre Nippon

Wabasha Suite

- 24. Wabasha I & IV Art & Comics
- Wabasha II Silent Auction
- 26. Wabasha III Sci-Fi Hot Dish Prog.







Lobby Level

Art Show and Auction

"And of course, with the birth of the artist came the inevitable afterbirth – the critic."

- Narrator, Hudson Havek

CONvergence invites all Science Fiction and Fantasy artists to enter artwork in the CONvergence 2000 Art Show.

We have a whole new crew running the new and improved 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.

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, or visit http://www.convergence-con.org. You can reach us through any of our standard contact channels, or e-mail the Art Show staff directly at mjbyrne1@uswest.net.

Cinema Rex Movie Room



"I saw this in a movie about a bus that had to SPEED around a city, keeping its SPEED over fifty, and if its SPEED dropped, it would explode. I think it was called, "The Bus That Couldn't Slow Down."

Homer Simpson, The Simpsons

Cinema Rex is CONvergence's official film room; a place to relax, be comfortable, eat popcorn, chat, and watch great films. Cinema Rex was one of the biggest hits of CVG 1999 and it will be back with a vengeance for CONvergence 2000.

What movie will we be showing at Cinema Rex. We can't tell you. Ha ha ha. No really, we can't tell you. Though some

companies will allow us to publicize the movies we are showing, we have not signed the agreements with them yet. As soon as the agreements are signed, we will post what movies we are allowed to publicize on the web site. Of course, you can always ask us for the tentative playlist and we will send it out. Trust us, it's an amazing list!

For more information on Cinema Rex, and a complete listing of the 1999 Cinema Rex play list, visit the CONvergence web site.

COF2E2

"Coffee without caffeine is like sex without the spanking."

- Trevor "Cupid" Hale, Cupid

Welcome to COF₂E₂, the place to get your necessary caffeine, hear great music, and chat with the most interesting people. This year, we'll be **open 24 hours**, so stop on by and see what's new! COF₂E₂ is our free coffee shop, offering espresso, regular coffee, and chocolate steamers for all you caffeine addicts out there, or anyone who just needs a break from ConSuite soda!

The coffee and other drinks are free, but we welcome donations from anyone who would like to help us cover the cost of this service. As with last year for a \$50 donation you'll have the opportunity to create and name your own drink, so put on your thinking cap and go down in history!

Want to **volunteer** at one of the most exciting sites and have to chance to meet almost everyone? E-mail us at <u>events@convergence-con.org</u> or contact the Volunteers Department and join us for a cuppa!

 COF_2E_2 is also a venue for **music** of the "unplugged" variety. We'll have a schedule of musical acts posted at the convention.

ConSuite

"May I offer you some chocolate covered pretzels? They're a little melty, but damn are they exquisite!"

- Brodie Bruce, Mallrats

Not just a place to grab free food and pop, **ConSuite** is a place for people to have fun and hang out. But if you are coming for food, we have increased our budget this year to help alleviate some of the problems the hotel location has presented us with.

Expect the occasional "real food" again, in addition to the standard soda, chips and chocolate. Due to the tendency of fans to pounce and consume, these special treats need to be put out here and there at odd times, as opposed to having them on a set schedule. Stop by often to see what's available.

ConSuite is another big user of volunteers, so please contact ConSuite or our Volunteers Department if you'd like to help out!

Dealers' Room

"Don't I yearn? And ache? And shop? Don't I deserve love? And jewelry?"

- Debbie Jellinsky, Addams Family Values

The CONvergence 2000 Dealers' Room will have more tables than at CONvergence 1999, and we have a wider variety of dealers and merchandise available. Here's a listing of dealers confirmed for the CONvergence 2000 Dealers' Room at press time. Updates will appear on the CONvergence web site as the convention approaches.

- Best Friends Hair Wraps & Jewelry
- Bridgets Field Farm
- Captive Elements (body jewelry, magazines, and candles)
- · DreamHaven (sci-fi books and Neil Gaiman merchandise)
- Dreamscapes (jewelry)

(continued on next page)

- · Emerald's Fashions (jewelry)
- Gemini Dreams (jewelry, specially in pearls)
- · Keth's Kreations (hand painted drums & tambourines plus tarot readings)
- · Kyril's Cavern (handmade fantasy creatures)
- Lady Jaynes Books (books new & used, comics, and T-shirts)
- Last Stop CD Shop (used VHS & DVD movies, CDs, video games)
- Legends Games & Hobbies
- Lioness (jewelry)
- · Mere Dragons (art prints; weapons, stickers, and novelties)
- Mirkwood Coffee Comics and Games (games)
- Moonshadows Landing (jewelry, stones, and runes)
- Mo'r Designs (stones and minerals).
- Northern Sun Merchandising
- Odalisque(costumes and art clothing size XI, and up)
- Pegasus Publishing (embroidered and silk screened clothing, music CDs)
- · Re-action Figures (used toys)
- · Riders Fantasy Doll Clothes (action figures and comics books)
- · Something Different Dewelry, bags, candles, hair wraps, and hair tewelry)
- StarFire Swords Ltd.
- The Lazy Dragon (fantasy and historical clothings)
- . The Painted Unicorn
- Uncle Hugo's (sci-fi books)

Fan Faire

CONvergence will again be hosting a Fan Faire, where fan groups, clubs, and organizations from all over the Twin Cities and beyond can set up shop for a few hours and look for new members and friends. All fan-related organizations are invited to participate in the CONvergence Fan Faire. For more information please contact us prior to the convention or stop by the Info Desk on Friday of CONvergence weekend.

Gadgeteer's Petting Zoo / Science Display Area

"Well, once again, my friend, we find that science is a twoheaded beast. One head is nice, it gives us aspirin and other modern conveniences. but the other head of science is bad! Oh, beware the other head of science. Arthur! It bites!"

- The Tick, The Tick

Last year's Gadgeteer's Petting Zoo was a great success!

In addition to a truckload of toys brought in by Gadgetmaster Richard Caylor, we had a few brave pioneers step forward and exhibit their cool stuff. Zoo displays included hard disk drives, computer parts, a riskle clock, unidentified (but nonetheless cool) control panels and, of course, and several homemade robots.

But admit it: A few of you visited the Zoo and thought: "I could have done better!"

Well, now's your chance, because this year the Gadgeteer's Petting Zoo needs your gadgets more than ever! The Gadgeteer's Petting Zoo is depending on you, so assert your technological superiority! Contact the Gadgetmaster today!!

For more information on the Gadgeteer's Petting Zoo / Science Display Area, visit our web site at http://www.convergence-con.org, or contact Gadgetmaster Richard Caylor directly at richardo@transition.com or call him at (651) 642-9588.

Gaming

"Shall we play a game?"
"Love to. How about Global Thermonuclear War?"

- Joshua and David Lightman, War Games

OK, let's state right up front that last year's CONvergence didn't have everything we'd hoped and planned for Gamers. But we've got a new crew in place this year (Richard Brantley, Lisa Pepin, and Chris Mortika) and high hopes that Gamers of all kinds will find lots of fun and exciting things to do at the newest Science Fiction and Fantasy convention in Minnesota. Volunteers are essential! If you would like to help organize or run a gaming event, we want to hear from you.

In addition to a dedicated space for open gaming and gaming-related panel discussions, CONvergence will feature organized gaming events including:

- AD&D "Living City" Adventures
- World of Darkness (Whitewolf/Storyteller system) Adventures
- Interesting, Non-Lame* Magic Tournaments (with prizes)
- * What's "Lame"? Tournaments that reward card collection rather than player ability.
- Society in Shadow (live action role-playing from Wyrd Images)
- Miniature Figure Painting Seminar

Special thanks to **Mirkwood Coffee, Comics & Games** and to **The Source** for their help and support with Gaming events at CONvergence 2000.

Mainstage

"Elvis is not dead, he just went home."

- Agent Kay, Men in Black

The Masquerade

Kat Pepmiller will again be producing the CONvergence Masquerade, which will be held Saturday at 7:00pm. If you would like to receive information on entering the Masquerade, please contact us. We encourage everyone who is planning to participate to sign up prior to the convention so we can better plan volunteer needs.

For more information on last year's Masquerade, including a listing of all prize winners, visit http://www.convergence-con.org.

Music

The popular band **Psychopop** will return to CONvergence as a Mainstage act on Friday night. We are in the process of booking additional bands for main stage and will update the web site as soon as we have new information. A **DJ Dance** / **Masquerade Ball** will be held on Saturday night after The Masquerade. In addition to these two Mainstage music events, the Mainstage crew is also coordinating the musical acts for our **COF₂E₂** venue.

Soylent Theater

Tim Uren, Kelvin Hatle, Joe Scrimshaw and Josh Scrimshaw return for CONvergence 2000 with another helping of demented sketch comedy written specifically for an audience of SF fans. Soylent Theater will again provide a show for the Masquerade Intermission as well as a Sunday performance.

"Man is the animal that laughs."

- Jubal, Stranger in a Strange Land

"Are you ready to get down, you funky party weasel?"

- Xander, Buffy the Vampire Slayer

The parties at CONvergence 1999 were nothing short of spectacular, and we hope to have as much fun and excitement at CONvergence 2000! Expected highlights include:

- Club Adventure Speakeasy party
- Club Neo-Tokyo Sci-fi/Technology in Music Theme
- Cthulhu Coffee Caffeine, Elder gods, 'n' stuff
- R.O.G. The usual party madness
- · Talon's Portal Returning again this year
- Callahan's Bar Callahan's Bar theme. Masks are required/provided.
- MISFITS Chocolate Room Chocolate and propaganda, yum!
- MISFITS Teen Room Fun for the teen crowd

Although we are at a different hotel this year, the St. Paul Radisson features **poolside cabanas** similar to the arrangement at last year's hotel. Most of the parties will again be centralized around poolside, but additional parties may be located in other areas of the hotel.

If you would like to host a party at CONvergence 2000, use the **Party Registration Form** available on our web site, or contact us directly for more information.

Panels and Programming

"Has anybody here read a real book about vampires, or are we just remembering what a movie said? I mean a real book."

- Jacob Fuller, From Dusk Till Dawn

So you liked what you saw and heard last year at CONvergence programming (or so you said on the surveys and in the halls where we could hear you) – and maybe you've even told a few friends. You enjoyed having a **full hour** for each programming item, with a **half hour break** between events so you could grab a soda, chat with a friend, maybe ask a few more questions of the panelists.

Most folks liked knowing that if a programming item is in the Movies track, it would be in the same room they went to before for that "Galaxy Quest" panel. We liked that format too, so it'll be back this year. We call it the "Campus Format". In a world full of clutter, it's nice to have something be neat and easily understood.

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 the **Sci-Fi Hot Dish** track ("Ya never know what will be in it, don'cha know").

We are currently in the process of planning the panels and events that will make up programming for CONvergence 2000. We've been talking with our guests to find out what they want to talk about (and what they'd rather not discuss ever again). Our programming team has been dreaming up fabulous ideas with topics ranging from supermarionation to writing as part of a collaborative effort.

Got a great idea for a panel? Have you always wished someone would lead a discussion on a particular topic? Interested in lending your expertise and time to help on a panel or two? **Drop us a line!** You can either mail in the programming form included in this PR or contact us by e-mail at programming@convergence-con.org.

But contact us soon! We will be finalizing the roster of panels and events in April and locking the schedule in place in May. If you want it to happen, tell us and we'll try our best to "make it so."

Photo Contest

"Why don't you take a picture? It'll last longer!"

- Pee Wee Herman, Pee Wee's Big Adventure

It's our first annual CONvergence Convention Photo Contest!

The basics: 4 categories to enter in, with First Place being awarded in each:

- Events (panels, Masquerade, dance, Opening/Closing Ceremonies, etc.)
- · Night Life (parties & other unmentionables)
- Guests of Honor
- "CONvergence 2000" (the picture that best represents the con as a whole)

Judging will be done by our shutter-happy Board of Directors to determine which photos best represent the atmosphere, energy and community of CONvergence.

Prizes: Winners will receive a commemorative plaque and other prizes to be announced later. Winning entries will also be announced in our Post Mortem Report, published on our web site, displayed at MISFITS events throughout the year, and matted and hung in next year's Art Show.

How to enter: Send your photo (3x5 or 4x5), postmarked by July 15, 2000, to:

CONvergence Photo Contest PO Box 13208, Dinkytown Station Minneapolis, MN 55414

All photos submitted become the property of CONvergence and its parent organization, MISFITS. For further information or questions, visit our website, e-mail or call us directly! Bring your cameras and record history!

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction at CONvergence 1999 was a great success, raising over \$1,000 for MISFITS! This is an annual fund raiser for MISFITS and although we already have some very COOL items (like an autographed picture of "Pitch Black" star Vin Diesel), we really need more. If you have something you would like to donate, or would like more information about the Auction, contact Perrin Klumpp at aardvark@skypoint.com.

Theater Nippon Anime Room

Theater Nippon is our Anime Room, run once again by the good folks at the Twin Cities Anime And Manga Society (TCAAMS).

A listing of programs being shown in Theater Nippon will be posted on our web site soon, and a complete schedule will be posted at the convention.

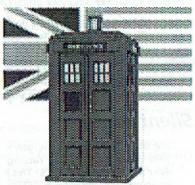
If you're an anime fan and would like more information on TCAAMS, visit their web site at http://people.mn.mediaone.net/deedle/index.html.

"I think that if I live to be ninety, a little of the magic of the Whoniversity will still cling to me." - J.K. Proff

Produced in the 1980s, the Whoniversity of Minnesota captured the vision and technology of its time. Formed on the Matrix computer bulletin board in the winter of 1985 and 1986, this club formed one of the cornerstones of Minnesota Doctor Who fandom for several years and had several hundred members.

A Whoniversity Reunion?

At CONvergence this year, there will be a reunion and party which all former members and friends are invited to get together for one last Whoniversity Bash, at the site of the 1988 Time Festival, which the Whoniversity was responsible for bringing to the Twin Cities. The reunion will be held at a room party sponsored by the Minnesota Doctor Who Viewing Society on Saturday evening, but we'll be there Friday as well.



We hope to see people whether or not they are still in fandom, or where their lives have taken them since the clays when Doctor Who fandom was at its peak in the Twin Cities. If you have contact with someone who was a member, let them know!

Let us know you are out there!!

Email us at who niversity@come.to or the Whoniversity Website; come.to/whoniversity and don't forget to visit the MNDWVS website at: www.execpc.com/-michael/mndws/

Affectionately Sponsored By



VIEWING SOCIETY

Volunteering

THANK YOU for volunteering. We look forward to working with you this year! If you have volunteered but have not been contacted by any departments yet, PLEASE contact the Volunteers Department and let us know who you are.

What? You haven't said you'll volunteer?

Volunteering is an integral and necessary part of a successful convention AND it's a darn good time! If you are worried about losing your weekend to being a valunteer, stop worrying! A little effort by a good number of volunteers accomplishes a great deal of work and creates a spirit of camaraderie. Even one hour is valuable!

Volunteers have the skinny on what's happening at the convention. So please contact us (e-mail, phone, or US Mail) and volunteer; plan on being in the know.

Or check in at the Volunteer Desk at the convention for further information on times and places of volunteer needs. THANK YOU! See you at the CON!

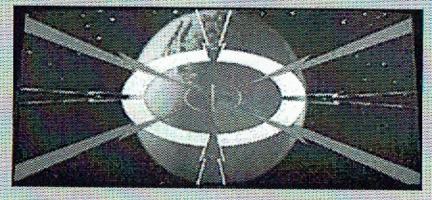
MISFITS News

The Minnesota society for Interest in Science FictIon and fanTaSy (MISFITS) is the parent organization of CONvergence, and is a non-profit organization with a mission of education, literacy and community building. MISFITS is also 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.

(continued on page 17)

Advertisement

Got Some Real Estate in Your Sights?



Want Help Acquiring It? Call George Richard - Edina Realty (612)781-3868 / geohardmaol.com / www.members.aol.com/GeoHard/MNrealtor.html

MARSCON 2000

May 12-14, 2000 Radisson South Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota

DON'T PANIC! M2K IS COMING!

MarsCon is a fan-run Science Fiction/Fantasy convention returning to the Radisson South Hotel the weekend of May 12th - 14th, 2000. We will have fabulous guests, a dealer's room, gaming, programming, parties, a masquerade, a dance, a science room, a film room, lots of Klingons, an art show, a charity auction... and other fun activities! Don't miss it!

GUESTS OF HONOR:

Mark Allen Shepherd, otherwise known as MORN, Star Trek: Deep Space Nine's FAVORITE BARFLY!

Lisa M. Getto, From Deep Space Nine, Babylon 5, Crusade, X-Files, Etc.

AUTHOR/GAMING GOHs: Margaret Weis and Don Perrin

and Don Lettin

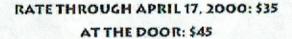
SCIENCE GUEST OF HONOR:

UFOlogist Donald R. Schmitt

ARTIST GOH: Denise Boie

FAN GOH: Jack Borkowski, Head of the Klingon Assault Group

POSTHUMOUS GOH: Chesley Bonestell



HOW TO REGISTER FOR MARSCON:

- Download a copy of our registration form from our website (www.marscon.com).
- Email or call us and we'll send you α registration form, or
- Use one of our registration forms available from your finer SF or Comic stores, or from one of our mailings.

CONTACT INFO:

MarsCon P.O. Box 600458 St. Paul, MN 55106 Email: marscon2k@hotmail.com Website: www.marscon.com Phone: 612-724-0687 Don't panicl M2K is comingl

® 2000 MarsCon

Advertisement

In addition to holding CONvergence, MISFITS also sponsors many ongoing clubs, events and programs, including: Sci-Fi Movie Night, Team Trivia Challenge, Writers' Group, Read the Book/See the Movie Club, Writing Contest, Karaoke Night, and Project Happy Holidays. For more info on MISFITS events, visit http://www.misfit.org.

The next MISFITS event is the monthly MISFITS Sci-Fi Mayie Night.

Next Movie: Little Shop of Horrors (1986)

Friday & Saturday, April 14 & 15

Plaza Maplewood Theater, 1847 East Larpenteur Ave., Maplewood

On the third weekend of each month, MISFITS is pleased to host MISFITS Science Fiction Movie Night in partnership with Nathan Block of the Plaza Maplewood Theater. This monthly showcase of Science Fiction and Fantasy classics on the big screen is shown Friday and Saturday nights on the third weekend of each month. Tickets are \$4 and showings are at 11:30pm.

Upcoming films include:

- . The Day the Earth Stood Still May 19, 20
- The Matrix June 16, 17
- The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai July 14, 15
- . Batman (1966 Adam West version) August 18, 19

If you need directions, call the **Plaza Maplewood Theater** at (651) 770-7969. To take a shortcut to the MISFITS Movie Night Menu, hit 4.

MISFITS/CONvergence Room Parties



If you are at Minicon 35 this Easter weekend, be sure to stop by the MISFITS/CONvergence Room Party in Suite 2422. Our CVG 2000 Matrix theme continues...

Friday night we will be screening the REMASTERED DIRECTOR'S CUT of the disturbingly popular BLOODIEST MOVIE EVER MADE: A 3-hour compilation of deaths and explosions from decades of Science Fiction and Fantasy TV and film (including The Matrix).

We will have three Matrix-inspired panels Saturday afternoon. Follow the White Rabbit explores the use of themes from Alice in Wonderland in modern SF. There Is No Spoon is an exploration of alternate realities in SF/Fantasy. Dodge This will be a discussion of powerful female characters in science fiction and fantasy, from Heinlein's "Friday" to The Matrix's Trinity. The schedule for these panels will be posted at the convention.

Saturday night at 8:00pm we will host **The Matrix Party**. No one can tell you what The Matrix Party is, you have to experience it for yourself...

At **Demicon** (May 5–7) we plan to debut our Worldcon bid. That's right, a *Worldcon bid*. No, not for the Twin Cities. We think it's for the most logical place to hold a future Worldcon! Celebrating the 25th anniversary of science gone out of control: **Chernobyl in 2011!** You're snickering. Why would you think we're not serious?

Look for us at Marscon (May 12–14) with our Hunt For Red Octoberfest room party. Submarines and Schpaetzle. Crazy Ivan! Ach-tung! Bring your lederhosen! Or don't. Use your best judgement.

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



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: COlivergence, P.O. Box 13208, Dinkytown Station, Minnespolis, MN 55414

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

Registr Rate COnvergen	es for	† Street Addre	ss ZIP Code, Country (if n	WISH
January 1 - May 15, 2000	\$35	19/3 5	e and/or Work) – at ice	transference Phones day money and loster any Money
Supporting Membership until May 15, 2000 (§15 now plus §20 at the door)	\$15/ \$20	NOT Requiregistration and	red - An E-mail addre I providing you with infi	as one or required but will speed up the process of confirming your sis NOT required but will speed up the process of confirming your committee about the convention. Budge names are also not required.
Kids Age 6-12 (Fre-reg ends May 15)	\$15	↑ E-mail addre	ss (If Different from Full	Name)
At the Door July 7-9, 2000	\$50	Check	■ Adult Badge	You must specify Adult or Non-Adult status. People wishing adult badges will be asked to show a picture
Kids 5 & under	Free	One:	(21 & over) Non-Adult	TO showing that they are at least 21 years old at the time they pick up their badge.
Make checks or m			Badge (under 21)	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.

I would be interested in volunteering. I would be interested volunteering in the following areas: I would be interested in infor-(theck all that apply) mation on: (check all that apply) (check all that apply) During the year ☐ Phule's Club ☐ Badgers/Gophers ☐ ConSuite □ Dealers' Room Tables ☐ Publications ☐ Registration COF,E, □ Convention set-up ☐ Masquerade Entry □ During the convention Art Show / Auction □ Engineering Art Show Staff □ Convention tear-down □ Advertising □ Mainstage □ Programming Staff ☐ Masquerade ☐ Programming Panelist Programming Put me wherever I am needed (our favorite kind). □ Working with MISFITS

Do you have any other ideas, skills or resources that you would like to lend the use of to COWergence? If so, please explain on the back of this form.

Thank you for your interest in and support of COWvergence, 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.



payable to CONvergence.

US Mail: P.O. Box 13208, Dinkytown Station Minneapolis, MN 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.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT. AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEINS YOU AT THE CON!





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.

Full Nan	ne		
Street A	dáress		
City, Sta	te, ZIP Code, Cou	atry (if ac	ot USA)
Home Pl	hone Number		Work Phone Number

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.

Room Requirements:			
Check One: 1 King Bed 2 Double Beds Don't Care	Check One: Smoking Non-Smoking Oon't Care		
Check any requirements that apply: Low Floor Rollaway Crib Wheelchair Access Number of People in Room: Other Responsible Party:			
Check-in Date:			

	VG W	EKEN	D 200	0
WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
JULY	JULY	JULY	JULY	JULY
05	06	07	08	09

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



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 (612) 996-9224 (24-hour hottine) info@convergence-con.org

www.convergence-con.org

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Parties Form

To register room parties for CONvergence 2000

Parties Staff

Your Parties Staff consists of Parties Head, Linda Petersen, and Sub-Heads Brian Huget 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.

- 1. 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 ow 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:

- 1. 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.
- 2. Party Pack: We will distribute a limited amount of pop and munchies to registered parties to supplement your own supplies.
- 3. Buttons: We will provide buttons for the hosts of the party.
- 4. Signs: If you provide us with the artwork we will print up your signs/fivers for you.

Expectations in return:

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

- 1. We expect you to register your party with the Parties Staff. The form
- 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:

- 1. 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.
- 3. 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 Pepmiller at kpepmiller@hotmail.com

COnvergence Contact Information

US Mail: P.O. Box 13208, Dinkytown Station Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

(612) 996-9224 (24-hour hodine)

info@convergence-con.org

www.convergence-con.org

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↑ 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 I	Badges:	ATTREES AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON OF THE	
Days/Hours of Operation:	Friday July 7	Saturday July 8	Sunday July 9
	Hours	Hours	Hours

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



Programming Form

To volunteer to participate in programming events.

lis, MN 55414

Required Information	Programming Idea		
We cannot guarantee that your programming suggestion will be used, but providing us with your contact information helps keep your ideas in consideration.	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		
* Full Hame	back of this form or attach another sheet if needed.)		
Street Address	What kind of item is your suggestion? (Choose from types listed in bottom left box below)		
City, State, ZIP Code, Country (If not USA)			
₱ Phone (Home and/or Work) — at least one is required	I would be willing to (mark where appropriate below): help plan the event. Yes No Only with help		
↑ Email Address	panelists. Yes No Only with help		
I'm willing to do at least items, but no more than	moderate this event.		
I have experience or interest in the following SF/F-related areas:	I would like to help in Programming Ops. Yes I would like to be part of the Age Toyou		
☐ Movies ☐ Television ☐ Garring ☐ Youth	Programming Team! Contact me!		
Comics & Art Hard Sci. / Mil. Literature Misc (Any)	What times are you available to be on Programming Items? (Check all that apply) (Moter The times below reflect our system of 1-hour		
What kinds of items would you feel most comfortable participating in? Check all that apply)	program blocks with half-hour breaks in-between.) Friday:		
Seminars (One speaker, audience listens)	3:00— 6:00— 9:00— 4:00pm 7:00pm 10:00pm		
Panels (3-5 Experts, Audience asks questions) Workshops (Participants take something home, tangitife or otherwise)	4:30— 7:30— 5:30pm 8:30pm		
Roundtables (Moderator leads discussion, everyone contributes) Readings (Author reading from works)	Saturday: 9:00- 10:00am 1:30- 2:30pm 6:00- 7:00pm		
Autographing (Author or artist autographing works) Show / Demo (Group show or demonstration, i.e. Stage Combat)	10:30— 3:00— 7:30— 11:30am 4:00pm 8:30pm		
OTHER (if you have another type of event, let us know)	12:00— 4:30— 9:00— 1:00pm 5:30pm 10:00pm		
ank you for your interest in and support of <i>CONvergence 2000</i> , to be held	Sunday: 12:00- 1:00pm 1:30- 2:30pm		
y 7-9 2000 at the Saint Paul Radisson in downtown St. Paul, Minnesota.	I'd rather not be scheduled AGAINST the following items: (Check all that apply)		
CONvergence Contact Info US Mail: P.O. Box 13208, Dirkytown Station	Opening Cosing Ceremonies		
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414 Phone: (612) 996-9224 (24-hour hottine)	Friday Night Uve Music Event Seturday Night The Masquerade		
E-Mail: info@convergence-con.org	NOTE: Programming will attempt to follow these preferences, but cannot guarantee that participants		

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