

CONVERGENCE 2006

POST MORTEM REVIEW

AND

CONVERGENCE 2007

CREATURE FEATURE

JULY 6, 7, 8

PROGRESS  
REPORT

ONE



HE  
SLIMED  
ME.

MAYBE THIS  
CREATURE FEATURE  
THEME WASN'T  
SUCH A HOT IDEA.

CONVERGENCE 2007  
CREATURE FEATURE

c/o The Minnesota Society for Interest

In Science Fiction and Fantasy

1437 Marshall Ave, Suite 203 St. Paul, MN 55104



LE MIN

If the ® symbol appears on your mailing label, you are listed  
in our database as pre-registered for CONvergence 2007.

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

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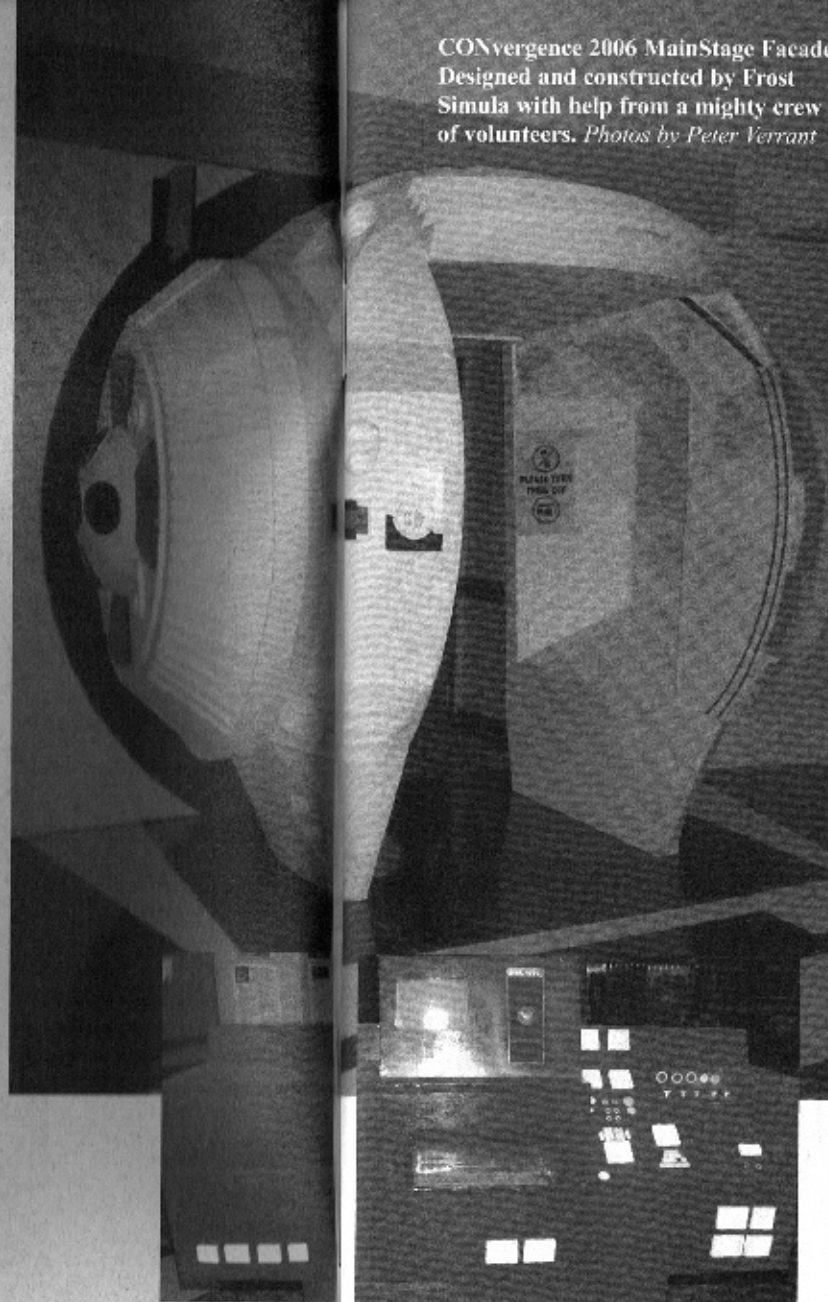
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CONvergence 2006 MainStage Facade:  
Designed and constructed by Frost  
Simula with help from a mighty crew  
of volunteers. Photos by Peter Verrant



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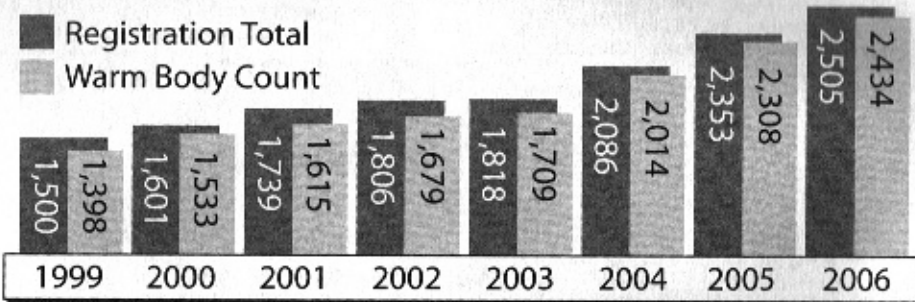
This publication was designed by Christopher Jones for CONvergence Publications. All artwork is by Christopher Jones unless otherwise indicated. Thank you to Erica Lewerenz, and other staff members for their help with proofreading. Any remaining errors are most likely not their fault. We always welcome feedback and suggestions, and ask that any comments be directed to the channels listed above.



# 2006 IN REVIEW

## Attendance

We are pleased to state that CONvergence 2006 was our best-attended convention to date, with our registration totals continuing to go up each year.



Pre-registrations: 2005: 1,647 2006: 1,791

At-the-door: 2005: 706 2006: 714

2007 Pre-Registration: 840

## Demographics

### Gender.

Of the 307 people who filled out convention surveys this year (50 more than last year), 52% were male and 48% were female. This is the first year going back to 2002 that more males than females filled out surveys. These numbers fluctuate from year to year, and do not necessarily indicate a trend.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Male	47%	48%	49%	43%	52%
Female	53%	52%	51%	57%	48%

### Age.

A breakdown of those that filled out surveys by age is at right.

### Location. Location. Location.

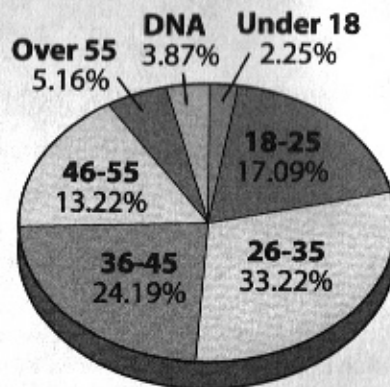
According to the registration database, out of those 2,505 registrations, 2,134 of you are from right here in Minnesota. 109 are from Wisconsin, 58 from Iowa, 44 from Illinois, and the remaining 160 are from other states across the country or outside of the US.

### Favorite Features.

According to the survey, Parties and Programming remain the most popular features of CONvergence, with special appreciation going to COF2E2 Free Coffee, the Cinema Rex Movie Room, the Dealers Room, and Guests of Honor.

We thank everyone who took the time to fill out a survey and offer feedback on the convention. All survey comments were read and discussed by the Convention Committee and Board of Directors as part of our convention post-mortem review process.

### 2006 Membership Age Demographics



DNA = Did Not Answer

## CONvergence 2006 Budget

Here is a breakdown of where money comes in at CONvergence and what it is spent on. We're proud to say that the convention has run in the black every year since its inception, and this year was no exception. Profits from CONvergence provide the budget for our parent organization, The Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy (MISFITS).

### Money In

Registrations .....	\$89,000
Advertisements .....	\$900
Art Show .....	\$1,400
Dealers Room .....	\$4,700
Concessions (net) .....	\$3,700
Other Income .....	\$1,400
<b>Total Income .....</b>	<b>\$101,100</b>

### Money Out

Hotel, Operations, Insurance & Storage .....	\$20,300
Office & Phone .....	\$6,200
Guests .....	\$8,500
Publications, Postage & Misc. Communications .....	\$16,100
MainStage & Masquerade .....	\$5,100
Programming .....	\$1,100
Consuite, COF2E2, & Connie's Space Lounge .....	\$17,600
Cinema Rex & Theatre Nippon .....	\$3,100
Capital Expenditures .....	\$2,800
<b>Total Expenditures .....</b>	<b>\$80,800</b>

**Net Profit.....\$20,300**



## Sheraton Bloomington Hotel Occupancy

Once again, and certainly not to be taken for granted, we had a successful stay at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel for CONvergence 2006. We nearly filled the building with 512 rooms occupied on Friday and 530 on Saturday. While this year the hotel held 20 rooms for their own use, we are told that next year the whole building will be allocated to CONvergence.

There were no attendee-related issues this year. The elevators did go out on Friday, but that was a fault in the building's fire system. And yes, there was a fire alarm that went off Friday night, but it proved to be a false alarm, and as in 2005, CONvergence attendees rose to the occasion and responded in an appropriate and orderly manner. We're even told that our attendees themselves took to counting people after elevator service was restored and held at 10 people per car. Most excellent, and thanks to all who participated.

<b>Wednesday 7/5</b>	14 (3 more than 2005)
<b>Thursday 7/6</b>	147 (17 more than 2005)
<b>Friday 7/7</b>	512 (11 more than 2005)
<b>Saturday 7/8</b>	530 (22 more than 2005)
<b>Sunday 7/9</b>	112 (18 fewer than 2005)*
<b>Monday 7/10</b>	4 (2 fewer than 2005)*

\* The high numbers of Sunday and Monday hotel occupancy in 2005 were likely due to the July 4 holiday falling on Monday that year.

The Sesame Street Martians appeared at Closing Ceremonies to share their opinions on CONvergence 2006. Will they be happier at Creature Feature in 2007?

Photo by Peter Verrant



## CONvention Feedback

Every year we get a great deal of feedback on the convention in the Convention Surveys as well as at the At-Con Post Mortem and through other channels. We'd like to take this opportunity to respond to some of those comments here, department by department.

### ConSuite

"No soup in consuite—it is too messy, unsanitary. More snacks. Don't try to feed meals to us."

"More \$\$ for consuite—bring back eternal soup!"

"Less candy & pop in the consuites. Healthier food."

"The real food at consuite was awesome!!!"

— Survey Comment

As usual, the comments on ConSuite indicate that we can't please all the people all the time. With a new staff this year and a new method of food delivery, we did notice some confusion.

This year ConSuite moved to a method of "stations" for food delivery. If you wanted chips, you would find them at the chips station. Candy was at the candy station. Side rooms were saved for special "wow" foods. Did we include any sort of maps or descriptions of what we were trying to do? Nope. Big mistake. We have already begun work on that problem for next year.

It has never been our policy to serve meals to the entire convention. We don't have a budget that will allow for that. We do try to have a good variety available at various times throughout the weekend. This is just a sample of the items that were available throughout the weekend:

- Ramen noodles (available at all times)
- Three sandwich bars
- Rice (available as fast as we could make it)
- Fresh Fruit (available at all times)
- Leeann Chin appetizers
- Davanni's Pizza

We have a lot of great ideas for special foods for next year. Look for an update in PR2 for information on the ConSuite layout and foods.

### MainStage

"This year the masquerade dance was too loud. Louder than the years before."

"The music at the dance needs to be a bit quieter - it's too loud & we didn't last more than 5 minutes there."

— Survey Comment

It is a fairly universal sentiment that the main stage volume was too high. We are going to make sure to do something about that issue for next year.

"More seating in Cinema Rex & Main Stage"

— Survey Comment

Unfortunately, we are limited by the physical layout of the hotel and fire codes. MainStage is already in our single largest space and it cannot be made any larger. We have tried to mitigate that situation by adding a video feed with additional seating for Masquerade but we will never be able to seat everyone who wants to go. We are looking into the possibility of video feed to the hotel cable system but that has proven to be a very expensive option. For now, we can only recommend you arrive early if you want a seat at main stage events.

## Masquerade

"Masquerade needs more volunteers. Masq head was great! She just needs a bigger staff."

— Survey Comment

You said it. Masquerade was dangerously short of volunteer help this year. It is one department that is in desperate need of support staff. Here's hoping that a few people reading this will answer the call.

"Masquerade was not up to the usual standard. Better MC would have helped. Participants were good, pacing was bad."

— Survey Comment

As part of our overall staffing problem, we lost our Masquerade emcee at the last moment. Eve Kramer stepped in to a difficult position at the eleventh hour and under the circumstances did a fantastic job. We truly appreciate her efforts to take over a very challenging task with virtually no preparation.

### Programming

"Move GoH events to larger venues. I arrived a few minutes late to Eric Flint and/or David Weber events and there wasn't even standing room available at the Dorian Gray and Kruschenko rooms."

— Survey Comment

While Kruschenko's and the Dorian Gray Literary lounge are smaller spaces, our Guests consistently ask to be scheduled in those rooms because they enjoy the more intimate environment. We understand that those rooms fill up quickly and we make certain that our guests are not exclusively scheduled in smaller rooms. As long as our guests enjoy the more intimate venues for panels, however, we will continue to utilize them.

"Too many good panels at the same time."

— Survey Comment

That is entirely on purpose. By counter-programming, we can spread out the convention attendees to several panel rooms rather than having them concentrated in a single location. We recognize that sometimes requires difficult choices but we would rather give our convention membership too many choices rather than not enough.

### Publications

"Love the grid!"

"The pocket grid rocked! Definitely continue that!"

"The mini program grid was a great idea."

"The grid book was AWESOME!!

Bravo to whomever thought that up!"

"I loved the grid mini program. It was VERY helpful!!"

"Keep the programming grids. They are handy, convenient and fit in a pocket."

"The pocket programming guide is awesome! Thank you!"

— Survey Comments

We're still a little unclear. Did you like the Pocket Grid?

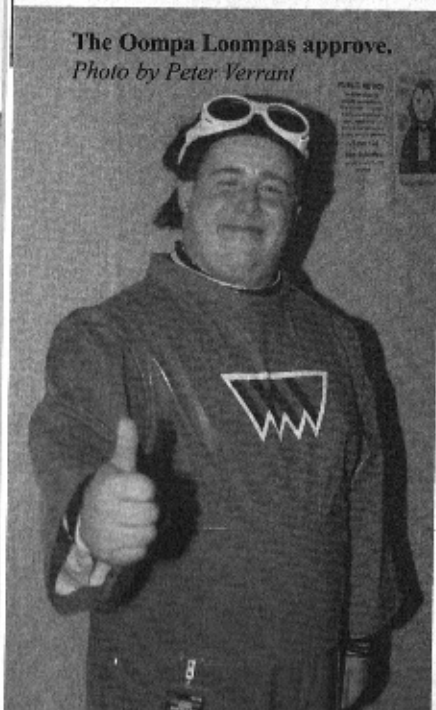
David Weber creation Honor Harrington visits CONvergence.  
Photo by Peter Verrant







Pirates and Klingons attended CONvergence 2006 in full force.  
Photos by Peter Verrant



The Oompa Loompas approve.  
Photo by Peter Verrant

"Larger print on the mini program grid."

"Need LESS printed info at beginning—more on walls/stations."

— Survey Comments

The Programming Grid is displayed on the CONvergence kiosks located around the hotel. There will be additional large-scale wall displays next year.

"Programming Guide sent in mail before the first day."

— Survey Comment

The Programming Guide is finalized and printed as late as possible (usually delivered to the convention Thursday morning) so it can be as current as possible with last-minute changes to the schedule. Mailing would mean that it would be awaiting you at home when you returned from the convention. Much of the schedule is available on our website prior to the convention week-end.

## Registration

Registration enjoyed its new location across from the Navigator Bar (especially during the soccer match). Between the location change and new department heads we had some learning curve issues but things seemed to go well overall.

Attendees seemed to like our innovations for 2006 - membership packs and pre-printed 2007 Registration Forms were especially popular. We're continuing to improve our database and registration procedures, and hope that you'll like our 2007 Registration model even more.

## Silent Auction

The Silent Auction made over \$2,000 this year for the educational programs that MISFITS funds. We could not have gotten such a total without the help of many donors from within the MIS-

FITS community. Special thanks to Chris Colquhoun, Christine Sutherland, Eric Flint and Vincent Truitner for helping to make the 2006 Silent Auction such a success. Some of the best sellers this year were a replica of Mal's gun from *Serenity* which sold for \$350, a Baens Universe-Andromeda Club online Subscription \$150, a custom made Browncoat from The DreamStitcher for \$100, and a signed photo of Gigi Edgely as Chianna which went for \$60.

We will need lots of help from you to make the 2007 Silent Auction as successful, and to that end we are already taking donations for the coming year. Any questions or donations please contact Judy Byers at [silentauktion@convergence-con.org](mailto:silentauktion@convergence-con.org).

## Thing 1 and Thing The Second at Opening Ceremonies.

Photo by Peter Verrant



## An alternative to ConSuite?

Photo by Peter Verrant



# CONvergence 2006 Guests of Honor

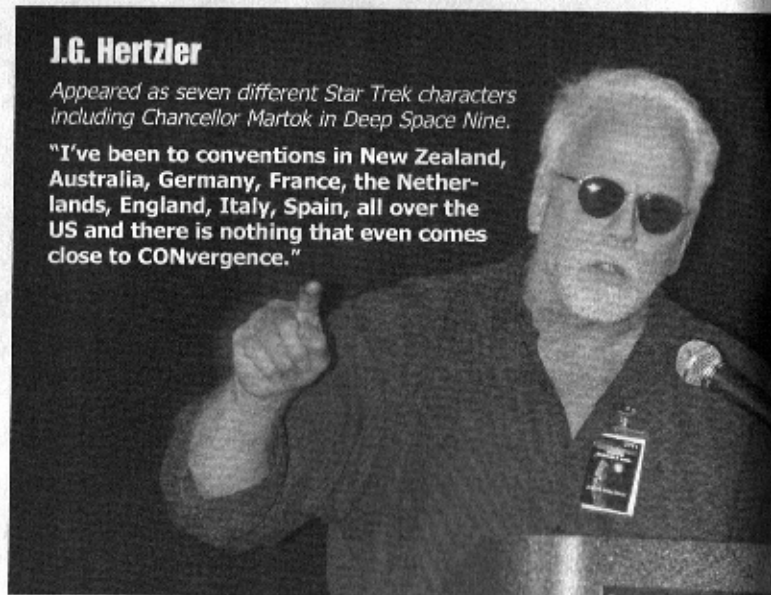
Every year we find ourselves marvelling at our good fortune in having another fantastic group of Guests of Honor for that year's convention, and that lucky tradition continues. We thank all of them for sharing their time with us and we hope to see them again soon.

All Guest of Honor photos by Peter Verrant

## J.G. Hertzler

Appeared as seven different Star Trek characters including Chancellor Martok in Deep Space Nine.

"I've been to conventions in New Zealand, Australia, Germany, France, the Netherlands, England, Italy, Spain, all over the US and there is nothing that even comes close to CONvergence."



## Miles Teves

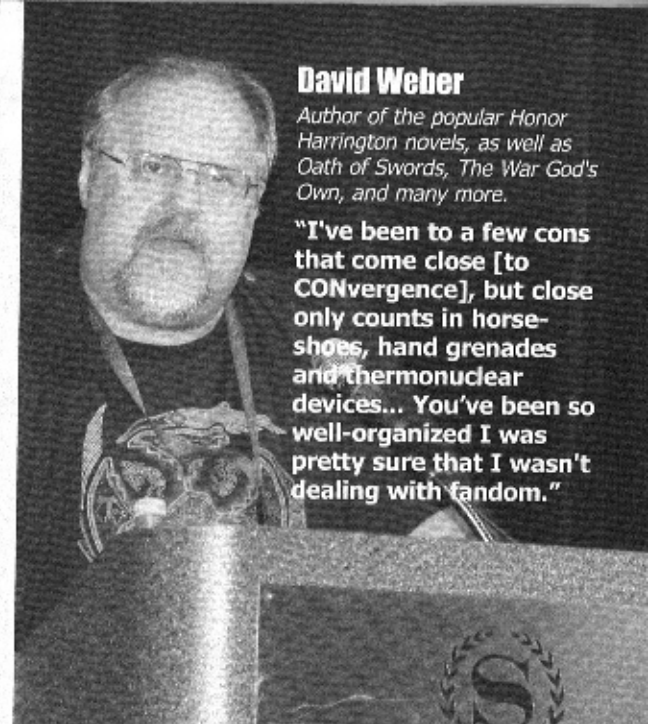
Hollywood conceptual artist for Robocop, Total Recall, Batman, Blade, Galaxy Quest, Men in Black, and countless others.



## David Weber

Author of the popular Honor Harrington novels, as well as Oath of Swords, The War God's Own, and many more.

"I've been to a few cons that come close [to CONvergence], but close only counts in horse-shoes, hand grenades and thermonuclear devices... You've been so well-organized I was pretty sure that I wasn't dealing with fandom."

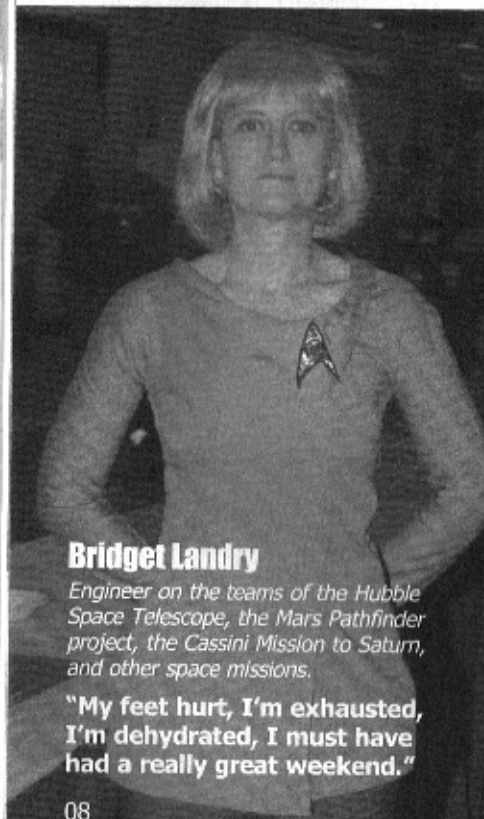


## The many faces of Bridget Landry at CONvergence 2006...

### Bridget Landry

Engineer on the teams of the Hubble Space Telescope, the Mars Pathfinder project, the Cassini Mission to Saturn, and other space missions.

"My feet hurt, I'm exhausted, I'm dehydrated, I must have had a really great weekend."





## Greg Weisman

Writer for animated films and television series, including *Gargoyles*, *W.I.T.C.H.*, *Season 2, The Batman*, and others.

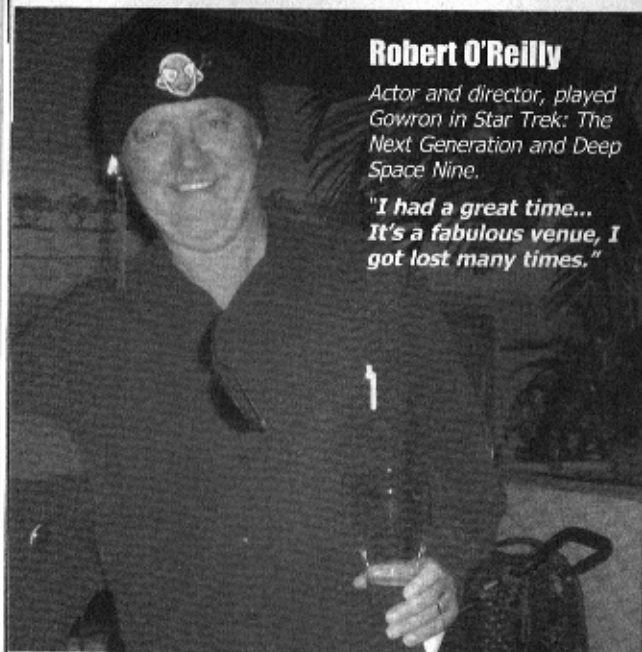
"You guys run a kick-ass con! And the Jucy Lucy... OK, I'm in love."



## Robert O'Reilly

Actor and director, played Gowron in *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and *Deep Space Nine*.

"I had a great time... It's a fabulous venue, I got lost many times."

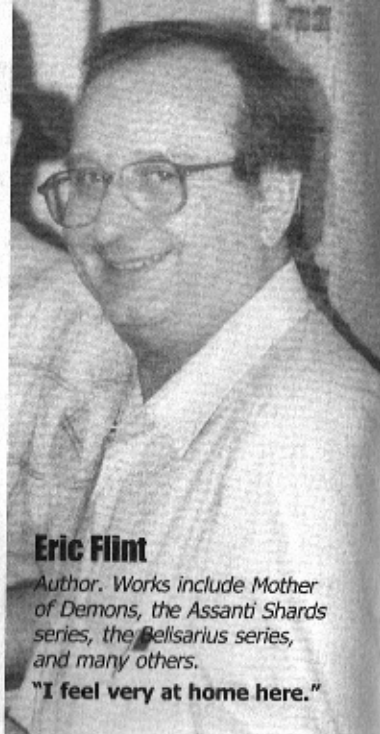


As always, we had a great time with our Guests of Honor, and many highlights from their panels as well as exclusive interviews will be included on the 2006 Convention DVD when it goes on sale next year. Look for it at Spring MISFITS events and at our 2007 convention.

## Eric Flint

Author. Works include *Mother of Demons*, the *Assanti Shards* series, the *Bellsarius* series, and many others.

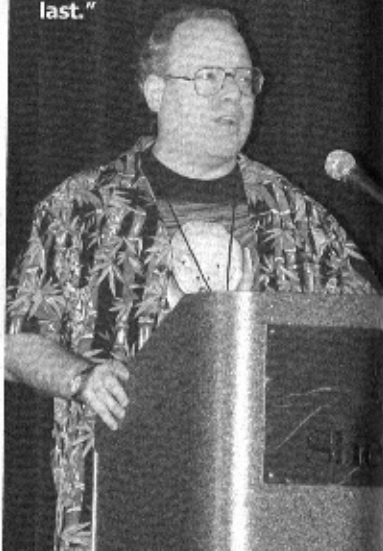
"I feel very at home here."



## Kenneth Hite

Role-playing game designer for *GURPS*, the *Star Trek* role playing game, and beyond.

"This is my first CONvergence. Unless you change the location and the locks and all of your email addresses, it won't be my last."



# Art Show Awards

The following were awarded to works in the 2006 CONvergence Art Show.

Best in Show: **Bridget Riversmith** — "How Do I Sleep? Tryptich I: Falling"

Best Pro Artist Collection: **Mark Roland**

Best Pro Piece: **John Garner** — "Forest Dragons"

Best Amateur Collection: **John Hard**

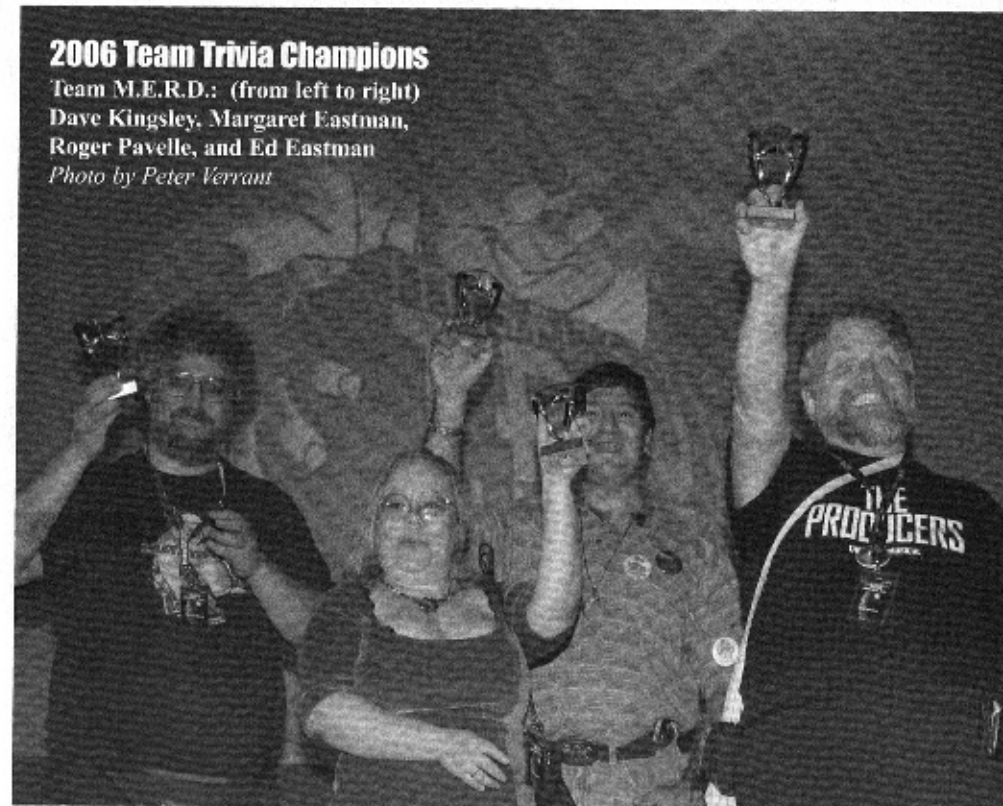
Best Amateur Piece: **Ben Allen** — "The Siege Begins"

## 2006 Team Trivia Champions

Team M.E.R.D.: (from left to right)

Dave Kingsley, Margaret Eastman, Roger Pavelle, and Ed Eastman

Photo by Peter Verrant



# MISFITS Team Trivia Challenge

At the CONvergence 2006 Opening Ceremonies, the award was presented to the winners of the Eighth Annual MISFITS Team Trivia Challenge, which was held Saturday, April 1 at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel. Eight teams of four members each faced off to test their science fiction and fantasy knowledge on a variety of topics ranging from movies to comics to television to science and more.

Team M.E.R.D. (pictured above) took the top prize, while 2004 champs Team Dolemite took second. Our thanks go out to everyone who helped make the Trivia Challenge happen, who came to participate as players, or just watch. To learn more about the MISFITS Team Trivia Challenge, visit <http://www.misfit.org/trivia/index.htm>.

# MISFITS Writing Contest

For eight years, MISFITS has sponsored a writing contest with divisions for both adult and juvenile writers. Winning entries are published and distributed at CONvergence. Our judges for the 2006 edition of our Writing Contest were Joel Arnold, Charlotte Nickerson and Jody Wurl.

**The Scott Imes Award:** MISFITS premier award proudly honors Scott Imes, a major force in the Twin Cities' science fiction reading and writing community, who passed away in December 2001. For over two decades, Scott worked at Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction Bookstore; his recommendations served those far beyond its doors.

## Open Division Awards

Scott Imes Award Winner:

**The Closet War**  
by Nicole Lorenz

1st Place: **The Brimstone Beast**  
by Sarah Harding

2nd Place: **The Roustabout**  
by Ben Lindstrom

3rd Place: **In the Weft**  
by Damian Sheridan

## Poetry Division Awards

1st Place: **Space**  
by EV Baldwin

2nd Place: **The Silver Pool**  
by Lauren N. Daumler

3rd Place: **A Beautiful Creature**  
by Joanne Ashley London

## Youth Divisions

### Ages 10 and Under

1st Place: **A Fight Over a Pearl** by Connie Lee (North Pointe Elem. School, Houston TX)

2nd Place: **James** by Sora Oizumi (Spanaway Elementary School, Spanaway WA)

3rd Place: **Ton-Tails** by Gabriel Steeves (Spanaway Elementary School, Spanaway WA)

### Ages 11-13

1st Place: **The Buried Future** by Kimmy Trauner (Sunset Middle School, Longmont CO)

2nd Place: **Kodac's Quest** by Michael R. DeMore (E. Hampton Middle School, E. Hampton CT)

3rd Place: **Kari's Kandies** by Meg Thornbury (Sunset Middle School, Longmont CO)

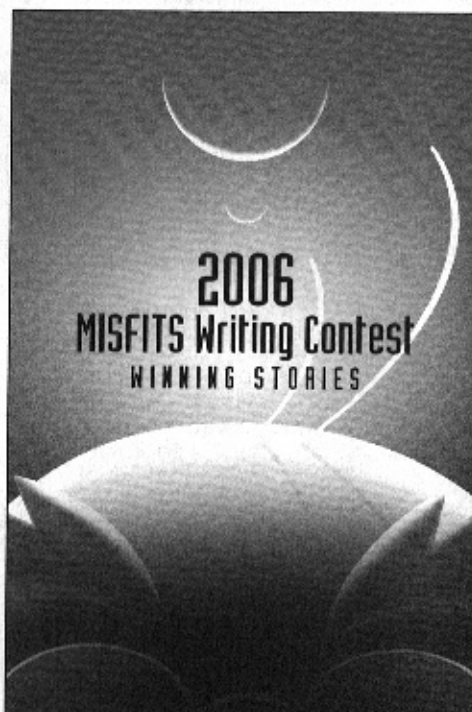
### Ages 14-16

1st Place: **The Most Unlikely of Companions** by Caitlin Crowley (Carroll High School, Southlake TX)

2nd Place: **The Sea** by Kari Finseth (St. Paul Central Senior High, St. Paul MN)

3rd Place: **A Time to Fight** by Hokan Holmquist (Frenchtown Jr. H. S.I, Frenchtown MT)

Thank you to everyone who participated. We'd love to have your work in our **2007 Writing Contest**, so get writing! For more information visit <http://misfit.org/writingcontest/>



The Mark Time Radio Show, performed live on CONvergence MainStage before 2006 Opening Ceremonies.

Photo by Peter Verrant



## Mark Time and Ogle Awards 2006

The Mark Time Award is given each year to honor the Best Science Fiction Audio Production on the Planet. The Ogle Award is for the best Fantasy Audio Production of the Year. Fantasy includes magical "high" fantasy, sword and sorcery, horror, modern urban fantasy, and other things that don't fall under the criteria of Science Fiction.

Winners are announced each year at CONvergence, and are awarded a wood and brass plaque with the image of Mark Time or Charles Ogle. The 2006 Mark Time and Ogle awards are presented for works produced during the 2005 Production Year.

For more information on the Mark Time Awards and Ogle Awards, visit <http://www.great-northernaudio.com/MarkTime/MarkTime.html>.

## MARK TIME AWARDS for Science Fiction Audio

**GOLD** **Anne Manx on Amazonia** – Radio Repertory Company of America  
Angelo Panetta, producer. Written by Larry Weiner. [www.rcca.com](http://www.rcca.com)

**SILVER** **Steve the Second** – CBC Radio A & E  
Joe Mahoney, producer. Written by Matt Watts. [www.assortednonsense.com](http://www.assortednonsense.com)

### HONORABLE MENTION

**Strawberry Automatic** – Richard Sellers, producer. Written by T. Ray Gordon.  
[www.commercialvoices.net](http://www.commercialvoices.net)

## OGLE AWARDS for Fantasy/Horror Audio

**GOLD** Tie:

**The Confessions of Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde** – Willamette Radio Workshop  
Sam A. Mowry, producer. Written by William S. Gregory. [www.radiowork.com](http://www.radiowork.com)

**The Legend of Sleepy Hollow** – The Colonial Radio Theatre On the Air  
Jerry Robbins, producer/writer. [www.colonialradio.com](http://www.colonialradio.com)

**SILVER** **A Long Vacation**  
Birke Duncan, producer. Written by Garrett Vance & Birke D



# 2006 Masquerade

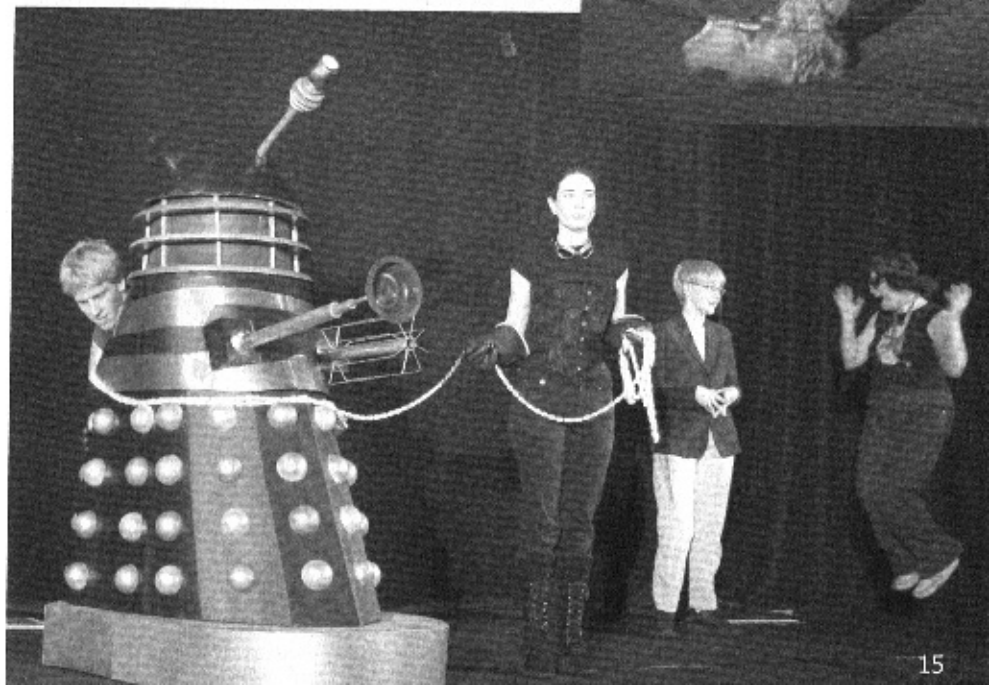
The 2006 Masquerade was produced and directed by **Erin Kasper**, and **Eve Kramer** was the Mistress of Ceremonies. The 2006 Masquerade workmanship judges were **Windy Bowlsby**, **Chris Honse**, and **Amy Mills**. The performance judges were **Robert O'Reilly**, **J.G. Hertzler**, and **Rex (Assisted by John Grams)**.

The 2006 awards were as follows  
(italized names indicate the designer of the entry):

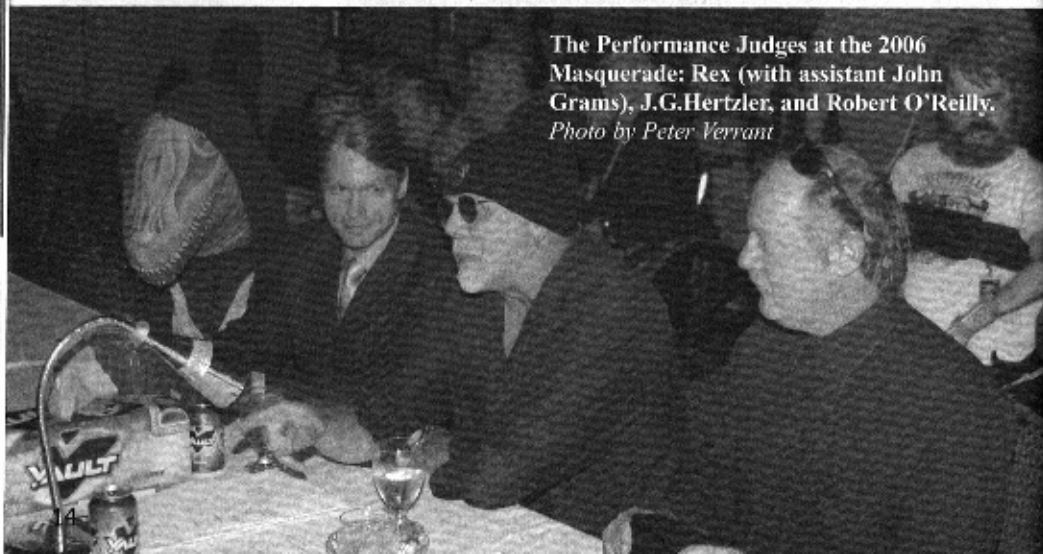
Best Recreation	<b>Disney Divas:</b> <i>Nikita Petersen</i> , Sabra Love
Best Prop	<b>The Arrival:</b> <i>Rae Lundquist</i> , Sara Warner, Cameron Nelson, Damon Odum
Best Make-up	<b>Alice in Wonderland:</b> <i>Kara Redding</i> , Ally Trombley, Katy Smith
Best Young Fan	<b>Shore Leave:</b> Emma Frazee, Harrison Frazee
Honorable Mention	<b>The Collector:</b> <i>Richard L. Spencer</i> , Greg DeDanann
Best Workmanship	<b>Antique Jellyfish:</b> <i>Katherine Neary</i>
Honorable Mention	<b>Terra:</b> <i>Anne Hauser</i>
Best Workmanship	<b>Embark:</b> <i>Heather Luca</i> , Claire Alexander
Best Performance	<b>Pigs in Space:</b> <i>Mary McKinley</i> , Herb Lindorff, Doug Yoder,
Honorable Mention	Brad McCanna, Jonathon Ralmer
	<b>Public Service Announcement:</b> <i>Jo O'Hanley</i> , Alyssah Rayl
	<b>It's Time:</b> <i>Patrick Fisher</i>
Best Performance	<b>Antique Jellyfish:</b> <i>Katherine Neary</i>
Best Young Fan	<b>Power Play:</b> <i>Deborah Spiesz</i> , Kaaren Spiesz
Best Novice	<b>Alice in Wonderland:</b> <i>Kara Redding</i> , Ally Trombley, Katy Smith
Best Journeyman	<b>Pimp My Ride UK:</b> <i>Jo Thomsen</i> , Jose Rivera, Teresa Kramer, Jessi Silver,
	Evan Miller, Alison Ellingsberg, Lori Fischer, Alicia Struble, Amanda
	Schuckman, Brian Jonas, Nathaniel Wilson-Graay, Eryn Hildebrand
Best Master	<b>Llamatron 2112:</b> <i>Jeff Daniels</i>
Best in Show	<b>Hello K'tty:</b> <i>Gerald Dagel</i> , Elizabeth Sloan



Hello K'tty (Top), Llamatron 2112 (Right),  
Pimp My Ride UK (Below).  
Photos by Peter Verrant



The Performance Judges at the 2006  
Masquerade: Rex (with assistant John  
Grams), J.G.Hertzler, and Robert O'Reilly.  
Photo by Peter Verrant



## Thank You!

Year after year, the time, work and creativity that people pour into CONvergence is astonishing. After months of planning and anticipation, you show up at the convention and always are surprised by room parties, costumes, or other happenings at the convention that you would have never imagined.

CONvergence and the Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy (MISFITS) would like to thank everyone who helped make our 2006 convention another tremendous success. That includes our **Convention Committee**, the **MISFITS Officers and Staff**, our **volunteers**, and everyone who threw a **room party**, sat a **panel**, entered the **Masquerade**, or otherwise participated in the weekend's events.

Many thanks go to Frost for the Discovery pod bay complete with HAL computer terminal that served as our 2006 MainStage facade. Many may not know, but the under-construction facade collapsed 4 days before the convention, ruining 3 weeks of work. Frost and a mighty team of volunteers worked long hours in those days to restore and finish the main stage entrance. Our thanks go out to Frost himself, and his mighty crew of volunteers including Briton, Becca Armstrong, the two Jesse's, Samantha, Tim, Garry, Jules, Jen and many more. Special thanks to Landroval Studios for their help and resources.

On behalf of the Science Room, thanks go to the MN Space Frontier Society, MN Astronomical Society, MN Planetarium Society, Twin Cities Robotics Group, MN Mad Scientists, MARCEE, G. D. Nordley, Hugh S. Gregory, NASA - Glenn Research Center, Dave Buth, Kevin Buth, Rich Brown, Rick Weller, Loren Nelson, Joe Swenson, Hon Huset, and Christine La Bounty.

Mainstage thanks and apologies to DJs Stryfe and Neko for misspelling their names in our at-con publications. It's funny how DJ names seem to be immune to proofreading. Still, our bad. Thanks also to Milk Bar, Amdeide and Heliosphere, to DJs Dr. Boom, DV8, Nitrogen, Oxygen, Star 5 and Noise, to Adam, Andrew and Michael from PSAV, and to Niptron Systems, Don Rice, and Gene Swanson.



As always, our thanks go out to the Sheraton itself for housing our wonderful collection of folks who have come together to celebrate our passion. We would not be the convention we are without their partnership. We would like to thank our wonderful guests, **Eric Flint, J.G. Hertzler, Kenneth Hite, Bridget Landry, Robert O'Reilly, Miles Teves, David Weber, and Greg Weisman.** Thank you to all the performers and organizers of events that helped provide so many exciting things to see and do at CONvergence 2006.

While we've named a lot of people here, we know that there are always more people deserving of thanks that we've missed. Please know that we are deeply grateful to everyone who helps make CONvergence the amazing experience that it is.

**Link and Piggy beam down to CONvergence 2006.**

*Photo by Peter Verrant*

# CONVERGENCE 2007 CREATURE FEATURE

July 6-8, 2007

## Annual Theme

"Would you kindly stop referring to me as 'the creature', sir.

Or I may well become exceedingly hostile!"

— The Doctor, *Doctor Who: Carnival of Monsters* (1973)

The theme of CONvergence 2007 will be "Creature Feature," which may give many of you visions of monster movies new and old, and of things that go bump in the night. While those ghouls and goblins will certainly be part of the proceedings, creature characters are not limited to the realm of Horror. They are the inhabitants of the world of *The Dark Crystal*. They help populate Middle Earth. Some drown their sorrows in the canteena at Mos Eisley. Others lurk on alien worlds awaiting visits from the crew of the USS Enterprise or the Jupiter II. Some of them found work on the crew of Moya. One of them IS Moya.

They are the non-human characters that we love or sometimes love to hate in science fiction and fantasy as well as horror. Heck, *Sigmund the Sea Monster* qualifies. The creatures are legion, and they're coming to CONvergence 2007.

## 2007 Guests of Honor

The following guests currently plan to join us at CONvergence 2007 as guests of honor. Watch our website for the latest updates to this list.

### Lois McMaster Bujold

Lois is a Hugo and Nebula Award winning author of science fiction and fantasy, having won four Hugos in the Novel category, more than any other writer except for Robert A. Heinlein. She is best known for her series of novels featuring Miles Vorkosigan, a disabled interstellar spy and mercenary admiral from planet Barrayar, a thousand years in our future. The Vorkosigan Series incorporates a variety of genres, from space opera, to detective and even high-society romance.

Lois McMaster Bujold was born in Columbus, Ohio, and began reading adult science fiction at age nine, a taste she attributes to the influence of her father, engineer Robert Charles McMaster. "He was a professor of Welding Engineering at Ohio State and an old Cal Tech man," says Lois, "and used to buy the science fiction magazines and paperback books to read on the plane on consulting trips; these naturally fell to me. My reading tastes later expanded to include history, mysteries, romance, travel, war, poetry, etc."



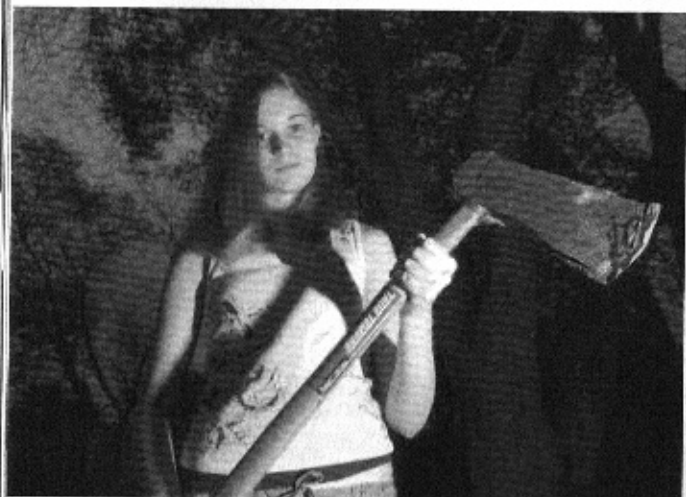


Lois won Nebula awards for *Falling Free* (1988), and for her novella *The Mountains of Mourning* (1989) she won both the Nebula and Hugo. Her other Hugo wins include *The Vor Game* (1990), *Barrayar* (1991), *Mirror Dance* (1994), and *Paladin of Souls* (2003).

Her fantasy novel *The Curse of Chalion* (2001) won the Mythopoeic Award for Adult Literature and was nominated for the 2002 World Fantasy Award for best novel. Her fourth Hugo was for *Paladin of Souls*, a sequel to *The Curse of Chalion*. A third book in the world of Chalion, *The Hallowed Hunt*, was published by Eos in June of 2005.

Lois has also edited several anthologies, starting with *Women at War* which she produced with Roland Green for Tor Books in 1995.

To learn more about Lois and her work, visit **The Bujold Nexus**, Lois's own fan-run website, at [www.dendarii.com](http://www.dendarii.com). Sample chapters of several of her SF titles are available at <http://www.baen.com>, along with a free download of the complete text of the award-winning novella *The Mountains of Mourning* in the Baen Free Library at <http://www.baen.com/library/>.



## Emily Hagins

12-year-old Emily Hagins was the writer/director/producer/editor of the low-budget zombie film *Pathogen*. CONvergence is pleased to welcome the now 14-year-old Emily Hagins as our youngest-ever Guest of Honor.

Emily was born in Philadelphia, PA and moved to Austin, TX when she was 8 months old. Since the age of about 7, she has enjoyed seeing movies multiple times in the theaters and earned the nickname in second grade of "The movie girl". At

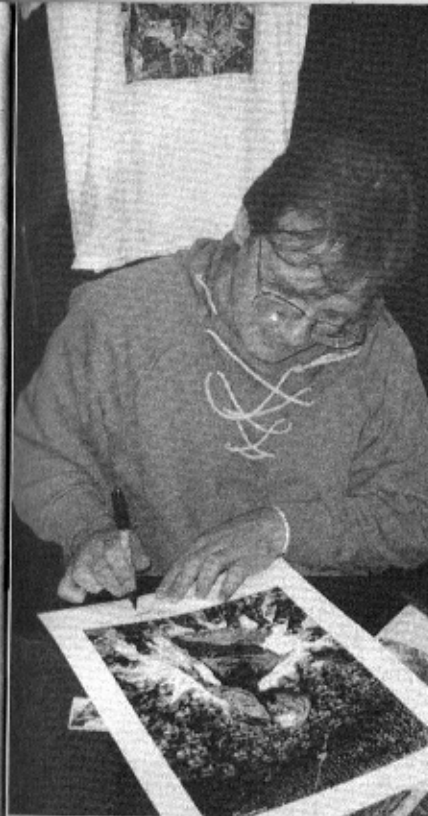
age 9 she saw *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* and was inspired to make her own movie. Working with a camcorder, Emily made several shorts starting in the third grade, including one featuring a Care Bear assassin who targeted Barbie dolls.

In fourth grade Emily saw her very first zombie movie, the New Zealand Horror/Comedy *Undead*. "I used to be scared of horror movies until then," she says. "I realized that horror movies could also be funny. I decided that I wanted to make a feature film and it was going to be a zombie movie." By the end of May 2004, Emily had finished the screenplay and was ready to start filming. Not only did she write the screenplay and direct the film, she did the camera work, co-produced, edited the film.

The filmmaker and her mother are careful not to overhype the end result. No one should go in expecting a polished feature, they insist; for outsiders, the impressive thing is simply that a filmmaker so young and with limited resources tackled such a project and saw it through.

Meanwhile, Emily is enthused about getting behind the camera again. More cannibalism and viral mutations, one wonders? "I definitely want to make other kinds of films," she insists. The only genre that doesn't appeal to her, she says, is the "chick flick."

Emily's story is an inspiration to anyone with dreams of realizing their creative ambitions. We look forward to having Emily with us at CONvergence to share her story and her film. Visit the official *Pathogen* web site at <http://www.cheesynggets.com>.



## Bernie Wrightson

Legendary artist Bernie Wrightson has been creating creature artwork for over thirty years. Best known for co-creating the comic book character Swamp Thing, and for definitively illustrating *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*, which the artist considers among his most personal works. Bernie also collaborates regularly with author Stephen King.

Bernie began working in comics at DC Comics in 1968, providing many stories for DC's *House of Mystery* and *House of Secrets* anthology titles, before co-creating *Swamp Thing* (with CONvergence 2006 Guest of Honor Len Wein), which he went on to illustrate in his own title.

By 1974, Bernie had left DC to work at Warren Publishing, for whose black-and-white horror-comics magazines he produced a series of original work as well as adaptations of stories by H. P. Lovecraft and Edgar Allan Poe.

In 1975, Wrightson joined with fellow artists Jeff Jones, Michael Kaluta, and Barry Windsor-Smith to form "The Studio," a shared loft in Manhattan where the group would pursue creative products outside the constraints of comic book commercialism. Though he continued to produce sequential art, Wrightson at this time began producing artwork for numerous posters, prints, calendars, and even coloring books.

Bernie wrote and drew the sci-fi mini-series *Captain Sternn*, which was the basis for one of the segments of the cult-favorite *Heavy Metal* movie. Bernie also drew the poster for the Stephen King-penned horror film *Creepshow*, as well as illustrating the comic book adaptation of the film. This led to several other collaborations with King, including illustrations for the novella *Cycle of the Werewolf* and the restored edition of King's apocalyptic horror epic, *The Stand*.

As a conceptual artist, Bernie's worked on many movies, particularly in the horror genre: well-known films include *Ghostbusters*, *The Faculty*, *Galaxy Quest*, *Spider-man*, and George Romero's *Land of the Dead*. Recently, Bernie did production design on the Reavers for the 2005 film *Serenity*.

Today, Bernie resides in Los Angeles with his wife Liz, where he works both on film designs and his own pet projects, including comic books, character designs for animation, and creepy drawings just for fun!

Visit Bernie's official website at <http://www.wrightsonart.com/>.



## Brian Keene

Brian Keene is a Bram Stoker Award winning horror author, first in 2001 for his non-fiction work *Jobs In Hell* and then again in 2003 for his debut novel, the post-apocalyptic zombie tale *The Rising*. Several of his books and stories are slated for film, video game and comic book adaptations. We're pleased to have him with us at CONvergence 2007.

Brian's novels include:

*No Rest For The Wicked* (2001)  
*4x4* (with G. Cooper, M. Oliveri, & M. Huyck Jr., 2001)  
*The Rising* (2003)  
*No Rest At All* (2003)  
*The Rise And Fall Of Babylon* (with John Urbancik, 2003)  
*Fear Of Gravity* (2004)  
*The Rising: Necrophobia* (with B. McBean, M. Oliveri, & J. Urbancik, 2004)  
*Sympathy For The Devil: The Best Of Hail Saten Vol. 1* (2004)  
*Terminal* (2005)  
*City Of The Dead* (2005)  
*Earthworm Gods* (2005)  
*Running With The Devil: The Best Of Hail Saten Vol. 2* (2006)  
*The Rising: Selected Scenes From The End Of The World* (2006)  
*The Rutting Season* (2006)  
*The Conqueror Worms* (2006)

Brian has also edited a number of anthologies including *Best of Horrorfind I & II* (2001/2003), and *In Delirium* (2006), and is assistant editor of *Grave Tales* magazine from Cemetery Dance Publications. Visit Brian's official website at <http://www.briankeene.com/>.

"Prince Imhotep thanks you for your hospitality... and for your eyes...  
and for your tongue... but I'm afraid more is needed."

— Beni, *The Mummy* (1999)

## 2007 Hotel Reservations

As we move towards the 2007 convention and another year at the Sheraton Bloomington, we are excited as we stand poised to fill the hotel to capacity. We came close this past year with 530 rooms filled on our peak night (Saturday), out of 564 rooms in the hotel. We were asked to leave 20 rooms for the hotel to use in 2006, but we are told that in 2007, *the whole hotel is ours*.

So, we are instituting a couple of **new procedures** that we hope will help everyone. Starting in late August, we sent email notices out to all who provided an email address that the CONvergence Hotel Department had received their room request. This may not have included party hosts, on either their sleeping room or party room requests. These were all out by the end of September. If you believe you turned in a form at the convention and did not receive such an email, it is possible that we did not get a form from you or your form did not provide an email address. In any case, please feel free to contact [hotel@convergence-con.org](mailto:hotel@convergence-con.org).

All forms will be forwarded to the hotel in early December. We are working to make that a firm date. Note that such forms will include those received prior to Nov. 15, 2006. Our hope is that all Sheraton confirmations will be emailed or snail-mailed out by December 25. At that point, we move forward with more room requests, assignments and confirmations until June 30, more or less. As always, please let us know if you have any questions.

## Programming Brainstorming

Our annual Programming Brainstorming Meeting will be held 2:00pm Saturday, November 18 at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel (7800 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington, MN). This meeting begins the process of developing the panels that will fill the schedule of our 2007 convention. Panel ideas are generated here, and over the next several months we will try to find panelists to sit the best of these ideas, and place them into our 2007 programming schedule. If you'd like to contribute or get involved, please attend the meeting, or send an email to [programming@convergence-con.org](mailto:programming@convergence-con.org).



# HELP WANTED!

**NEEDED:** Outgoing, persuasive people AT THE CON for helping with the Volunteers Department. Duties include talking to people, signing them up for volunteering and badging shifts, handing out volunteer buttons, helping departments to fill Emergency Volunteer Needs. Central location with high turn-over means you'll be right in the thick of the action! Benefits include: Very flexible schedule, friendly (and rather silly) co-workers, and being in a great place to meet and see people! Sub-heads and staffers needed. Come join our team!

**ART SHOW SUB-HEAD:** Basic computer spreadsheet skills necessary, as well as a gentle touch (get your mind out of the gutter, we're talking about the art!) and the ability to hang pieces level. Must be willing to give up your Saturday night for the Auction! Contact [artshow@convergence-con.org](mailto:artshow@convergence-con.org).

**MERCHANDISING SUB-HEAD:** Basic arithmetic and clothes-folding skills a must. Ability to come up with new and exciting

merchandise a plus. Just like working at the Gap, only you won't hate your life. Contact [merchandising@convergence-con.org](mailto:merchandising@convergence-con.org).

**REGISTRATION WANTS YOU!** Registration is looking for staff of all stripes, dots, and zigzags! Volunteer for us and see everybody at the con, one by one! We're looking for help before the convention (data entry, paper shuffling) as well! Interested? Contact [registration@convergence-con.org](mailto:registration@convergence-con.org).

**WEB WANTS TO ASSIMILATE YOU!** Our web team is looking for coders who can do quick updates to the website. "Here's the text, put it here" sort of stuff. If you've got the know-how, we've got the embarrassing amount of appreciation to show you. Contact [webmaster@convergence-con.org](mailto:webmaster@convergence-con.org).

If you would be interested in being considered for one of these positions, or helping out in any other area of the convention, please contact us at [info@convergence-con.org](mailto:info@convergence-con.org).

## CONvergence 2008

Normally, we don't talk about plans for upcoming conventions more than a year in advance, both because there usually isn't much to say about a convention more than a year away, and because we don't want to cause confusion as to what guests or planned events are for what year.

But CONvergence 2008 will be something special. Our convention in July of 2008 will be the tenth CONvergence. We can't believe it either. How time flies. To commemorate this event we're doing something special. Will it be the five day convention that Michael Sheard first called for?

No. There are too many logistical problems that make that impractical, not to mention the endurance test it would be for the volunteers whose work starts days before the convention begins and continues after it's over. Nope. Five days is just crazy talk.

So how about **FOUR** days?

That's right. For one year only, to commemorate our tenth convention, CONvergence will be a four day con. CONvergence 2008 will begin Thursday July 3 and run through Sunday July 6. But that's not all. We're also planning on inviting back a number of favorite guests from past years of the convention. A **lot** of them. Exactly who and how many hasn't been determined yet, but it's sure to be an impressive roster, and will help make CONvergence 2008 feel like the celebration that it is.

That's all we have to announce for 2008 right now. We'll have more information by the time of the 2007 convention, but for now we just wanted to let you know to stake out an extra day on your calendar and plan accordingly. So remember, we've got a regular 3-day convention (Creature Feature) in 2007, and a 10th Anniversary 4-day convention in 2008.



# MISFITS

CONvergence is a presentation of the Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy. While CONvergence is the biggest event we produce, the MISFITS organization sponsors many other activities and events throughout the year.

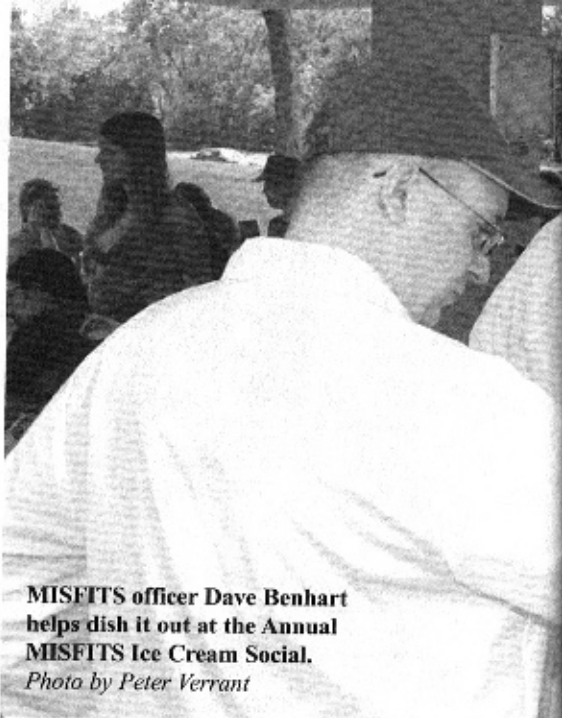
## MISFITS News

### Elections

Elections will be held soon for several seats on the MISFITS Board of Directors. To learn more about who's running, and what it takes to be a voting member of MISFITS, visit <http://www.misfit.org/election/candidates.htm>.

### MISFITS in the Schools

MISFITS continues to bring authors, herpetologists, and presentations from the University of Minnesota Raptor Center to schools in the Twin Cities area. If you'd like to bring the MISFITS In The Schools program to YOUR school, visit the web page for more information. <http://www.misfit.org/schools/index.htm>



**MISFITS officer Dave Benhart helps dish it out at the Annual MISFITS Ice Cream Social.**

*Photo by Peter Verrant*

### MISFITS Photography Club

Want to help organize a MISFITS Photography Club? The club would be a non-competitive club for photographers of all levels (and media) who want to get together and discuss what they've done and exchange ideas on how they could be done better. We are looking for interested parties to participate in an organizational meeting. Contact Roger Pavelle at [RPavelle@aol.com](mailto:RPavelle@aol.com).

## Upcoming Events

### Geeks Read Book Club

Geeks Read is MISFITS' book club, and meets the first Tuesday of every month, with doors opening at 7:00pm and the discussion beginning at 7:30pm, with the location changing from meeting to meeting. Geeks Read includes a potluck of treats, so feel free to bring something tasty!

<http://www.misfit.org/geeksread/index.htm>

### Read the Book / See the Movie Club

The MISFITS Read the Book / See the Movie Club was the first club formed by our organization, and is a book club with a twist. Members read novels, short stories, and screenplays, then gather to watch movies

**MISFITS officer Matt Savelkoul gives the MISFITS Ice Cream Social a thumbs up!**

*Photo by Peter Verrant*



based on those written works and discuss both versions. The club meets on the second Friday of every month. Social time at 7:00pm - movie begins promptly at 7:30pm. Location rotates among club members homes. <http://www.misfit.org/bookmovie/index.htm>

### Geek Physique

If you are interested in some cardio exercise with a geek-flavored social atmosphere, check out Geek Physique! We also touch on diabetic support issues. Check out our website, [www.misfit.org](http://www.misfit.org), for further details and our weekly walk schedule. <http://www.misfit.org/geekphysique/index.htm>

### MISFITS Team Trivia Challenge

The Ninth Annual MISFITS Team Trivia Challenge will be held in April of next year. Be a part of it when teams of four compete in game show style competition to determine who has the most trivial minds in regional fandom! You can find more information about the Trivia Challenge on our web site. The "reading list" of books that will be spotlighted in this year's Trivia Challenge will be posted there soon.

### MISFITS Working Meeting - November 23

7:00pm at the MISFITS Office, 1437 Marshall Avenue, Suite 203, St. Paul, MN.

Working meetings are held monthly and are open to the public. It's a great opportunity to find out about what's going on with MISFITS and get involved!

## Until Next Time...

We'll have more information about our plans for the 2007 convention in our Progress Report 2 publication in the Spring. Until then, if you are looking more information on CONvergence, you can visit our web site at [www.CONvergence-con.org](http://www.CONvergence-con.org), or make sure to be signed up for our monthly e-mail updates. You can be added (or removed) from our publications and e-mail distribution lists by contacting us at [info@convergence-con.org](mailto:info@convergence-con.org). You can also email us there to ask questions or to be directed to the relevant department or individual for any other convention business. Visit [www.misfit.org](http://www.misfit.org) for more information about the CONvergence parent organization and everything else it does, or send an email to [info@misfit.org](mailto:info@misfit.org).

Until then, remember that the CONvergence 2007 pre-registration rate goes up on **January 1**. Have a good Winter and you'll hear from us again in the Spring!

# HOTEL ROOM Request Form

# CONVERGENCE 2007 CREATURE FEATURE

## Room Requirements:

- Check One:
- ☐ 1 King Bed ☐ Smoking
- ☐ 2 Double Bed ☐ Non-Smoking
- ☐ Don't Care ☐ Don't Care

Check any room requirements that apply:

- ☐ Rollaway ☐ Crib
- ☐ Low Floor ☐ Wheelchair Access

Number of People in Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Responsible Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Check-in Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Check-out Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## CONVERGENCE "WEEKEND" 2007

WED JULY 04	THU JULY 05	FRI JULY 06	SAT JULY 07	SUN JULY 08	MON JULY 09
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Once received, your form will be processed and you will be assigned a room in the Sheraton Bloomington as they are available.

## Room Rates:

- ☐ Standard Room (\$101 per night)
- ☐ Cabana Room (\$125 per night) \*

If you plan to hold a room party in this room, check the Room Party box below, and complete and attach the CONvergence Parties Form. Then submit both forms to the Parties Department.

- ☐ This room is for a Room Party.

\* Cabana Rooms are ONLY available for Room Parties.

## 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

## 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 the Room Party Request Form.
- Please note that we will only accept TWO CONvergence room request forms from any one person. A separate form must be submitted for each room requested.
- CONvergence will return unprocessed any form considered illegible or incomplete.
- Please inquire about exact check-in/check-out times when confirming your reservation.
- If you would like your room to be near a particular group or person, indicate name here:

- We will accommodate as many people as possible, but not all requests can be fulfilled. CONvergence and the convention hotel reserve the right to make last minute changes.
- Check-out time is 12 noon unless otherwise specified.
- All information provided will remain proprietary of CONvergence and will not be shared.

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](mailto:hotel@convergence-con.org).

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

CONvergence c/o MISFITS

1437 Marshall Avenue, Suite 203, St. Paul, MN 55104  
651-MISFITS (651-647-3487) - 24-hour voicemail

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

# PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

## CONVERGENCE 2007 CREATURE FEATURE

## July 6-8

Sheraton Bloomington South  
Bloomington, MN  
A Convention for Fans of  
Science Fiction and Fantasy

## Check the box that will apply on the dates of the convention:

- ☐ Adult Badge (18 & over)
- ☐ 13 - 17 Years Old
- ☐ 6 - 12 Years Old
- ☐ 5 and Under

You must specify one of the age levels above.

People wishing adult badges will be asked to show a picture ID showing that they are at least 18 years old at the time they pick up their badge. That means that if you're not 18 now but will be by the time the convention is held, you can still request an adult badge.

**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

<b>Adult Membership</b> until Dec. 31, 2006	<b>\$30</b>
<b>Adult Membership</b> until May 15, 2007	<b>\$40</b>
<b>Adult Membership</b> At the Door	<b>\$55</b>
<b>Supporting Membership</b> until May 15, 2007 (\$20 now plus \$20 at the door)	<b>\$20 + \$20</b>
<b>Kids Age 6-12</b> until May 15, 2007	<b>\$15</b>
<b>Kids Age 6-12</b> At the Door	<b>\$20</b>
<b>Kids 5 &amp; under</b>	<b>Free</b>

I am interested in volunteering in the following areas: (check all that apply)

- ☐ Art Show ☐ Connie's Space Lounge ☐ Registration
- ☐ Badgers/Gophers ☐ Gaming ☐ Programming Panelist
- ☐ CoF2E2 Free Coffee ☐ Gravediggers ☐ Programming Staff
- ☐ ConSuite ☐ Operations ☐ Volunteers

☐ I would like to volunteer wherever I am needed

☐ I would like information about entering the Art Show

You may like to know that I'm a professional in the field of:

Complete this form and send it (with check or money order, US funds only) to:

**CONvergence**  
1437 Marshall Ave, Suite 203  
St. Paul, MN 55104

Make checks or money orders payable to CONvergence.

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 at right. Information provided is proprietary to CONvergence/MISFITS.

**US Mail:** 1437 Marshall Ave, Suite 203  
St. Paul, MN 55104

**Phone:** 651-647-3487 / 651-MISFITS  
(24-hour voicemail)

**E-Mail:** [info@convergence-con.org](mailto:info@convergence-con.org)

**Web:** [www.convergence-con.org](http://www.convergence-con.org)