

CONVERGENCE 2007

CREATURE FEATURE

PROGRESS REPORT TWO



JOIN US, AND A FEW
OF OUR FAVORITE
THINGS

CONVERGENCE 2007

CREATURE FEATURE

JULY 6, 7, 8 2007

c/o The Minnesota Society for Interest
in Science Fiction and Fantasy
1437 Marshall Ave, Suite 203 St. Paul, MN 55104



BLOOMINGTON MN 55420-

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>

55420+3912-31 C00A



OH, DON'T
WORRY ABOUT ME.
I'D WORRY MORE
ABOUT HIS TEETH!

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HELLO FROM CONVERGENCE!

Very soon, the May 15 deadline to pre-register for CONvergence will be upon us. In these pages you will find the forms to both register for the convention and to reserve a hotel room if you haven't done so already. It's also chock full of information about our plans for CONvergence 2007.

If you have questions or want to contact us about plans for the convention, you can reach us through any of the channels on the inside cover at left. For the latest updates as the CONvergence weekend approaches, you can visit our website at www.convergence-con.org.

ANNUAL THEME

The theme of CONvergence 2007 will be "Creature Feature," which may give many of you visions of monster movies both 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 cantina 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.

GUESTS OF HONOR

We've got another great lineup of guests in store for you in 2007, including two that have been added to the schedule since our last publication: Wally Wingert and John Kovalic. These guests are scheduled to appear at this time. Keep an eye on our web site for any last-minute updates to our 2007 line-up.

Wally Wingert

Wally Wingert is a voice actor who has contributed to many popular TV series, anime, films and video games.

Wally's television work includes *Invader Zim* (Almighty Tallest Red), *Family Guy* (various), *Astro Boy* (Dr. O'Shay, Blue Knight and others), *Transformers: Robots in Disguise* (Sideburn, Mirage), *Zatch Bell* (Brago, Praying Mantis Joe), *Totally Spies!* (Seth), and *Harvey Birdman: Attorney at Law* (Astro, George Jetson and others).

Wally's anime credits include *Bleach* (Renji Abarai), *Initial D* (Nakazato Takeshi), *Dinosaurs* (Dino Centro & Dino Pachy), and *Blood +* (George and various) and *Final Fantasy VII: Advent Children*.

He has also voiced characters in live action films including *Scooby Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed*, *Batman & Robin*, and animated films like *Ant Bully*, and the upcoming *Garfield Gets Real*.

For more information on Wally Wingert and his other projects (including The Chaney Room and his extensive work with character creation, make-up and costuming), visit his official web site at www.wallyontheweb.com/.

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This publication was designed by Christopher Jones for CONvergence Publications. All artwork is by Christopher Jones unless otherwise indicated. Thanks to the CONvergence Coordinators for their help in proofreading. We always welcome feedback and suggestions, and ask that any comments be directed to the channels listed above.



John Kovalic

John Kovalic has been confirmed as this year's Returning Guest, having been a Guest of Honor at CONvergence 2003.

John is probably best known for his Origins and Eisner award-nominated *Dork Tower* comic book, which he has been writing and drawing since June 1998. *Dork Tower* exists in several incarnations, including a bi-monthly comic published by Dork Storm Press, a monthly comic strip in *Dragon Magazine*, *Scrye Magazine*, and *GAMES Magazine*, and online three times a week at GameSpy.com.

John also produces the comic series *SnapDragons* (with Liz Rathke) and *Dr. Blink: Superhero Shrink* (with Christopher Jones and Melissa Kaercher).

His editorial cartoons have appeared in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, and he continues to freelance for *Milwaukee's Daily Reported* and his hometown *Wisconsin State Journal* (Madison, WI).

In addition to his comics work, John is co-owner and co-founder of Out of the Box Games, whose *Apples to Apples* has sold more than two million copies. He's also a best-selling and prolific freelance game illustrator (*Munchkin*, *Chez Geek*, *Mag*Blast*).

John is a dual national of Great Britain and the United States, currently living in Wisconsin. In John's free time, he searches for free time. To learn more about John Kovalic and his work, visit archive.gamespy.com/comics/dorktower.



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 Barrayer, 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 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), *Barrayer* (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.

To learn more about Lois and her work, visit **The Bujold Nexus**, Lois's own fan-run website, at www.dendarii.com. Sample chapters of several of her SF titles are available at 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 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.

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.

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 www.cheesyuggets.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 his illustrated edition of *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 the character's own title.

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 drew the poster for the Stephen King-penned horror film *Creepshow*, as well as illustrating the comic book adaptation of the film, which 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*.

Visit Bernie's official website at 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), *Fear Of Gravity* (2004), *City Of The Dead* (2005), *Earthworm Gods* (2005), *The Rutting Season* (2006), and *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 www.briankeene.com/.

REGISTRATION

Leadership Changes for Registration in 2007

The registration department has made a few changes in leadership roles. Stephanie Lindorff has stepped down as Co-Head due to scheduling conflicts. She will remain in Registration this year as a Sub-Head, and continue on her master plan to work in every department! Andy Murphy remains as a Co-Head and is joined by Cynthia Lettermann. Cyn was a Sub-Head last year for Registration, jumping in to fill a last second vacancy. She has agreed to be this year's Co-Head, and all she wants is your eyeglasses! (See page 6 for more information on the Eyeglasses Recycling Drive in Registration.) Well, she wants your money with your registrations too.

Registration needs YOU!

Andy and Cyn are looking for volunteers and another Co-Head to round out the 2007 Registration Team. Expanded hours for better access, and the chance to see everyone: How can you beat *that* for earning your volunteer t-shirt? If you would like to join the team, please send your email to registration@convergence-con.org.

How to Register

You can register for CONvergence in two different ways: Online or by mailing in a registration form and payment. If you'd like to register online, simply visit www.convention-reg.com and follow the instructions there. Convention-reg.com can now register you directly with CONvergence – no paper forms needed at all! Or if you prefer, we can send you out a blank "gift membership" that represents the membership(s) you purchased. You can then redeem that gift membership for yourself or a friend, via mail or at the door of the convention. What a deal!

If you'd like to register for CONvergence by mail, fill out a registration form and send it in with a check payment. You can download a registration form from <http://www.convergence-con.org/amenities/hotel/hotelreg.php>, or use the one at the back of this booklet. You can also visit www.convergence-con.org/amenities/hotel/hotel.php for more detailed hotel information.

Pre-Registration Deadlines

Note: Any registration postmarked/received after May 15 is considered "At the Door."

Adult Memberships: \$40 - Until May 15
\$55 - At the Door

Kids Ages 6-12: \$15 - Until May 15
\$20 - At the Door

Supporting Memberships: Available until May 15 for \$20. These memberships can be upgraded to a full membership at the door for an additional \$20.

Children 5 and Under: Free

At the Con

The first thing you'll want to do when you arrive at CONvergence is check in at the Registration Desk, which is in the same location as last year! Registration is located next to the hotel's front desk in Captain's Quarter's/Stevie Ray's on the ground floor (across from the Navigator's Lounge).

Registration Desk Hours

Thursday July 5: Volunteer Only Registration 3:00pm–6:00pm

Registration will be open on Thursday for convention volunteers only. Early registration is just one more reason to volunteer!

Friday July 6: Registration 9:00am–11:00pm

You'll need a badge to get into convention space so avoid the crowd and stop by Registration early on Friday. We'll also have programming schedules, souvenir books and any last minute updates so you can start planning your convention.

Saturday July 7: Registration 9:00am–8:00pm

Same deal – you'll need your badge so stop by and see us.

Sunday July 8: Registration 11:00am–6:30pm

After a weekend of having a great time at CONvergence, you'll want to stop in on your way home to register for exponentially more fun in 2008. For the first time this year, warm and mostly live bodies will be on hand to assist with forms and make change.

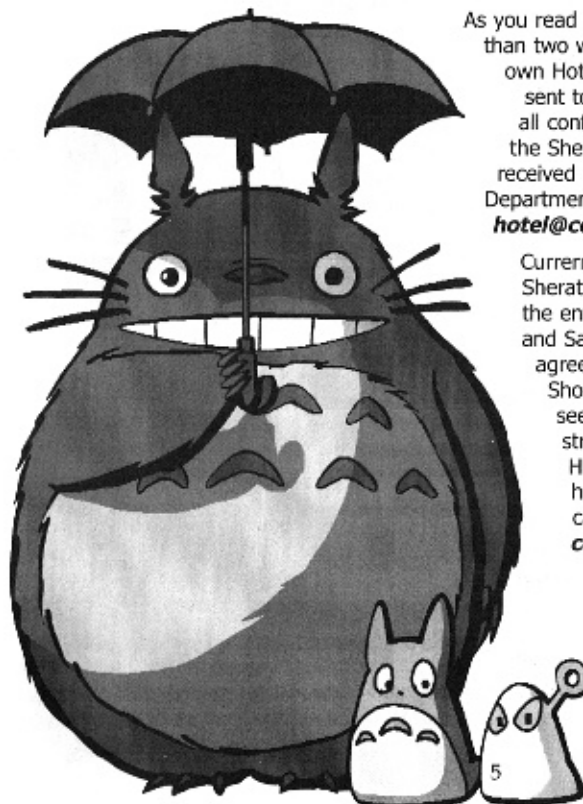
After Hours Registration

Unfortunately Registration is not open 24/7. However, for limited hours After-Hours Registration staff will be available on the Operations Bridge (Verandas 1 & 2) when Registration is closed. We do ask that you try to visit Registration during regular hours if possible.

CONvergence 2008 Pre-Registration

You can self-register for next year's convention during this year's con and at a special rate too! To pre-register, go to the 2008 Pre-Registration Station and fill out the 2008 Registration Form, put it in a (provided) envelope with a check and drop it in the treasure chest. The chest will be in Registration during our normal hours and on the Bridge when we're closed.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS



As you read this, all room requests received more than two weeks ago have been processed by our own Hotel Department, and emails have been sent to all valid email addresses. Also by now, all confirmations should have been sent from the Sheraton, also via email. If you have not received either an email from our Hotel Department or from the Sheraton, please contact hotel@convergence-con.org.

Currently, we are totally housed in the Sheraton proper and they have promised us the entire building for our weekend; Friday and Saturday nights. At this point we have no agreements with any other area hotels.

Should the Sheraton fill, please be sure to seek lodging at the Sofitel right across the street, or the Crown Plaza located across Highway 100. As always, please direct hotel questions, reservation changes or cancellations to hotel@convergence-con.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

USS Nokomis 5th Annual CONvergence Blood Drive

Since Robert Heinlein organized his first drive at MidAmericon in 1976, blood drives have been a staple at many big cons. In keeping with this grand tradition, the USS Nokomis (a Twin Cities Star Trek Fan Club – www.ussnokomis.org) is once again proud to host a CONvergence blood drive on Saturday, July 7th.

Remember these handy pointers:

- You can save THREE lives with your donation
- It only takes about an hour
- Almost everyone can donate blood, even if they stayed up late partying on Friday night

If you haven't pre-scheduled your appointment, you can stop in to the USS Nokomis' room on Friday night and schedule with Mary. You may also stop by the lobby after noon on Saturday to check for open appointments. Several Nokomis members will be wandering the halls to look for donors, too, so they will find you if you don't find them!

Please remember: You have the ability to be a hero and save lives by doing something very simple. Go boldly to the bus and roll up your sleeve!

Drop off Used Eyeglasses at Registration

New this year, Registration will be a collection point for used eyeglasses. These glasses will be cleaned, recycled, and hand delivered to individuals in developing countries through the **Give the Gift of Sight Foundation** and **Luxottica Group**. When you come to CONvergence this year, please bring an old pair of glasses (or two, or three) to help bring a better quality of life one person at a time. More information can be found at www.givethegiveofsight.org.

Klingon Bat'Leth Tournament

Four years ago a group of Klingons arrived at CONvergence to fight against the disease of diabetes. Today it is said that a cure is within sight, which means our enemy is down but is not defeated. The day will come when diabetes will be a memory, when songs will be sung and tales told of our deeds. But until that day arrives we will let our **blades** do the talking!

Join us in our fifth year of fighting for a cure Saturday morning in the Garden Court. Qualifications start at 9:00am and the tournament will begin at 10:00am. A \$10 registration fee is required to participate with ALL proceeds going to the **American Diabetes Association**.

For more information contact Uncle Krom at envy1874@aol.com.

Remember the path to glory is forged with strength and honor. Are you ready to blaze a trail?



DEPARTMENTS

Art Show & Auction

"Good evening, and welcome to a private showing of three paintings, displayed here for the first time. Each is a collectors' item in its own way – not because of any special artistic quality, but because each captures on a canvas, and suspends in time and space, a frozen moment of a nightmare."

– Rod Serling, *Night Gallery* (1970)

We are pleased to again present a wide variety of artwork by many talented fantasy and science-fiction artists from across the country. This artwork is for sale to the convention membership via an auction system, with enough bids sending pieces to the voice auction on Saturday night.

Additionally, there will be artists' setup in the Art Show gallery demonstrating their craft. Stop by and watch them create their beautiful artwork.

If you are an artist, we would love to see you, as well as your artwork, at the show. Forms for submitting artwork should be up on the website around April 1st. If you would like the forms mailed to you, contact us and we will send them out. If you are interested in participating in the demonstrations, drop us an email and see if we still have room.

If you have any questions, suggestions or you would like to volunteer to help with the show (we always need volunteers), please do not hesitate to drop us an email at artshow@convergence-con.org.

Cinema Rex

"It's not a monster movie. It's a supernatural thriller."

– Edward D. Wood, Jr., *Ed Wood* (1994)

"Creature Feature"?! Rex wants everyone to know he couldn't be happier, it's like the theme was made for him.

So Rex is working hard on coming up with a schedule filled with creepy-crawlies, monsters that shamble and things that go bump in the night.

We can tell you that he is already putting together a **Cthulhu Film Fest** of shorts as well as the customary trailer park installment.

We will also be showing the World Premiere of the new **Midnight Chronicles** trailer. The finished film will debut at Gen Con in August! In addition, once again members of **Landroval Studios** will be with us showing preview clips and behind the scenes extras of this locally produced fantasy film.

Rex is also very excited that we will have Guest of Honor **Emily Hagins** visit Cinema Rex to discuss her zombie film, **Pathogen**.

Add to that the usual high-quality projection and sound, comfy seating, snacks, and atmosphere that have made Cinema Rex that best damn film room around... how can you stay away?

COF2E2 Free Coffee Shop

"I hear this place, uh, serves coffee. I thought maybe you and I should get some. Sometime. If you want."

– Angel, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (1997)

COF2E2, CONvergence's 24-hour free coffee shop, will be back in 2007! COF2E2 provides coffee, espresso drinks, tea, and milk steamers in a groovy coffee shop atmosphere. Stop by for a quick drink while rushing between CONvergence events, or drop in and play a game or two while

burning away the late nights and early mornings of the convention.

Want to learn how to make espresso drinks? Volunteering at COF2E2 is a fun way to spend a couple hours at the convention. Email cof2e2@convergence-con.org, check out the FAQ at www.convergence-con.org, or just stop by Cabana 115 the Thursday evening before the convention (July 5) to learn more about volunteering for COF2E2.

Connie's Space Lounge

"Men of broader intellect know that there is no sharp distinction betwixt the real and the unreal..."

— *The Tomb*, By H.P. Lovecraft

The intrepid crew of the Space Lounge are brainstorming new delights and things that go bleep in the night for your enjoyment at this year's Con. 2007 brings a new alliance between the Space Lounge and the masterminds behind some of the convention's most popular room parties.

You know you'll want to stop by to see what's happening, play some new games, hear music that's out of this world, and find out what new concoctions the mad scientists in charge of our smoothie bar have created! Remember, too, that they're always looking for protégés: Find out if you have what it takes to harness the awesome power of the Vitamix!

ConSuite

"Creature stole my twinkie!"

— Eugene, *The Monster Squad* (1987)

ConSuite: Your destination for crunchies, munchies or something to drink. We'll have the standard sodas, snacks and soups available at our ConSuite stations, plus surprise treats that will show up at unannounced times and are available only while they last. So stop by and see what's available!

ConSuite has plenty of space to hang out and socialize, in addition to table top games organized by our Gaming Department. So stop by by and spend some time!

ConSuite needs you! There are a variety of tasks that will need doing, and your help would be welcome. If you have at least one manipulative digit, tentacle, or pod, we can put you to work! You can send us an email at consuite@convergence-con.org prior to the convention, or you can also stop by the Volunteer Table or the ConSuite Bridge at the convention to let us know that you'd like to help in ConSuite.

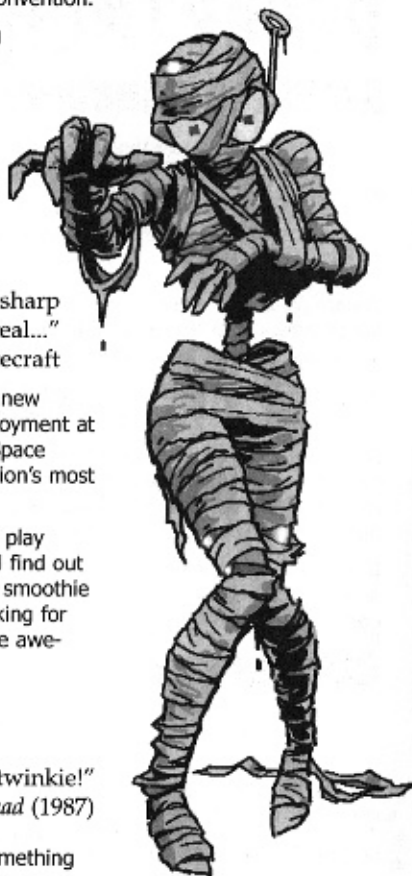
Dealers Room

"I'm sorry. Mogwai not for sale."

— Grandfather, *Gremlins* (1984)

You will find soft things, sharp things and shiny things...

Many wonderful things from both new and familiar faces will be in the CONvergence 2007 Dealers Room. Check the convention website for a current list of dealers as the convention approaches.



The Dorian Gray Memorial Literary Lounge

"...We found a book, Necronomiconexmortis, roughly translated, the Book of the Dead. Inked in human blood and bound in human flesh it was never meant for the world of the living."

— Ash, *Army of Darkness* (1992)

We've taken a beautifully furnished suite on the 22th floor—far from the crush and bustle of the parties and panels—and turned into a lounge to give local authors, guests of honor, and others an intimate, off-the-beaten-track setting, for quiet readings, events, and discussions.

There, in 2201, you'll also find the returning Literary Lounge Book Cart where you can come and drop off books or pick up a few that suit your fancy. Bring all the books you like and take some home while you're there! Would you like to donate some before the con? Let us know!

Have a suggestion for a local author you'd like to see give a reading? Let us know how we can contact them! Please feel free to volunteer in helping out by contacting the Lounge's co-heads, David J Rust and Jody Wurl at literarylounge@convergence-con.org.

Gaming

"So let me get this straight. You were so caught up in a video game, that you let a monster sneak up behind you?"

— Dr. Tommy Oliver, *Power Rangers DinoThunder* (2004)

If you've ever played an RPG, computer game, card game, or strategy game to the exclusion of all other interests at least once in their life, CONvergence Gaming needs YOU!

- **SUGGESTIONS!** CONvergence Gaming shouldn't only cater to hard-core gamers, we want to provide a full experience for everyone! To do this, we need suggestions above all else. CONvergence Gaming's main location is in a series of conference rooms on the swank **22nd Floor** (they tend to be quieter and better suited for many games). Putting board and strategy games down in ConSuite helped reach more gamers throughout the convention, and we're always open for more suggestions to do better.
- The 22nd Floor needs its own **badgers**. Sign up ahead of time to reserve your preferred shift!
- We're looking to borrow computers that can run Quake 3 and other games and use them in our **LAN Gaming Room** (Mac, Linux, or Windows computers are just fine). We're looking for machines with at least a 500MHz processor, 256MB RAM, and a 3D graphics card.
- **The Game Library** will return, so be sure to contact us to donate anything for the convention! Help us keep this CONvergence tradition alive by donating your used games to a truly grateful community!
- If you want to RUN an RPG, computer game, card game, board or strategy game, or even a LARP, just contact one of Gaming's Sub-Heads at the emails listed below! Let them know when you'd like to run it, how many hours it'll take (we tend to schedule things in 1-1/2 hour blocks; most RPGs, therefore, tend to be 4-1/2 hours long), and how many players you'd like to accommodate. Get us the information early and we'll even get it in print before the convention! You can even earn **VOLUNTEER HOURS** this way. Hours that you put into preparing for a game before the convention count towards your total number of volunteer hours! Mind you, these have to be hours spent on making something solely for the convention, but you're creative, but you can do it!

Gaming Sub-Heads

Board and Strategy Games: Don Hackett — dkh@hackett.nu

RPGs and LARPs: Lisa Pepin — gmlilith@gmail.com

Card Games: Robert Polzin — rpolzin28@hotmail.com

To inquire about 22nd Floor badging, loaning computers, the Game Library, or if you have suggestions, contact Gaming Department Head David J. Rust at gaming@convergence-con.org.

Harmonic CONvergence

Dr. Katherine McMichaels: "What was the purpose of the experiments?"
Crawford Tillinghast: "To stimulate the pineal gland with resonant vibrations."
— *From Beyond* (1986)

CONvergence's acoustic venue is back, once again featuring a mix of music, comedy and spoken word performances. Artists scheduled to appear in 2007 include **Adam Stemple**, **The Dregs**, **Run at the Dog**, and **Luke Ski**, with more being added.

Further updates to the list of performers will be posted at www.convergence-con.org. If you or someone you know would like to be considered for a performance spot, please contact us at harmonicconvergence@convergence-con.org.

Krushenko's

Krushenko's (since 1983) is a friendly space for people who like to spend a good part of their time at SF conventions really getting down and talking about science fiction and fantasy. Having originated at Minicon, Krushenko's now also assembles itself at MarsCon, Diversicon, and Arcana in the Twin Cities and Odyssey Con and WisCon in Wisconsin. It has been a CONvergence staple since 1999.

We'll have panels and discussions related to SF in books and other media in the daytime, and parties hosted by SF groups in the evenings. Come on down for light snacks and heavy conversation!

MainStage

"And so, having disposed of the monster, exit our hero through the front door, stage right, none the worse for his harrowing experience."

— Bugs Bunny, *Hair-Raising Hare* (1946)

MainStage this year will be monstrosously explosive in 2007, featuring Live Music on Friday night with the Gothsides and others to be announced. For music lovers, we'll have our usual DJ Dance on Saturday with a full hour of exclusively Sci-fi related music. This year we're adding a few new DJs to the mix and unearthing music videos for the dance to make an experience worthy of a whole new scream.

MainStage is also the venue for Masquerade, Soylent Theater, The Mark Time Radio Show, and Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

Mark Time Awards and Radio Show

CONvergence will be presenting the **11th Annual Mark Time Awards and Ogle Awards** for science fiction and fantasy audio productions. We've been getting entries since November. These producers have been working hard to make exciting audio theater, and much of it is available via the Internet. We think they deserve their minute of fame during Open Ceremonies for creating original science fiction and fantasy, and in doing so making an old medium fresh and easily available to all of us who love the genre.

Find more at <http://www.greatnorthernaudio.com/MarkTime/MarkTime.html>.

And before the Opening Ceremonies **Great Northern Audio Theatre** will bring you the Mark Time Radio Show, an original and entirely silly program based around the Creature Features theme of the convention.

We always feature CONvergence regulars Tim Wick and Windy Bowlsby, but this year we are also looking forward to having Guest of Honor **Wally Wingert** in the cast. See you there.

Masquerade

"All it takes is one rotten day to transform a normal man into a monster!
Well, in my case, a rotten day and a chemical bath."

— The Joker, *The Batman* (2004)

We anticipate another great Masquerade in 2007, and we want you to be a part of it. If you participated in the Masquerade last year, you can look forward to a mailing from us in the next few weeks with information about how to sign up for this year's show. If you have not participated in a few years or are looking to enter for the first time, you have a couple options:

- 1) Send us your mailing address at info@convergence-con.org and we will send you a packet.
- 2) Go to the Masquerade section on the web site. You will find a printable registration form, rules for the competition and updated judging and award criteria!

We could always use more backstage help and costumer assistants, so if you'd like to get involved in that way, please contact us at the email address above.

Operations

"There are things that go bump in the night, Agent Myers. Make no mistake about that. And we are the ones who bump back."

— Professor Brattenholm, *Hellboy* (2004)

Ops Needs You! Operations is the communications central nervous system of the convention, running a 24-hour-a-day communication network from Friday morning until Sunday night, with some Thursday hours for set up and Monday hours for tear down.

We're looking for volunteers to take shifts working in Ops, and are starting our contact calls soon to fill in our schedules. Sign up early, to get first choice in shifts. Sign up often.

We will be holding training sessions for using our communications system, and to work in our dispatch, XO, and Wandering Host positions.

To sign up or to get more information, contact ops@convergence-con.org.

Parties

"Francesca, you have always been my type.
O-negative, isn't it?"

— Dracula, *Mad Monster Party* (1969)

You are in a twisty maze of party rooms, none alike.

Most of last year's parties are back, and there are new ones aplenty. From Time Lords to podcasts, from the hottest new game consoles to the comfort of peanut butter and wasabi on toast, the new and the old mingle to exciting effect. Check the con website for a sneak peak at the party list so far!

Want to try your hand at throwing a creepy, wild, lighthearted, or just plain eccentric party? No special qualifications are required, just a desire to make your own fun and share it with others. Apply early and apply often: email parties@convergence-con.org. Even with the 4th Floor Satellite Zone, space is limited; latecomers will be fed to the grue!



Programming

CONvergence 2007 will have panels featuring both Guests of Honor and a crew of panelists drawn from attending con-goers. We will have programming that ties into this year's Creature Feature theme, as well as our usual broad spectrum of topics.

We will have great topical conversations about everything from favorite TV shows to the latest hot books, as well as panels reflecting what is going on in fandom world days. Fitness panels will be back by popular demand. There will be panels on working with audio and video, and other projects and how-to panels for both kids and adults. Late night you will find comedy and panels for a more adult audience.

If you're interested in being a panelist, there are multiple ways to get involved. You can become part of our Google Group to receive updates on meetings, panel ideas, and other developments. Go to <http://groups.google.com/group/convergenceprogramming> to join.

You can also go to the Programming page on the CONvergence web site to link to our list of panel ideas where you can sign up for panels that you'd like to be a part of, or just browse to start making plans of what to attend.

CONvergence programming is what our members make of it, so we encourage you to participate and get involved. Email us at programming@convergence-con.org if you have questions or would like to be involved.

We continue our tradition of scheduling one-hour panels with 30-minute breaks between them, with our programming organized into tracks based on their subject matter and media. Those tracks are: Art, Comics, Science & Technology, Movies, Projects, Television, Literature, Gaming, A/V Room (for programming including an audio/visual presentation), and SF HotDish (A miscellaneous catch-all track).

Silent Auction

“...”
— *Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Hush* (1999)

Silent Auction is again your destination for an eclectic mix of goodies you'll be sure to covet, many of which can be found with low, low starting bids. Last year's Silent Auction raised over \$2,000 for our parent organization, the Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy, and we plan to do it again!

We've already got a number of items in store for the 2007 Silent Auction including a Fairyland Poster, a Roaring Godzilla Plush, a numbered print ("Aureus Spiritus") by L. A. Williams, and more. We are looking for additional donations, especially items that tie into the Creature Feature theme in some way... even if it's *All Creatures Great and Small*!

In addition to Auction Items, we're looking for donations of supplies for the Auction itself, including display blocks and plastic poster frame covers.

We're also looking for a few good men, women and beings of all kinds to be part of the Silent Auction team, including more Sub-Heads. If you have items to donate, or would like to volunteer, contact Judy and Marty Byers at silentauction@convergence-con.org.

The Silent Auction can be found in Atrium 1 at the convention, and bids will be accepted Friday and Saturday. Winners will be posted and items can be picked up in Atrium 1 on Sunday.

Theater Nippon Anime Room

From the fanciful to the frightful Theater Nippon will have more creatures than an Otaku can shake a magical girl wand at! Have a suggestion? Something you think we should screen? We still have space on our schedule. Let us know! We can't show it if we don't know you want it! Even better, volunteer to help out at Theater Nippon! Contact us at theaternippon@convergence-con.org.

Volunteers

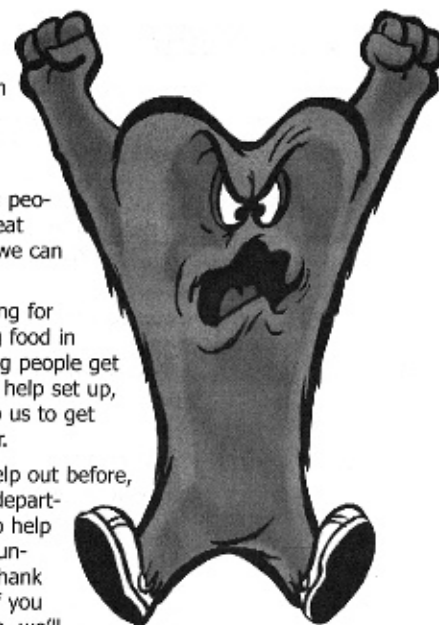
Are you looking for that missing book by Aristotle from the library at Alexander? We can't help you. Do you need to find a gas station for that 2145 strato cruiser? We can't help you.

Are you looking to make new friends, meet interesting people, creatures, and help complete strangers have a great time, along with you at CONvergence this year? That we can help you with!

We have people all over this convention who are looking for people just like you to help with anything from serving food in ConSuite, to ushering people at Masquerade, to helping people get to and through Registration. We need people who can help set up, help with construction before the convention, and help us to get everything out of the hotel after the convention is over.

We are looking for people of all personality types to help out before, during and after CONvergence. We are the Volunteer department and we really do appreciate everything you do to help out. In fact, if you let us know that you have been volunteering, for any number of hours, we invite you to a Thank You Party we host three weeks after the convention. If you have done at least 15 hours of work for the convention, we'll also throw in a great volunteer t-shirt.

That said, most of us volunteer the time we spend on the convention because we know that the work we put in helps make the convention that much more worthwhile for all of us.



Web Site

As the CONvergence approaches in the spring, updates to our website will be coming in at a quick pace. The CONvergence website has a wealth of information on most aspects of the convention and a directory of how to contact our various departments. It's all at <http://www.convergence-con.org/>

As always, the web team is interested in your input. Please e-mail webmaster@convergence-con.org with any feedback, suggestions or requests.

ADVERTISING

Advertising in our Souvenir Program Book is affordable for anyone from businesses to fan groups. In addition to PRO rates we also have FAN rates that are available to fan groups and individuals who are not advertising for profit-making purposes.

| Ad Size | Width | Height | Pro Rate | Fan Rate |
|-------------------|-------|--------|----------|----------------------------------|
| Full Page | 7.5" | 10" | \$200 | \$100 |
| Half Page | 7.5" | 4.75" | \$120 | \$60 |
| Quarter Page | 3.5" | 4.75" | \$70 | \$35 |
| "Business Card" | 3.5" | 2" | \$40 | \$20 |
| Inside Back Cover | 7.5" | 10" | \$250 | \$250 (first come, first served) |
| Back Cover | 7.5" | 10" | \$300 | \$300 (first come, first served) |

For further information or to reserve ad space, contact advertising@convergence-con.org. Your artwork and payment must be received by May 15, 2007 for your ad to be included in the 2007 Souvenir Book.

MISFITS

CONvergence is a fundraiser for the Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction and Fantasy, a non-profit organization that supports a many other events and clubs throughout rest of the year under the banner of MISFITS.

To learn more about MISFITS and get involved, you can visit our web site at www.misfit.org, or stop by our room party at CONvergence.

MISFITS events prior to CONvergence include:

9th Annual MISFITS Writing Contest

The Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction & Fantasy is happy to announce our annual MISFITS Writing Contest. Content may include Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, Supernatural or Alternate History Fiction.

MISFITS is a non-profit group working to encourage and enhance literacy in Minnesota. The Writing Contest is open to all.

Please note: MISFITS has new rules for the 2007 Writing Contest. We are always trying to improve the contest and make it better for the participants as well as the volunteers who make the contest happen. Please make sure you read and understand the new rules before submitting your entry.

The rules can be found on-line at <http://misfit.org/writingcontest/default.htm>. If you have questions, please contact Jodie Gustafson, Writing Contest Coordinator, at writingcontest@misfit.org.

Geek Prom

On Saturday, May 12, MISFITS will be hosting our 3rd Geek Prom, this time with a Prom Theme of "Carrie."

We will have a DJ for *inappropriate dancing with mixed genders*, a cash bar for *the devils drink*, a *soul-sucking* photographer and printer machine for cash portraits (*Vanity*)! Munchie foods (*Gluttony*)! It will be fun and at the end of the night, if you feel that you have sinned horrendously, there will be Rosaries and candles for you to aid you in cleansing your soul.

Up to 200 prom tickets will be sold this year. Based on the history of this event, there is a *VERY* strong possibility that tickets will sell out. Please purchase your tickets as early as possible.

Dress code: Fancy dress, casual dress, black-tie or creature attire!

Cost: \$8 before, \$10 at the door (10 ticket limit, singles/couples/groups are welcome!)

Place: Sheraton Hotel - Hwy 494 & Hwy 100 (home of CONvergence)

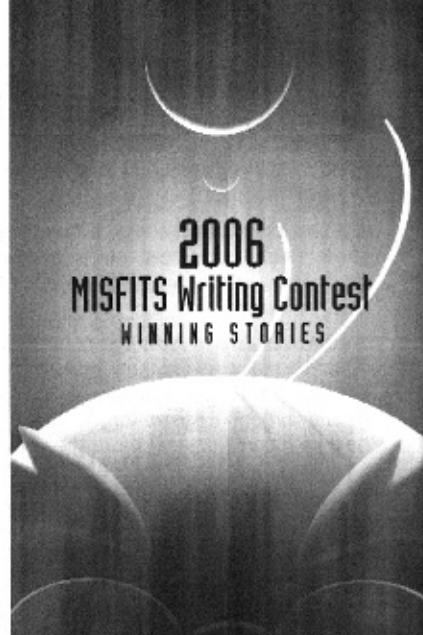
Time: Evening, TBA (check www.misfit.org for updates)

Snacks: Snacks and punch provided, Cash Bar available

Young Children: Not recommended, but if able to enjoy themselves and not bother others are welcome, in fact this goes for adults as well!

Advice: Don't mess with a Telekinetic!

For more information, contact promcommittee@misfit.org mail us at Misfits Geek Prom, PO Box 16624, Minneapolis, MN 55416.



CONVERGENCE IS IMMINENT..

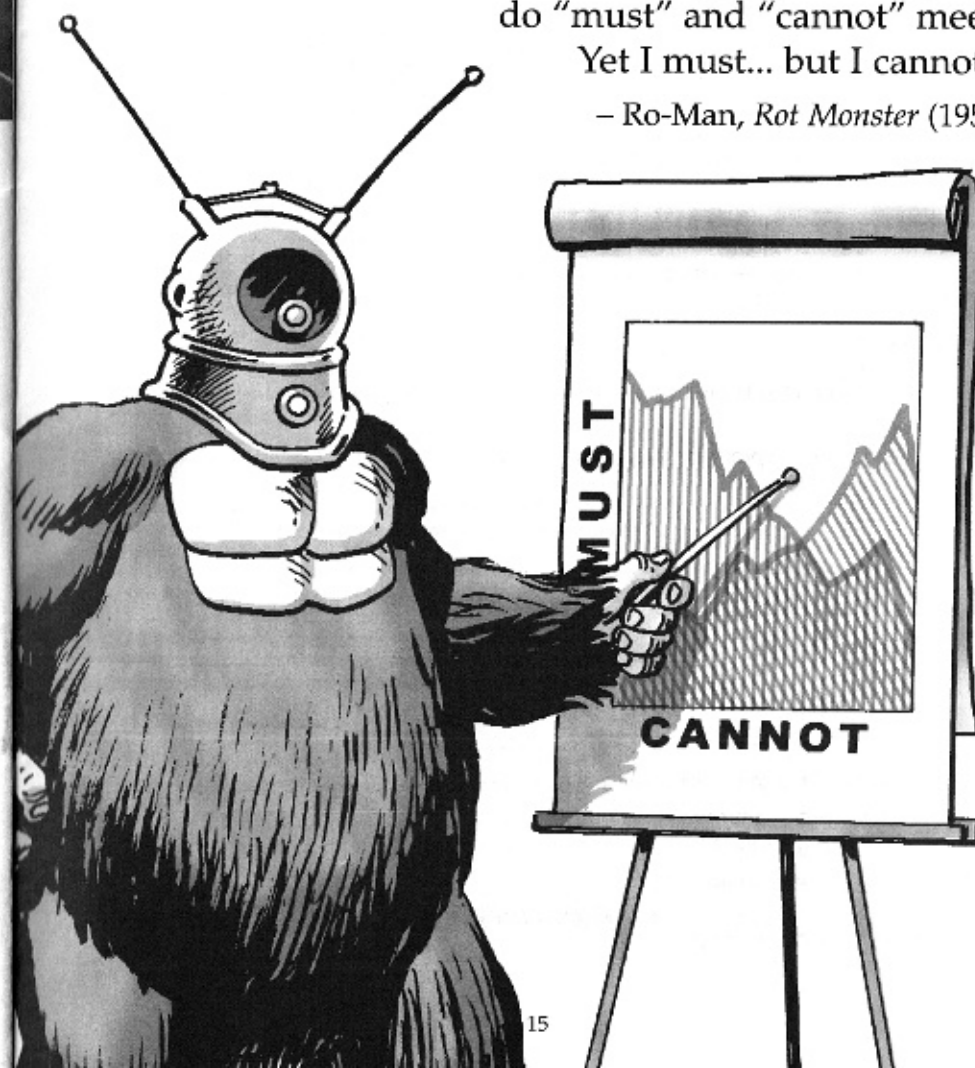
Remember, **May 15** is coming fast, so be sure to get your pre-registration in if you want to save on the at-the-door rate. Watch our web site(s) for breaking news.

If you want to be sure you get the latest updates, make sure you're on our e-mail announcement list! If you aren't already receiving our emails, send your e-mail address to info@misfit.org or info@convergence-con.org and say you want to be added to the announcement list.

Does it seem like a long time to wait? July will be here before you know it. So until then, we look forward to seeing you at **CONvergence 2007: Creature Feature!**

"I cannot... yet I must.
How do you calculate that?
At what point on the graph
do "must" and "cannot" meet?
Yet I must... but I cannot!"

— Ro-Man, *Rot Monster* (1953)



HOTEL ROOM Request Form

Room Requirements:

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

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.

CONVERGENCE 2007 CREATURE FEATURE

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.

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

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

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

Web: www.convergence-con.org