

Minicon 33
Minnesota Science Fiction Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 8297, Lake Street Station
Minneapolis MN 55408

Forwarding service requested

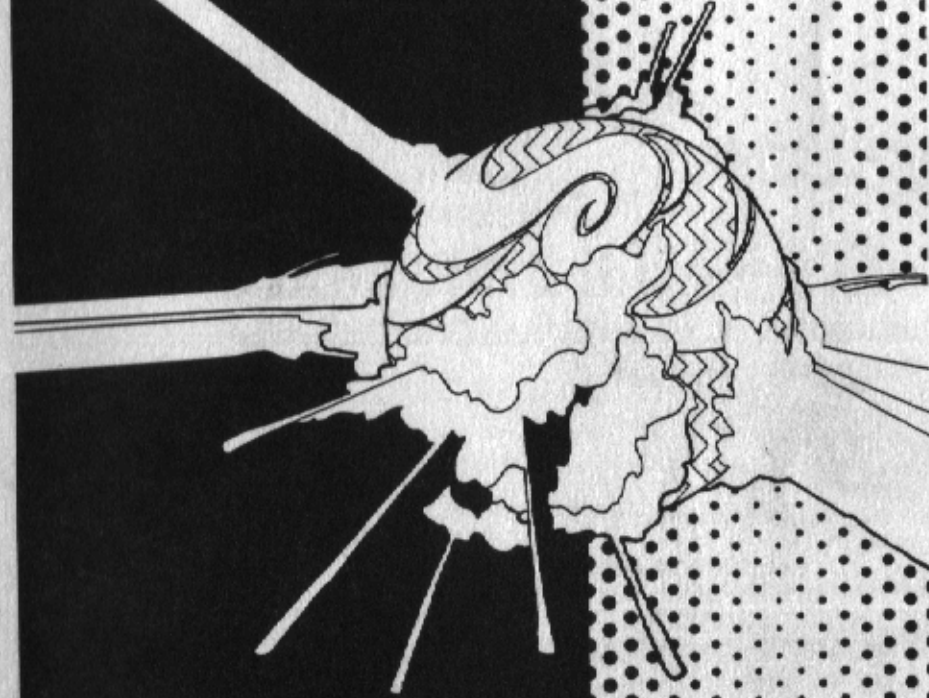
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MINICON 33

PROGRESS REPORT 1



HEISENBERG
PROBABLY
SLEPT HERE

William G.

MINICON 33

April 10-12, 1998

Radisson Hotel South

Minneapolis, MN

Publishing Guest of Honor

Gardner Dozois

Fan Guest of Honor

David Langford

Toastmaster

John M. Ford

Attending memberships: Until 27-Nov-97 Until 1-Mar-98

Drinking badge \$30 \$35

Non-drinking \$30 \$35

Child (12 and under) \$15 \$15

An at-the-door membership is \$70

(Designate Drinking badge or Non-drinking)

Supporting memberships: \$15 \$15



Minicon is brought to you by...

Minnesota Science Fiction Society
P.O. Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN 55408

via voicemail: +1-612-824-5559

GUESTS OF HONOR

*Minicon has invited a number of cool people
to be guests of honor at Minicon 33:*

Publishing Guest of Honor:

Gardner Dozois

Editor of *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, nominee for the 1997 Best Editor Hugo (and winner in 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, and 1996), editor of 14 years (so far) of *The Year's Best Science Fiction*, and winner of two Nebulas.

Fan Guest of Honour:

Dave Langford

Britfan Dave Langford has won 14 Hugo awards — 11 as Best Fanwriter and 3 for *Ansible* as Best Fanzine. And yes, he finds it a bit alarming. What's perhaps even more alarming is that yes, he really is That Good, and has been — consistently — for the past couple of decades running. Not only that, he's as much fun to party with as he is to read. Frightening, but true. For the reading part, check out his Web site at <<http://www.ansible.demon.co.uk/>> (or you can jump to it directly from the Minicon 33 Web page). Then come and party with Dave and our other guests at Minicon.

— Geri Sullivan (PR#2: *David Langford: Filthy Pro*)

Toastmaster:

John M. Ford

He has won the Rhysling Award for SF poetry, the World Fantasy Award for Best Novel and Best Short Story (this last for a long poem), and the Philip K. Dick award and has twice been a finalist for the Nebula award. He's also done game design, comics, Star Trek novels, and of course Ask Dr. Mike.

**I'm new here,
what's a Minicon?**

"A minicon" is a generic term used worldwide for a small convention. A capital M Minicon is anything but small or generic.

Minicon is an annual gathering of science fiction and fantasy fans. The convention is held each year over Easter weekend, and for the last decade the main venue has been the Radisson South Hotel in Bloomington, MN. In recent years, Minicon has typically drawn some 3,500 members.

Minicon is sponsored by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, Inc. (a.k.a. Minn-SfF, MNstf, and other variants).

Cover Art:
John J. Gabarron, IV

VOLUNTEERS

All departments are staffed by volunteers, people like you. In fact, every department depends on them. No one is paid to work on Minicon. The Volunteers department was created to help recruit volunteers for all Minicon departments, so that people in the individual departments could focus more on their actual work and less on recruiting people.

looking for fun, energetic people to work with them. One of those people could be you! There's lots to do before the convention: the Parties department is looking for bartenders and mixmeisters; Volunteers needs press gang and recruitment coordinators; many other departments need help too – Programming, Convention Services, Operations, and Technical Support are just a few. So, if you'd like to help out before the convention as a member of the convention committee, or to volunteer at the convention itself, please fill out the volunteer information on your Registration Form.

Programming for Minicon 33 is already in the planning stages! If you have an idea or three for

PROGRAMMING

What's Programming? No, not computer programming—we're talking about scheduled events at Minicon. Stuff like panel discussions, readings, and the like. Just about any scheduled event at Minicon is part of Minicon programming.

programming items, let us know. The Powers That Be (the Minicon Exec, and you, too) say that "Programming Must Not Suck." If we are to meet this ambitious goal, we definitely need your help! You don't even need to be involved beyond giving us the idea... though it does help. Also, if you have any unique skills or talents—or even common skills or talents – that you're willing to volunteer, tell us! We can always find a use for a few good sentients!

We're planning 150 to 175 formal programming events for Minicon 33. Before you scream in outrage

We think Schrödinger's in there, too – Don't open the door!

at the small number (it's less than we've had at recent Minicons, but still seems like a lot to me.—ed.), remember that to get 150 interesting, wonderful, absolutely-cannot-miss items on the final schedule, we need at least 1,000 good ideas. This is where all of you come in. Turn on your thinking beanie and help us out by submitting ideas now!

When submitting your ideas, please keep in mind the following considerations:

- How is this item *directly* related to Science Fiction /Fantasy literature, art, or Fandom?
- What "track" would it best fit into, of the following: Art/Artists, Computers/Internet, Fandom Tradition/Fannish History, Guest of Honor Programming, Literature/LitCrit, Media Fandom, Readings/Autographings, Hard Science/Technology, Soft Sciences/Cultural Differences, Writing/Editing, Childrens.
- Who would be ideal participants? (Either names or "one astrophysicist, one computer geek, and..." You get the idea).
- What needs to be done to make it happen? (For example, including special tech goodies like a VCR or slide projector.)
- The more detail you can provide about your idea(s), the happier we will be!
- Be sure to include your name, return address, phone number, email, and preferred time and means of contact!

Priority Deadline for Programming ideas: November 1, 1997
This will give us the best chance to find other participants for your programming item, should we need to.

Final Deadline for Programming ideas: January 1, 1997
We reserve the right to accept ideas submitted after January 1, but don't bank on it.

Confirmations will be mailed on or about February 15, 1998.

Lockdown of all programming items will take place on February 28, 1998.

In case of emergency, LAST MINUTE CHANGES will be accepted until March 31, 1998.

Please contact Shannon, Polly, or Katie at the addresses listed on page 8 with any Programming questions, suggestions, ideas or thoughts. Programming Idea suggestion sheets and Participant Information sheets are available to help you give us the info we need. They are available on the Minicon Web Page at: <http://www.mnsthf.org/minicon33/programming/> or via U.S. mail.

We want to know what you like – and what you don't like – about Minicon Programming. We've created a programming survey to give you a chance to let us know what your interests are. The more of these we get back, the more we can tailor programming to the likes and dislikes of our attendees—this means you! The survey is available on the web at <<http://www.mnstf.org/minicon33/programming/>>, or you can request one by writing to the Programming Department.

OPERATIONS

No, no one is performing surgery at Minicon, really. I know it may seem like a lot is going on—but so far as we know, there have been no surgeries performed at a Minicon. People in the Operations Department (a.k.a. Ops) help when anything goes wrong at Minicon to see that it is quickly and cleanly taken care of; they help facilitate communications between departments and the rest of the world during the course of the convention. They coordinate the Life Support Department. They talk to each other on radios. They do a lot of neat, behind-the-scenes stuff.

If you are interested in working for Operations please contact Linda A. Paul, Head of Operations.

The Operations Department is looking for volunteers to work with us during Minicon 33. There are many positions available. We plan to fill all of our positions and time slots well in advance of the actual convention. If you volunteer early, we'll have more time to get any training needed done before the convention is upon us.

ART SHOW

We have art shows at Minicon that showcase nifty art by fans and professionals, often dealing with fantasy and science fiction themes. We have an art auction and art show awards. Art is sold at the auction, and through minimum bids, and in the print shop.

If you haven't received an art show mailing in the last two years, please mail a request for art show information to us.

The Art show will be in Plaza 5 & 6, as it was last year. It will be open during "the usual times," (which will be announced in a future PR). The mailing with complete information for those exhibiting art will go out around January 10, 1998. You do not have to reserve art show space in advance (but it's nice if you can).

PARTIES

This is the department which runs the Consuite, provides the drinks, the chips, and yards of plastic floor covering. The following is a personal message from the Parties Department.

It happens every year. Sunday night rolls around, and the deep-fried head of Parties walks, unsuspecting into the supply room. In nearby corridors his dying wail can be heard: "Aaugh! Why are there fifty-five cases of potato chips left? And what am I going to DO with them!?"

Please, don't let tragedy strike again. Volunteer to help out in the Parties Department, and your hard work will be rewarded. At the very least, we'll call you a Suite Thang.

No experience necessary, we will train for all positions.

Our Thanks to all the Volunteers who helped make Minicon 32's Consuite a success!

DEALERS ROOM

For Dealers Room information contact Kelly O'Donoghue at 4156 27th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

CHILDCARE

We will be providing childcare this year. Details will be in PR2, but in the meantime, please include a note with your registration telling if you have children who will be using childcare.

T-SHIRTS

We are currently seeking T-shirt art submissions, both front and back panels. Please send them to us by Feb 15th.

HOW TO CONTACT MINICON DEPARTMENTS

Well, you could try a medium or perhaps a note in a bottle, but we suggest either via the World Wide Web or the Postal Service. Heck, you can even contact us via telephone, but that just goes to a central voicemail.

Email

Artshow artshow@minicon33.mnsthf.org
Cuddlesquad cuddlesquad@minicon33.mnsthf.org
Dealers Sorry, no email for Dealers Department.
See the Dealers Department report on page 7 for their specific mailing address.

Exec exec@minicon33.mnsthf.org
Fanfaire fanfaire@minicon33.mnsthf.org
Guests guests@minicon33.mnsthf.org
Hotel hotel@minicon33.mnsthf.org
Liaison liaison@minicon33.mnsthf.org
Operations operations@minicon33.mnsthf.org
Parties parties@minicon33.mnsthf.org
Programming programming@minicon33.mnsthf.org
Publications publications@minicon33.mnsthf.org
Registration registration@minicon33.mnsthf.org
Secretary secretary@minicon33.mnsthf.org
Web web@minicon33.mnsthf.org

Request request@minicon33.mnsthf.org
This is special, it goes to the exec secretary for manual routing.

info info@minicon33.mnsthf.org
This is the general address for requesting information.

Minicon Web Page <http://www.mnsthf.org/minicon33>

Voicemail: +1-612-333-7533

U.S. Mail
Minicon 33
(department)
P.O. Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Minicon is too many months away, is there anything like Minicon happening now?

Of course there's nothing just like Minicon, but the entire year is full of fannish activities. Which conventions did you attend this summer? We hear Wiscon was a blast! I bet you know at least a couple of people who survived Gencon. Lots of us went to Baggiecon this year. Locals had fun at Diversicon. Some lucky fans made it to the Worldcon in San Antonio.

What are your favorites? You do know there are other conventions, don't you? If not, you don't know what you're missing. Want to know more? Ask some fans for recommendations. Check listings in magazines and online. There's a convention somewhere on any given weekend.

Folks here in Minnesota also attend MNsthf meetings, Minicon meetings, and probably far more meetings than most think healthy. But what some people may not realize is that these so-called meetings are actually parties. It explains a lot, doesn't it? Okay, we actually do work at Minicon meetings, but the work is fun and we generally congregate before or after for ice cream or whatever else strikes our fancy. If the meetings stop being fun, we'll stop having Minicon (I'm not just saying that to inspire you to bring food and toys to our next Minicon meeting).

MNsthf Meetings

Want to join the parties? You're all invited. Minnesota Science Fiction Society (MNsthf) meetings are held, usually, on the first and third Saturdays of the month, at a member's home. They usually start around 3 p.m. and go until late. Come in the afternoon, join a group of people for a dinner expedition to an area restaurant, then return to the meeting for post-dinner analysis, music, games, or

So, you were saying something about Minicon? There's going to be one, right?

Yes, we're having Minicon this year. What? You didn't think there was any doubt? There's always some doubt. Please don't take Minicon for granted. Many people work very hard year-round to make Minicon happen. They aren't paid, they don't get into the convention for free or get other perks. They do it because they love Minicon and love hanging out with people like you.

Please get involved somehow. Remember, we don't sell tickets to Minicon, we sell memberships. If you decide to come to Minicon, you're a participant. If you're new to this stuff, that's okay, we'll go easy on you. Everyone gets to experience a "first Minicon." We're all in this together.

general silliness. If you're shy, that's okay, it's kosher to sit in the corner and read. Honest. For details, visit the MNstf website at <http://www.mnstf.org/> and check out the latest issue of Einblatt - it's MNstf's monthly mailing which lists events (and other stuff) of interest. Or call the MNstf hotline at 612-824-5559 to hear a recorded message with the latest information on area events.

Minicon Meetings

You didn't think Minicon just magically appeared in April, did you? Honest, it's not something the Easter Bunny brings. Some people work on, and think about, Minicon year-round. Minicon meetings are open to anyone who cares about Minicon. Show up at a meeting and you're magically part of the illustrious convention committee (no other indoctrination required). Bring some ideas, ask questions, or sit quietly and observe fans doing silly (and constructive) things. Meetings are held at the Painter Park Building (34th and Lyndale in south Minneapolis); they start at 2 p.m. and go until around 4 p.m. (it's okay if you leave early or arrive late). The next meetings are November 9 and December 14.

All right already, I don't live in Minnesota

If you're visiting the Twin Cities, it's a good idea to call the hotline (612-824-5559) and see if there are any meetings (parties), conventions, concerts, readings, or other stfnal things going on. If you would like to help make Minicon happen, you can still volunteer to work at the convention. If you arrive at the hotel before the convention starts on Friday evening or stay after closing ceremonies on Sunday, we can always use help setting up or tearing down the convention (we know, we hate tearing it down, too). And we can always use your ideas. Heck, you're a science fiction fan, of course you know better than to be limited by mere geography.

Coming in PR2

- Guest Updates
- Childcare
- Gaming
- Consuite
- Minneapolis in '73
- Midwestside Story
- And your first glimpse of the Programming schedule!

This form is the Hotel Room Request Form.

Things to keep in mind while filling out this form:

- We are holding a limit of two rooms per name or household.
- This year, the hotels will request a credit card number, or a cash deposit of one night, to secure the room past 4:00 p.m.
- Read the Hotel Department report, especially regarding Hotel confirmations and Party rooms.
- The deadline for this form is November 27, 1997.

Mail this form to:

Minicon 33
Hotel Department
P.O. Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis MN 55408.

or to <hotel@minicon33.mnstf.org>

SLEEPING ROOM REQUEST FORM

MINICON 33

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov _____ Postal Code _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Email _____

Badge name _____

Sharing with _____

Locate near _____

Check-in date _____ Check-out date _____

Preferred contact:

US mail Home phone Work phone Email

Preferences:

1 King bed 2 Double beds Don't care

Requests:

Wheelchair access Low floor Rollaway Crib Radisson Plaza (North Tower)

Preferences:

Smoking Non-smoking Don't care

Hotels:

1-2 people	Radisson Hotel South	\$63*
	Hotel Sofitel	\$75
	Holiday Inn Airport #2	\$62
3-4 people		\$63*
		\$85
		\$62

* This is the South tower rate; the Plaza (North) Tower is \$4 extra



<p>PARTY ROOM REQUEST FORM</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State/Prov _____ Postal Code _____</p> <p>Home phone _____ Work phone _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>Badge name _____</p> <p>Sharing with _____</p> <p>Locate near _____</p> <p>Check-in date _____ Check-out date _____</p>	<p>MINICON 33</p> <p>What is the name of your group, and/or what does the group do: _____</p> <p>What does your party have to do with science fiction/fantasy: _____</p> <p>How will it benefit the convention as a whole: _____</p> <p>Would your group be willing to volunteer time during the convention to help make the con a success? _____</p>
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This form is the Party Room Request Form.

Things to keep in mind while filling out this form:

- If you have submitted a hotel room request, but prefer a cabana, please send in the party room request form and indicate that you do not need the sleeping room if you are granted a cabana.
- Refer to the cabana priority schedule in the Hotel Department report.
- The deadline for this form is November 27, 1997.

Mail this form to:

Minicon 33
 Hotel Department
 P.O. Box 8297
 Lake Street Station
 Minneapolis MN 55408.

or to: hotel@minicon33.mnstf.org

or of course to: pisces@winternet.com.

Note that the pisces address is the fastest; hotel@minicon33 is second fastest, and the U.S. mail is the slowest.

REGISTRATION FORM

MINICON 33

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov _____ Postal Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____

Badge name _____

Attending memberships: Until 27-Nov-97 Until 1-Mar-98

Drinking badge	\$30	\$35
Non-drinking	\$30	\$35
Child (12 and under) <small>(Designate Drinking badge or Non-drinking)</small>	\$15	\$15

Supporting memberships: \$15 \$15

You must specify one of the above membership types. If you request a drinking badge, you must show proof of age when you pick it up. Badge conversions at Minicon will cost at least \$5.00. It will cost \$20 to convert a supporting membership to an attending membership.

My address has changed since last receiving a Minicon or MNstf mailing.

<p>Minicon should know that:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I plan to use childcare</p> <p><input type="radio"/> This is my first Minicon</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I have moved since last Minicon</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Other (attach explanation)</p>	<p>I would like to volunteer.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> To help before the con</p> <p><input type="radio"/> To help at the con</p> <p><input type="radio"/> To be on programming</p>	<p>I am an SF/Fantasy:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Editor</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Author</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Musician</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Dealer</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Artist</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Academic</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Scientist</p>
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This form is the Minicon 33 membership registration form.

Things to keep in mind while filling out this form:

- The new cut-off date for the \$30 membership is Thanksgiving. So, if you've eaten your Turkey, then you're too late.
- Your badge name is how you wish people to address you at the convention. If you just want to use your name, then leave the badge name line blank.
- Don't forget to volunteer.

Mail this form to:

Minicon 33
 Registration
 P.O. Box 8297
 Lake Street Station
 Minneapolis MN 55408

See you at the con!