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# MINICON 26 • March 29 - 31, 1991

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*Author Guest of Honor* ..... *George Alec Effinger*  
*Artist Guest of Honor* ..... *David Cherry*  
*Fan Guests of Honor* ..... *Suzanne V. Tompkins*  
..... *Jerry Kaufman*  
*Science Guest of Honor* ..... *Al Kuhfeld*  
*Lunch Guest of Honor* ..... *Jon Singer*

Address all inquiries and mail all forms to:

**Minicon 26**

PO Box 8297 • Lake Street Station  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

# Now is the time for all good fen to come to the aid of their party.

That's *our* party. You know the one I mean: Minicon. Our annual Science Fiction Convention, the party we throw for each other and all the other fans we know—because if there's a better way to raise the fun-things-per-hour ratio we haven't heard of it. Maybe that's why there are always so many choices at Minicon: so many people want to show their friends a good time in so many different ways.

If you've attended more than a single Minicon (ok, 5 and 9 aren't good examples) then you are a witness to the phenomenon. Every year, every Easter, Minicon has grown. More people, more things to do, more people working to make sure it's great for all of us.

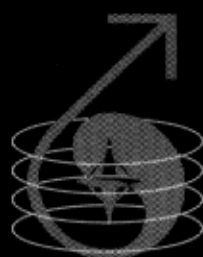
But wait. At the first Minicon, one incredibly talented and motivated fan, Jim Young, planned the convention and 60 fans attended. At Minicon 8, attendance was 350 and there were 13 names on the committee list. At Minicon 18, about 1300 people attended and the program book lists 31 exec and committee heads. Last year at Minicon 25, over 3000 fans and profans registered for a convention planned and executed by 42 voting committee members<sup>®</sup>—with a *lot* of help from their friends. Even so, many of us are tired. Sometimes, this is too much like work to be fun!

"So?" You say, "Why don't you quit?" Well, every year people come and go on the committee, but if everyone who thought about quitting did it, *there wouldn't be a Minicon*. And we don't want that. We want the best of both worlds. We want our Minicon—and our party too.

The answer: we need *your* help. We need you to work on Minicon. If every person who registers for Minicon is willing to work just one hour we will all have a great time. Now maybe that seems silly—2840 fan power hours (fph) for a three day convention, that's 40 fph per hour! That's because many of those hours are actually needed before and after the con. As you might imagine, it takes many fph in the weeks and months before the con for planning and setup, and quite a few hours after closing ceremonies too, to clean up, haul away, and close down. Hecto<sup>®</sup>, I have already put in more hours working on Minicon 26 than it will last—and there are lots more like me, fans to whom Minicon is something that is alive year round.

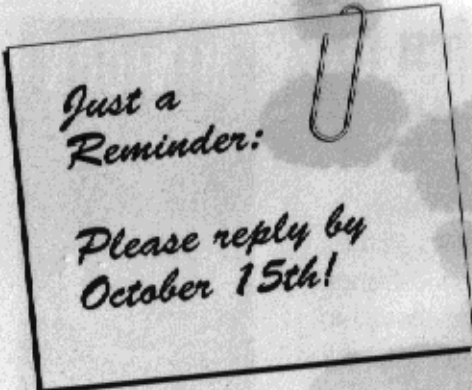
We haven't got your response yet. We don't know if you care about

MINICON



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Just a  
Reminder:

Please reply by  
October 15th!

Minicon the way we care about Minicon. So, after serious consideration (I mean, we appointed a *Task Force*, for Jophan's sake! When we get sercon, we get sercon<sup>sm</sup>) ...now where was I? Oh, yes. So, after serious consideration, we have taken action in a number of specific areas designed to streamline the precon work and reduce the number of fph required.

Two of these have a visible impact on Minicon as it has been in the last several years. There will not be a dance this year, and we will not be serving beer or blog in the consuite.

Reeling with shock, you gasp, "But why? Or more to the point, why not?" The answer is quite simple: of all the parts of the con, these two were viewed by the committee as having the least to do with science fiction and lent themselves to the perception that Minicon is just some sort of generic party. We are a *science fiction convention*. If you *only* want to party, if you aren't into science fiction and fandom, there are lots of other places for you. Minicon is about SF and its fans: they are its magic and its lifeblood.

Lest you feel twinges of panic, rest assured. We feel such Minicon staples as *SHOCKWAVE*, the art show and the various panels and discussions are all a part of science fiction. Therefore they will still be the fun events you've enjoyed in previous years.

Special attention is being given to parties this year in order to improve our relations with those of you who host open parties and to streamline everything from suite allocation to munchie supplies. If your bid committee, science fiction oriented group or publisher is interested in a suite for hosting an open party at Minicon 26, *write to us now*. We are going to make every effort to allocate the few available suites to accomodate you, but if we don't know your plans early we probably won't be able to fit you in later. **Even if you think you have already requested a suite, respond again.**

One final, very important, note:

We are throwing out our old mailing list and forming a new one. If you want to be on the Minicon mailing list, **you must return the attached form to:** Minicon, P.O. Box 8297, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408 **no later than October 15, 1990**. As you look at the form, you will see that we are encouraging you to volunteer now (although it is not required—after all, if you *have to*, then you're not a volunteer, are you?). Our Programming department is also anxious to hear your ideas for panels, discussions, demonstrations, and special items. Please send them now!

\*voting members must attend at least three planning meetings and agree with their vote to work in some way on the con.

\*just for you, Jon

\*sercon: serious and constructive

**MAILING LIST FORM**

*If you wish to remain on the Minicon mailing list, please fill out this form and return it to us no later than October 15, 1990.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Here are corrections to what is shown on the mailing label:

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

We get duplicates. The following people live here and can share:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please remove me from the mailing list

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

away, please send  
please fold here

**VOLUNTEER FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I will come to the aid of my party. I have checked all the areas in which I want to work:

- |                                       |   |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art Show     | <input type="checkbox"/> Operations     | <input type="checkbox"/> Registration    | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parties      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sales          | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean up        | <input type="checkbox"/> Set up  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sign Making  | <input type="checkbox"/> Programming    | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Convention Services<br><i>(information booth, People mover)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know yet |  |  |

I want to work (check *all* that apply)  before  during  after the convention

Any ideas, Programming or otherwise?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Our group wants to host an open party. Please contact: \_\_\_\_\_