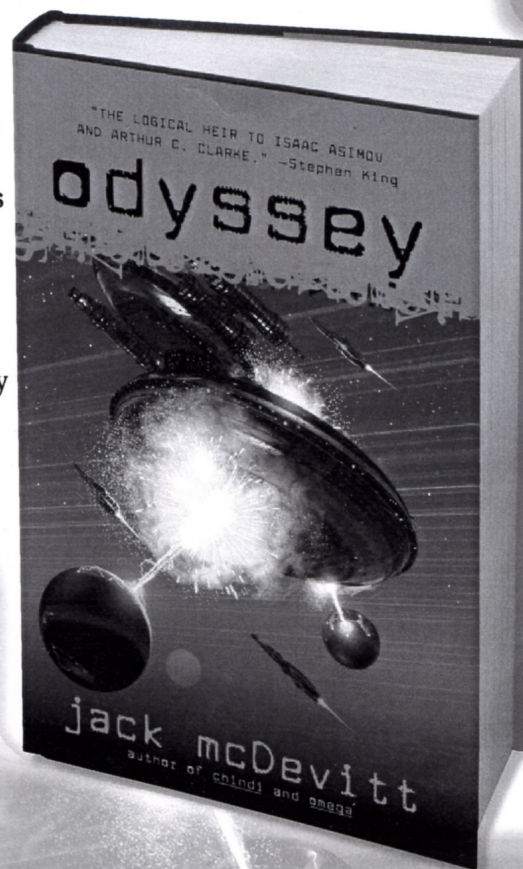
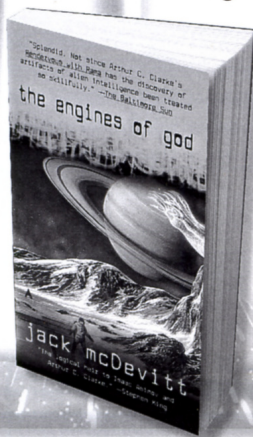
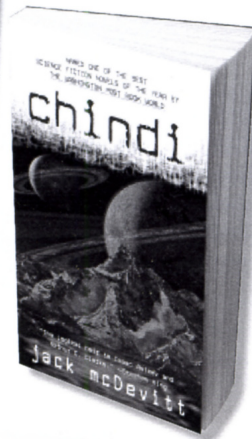
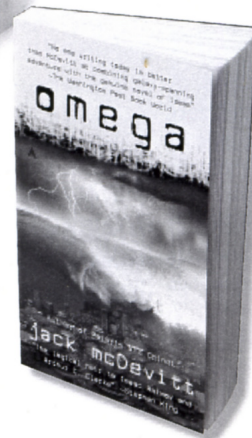


Jack McDevitt is "the logical heir to Isaac Asimov and Arthur C. Clarke."

—Stephen King

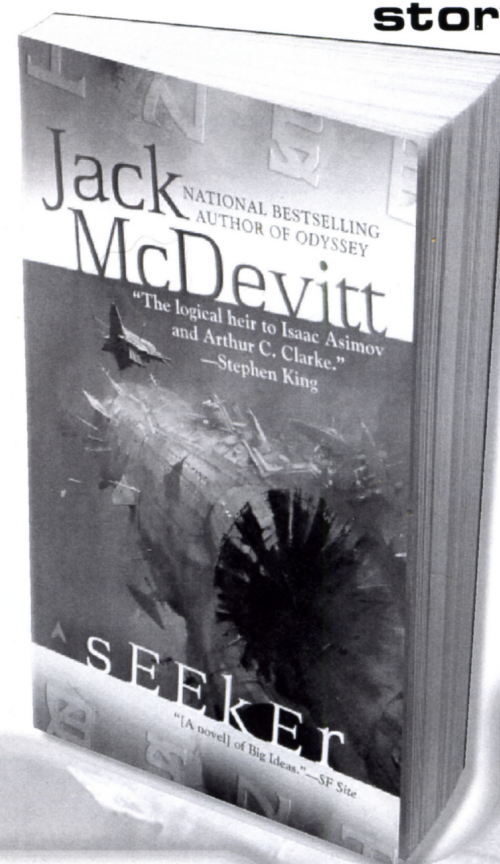
Now, McDevitt returns to the world of *Omega*, *Chindi*, and *The Engines of God*—and humanity's struggle with its own existence.

To boost interest in interstellar travel, a mission is sent into deep space. But the team soon discovers that their odyssey is no mere public-relations ploy—in fact, it is more dangerous than they could possibly have imagined.



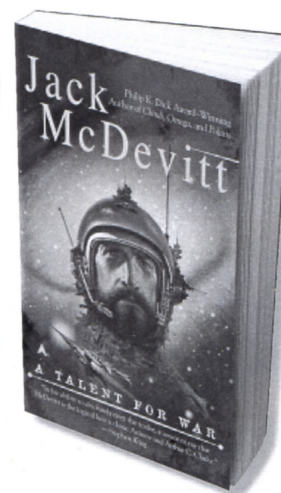
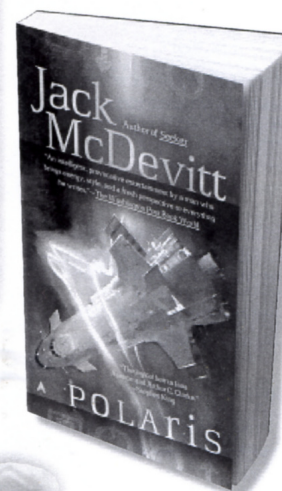
Jack McDevitt is "perhaps the best pure storyteller working in the field today."

—The Washington Post Book World



Thousands of years after an entire colony mysteriously disappears, antiquities dealer Alex Benedict comes into possession of a cup that seems to be from the *Seeker*, one of the colony's ships...and that sets him on a deadly trail into the heart of danger.

Don't miss the other adventures of Alex Benedict:



jackmcdevitt.com

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penguin.com



WindyCon 33

first contact

February 8-11, 2007

Come Find the Magic
Capricon XXVII
A Celebration of High Fantasy

Author GoH
Lois McMaster Bujold

Artist GoH
Erin McKee

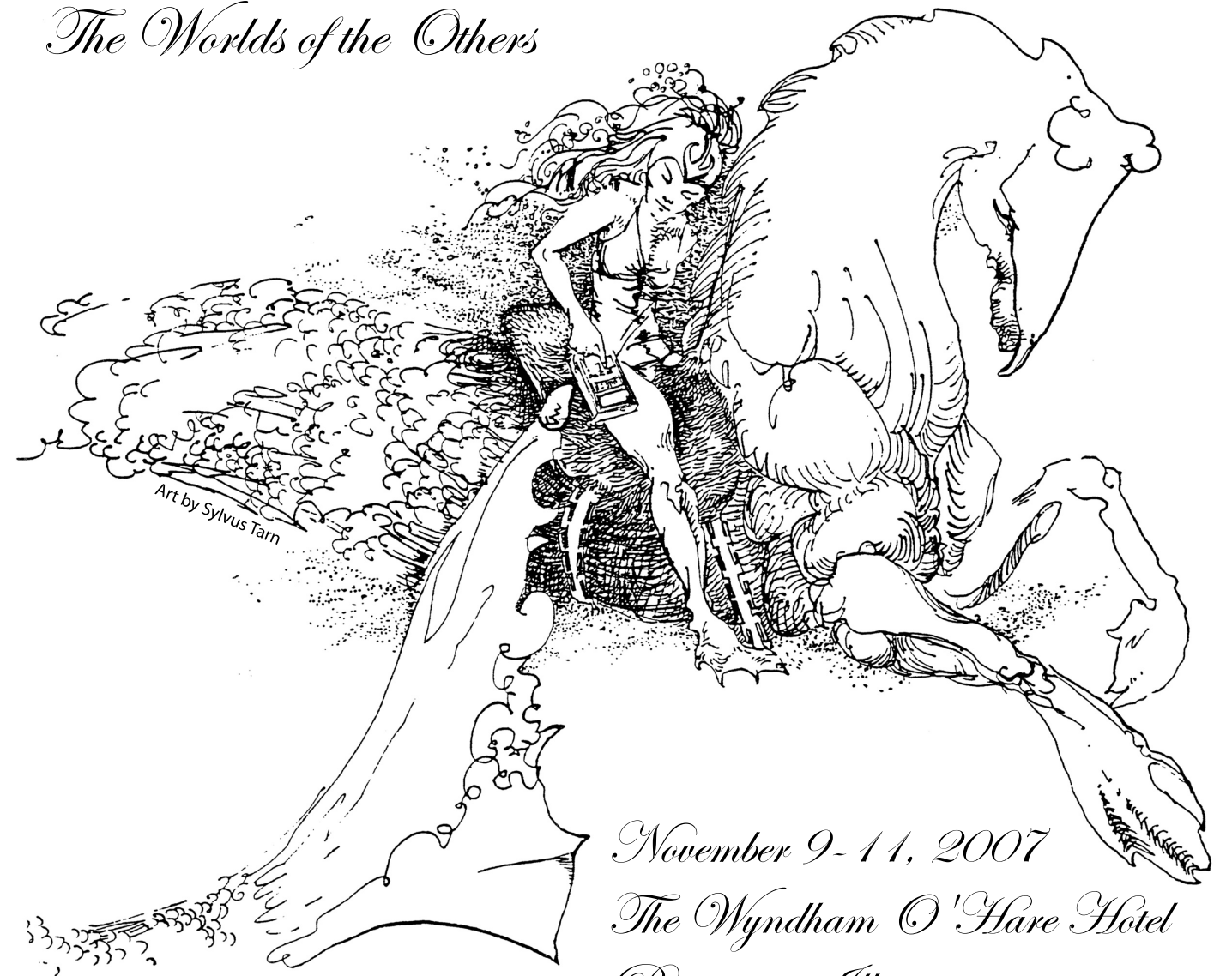
Fan GoH
Cat Faber

NASA GoH
Bryan Palaszewski

www.capricon.org

\$40 Pre-Reg Until 12/31/06
\$70 At The Door
Sheraton Chicago Northwest
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Arlington Heights, IL 60005
(847) 394-2000

*The Faerie Court and Mages' Circle
Will convene at Windy Con 34
To Plot A Course to
The Worlds of the Others*



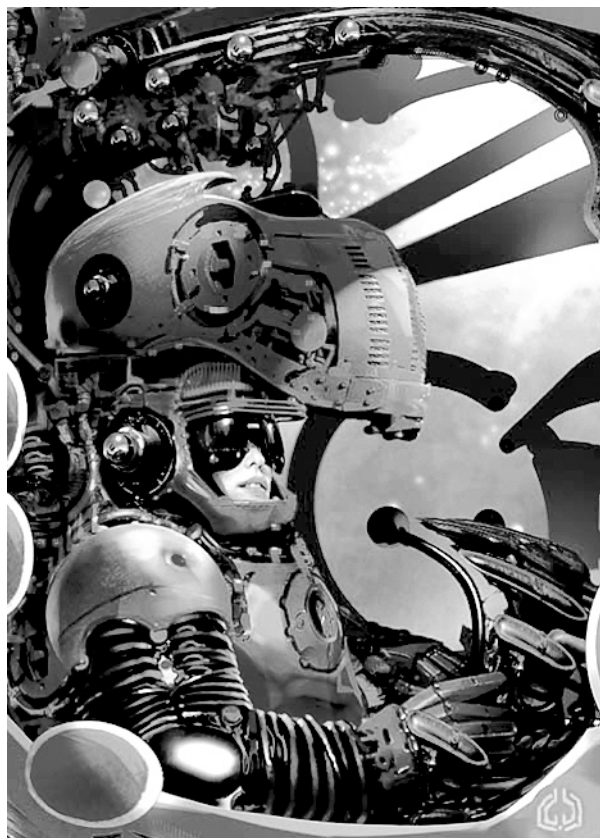
*November 9-11, 2007
The Wyndham O'Hare Hotel
Rosemont, Illinois*

Letter from the Chair

Pat Sayre McCoy

Welcome to WindyCon 33, First Contact. We have a great line-up of guests this year and lots of stuff for you. I'd like to thank them for agreeing to join us and participate in WindyCon. I'd also like to thank all the people who worked so hard to put on WindyCon. They put in lots of hours of their free time to bring you WindyCon, so if you see anyone with a staff ribbon, be sure to thank them. If you do things right as chair, you really have very little to do because your staff does it all for you. I have very little to do here, so thanks everyone. Thanks (I think) for everyone who voted for me to chair this con, and thought I could do it (little did they know!)

Now, about you. We want you to have fun, eat in our ConSuite, participate in our programs, attend our concerts and special events, and generally enjoy yourselves. We have films, filk, dancing, costumes, dealers and lots of friends, those you know and those you haven't met yet. If there is anything we can do better, let me know and I'll see what I can do.



Cover Art & Interior Art © Stephan Martinière

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Department Hours

Consuite

Friday

11:00am to 12:00n - Staff and Dealers
2:00 noon-4:00am - Open
3:00pm-3:00am - The Bheer Shall Flow

Saturday:

9:00am to 9:30am - Staff and Dealers
9:30am to 4:00am - Open
3:00pm-3:00am - The Bheer Shall Flow

Sunday:

10:00am to 10:30am - Staff and Dealers
10:30am to 3:00pm - Open
12:00n to 2:00pm - The Bheer Shall Flow

Dealers

Friday 3pm to 7pm

Saturday 10am to 6pm

Sunday 11am to 3pm

Art Show

Friday

1:00pm to 4:00pm - Artist Setup
4:00pm to 9:00pm - Open
9:00pm to 10:00pm - Artist Reception and Tour

Saturday

10:00am to 6:30pm - Open
8:00pm 'til whenever - Art Auction
9pm-ish - We will attempt to start art pickup

Sunday

10:00am to 2:00pm - Art Pickup

Print Shop

Friday

1:00pm to 4:00pm

Saturday

9:00am to 7:00pm

Sunday

9:00am to 12:00n
After 12:00n - Art Pickup

For the New Fen

Hi newbies--welcome to WindyCon. We were all first timers once (some earlier than others), so we want to make you welcome and to feel at home. Jump right in and join whatever interests you. We haven't forgotten what our first con was like, so you'll find most of us are friendly, willing to talk (oh yeah, are we willing to talk!) and generally helpful to new sf fans. Our staff is cheerful, knowledgeable and can answer your questions or find someone who can. Remember, we all love sf so much that we're willing to spend three whole days enjoying it. There are a few common sense rules we'd like you to follow.

- You must have your badge with you to get into any con function. If you don't have it, you can't get in. Please don't lose it and never lend it to anyone. We have a label on the back of the badge (where no one can see it) with your real name on it. This lets us know who you really are in places like ConSuite (where we need to be sure you're really 21 so you can legally have that Guinness).

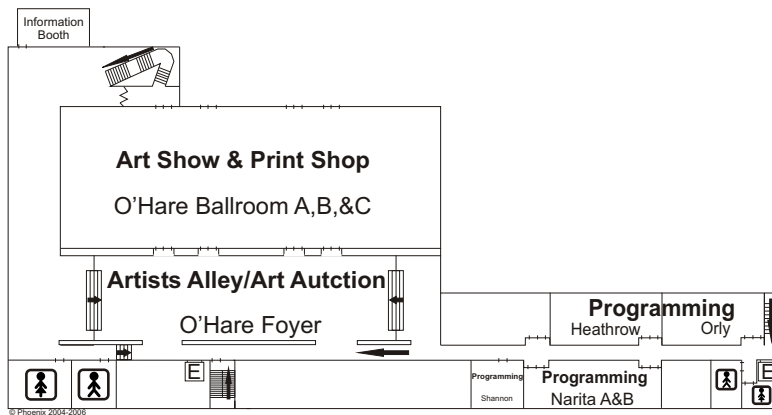
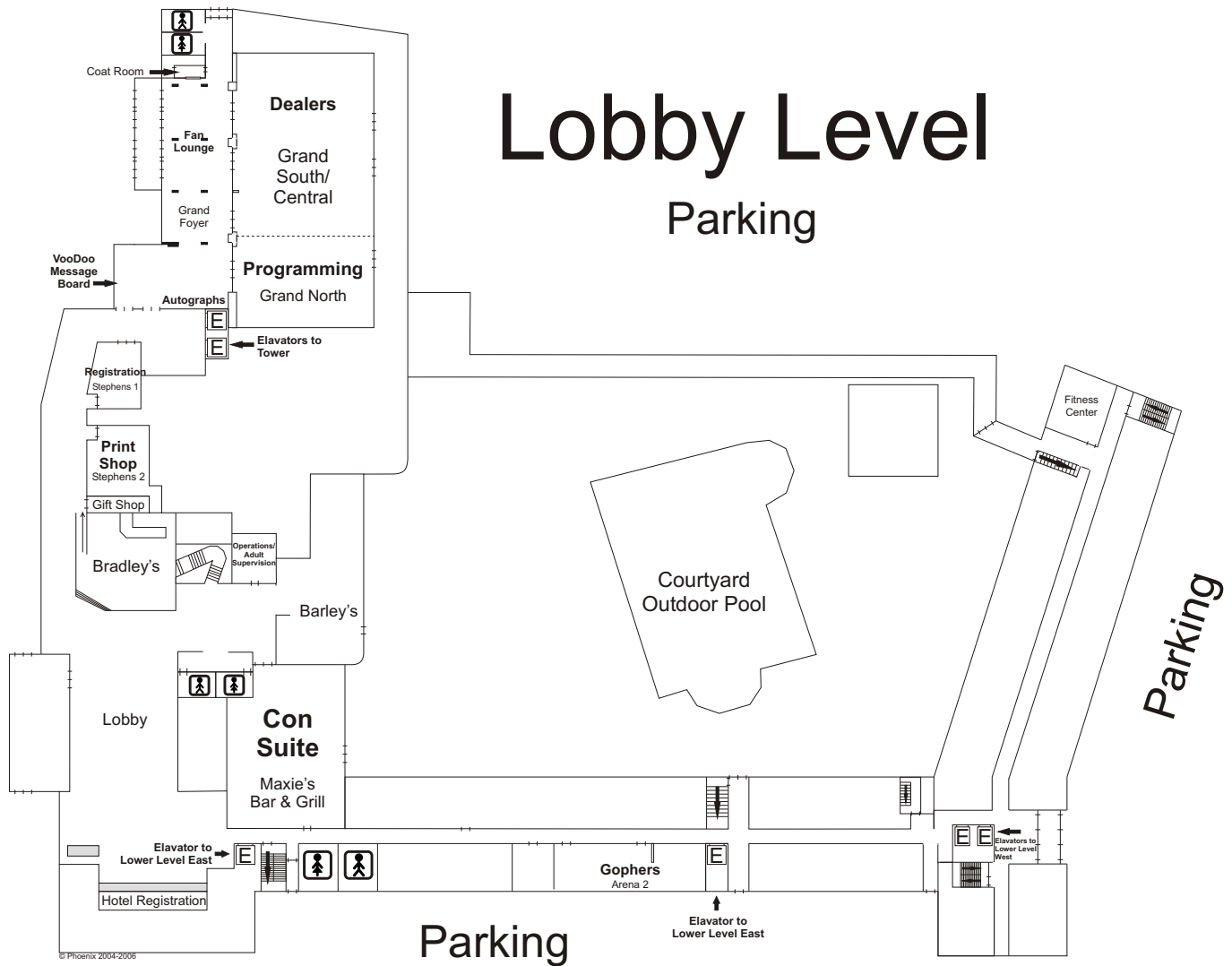
- Always carry your I.D. with you; the badge holder makes a convenient place to put it if you don't have pockets.

- The Village of Rosemont and Cook County have enacted new ordinances that prohibit smoking in any public places in the hotel. Smoking is permitted only in sleeping rooms designated for smoking and in the smoking section of the restaurant. All function space is non-smoking and there will not be a smoking Con Suite. Smoking at parties is only permitted in parties hosted in smoking rooms. Smoking in the hallways outside of smoking party rooms is Not Permitted.

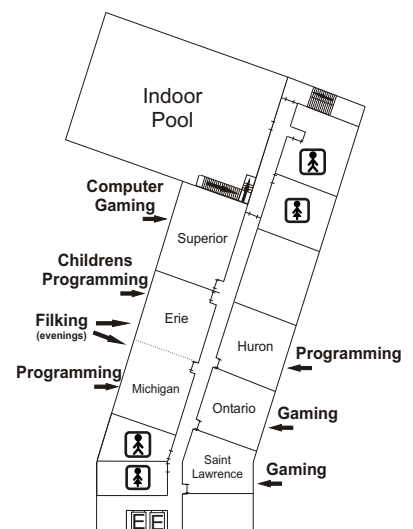
- The only animals allowed in public spaces are life assistance animals.

- Costume Weapons Policy: Use common sense. No real or realistic looking firearms. Lasers are restricted to Class 2 and below. Blades and other edged weapons, sharpened or not, must remain sheathed and secured while worn or carried. Keep all of the projectile throwing toys out of the public hotel space. WindyCon reserves the right to prohibit any weapon, real or not, at its sole discretion.

- Finally, WindyCon reserves the right to pull the badge of anyone not following the laws of the state of Illinois, the rules of the hotel, or the rules of the convention. Be good, play nice and don't make us do that. We really don't want to. It's not fun for anyone.



Lower Level
East



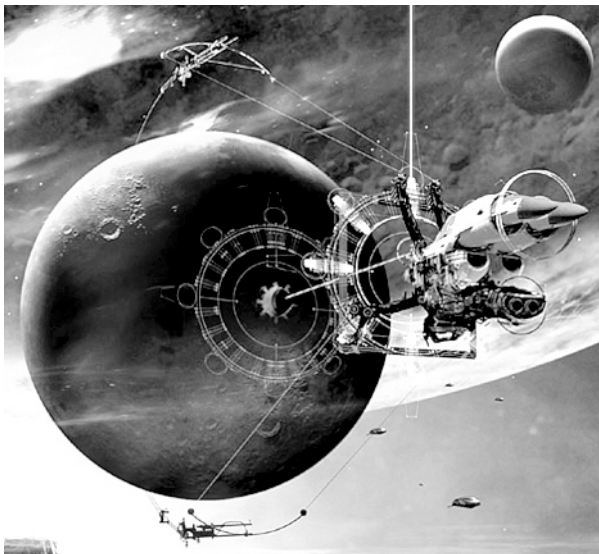
Lower Level
West

What is WindyCon?

WindyCon is a general interest science fiction convention run by (mostly) Chicago area sf fans who volunteer their time and effort for the benefit of other sf fans who come to our con. We don't make money, we don't get glory (occasional laughs, maybe) but we have fun. Our goal is to make all of our attendees who are interested in science fiction and fantasy, however broadly defined, have a chance to get together with other like-minded folk.

As for things to do--well, what is your interest? We have a great art show and Print Shop with offerings from our Guest of Honor and other talented artists from all across the continent. There are movies many hours of the day, oldies but goodies (well maybe) and new ones as well. There are panels and discussions of everything sf related from morning 'til late at night.

ConSuite is well stocked with food and drink, and plenty of places to relax. For a real fun time, come to the Art Auction and dance, and check out the latest fashions from whatever time and place at our masquerade. If you want to spend money, our dealers in the Dealers Room will obligingly take it and give you nice stuff in return. Books, baubles, toys--we have it all.



For night owls, there is filking until morn and some concerts for those of you who keep more regular hours. We have autographing and readings, so bring your books (or buy them in the Dealers room--see above) and get them signed by your favorite authors. We have room parties Friday and Saturday nights too. Gamers can find excitement in our game room, and we even have computer gaming. Join us at Opening Ceremonies to get the weekend started out right!

WindyCon on the Web

If you haven't checked us out online yet, what are you waiting for? Go to www.windycon.org and see our webpage with lots of details on guests, programs and other events. It's the most up-to-date spot for information about WindyCon. And I think its pretty cool too.

I can't recommend it too highly to the reader who's found anything interesting or enjoyable in this story of mine. I know I've returned to it frequently during the writing of the book I'm doing now, and I know I'll continue to do so.

—Philip Pullman

THE ELEMENTS OF HIS DARK MATERIALS

A GUIDE TO PHILIP PULLMAN'S TRILOGY

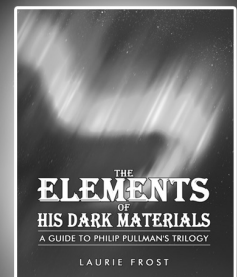
Laurie Frost opens windows into the worlds of *His Dark Materials*. An illustrated, comprehensive reference to Pullman's brilliant trilogy—valuable for fans and researchers alike.



"...tell them true stories, and everything will be well, everything. Just tell them stories." (AS 455/432)

Infinite worlds.

Infinite stories.





Jack McDevitt

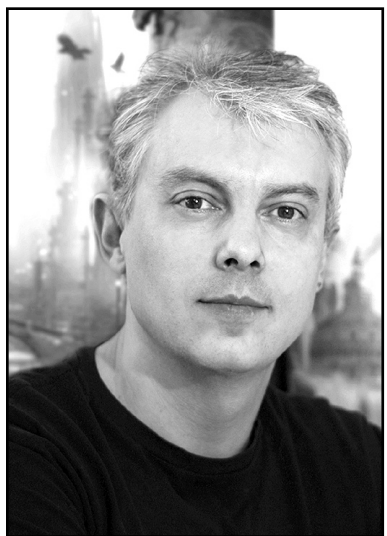
Jack Mc Devitt is a former English teacher, naval officer, Philadelphia taxi driver, customs officer, and motivational trainer. With the nominations of *Infinity Beach*, *Ancient Shores*, *Time Travelers Never Die*, *Moonfall*, *Good Intentions* (cowritten with Stanley Schmidt), *Nothing Ever Happens in Rock City*, *Chindi*, *Omega*, and *Polaris*, his work has been on the final Nebula ballot nine of the last ten years.

His first novel, *The Hercules Text*, was published in the celebrated Ace Specials series, and won the Philip K. Dick Special Award. In 1991, he won the first \$10,000 UPC International Prize for his novella *Ships in the Night*. *The Engines of God* was a finalist for the Arthur C. Clarke Award, and his novella *Time Travelers Never Die* was nominated for both the Hugo and the Nebula. *Omega* concluded the four Priscilla Hutchins novels, and received the John W. Campbell Memorial Award for best SF novel, 2003.

At DeepSouthcon 2000, McDevitt was presented with the Phoenix Award for his body of work.

McDevitt lives in Georgia with his wife Maureen, where he plays chess, reads mysteries, and eats lunch regularly with his cronies.

Friday 6:00, The Martian Chronicles
Friday, 7:00 Opening Ceremonies
Saturday 11:00, The Myth of Science Fiction
Saturday 1:00, Archiving Science Fiction
Saturday 2:00, Autographing
Saturday 3:00, The Pre Amazing World
Saturday 4:00, The Day After the Triffids
Sunday 11:00, Classic Tales of First Contact
Sunday 12:00, Personal Beliefs-Public Writing
Sunday 2:00, Autographing



Stephan Martinière

As a concept artist Stephan Martinière has worked on movies such as *I, Robot*, *Star Wars Episodes 2 and 3*, *Virus*, *Red Planet*, *Sphere*, *Titan A.E.*, *Dragon Heart 2* and *The Time Machine*. As the director for the five musical adaptation animated specials *Madeline* Stephan Martinière received the A.C.T Award, the Parent's choice Award, the Humanitas Award and was nominated for an Emmy.

As a visual design director for Cyan, Stephan was also responsible for creating and overseeing the look of the game *URU*, *Ages Beyond Myst*, *URU*, *the Path of the Shell* and *Myst 5*. As an illustrator Stephan Martinière is the recipient of numerous awards including the silver and gold "Spectrum" Award, 3 Master and 6 Excellence "Expose" Award, the Thea award, the BSFA Award and the Seattle Show Award.

In 2006 Stephan received the Grand Master "Expose" Award, was nominated for a Hugo and received the Chesley award. Stephan Martinière is currently the Creative Visual Director for Midway Games and is an advisory board member of the CG society.

Saturday 11:00, Autographing
Saturday 1:00, Designing a Spaceship
Saturday 3:00, Authors Critique Their Cover Art

Stephan Martinière is an internationally acclaimed Science Fiction and Fantasy artist. In the past 20 years he has become known for his talent, versatility and imagination in every entertainment fields including feature films, animation, video games, theme parks, editorial and book covers.

"What's an ISFiC?" may not be the most popular party question at WindyCon, but it does make for an excellent trivia question. Most fans, even in Chicago, are only vaguely aware that ISFiC exists.

ISFiC is Illinois Science Fiction in Chicago and is best known for its role as the parent body of WindyCon.

But there's more to ISFiC than that. ISFiC was formed in the early 1970's -- a period of great change in convention running in SF fandom. The number of regional conventions was exploding, and it seemed every couple of months a new city would announce that henceforth, they would be hosting an annual regional convention. In the course of about five years, the number of SF conventions more than tripled.

WindyCon was one of the conventions that led this surge. In 1973, Chicago fans felt frustrated at being in the second largest city in the country, right in the center of the Heartland, and nothing resembling a regional con existed nearer than Minneapolis. Since the Chicon III WorldCon in the early 60's, Chicago fandom had splintered, and there wasn't really a strong local club to serve as a focal point for a con committee, as was the case in Boston, Los Angeles, and other cities.

The Chicago fans then hit upon an idea -- if a coalition of people from the various factions and clubs could work together on a local con, then a single large local club wouldn't be needed. Thus was born WindyCon. ISFiC was created as part of this process, to provide continuity in leadership and overall guidance.

But the vision for ISFiC and Chicago fandom went far beyond creating a regional con. Though the initial thoughts were vague, the idea was that ISFiC would act as a sort of clearing-house organization for fan activities in Illinois, and do things to support fandom in general.

As with many fannish actions, there was also an ulterior motive. ISFiC's founders, notably Larry Propp, Mark and Lynn Aronson, and Ann Cass, very carefully crafted things as a staging ground to prepare for a WorldCon bid. Their idea was to have WindyCon not only publicize Chicago's name, but also to act as a training ground for local fans in preparation for a WorldCon bid. The other ISFiC founders, including Jon and Joni Stopa and Mike and Carol Resnick supported the idea.

Chicon IV, the 1982 World Science Fiction Convention, came to fruition as a result of this (though Chicon IV and Chicon V, the 1991 WorldCon, as well as Chicon 2000, are separately incorporated and are not directly affiliated with ISFiC). The early WindyCons grew rapidly under such chairmen as Mark and Lynn Aronson, Larry Propp, Doug Rice, and Midge Reitan. Most of the WindyCon staff worked on Chicon IV, and learned even more from that.

After Chicon IV, there was a lot of reassessment of both WindyCon and ISFiC. Having attained the goal of building an ongoing committee that could run WindyCon from year to year (at least, as much as any local group can be said to), ISFiC thought about what could be done to make WindyCon a better convention. One factor in this was that WindyCon's excess funds were starting to pile up. As a 501(c)3 corporation, ISFiC is supposed to use the excess funds for the benefit of fandom.

So, rather than let the money pile up or buy clubhouses, ISFiC decided to put the money back into WindyCon in creative ways. One way was in providing grants to WindyCon to bring in special guests over and above the normal guests of honor. In this manner, WindyCon was able to compensate for the fact that most SF authors and editors live on the East and West Coasts. Once we started bringing in authors and editors, many liked WindyCon so much that they have continued coming back on their own accord. Once each summer, ISFiC sponsors a picnic in a Chicago park as a gathering for Chicago fandom.

WindyCon is not the only activity ISFiC is involved in. Support has been provided to other Illinois conventions that have an SF, fantasy, or space travel theme. In some cases, the WindyCon art show hangings are rented for a nominal fee (to cover maintenance and upkeep costs). In other cases, grants are provided to bring in special guests. ISFiC is always interested in hearing from groups running Illinois conventions that have a specific project they would like some assistance with.

The ISFiC board of directors has nine members, with three directors coming up for re-election each year for a three-year term. Any Illinois fan is eligible to be elected; come to the ISFiC board meeting at WindyCon (held on Sunday afternoon) and nominate yourself. Meetings of the ISFiC board are normally held at WindyCon and Capricorn. The meetings are open to the public.

- Ross Pavlac

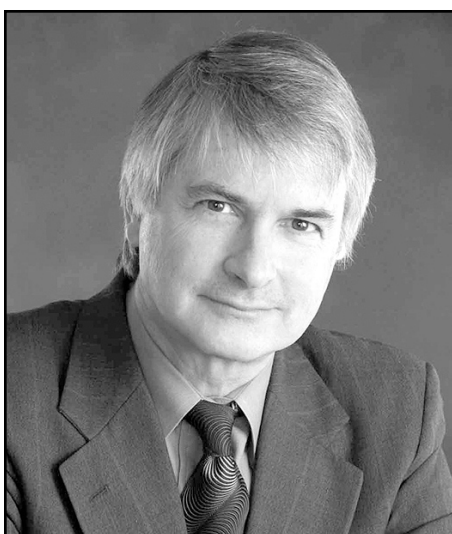


Jacob Weisman

Jacob Weisman is the editor and publisher of Tachyon Publications. He has edited books by such renowned authors as Peter S. Beagle, Michael Swanwick, Clifford D. Simak, Nancy Kress, Jack McDevitt, Avram Davidson, and Pat Murphy, among many others.

He is the co-editor of *The Treasury of the Fantastic*, a critical anthology of 19th and early 20th century fantasy. His fiction and non-fiction has appeared in *The Nation*, *Realms of Fantasy*, *The Louisville Courier-Journal*, *The Seattle Weekly*, and *The Cooper Point Journal*. He was nominated for the World Fantasy Award in 1999 for his work at Tachyon.

Friday 6:00, The Reader-Author Collaboration
 Friday 7:00, Opening Ceremonies
 Saturday 11:00, The Difference a Poor Reader Makes
 Saturday 3:00, The Importance of Being Tip



Seth Shostak

Seth Shostak is Senior Astronomer at the SETI Institute, and has been an observer for Project Phoenix as well as an active participant in various international forums for SETI research.

He is a frequent presenter of the Institute's work in the media, through lectures, and via the Institute's weekly radio show, *Are We Alone?*, for which he's the host. Each Sunday night, Shostak interviews guests who are on the bleeding edge of science discovery and technological advance. The show gives callers the opportunity to ask questions of the world's foremost experts in astrobiology and space exploration.

Shostak readily translates the most complex scientific discoveries into terms accessible to the non-scientist. He has written hundreds of articles for newspapers, magazines, and the **SPACE.com** web site, as well as three books, including a popular textbook on astrobiology.

Recently awarded the Klumpke-Roberts Award by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the public understanding and appreciation of astronomy, Shostak is also Chair of the International Academy of Astronautics SETI Permanent Study Group. As a practicing scientist personally engaged in SETI observations, his technical expertise—combined with his quick wit and engaging personality—make him a sought-after speaker and writer.

Friday, 5:00, Does SF Prepare Us For the Future?
 Friday, 7:00 Opening Ceremonies
 Saturday 10:00, The Year in Science
 Saturday 12:00, Defining the Drake Equation
 Saturday 4:00, Xenoarchaeology Roadshow

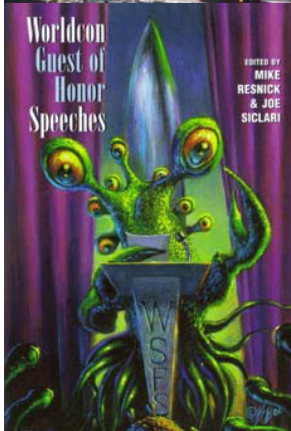
ISFiC Press
A New Addition
To Chicago's SF Tradition
www.isficpress.com



The 2006 Windycon collection

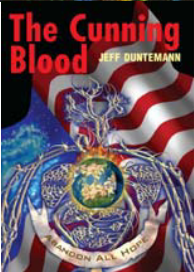
Outbound, by Jack McDevitt serves as a wonderful introduction

It includes an introduction by Barry N. Malzberg, an afterword by Michael Bishop. This collection highlights Jack McDevitt's ability to capture the sense of wonder that drew all of us to science fiction in the first place. His stories are imaginative and carry the readers to new worlds.



Our first non-fiction book, the 2006 Worldcon anthology

Worldcon Guest of Honor Speeches, edited by Mike Resnick and Joe Siclari is ISFiC Press's first foray into non-fiction. This collection includes 31 speeches presented by Worldcon Guests of Honor from 1931 through 2005. It includes the words of such science fiction luminaries as Robert Heinlein, Fritz Leiber, Robert Silverberg, John W. Campbell, Harlan Ellison, Theodore Sturgeon, and a host of others.



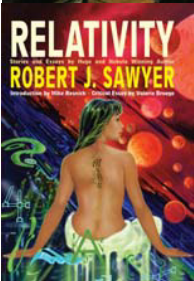
A debut novel

The Cunning Blood, by Jeff Duntemann is a first novel by a multiple Hugo Award-nominated author and native Chicagoan. It is set on the prison planet of Hell, where electrical conductors can't exist.



Our first novel, the 2005 Windycon Guest of Honor book.

Every Inch a King, by Harry Turtledove is a standalone fantasy novel that tells the story of an acrobat and con artist who becomes king of a small country for five days, enjoys the royal harem and starts a war.



Our first book, the 2004 Windycon Guest of Honor collection.

Relativity, by Robert J. Sawyer won the Aurora Award in the Best English Language (Other) category. It includes an introduction by Mike Resnick, an afterword by Valerie Broege, a crossword puzzle, stories, essays and speeches.

Mark and Priscilla Olson



Mark Olson
 Friday, 7:00, Opening Ceremonies
 Saturday 10:00, The Year in Science
 Saturday 2:00, Bad Science, Good Science Fiction
 Saturday 4:00, I Remember...
 Saturday 9:00, Trivia for Chocolate
 Sunday 11:00, Classic Tales of First Contact

Priscilla Olson
 Friday, 7:00 Opening Ceremonies
 Friday 10:00 Trivia for Chocolate
 Saturday 12:00n, Clubbable Cities
 Saturday 4:00, How Do You Pick a Con?
 Saturday 5:00, In the Year 2929

Mark and Priscilla Olson are The Complete Fans. They've done everything. They're print-SF fans. Both of them have been involved with NESFA Press; Mark edited their James Schmitz volume, and co-edited volumes of work by Diana Wynne Jones, Hal Clement, and James White. Mark and Priscilla together did the Zenna Henderson volume. And Priscilla, on her own, edited the Charles Harness collection.

They are members of the New England Science Fiction Association. Mark has served as President and Treasurer of that group; Priscilla has been Vice-President. Mark ran Boskone, NESFA's Boston-area con, in 1986; Priscilla was chair in 1992, and has run Programming any number of times.

Mark has survived chairing the World Science Fiction Convention in 1989. Priscilla co-ran Programming at the 1989 Worldcon and was an assistant division head for Programming in 1992 in Orlando. They jointly ran the newsletter for the 1996 Worldcon in Los Angeles.

Priscilla is a media fan: she's been a Trek fan since the beginning, and Priscilla is also, notoriously, an unabashed Legion of Super-Heroes fan and also runs **The Secret Garden**, a fannish APA devoted to horticultural pursuits.



Friday, 7:00 Opening Ceremonies
 Friday 9:00, Tom Smith Summons Cthulhu
 Saturday 5:00, Tom Smith Concert

In February 1985, Tom Smith picked up a guitar, and to this day the world hasn't quite recovered. One of the most manic people in the history of SF Fandom, Tom can warm or chill your heart at whim and seemingly pull new songs out of the air. He blends comedy, tragedy, dark romance, popular culture, politics, religion, gaming, movie trivia, current events, and dreadful puns with virtually every genre of music you can imagine. He can make up a ditty about virtually any subject on the spot; give him half an hour, and it'll be a keeper. He has improvised entire concerts, and can't seem to let ten minutes on stage go by without making up something no one's ever heard before, including him.

He's won an unprecedented twelve Pegasus Awards for Excellence in Filking, and three OVFF songwriting contests, and even had a songwriting contest based on him ("The Best Song Tom Smith Never Wrote" -- which, somehow, Tom kinda won). He has been Guest of Honor at numerous conventions across the country and around the world. His music has been played everywhere from Germany to Australia, as well as on The Dr. Demento Show where he's made the weekly list of most-requested songs, The Funny Five, several times.

Tom Smith

Consuite

Friday

11:00am to 12:00n

Staff and Dealers only

2:00 noon–4:00am

All the Cool Cats with Badges

3:00pm–3:00am

The Bheer Shall Flow

Saturday:

9:00am to 9:30am

Staff and Dealers only

9:30am to 4:00am

All the Cool Cats with Badges

3:00pm–3:00am

The Bheer Shall Flow

Sunday:

10:00am to 10:30am

Staff and Dealers only

10:30am to 3:00pm

All the Cool Cats with Badges

12:00n to 2:00pm

The Bheer Shall Flow

Welcome All New and Old Clubbers

We're glad to see you all in the new "Club Windy." Here we offer a selection of food and drink exclusively to Convention Members. We will be offering Bheer for those who can prove they're of legal age (21 Earth Standard years). We will be awake and ready for Staff and Dealers extra early.

So, how do I gain entrance to such a cool and wonderful club?

- To enter before hours, you must have a ribbon or badge that proves you are a Dealer or Staff member. We will check at the door. See the schedule below for extended hours.

- For all the other cool cats wanting entry into this too-cool club, all you need is your badge. We will have Badge Bouncers at the doors to confirm you have an authentic badge.

- For those who wish to indulge in the selection of Bheer - and this year we will have at least THREE to chose from - you not only must have your regular convention badge, you must have your genuine, government-issued Driver's License or State ID. This is to confirm that you are the actual person identified on the back of your badge.

As with all other clubs, we too have rules:

1. You must have your badge at all times in the Club
2. Due to new Rosemont Town Ordinances, there will be ABSOLUTELY NO SMOKING permitted in the Club, nor will there be a Smoking Club
3. No food will be allowed out of the Club — but feel free to stay as long as you like.
4. No RED CUPS (cups we are using for Bheer) will be allowed IN OR OUT of the Club.
5. All will be carded and stamped by our Bheer Bouncers.

Note: Even if you have a stamp, we may still ask to see ID.

Note also: We reserve the right to add rules as needed and will not hesitate to pull badges if necessary.

Critter Crunch

Event Coordinators

Jeff Vincentsen and Larry Gitchell

Saturday

6pm to 7pm

Set Up, Robot Check In,

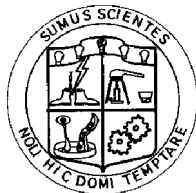
Driving Rights Auction

7pm to 9pm

Critter Crunch!

9pm

Winners Announced



A Critter Crunch is a sumo style mechanical fight to the death between robots. This event is similar to boxing, but is all about torque, traction, and cutting action! "Mad scientists" drive 2 pound robots, trying to mangle, disable, or push their rivals off the edge of a plywood combat platform. These bouts are one-on-one, and last up to 3 minutes. The winning robot will have dominated the most matches.

At the end of competition, there will be a 10-minute free for all! All robots fight at the same time! Gang ups allowed! Payback is a B*tch! Last bot standing wins.

A maximum of 20 robots will compete. See this website for our rules of engagement: www.milehicon.org/critrule.htm

Don't have a robot? No problem! You may bid on the driving rights of several robots. (In the end, you may drive only one.) The deeper your wallet, the more pain you may inflict on your opponents! All proceeds go to support WindyCon 33's Charity.

Be There, Aloha!

Below is the WindyCon Programming schedule at press time. Although we are reasonably confident that the final schedule will resemble what is presented below, please confirm all program times against the pocket program (which has a much later deadline and should bear a closer approximation to reality). Panelists listed below may also shift or settle prior to the convention.

As an added bonus, at some panels, a door prize relating to the panel topic will be given to a random attendee.

Children's Programming Scavenger Hunt: Pick up the list on Saturday from the Children's Programming Room (Erie) and turn it in by 1:00 on Sunday. The winner gets a prize – announced at closing ceremonies!

Friday

5:00pm

Golden Age vs. Silver Age vs. Modern Age

A look at the evolution of the comic field and how the characters, stories and art changes over time.

*E. Coleman, B. Hull,
B. Lyn-Waitsman, B. Roper,
J. Wilson*

Michigan

Does SF Prepare Us For the Future?

Many ideas and situations which may come up in the future have been discussed in science fiction, but when they actually arise, will we have learned anything from the science fictional debate or will we bumble in blindly? How have we done in the past?

*D. Cozort, E. Neely, N. Rest,
S. Shostak, D. Smith*

Heathrow

Pet Peeves in Fiction

What common tropes and conceits in science fiction and fantasy completely rattle your chains or drop you out of the story?

*S. Clemmons, R. Garfinkle,
N. Pollotta, K. Sullivan, G. Wolfe*

Narita A

Fan Fiction: What Are the Authors Missing?

Some authors strenuously object to fan fiction while others embrace it. What do the fans see in it that authors miss? What are author's objections? What are the legal ramifications of fan fiction?

*E. Flint, M. Mohanraj,
A. Rosewarne*

Narita B

The Disabled in Fandom

As fandom grows older, fans are going to have more and more issues with disability and health problems. What resources exist for fans? What do they need to know? And what do conventions and other gatherings of fans need to do to prepare for the disabled among us and yet to come?

*S. Adams-Watters,
K. Fitzsimmons, M. Lyn-Waitsman,
C. Mitchell, W. Thomasson*

Only

6:00pm

Starting Your Filk Collection

The filkers gather late at night to sing. In the dealers room there are tables covered with their CDs and tapes. Which of those recordings are right for you? Which ones provide the best introduction to filk? This panel tells you how to find that first filk CD to start your collection.

*E. Coleman, J. Coulson,
D. Murphy, E. Neely, L. Ski*

Michigan

Bad Technology and Why We Love It

From Ornithopters to jet packs, science fiction and fantasy is filled with technological achievements which won't work, yet we embrace them and they have forced their way into our culture.

*D. Cozort, J. Deaver-Pack,
R. Garfinkle, F. Gehm,
B. Lyn-Waitsman*

Heathrow

The Reader-Author Collaboration

Is reading a book a collaborative effort between the author and the reader? What does each bring to reading a book?

*M. Black, F. Ruiz,
R. Souther, R. Weinberg,
J. Weisman*

Narita A

Matching Fabric and Costume

A discussion of selecting the proper materials, fabric, and accessories when creating a costume, whether it is an historical reproduction, a futuristic prediction, or a fantastic dream.

*S. Adams-Watters, K. Bergquist,
C. Mitchell*

Narita B

The Martian Chronicles

Ray Bradbury's The Martian Chronicles is one of the best known "fix-up" novels, comprised of numerous short stories. While some of the stories may be a little dated, this classic novel still speaks to us. Why do these tales continue to resonate?

*J. Dorr, P. Eisenstein, C. Gerrib,
J. McDevitt, L. Zeldes*

Only:

Art Show

Friday

1:00pm to 4:00pm

Artist setup only

4:00pm to 9:00pm

Open to WindyCon attendees

9:00pm to 10:00pm

Artist Reception and Tour

Saturday

10:00am to 6:30pm

Open to WindyCon attendees

8:00pm 'til whenever

Art Auction

9pm-ish

We will attempt to start art pickup

Sunday

10:00am to 2:00pm

Art pickup only

The Art Show will run a silent auction on Friday and Saturday until 6:30 PM at which time the Art Show will close to set up for the Art Auction. Pieces with 1 or 2 bids are sold to the high bidder on the sheet. Pieces with 3 or more bids will go to the Art Auction. All charity pieces will go to the Art Auction, but you are welcome to bid on them prior to then. If any charity piece has bid(s), that is where the bidding will begin. If no one is willing to increase the bid, the high bidder on the sheet must purchase the piece at the written bid.

WindyCon will be offering Quick Sale again this year. If there is a QS price on the bid sheet, and no bids have been entered, then you may purchase a piece instantly by finding an Art Show Worker and paying the Quick Sale price for the piece (This is like eBay's Buy It Now). Any art that has a bid entered is NOT available for Quick Sale. Any art that has SOLD on the bid sheet is not available for bidding on.

Only Art Show staff is allowed to remove artwork from the grid or tables. Do NOT take the piece to the checkout desk. We request that artwork stay in the show until checkout time so that others may see it. Early removal of artwork must be cleared through the Art Show Director.

There will be a Fan's Choice award given to the artist who receives the most votes, so please, look around, find the artwork you like the best, and vote! Awards will be given for both 2-D and 3-D artwork, so make sure you look at everything.

The Art Auction will be at 8:00 PM in the foyer outside the O'Hare ballroom. Our illustrious auctioneer and his crew provide some of the best entertainment at the convention, so come to watch, come to bid, come to have fun, and don't forget your wallet. You never know when something will strike your fancy... or when you will find that perfect gift for someone.

Dealers

Friday 3pm to 7pm

Saturday 10am to 6pm

Sunday 11am to 3pm

The Dealer's Room is located in the south and central sections of the Grand Ballroom on the main level of the hotel (come in the front door and make a left). There you will find about forty eager sellers willing and able to trade you treasures for your money. Remember that the Holiday season is just down the road (and creeping rapidly up on us), and that it is NEVER too early to begin shopping for fannish family, fannish friends, and (even) fannish you!

SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE DEALER'S ROOM. Eating and drinking in the room are also not permitted in the room (except for Dealers while they are behind their own tables). Browsing, shopping, perusing, and free spending are permitted and also encouraged!!

A listing of Dealer's currently having confirmed tables is not available at this time. Needless to say, there will be some new vendors; there will also be many of your old favorites from past WindyCons. We will ATTEMPT to have a room layout and dealer location guide available outside the Grand Ballroom on Friday morning at WindyCon.

Print Shop

Friday

1:00pm to 4:00pm

Saturday

9:00am to 7:00pm

Sunday

9:00am to 12:00n

After 12:00n

Art pickup only

The Print Shop has been moved out of the Art Show Ballroom to the room next door to Registration.

If you are looking for art at a fixed price, check out our Print Shop. We have a wide selection of artwork from a variety of talented artists available at prices that won't break the bank. The Print Shop carries more than just prints, so make sure to stop in and look at the calendars, mouse pads, bookmarks and other wonderful works for sale. If you find you have money left after the Art Show closes, the Print Shop will be happy to take it right up until they close at 12:00n on Sunday.

7:00pm
Opening Ceremonies
Grand North

8:00pm
Space-Time Theater
Grand North

9:00pm
Tom Smith
Summons Cthulhu
T. Smith
Grand North

10:00pm
Children's
Programming:
Pajama Party
 Raymond and Kenny Waterson
 host a late night pajama party
 with games and snacks to keep
 the kids up and wired.
R. Waterson, K. Waterson
Narita A

Trivia for Chocolate
 Have fan guests of honor Mark and
 Priscilla Olson chuck chocolate at
 you simply for giving them correct
 answers. The fan with the most
 uneaten chocolate at the end wins.
M. Olson, P. Olson, S. Silver
Narita B

Belly Dance
 A how to seminar in belly dancing.
R. Souther
Orly

11:00pm
Damsels in Distress
 Why do people find themselves
 drawn to stories where the pretty
 lady finds herself in peril?
S. Clemmons
Heathrow

Children's Programming:
Pajama Party
 Raymond and Kenny Waterson
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R. Waterson, K. Waterson
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 with the most uneaten chocolate
 at the end wins.
M. Olson, P. Olson, S. Silver
Narita B

From Gor to Kushiel
 How have fetishist fantasy novels
 changed over the years. Are more
 women writing them in the 2000s?
k. Fitzsimmons, F. Murray,
A. Rosewarne, W. Thomasson
Orly

Saturday

10:00 am
Kiddie Aerobics/Make a Mural:
 We'll start our day by moving
 around and then we'll decorate
 our space for the weekend.
E. Silver
Erie (Children's)

The Year in Science
 From the discovery that
 Saturn's F Ring is a spiral
 to the Demotion of Pluto:
 the year since last year's
 WindyCon has brought
 a plethora of scientific
 change.
B. Higgins, D. Lacey,
M. Olson, J. Plaxco,
S. Shostak
Grand North

SF and the Supernatural
 While Hugo Gernsback
 might have seen science
 fiction being completely
 rational, but over the years
 the supernatural, from
 psionics to the Force, have
 encroached on the world of
 the rational. What has this
 done to science fiction and
 what does it say about the
 readers and viewers?
J. Dorr, D. Murphy,
N. Pollotta, F. Ruiz,
L. Synk
Heathrow

Kung Fu
L. Waitsman
Orly

MIDWEST CONSTRUCTION V

"Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more..."

William Shakespeare, Henry V, Act III, Scene i

FALL 2007

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

[HTTP://WWW.MIDFAN.ORG/MWC.HTML](http://www.midfan.org/mwc.html)



**Memorial Day Weekend
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Columbus, Ohio**

**The Midwest's Premiere Fantasy & Science Fiction
Convention
May 25-27, 2007**



Confirmed Guests Include:

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Laura Reynolds, Artist
Timothy Zahn, Toastmaster
Looney Labs, Gaming
Three Weird Sisters, Filk
Pierre and Sandy Pettinger, Costuming
Nancy Janda, Fan**

**Something for
everyone at
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Dance, Masquerade Contest, Gaming, and Childrens Programs!**

Visit www.marcon.org for updates and other information or write to
Marcon, P. O. Box 141414, Columbus, OH 43214

11:00am

Playing With Lego

Come join Lego Beth as we do amazing things with a gazillion Legos.

B. Weis

Erie (Children's)

The Difference a Poorf Reader Makes

It would be nice to think that all novels are published perfectly, but in fact occasionally mistakes make their way into the pages of books. However, a proof reader does more than just look for typos and grammatical errors. What exactly does a proof reader do and how does it improve a book.

T. Bogolub, B. Hull, J. Weisman, G. Wolfe

Michigan

Movie Trailer Preview

That old gang of mine once again presents the films that will thrill you tomorrow, with freebies.

G. Boettcher, N. Mildebrandt, M. Vandebunt, R. Weissinger

Grand North

MySpace/LJ Meetup

The WindyCon MySpace community is thriving and this period gives the members a chance to meet each other in the flesh. We'll even allow LiveJournal members to come and meet. More a mingle than a panel.

Hosted by S. Krause

Heathrow

Maim 'em Right

Dr. Lisa Freitag explains how the body responds to various injuries and why after losing consciousness the hero won't be able to jump right up and destroy the alien menace.

Dr. L. Freitag

Narita A



The Myth of Science Fiction

The legends of the importance of sf in the world of science date back to Hugo Gernsback and John Campbell. But how true are the myths that we are told? What useful purpose did, or do, they serve?

R. Chwedyk, J. Deaver-Pack, B. Higgins, J. McDevitt, J. Zakem
Narita B

Science as Faith

Science is often portrayed as being diametrically opposed to faith, but that is not an accurate picture. Many people who support science do so for the same reasons others believe in faith. They have less of an understanding of what science does and more of a belief in science. What can be done to explain science to those who don't really understand what it is?

F. Gehm, S. Johnson, D. Murphy, L. Synk, D. Waltz

Orly

Capricon Meeting

Shannon

Autographing

P. Eisenstein,

S. Martinière

Grand Foyer North

Supersonic Art of the Whip

Gery L. Deer and his partner Barbara "Scout" Deer are internationally known professional whip artists and founders of the Society of American Whip Artistry. They recently appeared on NBC's "America's Got Talent," and Gery is the international advisor on the whip to the World Stunt Association. Gery & Scout will present a fascinating and interactive exhibition and discussion about the history and use of the whip in media and literature.

Gery L. Deer & Scout

Grand Foyer South

12:00n

Lunch

Bring your own lunch. We'll make a fun dessert together.

E. Silver

Erie (Children's)

RetroPanel:

WindyCon 13

Are You Raising Your Children Right? Twenty years ago, a panel looked at how they raise fannish children. The children are grown now and they have a chance to reflect on what they did.

B. Lyn-Waitsman,

M. Lyn-Waitsman, F. Murray,

A. Passovoy, B. Passovoy

Michigan

Defining the Drake Equation

The panelists will explain what the Drake Equation is and then explain how useful it really is and whether it has any actual basis in fact.

B. Higgins, J. Plaxco,

S. Shostak, W. Thomasson

Grand North

Films

With WindyCon's theme of "First Contact", not only are we showing films that showcase the theme, but we will also be having a "First Contact" of our own: High-Definition Video! In addition we're going to be trying some fun stuff with the audio. First Contacts all around. Features that will be shown in HD-DVD or BluRay (BD-DVD) are marked in the schedule.

Friday

11:00 PM *Serenity* – Presented in HD-DVD.

Cancel my show, will you? Fine. I'll just make an even more awesome movie. Can't stop Joss Whedon. The crew of the *Serenity* continue their adventures on the big screen.

1:00 AM (Sat) *5th Element* – Presented in BD-DVD.

Bruce Willis stars in this visually stunning, somewhat surreal future in which only a special super weapon can save the world. Plus, guys look really femmy and Milla Jovovich looks pretty tough. It's all topsy turvy.

Saturday

1:00 PM *Contact*

Jodie Foster plays a scientist whose skepticism is brought into question when she hears a message from intelligent life in outer space and gets to go visit them.

3:30 PM *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*

Never before has playing with your food had such cosmic meaning. In Steven Spielberg's masterpiece, Richard Dreyfus and a host of other people meet aliens who come to earth – and it actually works out all right.

6:00 PM *Cars*

Piston Cup superstar Lightning McQueen finds more than he expected when he is sidetracked in sleepy Radiator Springs. He finds a deeper meaning and befriends a lot of strange characters. But can he win the girl, er, Porsche?

7:30 PM *Corpse Bride* – Presented BD-DVD.

Nervous groom Victor Van Dort, voiced by Johnny Depp, gets himself in a bit of trouble when he accidentally maybe marries a dead person. That's pretty awkward.

9:00 PM *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

Hogwarts intramurals are a little higher stakes than they are here for us muggles. Seriously, are those parents reading the permission slips carefully? Harry competes in the Triwizard Cup, a competition against two other European wizarding schools, while trying to also keep up his grades and navigate puberty.

11:30 PM *Army of Darkness* – Presented in HD-DVD

Bruce Campbell stars in this classic as Ash, a normal guy who is transported back in time to find the Necronomicon and save the world. Except he kinda doesn't do it right. Oops.

1:00 AM (Sun) *Star Trek: First Contact*

Those pesky Borg! It's not enough that they want to assimilate everyone they encounter, but now they want to go back in time and keep Star Trek from happening in the first place! Unforgivable! Fortunately, Captain Picard is on the job. Plus, the Prime Directive becomes completely irrelevant.

Sunday

10:30 AM *Apollo 13* – Presented in HD-DVD

Tom Hanks stars as Jim Lovell, commander of the ill-fated Apollo 13 mission to the moon. Will they return safely? Will the space program survive? Will people ever stop saying, "Houston, we have a problem"?

Gaming

Some of the games that will be run are Dragonstorm ccg/rpg, Battletech, and a rep from Steve Jackson games will be running various games.

Hours are effectively starting 3pm Friday and either 24 hours until Sunday at 3 or 4pm on that day with the proviso that if we feel that there will not be any more attendance for the night we will go into Lock Down.

We invite any and all Open Gaming to come in and play, all we ask is to stop by for timing and room. Badges will be checked and asked for, No Badge, No Entrance.

Masquerade

The masquerade is a Saturday night tradition at WindyCon. After the announcer introduces them, the costumer(s) come out and present a skit or just "strut their stuff". There are at least three judges, who will choose the best in categories ranging from Novice to Master.

There may also be special awards for presentation, craftsmanship or representation of the convention theme, which for WindyCon 2006 is First Contact. Costumers display their talents. Never attended the masquerade, this is your year to start.

The Best SF You Don't Watch

In many ways, we're living in the Golden Age of Television SF. What shows should you be watching that you probably aren't?

*R. Blackwood, R. Chwedyk,
k. Fitzsimmons, M. Ryan
Heathrow*

Clubbable Cities

Why do some cities, like Boston and L.A. have large, thriving, long-lived successful SF clubs, while others, like Chicago, can't seem to stay together?

*P. Olson, D. Smith, J. Zakem,
L. Zeldes
Narita A*

Costuming for the Sewing Impaired

Can't sew a straight seam to save your soul? You can still assemble, pin, staple, and hot-glue your way to a fabulous outfit without touching a sewing machine.

*K. Bergquist,
N. Mildebrandt,
C. Mitchell, B. Wright
M.J. Solomon
Narita B*

Remembering Jim Baen

Authors, artists and fans remember Jim Baen, whose work with Ace, Galaxy, Tor and eventually Baen books helped revolutionize the field.

*B. Fawcett, E. Flint,
R. Green, J. Nye,
J. Rittenhouse
Orly*

Reading

*Mike Resnick
Grand Foyer North*

Autographing

*Julie Phillips, R. Souther
Shannon*

Concert

*Bill Roper/Erica Neely
Grand Foyer South*

1:00pm

Tour of the Art Show

We'll meet in the foyer outside the Art Show and have our own guided tour.

Erie (Children's)



Retro Panel: WindyCon 23

The Future of a Wired World: Ten years ago, a panel looked at where the on-line world was going. It hasn't quite turned out the way the expected and the wires apparently are going away. This year reconstitutes the panel to address the topic again.

*P. Kaveny, F. Murray, R. Oakes,
D. Smith, R. Waterson
Michigan*

Historical

First Contacts

We usually think of First Contact as being between humans and alien races, all First Contact situations we've had so far have been between humans and humans. This panel discusses how even the most basic First Contact has gone awry.

*D. Cozort, P. Eisenstein,
J. Phillips, J. Rittenhouse,
P. Sayre McCoy
Heathrow*

Archiving Science Fiction

SFWA Archival Librarian Lynne Thomas discusses the techniques used to build and archival library of science fiction and the purpose of the library, located at Northern Illinois University.

*J. McDevitt, L. Thomas
Narita A*

Designing a Spaceship

How does an artist go about designing a realistic looking spaceship? How do authors make their spacecraft believable?? As they discuss the process, a rocket scientist will comment on their progress and process.

*J. Lilly, S. Martinière,
J. Plaxco, F. Ruiz,
D. Waltz
Narita B*

Malzberg-Resnick Live Dialogue

For several years, Mike Resnick and Barry Malzberg have had a running dialogue in the pages of the SFWA Bulletin. Now, you can hear them bring their conversation to WindyCon.

*B. Malzberg, M. Resnick
Orly*

Reading

*Mary Anne Mohanraj
Shannon*

Autographing

*B. Hull, F. Pohl
Grand Foyer North:*

Concert

*Bill Roper/Erica Neely
Grand Foyer South*

1:30pm

Concert

*Juanita Coulson
Grand Foyer South*



Phandemonium Invites you to our Upcoming Events!

Phandemonium Book Club

Sunday, January 7 at 7pm: Gateway by Frederik Pohl
Borders Bookstore, 1700 Maple Ave., Evanston (2nd Floor Café)

Special Book Club meeting at Capricorn 27!

The Sharing Knife Volume 1: Beguilement by Lois McMaster Bujold

Phandemonium Movie Days are back!

Phandemonium Euchre Club is starting!

Check our web forums at www.capricorn.org/forums for dates and times!

Check our website at www.phandemonium.org for dates, times,
and the latest edition of our newsletter, Goat Droppings

I can't recommend it too highly to the reader who's found anything interesting or enjoyable in this story of mine. I know I've returned to it frequently during the writing of the book I'm doing now, and I know I'll continue to do so.

—Philip Pullman

THE ELEMENTS OF HIS DARK MATERIALS A GUIDE TO PHILIP PULLMAN'S TRILOGY

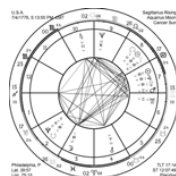
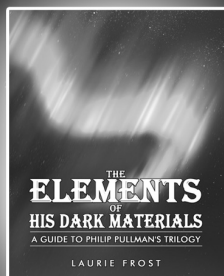
Laurie Frost opens windows into the worlds of *His Dark Materials*. An illustrated, comprehensive reference to Pullman's brilliant trilogy—valuable for fans and researchers alike.



"...tell them true stories, and everything will be well, everything. Just tell them stories." (AS 455/432)

Infinite worlds.

Infinite stories.



Skybear

- Shaman
- Reiki Master
- Astrologer

Here at Windy Con!

Call 630-995-5250 for an appointment.

Shamanic Cleansing clears your field of negative energies, clears and balances your chakras, reshapes your aura, and calms your spirit.

Reiki is divine healing energy channeled by a Master Practitioner to heal and relax your body and mind.

Natal Chart Astrology is the ancient art of personality reading.

I can print out individual Natal Charts (Includes a graphic sky chart and a 20-page interpretation) and 2-person Compatibility Charts if you provide the necessary information - **date, year, city and time of birth**.
(Without the time, you cannot get an accurate chart, sorry.)

Windy Con Specials:

Shamanic Cleansing (20-30 minutes) – \$20

Reiki session (20 minutes) – \$25

Combination of both – \$40

Astrology chart – \$20

In home sessions are also available.

Skybear was trained, attuned, and has practiced in Sedona.
skybearcozmic@yahoo.com



2:00pm Introduction to the Solar System

What's "out of this world?" - well out of this Earth? We'll talk about the rest of our solar system.

Erie (Children's) Chicago's Treasures

Frederik Pohl was named a Grandmaster by the SFWA and is in the Science Fiction Hall of Fame. Gene Wolfe received a Lifetime Achievement World Fantasy Award. Local author Phyllis Eisenstein interviews these two treasures of the Chicago SF scene to help introduce them to you.

P. Eisenstein, F. Pohl, G. Wolfe
Michigan

Ethics of Contact with Intelligent Species

What are the ethical considerations of making contact with an alien species? Do they differ if we're the ones with superior technology or inferior technology? How do we ensure that we're neither the Europeans or the American Indians in an encounter situation?

*S. Johnson, M. Mohanraj,
E. Neely, R. Oakes*
Heathrow

From Idea to Published Story

Authors discuss what goes into writing a story or a book, from getting the initial idea to putting it onto paper to selling it and beyond.

*D. Bingle, J. Deaver-Pack,
B. Fawcett, S. Leigh, J. Liss*
Narita A

Masquerade Pre-Meeting Narita B

Bad Science, Good Science Fiction

There are numerous science fiction stories, both films and novels, which have horrible science. Nevertheless, the stories rise above the bad premises to touch us. Why do we overlook the mistakes?

*L. Freitag, J. Lilly, M. Olson,
F. Ruiz, J. Wilson*
Orly

Reading Bob Blackwood Shannon

Autographing E. Flint, J. McDevitt Grand Foyer North

Concert Eric Coleman Grand Foyer South:

3:00pm Games Games...games...games for kids. E. Silver Erie (Children's)

The Pre Amazing World A look at SF from the turn of the century to the founding of Amazing. M. Black, L. Darrow, J. McDevitt, J. O'Neill, R. Weinberg Michigan

Re-Imagining TV From Buffy the Vampire Slayer to Battlestar Galactica, television has had a tendency to re-imagine earlier incarnations of itself and films. Why does television keep revisiting its older ideas and why do the fans keep flocking back? G. Deer, C. Gerrib, J. Lilly, A. Rosewarne, M. Ryan Heathrow

Book Discussion: Polaris Steve Metzger leads a discussion on Guest of Honor Jack McDevitt's novel of a futuristic spaceship wreck. S. Metzger Narita A

The Importance of Being Tip Why you ought to care about James Tiptree, Jr. and her enduring affect on the science fiction genre and community. B. Malzberg, J. Phillips, J. Weisman Narita B

Authors Critique Their Cover Art Fans often look at the cover art of a book and complain that the scene doesn't appear in the book or the characters don't look like they are supposed to. How do the authors of books feel when they see their cover art? J. Hines, S. Leigh, S. Martinière, J. Nye, M. Resnick Orly

Reading Donald Bingle Shannon:

Autographing R. Green Grand Foyer North

Concert The Great Luke Ski, Samuel T. Clemmons Grand Foyer South

4:00pm The Five Foot Bookshelf for Kids What are the essential science fiction and fantasy books for kids? L. Freitag, B. Higgins, M. Lyn-Waitsman, M. Mohanraj Erie (Children's)



Programming - Saturday

I Remember...

In this interactive panel, come and share stories about the great sf personalities of the past you have met.

P. Eisenstein, M. Olson,
N. Rest, G. Wolfe,
J. Zakem
Michigan

The Effects of Role-Playing Games on Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature

Ever since role-playing games made their way on the scene, they have changed fantasy literature. In the worst cases, a reader can hear the dice rolling behind the scenes, but the effect of RPGs isn't also so obvious.

D. Bingle, J. Rabe
J. Deaver-Pack,
B. Fawcett, R. Garfinkle,
Heathrow:

The Day After the Triffids:

Novels by John Wyndham which you don't know.

L. Darrow, R. Green, P. Olson,
J. McDevitt, N. Pollotta
Narita A

How Do You Pick a Con?

What goes in to your decision about what conventions to attend? Proximity, price, guests, or something else, less tangible?

D. Lacey, D. Smith,
M.J. Solomon, R. Oakes
Narita B

Xenoarchaeology Roadshow

J. Nye, N. Pollotta,
S. Shostak
Orly

Reading

Jim C. Hines
Shannon

Autographing

B. Blackwood, Mike Resnick
Grand Foyer North

Concert

The Great Luke Ski
Samuel T. Clemmons
Grand Foyer South

5:00pm

Create a Masterpiece

Earlier we had a tour of the Art Show. Now that we are inspired, let's create our own works of art with crayons, markers, beads, etc.

E. Silver
Erie (Children's)

Fictionalizing your Location

How to take a real place and fictionalize it to suit your needs while retaining its sense of reality and diversity.

P. Eisenstein, J. Nye, J. Rabe,
M. Resnick, R. Souther
Michigan

Smoooooth:

The Legend of Tucker

He was instrumental in creating science fiction and fandom as we know it, with his decades of fanzines, coinages ("space opera") and tuckerizations, our world would be incredibly less fun if it hadn't been for this colorful man. Less a panel and more a wake for this man who was science fiction fandom.

J. Coulson, F. Pohl, D. Smith,
L. Zeldes
Heathrow



In the Year 2929

The Legion of Super Heroes: Why are the superheroes who inhabit the thirtieth century so much cooler than the characters we are, perhaps, more familiar with? Who needs Batman when you can have Lightning Lad?

P. Olson, S. Paris, B. Roper,
P. Sayre McCoy
Orly

Reading

Julie Phillips
Shannon

Autographing

B. Malzberg, G. Wolfe
Grand Foyer North

Concert

Tom Smith
Grand Foyer South

6:00pm

Chicago in 2008 Meeting
Shannon

7:00pm

Critter Crunch

Once again, WindyCon will host Jeff Wintcentsen's Critter Crunch.

Narita A/B

Chicago in 2008 Meeting

Shannon

8:00pm

Poetry Jam - First Contact

Emceed by R. Chwedyk
Heathrow

Critter Crunch

Once again, WindyCon will host Jeff Wintcentsen's Critter Crunch.

Narita A/B

Tarot: A New Twist

R. Souther
Orly

9:00pm

Poetry Jam - First Contact

Emceed by R. Chwedyk

Heathrow

10:00pm

**This Ain't Your Typical Uncle
Bunkey's Fuzzy Bunny Magic
Show**

L. Darrow

Narita A/B

11:00pm

Randomly Randy

A late night random reading
of erotica and let the unusual
transitions fall where they may.

S. Clemmons, K. Nagel

Heathrow

**Sexual Proclivities in the Works
of Robert Heinlein.**

R. Green, M. Lyn-Waitsman,

N. Rest

Orly

Sunday

11:00am

Become an Alien

First contact...costuming. We'll
make alien masks.

G. Roper

Erie (Children's)

**The Fantastic Worlds
of Alternate History**

The phenomenon of alternate
history incorporating magic or
fantastic beasts isn't new, but it
has had a dramatic upswing in
recent years. Why are fantasy
and ah being merged? Is it really
alternate history?

D. Cozort, E. Flint, F. Murray,

J. Rittenhouse, S. Silver

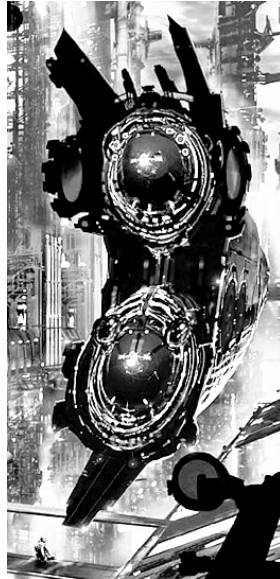
Michigan

**The Fleischer Brothers
Science Cartoons**

Best known for Superman and
Popeye cartoons, in 1923 the
Fleischers produced "Darwin's
Theory of Evolution" and
"Einstein's Theory of Relativity."

Come see these rare shorts with
an introduction by Bill Higgins.

Heathrow



The Forty Year Mission

Stardate: September 8, 1966, Star
Trek debuted. Forty years later, it
still holds its fans in thrall despite
some missteps along the way.

M. Black, k. Fitzsimmons,

R. Oakes, L. Ski. J. Wilson

Narita A/B

Classic Tales of First Contact

From Murray Leinster's "First
Contact" to Larry Niven & Jerry
Pournelle's The Mote in God's
Eye, science fiction authors
have long been intrigued by the
possibility of first contact with an
alien species. How have these
tales differed over the years?
What elements distinguish a
great first contact story? Which
ones have you missed?

S. Adams-Watters, F. Gehm,

J. McDevitt, M. Olson, N. Pollotta

Orly

Reading

Janet Deaver-Pack

Shannon

12:00n

What's on Your TV?

Discussion—What are
your favorite shows
and why. How many of
them are really science
fiction/fantasy?

Erie (Children's):

Bad Ideas in

Science Fiction

What are some of the
famously bad ideas in
the SF community. Ideas
that should never be
recreated or should be
halted immediately?

J. Coulson, F. Gehm

J. Zakem, L. Ski, D. Smith

Michigan

The Universe

**According to
Monty Python**

An in-depth, systematic
analysis of the planetary,
astronomical, and cosmological
findings of Monty Python as
published in the "Galaxy Song."

J. Plaxco

Heathrow

Personal Beliefs

-Public Writing

From Holocaust denial to gay
bashing to Dianetics, at what
point does knowledge of an
authors' personal beliefs infringe
on the enjoyment of their writing?

R. Chwedyk, J. McDevitt,

R. Oakes, R. Souther

Narita A/B

The Apocalypse

Will Be Blogged

Blogging seems to have
supplanted fanzines and
letter columns because of its
immediacy and accessibility.
However, do these very features
harm the sense of community
that science fiction fandom built
up over the decades?

E. Coleman, C. Gerrib, J. Hines,

N. Rest, L. Zeldes

Orly

Programming - Sunday

1:00p

Let it Snow

To prepare for winter, we'll make our own snow globes to take home.

E. Silver

Erie (Children's)

Pervverting Historical Costumes

Historical costuming is a rich source of inspiration and techniques that can be perverted into SF/Fantasy costumes.

*K. Bergquist,
N. Mildebrandt,
C. Mitchell,
M.J. Solomon*
Michigan

The Terran Trade Authority

J. Lilly
Heathrow

Novelists vs. Short Story Writer

Why do some authors focus entirely on one form or the other? Is it a matter of preference, financial consideration, or do they lack the ability to write in the other length?

*J. Hines, D. Mead, M. Mohanraj,
M. Resnick, G. Wolfe*
Narita A/B

Chicago: The Virtual Tour

A non-science fictional panel talking about things to do in Chicago that are off the beaten trail, from walking tours of Frank Lloyd Wright houses to Mitchell Museum of the American Indian. What is there to do in Chicago for visitors and residents?

*S. Adams-Watters,
M. Lyn-Waitsman, N. Rest,
J. Wilson, L. Zeldes*
Orly

2:00p

Hypnosis

L. Darrow

Grand North

The Dearth of Fantasy Film Blockbusters Revisited

Several years ago, WindyCon ran a panel on the lack of fantasy blockbusters. Now, less than a decade later, that trend has been reversed. Despite the title, this panel will discuss the spate of fantasy blockbusters.

*R. Blackwood, J. Deaver-Pack,
A. Eisenstein, N. Mildebrandt,
J. Wilson*
Michigan:

Series vs. Sequels

There are the Series of books where each one can stand on its own, and the Series of books in which a book doesn't tell a complete story. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each type of Series and what are the examples of those extremes?

E. Flint, J. Hines, N. Pollotta
Heathrow

Epic Fantasy vs. Hack and Slash

Some fantasies deal with every issue with a sword and gore while others address the bigger issues of good and evil. What else distinguishes an epic fantasy from a hack and slash adventure? Do either or both of these types of stories have to be found in multivolume tomes?

*S. Clemmons, R. Garfinkle,
R. Souther*
Narita A/B

Autographing

J. McDvitt
Grand Foyer North

3:00p

Closing Ceremonies
Grand North

I can't recommend it too highly to the reader who's found anything interesting or enjoyable in this story of mine. I know I've returned to it frequently during the writing of the book I'm doing now, and I know I'll continue to do so.

—Philip Pullman

THE ELEMENTS OF HIS DARK MATERIALS

A GUIDE TO PHILIP PULLMAN'S TRILOGY

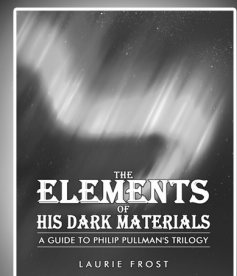
Laurie Frost opens windows into the worlds of *His Dark Materials*. An illustrated, comprehensive reference to Pullman's brilliant trilogy—valuable for fans and researchers alike.



"...tell them true stories, and everything will be well, everything. Just tell them stories." (AS 455/432)

Infinite worlds.

Infinite stories.



Since 1985, Illinois Science Fiction in Chicago has been holding a writing contest for beginning writers of science fiction and fantasy. Our annual convention, WindyCon, emphasizes the literature of science fiction and we want to encourage new writers. The winning story is published in the WindyCon program book. What better encouragement than seeing your story in print!

There is no entrance fee, but the entrant must not have been paid for any previous work of fiction. The top three will be contacted by WindyCon beforehand, so they can attend and receive their prizes. Our judges include both authors and editors. Full rules are at WindyCon.org and ISFiC.org.

This year's winner is P. R. Gomez with **Ad Alienos** and congratulations also go to Robert Wenzlaff and Rich Mansfield who won Honorable Mentions.

To all aspiring authors: We had 11 entrees this year and I hope for more next year. You can do it! If your confidence needs a boost, don't forget that WindyCon also holds a Writer's Workshop. Do one, do both, just do!

Marcy Lyn-Waitsman
Writers' Contest Administrator

AD ALIENOS

P. R. Gomez

Dear Holy Father,
I hope this message finds you in good health, through the grace of the Almighty. I was greatly saddened when, as soon as I awoke from the cryostat, I was told the Holy Father had abdicated twelve years ago, but my sadness turned to joy when I heard you had succeeded him and had sent me, your humblest servant, a special blessing for the success of our mission.

It is a pity that the FTL bandwidth seems to be wholly occupied with scientific data - or so the Captain, who unfortunately is a convinced atheist, has told me - so I am forced to send this message by laser link. You will not be able to read this until long after the events have taken place, Holy Father, but the delay will allow me to explain things calmly and at length, free from eavesdropping and unwanted censorship - with one exception: it appears that my fellow apostles fear that our efforts will not be understood back home, so they have prevailed on Mission Control to have our proper names automatically expunged from all communications. Therefore, you will likely see some rather conventional (and probably quite inadequate) markers replacing our names, but I hope that will be all the tampering they do.

They awakened our "holy crew," as the other astronauts have taken to calling us, with the ship already in orbit around HGG42 Gamma 3, so called because it is the

third planet around this sun, which is also the third in magnitude in its constellation. As soon as I was able to get my bearings - it is not easy without gravity, as you know, Holy Father - I sought a window to contemplate the planet, and was immediately struck by the wisdom and the power of the Almighty, who made this twin sister of our home so far away, and hid her from our eye till we were mature enough to handle her with the care she deserves. I prayed that the Gammans might be receptive to our word. I think the mullah (I wonder what string the automatic censor will use to replace his name) was doing a similar thing, for he kept doing backflips in his effort to prostrate himself in the lack of gravity.

I wanted to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice right away, but the Captain forbade it on the grounds that the Sacred Species might end up floating all over the mothership and fouling up the ventilation system - as if the source of everlasting life were some kind of trash! I had to content myself with praying as I beheld the planet from my window. My heart ached with sorrow, thinking of those billions of souls who had never come in contact with Our Lord and thus lay in the power of death, but then I felt an immense joy, for their long exile was now about to end: soon they too would be part of our family and share in the life that vivifies us.

I soon learned that the scientific part of the mission was already finished when they took us out of the cryostat. The next day, therefore, was our descent to the surface. Our landing place was quite desolate, though not by any means a desert. The Captain told us he had chosen it precisely because of its solitude, so that there would be enough time to arrange for a pickup if we managed to upset the Gammans.

We were already on the surface and there was gravity, so I decided I would wait no longer. On top of the mess table, in the landing craft, I celebrated the Holy Sacrifice with the greatest dignity afforded by the circumstances. My fellow clerics, the mullah and the rabbi, were kind enough to help me with the liturgy - not so the Lieutenant (an atheist, like the Captain), who is commanding on the ground, and only agreed to the Sacrifice after I threatened to not leave the craft until everyone else was gone, in which case no one could prevent me anymore.

But perhaps I must first explain why I had to celebrate still inside the landing craft and not on the surface of Gamma itself. Even though this planet is very much like ours, it is a little smaller and, consequently, its gravity is lower and its atmosphere considerably

thinner. There is oxygen, but not enough to perform any strenuous exercise without fainting. We must wear our pressure suits at all times when we are outside. I did not consider myself authorized to bend the liturgical norms so much as to celebrate with a pressure suit on, hence my decision to do it in the craft. I hope this does not offend our liturgists.

I made my thanksgiving and then it was time to go out. Soon we saw the Gammans our scouts had prepared for first contact, for we had landed very close to their habitat.

Holy Father, I am sure you have seen representations of what the inhabitants of this planet look like, but I assure you they fail to capture their essential hideousness. To begin with, their bodies are wholly out of proportion - a consequence of the low gravity, I presume - with two legs so long that their abdomen would be level with my head. Likewise, their bodies are very long and their two arms located very high, so they hardly have any neck at all. This gives them a curious sort of rigidity and an ungainly, ambling gait. I shook the male's hand and, although I had been trained to expect it, I almost threw it away with revulsion, for its many squishy fingers kept wiggling as I touched them.



Their faces contain two small eyes that flutter constantly. Their nasal structures, on the contrary, protrude so much out of their heads that their nostrils point straight down (probably in order to smell their food before they eat it). Their ears also jut out significantly, but they do not hear any better because of this. Their hearing is tuned to the sound of their own nasal voices, so it is impossible to communicate with them without an electronic translator.

May the Almighty be praised for this marvel of technology, the translator, for it opens up such a new world to our apostolate. We have translators built right into our pressure suits, so they process our speech into something Gammans can understand, and also translate from their language into ours. They have been programmed according to what our scientists have learned in their short time on the planet, so the translation is not yet perfect, but they are amazingly effective nevertheless. For instance, the very first time I talked to that Gamman, he seemed to understand I had not come to analyze him

like the scientists, but instead I was interested in his soul. He told me his name, which the translator did not have an equivalent for, so it passed it through as it was, without translation. It sounded something like "J's'th," with a few nasal sounds in-between that I cannot pronounce, let alone transcribe.

The mullah and the rabbi also talked to him, but I think he likes me better. The mullah has told me, however, that he believes the Gamman will soon convert to his religion because all rational beings in the universe belong to it if they are truly rational. I did not want to get in an argument with him, for fear the Gamman would hear us and conclude the wrong thing about us, so I remained silent. Did I do wrong, Holy Father? I do not think I did. I think Our Lord was happy with my meekness and will bring these people into Communion with Him because of it.

Just in case, I told the Lieutenant that I preferred to speak with the Gammans alone, if at all possible. My prayers must have been heard, for he said I could have as much time with the Gammans as I wanted, as long as I got out of his way - assuming the other clerics agreed, of course. From now on, therefore, I will be able to speak with them freely, praised be the Lord.

My companions did not seem to mind it. I happened to mention my thirst for souls as I chatted with the rabbi, after dinner, and was quite surprised to hear that he did not share it. To him, there is only one people able to reach life everlasting, and the only way to belong to it is by birth: the Gammans are out of luck, as far as he is concerned. I felt like asking him why he volunteered to go on this mission and subject himself to eight months of training, twenty years of deep freeze, and then the painful thawing process (and then the same thing again on the way back), if he did not expect anything to come out of it.

But I did not ask him, because I was afraid he would return the question. I must confess to you, Holy Father, that I left home full of bitterness toward my superiors, who seemed to be more concerned with defusing the shameful allegations leveled against me (by the rather expeditious method of removing me for a few decades) than with the good of souls, mine included. I have since forgiven them, and now realize that it was the Holy One who was making use of injustice in order to extend his kingdom. We, his ministers, do not cease being sinners because we deal with the source of everlasting life, and so now I feel grateful and ashamed to have been so chosen, when there were so many who deserved to be here more than I.

Begging your blessings, your humblest servant in the Lord,
The priest

Dear Holy Father,
I hope my previous message has reached you all right. When you receive it, we will already be on the return flight, and the Gammans will have become our brethren. The Captain (with the connivance of the Lieutenant, who is on the surface with us) refuses, as I said earlier, to let us use any of the FTL's bandwidth for our apostolic mission. On top of that, he announced over the radio link that there is a forecast for meteoroids crossing our flight path, so he had ordered, allegedly after consulting Mission Control, to begin wrapping up the mission and go home. We are now due to depart in three days' time. Three days! How can I possibly bring these people into Communion with us in such a short time?

I was despondent for the whole morning, while the mullah hammered the Gamman and his family to make them join his religion. When my time came I did not know how I was going to start. I was then moved to browse the Scriptures at random, and my eye caught the passage where the sacred author teaches that "All there is in the world is the concupiscence of the flesh and the concupiscence of the eye and the pride of life." I knew instantly, as if a voice had spoken into my soul, yet without the sound of words, that this sentence was meant to guide my mission, the shortcut I was looking for, which my many sins had not allowed me to see until then.

I recalled how a brother theologian had categorically asserted - not long before the existence of life in HGG42 Gamma 3 was confirmed - that since salvation was universal and beings born on this planet would not likely share in our First Parents' fault, therefore they could not possibly be intelligent, as we are. They might appear to be so, he said, but they could not have the ability to reach life everlasting. The test, for which the Scriptures had just given me the key, would be whether the Gammans were subject to the triple concupiscence as we are, thus proving their need for salvation.

We had three days on the planet, so naturally I thought it appropriate to devote one day to each of the concupiscences. On this first day, therefore, I checked them for lust.

You must understand, Holy Father, that Gammans, being physically so different from us, cannot be expected to feel lust for one of our race. Like their bodies, their reproductive organs are shaped differently from ours, so that the individuals we would naturally think of as males, because of their bright colors and incessant talk, are actually the females. On this world, females obviously rule: the

males are reduced to a kind of slavery, being forced to work outside while the females stay at home and tell them what to do.

With this in mind I approached the female, whose name is something like "S's's'th" (with more unpronounceable sounds in-between). Not to be outdone by the mullah, I asked her point blank if she had other males and if so how often. She was not offended as I thought she would be, but instead went into her dwelling and brought out a picture showing two hatchling Gammans.

It seems, therefore, that Gammans exhibit an extreme case of neotenia, so that sexual activity only takes place between adult females and nearly newborn males. Whatever the case may be, this reproductive behavior is clearly not conducive to lust between consenting adults, so I decided to move on to the other lusts, having concluded that the sexual drive was not a powerful motivator for their species.

The next lust on my list was that for food and other life-sustaining needs. Here I based myself on the observation that their mouths, although much smaller than ours, seem to be arranged similarly. They have two horizontal lines of smallish teeth, a sure sign of a vegetarian diet. I had smuggled some fruit from home, carefully folded inside my jacket when I went into the cryostat. Although the fruit did not have the benefit of a controlled thaw as I did, it managed to stay fresh and appetizing (the food on board the ship was horrible,

Holy Father, even worse than that during the training program; I would have quit twice on that account alone, if the Lord had not given me strength). I very much desired to eat the fruit myself, but I offered it to J's'th who, being a male, was therefore malnourished compared to his wife.

He accepted it gladly and took a good bite, but immediately spewed it out amid curses (I didn't need the translator to tell me what they were), hitting me in the eye. I offered it all up as penance toward the success of our mission (the loss of the food as well as the pain) and moved on to the next test.

The Gammans did not seem to feel a lust for what gratifies the body, so I spent the rest of the afternoon trying to determine if they suffered from what I would call "intellectual lust," as unfortunately so many of our brethren are prey to. Not being able to communicate ideas as effectively as I would have liked, due to the imperfect translation, I was forced to hint at the pleasures of the intellect through mere sensory aids.

***...they could not possibly
be intellegent, as we are.***

The rabbi had told me he had spent most of his time with the Gammans talking about music, of which he is very fond. He did not say whether he played a recording to them, so I suspected he saw something there that he did not want to tell me. Therefore, I went back to the landing craft and downloaded a selection of the best classical music I could get my hands on, and arranged to have it broadcast to my space suit through a private channel. Then I went into the place where the Gammans lived.

I think it was providential that my mind was so occupied with the test, Holy Father, for otherwise I doubt I could have mustered enough courage to enter their dwelling. The door opened into a huge, dimly lit space overhung with obstacles and littered with all sorts of strange artifacts. I tripped repeatedly in the semidarkness, until J's'th took one of my hands (the touch of his many slithering fingers still gives me a chill when I recall it) and made me sit (so to speak) on one of those artifacts, so my feet dangled a good distance from the ground. I nearly fell off when I realized that two other, smaller Gammans had sneaked up under cover of darkness and were standing directly above me, ogling me with their fluttering eyes and making odd gurgling noises while they bared their small teeth most disturbingly.

I must confess I had feared they might turn violent when I started the music, judging by their father's reaction to our food, but then the newcomers began moving with the rhythm, stomping on the floor and making loud, sickening sounds by violently joining their hands together. Thus they danced - or I should say, writhed, for such was the way their sinuous bodies shook - until S's's'th came in. She had her hands on her ears, so I surmised she wanted me to stop the music, which I did at once. After that, the small Gammans just sat down while S's's'th asked me about the ship and our food (her mate must have told her about the fruit) and other subjects that did not give me a chance to tell her about life everlasting and Communion with Our Lord.

It was a pleasant chat, but then evening came and I had to leave, for the Lieutenant has us under a strict curfew and I did not want to anger him unnecessarily. I came back rejoicing that the Gammans had so far passed their test: they did have an attraction to music - and I presume to the other intellectual pleasures as well - but only the young fell prey to its allure. The adults, then, have learned to dominate this concupiscence, displaying great mortification in the face of temptation. I was impressed.

Over dinner, the mullah boasted that the Gammans were about to convert to his religion. The rabbi was not so sure about that, and neither was I, but still I could

not avoid thinking that I had to move even more quickly to bring the Good News to those people before others confused them with their superstition. I made my prayer and then went to my cabin in the landing craft, where I am now writing this. I ask you, Holy Father - I know you will not receive this until long after everything has happened, of course, but I am sure the Lord will listen to your prayer and grant it retroactively, for He is outside time - to beg Him for my work of tomorrow, on behalf of this planet that has so long lain in death and darkness.

Sure to receive your blessing, your humblest servant
in the Lord,
The priest.



Dear Holy Father,
I found it hard to sleep last night. I tossed and turned while I debated about what would be the best way to introduce my Gamman friends to our life in the Lord. Would it be best to go straight to the subject, as the mullah had been doing, or rather wait for a sign? Would they be able to understand? And if so, how would I know that grace had touched their souls, since I can barely tell the same among my people? (I say this without bitterness).

Perhaps it was pride that did not let me rest, Holy Father, for I thought that the Gammans' conversion depended on my personal ability. Whatever the reason, I woke up dizzy and bleary-eyed, and did not get any better during the morning, as I waited for the other two to finish their turn. I was deathly afraid that the mullah would be right and I would find the Gammans already converted to his sect when I spoke to them. Through the Lord's mercy, however, it was not to be.

The mullah came back to the landing craft in a dark mood. He was so uncommunicative during lunch that the Lieutenant worried that he had somehow offended the Gammans, thus jeopardizing our whole mission. He would not talk to us, but eventually the Lieutenant managed to extract from the rabbi that, indeed, he had gone too far this time and J's'th had asked the two of them to leave.

The Lieutenant, of course, advised me not to speak with the Gammans under such conditions, on the pretense that they were likely upset with all of us, but I saw the opportunity to reveal the true life to the Gammans and I was not going to waste it. So I went straight to their dwelling before anyone could stop me.

S's's'th opened the door, wearing a facial expression that - so I had been taught at the pre-landing briefing - meant disapproval. She invited me to come inside, however. I saw it was too dark to see and so I told her. I think the Gammans are able to distinguish between us by now, because she seemed to realize who I was, and that I was not going to argue with them as the mullah had done. She called J's'th, who I presume was working somewhere, and then the three of us boarded a kind of gravistat made of rustic materials that was placed near the door. I suppose their ancestors must have come originally from a planet with a higher gravity, and thus they need gravistat sessions to maintain their bone strength, so I did not begrudge it even though the gravistat frequency was so low that it made me ill.

As I expected, the Gammans complained about my companions' behavior. I tried to mollify them as best as I could, while I prayed that a window might open so I could reveal the Good News to them. Then I realized that their very displeasure was going to allow me to test whether the irascible passions held sway over their souls.

I tried to explain to them that we too get angry quite often, but without going into details about our wars and on-going enmities - I thought doing so would scandalize them, so that I would find it harder afterwards to speak about Communion in Our Lord. I am not sure they understood, but they seemed to be happy to hear me say that - again, according to the facial signs I was taught at the pre-landing briefing. I told them that wrath could be a holy thing when it was directed against sin and selfishness, and that made them even happier. I told them we should love holy things and hate death and its works, and then they began to touch me with their squishy hands, which I understood as a sign of approval.

But then I made a mistake: I was so happy to see that they agreed with me and thus were preparing themselves for grace, that I smiled. I did not remember that Gammans never smile as we do, so that when they are happy they express their joy by signs made with their limbs and faces, but never with a smile. I think my smile caught them by surprise and they became terrified, as a child sometimes does when a stranger fixes his eye on her.

They ran back to their dwelling, leaving me outside, still in the slowly swinging gravistat. I think my companions must have been watching me, for I heard the mullah coming through the intercom. He taunted me about my failure to convert the Gammans, and said that maybe the rabbi should try next, even though he did not want to make any converts, and bosh like that. I did not want to argue with him after being so close to the goal, so I tuned him out and prayed for enlightenment.

But then I made a mistake...

It was clear that peace and anger meant something completely different to the Gammans. It was even possible that they were unable to become authentically angry, and so

had to express their frustration in a different way. I took this as a positive sign, for it meant that their nature was also free from this deadly sin. So far they had proven to be free from lust, gluttony, sloth, and anger. If they were also free from envy, greed and pride they would be in the state of total innocence.

Testing for greed and envy was the easiest of all: I just had to give something to one of them and not to the others, and watch their reaction. The behavior of him who had received the gift would tell me whether they suffered from greed, while that of the others would no doubt display the ugly face of envy.

I chided myself for not having thought of it before - so clear was it now - and I immediately felt as if Our Lord were humbling me for having believed that I had been chosen because of my intellect, while in reality it was my sins and his mercy that had prepared the way. Without wasting a second, I jumped off the gravistat and returned to the landing craft - rather unsteadily, for I was still dizzy and my legs kept tangling as I walked. I do not think the Lieutenant noticed it and, in any case, I did not give him the chance to object. Ten minutes later I was back before the Gammans' dwelling carrying one of the spare pressure suits.

The youngsters were working outside with the help of crude instruments made of the same material as the gravistat and a kind of stitched-up ball. I walked straight to the smaller one and, making an effort not to smile again, gave him the suit.

For greater effect, I had turned on the spare suit's translator, so they could perhaps hear the sound of our speech. It worked: the younger Gamman heard himself translated and became intensely curious. The suit did not fit his sinuous body and long limbs, of course, but the helmet was large enough for him to stick his proboscis. He began to make noises, which the translator amplified, transformed into unintelligible gibberish.

This seemed to attract his brother's attention. He came up and spoke and again the translator picked it up and this time it converted it into our language - I will not try to transcribe what I understood of their conversation, Holy Father, for fear it would make you pale. Now they both wanted to introduce their proboscis into the helmet. There was only one suit, so either they agreed to share it or soon they would be fighting over it. Here was the test of fire, at last.



For a second, they looked indeed as if they were going to fight for it, which would have proved my theory (and thus disproved my brother theologian's assertion) that they too had come under the sway of sin and therefore needed Salvation, which I was only too eager to offer. Only for a second, I say, because then the suit slipped from their hands - I should have thought of it: those soft, wet fingers could not possibly hold any reasonable weight, no matter how many they were - and fell to the ground, with such bad fortune that the translator went out altogether.

They seemed to be stunned for a moment, but then they started tossing the suit at each other, swinging it over their heads. I had resolved to observe only,

so I watched in horror as the suit was torn up piece by piece until nothing was left but a tattered mess attached to the cracked-up helmet. Thus they used it for about half an hour, and then they abandoned it on the ground, for their mother had called them to go inside (probably to do some more work).

I found it hard to go back to the landing craft and face my team - especially the Lieutenant - but this time the rabbi took my side, so I was not alone suffering the wrath of the Lieutenant over the destroyed equipment. In a spirit of meekness, I lowered my gaze and did not reply to his tirade, although he did not limit himself to upbraiding me on account of the space suit, but also added all sorts of comments about the apostolic mission that Mission Control had tacked on the trip, and my methods. I did not expect otherwise, for I could see day after day how he seethed over the progress the mullah and I were making with the Gammans. He set the rabbi as a model for both of us - here he included the mullah as well, much to his displeasure - and threatened not to let us talk with the Gammans unless it was through the rabbi. The rabbi did not say yes or no, and in the end the Lieutenant got tired of shouting and went to his room to rant at someone else through the radio link.

Needless to say, I lost no time waiting to thank the rabbi for supporting me in the trial. In the spirit of true ecumenical brotherhood, I invited him to join me during our final day, as I finally revealed Our Lord to the Gammans. I was secretly hoping that this witness of faith would shake the rabbi out of his diffidence, so that he too would be filled with zeal and thus open himself to the action of grace. I was perhaps bending a bit the rules set out by Mission Control, that on no account should we try to proselytize fellow crewmembers, but what could they possibly do to me now?

The rabbi, as I have come to expect, merely shrugged off my offer, without saying either yes or no. I hope he will accompany me, though, for I greatly respect his opinion and his keen understanding of Gammans. I recall he was the first to put forth the theory that perhaps they do not have original sin and therefore are in no need of anyone to save them. So far he has been right, for the Gammans I have met do not seem afflicted by any deadly sin but perhaps the last one.

Like last night, I must ask you for your prayers, Holy Father, for tomorrow, our last day on this planet, will be the final test, on which the everlasting life of these people may depend.

Tomorrow is the day of pride.

Begging your fatherly blessing - and your prayers -
your humblest servant in the Lord,
The priest.

Dear Holy Father,
It is with a mixture of joy and sorrow that I write this, already in our mothership. I spent last night on a prayer vigil to implore from Our Lord the grace of conversion for the Gammans. I prostrated myself on knees and elbows, and told him that I would not move until he had granted me at least the souls of the four Gammans I have come to love and understand so well. I think he heard me, for at once a feeling of great peace overwhelmed me.

It was this grace, I am sure, that prepared me for the bad news. We had not finished breakfast when the Lieutenant told us that an FTL message had arrived and the scientists needed to perform a few more tests before departure. This, of course, was going to happen at the expense of our mission, so he was informing us that we would only have an hour to say goodbye to the Gammans while the landing craft prepared for take off. He said this with badly concealed glee, for which I forgave him.

The rabbi seemed to have been expecting something of the sort all along and did not complain, but I was beside myself. Only one hour! What could I possibly get done in one hour?

The mullah began to talk like the rabbi. All of a sudden he became moody and said it was all written and the Almighty had decreed it so and therefore the best thing to do was just leave and damn if he cared about the Gammans being saved if the Most High did not want them. I took note of his bizarre behavior and decided to stay away from him until take-off time, in case he got a revelation that I too should let things pass, and tried to stop me.

I was not ready to let things pass, of course, for billions of souls weighed on me and on what I would do in the brief time remaining. I do not think it was anything extraordinary: it is exactly how, I am completely sure, you would have acted, Holy Father.

So I grabbed a plant sprayer, filled it with water, and ran to the Gammans' dwelling to baptize them all - by force if necessary.

I am convinced Our Lord was filling me with his grace, because I felt so strengthened that, despite the run and the low oxygen concentration, I was inspired to remove my helmet so the Gammans would have a chance to see me as I am. I did not faint, as everybody had predicted, and was able, for the first time, to sense the exquisite fragrance that pervaded their dwelling.

It is hard to describe such a supernatural event to anyone who has not experienced it, but I am confident you will understand me, Holy Father, for you have, as our supreme herdsman, a very special grace to do so. That most delicate fragrance was like that of the best and most appetizing fruits of our land, but fresher, as if the scent itself could remove the defilement of flesh and spirit. I tracked its source, and found that the aroma that so intoxicated me emanated from the Gammans' bodies. It was most intense in the space between their lower limbs.

Who was I, Holy Father, to deny the grace of which I was a minister to souls who so strikingly displayed their holiness? I lost no time and baptized all four then and there with the sprayer, and then prepared to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice in their presence. It would be the first time that members of another species, now our brethren in spirit, would participate in the Sacred Banquet, and so his Body would make them become one with us.

I told the Gammans of my plan and they seemed to understand. As soon as the youngsters arrived, I began the celebration of the Sacred Mysteries. Midway through the first prayer, however, a doubt assailed me: with all my fervor and the rush to get done, I had forgotten to check whether the Gammans were enslaved by pride. I sensed that their trial would come, whether I intended it or not, for they could properly merit grace only if they overcame evil. But what could that trial possibly be?

...the Holy Sacrifice itself was to be their trial...

Thus I went on, my mind lost in cavils while my voice announced the sublime mysteries, when I realized, without anything having happened to bring it about, that the Holy Sacrifice itself was to be their trial, for in it was contained life eternal and, to the soul lost by pride, what could be more tempting than snatching it, to possess it apart from its source? The situation was very similar to that of our First Parents, but here I was the tempter, as I offered them the Lord's very life-giving Body.

My knees rattled as I approached the canon. Was it possible that the Gammans had been pretending all the time, and now were only waiting for the Sacred Species to be present in order to profane it or - perhaps even worse - to carry their fraud all the way to the end and consume it with a mind to challenge the Lord with his own power?

But there was no stopping now. I shut my mind to those evil thoughts and stretched my hands to hold the Sacred Species. Then I lowered my neck into my mouth and,

Inside the Hotel

Barley's

Looks like B, L, D.

No reservations needed (no smoking permitted)

Bradley's Lobby Lounge

L, D. No reservations required.
(smoking permitted).

Outside the Hotel

But Close (walking distance)

These places are north of the hotel a couple of blocks away. Just walk out of the hotel and turn left.

Gold Coast Dogs

A real Chicago Hot Dog place -outstanding hot dogs, char-dogs, etc. Old school greasy fries (be warned) Good Burgers, too. A 'lighter' menu is also available. 7085 Mannheim. 847-759-1520

Chili's

A casual dining national chain. You've seen the ads. 7140 Mannheim. 847-298-9031.
Menu at Info Desk.

Chipotle

Quick service Tex-Mex. Good burritos.
7020 Mannheim. 847-299-9201. 11am-10pm.

Panda Express

Fast food Chinese ala national chain.
7028 Mannheim. 847-824-9544. 11am-9pm.

IHOP

Pancakes and more.
7120 Mannheim. 847-297-7992. 6am - midnight.

Steak and Shake

Steakburgers, five-way chili, real cherry cokes, and good malts/shakes! Open 24 hours, be gentle with them.
10421 Touhy (far north end of the mall). 847-299-3944

Krispy Kreme

Mmmm DONUTS!!!! 7050 Mannheim. 6am - midnight.

Cold Stone Creamery

Ice cream and stuff beaten into the Ice Cream.
7110 Mannheim. Noon - 11 pm.



Continuing North On Mannheim

If you go left (north) out of the hotel to Oakton Street (about 1.5 miles), there are lots of fast food choices there, and some places to shop for supplies for parties, and such. Your choices include: **Arby's/KFC/McDonald's/TacoBell/Papa John's Pizza**, and more.

Near The Hotel

To The South And East

Most of these places are on Higgins, one light south of the hotel.

McDonald's

This is a BIG McD's – seems that the limo/livery drivers waiting for clients at O'Hare keep this one going.

Shoeless Joe's Sports Bar and Restaraunt

Just west of Mannheim at 10290 Higgins.
847-296-5760. Open until 4 am – kitchen open until 1 am.
Menu at Info Desk.

Harry Caray's Rosemont

10233 Higgins (in the Holiday Inn Select hotel).
847-699-1200. Menu at Info Desk.

Baja Fresh

Fast (and pretty good!) Mexican. 9514 Higgins.
11am - 9pm Fri/Sat 11am - 8pm Sun.

Starbucks

Getcher coffee here. 9500 Higgins.
Opens at 5am every day.

Ram Microbrewery and Restaurant

Good beers and good beef, too. 9520 Higgins.
847-692-4426. Menu at Info Desk.

Augie's Doggies

More Chicago-style hot dogs. 9467 Higgins.

Dunkin' Donuts

If you hate Krispy Kreme, try here.
9781 Higgins. 5am - 6 pm.

Quizno's Subs

Toasted. 9800 Higgins.
10am - 4pm Sat. 10am - 3pm Sun.

Giordano's Pizza

Good Chicago Style pizza and thin-crust too!
9415 Higgins. 847-292-2600

Gino's East

More Chicago style pizza. Which one's better? Depends on your taste. 8725 Higgins. 847-698-4949.

Supplies, Grocery Stores, And Such

The important question for many fans is "Where can I get stuff for my party!" Here are the closest places:

Target

Just north of the hotel. Snacks, supplies, paper goods, soda, no bheer. 10am - 10pm Mon-Sat. 10am - 9pm Sun.

K-Mart

At Mannheim and Oakton.

Jewel (Grocery)

Just north of Oakton on Mannheim.

Dominicks (Grocery)

Across Mannheim from the Jewel.

solemnly, severed it with a single bite. In the middle of my pain, I still felt how my former head, now liberated from the rest of my body, dissolved into a swarm of unicellular, immortal life, ready to assimilate into itself whatever with which it would come in contact.

How could I have foreseen that the Gammans, faced with the Source of all Life, flesh and blood consecrated by pain, which now I held in my hands, would react as they did? I was so engulfed within the Sacred Mystery that I lost track of them for the good half minute that I needed to regenerate and recover sight and hearing. But when I was back as myself, exultant with the contact with the One that makes us all One, they were nowhere to be seen.

I did not know what to make of it. I remained stupefied, hoping they had had to leave due to some emergency that I had missed, but would soon come back. But no one came. Naturally, the Holy Sacrifice had to be completed, so I consumed the Sacred Species and said the final prayers as quickly as I could, inwardly worried that something had gone terribly wrong. Then I went to the area where the Gammans had been.

I found, lying amid overturned furniture, as though they had disintegrated and no part of them was left from which they could regenerate, one of S's's'th's articles of clothing. It was a contraption vaguely resembling an elongated flagon, but porous and pliable, with which she prevented her soft foot from coming in direct contact with the ground.

I picked it up as a precious keepsake, and rushed back to the landing craft. When I got there, I felt giddy, perhaps because of the thin oxygen, but perhaps also because I realized the Gammans' sudden departure was the sign I had been waiting for. Faced with the presence of the Holy One, their reaction had not been one of pride, as I had feared, but one of profound humility, so much so that they had considered themselves unworthy to stand before it.

The mullah and the rabbi could not understand why I was so happy, even after I told them as best as I could: the Gammans had passed all the tests and no deadly sin had been found in their hearts. They did not need me or anyone else to save them. Their bodies were beyond ugliness but their souls were innocent, as we will never know how to be.

Soon after, we took off and reached the mothership. I did not tell anyone about S's's'th's garment, which will remain with me, as a precious relic, till I emerge from the cryostat. It will be my secret and your secret, Holy Father. I am sure it will find its way to your chapel, a most Holy grail for our liturgical libations, which will forever remind us to entrust ourselves to the intercession of this holy, sinless people.

Affectionately yours in the Eternal,
The priest.

I can't recommend it too highly to the reader who's found anything interesting or enjoyable in this story of mine. I know I've returned to it frequently during the writing of the book I'm doing now, and I know I'll continue to do so.

—Philip Pullman

THE ELEMENTS OF HIS DARK MATERIALS

A GUIDE TO PHILIP PULLMAN'S TRILOGY

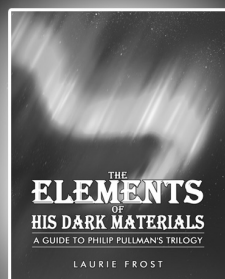
Laurie Frost opens windows into the worlds of *His Dark Materials*. An illustrated, comprehensive reference to Pullman's brilliant trilogy—valuable for fans and researchers alike.



"...tell them true stories, and everything will be well, everything. Just tell them stories." (AS 455/432)

Infinite worlds.

Infinite stories.



Chair - Pat Sayre-McCoy
Vice Chair - Rick Waterson

Adult Supervision

Head - Lisa Hunter
2nd - Lara Balliet
Staff - Chris DuVono
 Devon Murphy
 Rob Martin
 Pat Reed

Art Show

Head - Kerry Kuhn
2nd - Mike Cole
Auction - Bob Passovoy
Print Shop - Roberta Jordan

Babysitting - Vickie Bone

Children's Programming - Elaine Silver

Consuite -

Head - Jessica Monaghan
2nds - Mina Lawniczak
 Paul Lawniczak
Staff - Drew Scheeler
 Kharmin Johannessen
 Myron Deutch
 Chris Dundon
 Taz Dobbin
 Alan Lambert
 Cian Brenner

Dealers

Head - Mike Jencevice
2nds - Bill Jarns
 Brendan Lonehawk
Staff - Gloria Dill
 Barb Darrow
 Bill Surrgit
 Steve Metzger
 Carol Metzger
 Marta Rose
 Jason Spitzer

Filk - Jan DiMasi
 Sue Len

Films - David Hoshko
 Bernadette Burke

Gaming - Alex Bailey
 Paul Lyn-Waitsman

GoH Liaison - Amy Wenshe

Green Room - Ann Totusek

Hotel & Parties

Head - Phoenix
2nd - Sunshine Levy
Staff - Sydnie Krause

Information Desk - John Donat

Information Services - Richard France

ISFiC Press - Bob Garcia
 Randy Kaempen
 Bill Roper
 Steven Silver

ISFiC Writer's Contest - Marcy Lyn-Waitsman

Logistics

Head - Joseph R. Stockman
2nd - Lisa Hunter

Masquerade

Director - Barbara Wright
Technical Specialist - Robert Anders
Mistress of Ceremonies - Wendy Zdrodowski
Judges - Karen Berquist
 Henry Osier
 Carol Mitchell
Green Room - Jennifer Adams Kelley
 Valerie Kelley
 Michele Jaye Solomon

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2nd - Karl Meyer
Staff - Andrea Allen
 Chris Allen
 Tom Brady
 Dan Hauschild
 Phaedra Meyer

Publications - Deb Kosiba

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 Elaine Silver

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2nds - Gary Rivers
 Christopher France
Staff - Krista Cobb
 Vicki Johnson
 Coleen Esler
 Kim Ely

Secretary - Bill Roper

Special Events - Lisa Garrison Ragsdale

Treasury - Tom Veal
 Bill Roper
 Lenny Wenshe

Technical Services

Head - David Ifversen
2nd - Angela Karash
Staff - The Board of SuperConDuckTivity

Volunteers - Jonathan Stoltze

Webmaster - John McCoy