

PARADOX

READ. IMAGINE. THINK.

"E" Writes

Greetings from E,

It is hard to believe that we are to the Fall edition of the Paradox for 2003. So many things have happened in the last three months, that I have totally lost track of time. As many know and some might not, not all the happenings were good. In this Paradox there will be a section in memory of our friend, Paul Clites. We miss him very much.

There are also many articles by our wonderful people of DMSFS. Thank you for all your contributions. They are greatly appreciated by me and also all those who do not have to read articles written by me. And there was great rejoicing by all!

Also check out the calendar and DMSFS Family News. We have had some wonderful things happen. Hopefully see most of you at ICON or Archon in the October. Toodles,

By Madam Editor, Mandi Arthur

The Paradox brings you . . .

Who is that DMSFS Member?

In our busy world, we miss getting to know people at times. The *Paradox* wants to correct this oversight and introduce members of DMSFS to you. Some are well known, others are not but everyone will learn something new.

DMSFS Member: Greg Abba

Age: Younger than what I actually am.

Non sequiter on immortality

Currently: Self Employed

Turn Ons: Crowd reactions, good friends and companions

Turn Offs: Workplace Politics

Fave Food: Peanut Butter

Fave Construction Material: Tape

Fave Tool: Belt Sander

Zodiac Sign: Leo

Shoe Size: 11EEE

TV Shows: Buffy, Farscape, Angel, Stargate

Music: New Age, Rock

Politics: What?

Best Skill: 3D/Greg of all Trades

Fave Author: Laurell K. Hamilton

Fave Director: Spielberg

Motto/Quote: Live Long and Prosper.

Alternate Motto: Today is not a good day to die. How about next Thursday?

(*Editor's Comment:* What do you get when you mix Greg, corn on the cob and his favorite food? One of Greg's favorite food mixes or some picture that I really should have not put in your minds... sorry.)



DemiCon-A-Fan-A-Listic-XV... The ConCom's View

Department Heads and ConComs have had their first two gatherings. We welcome both new faces and old to our first DH meetings. We also had visiting club members. Our next meeting is Sunday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the Girl Scout Office in Clive and we continue to welcome any club member who wishes to attend.

Departments and their Heads are as follows:

ArtShow	Jon Mohning
ConSuite	Diane Dunlap, Mike and Candy Anderson
Database	Les Roth
Dealers/DMSFS Table	Al Hohrmann
Finance	Greg Abba
Gaming	Jeremy Bement
Guests	Sheril Harper, Alan Koslow
Hotel	Greg Abba, Alan Koslow
Programming	Mandi Arthur
--Anime	Megan Harper
--Masquerade	Rachelle Hrubetz
--Music	Josh More
--Youth	Monica Harper, Megan Totusek, Liz Koslow, Taylor Ely
Publications	Max Rauer Jr.
Publicity	Sallie Abba
QuarterMaster	Mark Jones
Registration	Ida Jones
Security	Bo3b Harper
--Parties	Rick Lancaster
Volunteers	Susan Stewart
Webmaster	Josh More

➔ Reminder . . .

DemiCon 15 is April 30, May 1 and 2, 2004. Our Guests of Honor are Authors Emma Bull and Will Shetterly, Artist Frank Kelly Freas, Phan Rusty Hevelin and our Toastmaster will be Tadao Tomomatsu.

➔ Two Contests!

Complete The Motto – just add your tag line to the start of our motto "DemiCon-A-Fan-A-Listic-XV..."

Add A Verse – we're going to collecting verses for the official DemiCon XV filk, done to the tune of, you guessed it, Super-cali-fragalistic-expialadocious!! Verses must be DemiCon or Phannish related.

Submit your suggestions to us via email at info@demicon.org, via snail mail at **DemiCon XV PO Box 7572 Des Moines, IA 50322**, or visit our website at www.demicon.org.

➔ Register Now!

The Fall Mailer will be arriving soon or register online at www.demicon.org with PayPal. It is never to early to register.

We can't wait to see you, this will be one Demi-Con-A-Fan-A-Listic Convention!



DemiCon Trivia

What cartoon character appeared as an alien on DemiCon 1's flyer?
Hint: I tought I taw a Klingon Targ.

Answer: Tweety

How I Spent My Summer, or Community Theater Adventures by Jan Mahning

I just had the most enjoyable and challenging theater experience this summer as I portrayed a cop investigating a murder at a play involving a nervous audience and crazy actors in Carousel Community Theater of Indianola's "You Have The Right To Remain Dead." I originally was going to pass over doing summer community theater in Indianola this year because TICC was possibly going to perform at the World Science fiction Convention in Toronto. I didn't want to wrestle with trying to memorize lines for two different shows like I did last year for TICC's ConJose Masquerade Halftime show and Carousels "State Fair" summer show. About the same time it appeared TICC would not be performing in Toronto I found out what this years summer show would be. "You Have The Right To Remain Dead" was an audience-participation murder mystery comedy. With I title like that, I couldn't let this play pass by without auditioning for it.



I auditioned for a part and got the character of Officer Bainbridge, a cop forced to investigate a murder during a play - a "show-within-a-show" sort of thing. Originally, Bainbridge was going to be something of a buffoon who has a brief moment of police glory when he solves the murder. Shortly after rehearsals started, the character's focus shifted from a cop who was 'one doughnut shy of a variety pack' to a smart, tough, in-command policeman. It took a little while to view Bainbridge in this way, and it was tough to do. I had all sorts of silly on-stage things my Bainbridge cop character could do during the show, none of which would work for a in-control cop.

Bainbridge has lots of dialogue, probably the most of any of the other characters in the play. It was very challenging to memorize all that dialogue. There were several nights I fell asleep with my script. Many of the lines had no obvious cue-in such as "Officer, what do we do now?" I just had to pay real attention and know when my next line was. There were times I wondered if I would get all the lines committed to memory, especially after a couple of less than stellar rehearsals and opening night fast approaching. I was also "moderator" for two of the audience participation parts, which also put my improvisational skills to the test.

I'm glad to report I did get all those lines down. We had six good performances of "Dead". Small crowds because of the Indianola Balloon Festival and Iowa State Fair, but they were good crowds. The audience seemed to enjoy the show, especially when the crazy actors go out and question the audience about the murder. It was also a high-energy show that left me rather drained after several rehearsals and each performance.

I learned quite a lot about my acting abilities this summer, especially how to improve them. Our director, Allison Hade, a theater major at the University of Iowa and an admitted Buffy & Angel fanatic, taught me and the rest of the "Dead" cast new ways to approach character motivation, dialogue memorization, and improvisation.

Community Theater Vs. TICC

Community Theater: We hope the audience remembers our show for a long time.

TICC: We hope the audience was too drunk to remember the show.

Community Theater: We strive for our shows to be sprinkled with much applause.

TICC: We strive for our shows to be littered with numerous dead bodies.

Community Theater: Our prop bottles hold colored water that looks like booze.

TICC: Our prop bottles hold booze that looks like colored water.

Community Theater: It's amazing what we can do on a shoe-string budget.

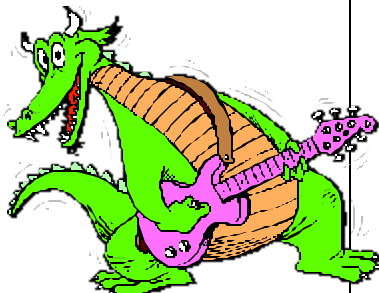
TICC: It's amazing what we can do with duct tape.

Community Theater: We sometimes rehearse in between shows by "line-bashing" our parts.

TICC: What we do would probably get us arrested.

Community Theater: Our director sometimes tells us we need more energy during a show.

TICC: Our director tells us to save our strength for the room parties after the show.



Taming Dragons at the Iowa State Fair 2003

On Friday, August 15, the DMSFS group hit the Iowa State Fair with the "How to Tame a Dragon" cooking contest. All entrants were required to create a dish that would save the day and stop a rampaging dragon in their neighborhood. Along with a dish, a written explanation of how it would stop the hungry dragon was required. While the judges were sampling the food entries with the dragon looking on, MCs Alan Koslow and Mandi Arthur read the explanations. At the end while the final judging decisions were being made, the DMSFS Improvisational group took the audience on a "Dragon Safari" led by Bob Harper, who would describe the scene that was being improvised behind him. Thank you to all the DMFSF members who participated, it was a big hit and we will be back next year.

Taylor Ely of West Des Moines earned overall winner for his "Strawberry Pizza." **Marion Karlin** of Waterloo took second place for her "Chilies



Stuffed with Zesty Beef Picadillo." Centerville's **Molly Thomas** rounded out the top three in third place with her "Dragon Popcorn."



The following list is the winners in the categories that DMSFS had set up.

Zesty

- 1) Marion Karlin, Chilies Stuffed with Zesty Beef Picadillo, Waterloo
- 2) Linda L. Asbille, Dragon Burger, Indianola
- 3) Mick Wise, Dragon Tamer Cheesecake, Des Moines

Mild

- 1) Molly Thomas, Dragon Popcorn, Centerville
- 2) Marion Karlin, Braised Leek Side Dish with Poppy Seed Dressing, Waterloo

Sweet

- 1) Taylor Ely, Strawberry Pizza, West Des Moines
 - 2) Colleen Pokorny, Fruit Pizza, Des Moines
 - 3) Catherine Hollinrake, Crème de Menthe Cheesecake, Albia
- (HM) Molly Thomas, Little Country Mice, Centerville



contestants is not allowed!

In Memory of Paul Clites

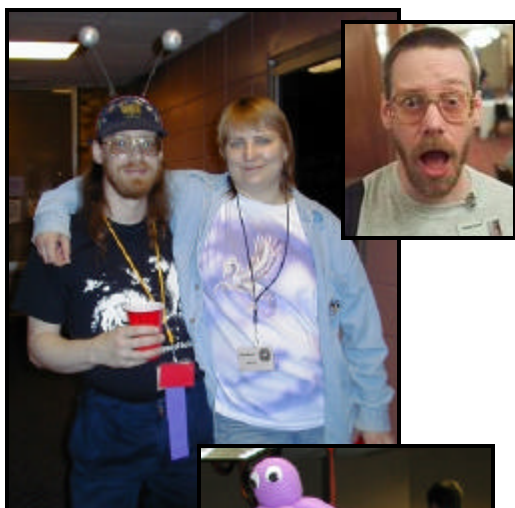
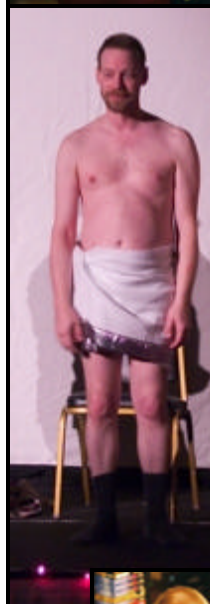
In July the Des Moines Science Fiction Society lost a good friend. Paul was found in his house slumped against the wall, gone. We still don't know what happened and many of us still don't know what to think. Paul thought he was going to live forever. There are times I still turn around at TICC practice and expect to see him sitting on the couch in the corner reading a book or saying a snappy comeback. There have been times that someone has said something and realized the person who would have understood the comment is not there with a laugh or opinion. We all have missed Paul at unexpected times in unexpected ways. These pages are dedicated to Paul.



Celebration Party!
 In celebration of Paul's life, Rachele Hrubetz will be hosting a party at ICON on Friday, October 10, 2003, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
 But this is not just a party for Paul, come and make a toast in memory or honor of any loved ones.
 So we invite you to raise your glass to those that have gone before and celebrate life the way Paul would have wanted us too.
 (Sorry, clothes do need to stay on.)



There are things that I miss very much about Paul. The one item that truly stands out to me is how he always knew how to make an Impression on camera and off.
 Here is just a few pictures that I have from Wookiee's and my collections.
 Mandi Arthur



I Remember . . .
 By Nancy Wirsig McClure

I remember Paul in many ways and at unexpected times.

I remember Paul speaking on "Shakespeare in the Original Klingon" at Demicon, and doing a perfect parody of a pedantic professor.

I remember Paul preparing for a convention by stuffing his backpack with balled-up t-shirts and CheapAss games (although the stuffed backpack might still be in the back seat of his car).

I remember Paul latching gleefully onto a small plastic construction kit, because it could be used to build models of molecules.

I remember Paul "travelling light" with regard to material goods, but collecting original pieces of art by Erin McKee.

I remember Paul working for a lumber delivery company, and getting some nice muscle definition in his arms and back.

I remember Paul showing up at an Overdressers' Pajama Party in a custom-made black g-string with a tiny white tuxedo bib and bow tie. I also remember him later wearing it into the hot tub at ICON, and being unfazed when getting wet made it transparent.

I remember Paul refusing to celebrate his birthday, because it was the anniversary of an event he couldn't remember.

I remember Paul being passionate about song lyrics, haunting a coffeehouse to hear a group who wrote good lyrics, and being Janis Ian's biggest fan.

I remember Paul caring little about what he wore, until he was persuaded that a silk shirt might encourage women to touch him.

I remember Paul writing love poetry, printing it on his dot-matrix printer, and using a push-pin to hang it on the wall over his bed.

I remember Paul describing to waitresses how rare he wanted his steak: "Just wave a match under it."

I remember Paul having a big healthy tree removed from his yard (because it was a nuisance), and covering his bedroom windows with plywood on the inside (for noise insulation).

I remember Paul being tickled with the gift of a button that said, "Does anal retentive have a hyphen?"

I remember Paul saying male children should be raised with cats so they learn how to caress, for their future experiences with women.

I remember Paul having no interest in camping, saying the twentieth century was roughing it enough for him.

I remember Paul trying to be blase' about being named Fan GoH at Wilicon.

I remember Paul insisting that a word meant what he said it meant -- ignoring authorities like Webster's.

I remember Paul planning to travel to Oregon and including a visit to Marshall's folks, because they're such cool people.

I remember Paul picking out a feisty black kitten at the humane society, and being pleased by the suggested name of Powder ("black powder" is an archaic term for gunpowder).

I remember Paul speaking of giving a button he'd made to Eric Drexler, who named nanotechnology. The button said "first generation immortal."

I remember Paul saying he had all the time in the world to accomplish his goals, because he was going to live forever.

I remember Paul.

Remembering Paul Clites

By Rodney Ruff

"Paul is dead"

Those words are the message you're supposed to hear if you play the Beatles' *Abbey Road* album backward. Those words were only a fiction, however. But the words now are real for me, and my world is backward. My friend Paul Clites is dead.

I learned the news late, after the friendship E-mail I forwarded to a number of people, including several in DMSFS, received two responses. One was a bounce message from Paul's E-mail client, which I didn't think much of at the time, other than to think it was a bit strange that Paul's E-mail should have bounced, since it never had before. The other, from Gene Miller, threw me for a loop. In it, he mentioned Paul's passing indirectly, giving a comparison of their ages, but not using Paul's last name, so I E-mailed him back to ask for confirmation.

While awaiting Gene's response, I thought back over the times I had shared with Paul in the years I had known him. I first got to know Paul when he and I sat on a DemiCon panel with Eric Oppen on the subject "The Three Books Every Fan Should Read." I asked Eric before the panel if he knew Paul, and at the time, he didn't. When we finally all met for the panel, I recognized Paul from his performance in the previous year's opening ceremonies with his deadpan delivery of the Narrator's lines in "The Skiffy Horror Show's" first number, "Let's Do The Net-Surf Again."

One of the books Paul recommended was a favorite work by his favorite author, James P. Hogan, *Thrice Upon A Time*. At the time I hadn't read it, but I had read Hogan's *The Genesis Machine* and liked it immensely, so I took Paul's advice and was glad I did.

Paul also had a strong interest in science, and so was one person I could count on seeing when I attended WillyCon at Wayne State College in Nebraska. I was there when he was asked to serve as the con's fan guest of honor for 2002, when James Hogan served as the author guest of honor. I was jealous, but my jealousy faded when I heard him remark in awe over getting to serve as fan guest at the convention where his favorite author was the main guest.

When serving as fan guest, Paul ran a demonstration of Cheapass Games' U.S. Patent #1 on Saturday night. I sat in, intending only to learn a new game and spend some time before filking started. Instead, I turned a misunderstanding of the rules into the means to earn the money to buy the parts I needed to complete my time machine and win the game, missing the filking entirely.

And, even though, to my knowledge, I wrote more of them than he did, Paul's filk "Hotel Sarajevo" was one of my favorite filks by another filker. He showed it to me in 2000 at WillyCon on the Palm PDA he was teaching himself to program on, and I

had it along with me in the DemiCon filk book when I took it to MarsCon and performed it in the karaoke room with one of the Xenaversity people. When I told Paul at the following year's WillyCon about having performed his filk, he threw his head back in laughing appreciation.

The times I remember most with Paul, though, were the times spent in conversation over both matters fanish and about life in general. He was someone who taught me a great deal and was a supportive sounding board for my own ideas and beliefs. He was capable of looking at the world through someone else's eyes, and he was also able to communicate his eye-view to others.

All these memories and others ran through my mind while I awaited Gene's e-mail reply. Ideas for what I would say in tribute also circulated through my brain as I stubbornly clung to the hope that my worst fears weren't true.

Unfortunately, they were. And the shock was no less for having anticipated its coming. I was numb for the entire day after reading Gene's description of the details surrounding Paul's death and his memorial service.

The last time I saw Paul was at this year's DemiCon. He was one of the last people I said good-bye to when the con ended. It's mind-blowing to think that the man I shook hands with in May has been reduced to several pounds of ashes I can hold in my hand.

At least I had the satisfaction telling him I appreciated his friendship, even if only in an indirect fashion. At this year's WillyCon, I invited him to join me in viewing the Smithsonian's touring exhibit of "Yesterday's Tomorrows" at one of the other buildings on the Wayne State campus, saying that "it would be even better shared with a friend." And we toured it together, sharing our individual perspectives on what we saw together there and what we had experienced individually elsewhere.

And I knew that Paul appreciated my friendship as well. When I mentioned at one WillyCon that I had just managed to get my pre-registration in for that year's DemiCon before the deadline, he replied, "There'd be something wrong if you *weren't* coming." And when we said good-bye to each other at DemiCon this year, it was with words of looking forward to seeing one another again. But it was not to be.

I will not see Paul again, except in my memory and my imagination of how he would react to the things I want to share with him and now cannot. I will treasure the memories of the times we shared together, even as I will regret that there will be no more times to create additional memories.

I will miss you, my friend.

Hotel Sarajevo"

A slice of DemiCon mythology
-Written by talking lizard
AKA Paul Clites

On a dark prairie highway
Cool wind in my hair
Warm smell of the hog farms
Rising up thru the air
Up ahead in the distance
I saw a shimmering light
My head grew heavy and my sight
grew dim
I had to stop for the night

Toilets stood in the stairway
I saw a wrecking ball
And I was thinking to myself
This is one hell of a place for a stall
Workers lit roman candles
In the room down the way
There were gunshots down the
corridor
I thought I heard them say

Welcome to the Hotel Sarajevo
Such a trying site (such a trying
fight)
There's fumes in the rooms at the
Hotel Sarajevo
And in future years, you won't find us
here

There was a wedding reception,
tuxes, gowns and hard-hats
They had a lot of roundy-roundy
words with the hotel fatcats
Had their dance in the ballroom, and
in no time they left
It's a night to remember that they
want to forget
So I asked in the consuite,
"Can we do a smooth?"
He said, "We haven't done that ritual
here
Since Tucker gave up the booze."
And still those voices are calling
from far away
Wake you up in the middle of the
night
Just to hear them say

Welcome to the Hotel Sarajevo
Such a trying site (such a trying
fight)
They're ripping it up at the Hotel
Sarajevo
While the weekend lasts, wear your
filter masks

Spackle on the ceiling, 40-grit in the
pool
We said, "We are all just refugees
here, or at least we're fools"
And at the dead-dog party
We looked like homeless Serbs
Tried to rough out all our legal briefs
But we just can't find the words

Last thing I remember is watching
"Win, Lose or Draw"
And tracking down a sign-up sheet
to go to next year's Name That
Con
"Pack up," said the marshal,
"we have fire codes in this town.
You'd better check out while the
price is right,
'Cause I'm shutting it down."
[extended guitar solo]

Calendars and Milestones



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
September 2003						
7	8	9	10	11	12 DMSFS Meeting	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Midwest Construction	20 Midwest Construction Ann Arbor, MI
21 Midwest Construction	22	23	24	25	26 DMSFS Meeting Arcana	27 Arcana St. Paul, MN
28 Arcana	29 	30				

Dan Gardner
September 7

Jeremy Bement
September 8

Jesscera
BarronMiller
September 12

Andrew & Arthur
Cleary
September 19

Ruth Sheller
September 28

Gabrielle Roach
September 29

Rowan Louise
Poovey
September 29

Diane Dunlap
October 4

Rodney Ruff
October 4

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Archon St. Louis	3 Archon TICC to perform	4 Archon
October 2003						
5 Archon	6	7	8	9	10 ICON (NO MEETING)	11 ICON Cedar Rapids
12 ICON	13	14	15	16	17 CONsume/ Relaxacon	18 Brooklyn Park, MN
19 CONsume/ Relaxacon	20	21	22	23	24 DMSFS Meeting	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 ValleyCon Moorhead, MN	

Mandi Arthur
October 6

Kat BarronMiller
October 7

Wendy Arnburg
October 12

Mike Svien
October 16

Nancy Wirsig
McClure
October 21

Johnathon Dixon
October 26

Mary K. Webster
November 19

Scott Koslow
November 21

Rachelle Hrubetz
November 23

Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 ValleyCon Moorhead, MN
November 2003						
2 ValleyCon Moorhead, MN	3	4	5	6	7 Contraception WindyCon	8 Contraception WindyCon
9 Contraception WindyCon	10	11	12	13	14 DMSFS Meeting	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 	22
23 	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30						

Tammy & Jon
Mohning
September 1, 1990

Brian Weigel &
Susan Stewart
September 17,
1994

Greg & Sallie
Abba
November 10,
1979

Bob & Sheril
Harper
November 21,
1983

Scott & Wendy
Arnburg
November 22

DMSFS meetings are held at West Des Moines Community Center 217 5th St. There is parking and a covered entrance at the rear of the building off of 4th St.

The Des Moines Science Fiction Society, Ltd.
P.O. Box 7572
Des Moines, IA. 50323

How to Reach Us:

If you need to contact the Des Moines Science Fiction Society for any reason, including subscription to this newsletter and submission of newsletter articles or information, you may do so via any of the following methods:

DMSFS relocated our meeting place. We are meeting at the **West Des Moines Community Center 217 5th St.** There is parking and a covered entrance at the rear of the building off of 4th St. Please join us in our new venue for club meetings.



By US Mail:	The Des Moines Science Fiction Society, Ltd. P.O. Box 7572 Des Moines, IA. 50323
By E-mail:	paradoxwrangler@dmsfs.org (Subject: For Paradox)
By Website	www.dmsfs.org www.demicon.org
By Phone	(515) 830-1305 (Voice mail checked daily)

DMSFS Family News

- **Congratulation to Sam Abba** for being a semifinalist in the Balticon Student Science Fiction and Fantasy High School Story and Essay Contest for his story *The Legacy*.
- **Congratulation to Dee Willis** for being put on the heart transplant list. We are thinking about you and Marshall and keeping happy thoughts
- **Congratulations to Lisa Rich-McKelvey** for her first place win at the MEDINA (Middle Eastern Dance in North America) competition held in St. Louis, Missouri this last August.
- **TICC will be performing** at Archon Friday, October 3 with "The League of Extraordinary CrazyFhen."
- DMSFS will be helping the Merle Hay Mall kick off the last Lord of the Ring movie with an all day extravaganza. More information to follow.
- **Congratulations to the Pettingers** and everyone that was in the Trumps of Amber entry which included Les Roth and Sam Abba. The entry won the following awards:
 - Best in Class Workmanship Master
 - Best in Show
- **Congratulations all who participated in the Abbas & Hrubetz's costume** for their Masquerade Entry in Toronto "Winter is Coming". The entry won the following awards:
 - Tied for Best in Class Workmanship Journeyman
 - Best Presentation Journeyman
 - Bantam Books Song of Ice and Fire Award
 - Cement Overshoes Award. Presented by the Chicago land Costumer's Guild to the entry they'd most like to see take a long walk off a short pier so they can have their stuff.

