

READ. IMAGINE. THINK.

Fall 2002

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How To Reach Us

We Need Your Help

The Des Moines Science Fiction Society and DemiCon are looking at a big decision. We need your help and feedback. Go to www.dmsfs.org and click on the "Latest News" link. Take the poll to let us know what you think about a possible move to Easter weekends for DemiCon starting with DemiCon 15. We have been discussing this on the DMSFS Chat List. If you want to be added, email listar@dmsfs.org with the subject "subscribe chat" or "subscribe announce." Thank you for your time.

Worldcon Report

My Fun in the Masquerade

By Jon Mohning

When Tammy & I confirmed we would attend the 60th World Science Fiction Convention in San Jose, California, I decided I wanted to follow in the footsteps of the award-winning "Galaxy Breast Bra" costumes and compete in the Worldcon Masquerade contest. After thinking about costume ideas for a while, I came up with an entry entitled "Harry Garcia Potter and the Sorcerer is Stoned." It would poke fun at Harry Potter (and the Sorcerer's Stone) and Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead. The costume would consist of a tie-dyed wizard's outfit, a white wig and beard, 60's style round sunglasses, a large peace symbol, and some fake marijuana leaves.

I got together with a seamstress friend of mine, Melissa Hawk, to plot out the costume details. She created a three-piece costume consisting of a long sleeveless inner robe, an outer sleeved cloak, and tall wizard's hat. I then tie-dyed the pieces to create the psychedelic effect I wanted. The neighborhood squirrels were fascinated while I laid out the plastic drop cloths on our driveway and tie-dyed away! It took two tie-dyeing sessions to get the costume dyed to my satisfaction. I then made a tape of some narration to introduce the costume and set up the punch line. The tape also had a clip of music from the Harry Potter soundtrack and "Touch of Grey" by the Grateful Dead.

The costume, as well as the rest of our luggage, survived the plane trips to San Jose just fine. After some wrinkle smoothing (courtesy of Rachelle's travel steamer) and a quick technical rehearsal, I was ready to compete in my first masquerade contest! I arrived at the auditorium where the masquerade was being held and was ushered to the dressing rooms and waiting area. I got into my costume and at the encouragement of my group's "den mother," I got into the line for workmanship judging. We costumers were divided into groups of about five to six people with a "den mother" in charge of a group. He or she would help the costumers around the waiting areas and backstage, fetch a bottle of water or soda pop if needed, and offer words of support as we literally sweated out our turns in the lines for workmanship judging, the professional photographers, and backstage as we waited to go on. At one point I was using my cloak to fan a breeze for a costumer waiting behind me while the costumer ahead of me was fanning me with her cape. Interesting way to pass the time while in line and make new friends.

I was placed right after the kid's costuming group so I could get out of costume and join the TICC cast waiting to perform the Worldcon Masquerade Halftime Show. My den mother whispered "knock 'em out" to me as I took my place in the wings and waited for my cue to walk out onto the

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stage. The Harry Potter music started and I heard my voice on the tape tell the story of a young wizard. At the "proper" point in the narration, I walked out on stage. I slowly spun around to twirl the cloak a little as I reached the front center stage mark. I then slowly moved right hand around the large peace symbol hanging from my neck as I reached for the fake marijuana leaves tucked into the rope belt behind my back. As the narrated punch line "Harry Garcia Potter and the Sorcerer is Stoned" was said, the music shifted to the Grateful Dead tune. I made a peace sign and tugged on the fake marijuana. The string broke and I accidentally scattered some fake pot leaves on the stage. Oops - that was not part of my plan! I tried to scoop up a few leaves as I danced around a bit and eventually made my way off the stage. Les Roth darted out on stage and scooped up the rest of the fake pot for me. I almost gave my den mother a mild heart attack when I got out of my costume to join TICC, forgetting about the amateur photographers waiting to take pictures. I quickly got back into the costume and spent several minutes being blinded by all the flash units going off as I stuck several poses while a few dozen photographers took my picture.

Our costuming efforts were acknowledged with two awards that night. For Workmanship in the Novice class, I received Honorable Mention for the "Best Stained Fingers Award." For Presentation in the Novice class, I received Honorable Mention for the "Best Magical Mystery Tour Award." I was given two ribbons and a certificate of recognition.

I had the time of my life as a masquerade participant and award winner! I'll always remember the look of the other costumers in the waiting area as I explained the costume idea and they "got" the punch line. Hearing the roar of the masquerade audience as they "got" the punch line was a thrill. I was also rather pleased to see other costumers (especially the "pros") nod their heads in approval of my costume as we later watched the tape of the masquerade in the costumer's suite.

All in all, it was definitely the trip of a lifetime!!



The Paradox Reporter

By Mike Anderson

The case of Mary Poppins' invisible twin sister and the teleporting horses

Candy and Mike Anderson had a get-together at their St. Charles acreage on Monday, September 2nd for those who could not hit ConJose. About 30 people attended. Food was grilled, kids swam, horses were rode. Really, the usual kind of thing, not worth noting in Paradox, except for what this reporter saw:

At about 5:00 p.m. the day of September 2, the party was temporarily disturbed by a large wind gust. An outdoor umbrella was lifted from its moorings on a patio table entirely up and over the house roof and landed in the yard to the east. Many eyewitnesses report that it rather looked like an invisible Mary Poppins on steroids going over the roof. This was a rather large umbrella! Candy and a few friends were outside by the fence trying to coax the horses to them for petting, adoration, etc. al. When the umbrella "incident" took place, these eyewitnesses report that the four horses teleported all the way past the pasture and to the north fence, as far away as they could physically get from the mutant umbrella. Doubtless, they were saying to each other the equine equivalent of "what the hell was that." The horses rather apprehensively eyed the now-dormant umbrella in our front yard, ready to panic further, perhaps seeking points much further west in Madison County. Luckily, Candy and company were laughing so hard at the "dead" umbrella that the horses stayed put and gradually calmed down, making sure that the humans were not spooked by the scary umbrella. The horses would not be coaxed back toward the house however until their feed buckets were filled at about 9:30 p.m.. It was expected that they decided not to take any further chances for awhile.

Mary Poppins' invisible twin sister was unavailable for comment.



News Briefs TICC at the Con

As we head into Fall the fast pace of Summer starts to slow down and we pause . . . for about a second. A person would think that the DMSFS members would sit back and rest. But that's not happening. Take a look as see what the members of the group are up too.

Archon 26 wants us back (for some unknown reason). The *Trans Iowa Canal Company*™ will be taking the stage this October after the opening ceremonies Friday night. Come and see TICC entertain a whole new audience on Friday, October 4, 2002 at 8 p.m. at Collinsville, IL .

DemiCon 14 website is up and running. Check out www.demicon.org for the new site.

The DemiCon 15 ConCom has been chosen at the last meeting of August. The lucky (more like insane) individuals were Greg Abba, Sheril Harper and Tammy Mohning. From one ConCom to another, I wish you luck. . . you are going to need it.

Letter From The Editor

The newsletter is a little late this month but getting ready *and* recovering from WorldCon can do that to you. It was a wonderful event at a great place. From masquerade half time entertainment with TICC to being an escort for the Hugos, I had a blast. There are pictures throughout the newsletter. We made new friends and was able to get in touch with a few of our favorite people. DMSFS World CostumeCon bid party went wonderfully with ice cream sundaes for anyone who wanted one. Andy and Kevin were outstanding hosts for the Costumer's Room and welcomed us with open arms. DMSFS also hosted a table for Iowa Fandom at ConJose that let people know who were are and how much is going on in Iowa.

But if you missed the TICC performance, parties and information, don't fret, Archon is right around the corner. We will be hosting a Demicon 14/World CostumeCon Bid party at St. Louis. Hosts will be Sallie & Greg Abba and they have a theme. Ask them if you want to join in, think fish. There also will be TICC performing right after Archon opening ceremonies. They won't know what hit them. Come and check us out. You won't be sorry. . . or at least you will be entertained.

- Mandi Arthur



Meetings

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at Mayhem Comics, 7500 University, Windsor Heights. Discuss group begin at 6:30 p.m.; business meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. Dinner begins at the conclusion of the business meeting. Meetings times and locations are subject to change. To verify meeting information call (515) 830-1305 or check the DMSF website at www.dmsfs.org Note: Discussion group is lead by different people who volunteer for one to two Friday discussions on a book of their choice.

September 2002

- 27 *Discussion:* Lead by Ann Totusek
Business Agenda: Second round of Club Officer nominations and officer elections, DemiCon 14 Fall Mailer, and choosing DemiCon 15 Guests of Honor
Dinner: Ohana Steakhouse

October 2002

- 11 *Discussion:* TBA
Business Agenda:
Dinner: Felix & Oscar's
- 25 *Discussion:* TBA
Business Agenda:
Dinner: Great China

November 2002

- 8 *Discussion:* TBA
Business Agenda:
Dinner: Famous Dave's - WDM

- 22 *Thanksgiving weekend no meeting*

December 2002

- 14 *Discussion:* TBA
Business Agenda:
Dinner : Paradise Pizza



Calendars

Events

Arcana

September 27-29, 2002 Holiday Inn Express - Bandana Square, St. Paul, MN
GoH: Joe Bob Briggs (John Bloom)

ValleyCon Science Fiction & Fantasy EXPO

October 4-6, 2002 Best Western Doublewood Inn, Fargo, ND
GoH: Virginia Hey, Kevin J. Anderson, Rebecca Moesta

Archon 26

October 4-6, 2002, Holiday Inn & Gateway Center., Collinsville, IL

ICON

October 18-20, 2002 Clarion Hotel and Convention Center, Cedar Rapids, IA
GoH: Jennifer Roberson, John Garner **TM:** Rusty Hevelin

Field Of Honor

October 18-20, 2002 Four points Sheraton, Des Moines, IA.

Relaxacon aka CONsume!

October 25-27, 2002 Ramada Northwest Inn, Brooklyn Park, MN
PD: October 1, 2002

World Fantasy Convention

October 31-November 3, 2002 Hilton Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN
GoH: Dennis Etchison, Jonathan Carroll, Kathe Koja, Dave McKean, Stephen Jones

Contraception

November 1-3, 2002, Comfort Inn, Independence, MO
GoH: Paula Helm Murray, Beverly Hof-Miller, Linnea Holton **TM:** Jenny Overcamp

WindyCon

November 8-10, 2002 Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg, IL
GoH: Charles de Lint, Lisa Snellings, Shawna McCarthy, Mark and Evelyn Leeper **TM:** Bob Eggleton

OmegaCon

November 8-10, 2002 The Lodge, Siren, WI

Members



Milestones

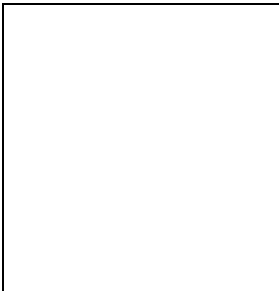
Birthdays

September 7	Dan Gardner
September 8	Jeremy Bement
September 12	Jesscera BarronMiller
September 19	Andrew & Arthur Cleary
September 28	Ruth Sheller
September 29	Gabrielle Roach
September 29	Rowan Louise Poovey
October 4	Diane Dunlap
Ocotber 4	Rodney Ruff
October 6	Mandi Arthur
October 7	Kat BarronMiller
October 12	Wendy Arnburg
October 16	Mike Svien
October 21	Nancy Wirsig McClure
October 26	Johnathon Dixson
November 17	Brian Weigel
November 19	Mary K. Webster
November 21	Scott Koslow
November 23	Rachelle Hrubetz
December 1	Dee Willis
December 1	Michael Hagerman
December 2	Martin McClure
December 3	Bob Harper
December 15	Jon Mohning
December 21	Otto Seller
December 28	Peg Brandt Zea

Anniversaries

September 1, 1990	Tammy & Jon Mohning
September 17, 1994	Brian Weigel & Susan Stewart
November 10, 1979	Greg & Sallie Abba
November 21, 1983	Bob & Sheril Harper
November 23, 1996	Scott & Wendy Arnburg
December 20, 1980	James & Marian Webster
December 28, 1979	Al Hohrmann & Diane Dunlap
December 29, 1977	Martin & Nancy Wirsig McClure

Hugos and Actors and Winners, Oh My!



ICON Writer 's Workshop

By Jen Moody

Good Morning DSMSFS Folk!!

I'm Jennifer Moody, the programming coordinator for ICON 27. I would like to invite any and all interested parties to participate in this year's ICON Writer's Workshop, conducted by Mickey Zucker-Reichert. Those interested should fill out the attached registration form on page 7, send it to the provided address in #2 bullet and read through the list of guidelines below. Deadline for registration and submissions is Sept. 30.

Looking forward to seeing you all at ICON 27!!

ICON 27 Writer's Workshop Guidelines

1. Manuscripts must be full short stories or novel chapters (preferably the former), limited to 25 pages, one-sided and double-spaced. **Note from Mickey Z-R:** *I'd rather get a 28-page story, though, than one with the last three pages missing!! On the other hand, half a fifty-page story would be enough. If a chapter is more than 25 pages, it's probably a good idea to make chapter breaks more frequent.*
2. Please mail the following items together: Writer's Workshop registration form; 10x13 self-addressed, stamped envelope (enough postage for a 6 oz. package); manuscript (if submitting one). **Mail to:** ICON Writer's Workshop, c/o Jennifer Moody, 511 W. 7th St., Muscatine, IA 52761.
3. **Postmark deadline for Writer's Workshop registrations and manuscripts is Monday, Sept. 30.** The workshop is limited to a maximum of 5 manuscripts. Manuscripts will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Manuscripts received after the first five will be returned to the author along with the copies of the accepted manuscripts.
4. All participants must be registered ICON attendees, and must show their ICON 27 badges at the door. To register for ICON 27, go to www.mindbridge.org/icon.
5. You may attend the Workshop as a critic only, without having to submit a manuscript, or even if your manuscript is not selected. However, it is important that you: a.) pre-register in order to receive your copies of the chosen manuscripts in advance of the workshop, and, b.) attend the workshop, if only to return the manuscript copies to their respective authors. **Manuscript copies will be mailed out on or before October 10.**
8. All participants must stay for the entirety of the workshop, not just for their own manuscript.
9. All copies of every manuscript must be returned to its author at the end of the workshop.
10. Critiques should be **CONSTRUCTIVE** and **DETAILED**, when possible. "I liked this," or, "This sucks!" are neither appropriate nor sufficient. Spelling or grammatical errors should be corrected on the page and do not need to be mentioned during the critique except in a general sense, such as, "You use a lot of sentence fragments, which I find distracting." **Note from Mickey Z-R:** *I expect people to write comments directly on the manuscripts and on the backs of pages, when necessary. I'll discuss the rules for the verbal critiques at the workshop.*

ICON 27 Writer's Workshop Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Please choose from the following:

I will be attending as a critic only.

I will be submitting the following manuscript for critique -

Manuscript Title: _____

Short Story (preferred) Chapter #__ of novel/novella

Pages: _____

I wish to participate as a critic even if my manuscript is not selected.

I do not wish to participate if my manuscript is not selected.

Deadline for registration and manuscript submission is Sept. 30.

Manuscripts will be mailed out on or before Oct. 10.



Have You Seen This Man?

WANTED:

For awesome use of tie-dye

Wicked sense of humor

Groovy dancer

Underground herbalist

**Last seen dancing on stage at the
Con Jose Masquerade to "Touch Of Grey."**

For more details check out the front page of the
Fall 2002 Paradox.

When apprehended, please return him to Tammy
Mohning, TICC Prop Goddess Extraordinaire.

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:



By US Mail:	The Des Moines Science Fiction Society, Ltd. P.O. Box 7572 Des Moines, IA. 50322-7572
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)

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