

To: Dr. and Mrs. Bob Passov  
Fan Guests of Honor  
c/o Chicon 2000  
The World



#### Letter from Chicago 4: Sports in Chicago

Dear Bob & Anne,

In many cities with major league baseball teams, the fans go to the games with the hope that their teams will win. Chicago doesn't really have those expectations. We go to the games to enjoy the ballpark, the stadium and the crowds. We expect to be entertained. If our team happens to win, we consider it a bonus. Our teams' owners have understood this as well. When P.K. Wrigley couldn't field a competitive team, he urged people to come down for a beautiful day in the friendly confines of Wrigley Field. When Bill Veeck owned the White Sox, he relied more on spectacle than on talent to bring people to Old Comiskey Park. That said, the Chicago Cubs remain one of the most popular teams in baseball (and have won more games than any other franchise in baseball history) and the White Sox uniforms are among the most popular.



The Chicago Cubs are one of the oldest franchises in baseball, dating back to the founding of the National Association in 1871. They were the first team to make it to three consecutive world series, from 1906-1908, winning back-to-back championships in 1907-1908. Unfortunately, they haven't won a world championship since then despite seven additional world series appearances, the last in 1945. Since 1916, the

Cubs have played at historic Wrigley Field (1060 W. Addison), the only surviving Federal League (1914-1915) ballpark. Although there are very few bad seats in the park, the place to sit to really get the full Wrigley Field experience is in the bleachers, which are general admission. If the Cubs aren't playing at a convenient time, they do offer tours of Wrigley Field (for a \$10 charitable donation) on select Saturdays and Sundays during the season when the Cubs are out of town. This tour includes both locker rooms, the press box, the bleachers and, weather permitting, a trip out onto the field.

The Chicago White Sox are one of the original American League teams, taking their name from the Chicago White Stockings, the original name for the Chicago Cubs. The fledgling team went to their first World Series in 1906 when their team, known as "The Hitless Wonders," defeated the Chicago Cubs, whose regular season record still stands as the best won-lost percentage in modern baseball history. In 1919, eight White Sox were banned from baseball under suspicion of throwing the World Series. The White Sox' last World series was in 1959. Old Comiskey Park, in which the White Sox played since 1910, was torn down after the club moved across the street to New Comiskey Park (333 W. 35th Street) in 1991.

The Kane County Cougars, a Class A Farm team for the Florida Marlins, have played in the Chicago area since 1991. The Cougars are one of the largest draws in the Midwest League, having surpassed the three-million mark in attendance during the 1998 season. They play at Philip B. Elfstrom Stadium at 34W002 Cherry Lane in Geneva, IL. 630-232-8811.



The Schaumburg Flyers of the Independent Northern League are Chicago's newest ball club. Their inaugural season began on May 28, 1999, when they played the St. Paul Saints. During this first season, they invited former Negro League pitcher Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe to pitch, making the 96-year old the oldest professional baseball player in history. Their newly built stadium, the design of which is based on Wrigley Field, is located in Schaumburg at the Elgin-O'Hare Expressway and Springinsguth Road. 847-891-2255.



In 1999, the Cook County Cheetahs, founded in 1995, joined the Frontier League and moved into their new stadium, Hawkinson Ford Field (14100 S. Kenton). The Cheetahs play in Crestwood off I-294 and Cicero Avenue. 708-489-2255.

Of course, the Chicago Bulls are known for building one of the greatest sports dynasties in history, ranking with the New York Yankees. Although basketball won't be in season when you visit Chicago, you can still see the "House that Jordan Built," as well as the life-size statue of Jordan in flight (designed by Omri Amrany, who also created the statue of Harry Caray outside Wrigley Field) at the United Center at 1901 W. Madison. The United Center replaced the Chicago Stadium (built in 1929) in 1994. Briefly in 1996, the United Center acquired its own area code when the Democratic National Convention was held there. This was the first time a political convention had been held in Chicago since the infamous DNC of 1968.



The Chicago Bears shared the spotlight with the Bulls in a series of skits on Saturday Night Live in the mid-1980s when the Superfans would talk about "Da Bears, da Bulls and Coach Ditka." Although the SNL crew exaggerated (a little), Bears fans do tend to be very territorial, filling Soldier Field (just south of the Museum Campus on the lakefront) for all Bears home games. Originally a company team, the Decatur Staleys were founded by former New York Yankee outfielder George Halas (1895-1983). The Staleys moved to Chicago in 1921 and renamed the team the Bears (after the Chicago Cubs) in 1922. In the 1940 championship, Halas's Bears defeated the Washington Redskins 73-0. During the 1960s, the Bears played at Wrigley Field before moving to their current digs in Soldier Field, which was built in 1924.

Soldier Field is known for more than just the Chicago Bears. In 1927, the infamous Long Count during the Dempsey-Tunney heavyweight fight took place here. Concerts are frequently held here and the stadium is known for its Grateful Dead concerts. In 1999, Women's World Cup soccer was played at Soldier Field, while the 1994 World Cup Opening Ceremonies also took place here.

Soccer in Chicago is not limited to the World Cup. Over the years, Chicago has had several professional soccer teams. Currently, the city is represented by the Chicago Fire at Soldier Field. While professional soccer may not have the following in the United States that it has in the rest of the world, Chicago has proven, time and again, that it is a supporter of bringing and keeping soccer alive in the US.

The Chicago Black Hawks share the United Center with the Chicago Bulls. Although their glory days were back in the 1960s when they featured Stan Mikita and Bobby Hull, the team continues to play in front of sell-out crowds. The Black Hawks have been part of the NHL since 1926, one of the league's original six teams. The team is named for the Black Hawk Indians who lived in the Chicago area in the nineteenth century. Both Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis served in the Black Hawk War (1832-1833).

The Chicago Wolves, who play near O'Hare at the Rosemont Horizon (6920 N. Mannheim Road), compete in the Western Conference of the International Hockey League. In 1998, the Wolves won the Turner Cup.

I'm sure that many of the fans who come from England, India, Australia and other parts of the Commonwealth will find baseball a curious sport. They may find themselves wishing to watch a more familiar game. To this end, if they choose to forgo the convention proper, they'll have just enough time to take in a cricket match at one of the two places in the area to catch cricket: Wells Field (Central & Ashland, Evanston, 847-491-5240) and James Park (Oakton & Dodge, Evanston, 847-491-5240). The games are free and generally pit local cricketers against expatriate Commonwealth teams. Despite cricket's reputation as a long game, the games in Evanston (you can get there on the red line of the EL, transferring to the purple line) are played on Saturday and Sunday afternoons

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from June to September. Several different games, not the same game played over several months.

You can catch the sport of kings at the Polo and Equestrian Club of Oak Brook (1000 Oak Brook Rd, Oak Brook) near the headquarters of McDonald's. The action begins at 1:00 pm on Sundays from mid-June to September. When England's Prince Charles is in the states, he can frequently be found playing in Oak Brook. Admission begins at \$8.00 for a grandstand seat.

Polo isn't the only sport which relies on horses. Chicago has a variety of horse racing for the betting fan. Harness racing can be seen at Maywood Park, Sportsman's Park, Balmoral Park, and Hawthorne Race Course. Thoroughbreds run at Sportsman's Park, Balmoral Park, and Hawthorne Race Course as well. By the time Chicon rolls around, thoroughbred racing should have returned to Arlington National Race Course. All of these race tracks are located in the suburbs. Maywood Park is at 8600 W. North Avenue, Maywood, Sportsman's Park (3301 S. Laramie), and Hawthorne Race Course (3501 S. Laramie) are in Cicero, Balmoral Park is at Hwy IL 1 & Elms Court Lane in Crete and Arlington International Race Course is in Arlington Heights.

If you like racing but are allergic to horses, you can catch NASCAR racing at the Sante Fe Speedway in suburban Hinsdale. The track here is clay, not asphalt, so the cars have a tendency to go slower, but strategy tends to play a larger part in determining who wins.

Just north of the border you can see sleek greyhounds (dogs, not buses) chase little rabbits (lures, not VWs) at Dairyland Greyhound Park in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Of course, we would much rather you spend your money at the con, or, failing that, at Illinois vendors, but Dairyland is only about ninety minutes north of Chicago. On the way, you can stop along I-94 and buy some cheese at the Mars Cheese Factory, a small shop that gives the word "Cheesy" several different meanings.

Softball was invented in Chicago as an indoor, winter extension of baseball. Traditional Chicago softball is played with a sixteen-inch ball that is actually soft... no need for a glove with this cantaloupe. On any given weekend during the summer, softball, both sixteen- and twelve-inch ball, are played in parks across the city, from Hyde Park to Lincoln Park to Grant Park. Most games are league games, but you never know when a pickup game will take place. Perhaps the best spot in the city to get into a pickup game is Oz Park, named after Chicagoan L. Frank Baum's magical kingdom. The park also sports a statue of the tin woodsman.

If you find yourself staying in the Fairmont Hotel with a lake view, you'll also find yourself overlooking the Illinois Center Golf Course and Driving Range. This nine-hole course was built in 1994 when plans for an office building fell through. Tee times can be booked through the concierge's desk at the Swissôtel, one of the official Chicon hotels. The Chicago Park District has six relatively inexpensive golf courses scattered throughout the city. These include Marovitz at Lake Shore Drive and Waveland Avenue with holes modeled after some of the most challenging holes around the country. The only eighteen-hole Park District Course is Jackson, at Lake Shore Drive and 63rd. Several other golf courses are in suburbs around the Chicagoland area.

Steven

<http://www.cubs.com>  
<http://www.chisox.com>  
<http://www.kanecountycougars.com>  
<http://www.schaumburgflyers.com>  
<http://www.cookcocheetahs.com>  
<http://www.nba.com/bulls/index.html>  
<http://www.nfl.com/bears>  
<http://www.chicago-fire.com>  
<http://www.chiblackhawks.com>  
<http://www.chicagowolves.com> ★





## *Dancing Fools*

by kT FitzSimmons

Yes, we in the Events Division are Dancing Fools — we know nothing about them except that many of you out there not only enjoy dances but actually look forward to them. Always eager to please (if we weren't, we wouldn't be here in the first place), we plan to have a variety of dances — Regency, Swing, Sock Hop, Disco, Polka? — over the course of the convention. The problem is, we need people who love to dance and who love dances to help us organize and run the dances. We also need just plain old ideas: What kind of dances do you like? Should we have pre-dance lessons? What about refreshments?

If you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact kT FitzSimmons at the Chicon website or by snail mail. Please be sure to include your name, email address, and home and work phone numbers.

Let's all have Happy Feet!

## *Dealers' Room Update*

At this time, we have more requests for tables than will be available in the Chicon 2000 Dealers' Room and are not accepting any more requests. A committee will be reviewing the applications later this summer and determining who will be assigned tables (and how many) and who will be placed on the waiting list. We'll be contacting everyone who sent in a request with their status and final table rates early this fall.

## *Filking's Alive and Well*

by Jan DiMasi

Filking at Chicon has a history of being GREAT! Plans are in action to help history repeat itself in 2000. Confirmed attendees are: "Decadent" Dave Clement, Juanita Coulson, Carol Flynt, Carol Roper, Lee and Barry Gold, Steve Simmons, John Hall and Lynn Gold.

We also expect to see: Tom Smith, Kathy Mar, Howard Harrison, Mike "Moonwolf" Longcor, Cliff Flynt, Tom Jeffers, Bill and Brenda Sutton and many more.

YOU CAN HELP. The Chicon Songbook is themed "WORLDCONS PAST". Locate your worldcon songs (music and lyrics please) and e-mail me with the title and year of the con. E-mail me at [filk@chicon.org](mailto:filk@chicon.org) for these or any other filk related issues. Thank you.

Jan of the magic fingers. ★

## *Hold on to your seats : Dramatic Presentations*

by Alice Medenwald

Are you ready for some fantastic Dramatic Presentations at Chicon 2000? I hope so because we have some great stuff, so be prepared to make some difficult decisions about what to do between programming, parties, dances, eating, sleeping (well maybe) and the traditional events that all Worldcons have.

First, we are proud to offer you a full length stage production by Moebius Theatre. For those who may not have heard of Moebius (those who have been on another planet or in another dimension), Moebius Theatre has been creating science fiction for live performance for 23 years. Moebius Theatre has appeared at previous Chicons and numerous Windycons. While at Chicon 2000 look around for more from Moebius; there is no telling where you might find them.

We are also excited to announce that the "Don't Quit Your Day Job Players" will be with us. This 6 member band is quickly becoming the hottest new cult-favorite rock-folk-blues-country fusion band in America. They have performed at several college campuses and expect to have their second CD out this summer. I personally look forward to hearing them.

If you are looking for something a little different, we have Lee Darrow, a hypnotist who will present a "Journey to the Center of Your Mind-Hypnosis 2000". This one-hour show features audience participation in a brand new presentation of hypnosis for entertainment. Lee puts his volunteers into a wonderfully relaxed state and helps them explore and play with their imaginations. Lee has appeared for Sandals Resorts, Discover Card, Amoco Oil, United Insurance of America, Ameritech and numerous colleges and universities across the country. Come see his unique brand of hypnosis – based not on embarrassment, but on improvisational theater. Remember to bring your imagination and be ready to sleep for Lee.

For those who really like audience participation we are pleased to have an original Murder Mystery Theatre production written by the team of Lilienkamp & Smith. It's called Camelot 5 and it's a mix between Camelot and Babylon 5. It's pure schtick and great fun. So bring your imagination and get ready to immerse yourself in one of many exciting characters just waiting to be brought to life. So whether you like to sit, watch, and listen or be used as a guinea pig (maybe a poor choice of words) or are a closet actor waiting for that big break, we have something for you! ★

# 2003 in TORONTO



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# Facilities

by Dina S. Krause

I know you are anxiously awaiting room rates, but honestly we cannot give them out until the hotels are ready to take reservations. That unfortunately will not be until after the beginning of 2000 – probably around February or March. I can mention that rates will be under \$150 for all hotels – some significantly lower.

Here is some basic information about our auxilliary hotels, the Swissôtel and the Fairmont.

Swissôtel:

- 632 rooms including 34 suites
- 2 line phones in each room
- video checkout
- marble baths with separate showers
- 3 restaurants and an in-house bakery
- swimming pool and health club
- 31 function rooms including 3 ballrooms
- 240 underground parking spaces
- 24 hour room service
- connected to Illinois Center - a very short underground walk to the Hyatt - our main hotel



Rudi, the Swissôtel cow

(Cows on Parade. For more, go [www.cowsonparade.net](http://www.cowsonparade.net))

Fairmont:

- 692 rooms including 66 suites
- 2 line phones with modem links in each room
- marble baths with separate showers
- 37 stories
- 24 hour room service
- 4 restaurants
- a very short walk from our main hotel

All our hotels are very excited and pleased to have us and we are looking forward to being there. ★

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## Getting in Touch!

by Chaz Baden

There are basically two ways to reach people via @chicon.org. Method one: via the department they're running.

This only works for department heads, of course. But you can reach the head of programming by writing to prog@chicon.org, and Registration at reg@chicon.org, and so forth.

Method two: via the person's name. Change spaces to periods. This works for everyone for whom I have an e-mail address. It does require you to know how to spell, so Randy.Kaempfen@chicon.org will work if you know how to spell Kaempfen; if you don't, you can fall back on reg@chicon.org.

So that's how the e-mail addresses work. On the web site, you can find a directory of all the e-mail addresses, and also you can find a staff and committee roster. There are a handful of people who are in the e-mail

directory who don't have positions, mostly bid people. The e-mail directory is at <http://www.chicon.org/staff/mailtos.htm>. The staff and committee roster is what you get when you click on "Contacts" on the main entry screen of www.chicon.org. It lists everyone on the committee and staff. For anyone who has an e-mail address, their name is a clickable link to send them e-mail.

On the website, all of the e-mail links (including the ones on the staff list) are clickable links to send e-mail, and they all will bring up a fill-in form. This allows anyone with web access to send us e-mail. Using the form is not required, of course, but it is certainly convenient. (Some people have reported that they can't use "mailto:" links when they're cruising the internet from the office.) ★

# The 2000 Hugo Awards

by Michael Nelson, Hugo Awards Administrator  
(hugos@chicon.org)

I just saw *Star Wars – The Phantom Menace* at the Uptown, an old-fashioned single screen movie theater in Washington, D.C. The screen was twice as big as most suburban multiplex screens and the sound system shook a few of my fillings loose. Wow, talk about sensing a disturbance in the Force!

But will it get my top vote for the 2000 Best Dramatic Presentation Hugo? Maybe I'll make *The Matrix* or *The 13th Floor* my first choice — or even *Muppets From Space*. As a Chicon 2000 supporting or attending member, you have the privilege to make nominations and to vote for the 2000 Science Fiction Achievement Awards.

One of the major events at Chicon will be the Hugo Awards Ceremony where our Toastmaster, Harry Turtle-dove, will host an exciting presentation of awards for the best professional and fannish science fiction related works of 1999. Those new books, artwork, stories, and movies that you are encountering right now will be eligible for nomination next year.

Speaking from twenty years of experience, I can tell you that nothing will increase your enjoyment of a Worldcon more than participating in it fully. When the Hugo nomination form arrives with your next Chicon 2000 progress report, take some time to think about the science fiction you've experienced in the past year and nominate your favorite.

Vote for your preferred choices when the ballot comes out next Spring. Plan to attend the Chicon Hugo Awards Ceremony to see Bob Eggleton's bodacious hair and the people who create the science fiction you treasure receive the recognition and appreciation of the SF community. ★

## Hugo Ceremony News

by kT FitzSimmons

It happens every year. The fans arrive hours ahead of time, anxious to get the best spot to view their favorite celebrity. The celebrities arrive, men elegantly attired in expensive tuxedos and suits, the women bejeweled and swirling in beautiful silks and chiffons. The nominees try not to look as nervous as they feel. The host constantly checks his lines, wondering if this joke doesn't quite make it or if he can remember how to pronounce that name with 27 consonants and one vowel. The stage crew and technical staff make that final check hoping they haven't missed anything but knowing, somehow,

that they have.

The ceremony starts. The presenters try to be funny and the audience obliges them by laughing. The winners leap from their seats as their names are announced and bound up the stage, grabbing the gleaming, phallic statuette as they kiss the beautiful (or handsome) presenter. They try to be brief in their thanks but run too long; the audience, though, eats it all up. The losers are gracious, if not terribly disappointed. The show is a technical masterpiece, from the sound to the lighting and the only low point is the tribute to those who could not be there.

This is the World Science Fiction Society's annual Hugo Awards ceremony, where the best and the brightest in the SF literary world come to shine in the spotlight for themselves and their fans.

We hope that you will join us at Chicon 2000 for an evening of elegance as we honor the best SF has to offer.



## Ad Rates

These ad rates are for camera ready copy. Custom artwork, layouts, typesetting or special positioning and other services are available at an additional charge. The deadline is Nov. 30, 1999 for advertising and other copy for Progress Report #5, which will be issued in January 2000.

Mail all ads and payment to the Chicon 2000 post office Box (PO Box 642057, Chicago IL 60664) or call Diane Miller Blackwood at (773) 202-8081, or fax to (773) 202-8082, or e-mail dmiller@megsinet.net.

| Per Issue Rates                                   | Fan   | Professional |
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| Quarter Page<br>5 1/2" x 3 1/2"<br>or 4" x 4 5/8" | \$25  | \$80         |
| Half Page<br>7 1/2" x 5"                          | 40    | 125          |
| Full Page Interior<br>7 1/2" x 10"                | 70    | 200          |
| Full Page Inside Cover<br>7 1/2" x 10"            | \$200 | \$300        |

# Radio Skates, Teletheatres, and Rocket Jockeys

by Bill Higgins

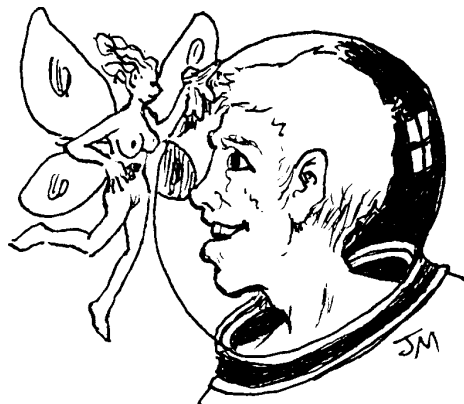
The preface to Lester del Rey's 1953 novel *Rocket Jockey* contains one of science fiction's most astonishing predictions. Writing under the pseudonym "Philip St. John," del Rey correctly predicted the name of the first man to walk on the Moon! He also predicted the astronaut's first words:

"When Major Armstrong landed on the Moon in 1964 his first words over the radar to Earth were 'Who won the Indianapolis Classic?'"

Oh, well, even the best prophets can't be accurate 100% of the time.

As *Rocket Jockey* illustrates, science fiction's record at predicting the future is, at best, spotty. SF stories are not about what *will* happen, they're about what *might* happen. You and I understand this, but it's not always clear to the rest of the world. Nevertheless, I enjoy the guilty pleasure of comparing the developments in SF stories to those in the so-called real world.

Hugo Gernsback—the guy who gave SF its name—was as gadget-happy as anyone who has ever written the stuff. In the early days of radio, he published magazines for electrical hobbyists, and sometimes wrote fiction for the amusement of his readers. His best-remembered novel, *Ralph 124C41+*, is crammed with speculations about technology.



Hugo's most famous hit: The eponymous Ralph uses reflected radio waves to learn the distance and location of the bad guy's spaceship, anticipating the invention that warned British interceptors of Luftwaffe bomber attacks 28 years after the story's publication.

The book also describes restaurants which serve food exclusively in liquid form, through hoses running to each patron's seat. Rocket ships have running-boards. And commuters zoom through the metal streets of the Big Apple on motorized roller skates powered by titanic radio transmitters. (Gernsback had more uses for radio than George Washington Carver had for the peanut.) Seems unlikely now.

But another success in *Ralph 124C41+* appears as Ralph shows his girlfriend what we would today call his "home entertainment center."

Theatre-goers of the past, he explains, "if they did not happen to like the production, had either to sit all through it or else go home. They probably would have rejoiced at the ease of our Tele-Theaters, where we can switch from one play to another in five seconds, until we find the one that suits us best."

Hugo could have been describing my living room at the end of the 1990s. Except that electronic wizardry allows me to switch from one play to another in a fifth of a second, sometimes to the dismay of my wife. Fortunately, I know better than to try this when *Xena* is on.

Other stories have used certain inventions as props for so long that we're all expecting them to appear any day now. For example, cities of the future always seem to have swarms of flying cars. Some of those stories were decades old when I read them as a kid. At some point I noticed that we had advanced fairly far into the future, and there was a notable shortage of flying cars.

I investigated this. The first Chicagoan to commute by air was Harold

McCormick, who used Lake Michigan as a handy runway for his 1913-model seaplane, hopping the 28 miles from his Evanston home to the downtown Chicago Yacht Club in minutes, then strolling to the office. This is way better than radio-powered roller skates.

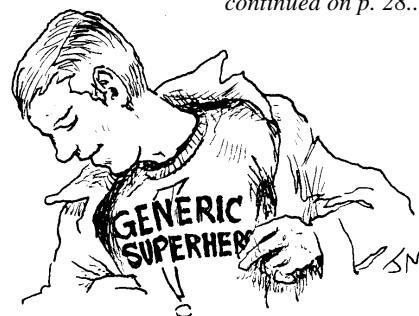
It turns out that the technology to make a flying car has been with us since the first workable types were built in the 1930s. Some models folded their wings, others detached the car and left the wings at the airport, others used rotors to land vertically. Several were quite good. None of the inventors was able to muster the money to go into mass production.

Maybe it's the costly maintenance, maybe it's the piloting skill they'd require, maybe it's the compromises the designers must make between a good car and a good aircraft. For whatever reasons, the "roadable aircraft" has never become a commonplace. It may belong to the past, rather than the future.

Ignoring these inconvenient facts, SF writers continue blithely to fill their fictional skies with aircars. A tiny group of engineers and pilots meets every year in Oshkosh to discuss their designs for future flying cars, so there may yet be hope.

The SF prediction that's chilled me recently is Fritz Leiber's 1954 story "The Creature from Cleveland Depths." The Tickler begins as a gadget for playing back recorded sound-memos at pre-set times, to remind its user of appointments and such. As subsequent models develop,

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# *Chicon 2000 Masquerade*

## *A Call To Compete*

by Nancy E. Mildebrandt  
Costumer and Director

First and foremost, I need to know if you will be competing and then some basic information about your entry. Since I am at the basic planning stage for what I will call hardware (stage size, type of lighting, green room size, etc.), I need you, the costumer, to tell me how much

space you will require. So, if you are interested in competing, let me know that, as well as how large your entry will be (number of people, approximate size [area] of the costume, etc.) by e-mailing or writing to me at the address below.

I know it may seem a bit early to send this information, but I want to try to avoid some of the pitfalls that past directors have come up against. Although we plan to conduct a full

technical rehearsal for the evening's show at the convention, this will help us make sure that the rehearsal, and show, go as smoothly and quickly as possible.

I will be running this event using ICG guidelines for divisions. In some ways, this event will be run like many other masquerades which have come before it, but in other ways, I will be doing some things a bit differently (I have a different way of writing up the tech form).

I want to see a very open line of communication between the entrants and myself. Therefore, feel free to contact me at anytime. In addition, in the coming months, I will be producing a newsletter for anyone interested in competing in the Chicon 2000 competition or for anyone interested in helping out backstage with the competition. If you wish to be on the mailing list, please send me a note at my e-mail or snail-mail address below.

Again, let me know if you are planning on competing. I realize that plans can change, so even if you are only thinking about attending and competing, let me know. I would rather plan for too many, than have to squeeze you into a limited space.

Yours in costuming,  
Nancy E. Mildebrandt  
1316 Sherman Ave.  
South Milwaukee,  
WI 53172

e-mail:  
Ltebear@aol.com



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## *Live Stage Department*

by Gretchen H. Roper, Ringmaster

Do you sing? Play an instrument? Juggle? Do magic? Want a spot to strut your stuff? Come join us at Cougar & Dark's Traveling Circus and Pandemonium Shadow Show, down in Wacker Hall. I'm looking for talented people to fill the stage when the Art Auction is not in session. Let me know what you can do that will keep a Worldcon audience entertained for a half-hour or so and – if it sounds like fun – I'll put you on the program. You can contact me through the Chicon P.O. Box (send it Attention: Gretchen) or at gretchen@xnet.com.

Sorry, insurance regulations prohibit sword swallowers and animal acts.



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... continued from p. 27

Ticklers acquire more features, and become so useful that sales grow explosively. Everybody needs one.

More and more of my friends are buying Palm Pilot "personal digital assistants." They're getting beeped at just before appointments. They're shooting data on infrared beams. They're modifying their own handwriting to satisfy the device's word-recognition software. They're reading bedtime stories to their kids from its electroluminescent screen.

As I watch this, I think of the glassy-

eyed inhabitants of Leiber's Cleveland Depths. Their Ticklers whisper upbeat motivational messages and inject mood-altering drugs into users' bloodstreams to improve productivity. They are zombies completely under the control of the machines they love.

Hope this is one prediction that doesn't prove accurate.

But some folks at MIT are saying that "wearable computing" is the next big trend... hmmm.

Stay tuned. ★

# My Top Ten List of The Best SF films Ever

by Bob Eggleton

In compiling this I took into account what makes a "science fiction" film different from a "fantasy" film, and I was walking a thin line most of the time. I didn't include any STAR WARS or STAR TREK films because they are part of a series relating to their specific mythologies—they basically all stand together. And while some of the films below have sequels, those sequels are more or less different visions involving some of the same characters. So here they are, and why I liked them, arranged in alphabetical order:

**ALIEN (1979)** This is the first and arguably best of the whole series of movies involving probably the best and most memorable outer space creature in ages, that all the rest had to measure up to. Ridley Scott's direction, along with some great characters, acting and visual effects, conjured up a story that had many clutching their seats. The landing on the planetoid and the EVA on same, was particularly well done, as it truly was an alien planet and not some obvious rock quarry or desert landscape. I can never get tired of seeing this film, it's so well done.

**BLADE RUNNER (1982)** Again, Ridley Scott showed us a vision of a dark, dank future, unlike the previous entry, but itself an alien— and not so alien world gone crazy with technology and moral complications. The acting sets and visuals, like Scott's ALIEN, added up to a film that really connected with what many science fiction fans wanted. Unlike ALIEN, this film didn't do so well at the box office but did survive as a cult hit and eventually a director's cut (1993), which some argue was not such a great idea on Scott's part.

**CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND (1977)**. Okay I know people who either loved it or hated it. I'm on the "loved it" side. Steven Spielberg's vision of contact between humans and extraterrestrials. What worked was the optimistic view of aliens so advanced, that they were like children and their spacecraft, toys. It had a lot of what are known as "Spielbergisms" in its portrayal of characters. I liked it because it showed Richard Dreyfuss' Roy Neary character as a person, like any of us at times, in search of an answer.

...Continued on p. 30

## And What is Yours?

Since Chicon 2000 will be the last Worldcon in the 20th Century, as part of our film program we would like to honor your favorite Science Fiction and Fantasy Films of the 20th Century.

**Rules:** This form is reproducible, but you must include your membership number to vote, and only one vote per member. List films in order of preference as this will be how ties are broken. Form must be received by October 1, 1999. Results will be published in Progress Report #5. Only mailed-in votes will be counted.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Membership # from PR mailing label \_\_\_\_\_

*Please print!*

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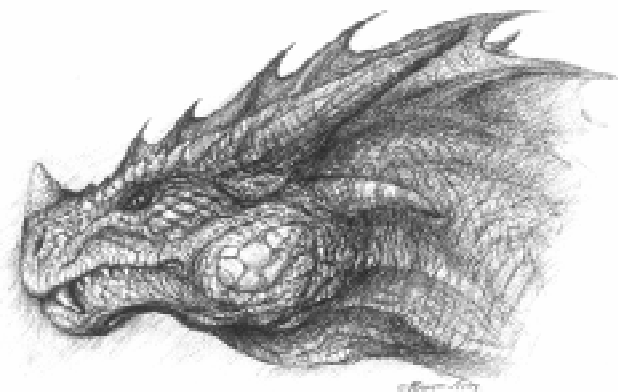
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...continued from p. 25

**THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (1953)** Who's top ten list is this one *not* on? Perhaps a cornerstone film in the SF genre, appealing not just to fans but also to a wide audience. Michael Rennie's *Klaatu* remains unchallenged in his portrayal of an alien much resembling humans, but with a stern warning of powers far, far greater than man in the universe. Gort is one of the few truly memorable robots of the genre. The film hit home at a time Cold War paranoia was at fever pitch but worked to tell humans they must broaden their scope in thinking.

**DR. STRANGELOVE or HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE BOMB (1964)** Some would argue the "science fictional" content, but it does have a fictitious "doomsday weapon" that does win



out in the end. It is one of my favorite funniest films of all time as well. Stanley Kubrick's often hilarious version of a nuclear confrontation, showing the pointlessness of war and the stupidity of those who wage it. My favorite bits are such things as General Jack Ripper's (Sterling Hayden) rants about "natural bodily fluids" and of course, the show stopping scene with Keenan Wynn, Peter Sellers and a Coke machine.

**DARK CITY (1998)** A terrific film that came out of nowhere, it seemed. It had a Film Noir quality not seen in many films and was like a big budget episode of *The Twilight Zone* with regard to its situation and characters and ultimate conclusion. It was well textured and the idea was original. The production design was some of the eeriest I have seen yet... it was worth multiple viewings and, like the recent *THE MATRIX*, asked us to ask ourselves if we are really sure what we see and feel is "reality". Or are we all just rats in a maze...

**FORBIDDEN PLANET (1956)** Another "cornerstone" film with one character immortalized in Science Fiction:

Robby The Robot. The forerunner to *STAR TREK* in its tale of a space mission to find a lost earth ship, and in the process retelling Shakespeare's "*The Tempest*". Superb sets, effects, acting and an overall "Gosh Wow" feel that typified the genre.

**GOJIRA / GODZILLA KING OF THE MONSTERS (1954/56-each version respectively)** One of the best anti-nuke films of its time. While some say *GOJIRA* was a ripoff of the earlier *Beast From 20,000 Fathoms*, *GOJIRA* was the one that lasted in memory, perhaps due to the fact the monster has a name. Even the Americanized version (1956) despite being chopped up, still retained enough of the graphic fear and terror generated by a monster which was the very face of Death itself. The film was generated by a nation, Japan, who saw themselves

helpless in the escalating stupidity of endless atomic testing, and who themselves are the only country to have had atomic weapons used against them. And so the science-atomic testing-created *Gojira / Godzilla*-science was brought an end by the oxygen destroyer. But many more *Gojiras / Godzillas* came afterward...

**QUATERMASS AND THE PIT (1967)** Only recently available on video tape and DVD, this incredibly well done Hammer film entry still holds up and I never tire of seeing it. Released state-side as *FIVE MILLION YEARS TO EARTH*, this was the third in the Nigel Kneale written series of SF films. Sometimes like a horror film (with Lovecraftian elements), the SF aspect gives the film a feel typical of that type of film made in the UK at the time, often called "The Golden Age of British SF films" by many aficionados. As well as a great story, the acting by such UK stars as Julian Glover, Barbara Shelley and Andrew Keir as Prof. Bernard Quatermass was well done. Roy Ward Baker's direction and some nifty visual effects made on a shoestring budget hold up over 30 years later. Though part of a series of films (the previous two made in the 50's) this film stands well on its own.

**2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY.** Another "everyone's favorite". I saw this when I was 9 years and and my life has never been the same since... what else can I say about it???

## *Time Line for Future Progress Reports*

- Progress Report 5 to be issued in January 2000, deadline 30, Nov, 1999
- Progress Report 6 to be issued in April 2000, deadline 29, Feb, 2000
- Progress Report 7 to be issued in July 2000, deadline 30, May, 2000

A note about the Progress Reports and the web site: All of the articles printed in the PRs will be incorporated into the web site under the appropriate department headings.

We also have the complete original text of each PR available on-line in a plain ascii text file and / or a pdf file, but please remember that older PRs may contain out-of-date information.

## *Read About How The Future Was!*

Copies of Chicon Progress Reports 1, 2 and 3 are available for the asking until supplies run out.

Send requests to our Post Office box or e-mail address. Please allow a few weeks for delivery.

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## **Notice!Notive!** *Rate Increase* *Effective* *October 1, 1999*

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Check Website for more information on trading card redemption



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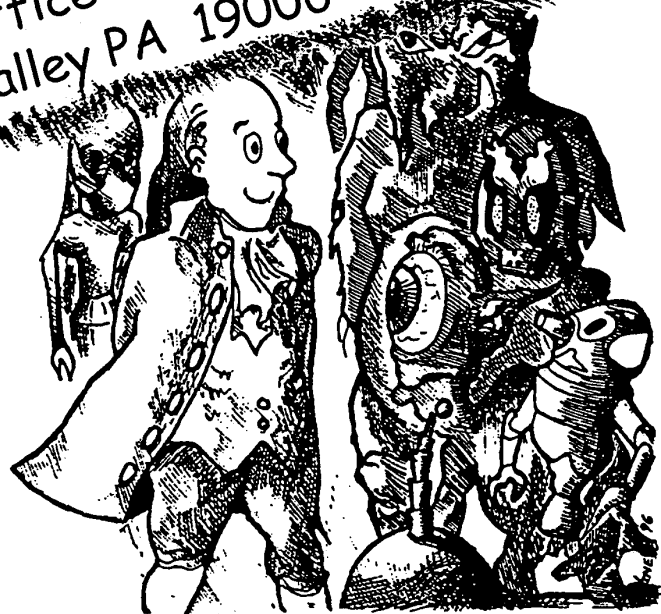
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Artwork by Bryan Molinelli

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# *How To Get Around in Chicago,* *or, you CAN get there from here!*

by John Donat

Ok, now that you have decided to come to Chicago for the Worldcon, and now... how do you get there, and once you are here, how do you navigate in this monster of a city!

First, Chicago is blessed with one of the finest transport webs in North America – two busy airports, 60 Amtrak trains a day, and lots of Interstate highways all come together in Chicago.

If you decide to fly, Chicago is one of a small number of cities that have their airports connected to the transit system. Both O'Hare and Midway have subway (or as we call it in Chicago, the El) stations. The O'Hare station is under the parking garage, and is one of the nicer subway stations, especially considering the limitations placed on it by its design goals. The Midway El station is just east of the airport, reachable by an overhead pedway. Getting downtown is a simple matter of getting a transit card from a kiosk, and getting on the train. The fare is \$1.50 / trip, no transfer required. If you desire, you can put in more \$\$, and get discounts on trips after \$10.00 and \$20.00 increments. The fare cards are also used on the CTA buses. It takes about 30-40 minutes from the airport to the downtown stops. The downtown stops are about 4 blocks away from the hotel. The Midway line is a bit less distance than the O'Hare line. The CTA's web site is: <http://www.transitchicago.com>. Schedules, maps, and other good stuff are there.

The bus schedules, and maps, are also on the website. You can get to the Museum of Science and Industry by bus (an express one, if I

remember correctly), and to the Museum campus of the Field Museum, Adler Planetarium, and the Shedd Aquarium.

Both airports also have websites:

O'Hare: <http://www.ci.chi.il.us/WorksMart/Aviation/O'Hare/>

Midway: <http://www.ci.chi.il.us/WorksMart/Aviation/Midway/>

Once you get here, how do you get around?

Here are a couple of easy navigation rules for Chicago:

1. The lake is East.

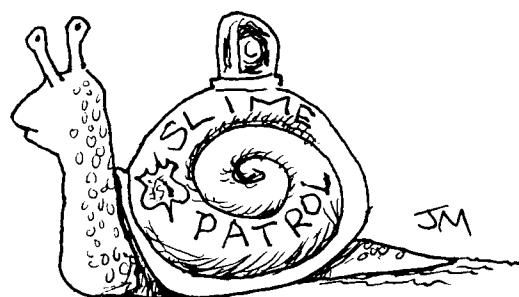
2. Chicago is built on a grid system – 8 blocks is a mile, 5 blocks are one kilometer.

All addresses are distance from a single point - Madison and State. Everything north of Madison has a North address, everything south of Madison... you get the idea.

Everything west of State has a West address, everything east of State.... ditto.

So, if you are 1060 West, and 3600 North, you are 10 (almost 11) blocks west of State Street, and

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36 blocks north of Madison. You're also at Wrigley Field, but that's another story.

3. Chicagoans do not use interstate numbers, we use names for the expressways. I-94 is both the Edens, and the Dan Ryan – just depends where you are. I-94 is also the Kennedy, after it combines with I-90, which is also the Northwest Tollway, once you get west of the Tri-State Tollway (I-294). The Tri-State connects with the Edens (I-94 north of Montrose Avenue), the Kennedy (I-90), the Eisenhower (I-290), the East/West Tollway (I-88), the Stevenson (I-55), the Bishop Ford (I-57), and the Borman Expressway (I-80/90 in Indiana). Now that you're thoroughly confused, navigating around the Chicago expressway system is easier than it looks. Really. It is. I promise.

If you drive into the City, once you get into the city you will be on I-90/I-94 (Kennedy/Dan Ryan). My personal preferences to get to the Hyatt are thus:

The Scenic Route.... Get off at I-290 East – it won't be an interstate for long, it turns into Congress Street. Take Congress street until you get to Michigan Avenue. Turn Left onto Michigan Avenue (N) go north about 8 blocks, until you get to Wacker Drive. You will want to start getting into the right lane about Washington Street. Go Right on Wacker drive about 2

blocks. The Hyatt will be on your right.

The faster route (possibly not for the fainthearted): Follow the I-290 East route, but before the FIRST light, take the cloverleaf right, and head for the split marked Wacker Drive – LOWER Wacker Drive. Turn on your lights. You are now on the famous Lower Wacker Drive, forever immortalized by Jake and Elwood Blues in "The



Blues Brothers". Stay on Lower Wacker. It will curve from the north to the east and then an S-curve to Michigan Avenue. At this point, start getting in the right lane(s). The Hyatt Parking garage(s) are on the right, off of Stetson Avenue. If you get to Columbus Avenue, you went too far!!!! Wacker Drive is due for a major reconstruction, especially for Lower Wacker. If this happens, I'll give you yet ANOTHER way to get to the Hyatt.

If you decide to get out of the con to go to a baseball game (the schedules are not yet published, but hopefully one or both of the teams will be home), getting there is a snap on the El. Both ballparks are on the Red Line (Howard/Dan Ryan). Getting to Wrigley Field by El is highly recommended, as there is virtually no parking available, except for small privately owned lots. Comiskey is at the 35th street stop on the Dan Ryan part of the Red Line. There is considerably more parking at Comiskey, but the El is a fast and safe way to the ballpark.

Other interesting places to go, and this is just an early, and short list. Navy Pier – Navy Pier has become an entertainment complex, with clubs, theatres, restaurants, and museums. The Chicago Children's Museum is there, and take it from a member, it's fabulous! Parents, as well as kids love

this place. My favorite is the 30 foot water table, with about a bazillion ways to move and re-direct water!!

Navy Pier does very good fireworks on the weekends, up to and including Labor Day. Navy Pier will also have a Shakespearean theatre by the summer of 2000. We have Boston and Baltimore to thank for Navy Pier – the Fanueil Hall complex, Harborplace, and Navy Pier were all developed by the same company.

Michigan Avenue and State Street shopping areas.... we are very close to the Michigan Avenue shopping area – just go West on Wacker Drive to Michigan, go over the bridge, and you are there!!! The shopping, etc goes on for about 6 blocks, all the way to the John

Hancock Building.

The State Street shopping area is south and west about 4 blocks from the Hyatt. Marshall Fields and Carsons are two of the main shopping attractions there.

Ok, enough for now....  
Some interesting web sites for your entertainment...

The official City of Chicago tourism webpage:

<http://www.ci.chi.il.us/Tourism/>

A downtown map from the Chicago webpage:

<http://www.ci.chi.il.us/Tourism/Downtown/DowntownMap.html>

This map will make sense of many of my directions. State Street and Madison Street are highlighted in this map.



# Da Mob: the Unfathomables

Time is running out to get the position you desire, at the salary you deserve. Send in your volunteer application and fannish resumé so you can give your mind and body to fandom. Your only hope is to keep it all together. Maybe.

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|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
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| Charity Auctions                     | Peggy Rae Sapienza  |
| Concourse/Standing Exhibits:         | Dick Smith, Leah Zeldes Smith   |
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| Museum                               | Joe Siclari, Edie Stern   |
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| Stuffed Stuff                        | Gretchen H. Roper   |
| Video Exhibits                       | Scott Imes  |
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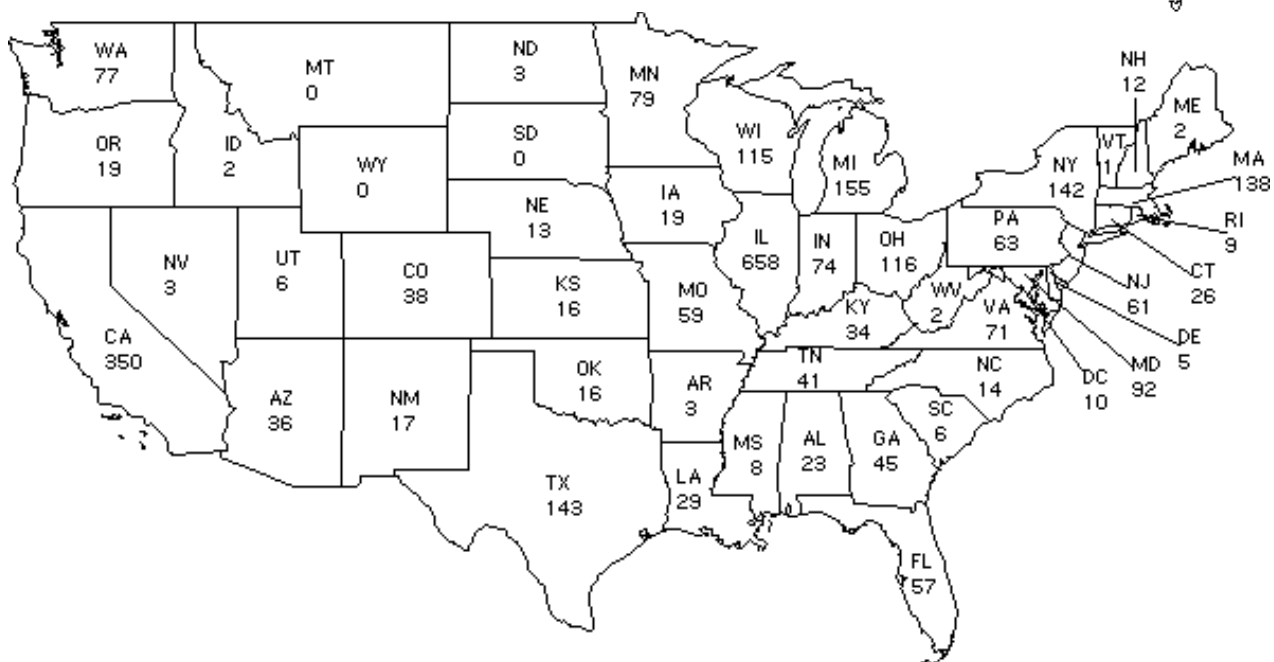
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|----------------|-------|
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| Mexico         | 1     |
| United Kingdom | 20    |
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| Spain          | 1     |
| Germany        | 7     |
| Austria        | 1     |
| Israel         | 2     |
| Qatar          | 2     |
| Japan          | 13    |
| Russia         | 2     |
| Sweden         | 2     |
| Norway         | 3     |
| Netherlands    | 2     |
| Belgium        | 1     |
| Denmark        | 1     |
| Australia      | 5     |



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|       | Feehrmeyer       | A3285 | Donna A. Long    | A3220 | B. J. Staehlin   |
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| A3243 | George Fergus    | A3217 | Stanley Martens  |       | Stanton          |
| A3289 | Mark Fewell      | T2797 | Alexander        | A3219 | Steve Stauss     |
| C3251 | James Finkle     |       | Massetti         | A3330 | Kazuo Sumiya     |
| A3249 | Joel Finkle      | A3306 | Jason Mayfield   | A3266 | James Tausch     |
| C3252 | Kevin Finkle     | A3283 | Ed McDonough     | A3293 | Corinna Taylor   |
| A3250 | Susan Finkle     | A3329 | Franz H. Miklis  | A3302 | Mary P. Taylor   |
| A3259 | Elisa Ford       | T3160 | Nicholas Alex    | A3271 | Michael P.       |
| A3292 | Hal Frank        |       | Miller           |       | Terhune          |
| A3294 | Jonathan Frank   | T3159 | William Sefton   | A0561 | Diana Thill-     |
| A0020 | Guest of Maria   |       | Miller           |       | Reed             |
|       | Gavelis-Pavlac   | A3358 | B. J. Mitias     | A3297 | Joan M. Thomas   |
| A3203 | Larry Gelfand    | A3359 | Friend of B. J.  | A3197 | Oren Tirosh      |
| A3218 | Connie Gilbert   |       | Mitias           | A3300 | Dorothy          |
| A2438 | Erica V. D.      | S3262 | Randall          |       | Trachtenberg     |
|       | Ginter           |       | Miyashiro        | A3301 | Edward           |
| A3313 | Richard H.       | A3332 | Murray A.        |       | Trachtenberg     |
|       | Goudge           |       | Moore            | T2940 | Madelaine        |
| A3275 | Elizabeth Green  | A3290 | Christopher      |       | Trembley         |
| A3274 | James Green      |       | Neihengen        | A3347 | Bill Trojan      |
| A3202 | Peter Halasz     | C3339 | Jack Nemeth      | A3367 | Brian Trudell    |
| A3351 | Pamela Harter    | A3338 | William Nemeth   | A3299 | Delia Marshall   |
| S3349 | John A.          | A3337 | Winkle Nemeth    |       | Turner           |
|       | Hawkinson        | A3324 | Dawn D. M.       | A3206 | R. F. Wald       |
| A3196 | Barbara R. Hege  |       | Newman           | A3207 | R. F. Wald, #2   |
| C3277 | Christopher      | A3323 | Ken E. Newman    | A3319 | Julie Watkins    |
|       | Hege             | A3326 | John D. Nikitow  | 2701  | Jacob Weisman    |
| A3276 | Richard Hege     | A3209 | Leah R.          | A3228 | Amy Wenshe       |
| A3195 | Ronald L. Hege   |       | O'Connor         | A3227 | Len Wenshe       |
| A3225 | Jeannine L.      | A3208 | Patrick J.       | A3224 | Matthew Wilner   |
|       | Henderson        |       | O'Connor         | A3369 | Hania            |
| A3200 | Susan R.         | A3210 | Joshua E.        |       | Wojtowicz        |
|       | Higgins          |       | O'Connor-Rose    | A3242 | Leann Runyan     |
| A3260 | Julie K. Hurford | A3211 | Renata R.        |       | Wood             |
| A3307 | Glenn Iwahashi   |       | O'Connor-Rose    | A3255 | Delphyne Joan    |
| A3268 | Gayle            | A3309 | Erik V. Olson    |       | Woods            |
|       | Jankowski        | A3291 | Shirley Ouw      | A2855 | Laurinda         |
| A3267 | Megan            | A3320 | Pat Patera       |       | Woolcock         |
|       | Jankowski        | A3280 | Angela Penrose   | A3198 | Jody L. Wurl     |
| K0066 | Peter Anthony    | A3281 | James K.         | A3237 | Doreen Yankura   |
|       | Ilya Jencevice   |       | Penrose          | A3236 | Michael          |
| A3257 | Bill Johnson     | A3348 | Peter M. Picucci |       | Yankura          |
| T2798 | Eric Karpierz    | A3316 | Libben Pries     | T3239 | Summer           |
| A3231 | Julie Kastan     | A3282 | L. I. Rapkin     |       | Yankura          |
| A3230 | Thomas Kastan    | C2857 | Helen M. Reed    | T3238 | Michael          |
| A3357 | Lowell Kelley    | A3263 | Elizabeth Rios   |       | Yankura, Jr.     |
| A3296 | Roxanne King     | A3264 | Israel Rios      | A3304 | Allan Yeats      |
| A3295 | Steve King       | A3360 | Stanley Roberts  | A3310 | Amy R. Young     |
| A3229 | Elizabeth Knoll  | A3234 | Doreen Roloff    |       |                  |



### Help us find Lost Souls:

|       |            |            |                     |        |
|-------|------------|------------|---------------------|--------|
| P0232 | Adams      | Kathy      | Oak Lawn IL         | USA    |
| A2065 | Allen      | James      | St Louis MO         | USA    |
| P1173 | Bard       | Alan       | Eugene OR           | USA    |
| A2677 | Bouler     | Betty      | Atlanta GA          | USA    |
| A1262 | Bumby      | Margaret   | Ann ArborMI         | USA    |
| A2316 | De Vore    | Carl       | London ON           | Canada |
| S2222 | Doss       | Stacy      | College Station TX  |        |
| P1578 | Ducett     | Colleen    | Mount Prospect IL   |        |
| P0275 | Elliot     | Floyd      |                     | USA    |
| P0667 | Howard     | Christie   | Fenton MO           | USA    |
| A1905 | Johnson    | Julie S.   | Minneapolis MN      |        |
| P0450 | Johnson    | Steve      | Union Hrove IL      |        |
| P0651 | Jones      | Eileen     | Stillwater MN       | USA    |
| P1738 | Kemp       | Doug       |                     | USA    |
| P0618 | Kinder     | Martha     | Lombard IL          | USA    |
| P1052 | Laird      | Robbie     | Ann ArborMI         | USA    |
| P0724 | Lesko      | Netti      | HyattsvilleMD       | USA    |
| P1194 | Lewis      | Tudor I.   | Lincoln NE          | USA    |
| P1051 | Loeschner  | Paul       | Ann ArborMI         | USA    |
| P1685 | Lucard     | Dalen K.   | Dayton OH           | USA    |
| P0701 | Mason      | Damian     | Toledo OH           | USA    |
| A0906 | McGeachin, | William T. | Louisville KY       |        |
| A0439 | Modrzyk    | Elizabeth  | Chicago IL          | USA    |
| P1456 | Nakajima   | Marie      | Saginami Tokyo      | Japan  |
| P0493 | Nickence   | Joe        | Chicago IL          | USA    |
| P2212 | Nikolai    | Teleguine  | Middleton CT        | USA    |
| P1115 | O'Brien    | Laura      | Chicago IL          | USA    |
| P1794 | Ortiz      | Mariela    | Los Angeles CA      |        |
| S2389 | Pedersen   | Diana      | W.P.G. MB           | Canada |
| P1133 | Peterson   | Brian      | Chicago IL          | USA    |
| A2979 | Prinee     | Mary       | Milwaukee WI        |        |
| P0515 | Rechnitz   | William P. | Lyons IL            | USA    |
| S1535 | Shafer     | Bart       | Rolling Meadows IL  |        |
| P0381 | Simmons    | Shannon W. | Tampa FL            |        |
| P0767 | Stupperich | Kathleen   | Colorado Springs CO |        |
| A2977 | Trost      | Kelly      | Erie PA             | USA    |
| P0828 | Trout      | Ron        | Indianapolis IN     |        |
| P0999 | Wilson     | Carl       | Streamwood IL       |        |
| A2183 | Zaretsky   | Graham     | Reynoldsburg OH     |        |
| A1164 | Zeve       | Steve      | Randallstown MD     |        |

## *Who?*

*Author Guest of Honor:*

*Ben Bova*

*Artist Guest of Honor:*

*Bob Eggleton*

*Editor Guest of Honor:*

*Jim Baen*

*Fan Guests of Honor:*

*Bob & Anne Passovoy*

*Toastmaster:*

*Harry Turtledove*

## *Where and When:*

*August 31 – September 4, 2000*

*Hyatt Regency, Chicago IL*

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