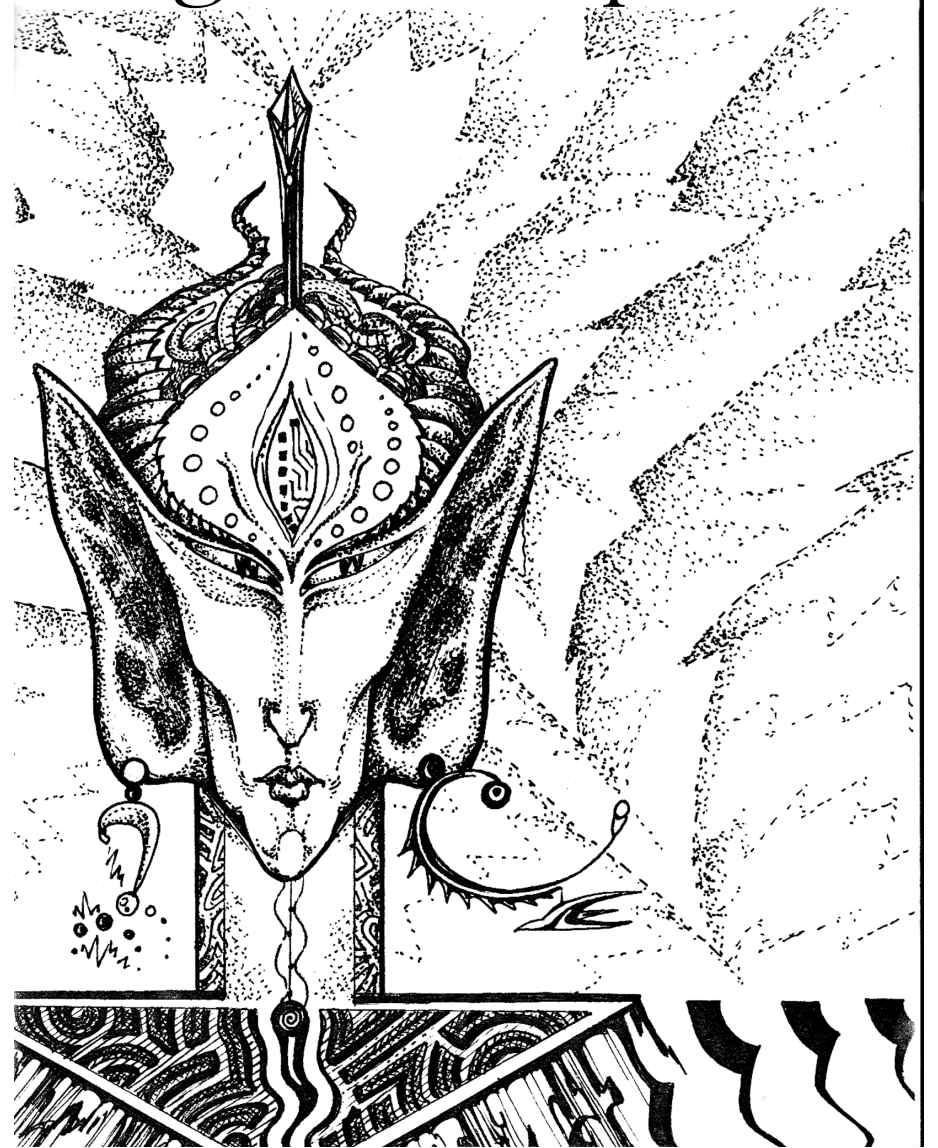


April 9 ~ 11, 2004

Minicon 39

Progress Report 2



P.O. Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN
55408-0297

Minicon 39 Registration

April 9 ~11, 2004

P.O. Box 8297
Lake Street Station
Minneapolis, MN 55408



Instructions:

To preregister for Minicon 39, fill out this form and send it along with a check or money order to the address shown above. Make checks out to Minicon 39. **No cash, please.**

Please send me information about:

Minicon 39 Membership*:	Until	Until	At the	Membership(s) to be named later, in addition to the membership at left:
<input type="checkbox"/> Attending	\$35**	10/31/03	03/08/04 Door	# ___ addtl attending @ \$ ___ = \$ ___
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Attending (12 and under: age ___)	\$15	\$15	\$30	# ___ addtl supporting @ \$ ___ = \$ ___
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$15	\$15	\$15	

<input type="checkbox"/> Program Participation
<input type="checkbox"/> Exhibiting in Art Show
<input type="checkbox"/> Hucksters Room tables
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

*If you live outside the United States, you may send your registration form now and pay the preregistration rate in U.S. dollars at the door. *Memberships are transferable, but are not refundable. At-the-Door transfers may incur a \$5 badge-replacement charge. Supporting Memberships may be converted at the door to Attending Memberships for \$30. ** Amounts are in US Dollars.*

First Name _____ Middle Initial/Name _____ Last Name _____

Street Address _____

Address [Apartment or Suite Number] _____ Address [P.O. Box] _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip /Postal Code _____

Country [if not USA] _____ E-mail _____

If you would like us to hide your city and state on the badge, please check here:

Your name will be included in the non-indexed list of our members on our website (so folks can see if their friends are registered): to include your web home page next to your name please write its location below. If you would like us to omit your name from our online member list, please check here: **URL:** _____

Optional Name Badge Information:

Most members of Minicon have their names on their badges. However, if there is something else by which you are more commonly known, or by which you would like to be known at conventions, enter it here (Only characters in the extended ASCII character set, please!) Or you may leave this line blank and we'll use your name as shown above for your badge. **Name on Badge:** _____

If you would like additional information on your badge (for example: your e-mail address or ICQ#, or if you're representing a Worldcon bid, a publisher or magazine or a bookstore) you may enter it below. _____

Additional Badge information:

Book Drive

OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE 1,500 BOOKS!

Mnstrf/Minicon is sponsoring a book drive through April 30th 2004.

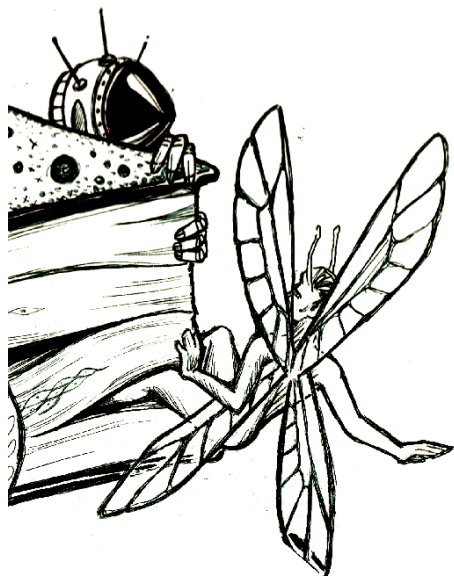
We will be collecting children's books for kids ages 3 to 5 years old that are in Head Start. Head Start is a non-profit program that gives low-income children the opportunity to attend preschool and help prepare them for school. It is a literacy based program but many of these kids do not have any of their own books.

We ask that you donate new books only. Books can be dropped off at registration throughout the weekend.

Books can be shipped to P.O. Box 8297 Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408.

If you have any questions please email me at laurafish@visi.com.

-Laura Jean Fish



Art Credits:

Laramie Sasseville: Cover, pages 1, 4, 6, 7, 12, 14, 16

Sue Mason: pages 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15

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From the Chairs

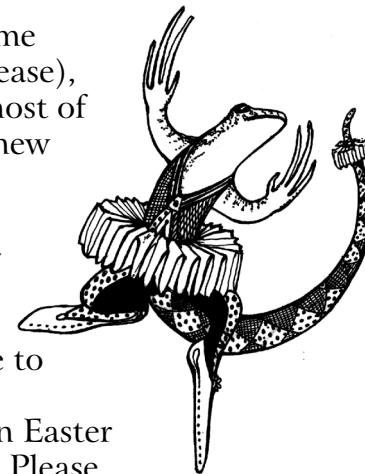
We're counting down to that big cutoff of March 8 when we switch to at-the-door prices. Please register ahead of time! It's much less costly. You can also use PayPal to register for Minicon now. At the door, we only take cash and checks.

THE GUESTS OF HONOR INVITED THIS YEAR ARE:

- **Author GoH Walter Jon Williams**, the well-traveled martial artist and diver, who has written more than a few great books,
- **Editor GoH Sharyn November** from Penguin Putnam, and-
- **Fan GoH Deb Geisler**, Chair of Noreascon 4, the 2004 World Science Fiction Convention. (If you're thinking of going and don't have your membership yet, just ask her - we're sure she'll sell you one.)

We've also got events planned: the Time Traveler's Ball (pack your costumes, please), a Pool Party (pack your swimsuits), a host of panels, children's programming, and, new this year, gaming.

We're back at the Millennium hotel — We loved it last year. We've got bheer tenders shopping for bheer, bhlogtenders shopping for bhlog (Note to bhlogtender: please hold the grenadine purchases this year). We're throwing an Easter Brunch this year, so please buy tickets! Please register early for your room, and remember to register often.



- Laura Jean Fish and Larry Sanderson

Registration

REGISTER NOW!

If you haven't yet registered for Minicon 39, you should do so now! It's easy, it saves you money, and it helps us plan for a great convention.

While it's always tempting to wait until the last possible minute (March 8 this year), why not register today? You'll avoid the last minute search through the pile of important papers for the registration form that you have in your hands right now, you'll miss the adrenaline rush of realizing that you accidentally threw the form out two weeks ago and that you'll have to pay the \$70 at-the-door rate.

Cash-flow crunch? Buy a supporting membership now for \$15 and then pay only \$30 at the door.



SILENT AUCTION

Minicon will be providing a silent auction this year. It will contain fannish items (e.g. art by fans) and local useful items (e.g. coupons for dinner.) All items have been donated to Minicon to help continue providing the wild Minneapolis fandom's Minicon success. Bid once or twice and later enjoy your spoils!



GAMING

Deep in the dark recesses of the Millennium Hotel, we're setting up a gaming room. This resurrection is not an easy task, and we've had to bring in some new blood—I'm a Minicon virgin, so give me a hand, I'm going to need it.

We'll supply a selection of RPG's, board, card, and YA games, but feel free to bring your own favorite game(s). Please give me suggestions for games you would like to have put on the schedule.

We'll be open as long as we have volunteers to staff the place. If you'd like to volunteer, contact me at the info below. If you don't volunteer, we will operate from after lunch break until the parties get going, so from 1:00pm until 9:00pm on Fri & Sat., & closed Sun.

E-mail me at gaming@minicon.mnsthf.org with your suggestions, your offer of your time and talent, and your offer of loaning games and other resources. - *Mark Schneider*



ALREADY REGISTERED?

Thank you!

There are letters on your mailing label in the top right corner which indicate your membership status:

ATND = Attending Membership

SUPP = Supporting Membership

CHLD = Child Membership

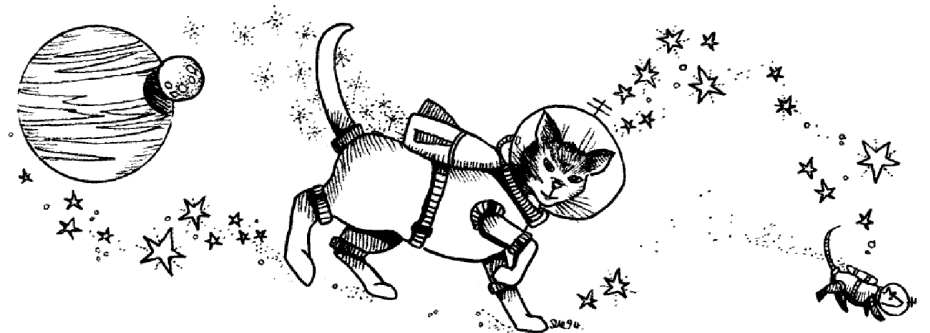
If more than one membership is associated with your name and address, the main notation will be followed by a plus sign, a number, and the letter "A" or "S" to indicate whether the additional memberships are Attending or Supporting.

WEB LIST

This year we're including on our web page listing the names of our current members. Along with your name, we can include a link to your home page. Be sure to let us know if you do not want to be listed on our web page.

CHILD MEMBERSHIPS

Child rates are for those 12 and under who use con services; babes in arms staying with their parents are free.



LIVE OUTSIDE THE US?

To avoid extra charges and difficulties with currency exchange or international money orders, members living in countries other than the United States may register ahead of time without enclosing payment, and then pay the registration fee current at the time they registered in US funds at the door. (If you are not preregistered, you will be required to pay the standard \$70 at-the-door fee, regardless of country of residence.)



Fine Print

Memberships are transferable but not refundable. Our deadlines are based on postmarks, not on receipt of registration forms. So if it's the last minute, please don't spend any extra money for overnight delivery — just make sure the postmark beats the deadline!

For everything else, come to the ConSuite and the bhar. Our new name for the bhar (if you can find it) is *The Singularity*. We're celebrating ORDER AND CHAOS, and order willing, chili will be served in the Singularity after 9pm. As usual the Singularity will be open until the wee hours of the morning with the primary bh food groups, bheer and bhlog. We look forward to another great Minicon. See you there!

- Joel Phillips



BANQUET

We are planning a banquet (buffet brunch) on Sunday at 1 PM. The rate will be \$27 in advance, \$30 at the door for adults, \$15 for children. If you pay in advance and can't make it, we'll try to resell your ticket for you. We need 50 people signed up a month in advance to make this happen.

The menu is will be the same as the hotel's Easter Brunch, at the same price (ours includes tax and tip, their posted price does not).

-Seth Breidbart

MUSIC

Music has always been a vital part of Minstf and Minicon. Some of us enjoy playing, others prefer just to listen and kibitz around the periphery of the circle. We have been blessed with more than our share of talented and entertaining performers and ensembles, and Minicon has always been a great place for everyone to get to together once a year and jam. It's a bit like Brigadoon. It's called Minneapolis Music.



We'd developed over the years the concept of a coffee house/performance space that morphed at times into a programming track, other times into main-stage shows. We'll be doing a bit of this again at M39, but unmorphing the performance space more back towards the circle it originated from. Musicians coming to Minicon who would like to play a 45 minute set in the space should contact Jeff Schalles by snailmail at the Minicon PO box or by email at: music@minicon.mnstf.org

-Jeff Schalles

FAN GUEST OF HONOR: DEB GEISLER

On the web page she created especially for Minicon 39, www.clearerther.com/Deb/, Deb Geisler describes herself as “a 45-year-old fan who lives 20 miles from Boston, Massachusetts, works on conventions, has edited books for NESFA Press, and has a deep and abiding loathing for the color pink.”

Deb has an equally deep and abiding love for a good hack. She frequently mentions the “Chairman’s Discretionary Practical Joke Fund” for Noreascon 4, the 2004 Worldcon. This is sure to yield some interesting results, given that she herself is the chair of that convention.

Deb has already submitted several recipes for her Rune Press chapbook, which is being published in honor of her Minicon GoHship. Two recipes—“Flamingo Flambé” and “Sweetrolls for Confidence”—are included on her web page, as is more of a taste of the treat that’s in store for all of us when we welcome her to Minicon next spring.

PARTIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

We Made A Place Where You Can Get All The BH Food Groups You Want & Then We Hid It

A hearty Hello from Hospitality aka Parties. My name is Joel Phillips, my wife Beth and I will be running Hospitality this year at Minicon 39. We know that you come to the convention entirely to participate in the learned debates in all matters literary. Still, while you’re at the convention you may want to pay a visit to one or all of the parties going on this weekend hosted by Minicon.

On Friday afternoon, hurry on down to the pool party, which oddly enough, is being held at the pool. Two words: blender drinks!

On Saturday, come on up to the dome for the *Time Travelers’ Ball*, where we are celebrating Fallen Empires. It’s your chance to come as a citizen of your favorite fallen empire, (hmmm Rome comes to mind), anything from Aztec to Zulu will work. Please dress accordingly.



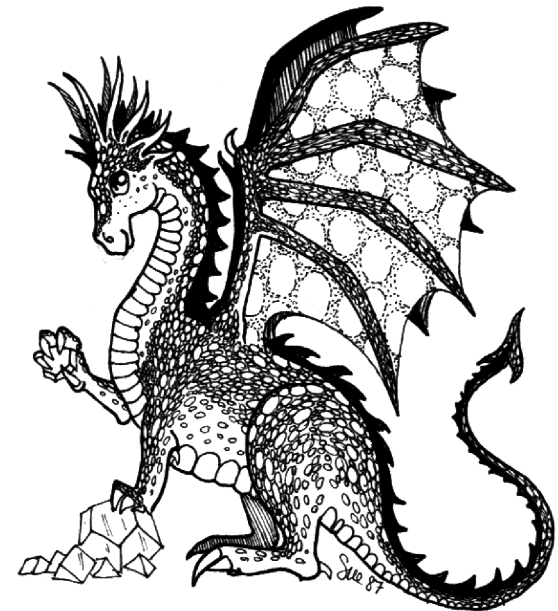
QUESTIONS?

Still have questions? Email registration@minicon.mnsthf.org, or write us at the Minicon postal address (with Attn: Registration on the envelope).

RATES:	Adult	Child	Supporting
Until March 8, 2004	\$45	\$15	\$15
At the Door	\$70	\$30	

MINICON REGISTRATION IS NOW AVAILABLE VIA PAYPAL:

To register and pay via PayPal, go to www.mnsthf.org/minicon39/regpp.html or follow the link from the Minicon main page, www.mnsthf.org/minicon/minicon39. Please follow the instructions there.



Volunteering

PRESERVE OUR ECOSYSTEM!

Gophers and Twinkies and Badgers, Oh My! These species belong to the larger genus Volunteerus-R-U's and represent some of the unique wildlife you will find at Minicon. Each year they emerge in the spring for three days of frenzied activity. Whether stocking food in the ConSuite, running errands for the Bridge or helping to setup and decorate, these dedicated worker bees play a vital role in the continued health of our convention. But this wildlife could soon be threatened with extinction without your help. Your generous donation of time allows us to preserve the population of Volunteerus-R-U's and ensure a healthy convention for years to come. To see how you can help please visit our web site at <http://www.mnstf.org/minicon/minicon39/volunteer.html>.



-Bill

Christ

HOTEL

We're back in the lovely Millennium Hotel (the one with the geodesic dome in the con suite). It's still on the skyway system, with lots of restaurants in easy walking distance. High-speed ethernet is available in many of the rooms and at the bar.

Rooms are \$82 for 1-4 occupants. Suites are \$129 (a significant decrease from last year).

The hotel's phone number is 612-332-6000, or 866-866-8086. Be sure to mention Minicon or the group code (5098) to get the correct rate. To book on the web, go to www.mnstf.org/minicon39/hotel.html, where it says "reservations page for Minicon".

EDITOR GUEST OF HONOR:

SHARYN NOVEMBER

Sharyn November's official title is Senior Editor, Viking Children's Books/Puffin Books. She edits hardcover fiction, primarily for teenagers, at Viking; her authors there include Charles de Lint, Meredith Ann Pierce, Nina Kiriki Hoffman, Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling, and Elizabeth E. Wein. She has two Finalists for the 2003 World Fantasy Award - Charles de Lint's *Waifs and Strays* (collection) and Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling's *The Faery Reel*.

Her paperback acquisitions for Puffin include four Newbery Honor Books, eight National Book Award Finalists (and one Medalist), and two Printz Honor Books (and one Medalist).

She is also editorial director of Firebird, a paperback reprint imprint designed specifically to appeal to teenage and adult readers of fantasy and science fiction. Firebird launched in January 2002. Its many authors include Lloyd Alexander, Pamela Dean, Charles de Lint, and Robin McKinley - a full list can be found at the Firebird website, www.firebirdbooks.com

She maintains her own personal web site at www.sharyn.org



AUTHOR GUEST OF HONOR:

WALTER JON WILLIAMS

Walter Jon Williams is an author, traveler, kenpo fiend, and scuba maven. He lives with his wife Kathleen Hedges on an old Spanish land grant in the high desert of New Mexico, and is the author of nineteen novels and two collections of shorter works. After an early career as a historical novelist, he switched to science fiction. His first novel to attract serious public attention was *Hardwired* (1986), described by Roger Zelazny as “a tough, sleek juggernaut of a story, punctuated by strobe-light movements, coursing to the wail of jets and the twang of steel guitars.” In 2001 he won a Nebula Award for his novelette, “Daddy’s World.”



Walter’s subject matter has an unusually wide range, and includes the glittering surfaces of *Hardwired*, the opulent tapestries of *Aristoi*, the bleak science-tinged *roman policier* *Days of Atonement*, and the pensive young Mary Shelley of the novella “Wall, Stone, Craft,” which was nominated for a Hugo, Nebula, and a World Fantasy Award.

The fantasy *Metropolitan*, which was nominated for a Nebula Award, begins a sequence continued in a Nebula- and Hugo-nominated second novel, *City on Fire*. Of these works, Norman Spinrad wrote, “There’s a Jules Verne solidity to it, all girders and ductwork and massively clanking machineries, a Victorian feel of iron and stone and steam somehow, beautifully and cunningly rendered. . . not only a well-realized work but a hopeful landmark of sorts . . .”

His latest works include *The Praxis*, the first of a series of far-future novels, and *Destiny’s Way*, a contribution to the New Jedi Order series. Walter has also found time to earn a fourth degree black belt in Kenpo. When he’s not at his desk, he is to be found in various exotic parts of the world, often underwater. Walter’s web page may be found at www.walterjonwilliams.net.

There are a limited number of suites; if you want one, it has to be booked through the convention. We’ll also be blocking parties, so please let us know if you’re planning on holding one. Send email to parties@minicon.mnsthf.org or hotel@minicon.mnsthf.org.

4 PM check-out is available on Sunday!

DIRECTIONS

The hotel is located at the corner of 14th Street and the Nicollet Mall. Directions are available on the web using your favorite map site, or you can call the hotel at the numbers above.

PARKING

If you’re registered in Minicon’s group with the hotel, the Millennium is offering a \$6.50/day rate with unlimited in/out privileges. If you are not staying in the hotel, the rate is \$13.00/day; no provision for in/out privileges is made for those not staying at the Millennium. There is additional ramp parking two blocks away in the Convention Center ramp at similar prices to the undiscounted price, and there is limited metered parking on the street. Meters are not enforced on Easter Sunday, but are enforced otherwise.



PROGRAMMING

As always, Programming will be a big part of Minicon. This year we will be having more participatory programming than usual, from Massage Workshop to Collage Art Therapy. Some of these items have limited space, so watch for sign-up sheets around the con! Of course, there will be silly panels, serious panels, and many events featuring our wonderful Guests of Honor. And there are the old favorites that no Minicon would be complete without. Ask Dr. Mike! Lady Poetesses From Hell! The Year in Science! Author Readings!

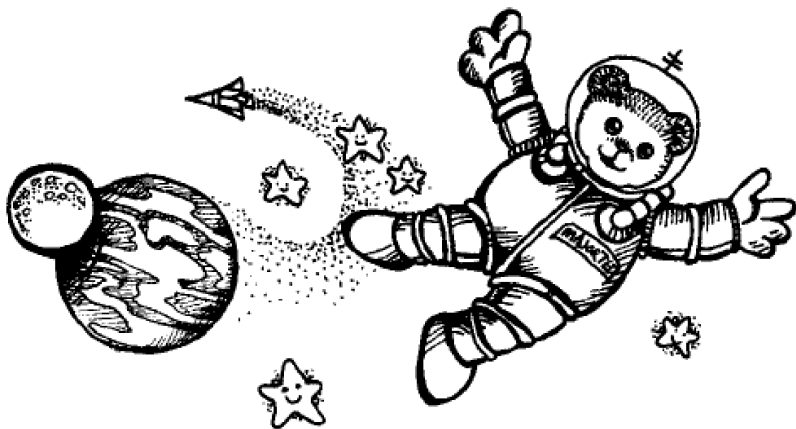
We'd like lots of people to participate in Programming this year, so check out our Programming Ideas web site and drop us a line at programming@minicon.mnstf.org. You can find the Programming Ideas site by following links from the Minicon web site.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Children's Programming will offer activities primarily in the far out Dome throughout the weekend. Activities will range from arts and crafts to science experiments to guest speakers and sophisticated panels that both adults and kids will find fascinating.

Are you interested in making sure great things happen for developing minds? Follow the links from the Minicon 39 web site to our Brainstorming page or email us at programming.minicon@mnstf.org.

Watch for the return of "Dungeons and Dragons for youth" hosted by Michael Kauper.



DEALERS ROOM

Yes. *Yes, what?* Yes, there will be a dealer's room. *Tell me more?* OK. The mass mailing to dealers has not yet gone out and, due to a trimming of the mailing list, it will be smaller than in previous years. Dealer tables are available at \$40.00 per 2-1/2 x 6 table, with a tentative limit of five. (This price does not include membership.) If you wish to be a dealer at Minicon 39, and you do not receive a letter by the end of January 2004, please contact Minicon at dealers@minicon.mnstf.org. *Gee, thanks.* You're welcome.



ART SHOW

Yes, there will be an Art Show at Minicon 39. We hope to have the works of many artists on display! Interested in displaying your art at the Minicon 39 Art Show? You may very well receive a letter from Art Show department head Peer Dudda within the next few weeks. If you don't hear from him, or fear you aren't on our artists mailing list, you can contact Peer at artshow@minicon.mnstf.org, or by sending snail-mail to the Minicon postal address (Attn: Art Show).

Peer has already identified the following needs:

- * Setup volunteers
- * Coat-check/badgers
- * Volunteer cashiers for print shop and Sunday
- * Auctioneer (for live auction - "He's deaf, ya' know...")
- * Advice (he's not an artist)
- * More Volunteers (there's only one of him)

If you want to help out in any or all of these areas, again, contact him either via email or postal mail (that is, U.S. Post, not mail gone postal). Here's to a splendiferous Minicon 39 Art Show!

- Peer Dudda