

# ConFusion and Her Friends

Progress Report #1

January 24-26, 2003

August, 2002

## Guests of Honor

### Author

**Melissa Scott** has been a science fiction fan since she was eleven, thanks to a gym class incident that resulted in a broken arm, whereupon she was banned from gym and assigned as a library monitor. There she was introduced to, and quickly devoured, the limited amount of Science Fiction that her middle school library possessed. She published her first book *The Game Beyond* in 1984, and received the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer in 1986. She has been awarded the Lambda Literary Award for Gay/Lesbian Science Fiction three times: *Trouble and Her Friends* (1994), in honor of which this ConFusion is named, *Shadow Man* (1995), and *Point of Dreams* (2001). *Point of Dreams* is the sequel to *Point of Hopes*, and was co-written with partner Lisa Barnett, who will also be attending ConFusion. They are currently working on the third novel in the Point series, *Fair's Point*.

### Artist

**Alan Clark** is a painter, illustrator, writer and publisher specializing in the surreal and macabre. He starts many of his paintings with an idea or setting that is comfortable and familiar and then twists it, setting the finished product anywhere from slightly off kilter to totally off the wall. He's received several awards, including three Chesley Awards, the International Horror Critic's Guild Award for Best Artist 1995, and the World Fantasy Award (The Howard) for Best Artist 1994.

### Science

**Dr. Jack Cohen** is a reproductive biologist, xenobiologist and Science Fiction consultant. A few of the authors who have sought his advice on scientific matters and possibilities include Anne McCaffrey, Larry Niven and Terry Pratchett. A favorite at science fiction conventions for his irreverent and humorous style, infamous previous lectures have included: *The Science of Discworld*, *The Magic of Roundworld*; *Latex Abuse in Babylon 5*, and *Redesigning the Human Body for Fun and Fornication*. He co-authored *The Science of Discworld* and its sequel with Terry Pratchett and Ian Stewart, and in 2000 published his first science fiction novel — *Rounders* — in collaboration with Ian. He has made numerous BBC Television and Radio Appearances, one of the most famous being on *The Natural History of an Alien* in 1997.

### Fan

**Roberta Kennedy** is a Stilyagi ex-pat, now living in Florida. She was a member of the Order of Liebowitz at Oakland University; and did a variety of things for Stilyagi, including chairing ConFusion. She's the eye of the hurricane - as things go insane around her, she's a place of calmness. Very popular, and much loved, we're looking forward to having her back, if only for the weekend.

### Toastmaster

**Patrick O'Leary** is an accomplished SF author, born in Saginaw and raised in the Detroit area, who has been writing since third grade. This intrinsic talent drew him to life as an advertising creative director where he gets to work with and be inspired by a variety of artists in different mediums. Combination flighty hummingbird and diligent Virgo he "... regards reality as a cruel trickster nun with occasional lapses of mercy, grace and humour."

## Schedule Shake-Up!

This year, more than ever, you'll really want to be there for all three days of ConFusion! To pave the way for our first-ever formal masquerade (next column), we've shuffled up our schedule, and you won't want to miss any of the action!

Opening Ceremonies on **Friday** will start the convention off with a bang and will feature our **Guests of Honor speeches** (usually held on Saturday). Find out more about our fabulous guests, so you know which panels to go to on Saturday.

After the speeches, have a chance to schmooze with the GoHs and other literary and artistic luminaries at the catered **Meet the Pros reception**.

The remainder of Friday will be **party night**, with the dueling blenders and Hawaiian stylings of **MSFFA in the consuite**, and a host of other parties to enjoy.

**Saturday** evening starts with the **masquerade**, and everyone is invited to watch ConFusion's fabulous costumers strut their stuff on stage. Saturday night will feature more parties, and then a **dance with DJ Rick Lieder**, who vows to keep the dance floor hopping.

**Sunday** - take your time and sleep in - because all ConFusion attendees have a **4 pm check-out!** And even after you leave your room, you don't have to leave the con - we'll be **dead-dogging in the ConSuite** until Monday morning.

## Masquerade

Be a pioneer! Compete in ConFusion's first-ever formal masquerade!

The turn-out for the semi-formal organized judging of costumes at ConFusion in 2002 was excellent, with 35 costume entries and a total of 38 participants. In 2003, rather than hide the costumes away during judging, we invite all convention members and guests to join us in the theatre to appreciate and applaud the costumers and their creations as they parade for the judges.

As in the past, there will be various awards determined by a panel of judges. Besides the presentations and parades, the formal masquerade will also bring division competition to ConFusion, which groups entries by experience and provides a more level playing field for all. The masquerade will include a juniors competition, for those 13 and under, and optional workmanship judging. Costumes must be pre-registered for the masquerade. These and other details are included in the rules (yes, there are rules) attached to the registration form (yes, there is a form) available on the website.

The masquerade is scheduled for 7pm on Saturday, with a 6pm muster call for participants. The show will end no later than 9pm to make way for the Art Auction and the dance! The awards will be announced during the dance once the judges have completed their deliberations.

Costumes must be registered for the masquerade no later than 3pm on the Saturday of the convention, but we strongly advise registering by mail or email in advance of the convention.

Participate in the 2003 ConFusion Masquerade! Show your creativity, show your energy, show your knickers if you want (and you can-can...) because it's SHOW TIME!

## Attend ConFusion for Free! Details on page 2...

# Events

## Room Party Contest

Our winners from last year will be back, hosting parties in their free rooms! Take that room away from them by hosting an award-winning party of your own. Prizes will be given for Best Food and Best Theme. Register your party by contacting [confusion-roomparty@stilyagi.org](mailto:confusion-roomparty@stilyagi.org). All registered room parties will receive a free starter pack of pop and snacks.

## Panels

We'll once again have a slew of writers, artists, scientists and fans on hand to share their insights and thoughts on science fiction and its readers. If you have an idea for programming, or would like to volunteer, please contact [confusion-programming@stilyagi.org](mailto:confusion-programming@stilyagi.org).

## Writers' Workshops

Once again, ConFusion is proud to offer Writers' Workshops on Saturday and Sunday. Look for details on this year's workshops in Progress Report #2.

## Gaming

A variety of board, card, and role-playing games await you. New this year - special gaming sessions for kids under 12 and others just for adults. GMs welcome - send email to [confusion-programming@stilyagi.org](mailto:confusion-programming@stilyagi.org) to volunteer.

## Filk

The Midwest's best filkers will once again converge in Michigan in January. Whether you like to perform, sing along, or just listen, everyone is welcome!

## ConSuites

Many of you know Chuck Firmant as the brilliant mastermind behind the Haggis (2001) and Tea with Cthulu (2002). With the entire ConSuite under his command this year, we don't know exactly what he'll cook up - but we do know it will be amazing.

## Radio Free ConFusion

They're back... Freon and his fabulous crew take over the airwaves once again. Bring a radio so you can tune in to the insanity.

## KidFusion

Bring your fannish fry! ConFusion offers special programming for kids ages 4-10. Storytelling, crafts and games head off an irresistible track for kids!

Please note that KidFusion is not a substitute for babysitting. Parents must accompany their children between events.

KidFusion memberships allow children of sufficient maturity level to attend convention functions unaccompanied during daytime hours. Children 5 and under who stay

with their parents at all times do not need to purchase memberships.

## Child Care

Back for another year are both the Pizza Party and the Pajama Party, where you can keep your little ones fed and entertained while you attend Saturday night's events. The pizza party is just \$5 per child, while the Pajama party is just \$12 for the first child in the family, and \$10 for each additional child. Sign up now, and get both for just \$15 (\$13 per additional child). At the con, sign up at Operations.

## Art Show

The Team Eh is back for another year and making it better. Write for an info pack, panel fees and other tidbits. All space is first come, first served so register early and often. NEW: Improved and expanded Sunday Sale. For more information, email [confusion-artshow@stilyagi.org](mailto:confusion-artshow@stilyagi.org) or mail Confusion Artshow, 3665 North Adams, Bloomfield Hills, MI, 48304-3709.

## Dealer's Room

As usual, we'll have a room full of neat finds and excellent buys. If you would like information about getting a table in the dealer's room, please send your address and/or e-mail address to Tom Barber, 2737 Colony Road, Ann Arbor, MI, 48104, or [tbarber@di.org](mailto:tbarber@di.org).

## Advertising

ConFusion's Program Book will remain at its handy 7" wide by 8.5" high size, and ad space is available! Send email to [confusion-advertising@stilyagi.org](mailto:confusion-advertising@stilyagi.org) for rates, sizes and ad formats. Special Fannish Rates available.

# Attend ConFusion for Free!

Don't have a lot of money? Saving up for your fare to Alpha Centauri? That's okay - because you can attend ConFusion completely for free.

Here's how:

1. Pay now, or at the door.
2. Volunteer for at least 6 hours during the convention. Unless you're a student - if so, just show us a valid student ID, and you'll only need to volunteer for a mere 4 hours!
3. Show up in Ops on Sunday, and you'll get your membership reimbursed.

But wait, you say - "What about a hotel room, food, dealer's room purchases? You said I could attend completely for free!" And you can. Here's how:

1. Sleep in the Gopher Hole. This is a suite reserved just for our volunteers - you can stash your stuff there during the day, and sleep there at night (or vice-versa, depending on your schedule...).
2. Enjoy the Saturday night Gopher Feast - all volunteers can dine on some fine gopher (er, I mean chow) in the Gopher Hole on Saturday night.
3. Redeem your gopher bucks. For each hour you work, you'll receive one gopher buck, as good as cash in the hotel snack bar or the dealer's room.
4. Work the most hours of all volunteers, and you'll even walk away with a free t-shirt!



# Hotel

After much deliberation, we're back at the Van Dyke Park for another year. We know the hotel has some problems (can you say "elevators") - but are convinced that, at this time, it's still our best option. The hotel has just contracted with a new elevator maintenance company, and is reporting progress on that front. In addition, they will be paying for an **elevator service technician to be on site 24 hours per day** throughout the convention. To thank us for our return business, the hotel is offering all ConFusion attendees a **4 pm check out** on Sunday, and will be providing **24-hour access to the pool and hot tub** in the atrium.

## Van Dyke Park Suites

31800 Van Dyke Avenue  
Warren, Michigan 48093  
(586) 939-7995 (New phone number)

## Room Rates:

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Standard                              | \$72  |
| Poolside                              | \$82  |
| Two-room Suite                        | \$92  |
| Two-room Jacuzzi Suite                | \$102 |
| Room Reservation Code is: <b>SIFI</b> |       |

Larger suites are available but **must** be booked through ConFusion directly - contact [confusion@stilyagi.org](mailto:confusion@stilyagi.org).

ConFusion's ConCom and the Van Dyke Park Suites hope to accommodate members with a wide range of requirements. Noise, air and accessibility designations have been worked out, so when you reserve a room, state your preference according to this information:

**Noise Level:** The C Wing will be the (enforced) quiet area. Silent parties aren't much fun, so please don't host a party in the quiet area.

**Air Type:** All the poolside rooms face one atrium, the southwest corner of which will contain a designated smoking area. If you have a severe problem with smoke, please don't reserve a poolside room. The remainder of the hotel is divided into smoking floors and non-smoking floors.

**Non-Smoking:** Designated rooms exist; specify when reserving.

**Handicap Accessibility:** Make arrangements when reserving.

Please book early! The hotel has sold out every year that we've been there. Overflow hotel information will be available if it becomes necessary, check the website for more information. The earlier we know how quickly the Van Dyke is filling up, the earlier we will be able to arrange for overflow space.

## Contact Information

### Mailing List

Want to keep up with the latest news about what's in the works for ConFusion? Looking for a roommate or a ride to the convention? Subscribe to:  
[confusion-talk@yahoogroups.com](mailto:confusion-talk@yahoogroups.com)

### Website

[www.stilyagi.org/cons/confusion.html](http://www.stilyagi.org/cons/confusion.html)

### General Information/ ConChair

[confusion@stilyagi.org](mailto:confusion@stilyagi.org)

### Volunteering

[confusion-volunteer@stilyagi.org](mailto:confusion-volunteer@stilyagi.org)

### Room Party Contest

[confusion-roomparty@stilyagi.org](mailto:confusion-roomparty@stilyagi.org)

### Programming

[confusion-programming@stilyagi.org](mailto:confusion-programming@stilyagi.org)

### Dealer's Room

[tbarber@di.net](mailto:tbarber@di.net)

### Art Show

[confusion-artshow@stilyagi.org](mailto:confusion-artshow@stilyagi.org)

### Advertising

[confusion-advertising@stilyagi.org](mailto:confusion-advertising@stilyagi.org)

## ConFusion 2003 Pre-Registration

*Please fill out one form for each person, photocopy as necessary.*

### Rates:

| postmarked by | Adult | KidFusion (12 and under) |
|---------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 10/1/02       | \$25  | \$15                     |
| 12/1/02       | \$30  | \$15                     |
| At the door   | \$35  | \$20                     |

*Make checks payable to:*

AASFA/ConFusion and mail to: P.O. Box 8284, Ann Arbor, MI 48107

### Membership Type

Adult  KidFusion

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

### Please send me information about:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Volunteering       | <input type="radio"/> Dealer's Room        |
| <input type="radio"/> Room Party Contest | <input type="radio"/> Being on Programming |
| <input type="radio"/> Art Show           | <input type="radio"/> Masquerade           |

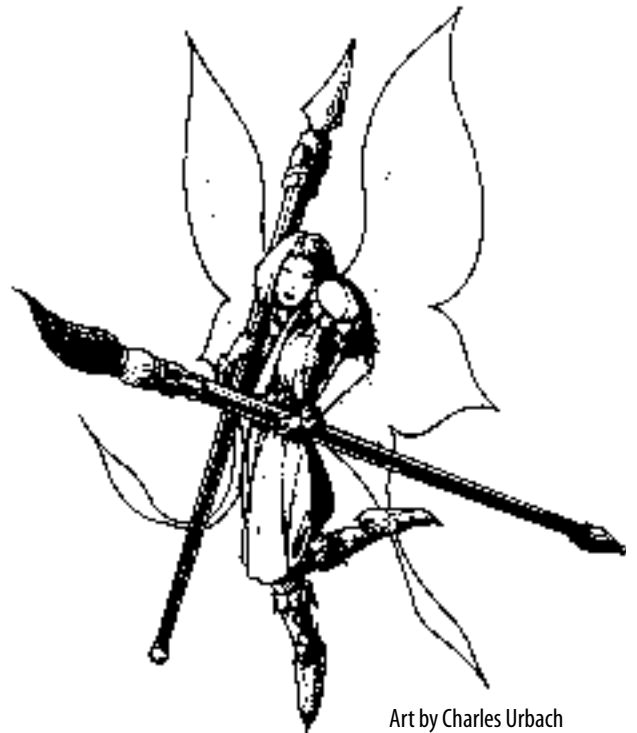
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*January 24-26, 2003  
Warren, Michigan*



Art by Charles Urbach