

Westercon 56
P.O. Box 1066
Seattle, WA 98111
Web: <http://www.wester56.org>
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Westercon 56 July 3 - 6, 2003 SeaTac, Washington

Westercon 56 Progress Report #1

from Westercon 56 Publications Division

Continued from page 3

quently, I may be better prepared to deal with the aftermath, having dealt with such "what-if" scenarios, however vicariously, through science fiction.

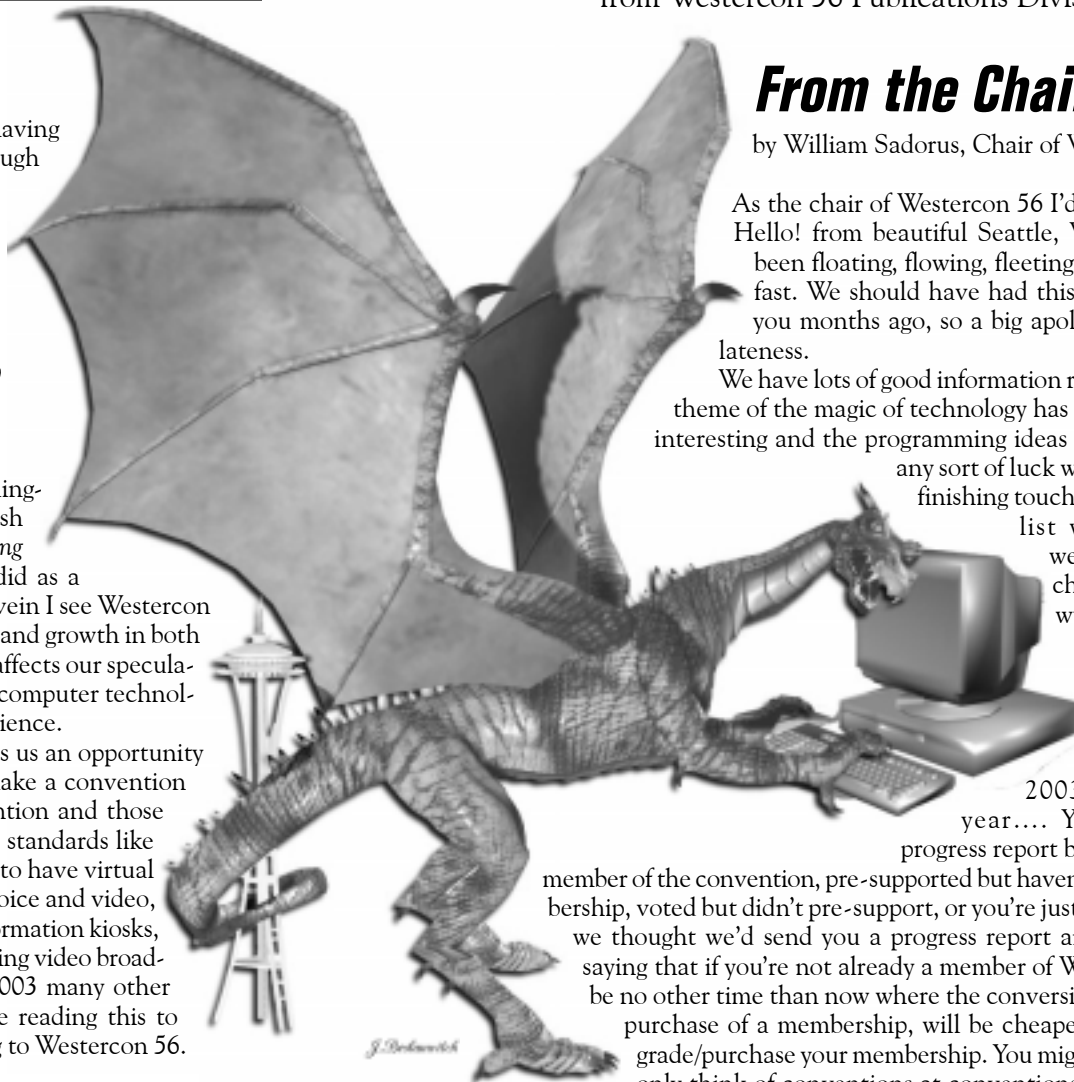
So while I contemplate latex gloves and gas masks and dig out my well-worn copy of "1984" I remind myself that science fiction has a long and noble history and not all of its visions have come to pass.

Our Vision for Westercon 56

by Jack Beslanwitch, Vice Chair of Westercon 56

When I began our bid for another Westercon in western Washington, I did so with a clear vision of what I wanted to accomplish this time around. Hugo Gernsbeck, the founder of *Astounding* and the beginning of modern science fiction, did what he did as a celebration of technology and science. In a somewhat similar vein I see Westercon 56 as a celebration of a new and even greater period of change and growth in both technology and science and believe we should explore how it affects our speculative literature, our culture and our media. This could include computer technology, communication technology, bio-technology and space science.

This focus goes beyond simple theme, however. It also gives us an opportunity to make Westercon 56 a testbed for technologies that can make a convention have broader dimensions both for those running the convention and those attending. So, with luck and effort, we hope to have now old standards like network gaming and an Internet room. Beyond that, we hope to have virtual guests, that can be present in panels either via voice or both voice and video, but be half way across the world. Other possibilities include information kiosks, online chats, real video archives of paneling or real time streaming video broadcast of certain paneling. In the interval between now and 2003 many other innovations will become possible to use. We invite all those reading this to suggest possible additions to our list to explore and try to bring to Westercon 56.



From the Chair

by William Sadorus, Chair of Westercon 56

As the chair of Westercon 56 I'd like to extend a grand Hello! from beautiful Seattle, Washington. Time has been floating, flowing, fleeting away from me way too fast. We should have had this progress report out to you months ago, so a big apology to everyone for its lateness.

We have lots of good information regarding WTC 56. Our theme of the magic of technology has proved to be extremely interesting and the programming ideas have been flying. With any sort of luck we should be putting the finishing touches to our guest of honor list within the next few weeks. For breaking news check out our website at www.wester56.org.

Lest you forget, Westercon 56 will occur at the Seattle Airport Doubletree Hotel, July 3rd thru 6th, 2003. That's just next year.... You're receiving this progress report because you're already a member of the convention, pre-supported but haven't converted your membership, voted but didn't pre-support, or you're just on our mailing list and we thought we'd send you a progress report anyway. It goes without saying that if you're not already a member of Westercon 56, there will be no other time than now where the conversion rates, or an outright purchase of a membership, will be cheaper. So don't wait to upgrade/purchase your membership. You might forget.... In case you only think of conventions at conventions, look for us at Conse-

ConComCon 9, LepreCon 28, Westercon 55—Conagerie, the 60th Worldcon—ConJosé, and a whole lot more of conventions next fall and beyond.

As a sidenote, we are also still hiring for various positions on the concom. If you have a burning desire to work on a Westercon, we might have a position for you. Contact us by email or snailmail. The addresses are listed in this publication. Talk to you soon!

Westercon 56 Open Meeting

Join us at our next Westercon 56 Open Meeting on Sunday, June 9, 1-5 p.m. at the SeaTac DoubleTree Hotel (the site for the convention—18740 Pacific Highway South, Seattle, WA, 1-206-246-8600—free parking for this meeting) where we will discuss what is planned so far and what else we would like to include and more. Come find out what is happening and how you can help. Many positions on the Westercon 56 Committee are still available and this will be a great chance to snag the job that you love or may have been trying to get with other conventions. But don't hesitate, these jobs won't last long with so many people wanting to help run one of the major conventions in the United States.

Our next Open Meeting will be July 14 in Federal Way. The exact location will be posted on the website later in June. The August 4 meeting will be at the Bellevue Regional Library.

Guests of Honor

by Judith Herman, Westercon 56 Programming Chair

We are pleased to announce our Guests of Honor (so far) are Writer Bruce Sterling, Artist Lisa Snellings, Fan Saul Jaffe, and Editor Claire Eddy. Connie Willis will be our Toastmaster.

This issue, we present a short introduction to Writer Guest of Honor, Bruce Sterling. For more info on Mr. Sterling or any of our other Guests of Honor, I suggest that you go to the Westercon 56 web site (<http://www.wester56.org>) and click on the guests links.

Bruce Sterling, one of the fathers of Cyberpunk, is a contemporary of William Gibson and very well published. In addition to fiction relating to computer issues, he has also authored a fair amount of nonfiction on the same subject.

Books by Bruce Sterling

Involution Ocean (1977)	Heavy Weather (1994)
The Artificial Kid (1980)	Holy Fire (1996)
Schismatrix (1985)	Distraction (1998)
Islands in the Net (1988)	A Good Old-Fashioned Future
Crystal Express (1989)(Collection)	(1999) (Collection)
The Difference Engine	Zeitgeist (2000)
(With William Gibson) 1990	
Globalhead (1992)(Collection)	As Editor
The Hacker Crackdown: Law and	Mirrorshades:
Disorder on the Electronic Frontier	The Cyberpunk Anthology (1986)
(1992) (Nonfiction)	

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Writer Guest of Honor:
Bruce Sterling

Artist Guest of Honor:
Lisa Snellings

Fan Guest of Honor:
Saul Jaffe

Editor Guest of Honor:
Claire Eddy

Toastmaster:
Connie Willis

Westercon 56 Membership Fees Good until July 31, 2002
Please check the appropriate block and fill in the information below.

Attending Membership:

If you pre-supported and voted you have a full attending membership already

If you voted and did not pre-support - \$30 _____

If you pre-supported and did not vote - \$40 _____

If did not pre-support or vote - \$50 _____

Attending Child (6-12 years old at the time of the con in 2003) - \$25 _____

Attending Child 5 years and under at the time of the con in 2003 - free

Supporting Memberships:

If you voted you have a supporting membership

If you pre-supported - \$10 _____

If you did not vote or pre-support - \$20 _____

Make your check for the amount checked above to Westercon 56 and mail it to:

Westercon 56
P.O. Box 1066
Seattle, WA 98111

Web: <http://www.wester56.org>
email: info@wester56.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov _____ Zip/pc _____

phone () _____ email _____

- Use email as my primary source of contact from the Westercon 56 bid
 I would like to receive my progress reports in PDF format via email
 I would like to join the Westercon Mailing List
 I do not wish to have my name included in any printed material sent out
 I do not wish to have my name included in any list posted on the internet

A Audrey Schmidt	P Paul Suptic	P Bob Webber
P Spring Schoenhuth	P Mary Suptic	A Eric Weber
P Ben Schreiber	A Gary L. Swaty	A Tim Weber
A David Score	P Robert Taylor	A Roger Wells
A Eric Scott	A Stacie Thomas	P Michael B. West
A Jon Seward	A James Thomas	P Leslie What
P Kathleen Shock	P Guest of	A William A. Wichgers
A Hank Smith	Karen Thompson	A Patrick K. Wiese
A Sean Smith	A Becky S. Thompson	P William Wildermuth
A Davey Snyder	P Amy Thompson	A Mike Willmoth
A Kevin Standlee	P Jennifer Tibbetts	P John Windberg
P Jason Stejskal	P Rob Transdale	A Sally Woehrle
A D. Omaha Sternberg	A R-Laurraine Tutihasi	P Guest of Sally Woehrle
P Guest of	P Gary Van Court	A Robert Woodward
Omaha Sternberg	A Doug Van Winkle	P Terry Wright
A Paul Stratton	A Christie Van Winkle	P Lisa Wright
P Guest of Paul Stratton	P Chris Vancil	A Ben Yalow
A Marjorie Stratton	A Tom Veal	P Leslie Yamada
A Bernard Strub	P Edd Vick	A Kathryn Yeager
A Deborah Strub	A Thom Walls	A Sherry Zoeller
A Larry Strutton	A Anthony D. Ward	A Zach Zoeller
A Geri Sullivan	A Mike Weasner	P Ron Zoeller

Westercon 56 Committee

Unfilled positions are not listed

Chair Division	William Sadorus	Programming Division	Judith Herman
Vice Chair	Jack Beslanwitch	Programming Second	Sue Bartroff
IT Department	Jack Beslanwitch	Art	Durlyn Alexander
IT Department Second	Gabriel de los Angeles	Costuming	Richard Stephens
Committee Secretary	Katrina Marier	GoH Liaisons	Betty & Jayson Claar
Treasurer	Pat Porter	Green Room	Sally Woehrle
Mail Room	Katrina Marier	Green Room Second	Elinor Fadgen
Member Services Division	Daniel Harrison	Publisher Outreach and Corp. Relations	Sue Bartroff
Child Care and Childrens Programming	Shannon Hillinger	Video	Russ Rudesill,
Hospitality	Marjorie Rosen	VIP Suite	Theo Williams
Registration	Vickie Bligh	Writer's Workshop	Betty & Jayson Claar
Volunteers	Gene Armstrong		Fairwood Writer's Group
Volunteers Assistants	Rob Trousdale, Dale Ward	Publications Division	Michael Brocha
Operations Division	Don Glover	Special Events Division	Bobbi DeFault
Handicapped Members	Patrick Nash	Special Events Second	Jerry Gieseke
Liaison	Dave Schaber	Opening Ceremonies	Richard Stephens
Security	Daniel Patowski,	Closing Ceremonies	Lori Edwards
Transportation	Eric Pawtowski,	ComputerTech. & Events Coordinator	Gabriel de los Angeles
Facilities Division	Yvonne Pawtowski	ComputerTech. & Events Second	Tionna McCormick
Art Show	Charlie Knoedler	Corporate Relations	Dan Kemmis
Dealers Room	Lacey Axmaker	Corporate Relations Second	LaRae
Hotel	Tracy Knoedler	Internet Café Manager	Jason Ewing
Hotel Second	Cheryl Ferguson	Info Booth Managers	Jimmy Chang,
	Melanie Schaber		Erin Durdy,
			Richard Frietas

Programming

by Judith Herman, Westercon 56 Programming Chair

The programming department is responsible for working with all the guests coming to the convention as well as developing the panels/video programming. If you have an area you would like to help out in, are interested in running a track, or if you have panel ideas please e-mail me at proghead@wester56.org.

The areas we will be covering in panels at the convention are: Anime, Art, Costuming, Fanthology, Filking, Gaming, Net Gaming, Technology/Science/Computers/Space, Writer's Workshop, and Writing/literature.

And You Probably Didn't Even Know You Were in the Running!

All attending memberships to Westercon 56 were included in a drawing for an MP3 player at Norwescon 25. We are pleased to announce that the player was won by Michael Hanna of Mountain View, California.

Science Fiction Becomes Reality

by Katrina Marier, Secretary for Westercon 56

Science fiction, rarely consciously prophetic, contains ideas that come back to haunt one. Consider "2001: A Space Odyssey" whose beautifully realized space planes and moon base are studied by NASA to this day. Consider Orson Welles' 1938 broadcast of "War of the Worlds," which caused a panic. Consider "Gattica," which moves the idea of genetic engineering and the caste system that results from it from an unsettling idea we gingerly play with to a nightmare we may one day face.

Now consider another movie, whose release date was postponed in light of the events on September 11th. Arnold Schwarzenager plays a firefighter whose wife and daughter perish in New York as the result of a terrorist attack. What eerie timing. Not necessarily. Science fiction—whether it be high-brow literary thought experiments or pop culture dredging of the American psyche – serves a very useful purpose: it both predicts a future we wish to see and acknowledges the dark side of same.

Why all this talk of such matters? Being the Secretary for Westercon 56, I am in charge of getting the mail. How does mail service tie in with apocalyptic films and books? For the first time in my life, the idea that I might contract a deadly disease from a piece of mail or be in danger from a bomb scare has moved out of the realm of the imagination and into "mundane" reality. I find myself asking my friend who works for the postal service what safety scuttlebutt he's heard. I find myself praying for his safety. And I find myself trying not to equivocate a simple white envelope with Freddy Krueger.

But on the other hand, science fiction, with its willingness to "boldly go where no man has gone before" and confront controversial issues encourages its readers and viewers to do the same. I know that many of my ideals—tolerance, respect for other cultures, as well as my capacity to think critically—were heavily influenced by science fiction.

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Westercon 56 Membership

as of May 25, 2002

A = Attending Membership
P = Presupporting Membership
S = Supporting Membership
C = Child Attending Membership

Not all names are listed due to Westercon 56 not having a privacy release for that individual. If you want your name to appear in any Westercon 56 publication or on the Westercon 56 web page you need to send a letter with that release or fill out a privacy release (like that found on page 7 and at the bottom of the flier) and mail it to Westercon 56, P.O.Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111.

If your name is misspelled or if you feel your membership status is incorrect, please contact membership@wester56.org.

Presupporting Members are those that paid a presupporting fee but did not vote or convert to Attending Membership. Presupporting Members that wish to convert to a Attending Membership need to pay an additional fee (see page 7). Membership conversion fees go up after July 31, 2002.

Those that voted but did not presupport or convert to Attending Membership are Supporting Members and need pay an additional fee (see page 7) if they wish to convert to a Attending Membership. Membership conversion fees go up after July 31, 2002. No Supporting Members have submitted a privacy release to Westercon 56 at this time.

A Sue Ellen Adkins	P Thomas Benson
P Todd Allis	A Caroline Bergman
A Paul Allwood	P Guest of
P Beonwyn Anderson	A Caroline Bergman
A John Andrews	P Susan J. Berven
P Pat Apodaca	P Leroy Berven
(Quicksilver Fantasies)	A Jack Beslanwitch
P Gene Armstrong	A Fran Beslanwitch
P Book World	A Peter Bingham
Attn: Mary Chris	A Blars
P Paula Bachelor	P Michael Bloom
A Michael Bachelor	A Doug Booze
A Chaz Baden	A Pat Booze
A Lynn Boston Baden	P Adrian Boune
A Titania Baidon	P Amy R. Bradley
A Larry Baker	A John M Bradley
A M-Jo Baker	A Richard Brandshaft
P Jacqueline Baker	A Seth Breidbart
P Bam-Bam	P Guest of
P Bandit	A Seth Breidbart #1
A Stephanie Bannon	P Guest of
P Guest of	A Seth Breidbart #2
Stephanie Bannon	A Bruce Briant
A Charlot A. M. Barney	A James Briggs
A Eric Barney	(Maynard G. Krebs)
A Michael Barney	A Michael Brocha
P Jay H. Becker IV	A Jo Brown
P Jack Bell	A Kim Marks Brown
P Guest of Jack Bell	A Jordan Brown
A Judith C. Bemis	A David Butler

A Jane Campbell
A Amy Carpenter
(Book Universe)
A Paul Carpentier
A Sandra Childress
A Jerry Chilson
A Becky Citrak
A Michael Citrak
A Peter Citrak
A David Clark
A Margaret Clawson
P Rachel Cluney
A Sandy Cohen
A Sally Conner
A Robin Cookson
P Jim Cox
P Richard Cronister
A Fox Cutter
P Edric Daida
A Joni Brill Dashoff
A Todd Dashoff
A Brenda Daverin
A Robert Daverin
A Marci DeLion
A Linda Deneroff
A Robert Dentinger
A Patrica Diggs
P Greg Dougherty
A Pete Dufault
A Bobbie Dufault

A Craig Dyer	A Penelope Jacob	P Celia Modell
P Guest of Craig Dyer	A Judy Johnson	P Lee Morgan
A Laurie Edison	A Ken Johnson	A Cheryl Morgan
P Mike Edwards	P Eric Jones	A Liz Mortensen
P Thomas Eivins	A William E. Jones	A Bob Moscoe
P Victoria Emery	P Joanne Jones	A Yvonne Moscoe
A Elinor Fadgen	A Mary Kare	P Paula Mueller
A Gary Keith Feldbaum	A Jordin Kare	P Marcia Muggelberg
A Elizabeth Fellows	A Rick Katze	A John Nanci
A Cheryl Ferguson	P Erika J. Kauneuyer	P Bob Norton
A jan howard finder	A Ken Keith	A George Nyhen
P Nancy Fix	A Terry King	A Chris O'Halloran
C Kelly Forbis	A Steve Kirby	A John O'Halloran
A Don Forbis	P Guest of Steve Kirby	A Dick O'Shea
A Steve Forty	A Diana Koivunen	P Jon Ohlemeier
P Jon Foster	P Angela Korra'ti	A Michael Ormes
P Jody Franzen	P R'ykandar Korra'ti	A Jordon Orr
A Donald W. Frazer	P Melvin Krehbiel	A Gregory Paddock
A Cynthia A. Frazer	A Jack Krolak	P Paul-Andre Panon
P Daron Fredricks	C Samantha Landry	A Walter Parker
P Deborah Fredricks	A Bridget Landry	A Tony E. Parker
A David Gallaher	P Bridget Landry	A Fred Patten
P Jim Gander	(The Admiral's Captain)	A Bill Patterson
A Gerald Gieseke	P Bob LaPierre	A Kris Paulson
P James C. Glass	P Lori LaPierre	A Eric Pawtowski
P Gail Glass	P Jane S. Larsen	A Yvonne Pawtowski
A Rich Gleason	(Lady Jaynes Books)	A Daniel Pawtowski
A Don Glover, the Younger	P Conrad Larsen	P Roy Peak
A Jean Goddin	(Lady Jaynes Books)	A Elayne Pelz
A Cynthia Gonsolves	P Patrick S. Lasswell	A Bruce Pelz
P Henry Gonzalez	A Judy Lazar	P Jo Peshke
A C.C. Goodman	P Peter Lazzaretti	P Ann Peters
P David W. Gray	A Casey Leichter	A Pat Porter
A Ed Green	A Mark Linneman	P Terry Primrose
A Steve Greenfield	P Rebecca Lowry	A Denise Prowse
A Robert J. Grieve	A Judith K. Lyen	P Joy Ralph
P Julie J. Grieve	A Bhroam Mann	A Nora Rankin
P Ivstin Gross	A Kirsten Manning	A April Reed
P Angela Grover	A Katrina Marier	P John Reiher, Jr.
P Joan Hardy	A Shawn Marier	P Rhiannon Rhys-Jones
A Lisa Deutsch Harrington	A Steven Mars	A Michael Rice
A Harold Harrington	P Dana Marshall	A Roberta Rice
A Harold Harrington III	A Chris McDonell	A Margaret Richardson
P Daniel Harrison	A Julie McGalliard	A Michelle Roberts
A Mary Hart	P Jack McGillis	A Linda Louise Robinett
P Guest of Mary Hart #1	P Michael McGuire	A Maria Rodriguez
P Guest of Mary Hart #2	A Christian McGuire	A Andrew Rosen
A James Hay	A LeAnna McGuire	A Marjorie Rosen
A Judith Herman	A Michael McKinley	P Cory Rueb
A John Hertz	A Robyn Meadows	A Ruth Sachter
P David Hirzel	P Hans Meier	A William Sadorus
P John Holdren	P Zane Melder	A Maia Sanders
P Robert Honan	A Stephanie Metz	A Lisa Satterlund
P Les Horst	A Paul Metz	A Sharon Sbarsky
P Bonnie Jean Horst	A Martin Metz	P Jodi Scalon
A Stephen Hutchison	P D. Ruff Millar	P Michael Scalon
A Penny Hutchison	A Elliott Mitchell	A David Schaber
P J. Spyder Issacson	P Howard Modell	A Melanie Schaber
A Cheryl Jacob	P Elizabeth Modell	A Alan Schmidt