

Oops!

Because of a glitch in the programming database, some of the program descriptions were left out of the pocket program. Here are the missing descriptions.

18 Ergonomics for Writers

Carpal tunnel syndrome? Neck hurts? Back hurts? Quick, (mostly) cheap solutions to the physical problems of writers.

21 Poem to Song

Not every poem makes a good song; not every song works as a poem. When Laurie J. Marks expressed a wish that the poem in her upcoming novel *Water Logic* could be set to music, fellow writer's group member Rosemary Kirstein was thrilled for the opportunity. But changes were necessary, some large, some small. In this presentation, Rosemary will recreate the process step-by-step, share her analysis and decisions on changes to the poem; explain her method of selecting and shaping the music; and in the end sing the completed work.

25 Please Touch/Don't Touch

One of the many qualities which sets WisCon apart from most other SF conventions is the perception that, for one weekend a year, the Concourse is a safe and inclusive space for SF fans of all genders, orientations, identities, races, and religions. Many people have commented that this extra level of comfort seems to create a very "touchy-feely" environment, with a lot more casual physical contact between old friends and new acquaintance, and a very different, (more open?) environment for flirting and hook-ups. But not everyone is quite so comfortable with such a relaxed atmosphere... Where do you draw the lines between casual and significant, affection and flirting, too much and not enough? How do the conditions change from situation to situation? And how do you tell someone to "back off"... or deal gracefully when someone else lets you know that you've crossed a line?

26 Wither Hero(in)es?

The NBC series *Heroes* is a mainstream hit. The show is clearly written with a comic book sensibility and strong SF genre influence. But what about the women of *Heroes*? As the show progresses, are they transcending initial stereotypes (the sex worker, the cheerleader in need of saving)? Do the women enjoy and take advantage of their newly-found powers as effectively as the male characters?

The Feminist (and other) Appeal of Kelly

28 Link's Fiction

Let's talk about what makes Kelly's work fun and thought-provoking.

33 Lifestyles of the Rich and Supernatural

Vampires have been a popular trend in romance for a long time, but shapechangers, minor gods, superheroes, ghosts, and magical time travelers are catching up. Do supernaturally powerful heroes provide a PC alternative to the Alpha Male in historical romance (and older contemporaries)? What need does the powerful caretaker fantasy fill for a modern reader? Or is it the strangeness we like, and not the power? Or both? How is the story different when the heroine is the supernaturally powerful half of the pair?

38 Silent SF Films of 2006

Silent SF Films of 2006. *Silent* films? In 2006? You're kidding, right? Not really. It isn't the films that are silent, it's their titles. Yes, it's charades. With chocolate for the best actors and more chocolate for the best decipherers. And silly fun for all.

43 Ask Me Anything (About Publishing, That Is)

Answers will be blunt and humorous.

44 Farmer's Market

The Farmer's Market surrounds the Capitol Building on Saturdays, and is a favorite spot for many WisCon attendees. Meet us in the lobby at 8 a.m. and we'll all head over for a feast of great food and cool crafts.

45 How To Read Aloud

Reading from your work is a vital part of an author's life, especially in the early stages of their careers. Come and learn how to give an affecting and dramatic reading, with pointers on character, voice, and basic techniques. Each participant should bring a short piece to read aloud and workshop the reading.

46 Underneath it All

So many fantasy books take place literally underground-- Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere*, China Mieville's *King Rat*, not to mention countless legends of the fey. What is the allure of hidden tunnels and caves? How do they shape the societies we envision down there? The Underground can be both very safe and very unsafe, compared to "above."

Officer Unfriendly? Problematizing Law Enforcement and the "Justice" System

The archetype of the hero cop is strong in many genres, SF being no exception. However, the pervasiveness of this portrayal can run counter to the experiences of various communities, where law enforcement personnel are often seen as tools of oppression by the powers-that-be. This panel will discuss the disconnect between positive archetypes and the harsh realities on the streets. Discussion of the problems inherent to law enforcement institution ware contrasted with typical dismissals of "a few bad apples."

50 I Sense Your Pain.

Let's discuss psychic powers in fiction, particularly women with psychic powers. Can we spot general tropes? What are the thematic uses of assigning paranormal powers to women? And why do readers like or dislike psychic women?

51 Genre Tokenism Today: The New Octavia

After the untimely death of the great writer Octavia E. Butler, some have asked who will take her place. A panel of African-descended women currently writing genre fiction addresses this question, talking about Octavia's oeuvre and their own: similarities, differences, market forces, and the pressures to model their contributions to the field on hers. How many ways is this question just plain wrong? Who has a vested interest in there being "an Octavia," new or old? What would "a new Octavia" look like? How does her literary legacy affect the field today, and how might it do so in the future? And how does this legacy relate to this disturbing question?

52 Editing Anthologies

How an editor makes an anthology happen, from concept to finished product.

Boys and Gender Expectations in Contemporary YA Fantasy and Science Fiction**53 Fiction**

There's been a lot of discussion of the gender expectations, traditional and otherwise, placed on girls in recent fantasy and science fiction, from Harry Potter to His Dark Materials, but what about boys? What expectations are being placed on the male protagonists of recent YA fantasy and science fiction? Do they differ from the expectations placed on traditional male protagonists in such stories?

54 Please Explain Slash To Me

Slash fans and authors explain the appeal of their chosen pastime. Why are women in particular so drawn to this form of expression, as readers and writers? What's so special about mucking around in someone else's fictional world?

Women Authors You Probably Never Heard Of (But Should Read!): The Karen Axness**57 Memorial Panel**

A WisCon tradition. Panel members will discuss the latest books by female SF and fantasy authors, the emphasis being on new female authors in these fields.

58 Modern Myth and the New Skepticism

The show *Mythbusters*, with its experiments that, while flashy, adhere to scientific methods, has reawakened a wider and more mainstream interest in science than has been true for a number of years. Is this a crafty and sagacious way to hook the masses into using their brains, or does it dumb down science to a race to see who can create the biggest explosions? Does it really lead its watchers in the direction of questioning "accepted wisdom", or are they all just secretly living out adolescent fantasies of blowing things up? Or is the real answer "all of the above"?

63 Claiming Your Voice

A workshop on speaking up and claiming your voice: some breathing exercises, some rolling around on the floor and general silliness, and a chance to be really, really loud for a while.

67 Three Comrades Go On A Quest...

So many of the traditional fantasy tropes rely upon distinctions either of class (princes/princesses, lost heirs to thrones, etc.) or that map quickly to class (the aristocracy of those who can use magic, say, lording it over those who can't.) How do we fix this? Who's already done the work that we can look to for examples, and what are the traps we want to avoid?

85 Can Technology Be The Answer?

Science fiction oftens portrays technology as the great leveller of class and yet many real world solutions to the problems of poverty are surprisingly low technology: mosquito netting to combat malaria, micro investment to start cottage industry, education reducing high birth rates. What examples do we have of science fiction that postulates a believable end to poverty in the future?

95 Judging the Tiptree Award

The Tiptree Award was born at WisCon, and has evolved into one of the field's most prestigious awards. Come listen to this year's jury discuss what goes into selecting the winner.

99 Outreach to Non-Readers

Panel after panel has noted that feminist SF seems of limited value to young women today because the sort of people who read SF are the sort of people who (mistakenly) believe the gender war to have been won. How can feminist SF be of help to those for whom feminism is still a vital issue, but who are unlikely to read our books?

103 Real World Magic and Speculative Fiction

For many, god and goddesses are part of the realm of fantasy, illusions dreamed up within the imagination of a particular writer as part of the act of world building. Then there are authors who bring forth their own personal Goddess and Earth based beliefs into a fictional portrayal of the modern world, or a pure land of fantasy. Can this be done with dignity and respect? When has then been accomplished successfully? When has this failed?

105 Putting the "D" in InterDisciplinary

There are commonalities between many arts; what elements do writing, dancing, painting, cooking, and the other arts share? How does the artist, of any discipline, organize her practice for the maximum output of both quality and quantity? And do elements of one discipline carry over into another? Louise Marley was an opera singer who now writes science fiction and fantasy; Darlene Coltrain is a jewelry artist who also paints and creates costumes for dancers; Kay Kenyon was an actress who is now a writer. The discussion will trace the interdisciplinary effects of these varied careers.

106 Rocking the Good Boat Utopia

Let's assume that you live in the future, in a utopian world that has discarded the oppressions of the present and somehow maintains a classless, racially harmonious society where gender and sexuality are free and fluid. Dominant hierarchies are largely a thing of the past. What happens when, for some reason, someone displays "regressive" behavior? How does an egalitarian society regulate behavior in a manner that is not coercive or oppressive? Which SF examples point toward possible answers?

107 SF&F - Revolutionary or Conservative?

In 2006, Walter Moseley declared that most fiction is conservative. According to many, we write to belong, to codify, to hold things in place. Speculative fiction is supposed to be different -- fiction that overthrows the status quo, and lets us think about what might be, rather than what is. Yet so much mimetic fiction does that, and much speculative fiction is conservative, a paean to vertical hierarchy, full of magical thinking and devoid of social analysis. Is the distinction a valid one, and if so, what helps make speculative fiction that way?

109 Let's Do the Time Warp Again

It's just a jump to the left and a step to the right. Put your hands on your hips... For 32 years, we've been time-warping along. Is it the camp or the low-budget effects that we love about *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*? What does it say about the evolution of the Frankenstein myth? Why did audience participation catch on in this one movie, but nowhere else?

114 Making War on "War"

Every time we are faced with a serious situation, we Americans have to make a War of it: (i.e., the Wars on Poverty, Drugs, Obesity, and Terror) despite the fact that "victory" continues to elude us. We even have to "battle" disease with "magic bullets". Why are we so taken with war as our default metaphor for action? How does that limit our problem solving approach? What might we replace it with? What metaphors have other cultures turned to? And how might we popularize a change?

115 Lightning Write

Is it practice or parlor game? Everyone brings a one line quotation, favorite phrase, or theme. Mix them up and get one back. Write for ten minutes and incorporate in the the line or theme. Then switch, and the next person adds on. Switch with someone again and 5 minutes to finish up. Time is left for sharing the results. Prizes for dramatic readers. No writer credentials required. Silly to seraphic, it's all about sparking creative minds.

SF Films of 2006: The Year the Critters Ran

121 Wild

In this and the companion panel, "Fantasy Films of 2006", moderator Richard S. Russell will try to explain the mysterious Rise of the Penguin and why Cars count as "talking animals." Handouts. Video clips. Mandatory audience participation.

122 Unfair to Middle-Class White Guys!

Why do the SF short fiction market publication figures show more stories by men than women are printed? Is it that "women don't submit enough," or is it the selection process, or something else? When I make a conscious decision to publish roughly equal numbers of male/female authored stories, am I being unfair to the middle-class white guys?

129 What the Shadow Knows About SF&F

In her essay "The Child and the Shadow," Ursula K. LeGuin claims that "most of the great works of fantasy are about that journey [the journey to self-knowledge that only the shadow can guide us in]; and that fantasy is the medium best suited to a description of that journey." Shadow, according to Carl Jung, is the person we have no wish to be, the denied and repressed parts of the psyche. LeGuin says "the shadow is the other side of our psyche, the dark brother of the conscious mind. It is Cain, Caliban, Frankenstein's monster, Mr. Hyde. It is Vergil, who guided Dante through hell, Gilgamesh's friend Enkidu, Frodo's enemy Gollum." Let's talk about how shadow works in fantasy and science fiction, how shadow is more subtle than a simplistic "good vs. evil," who our "favorite" villains are and why they bring so much energy to fiction, how much darkness and dark moments are enough, and find out what else the shadow knows.

Doing Your Homework: Where Do you find

131 the Good Stuff On the Web?

Good writing requires good facts and those come from research. Libraries have been the traditional best site -- but Wikipedia and other sites are springing up and improving. These authors reveal their secret corners for "Finding Things Out" and use that information to make their fiction come alive! Bring paper, pencil and laptop (quiet keyboards preferred) and take notes for your next research session for your next story. Share warnings about poor resources or techniques to avoid.

135 What These People Need Is A Honky

Tom Cruise is the Last Samurai. Kevin Costner wins the heart of American Indians with his wolf dancing. Orlando Bloom, in *Kingdom of Heaven*, goes from medieval England to Jerusalem to teach the Arabs how to sink wells and transport water. Is there anything that can be done about this plague of Orientalist white-guy Mary Sue-ism?

The Feminist (and other) Appeal of Laurie

137 Marks' Fiction

Let's talk about what makes Laurie's fiction interesting. For example, the problem-solving of the plot and characters -- the fantasy elements do not dictate what happens in her fiction.

The Object In the Story, the Story In the

142 Object

Objects of significance often play a part in fairy tale and fantasy. This panel would discuss the history and current use of the magical object in writing and examine the process and work of artists that create mythic arts. Are there objects that have been used repeatedly in stories? Are there similarities in these objects? How does the artist incorporate story into their art work? Does the viewer need to know the story connected with the object?

144 Circulation Reboot: Basic Bellydance Moves

Get your blood moving again! Stand up and shake out the kinks from travel and hotel chairs with a brief warm up and some basic moves from Middle Eastern Dance. Learn hip figure eights and circles, a simple shimmy, and other classic elements of bellydance. You'll end up refreshed and ready for your next intense panel!

145 Romance of the Revolution

In authors ranging from Heinlein to Macleod, Spinrad to Cordwainer Smith, the revolution is glorified - sometimes a violent one, sometimes (but far more rarely) a peaceful one. How do we avoid making the same errors of glorifying violence and hero worship when coming at things from a revolutionary perspective in fiction? (Some people may not find these to be errors - they're welcome to come discuss that POV too.)

148 Colonialism...In...Space!

This topic never gets old. Let's rehash some of the first-contact scenarios in science fiction through the lens of real, historical first contact situations among world cultures. How alien is alien? How do recent examples of first-contact stories work with, reject, or subvert the same old stereotypes? Your thoughts on modern ideas of empire are also appreciated.

Sparkly Boys and Tough Girls: Raising

151 Children Outside of the Gender Binary

Come discuss the difficulty and rewards of raising kids outside a strict binary gender system. As a parent, how do you cope with the terror that your five-year-old son will get beat up or harassed for wearing his sparkly gold spaghetti-strap top? How do you steer your daughter away from Barbie and where can you find cute jammies that don't have either Spiderman or Disney Princesses on them?

**The Role of Women and People of Color in
155 Stargate SG-1 and Atlantis**

Stargate SG-1 and *Atlantis* can both boast casts that have capable, interesting, and believable female and ethnic minority characters. On the surface, the show seems to hit all of the right notes. But a closer examination shows that not all is well in the Stargate universe if you happen to be a minority. Carter may be the smartest person in the room, but how often does she get to have a real conversation with another female friend? In the beginning, both Goa'uld and Jaffa could be of any race, now the Goa'uld are mainly Caucasian and the Jaffa nation is a largely black one. In Atlantis, all of the Scientists are white, the backwards, aggressive warriors are non-white. And just what is up with Elizabeth Weir? Let's get down to the nitty gritty and discuss if *Stargate* is ultimately a progressive show or a bastion of tokenism with a pretty gloss.

156 Adventures in Peacemaking

One of the most striking things about Laurie Marks' book *Earth Logic* is that it tells a rousing tale of adventure in which the heroes are focused on learning to live together peacefully, rather than making war on each other. Are there other books like this, in or out of the genre? Why are there so few? What stories are worth telling about peacemaking?

160 The Many Answers to Fermi's Paradox

Famed physicist Enrico Fermi originally posed the question around 1950. The Universe has been around for 15 billion years, he noted, more than enough time for intelligent, space-faring civilizations to have spread to every star system in the galaxy. So where are they all? Indeed, where are any of them? Needless to say, SF authors picked up this ball and ran with it -- in 30 different directions. We'll try to go over as many as possible, and maybe even come up with some new ones.

161 So What Is The Plunkett, Anyway?

Members of the Plunkett Board will be on hand to answer questions, take nominations, listen to advice, and generally stir up trouble at this panel; arguments almost certainly guaranteed and opinions very much solicited.

163 SF&F on TV This Season

From the enthusiastically received Heroes through the return of The Doctor to the glimmer-and-gone *Day Break*, there were a small flock of new SF-related shows on the big broadcast networks this season, replacing last year's failed aquatic series. Meanwhile, over on SciFi, the old warhorses keep chugging along.

165 Writing About War

War -- sometimes against True Ultimate Evil, sometimes against the Hatfields or McCoys -- is the backdrop of countless SF and fantasy novels. When writers write about war, do we have any ethical obligations beyond simply telling a good story? How do we write in a way that reflects our beliefs, but does not devolve into propaganda for our cause? Do any of us worry about convincing people when we're playing devil's advocate?

167 That's Not Scary Anymore

With so much terror in the world today, does horror fiction need to go to new lengths to find something frightening, or is the genre dying out in favor of real-world scenarios and serial killer book deals? What can frighten even the most jaded readers in the genre, and what are editors looking for to send tingles up their desensitized spines?

171 These Kids Tomorrow

With YA so popular in its many incarnations, just what are some of the YA trends going on today? What will be the trends for tomorrow? What will the kids of today be reading tomorrow, and what will the kids of tomorrow be reading? Come and speculate!

172 The Human Genome

Is our culture changing now that the human genome has been mapped? What does it mean that segments of our genes are now patented by individuals as well as pharmaceutical companies? How important is it to know who our ancestors are?

177 Speculative Fiction Theatre

There's a small but vocal group of theatre lovers in the speculative fiction community that wonders why the genre has consistently been ignoring the fertile ground of fantastic drama-- that is, staged dramas and written plays with speculative elements. Yet for many years, playwrights and artists like Caryl Churchill and Julie Taymor have quietly been earning prominent raves in the mainstream media for their original plays and adaptations of works with fantastical -- and, often, feminist or politically radical -- content. Let's talk about particularly effective speculative fiction theatre, on the page and on the stage, that we've seen or read in the last year (or five years or ten years). What are the strengths and liabilities of the theatre medium that help these works achieve their particular stripe of weird and wonderfulness?

178 Fun Home

Time magazine named Alison Bechdel's graphic novel *Fun Home* as its top book of the year, and it spent a good chunk of 2006 on the *New York Times* best-seller list. Bechdel is the artist/writer best known for her syndicated comic strip "Dykes To Watch Out For". It's pretty rare for: (a) autobiography, (b) lesbianism, or (c) a graphic novel to be at the top of *any* critical list of best books of the year; hitting the trifecta is unprecedented. Which of these three aspects is most surprising? Does *Fun Home's* success bode well for the future?

**Overnight Success and the Experienced
180 Writer**

Most writers don't sell their first book. Many don't sell the second or third either. When articles and reviews talk about your "first" book or refer to you as a "new" writer when it's actually your third and you've been writing for fifteen years and selling shorts for eight, it can all feel a bit surreal. Especially because in many ways they're absolutely correct to use those terms. How does a writer cope with feeling old and new at the same time?

183 How To Do Good Work in High Fantasy

How do writers work within the genre expectations of traditional high fantasy? What limitations do they face, and how do they challenge and stretch those limits? It's possible to write good fiction without churning out yet another young-man-in-a-remote-village-discovers-his-hidden-destiny plot, isn't it? Let's explore inspirations and ideas for this popular but critically suspect genre.

184 Love, Marriage, and Feminist Pair-Bonding

Last year's fairy tale panel included a spirited discussion on the fact that many traditional fairy tales end with a marriage. Even subversively rewritten fairy tales (such as "CinderEdna") frequently wind up with a marriage -- though it's between people better suited to each other -- and many books that would be shelved well outside the Romance section find their happy ending from pair-bonding as well. Is this inherently unfeminist? Are there books that deal intensely with relationships that don't feel the need to tie a tidy romantic bow at the end? What do feminist relationships look like?

188 Third Culture Kids

Not everyone is born in the one country and then grows up there. Some are born in one country than grow up in another and then return to find themselves out of synch with both places. What is it like to a third culture kid and where can we find ourselves in sf/f? Is Temeraire of the Naomi Novik novels a third culture kid?

192 Updates on Decluttering

Two years ago several of us discussed how we were attempting to downsize and declutter our lives. This is a continuation of that subject. Where have we succeeded? Are we still struggling? Suggestions? Failures?

Fantasy Films of 2006: The Year the Critters

201 Ran Wild

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202 What If You Don't Want to Have Children?

Is not wanting kids is the last feminist taboo? There are lots of Wiscon programming items about being a parent/being pregnant/whatever -- how about the rest of us?

206 Writing as Spiritual Practice

Convention panels on writing tend to focus either on the craft of fiction or on the business aspects of being a writer. For many of us, writing's also part of our spiritual practice. Let's talk about it! How are writing and spirituality connected? Do fantasy and science fiction lend themselves more naturally to spiritual expression than, say, writing computer manuals would - or vice versa? How do the spiritual aspects of writing intersect with the artistic and business aspects?

208 Workshop: Morning Taekwondo

A short introduction to the Korean martial art of taekwondo. This workshop will emphasize the applications of the two basic forms (Taeguk One and Palgwe One). No previous experience necessary. Taught by a third degree black belt.

211 Teaching SF&F

Bringing SF&F into the classroom: what are some different approaches for primary school, high school, undergrad, postgrad? Creative approaches to introducing SF&F (examples: as an ethics course, in film studies, pop culture, in gender studies, science programmes, etc.) Devising syllabi and reading lists: go with the "classics," or take a cannon to the canon? What if your department head thinks science fiction has cooties?

How Dense Can We Get? Options for 216 Making a Better Future

As of January 2007, the world population had passed the 6.5 billion mark, and many people feel we're headed for trouble. Overpopulation has been linked to a whole series of possible catastrophes: global warming, resource depletion, and starvation. What should feminists do, who care about the future of the planet, and our future on it? If we need to change course, what should the new one be. The panelists will be giving short presentations on the problems associated with overpopulation, and their ideas for solutions, after which there will be time for discussion.

217 The Religious Left Takes to the Streets

Last year's "Where is the Religious Left?" panel determined that the Religious Left is right here at WisCon. Now it's time for the second part of the conversation. What specific actions can we take both to make ourselves more visible and to work on the social-justice issues dear to our hearts and our faith traditions? How can we do this without falling into the "us/them" dichotomy the Right has used so destructively? In the current climate, is it even possible to avoid the politics of opposition?

Please note: this supplement was NOT produced by our extremely gifted Publications Chair! Any flaws in formatting or typesetting are solely the responsibility of Karen Moore, and she apologizes profusely for them.