

# MarsCon 2007: Pulling it off...themelessly

## A Note from the Comfy Chair

Greetings and happy holidays to all of you! Planning for MarsCon this year has been almost effortless from my perspective. Half the work was already done when I got here thanks to the mighty Matt Brogmus and our co-chair Katie Nelson. I am also sincerely grateful to Wayne McCloud, Kristy Effinger, Eric Heideman, Ben Huset and Luke Ski for their monumental efforts in recruiting such amazingly wonderful guests for us to play with!

This is the first time in a long time we didn't need to fiddle with any pesky hotel searches or last minute adjustments. Thank you, Eris. You will ever be welcome at MarsCon. If we found a dwarf planet larger than Pluto in our solar system, we would definitely name it after you. You deserve it. :-)

Between Art Show, Science Room, Dealers, Gaming and Programming, you won't find a dull moment during the convention weekend. Read on and prepare yourself for an exciting and eventful MarsCon!

Christine LaBounty  
Comfy Chair



## Our Two New Guests of Honor:



### Science Guest of Honor Paul Graham

Paul has been working as an Engineer for the Mars Society's Mission Support since the FMARS 2002 season, and is the current Engineering Team Coordinator. Paul is also on the 4 Frontiers Generation II Mars Settlement Programming team as a dual division head (Building Trades & Mars Suits.) He attended Colorado School of

Mines where he studied Engineering Physics, Computer Science and Electrical Engineering as a triple major. He has worked in every building trade, including several years as a plumber, a tinner and an electrician, has extensive RV experience from construction, repair, refitting and living and even spent a few days working on the ARES rover.

Currently he is the CTO of Alpine Systems, a PC consulting company where he loves to teach people how to use their computers in a fun creative manner, and Alpine Systems Engineering, a Linux/Unix consulting and Web/e-mail hosting company. His other interests include writing (He is currently writing a novel, having several published short stories and non-fiction magazine articles), photography, videography, theater, acting, mountaineering, hiking and other outdoor activities, SCUBA diving, and he is an amateur radio operator (KC0IFZ). We are happy to welcome such a distinguished and imaginative scientist to MarsCon!

## Blue Mars

### The MarsCon 2007 Film-Anime Room

Blue Mars (which took its name from the Kim Stanley Robinson novel) was one of many parties on the floor o' parties at our inaugural MarsCon in 1999. Many weird and wonderful movies were shown (with nary a hint of a schedule) and blue food of all varieties was served.

For 2007, Blue Mars will be returning to its roots, on the parties floor. We will be down the long corridor from Con Suite and will feature that same eclectic blend of anime, sci-fi classics, hits and obscurities that you have come to know and love these past nine years. Buttered popcorn will also be found there in abundance. Planned film line-up thus far includes such gems as *Dork of the Rings* and Rock 'n' Roll Ray's *Mondo Collecto*. As we are still working on the film schedule, let us know if you would like to contribute your very own fan film to the line-up or your time and talents to manning the projector during MarsCon. Send email ASAP to Nina at [bluemars07@marscon.org](mailto:bluemars07@marscon.org). Thanks!

### Music Guest of Honor

## Ookla The Mok

Ookla the Mok began in 1993 when college roommates Rand Bellavia and Adam English wrote and recorded 16 songs on a cassette tape and mailed it to themselves to keep plagiarists from stealing their ideas.

*Poor Man's Copyright* became a hit in an unexpected market: Nerds. Ookla started playing at Science Fiction and Comic Book conventions and the band became a cult sensation among the Fen (sci-fi fans). Their unique blend of clever, funny, media-savvy lyrics, catchy melodies and accessible power-pop sound have made them a hit among basement-dwelling mouth breathers everywhere! They've played all over North America.

Ookla has released seven studio records:

*Poor Man's Copyright* (1993)  
*Less Than Art* (1997)  
*Super Secret* (1998)  
*Sucking Out Loud:*  
*Ookla the Mok Live at Windycon 25* (1999)  
*Smell No Evil* (2001)  
*oh okay LA* (2003)  
*Dave Lennon* (2005)



In order of length of name, and tenure with the band, Ookla the Mok is: Rand Bellavia (vocals, guitar, trombone, keyboards), Adam English (vocals, keyboards, guitar, trumpet), Wolfram Neff (bass), Joe Pepper (drums). Visit Ookla the Mok's website: <http://www.ooklathemok.com/>. We are delighted they could join us for MarsCon 2007!

## A Bulletin From Main Stage:

We all know that seating in the main stage room during the masquerade is very limited, so we came up with the good idea of overflow seating right outside of the main stage in the large open area—complete with a large video projector screen and sound! We are hoping to be able to seat all comers for the masquerade. But if you want to have a seat inside the main stage room, I would get in line early. The seats are like PS3's—they go fast.

Thank you for your support.  
Larry Andrl, main stage manager

# OUR ENLISTED GUESTS OF HONOR

## FROM STARGÅTE SG-1:



### DON S. DAVIS

*"General George Hammond"*

Don S. Davis is a Vancouver and Los Angeles based character actor in film and television. He is also a painter, woodcarver and designer. Don holds dual citizenship in Canada and in the United States. Don has maintained his primary residence in the greater Vancouver area of British Columbia since 1981. In July, 2003, Don married the great love of his life, Ruby Fleming, who is a dual citizen of Canada and Norway.

Don began working in the film industry while teaching at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C. in the early 1980s. He left teaching to pursue acting fulltime in 1987. Don has appeared in numerous feature films including *Miracle*, *Alaska*, *A League of their Own*, *Needful Things*, *Look Who's Talking*, *Con Air*, and *Best in Show*. He has had featured roles in over thirty made for television movies. Don's television credits also include his series regular role as General George Hammond in *Stargate SG-1*; and recurring roles in *The X-Files* and *Twin Peaks*. Don has guest starred in dozens of television series including *The West Wing*, *NCIS*, *The Dead Zone*, *Northern Exposure*, *L.A. Law*, *Knots Landing*, *Twenty-One Jump Street*, *Wiseguy*, and *Macgyver*. We are so delighted to welcome this distinguished and beloved actor to MarsCon 2007!



### Author Guest of Honor:

## Eleanor Arnason

Eleanor A. Arnason is an American author of science fiction novels and short stories. Her work often depicts cultural change and conflict, usually from the viewpoint of characters who cannot or will not live by their own societies' rules. This anthropological focus has led many to compare her fiction to that of Ursula K. LeGuin. She lives in Minnesota.

Eleanor is the author of five published novels, and a number of poems and short stories. She has received both the James Tiptree, Jr. award for "gender-bending SF," and the Mythopoeic Society's Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for the novel, *A Woman of the Iron People*, the Spectrum Award (for "Dapple") and the HOMer Award (for "Stellar Harvest"). Also the Minnesota Book Award for *Ring of Swords*.

Her earlier novels are: *The Sword Smith*, *To the Resurrection Station*, and *Daughter of the Bear King*. Her short stories include "The Warlord of Saturn's Moons," "The Lovers," "Ace 167," "The Hound of Merin," and many others which have appeared in several magazines. We are honored to have such an esteemed and innovative author join us for MarsCon 2007!

## Future Planning Meetings...

MarsCon planning meetings (also known as ConCom meetings) are held one Sunday of each month, from 1:00-4:00 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Select. Meetings are open to all, volunteers and spectators alike, and we encourage you to attend if interested or mildly curious. We're a friendly group, and welcome new ideas, input and workers! Find out what it's like, and what goes into planning a convention like this! Final meeting dates are:

January 14, 2007  
February 28, 2007

February 4, 2007



### GARY JONES

*"Chevron Guy, Walter Harriman"*

Gary Jones was born on January 4th 1958 in Swansea, Wales. Gary moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in 1986. Before Gary delved in to a career in acting he used to work as an Art Director for a Gazette Newspaper in Burlington. Gary is an award-winning playwright and is a Leo-nominated comedy writer. Now he is known by the Stargate fans as Chief Master Sergeant Walter Harriman in *Stargate SG-1*. Gary never imagined working on Stargate for nine years and he is always ready to shoot another episode!

We're thrilled to have Gary join us for MarsCon 2007, and get to know the real "chevron guy."

### Artist Guest of Honor:

## Todd Lockwood

Todd Lockwood creates his images with a mystic combination of acrylics, oils, Corel Painter, Photoshop, blood, epithets, secret incantations, and beer. His designs involve images derived from fantasy and science fiction, fantasy role-playing games, his dragon fetish, years of playing Dungeons & Dragons and playing with mother nature, his love of mythology and the transformations of myth in religion, a profound distaste for advertising, and beer.

Todd has done covers for *Asimov's* and *Analog* magazines, countless Sci-fi and Fantasy book covers: he's been a staff artist for TSR and Wizards of the Coast, getting great satisfaction contributing artwork for Dungeons & Dragons and Magic: The Gathering. Please welcome this extraordinary Sci-fi & Fantasy artist to MarsCon 2007. You'll find many examples of his work at <http://www.toddlockwood.com/>. Look for his book, *Transitions, The Art of Todd Lockwood* at your favorite local bookstore, or buy it online directly from his web site.



### Media-Fan Guest of Honor:

## ERIC LARSON

I'm a Cheese Head, born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin—the capitol of the Dairy State. My upbringing was fairly normal except for the fact that I loved science fiction. When I was in Junior High, I officially joined the *Star Wars* fandom and have been an active member of it ever since—attending well over 50 conventions so far in my life.

Starting in 1980 with WisCon, I began giving talks and lectures about *Star Wars*. But it wasn't until 1999 that I took all of my education and background serious enough to start a new convention called FILMCON. FilmCon is more an idea than a certain kind of convention. We teach people about film and television and show them how they, too, can become part of the process. Over the years I have had the pleasure to meet many wonderful artists and designers from the world of film. We're so happy to welcome Eric as our Media-Fan Guest of Honor! After running FilmCon for 7 years, he will certainly have lots of interesting & funny stories to tell!



## Help Us Gain 700 Pounds!

While you're attending panels and parties, MarsCon has another mission for you and we hope you'll choose to accept it! We want to collect 700 pounds worth of donated items and funds for the Twin Cities' Second Harvest Heartland (<http://www.2harvest.org>), Minnesota's largest food bank. The following foods and hygiene products are needed:

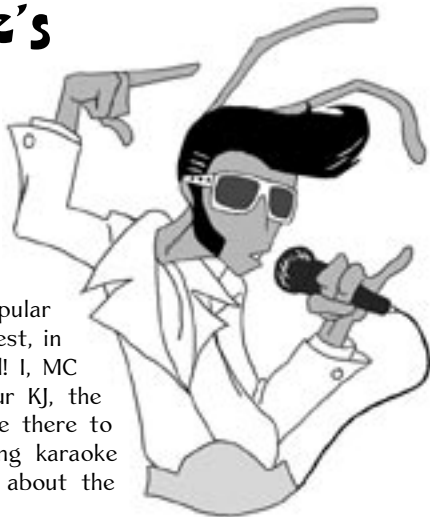
canned meats	feminine hygiene products
beef stew	household cleaning supplies
chili	laundry detergent
peanut butter	paper towels
canned vegetables	toilet paper
canned fruits	toothpaste
pasta and sauces	shampoo
cereal	soap
boxed meals	deodorant
hearty soups	diapers
dried peas/beans	
rice	
instant potatoes	
100% fruit juices	
fruit preserves	



**No glass containers, perishable items, or home canned goods, please!** Donated items can be dropped off during the con at the Registration table, or at Ops. Get more bang for your buck with a tax-deductible cash contribution (accepted only at Ops)—\$1 equals 5 pounds of food! Keep an eye and ear out during to con to see how quickly we approach our goal, and thanks in advance for your generosity!

## Karaoke Joe's Café is back!

Brought to you by Karaoke Folks, home of the Floating Karaoke Show. With a few more songs than last year (we acquired around 300 pop hits from 2001 to 2005), we will bring you the popular Saturday Night Karaoke Contest, in which prizes will be awarded! I, MC Ben Lessinger, along with our KJ, the talented Brigitte Berg, will be there to assure you a fun and exciting karaoke experience! Look for details about the contest at MarsCon 2007!



## MARSCon OPERATIONS (OPS)

The MarsCon Operations department is the center of communications for MarsCon. When a call comes in to the hotel for MarsCon, it is directed to the Operations (OPS) department. The Operations department at the Con (sometimes called The Bridge) is open continuously throughout the con. Call The Bridge with questions or problems, for prompt response. "We're here to help!"

We need Duty Officers and Runners (Mars Rovers) for the con. Training for duty officers is being scheduled in January. Please contact Art Johnson, or any member of the convention committee to schedule training. We also need Mars Rovers to volunteer at the con. A short training session will get you on your way as an official "Mars Rover." Please consider volunteering for the OPS Department! Email [volunteer07@marscon.org](mailto:volunteer07@marscon.org), and make sure to designate your interest in OPS.

—Art Johnson

## A Food Drive Party Contest! to benefit the Second Harvest Food Shelf

We are bringing back something that was a huge hit at MarsCon 2004, the Party Contest Food Drive. Everyone at the convention can vote for his/her favorite party by bringing donations of canned goods or non-perishable food items. Drop off your donations/votes by the Registration Desk. Each can or item counts as one vote, and you may vote as often as you like. In fact, we encourage you to vote early and vote often. We'll post a giving chart by Registration so you can check on your favorite party's progress, and the winning party and runners-up will be announced at Closing Ceremonies. Party voting closes on Sunday at 10:00 a.m., but you are welcome to bring more food for the drive up until the convention closes. All food collected will be donated to the Twin Cities' Second Harvest Heartland, so start gathering those cans now!

## Our Hotel, the Holiday Inn Select "It's just like last year!"

If you attended MarsCon 2003 or 2006 you should remember the Holiday Inn Select by the Mall of America and Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. Just like last year, the Holiday Inn Select will be our base of operations for 2007. To add to your sense of déjà vu, room rates will be just like last year, \$89 + tax for a regular room and \$99 + tax for suites. Parties will be grouped together on the 13th floor, close to the Con Suite and Krushenko's.

To reserve a sleeping room for MarsCon 2007, call 952-854-9000 or 1-800-HOLIDAY, and make sure to mention "MarsCon" in order to get the reduced rate. Party room rates are the same as for sleeping rooms. Taking a room at the hotel is a wonderful way to enhance your convention experience. It gives you a home base, a place to park your stuff, entertain friends, and land whenever you finish with partying throughout the convention weekend...not to mention it makes the host hotel very happy with our multifarious convention.



# MARSCON GAMING 2007

Hello folks! This is going to be an exciting year in gaming. Not only will we have scheduled and free play events, computer and X-Box LAN gaming, along with other special events, but this is the first year we are catering to what gamers want—GAMER WRISTBANDS!

Although I personally think that MarsCon is worth coming out for the whole weekend, we recognize that gamers are a special breed. Some people only play certain gaming events, while others roam about. For those of you who only want to come out and game, with perhaps no interests in some of our other non-gaming events, we present the GAMER WRISTBAND.

Ten dollars will get you a special color-coded wristband that gives you access to the gaming rooms only. (For those of you who are hardcore gamers, you probably aren't going to look at the other rooms anyway). However, we know how much fun one can have with OTHER events, such as Masquerade, Party Rooms, the ConSuite (food!), Science Room, and well—the list just goes on. What do you do if you want to check out the rest of the convention because you lost your best mini to some 10 year old kid in a pink-slips army game? Check us out with only a simple upgrade, minus the cost of your wristband! All we ask is that you see how cool the rest of the convention is. I am a hard-core gamer myself, and I have found that these people put a lot of effort, care and fun into other areas of Fantasy/Sci-Fi conventioning! The great part is—YOU GET TO CHOOSE! So those of you who want to keep costs low and just want to game, we are here for you. If you want to upgrade—that's great! Either way you are going to have fun!

So, on to gaming events! We will have an insert detailing all the events in the program book coming in the future, but I can leak these few items that are definitely confirmed (as we are always adding where we can):

- **D&D Miniatures Tourney**
  - 200-pt Sealed. Grand prize is a Colossal Red Dragon!
  - Show your opponent who is the King of the Dungeon!
- **A&A NASCAR Circuit**
  - Ever want to take your tank for a spin on a racetrack? Wonder what



would be like for that King Tiger to literally take out the opposition? Here is your chance to find out!

- **Twilight Imperium, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition**
  - Take control of far distance races and duke it out for control of the galaxy.
- **RoboRally Tournament**
  - Who can program their 'bot the quickest? Take control of your robot and mop up the floor with the opposition.
- **PC LAN**
  - Bring your laptop to our LAN to play networked games. Next time you get blown away in Half-Life, you have a face to put with that bazooka round!
- **X-Box LAN**
  - Check out some of the latest, and coolest, X-Box gaming there is! No extra charge for playing (besides the cost of the coveted GAMING WRISTBAND)

This is just the tip of the iceberg! Todd Lockwood, of Dungeons & Dragons and Magic the Gathering artwork fame, is going to be mingling amongst the gaming population! Not only that, but he has graced us with a special signed print to be given away over the weekend at one of our special gaming events! We are so lucky to have such a talented individual such as Todd to be coming, and he is going to be making a special trip to the gaming area! Make sure to bring your favorite Todd Lockwood art with you!

Don't forget to bring the kids as well. There will be tournaments such as Yu-Gi-Oh especially for them. There will be open gaming space if you want to borrow a board game, or bring your favorite along to share with us. Brad and I (the Board Game Geeks) will be happy to play a game with you.

On behalf of our Gaming Crew this year (myself, Jamie, and Brad) we want to thank you in advance for coming out to have a good time. See you at the con!

— Matt "Cyber Urza" McMillan

## Rates for MarsCon 2007

	10/31/06	1/31/07	At the Door	Discounted At 2006 Con
Through Adult	\$35	\$45	\$55	\$25
Child (6-12)	\$15	\$20	\$25	\$15
Supporting*	\$20	\$25	+\$25	\$15

\*Supporting members pay a reduced rate through 1/31/07 to hold tickets and then complete the purchase by paying an additional \$25 at any time up to and including at the door.

Please mail the form below with your payment (no cash, please) to the following address:

MarsCon, P.O. Box 21213  
Eagan, MN 55121

or register through our website using Paypal.

E-mail: info07@marscon.org

Website: <http://marscon.org/2007>

Holiday Inn Select: 952-854-9000 or 1-800-HOLIDAY

## MARSCON 2007 Preregistration Form

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

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please add me to your e-mail list for MarsToday updates.

I want to volunteer! Please contact me!

Group Discount: Groups of 10 or more can take \$5 off each registration if they register as a group. The registrations must be submitted together and payment must accompany the registration forms. This cannot be combined with other discounts.

Group Name Here: \_\_\_\_\_

I need information about:  Dealers' Room  Art Show  Gaming  Masquerade  Party Room ©2006 FenSF, Flyer Vers. PR2

### Badge Type:

- Adult
- Child (6-12)
- Supporting

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Badges will no longer designate Adults over 21. Expect to be asked for a valid ID at all parties serving alcohol.

# Care for a taste of the Dragon's Breath?

MarsCon is pleased to bring you "The Dragon's Breath," a place to keep warm and socialize with other connoisseurs of the "breath of the dragon." Air circulation systems acquired from an old abandoned Russian space station will help sanitize the air, so all those who don't care for exhales from dragons will be welcome as well. (For as long as you can tolerate it.)

Dragon's Breath will be located on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor during the convention, and open all the time from Friday until Closing Ceremonies on Sunday. Free beverages will be available, and look for possible spur of the moment entertainment events. Musicians (bring your own instruments), Entertainers (bring your own skit/props), Twi'leks (Bring your own slinky outfits, chains and Hutts), and Companions (leave your other clients at home) are all encouraged to drop by!

—Dragon Lord Matt Brogmus

## Last Call for Programming Ideas!

Programming at MarsCon 2007 promises to be out-of-this-world! It will inevitably feature panel discussions on subjects as varied as planet Pluto's demotion, Heinlein's impact on science fiction, the realities of Mars colonization, and weaponry of the future. Our guests will also get to have their say, so you will be hearing tales from behind the scenes of *Stargate SG1* from Gary Jones and Don S. Davies, as well as clever, power-pop music from fandom's own rock band Ookla the Mok. Eleanor will read for us a selection from one of her many works. Eric will provide us with insights on the film industry from a fannish perspective, and you will marvel at Todd's masterpieces in the Art Show. Old favorites like opening ceremonies, masquerade, dementia smackdown (Luke Ski, Worm Quartet, Eric Coleman, Sudden Death, Gothicles, Possible Oscar, Jeff Smith of Raymond & Scum, and Possum Willy so far), fan faire, drum jam, and charity auction will return. Throughout the weekend, there will be many opportunities to meet the guests of honor and the artists, musicians, authors and presenters who give us so much year after year.

MarsCon programming is open to everyone. That means even you may facilitate an event, and we encourage you to do it! Programming can be about any SF/fantasy-related subject such as a favorite television show or movie, a particular author or series of novels, computer gaming or RPG's, fan fiction or magazines, comic art or anime...you get the idea. If you would like to contribute in any way, please check out the programming ideas list currently posted on the MarsCon web site. Add your ideas and email us if you see an idea you want to join. Help us make this year's programming the best ever!

**PR2 Credits:** Cover Art and all interior spot illustrations by Lukas Effinger; Layout and Design by Kristy Effinger, Publications; Eris Cartoon by Sally Fisher; PR2 Copy written by the respective department heads, as noted, with enormous thanks to Christine LaBounty for providing several of the articles and for proofreading. ©2006 FenSF, Inc., a non-profit organization.



# Book your party!

March is slowly inching its way closer and closer which means before we know it, MarsCon will be here! With the convention getting closer and closer, MarsCon needs your help and has a mission for you if you chose to accept it.

Your mission is to visit the MarsCon website and fill in the party room request form. By doing this and hosting a party, you will be helping make MarsCon a convention to remember. We already have some brave souls who have accepted the mission and now the question is, will you or your group? The following is a list of parties who have accepted the mission: Diversicon Party, Second Foundation Party for Readers, ToTu Party, IKV RakeHell, Cosmic Tulip Lounge, D-Notice, Tardis Tea Party, No Brand Con Party, Tattooine to Gallifrey, The Source, Alien Sex Shoppe, World Defense Force, Valley Con, Calving Party, and Dead Cow Party.

If you have any questions or concerns about this mission you can contact [parties07@marscon.org](mailto:parties07@marscon.org). MarsCon Mistress of Parties is waiting anxiously to hear if you accept or not.

—Nicky Luckes Mistress of Parties, Masquerading as a Fairy

## THE ELYSIUM SANCTUM (CON SUITE) & Snarky's Café



Hail to thee, worn out warriors, scholars, merchants, rogues, and entertainers.

The Elysium Sanctum is here to quench your thirst and give your weary souls rest. The Elysium Sanctum is the perfect place to meet fellow warriors, Long lost companions, or even just ask the Dark Lord about what is the best way to crush a hero and still have time to get flowers for that special someone.

The Elysium Sanctum offers various edible foods for a quick filler up, but if you know you will need a more filling meal, then the Dark Lord refers you to the Lady Jan and Her Angels, operators of Snarky's Café. For an advance payment of \$15.00, (by Feb, 18<sup>th</sup>) Snarky's Café will see to your dietary needs during the con. Please direct email about Snarky's Café to Lady Jan at: [snarkys07@marscon.org](mailto:snarkys07@marscon.org). This year we also bring you the trappings of the Dragon Lord Matt and The Dragon's Breath Lounge.

—Chris RiversBey, Dark Lord of Food

## Looking for a Few Good Fen! Volunteer\*Volunteer\*Volunteer

Yes, we need volunteers! No convention can happen without volunteers. One hour, one day, or whatever time and talents you have to offer will be appreciated. Volunteer for the fun, volunteer to contribute to fandom, or volunteer for the perks—doesn't matter to us, just volunteer! Programming could use some room wranglers, Con Suite needs help tidying up and delivering food to hungry fen, and Ops needs security officers and badgers, just to name a few. Contact us via email at [volunteer07@marscon.org](mailto:volunteer07@marscon.org), join us for a planning meeting, or come to Ops at the start of the convention and tell us you want to volunteer. Oh, and that "volunteer" checkbox on our registration form? It's waiting for you.

**MarsCon**  
P.O. Box 21213  
Eagan, MN 55121

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



*Don't forget to register before January 31st, when the prices go up to at-the-door!*

