

# ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE INVASION?

## A Word from the Chairs

"Invasion!" might sound a little threatening as a theme — *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, *Space Invaders* — but it can also be a positive thing. British invasion, anyone? For our eleventh MarsCon, fans of science fiction and fantasy will be invading Bloomington's Holiday Inn Select from March 6-8, 2009. We'll spend three (or more) days setting up shop and celebrating the books, television, movies, comics, music, and science that we all love so much. There will be panels, displays, how-to guides, contests, demonstrations, concerts, and an unbelievable assortment of parties. And maybe, hopefully, there will be mini-invasions between fannish groups. Klingons watching an up-and-coming anime show. Authors seeing their characters brought to life by costumers. Musicians learning how to make cool sci-fi props. At this year's convention, we invite everyone to get a little chocolate in their peanut butter — the taste may surprise you.

--Gail Celio and Katie Nelson, Chairs for MarsCon 2009

## Vote for a Charity!

Over the past ten years, our charitable activities at MarsCon have included food drives, blood drives, clothing drives and charity auctions. Our auctions have benefited the Camp Heartland Project, the Alzheimer's Association, the Gordy Dickson Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Fan's Educational Network for Science Fiction, Family Circuits, the Standing Rock Reservation, and the Minnesota Disaster Relief Fund. Please let us know which charity you would like us to sponsor for 2009. If you are planning to host any charitable activities or events at MarsCon, we would be happy to include those events on our programming schedule as well. You may write us via snail mail or e-mail (**info09 AT marscon DOT org**). The live vote for designated charity will take place at our October meeting. See the "Upcoming Meetings & Events" section for details. Anyone who attends may vote.

As always, we need donations of items to be auctioned for charity at MarsCon, and we welcome any and all who would like to volunteer for the charity auction or other charity-related activities at the convention. Thank you for your continued generosity!

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

Do you think it's possible to pull off an invasion without advance planning? No way! We, the hard working convention committee, meet regularly through the year scheming ... er, 'planning' ... next year's con. Anyone who has an interest in what will occur at MarsCon is welcome to attend these meetings, and attending is a great way to help see that your favorite event will happen at the con.

All meetings are from 1:30-4:00 p.m. and are at the Holiday Inn Select, 3 Appletree Square, Bloomington, MN. Look at the hotel events schedule once you arrive at the Holiday Inn to see which room we're in on that date.

October 12, 2008

November 8, 2008, 6:00 PM-12 Midnight - Masquerade Ball (\$10)

November 16, 2008

December 14, 2008 - Holiday/Collation Party & Gift Exchange

January 11, 2009

February 1, 2009

February 15, 2009

March 6-8, 2009 - Invasion MarsCon!

## "Sing out strong!"

Karaoke Joe's is back again, now with a new look! Come and check out our light panels that respond to the music! And with over 2800 songs to choose from, you're sure to find something you want to sing. Join Brigitte Berg, Gene Stoneman, Dov Magy, and Ben Lessinger for some late-night musical pleasure.

--Ben Lessinger



## Volunteer Recruitment

First of all, I want to extend another "thank you" to all who participated and made the revamped MarsCon Volunteer Department in 2008 a success! And I am pleased to report that the Martian Militia will be back in 2009!

As with any and every thing in life, we are currently in process of improving the volunteer experience. This includes operation, EFFICIENCY, expense, as well as what everyone really wants... good times with incentives! And we want to hear from you!

If you have any ideas or recommendations on how to be "THE BEST DAMN VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT" in the Twin Cities, or if you would like to join the official crew (department), please let me know at **volunteer09 AT marscon DOT org**.

Look for more information and updates on the website and in the upcoming PR2.

--Matt Brogmus, Martian Militia

## Base of Operations

We will be returning to the Holiday Inn Select for 2009. The room rates will be \$89 + tax for a regular room and \$109 + tax for suites. Parties will be grouped together on the 13th floor, close to the Con Suite and Krushenko's. Smoking parties will be on 12th floor.

To reserve a sleeping room, call 952-854-9000 or 1-800-HOLIDAY, and make sure to mention "MarsCon" in order to get the reduced rate. Tip: Try calling the 952 number first during regular business hours, and please let us know if you have any trouble getting the MarsCon rate so we can help. 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 multifaceted convention.

If you're traveling by bus or light rail to get to the hotel, please note that fares will be increasing to \$2.25 during peak hours and \$1.75 during off-peak hours starting October 1. For more information including routes, times, and discounts, go to

<http://www.metrotransit.org>

## MEET OUR GUESTS OF HONOR



### Artist Guest of Honor

#### Scott Rosema

Scott graduated from Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1979 with a degree in Illustration with a minor in Advertising. For seven years, Scott worked at his local newspaper learning the process of four-color printing. In 1990 Scott made the jump into professional comics. His first gig landed him a two-year stint

working on the *Tiny Toons* property, followed by illustrations for TSR, and paintings and pages for Marvel and Valiant. Scott has worked on merchandise for *Batman: The Animated Series* and many Cartoon Network properties including *Space Ghost*, *Looney Tunes*, *Johnny Quest*, and others. Put off by the ups and downs of working with all these companies, Scott wanted to do a creator-owned project. Through Arrow Comics, his character August made it into an anthology and two of its own issues in 1999. Some of Scott's recent work has involved artist sketch cards for *X-Men 3* and *Xena*. Scott enjoys sharing his art and techniques, especially with young artists. He has taught art to summer campers, and was an Artist in Residence at the Muskegon Museum of Art. Recently he's given seminars at the Strong Museum of Play in Rochester, New York.



### Artist Guest of Honor

#### Suzanne Hiza-Rosema

Suzanne started working with glass during her undergraduate years. A friend was taking an art class, and had brought some equipment and supplies home with her and showed them to Suzanne. Suzanne played around with the materials, learned some techniques, fell in love with the medium, and never looked back. While working at a dental lab, she continued working with glass, picking up techniques from the local

stained glass store. In 1995, she put in (and won) a project bid for a local church, which led to a full-time job at the glass store. Suzanne worked at the store for five years, and then set up shop at her home. Initially, Suzanne created small window hangings, trinket boxes, and jewelry. As Scott encouraged her to attend comic conventions with him, she quickly added science fiction and fantasy pieces to her wares: pins of winged cats, dragons, and wizards. Later, Suzanne and Scott combined her glass technique with his comic art, and she started producing unique window hangings of superhero logos and comic characters. She has taken commissions from fans of *Batman*, *Wonder Woman*, *Doctor Doom*, *Star Trek*, *Looney Tunes*, *Stargate SG-1*, *Doctor Who*, and others, and produces officially sanctioned glass boxes featuring Billy Tucci's *Shi* and Joe Linsner's *Dawn*.

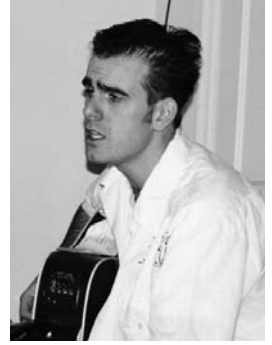


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### Music Guest of Honor

#### Wally Pleasant

Wally was born in Detroit, Michigan, the son of college students. During his childhood, Wally heard "I Want You to Want Me" by Cheap Trick, and his life would never be the same. Wally started mimicking his favorite rockers in the mirror with a cardboard guitar. Then, on his 14th birthday, his parents offered to pay for his guitar lessons. Armed with only an REO Speedwagon songbook and a dream, Wally got on the road to guitar proficiency. After high school, Wally attended Michigan State University and began performing at various open mic nights, each week writing a new song. A local radio station requested material, but Wally had not yet recorded. So, he sat down with a boom box and filled a 90-minute Memorex tape with his songs. That tape sold over 5,000 copies. Wally next began releasing CDs. His first, *Songs About Stuff*, came out in 1992 and was an instant hit on college radio. Four more CDs followed, including *Welcome to Pleasantville*, *Houses of the Holy Moly*, *Wally World*, and *Hoedown*. Wally's recordings have charted in the Top 20 nationally on the CMJ and Gavin College charts. His music has been featured on such syndicated programs as *Acoustic Cafe*, *Dr. Demento*, and *The Difference*, not to mention Ted Nugent's morning radio show in Detroit. All told, Miranda Records has sold over 75,000 units of Wally's music. He has toured all over the country (except Oregon), and been featured in *Billboard* and *The Wall Street Journal*.



### Author/Science Guest of Honor

#### Jeanne Cavelos

Jeanne is a writer, editor, scientist, and teacher. She began her professional life as an astrophysicist and mathematician, teaching astronomy at Michigan State University and Cornell University, and working in the Astronaut Training Division at NASA's Johnson Space Center. Her love of science fiction led her to earn her MFA in creative writing. Jeanne moved into a career in publishing, becoming a senior editor at Bantam Doubleday Dell. In 1994, Jeanne left New York to pursue her own writing career. Her first published book, the *Babylon 5* novel *The Shadow Within*, has been reissued by Del Rey. Two of Jeanne's nonfiction books, *The Science of Star Wars* and *The Science of The X-Files*, received high praise. Her last novel to hit the stores was *Invoking Darkness*, the third volume in her best-selling *Babylon 5* trilogy "The Passing of the Techno-Mages". Recent works include the novella "Negative Space" in the anthology *Decalog 5: Wonders*, and several essays analyzing real-world issues from the TV shows *24* and *Farscape* as well as *Star Wars*. Jeanne is currently at work writing a near-future science thriller about genetic manipulation titled *Fatal Spiral*. Jeanne also created and serves as director of *Odyssey*, an annual six-week summer writing workshop for writers of fantasy, science fiction, and horror held at Saint Anselm College in Manchester. During the school year, Jeanne is an English lecturer at Saint Anselm College, where she teaches writing and literature.



## Programming Progress

MarsCon programming aims to embrace and celebrate all facets of science fiction, fantasy, gaming and fandom, including hard sciences, the music of fandom, television, movies, anime, radio, comic books, fan fic, poetry, novels, sf/fantasy art, costuming, and the usual fannish zaniness. Programming events at MarsCon are limited only by our imaginations, time/space considerations, mundane laws, and the laws of physics. (We're still working on that last one.)

Anyone attending the convention may facilitate programming events, and we encourage you to get involved in this rewarding aspect of convention volunteering. To inspire you, here is a list of programming events found at past MarsCons:

- \* Stories of Acting, NASA, and Writing from Guests
- \* Opening and Closing Ceremonies - A Fannish Tradition!
- \* Masquerades, Concerts, Belly Dancing, Drum Jams, and Filk sings
- \* Events to Benefit Charities: Auctions, Food/Clothing Drives
- \* Costuming Tips and Demonstrations
- \* Live Radio Shows, Live Animals, Live Steel Demos
- \* Art Auctions, Art Show Receptions, Tours and Swaps
- \* Panel or Roundtable Discussions on All Aspects of Fandom
- \* Propatorium & Workshops to Create Your Own DRD or Blaster
- \* Informational Meetings by the Next Year's Con Organizers
- \* News about the Latest Anime, Films, Books, & Television Series
- \* Gaming Tournaments, Karaoke Contests, Room Party Contests
- \* Poetry and Prose Open-Microphone Readings
- \* Literary Readings by Author Guests
- \* Exhibits or Tributes to Posthumous Guests and Legends
- \* Anime, Cult Classic, and Fan Film Showings
- \* Science and Space Exploration Discussions and Demos
- \* Everything But the Kitchen Sink

We are always looking for NEW ideas... things we haven't even thought of before... for programming. Oldies are also goodies. If you are planning to host an event at MarsCon, if you have an idea for programming, or if you'd like to help with programming in some other way, please get in touch with us. A programming ideas submission form has been added to our web site at:

<http://marscon.org/2009/programming/ideas.php>.

I am currently in the process of inviting local authors and past programmers to participate in MarsCon 2009. If you qualify as one of the above and would like to help with programming, please drop me a line. (**info09 AT marscon DOT org**) I'll try and reach as many folks as I can, but sometimes my contact information gets a little out of date. The list of programming ideas will be generated and pared down to near-perfection as the convention approaches, and I would love to have as many of you as possible contribute to that list.

Thinking caps on! Thank you for your ideas and assistance in making MarsCon a wacky, zany, thought-provoking, fun, and frolicksome place to be. As always, MarsCon is immensely grateful for the incredible programming contributions we receive each year from artists, authors, guests, musicians, singers, actors, fan groups, clubs and individuals. Thank you for your support!

--Christine LaBounty, Programming



## Programming Deadlines and Important Dates

Here are some dates to keep in mind if you are planning to host programming, help out with planning an event, or assist with coordinating the schedule:

**Sept. 2008** - First call for programming ideas (PR#1 - This is it!)

**Oct. 12, 2008** - Vote for Charity to sponsor; prepare Main Stage and Guest of Honor schedules

**Nov. 16, 2008** - Programming brainstorming session, 3pm, Holiday Inn Select (Open to all!)

**Dec. 2008** - Last call for programming ideas (PR#2)

**Jan. 11, 2009** - Final event titles and descriptions for Program Book

**Feb. 15, 2009** - Last-minute programming revisions due

**March 6-8, 2009** - Convention happens!

## Meet our Sponsor

FenSF, Inc [the Fans Educational Network for Science Fiction], is a nonprofit organization devoted to teaching individuals how to promote and run amateur science fiction and gaming conventions. FenSF sponsors a yearly amateur science fiction/fantasy convention called MarsCon, conducts convention training sessions, provides outreach and assistance to other fan-run conventions, and engages in fund raising activities to raise money for convention efforts and increase public awareness of amateur science fiction and gaming conventions in general.



## YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO MARSCON'S SECOND ANNUAL MASQUERADE BALL

Saturday, November 8, 2008  
Holiday Inn Select Bloomington

Enjoy an evening  
of music, dancing,  
and merriment,  
including snacks,  
cash bar, and  
costume contest!  
Tickets are \$10,  
visit [MarsCon.org](http://MarsCon.org)  
for more info.



6:00pm - 7:00pm, Meet & Greet

7:00pm - 12:00am, Party

10:00pm, Costume Contest

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## Rates for MarsCon 2009

	10/31/08	1/31/09	At the door	Discounted at 2008 Con
Through Adult	\$35	\$45	\$55	\$25
Child	\$15	\$20	\$20	\$15
Supporting*	\$20	\$25	\$25	\$15

\*Supporting members pay a reduced rate through 1/31/09 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 web site using Paypal.

E-mail: [info09@marscon.org](mailto:info09@marscon.org)

Web site: <http://marscon.org/2009>

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

## MARSCON 2009 PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

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

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

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

Address (2): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Please e-mail me:  MarsToday updates

Progress Reports as PDFs

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
I need information about:  Dealers' Room  Art Show  Gaming  Masquerade  Party Room © 2008 FenSF, Flyer 1.0

Badge Type:

Adult

Child (6-12)

Supporting

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

Badges do not designate Adults over 21. Expect to be asked for a valid ID at all parties serving alcohol.

I want to volunteer! Please contact me!

### Snarky's Café – MarsCon 2009

3 Hot Meals, Sandwiches & Salads Available During Marscon

Friday, Saturday, Sunday – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Available by Paid Registration Only**

All food is bought from the money from Snarky's Registrations – not from Con Funds.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost \$25 Per Person: Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_

Con Com \_\_\_\_\_ Dealer's Room \_\_\_\_\_ Party Rooms \_\_\_\_\_ Art Room \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteers (5 hrs minimum) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Drink: Hot Tea \_\_\_\_\_ Coffee \_\_\_\_\_ Decaf Coffee \_\_\_\_\_ Pepsi \_\_\_\_\_ Diet Pepsi \_\_\_\_\_ Lemonade \_\_\_\_\_

Mt. Dew \_\_\_\_\_ Green Tea \_\_\_\_\_ Water \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepaid Registrations received by February 20th are \$25.

**Registrations after February 20 go up to \$35 each, with some limited availability during MarsCon 2009.** Make checks to Jan Swenson; note in Memo – "Snarky's". Information available by e-mailing [snarkyscafe09 AT marscon DOT org](mailto:snarkyscafe09@marscon.org). Please note

"Snarky's" in the Subject line.

Mail form & payment to:

**Snarky's Café**

c/o Jan Swenson

8200 Noble Ave N.

Brooklyn Park, MN 5443-2428

Breakfast available starting shortly after 07:00 am.

Dealers Room members (prepaid registrations only) – Stop in at Snarky's for Breakfast. We are looking for runners to take orders and deliver food for lunch and some suppers. If you have 2 or more people at your table, please try to send someone up to pick up food for your Snarky's resistered group or take turns coming up for food (Names will be checked). Supper meals start about 06:30 pm and go until 09:00 pm with food available at all times of the day from 07:00 am – Midnight. Some supper deliveries will be done but if at all possible, stop in for food.

**Planned menu:**

**Breakfast:** waffles, oatmeal, bacon, fruit toppings

**Fruits and Veggies:** apples, bananas, dried fruit, Clementines, carrots, cucumbers, celery, onion, peppers, lettuce, spinach

**Lunch/Dinner:** soups (chicken wild rice, potato with veggies & cheese, French onion), sandwich fixings (beef, ham, cheeses

(American, provolone, cheddar), mustard, Miracle Whip), cottage cheese, yogurts, humus, salad dressing, Hamburger Stroganoff, Penne noodles with Alfredo & marinara sauce (optional meatballs, chicken, or hamburger) barbeque chicken, pork, deviled eggs

## “Shall we play a game?”

Greetings gamers! We had loads of fun at MarsCon '08 and next year looks to be even better. We have more games lined up but we need your help. If you like to run games, here's your chance. We're looking for volunteer game masters to run events along with open gaming during the convention hours. If this sounds like fun to you, contact us at **games09 AT marscon DOT org**, or e-mail me personally at **spiritmonger66 AT gmail DOT com** for your suggestions, and remember to keep those pencils sharp, your dice clean, and never let go of destiny's mox'es.

--Dan Penwarden, Gaming



## Room Parties

Hear ye, Hear ye! MarsCon 2009 is approaching fast! Have you thought about throwing a party? Of course you have! So now is the time to book your party so you can start planning for the best party MarsCon has ever seen. You also have first dibs on a specific room if there is one you would prefer, or if you would like to be closer to another party booking early can make it all happen.

Parties will be on the always-rocking 13th floor of the Holiday Inn Select. Smoking party rooms can be set aside for you on the 12th floor, but act fast as they are in short supply. So you are thinking, I want to book a party now, but I do not know how to do that.

Well, to book a party please call the Holiday Inn Select and secure your reservations with the hotel via credit card or a deposit. Then go to the parties page of our website (<http://marscon.org/2009/hotel/parties.php>) to fill out a party room request form.

Once you have the confirmation number from the hotel and have filled out the party request form, you can e-mail me with that information at **nlpwarden AT yahoo DOT com**. Let's make MarsCon 2009 a great convention with a floor full of awesome and amazing parties... otherwise what else are we all going to do when the panels and music are done for the night? Sleep? That cannot be allowed! We need Superheroes, Time Travelers, Klingons, and other assorted creatures to keep the con going until the wee hours of the morning.

If you have any questions/comments/concerns please e-mail me with those too.

--Nicky Penwarden, your friendly Mistress of Parties

## Hospitality

The Hospitality Department Crew is back. We are busy this year working on improving our lounges for your pleasure. We are on the lookout for people to staff the Con Suite and work in the other rooms. This year our department has grown and we'll cover this in PR2. Snarky's Café, our "executive con suite", is taking registrations for people interested in receiving three meals a day at the con for one convenient price, \$25 (an increase from last year (darn gas prices)). Only those who pre-register have access to Snarky's Café, so fill out the form included in PR1 and send it plus your payment to Jan Swenson by **February 20** (the sooner, the better). See you then.

--Christopher RiversBey, Hospitality

## Masquerade Lounge

Hi all, the DreamStitcher here. Just a note to let you know that I'm moving! NO, not out of the Cities, just from Masquerade head to Programming sub-head for costuming-related programming. Todd Coss will be heading the Main Stage/Masquerade program. Like last year, Todd and his crew will be in charge of the costume contest registration, rehearsals, picking the judges, etc..

However, the Masquerade Lounge will return! Just as gamers have their own gaming rooms, and the literati have Re(a)d Mars and Krushenko's, we costume fanatics have the Lounge! All costume-related programming will be held in (hopefully) the same first floor room as last year, as will the photography studio and masquerade registration.

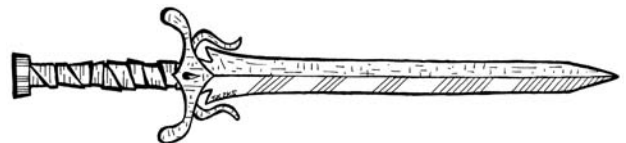
We hope to have even more and better programming than last year! Lisa Kiepp, who last year couldn't make it (she just couldn't swing doing a MarsCon panel and moving to Colorado at the same time) has promised to attend and do her fabulous hat making panel/demo! Well worth attending. We plan a number of other demos/panels including make-up, wig and hair, prop-making, mask-making, and more. The make-and-take mask-making session went over so well last year, that we're going to do it again. And for the kids, we're even thinking of doing a 'do it yourself' flying saucer contest, from bits and pieces and paper plates. This year's 'Creating the...' demo will be "The Klingon", with a wonderful make-up demonstration by Bill Hedrik.

If you have any ideas for costume-related programming — or any type of programming — you'd like to see, just log on to <http://marscon.org/2009/programming/ideas.php>. There's a link to submit ideas to our concom. Remember, you're more likely to see a particular program or panel if you help volunteer for it! As always, the Masquerade Lounge is looking for volunteers, too. Come and join the fun!

Don't forget, the MarsCon Masquerade Ball is less than 3 months away! We all had such a great time last year, we're going to do it again. Good music, lots of good company, food, and fun. And, of course, a costume contest! First prize last year was two free registrations to MarsCon. So get going on those fabulous costumes!

See you at the Ball,

--Rae Lundquist (a.k.a. The DreamStitcher)



## Dealers and Sales

The line-up for the Dealers' Room is coming along nicely. We're expecting many old and new vendors for members to peruse. The Dealers' Room will be in the same place as last year (Cortland and Fireside ballrooms, second floor).

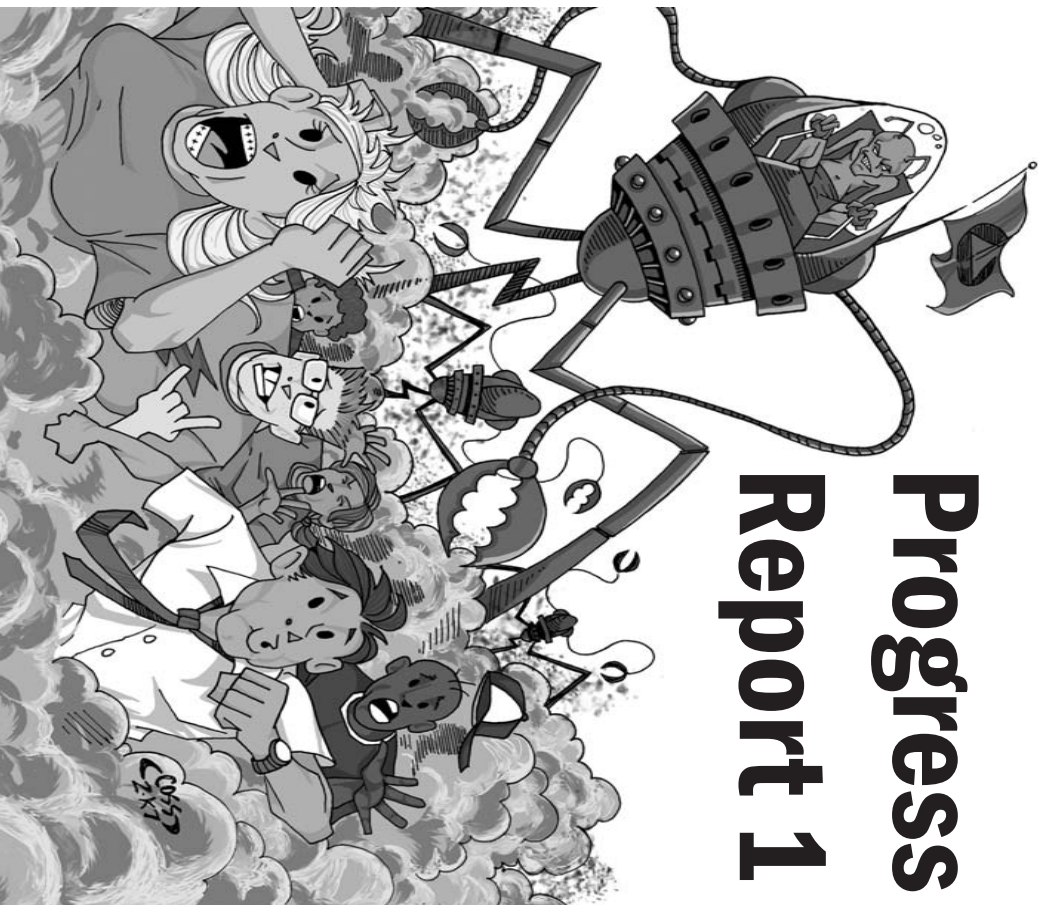
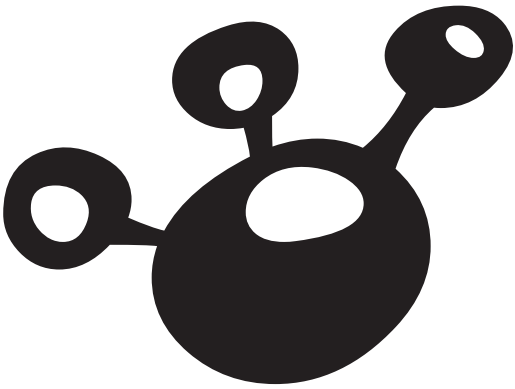
MarsCon patches featuring convention mascot Snarky can be pre-purchased on MarsCon's registration web site (<http://marscon.org/2009/registration/index.php>) for \$4.00. Pre-ordered patches will be available for pick-up at the registration table, or you can purchase them during the convention, but only while supplies last!

**MARSCON**

**P.O. Box 21213**

**Eagan, MN 55121**

Address correction requested



**Progress  
Report 1**

**MARSCON 2009  
MISSION!  
March 6 - 8**