

ICON-26TH NATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION



PROGRESS REPORT 3
Wellington, March 25-28
Easter 2005

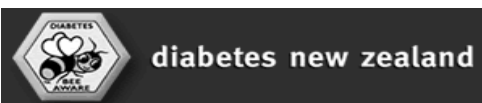
Guests:

Orson Scott Card
Bill Geradts

PO Box 13-574,
Johnsonville, Wellington
<http://www.icon.sf.org.nz/>



ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND *TOI AOTEAROA*



Comments from the Chair

The countdown has begun. As I type this it's just seven weeks to the convention.

Registrations are steadily coming in. A reminder that registration is currently \$85 and rises to \$90 on March 25. Don't forget that if you can't come for the whole convention, day rates are available. See the form in the middle of this progress report for more details.

There are still spaces available to sit with the Guests of Honour at the banquet. The banquet menu is available for viewing on the website and will be displayed at the convention if you want to decide then whether you'll be going. It's a

great deal for \$40 (\$50 if you'd like to sit with one of our guests).

While the programme is just about set (and as you'll see from the timetable printed in this report it's pretty full on) we've still got space if there's something you'd particularly like to run or see. We'd like to hear from anyone who would be interested in talking about Script to Screen (turning books into movies) as a panellist with Orson Scott Card—please reply to programme@icon.sf.org.nz.

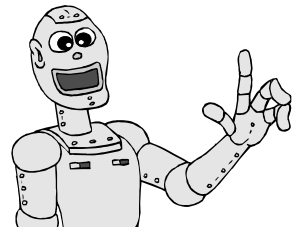
Our fan GoH speech from Bill Geradts will be an interview with me, your host for the

weekend. Put your thinking caps on now for questions you've always wanted to ask him about the show, his guests, etc. We'll have a submissions box at registration for these.

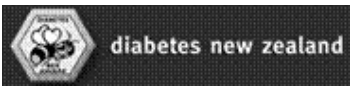
Well I had best go off now and do some more preparation.

See you soon!

Lynelle Howell



Our Charities



Diabetes New Zealand (Inc.) is a nationwide non-government non-profit organisation. Its aims are:

- to provide support for its members, member societies and health professionals involved with diabetes
- to increase the general public's awareness of diabetes so the incidence of undiagnosed diabetes is reduced
- to support all people with diabetes in their day-to-day management and control
- to support research in the treatment, prevention and cure of diabetes.



SFFANZ is a national body separate from, but involved with, existing science fiction and fantasy clubs. As such, it hopes to be a major part of the structure of New Zealand fandom:

- enhancing liaisons between existing fan groups
- providing support for events which transcend normal club structures (such as the annual national conventions)
- providing a national voice for fandom.

Hotel

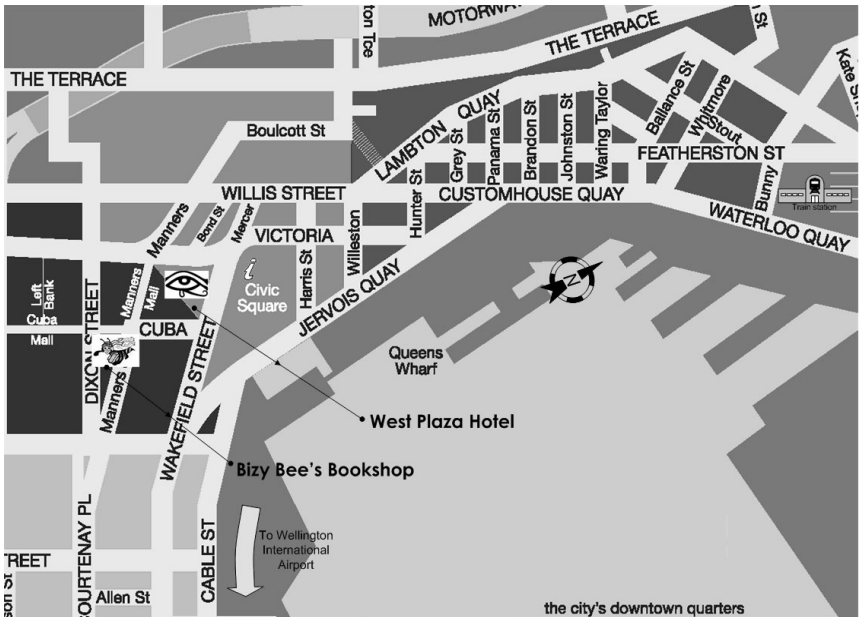
The West Plaza hotel has asked us to inform attendees that there will be a 15% surcharge on food and beverages purchased in the hotel bar and restaurant on Easter Friday and Easter Monday. This is to cover changes in the Holiday Act. Please be aware the bar will also open at 1pm on both these days in accordance with this Act.

practice of hotels now. If you have any issues or concerns about this, please contact the concom.

Please note that the hotel is almost fully booked for the convention. If you haven't booked your room by now, tsk tsk. Please contact the concom before 1 March if you still wish to book a room. If you require a reservation after 1

March, please contact the hotel direct and mention you are with Icon. We have pre-booked a number of rooms but as we get closer to the convention these will be released back to the hotel—unless you get in first.

For those staying at the hotel, we've been asked to let you know that a credit card imprint or an additional bond of \$100 (which can just be a cheque) is required when you check in. This is so you can't split without paying the bill! The cheque will be returned when you check out. We understand this is a standard



Bizy Bee's opening for congoers only

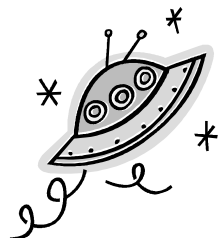
Bizy Bee's will be opening for Icon attendees only on the weekend of the con.

possibly some special events, will be announced at the con.

They expect to be open on Sunday, 5-7 pm (during banquet preparation), for attendees to shop.

More information will be put up on the Icon website, www.icon.sf.org.nz, as it becomes available.

Specifics of other times, and



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Guests of Honour

Literary Guest of Honour: Orson Scott Card

Orson Scott Card is best known for the *Ender's* series (which includes *Ender's Game* and *Speaker for the Dead*).

Card has also written two books on writing: *Character and Viewpoint* and *How to Write Science Fiction and Fantasy*, the latter of which won a Hugo award in 1991. He has taught writing courses at several universities, including most recently a novel-writing course at Pepperdine, and has also taught at such workshops as Antioch, Clarion, Clarion West, and the Cape Cod Writers Workshop.

Born in Richland, Washington, Card grew up in California, Arizona, and Utah. He lived in Brazil for two years as an unpaid missionary for the Mormon Church. He received degrees from Brigham Young University (1975) and the University of Utah (1981). He currently lives in Greensboro, North Carolina. He and his wife, Kristine, are the parents of five children: Geoffrey, Emily, Charles, Zina Margaret, and Erin Louisa (named for Chaucer, Bronte and Dickinson, Dickens, Mitchell, and Alcott, respectively).



Fan Guest of Honour: William (Bill) Geradts

(Much-admired organiser of Armageddon)



Armageddon is run twice a year: in Auckland during the first school holidays, and in Wellington during the third school holidays.

The first Armageddon was held at the Avondale Raceway, Auckland, 2–3 December 1995.

Bill is an avid supporter of the science fiction community in New Zealand and has spoken on panels and contributed fan memorabilia and merchandise to previous SF con auctions.



Aldiss' Law of Civilisation

Civilisation is the distance man has placed between himself and his excreta.

Brian Aldiss, epigraph for *The Dark Light Years*

Auction



Cordwainer Smith's Law

'Never plan too far ahead. Go from one immediate situation to another. Never make a decision if you can put the decision on somebody else and still win for yourself. And most of all...'

'Most of all?'

'Most of all, *never get caught winning*. Just win, but don't let it show.'

Cordwainer Smith,
The Underpeople

Items

The following items will be available in the auction at Icon. You can find more details, including photos, on our website, www.icon.sf.org.nz.

Frankenstein 12" figure by Sideshow Toy. A brilliant likeness of Boris Karloff, fully articulated, 2000 Holiday edition. Great Halloween gift! (Box slightly damaged.)

Dracula 12" figure by Sideshow Toy. A brilliant likeness of Bela Lugosi, fully articulated, 2001 Holiday edition. Includes vampire bat and two rats! Never removed from box.

Joe 90 Mac's Car, die-cast toy by Konami .

Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back, 8mm film reel. Super 8 colour and sound, 17 minutes long, in slip case.

Star Wars 1977 souvenir program. 12" x 9" (approx.), full col-

our booklet, 20 pages (cover loose).

Costume jewellery by Mercedes Lackey.

Spangenhelm supplied by The Medieval Shop, located at 175 Symonds Street, Auckland. Check out their advert on page four.

Limited edition (number 305 of 550) trade paperback reading copy of China Miéville's book *Iron Council*. It is signed by the author and was donated by Pan MacMillan publishers. We understand that Mr Miéville does not conduct signings and only signs reading copies of his books. This is an excellent opportunity to collect a very rare item.

Donations

If you have items which you would like to donate to the auction, please let us know. We can auction items on your behalf for a 15% fee.



If you want to sell things...

We will be offering space to fans wishing to sell their SF-related memorabilia or wares in the Dealer's room in half-day slots.

A sign-up sheet will be available at registration with times. Space will cost \$10 per half table per half day (\$20 for half

a table for the full day).

Time slots will be between the hours of 9 and 1, and 1 and 5. There will be a 10-minute changeover period.

We will also be holding a floating market prior to the auction on Saturday morning for those

wishing to sell goods. The cost for each table will be a gold coin donation per table for one hour.

If you pay for a table, you will get more time to sell your items, and be able to sell at the time of your choice.

Sir Julius Vogel Awards nominations

Sir Julius Vogel Award nominations for 2004 are now being accepted. These are awards in professional and fan fields from the 2004 calendar year. Categories include Best Novel, Best Short Story, Best Fan Writing, Best Fan Artwork, and Best Fanzine.

At each national science fiction convention, fans vote on nomi-

nations from the previous year and the awards are presented. For 2004 awards, that will be Icon in Wellington.

You can find full details of the categories and rules for the awards at the SFFANZ website (<http://www.sffanz.sf.org.nz>) or you can request details by post. Please feel free to nomi-

nate anyone you feel qualifies, and encourage other people to do the same.

Nominations will close Sunday, 20 February 2005.

You can send nominations to sjv_awards@sffanz.sf.org.nz or via post at: SJV Awards, PO Box 13-574, Johnsonville, Wellington.

T-shirts

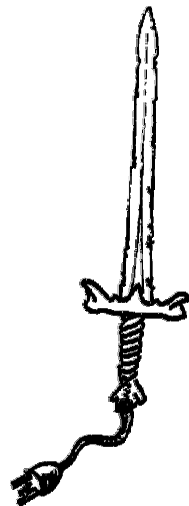
T-shirts of varying sizes and colours will be available at the convention.

Please let us know at enquiries@icon.sf.org.nz if you require any size other than M-XXL, or if you want to order a fitted 'women's' shirt.

Weapons policy

It's the age-old story with weapons at conventions. You may not have a real weapon or anything that looks like one on display during the convention. If you couldn't openly take it into a bank, then you shouldn't have it out openly at the con.

Masquerade props and costume items should be cleared with concom and security first. Violations of the rule will result in confiscation, and we'll play with the toys ourselves.



Competitions

Pre-con competitions have closed. Entry only by special bribe of the committee (expensive chocolates only please).

At the con:

Modelling competition

Here's a competition for people with a little time on their hands.

"You have just graduated with a degree in temporal physics. Make a model of your time machine to show your tutor."

Categories:

Unlimited Time. Make your model prior to the Con in your own home. Bring it to Icon.

Limited Time. Make your model at the scratch modelling workshop at Icon.

Rules:

Any scale from 1/100th to 1/6th.

May include one figure (optional).

May make use of any materials.

No police telephone boxes allowed!

Fellow con attendees will judge.

Punning competition—at 4 pm Friday, with a theme announced at the beginning of the competition.

Conspiracy theory competition—if you're part of the conspiracy, you know where and when.

Board game competition—a Puerto Rico competi-

tion. Sign up before the con by emailing competitions@icon.sf.org.nz, or at the con by Saturday morning.

Masquerade—open competition, with special category of icons of science fiction and fantasy. There will be marks for presentation and/or workmanship.



Writers workshop at the con

We're excited to announce that Auckland's Peter Hamilton will be leading the writers workshop at Icon.

Peter ran the Stella-Nova Writers group in Auckland. He edited the book *Millennium Nights*, a collection of short stories with a millennium theme. He also organised the Conquest II writers stream.

The main thrust of the talk/workshop will be:

- 1). writing more interesting heroes/heroines
- 2). writing more interesting villains/villianesses

3). keeping the reader interested—tension.

Peter will talk, then get the attendees to try and write some (new) scenes using what he's talked about.

Clarion-style peer commentary

For those still interested in doing a Clarion-style workshop, we've scheduled a peer commentary session for Friday morning. If you've entered, Katie Boyle will be contacting you to arrange things.

Heinlein's Law for Explorers

Advice to all explorers: do not roam the universes without a spare can opener.

Robert A. Heinlein,
The Number of the Beast

Programme



Clarke's Law of New Ideas

Like all revolutionary new ideas, the subject has had to pass through three stages, which may be summed up by these reactions:

1. 'It's crazy—don't waste my time.'
2. 'It's possible, but it's not worth doing.'
3. 'I always said it was a good idea.'

Arthur C. Clarke,
Report on Planet 3

Note: This list is a selection of the events and is subject to change. If there is something you would like to see in the programme, please get in touch with the convention committee (programme@icon.sf.org.nz). If you want to help out on these events, that's even better.

We are particularly interested in having more media-related items. If you're interested in media, please contact us!

If you're coming to the con only on a particular day for a particular event, please let us know. We will try to notify you if that event changes days.

The convention events include:

Board games—Grab a board game from registration.

Celebrity Memorabilia—Show off stuff you got when you met someone famous.

Filking—Sing us a song, you're a filking man, sing us a song to-night.

From Script to Screen—What makes a great screenplay.

Music in Science Fiction—The well-tempered SF film score—or why Bach is the father of all SF film music.

The Parents of SF—Homer was an ET—or why the Iliad started SF.

Movies—Themed movie nights.

Auction—Going once, going twice, sold.

Floating Market—Sell what ya brung! Gold coin donation to set up a table.

Video Competition Screenings—Come and see what was entered for the competitions.

Photo Scavenger Hunt—Outside adventure. Bring a camera.

Speed Conning—Rapid meet and greet.

Guest Signings—Signing sessions with the guests.

Guest Speakers—Hear from our Guests of Honour.

Villains, Heroes and Tension—Writing villains and heroes and keeping the reader interested.

Conspiracy Theory—Present your pet conspiracy theory.

Parenting and Science Fiction—Portrayal of parenting in science fiction.

Car Wars—1/24th large scale table top gaming. Customised models welcome.

Medieval Aerobics—Work off that hangover.

Potter Spotter—Harry Potter discussion/quiz.

Banquet—Formal dinner with the Guests.

Ice Cream PJ Party—Nightwear and ice-cream.

Ethics and Morality in SF—Who's in the right/wrong?

Theatre Sports—Whose con is it anyway?

Erotic Fiction—The principles [sic] of writing erotic fiction in SF/Fantasy.

Fan Fund Discussion—Discussion panel.

Modellary—Pictionary with playdough.

LOTR—The making of the memorabilia.

Scratch Modelling—Making things from stuff.

Business Meeting—Doing the stuff to make sure the next con happens.

Masquerade/Cosplay—Who was that Masqued Man?

Clubs Session—What clubs are near you.

Quiz—Stretch the thinking matter.

Firefly—Firefly 101.

In The Buff—Buffy: Now it's over! (Spoilers.)

An Angel at my Table—Angel: Welcome to Joss's L.A.

LARP—Live Action Role Play

Punning Competition—Punishment aplenty.

PGP Keyswap—Share your PGP public keys here, find out about Pretty Good Privacy.

My First Convention—What is this Earth thing called conning?

Alien Easter Egg Hunt—Find the hidden egg stash.

Clarion Style Writers Workshop

Rich Worlds—Creating and conveying an interesting, rich world.

Real Character—Creating characters of depth and interest.



Pohl's Oldest Laws:

You can't knock up a pregnant woman, and you can't kill someone who is dead already.

Frederik Pohl, *Heechee Rendezvous*



Time	Friday			
	Other	Dorset	Cornish	Glenbervie
09:00		Board games		Workshop—Clarion Style
10:00				
11:00			Rich Worlds	
12:00	Registration Opens	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:00		Modellanary	Real Character	
14:00			Villains, Heroes and Tension	
15:00			Fan Fund Discussion	
16:00		Punning Competition		
17:00		My First Con	Ethics and Morality in SF	PGP Keyswap
18:00	Registration Closes	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
19:00		Opening Ceremony		
20:00		Speed Conning	Board games	Filking
21:00		Live Action RolePlay	THX 1138	

Time	Saturday			
Room	Other	Dorset	Cornish	Glenbervie
09:00	Registration Opens		Car Wars	Cartoons
10:00		Angel		Getting Published
11:00	Scavenger hunt	Medieval Aerobics		Writing for Kids
12:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:00		Fan Films: Special Features	Harry Potter	Erotic Fiction
14:00		Orson Scott Card GOH Speech		Board games
15:00	OSC Signing	Memorabilia	Firefly	Scratch modelling
16:00		Dr Who	Your Dream Con	
17:00	Registration Closes	1000 Ideas	Beyond LOTR	
18:00		Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
19:00		Masquerade D & D Equipment	Masquerade Staging	
20:00				
21:00			Ice Cream PJ Party	Filking
22:00			Saturday night musical: Little Shop of Horrors	

Special needs for programme items

If you're planning to take part in the **scavenger hunt** and you have a digital camera or pxt phone, please bring it along. People will do the scavenger hunt in teams, and each team must have at least one digital camera or pxt phone.

Andrew Ivamy would like to know if there is interest in having a PGP (Pretty Good Privacy) **key signing party** at the convention. This will be a good opportunity to exchange public keys and also to talk about recent changes to PGP (such as the change of keyserver).

To attend the Key signing

party send your public key to andrew.ivamy@sdqdesigns.com prior to 18 March 2005. You will need a pen and paper at the con, but the public keys and the relevant details will be provided at the con.

Please email enquiries@icon.sf.org.nz that you intend to attend so that an appropriate venue can be planned (the bar if numbers are small, a room if numbers are larger).

If you are interested in finding out about PGP Public Key Encryption but either have not started or simply want to talk

about privacy issues, then come along and watch PGP in action.

If you have special needs for the **masquerade** (such as music to play), please contact enquiries@icon.sf.org.nz as soon as possible to arrange for what you need.

If you are going to participate in the **writers workshop** (Villains, Heroes and Tension) you will be able to understand the session better if you have read *Enders Game* by Orson Scott Card and *A Civil Campaign* by Lois McMaster Bujold. Parts of

Time	Sunday			
Room	Other	Dorset	Cornish	Glenbervie
09:00	Reg Opens	Floating Market		
10:00		Auction	How to Judge a Good Book	
11:00	Alien Easter Egg Hunt		Script to Screen	
12:00		Auction cleanup	Lunch	Lunch
13:00		Bill Geradts GOH Speech		Board game competition
14:00		Quiz	Parenting in SF	
15:00			Music in SF	
16:00		The Parents of SF	In The Buff	
17:00	Registration Closes	Banquet Setup	Future House	
18:00	Bizy Bee's—special event		Dinner	Dinner
19:00		Banquet		
20:00				
21:00		VOGEL awards and others		
22:00			Horror—Dusk till Dawn	Filking

Time	Monday			
Room	Other	Dorset	Cornish	Glenbervie
09:00				
10:00	Registration Opens	Business Meeting—SFFANZ	Discussions from a hat	
11:00	Registration Closes	Con Bidding, Clubs Session		
12:00		Con Closing		
13:00		Dead Dog Party		

Special needs for programme items (continued)

these two novels will be discussed during the session. It will also be helpful if you have

read the "Deed of Paksenarion" trilogy by Elizabeth Moon. Reading these novels is not a

prerequisite to attending, but it will help you understand part of the session.