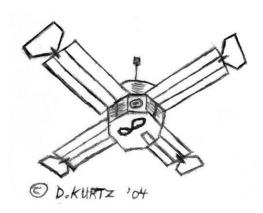
DOTTY'S DIMENSIONS

by Dorothy M. Kurtz

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Welcome to the first issue of this publication that is now published offline. For those of you receiving paper copies of this zine, you haven't noticed any difference. Nevertheless, the rest of you on my usual list I didn't start off the new year by going to New will receive this issue by e-mail (instead of getting a short e-mail message notifying you to committee labeled "the first and friendliest check out the latest issue on my web site). Anyone else can receive this zine by paper copy called Fantek started running these cons in or e-mail for the price indicated in the title 1983, and the 2004 con will be their last con box (or on a 3.5" 1.44 MB disk sent in by the customer in addition to the price in the title box). Please write cheques or money orders out some literature from this con committee at to DIMENSIONAL PRESS. If you want more information, please write to me or e-mail me at well as talking to the con chairman on the dottymk@yahoo.com.

Because of the activity on Mars via the rover Spirit, and by the time you read this, the Spirit's twin, Opportunity, I've included a drawing of a planetary probe for this issue's illustration. Spirit also has a plaque memorializing the seven-member Columbia crew, and NASA named the landing site the Columbia Memorial Station.

Now for an address change; Farpoint media science fiction convention (SF con) has a new address: Farpoint Enterprises, PO BOX 164, Woodbine, Maryland 21797.

York City subway tokens, they are now

collector's items only. Starting this year, the NYC Transit only accepts MetroCards on the subway; for the busses, you can use either the MetroCard or exact change in coins only. Base fare at this time costs \$2.00. For more information, phone 718-330-1234 or 212-638-7622.

In this issue, I wrote about three SF cons that I attended recently: Evecon in Virginia, Farpoint in Maryland, and Lunacon in New York. I also spent an extended weekend in New York

One publication that I received at different SF cons in this past year was Nth Degree. This color-cover fanzine provides several non-fiction features (including its share of SF con reports), fiction, and poetry. A six-issue subscription costs \$15 and can be sent to Nth Degree, 77 Algrace Blvd., Stafford, Virginia 22556 (published by Big Blind Productions, Inc.). Another publication I'm impressed with is Access: New York City, ISBN 0060938331, published by HarperResource. This guidebook lists sightseeing attractions, shops, restaurants, and hotels by the neighborhood. (I've always preferred guidebooks that list attractions by the neighborhood; it beats zigzagging around town.) Finally, there's Locus, PO Box 13305, Oakland, California 94661; fax: 501-339-8144; web site:<www.Locusmag.com>. This Hugo-winning color-cover semi-professional zine (including some inside color pages) will help to keep you in touch with what's going on in the SF field. Locus includes interviews with SF authors and other people involved in SF; SF news; and listings, reviews, and critiques of SF books and periodicals. A year's subscription costs \$60 in North America and \$88 overseas. (Overseas cheques must be drawn on a USA bank and include computer encoding numbers at the bottom.) This publication is to SF what Variety magazine is to show business!

EVECON 2004

This was the first time in four years that York City. Instead, I attended what the Evecon convention of the new year." A local SF club for a while. I used to think that these cons were strictly gaming cons, but after reading other SF cons and checking their web site as phone, I learned that Evecon had different tracks of programming. So, I decided to attend this con and see for myself.

Friday, January 2, I arrived at the Sheraton in Reston, Virginia, and after I registered, I headed to the Computer Room. Here, I saw other con members either playing games on the computers or surfing the Internet. Several of them played a game called Snood. (It looked similar to the old Space Invaders and Asteroids games from the 1980s.) Then, I attended a talk called Credit Cards for Small Businesses. Kory Kaese of Mystic Designs As for other changes, if you have any New explained the mystery of credit card processing for businesses and individuals. Later, at the

Opening Ceremonies, as the emcee introduced the weather for Farpoint 2004 was much better--no con committee, in between jokes and announcements, each committee member mentioned what his or her job consisted of at Evecon. pile everybody on stage until the stage I visited the Con Suite where in addition to the con committee offering soft drinks and snack foods, I listened to a concert by a fan called "Electro" as he played the guitar. For songs about space, SF, and fantasy as well as some filk songs. ("Filk" songs are space, SF, or fantasy lyrics added to popular tunes from other songs. Although different styles of tunes magazines, and fanzines. The rest of the are used, the most popular style tunes are folk-music tunes. Years ago at a SF con, somebody misprinted on the con program "Filk Singing" instead of "Folk Singing." It's been "Filk Singing" ever since.)

out at the con, and I spent four hours in the to meet and talk to other SF fans, its location Art Show room. I mainly did badge check and answered questions from other con members: "What time is it?" and "How do I bid for art?" Suites set up at other cons. (Most other con became the most popular questions. After this, committees have their Con Suite in a hotel I walked around the Art Show room, and I noticed that about 75% of the art displayed paintings and drawings. The rest of the art showed other mediums: sculptures, jewelry, quilts, and so on. Except for a few artists who space-exploration themes. Most artists presented some space- and SF-theme drawings and exhibited paintings and drawings (about 90%), paintings, the rest of the artists exhibited fantasy artwork.

That night, I went to a talk called Update on the Delta V Project. The speaker, who used following talks: (4) Can You Go Home Again? the con alias "Fluffy," talked about his plans where the panel discussed what a SF fan might to build a Delta V rocket to the moon. (In other words, Fluffy is in favor of civilian human-space flight.) He also mentioned how the what stayed the same? (5) The Let There Be early settlers to the moon will have to be multi-tasked to survive there. Later, I saw the effects for films, TV shows, and radio shows. Masquerade. Out of a dozen costume entries (more than Philcon 2003), two of the costumers guest-of-honor, Suzanne Elmore. This friendly wore fantasy costumes. In between the entries, talked about the first time she saw Star Trek the con chair and the emcee (a female funny high jinks.

most regional-SF cons, this room looked smaller has since written professionally and has had and aside from one dealer who sold books and magazines, most of the other dealers didn't sell too much reading material. Many of those dealers sold sculptures, costumes, games as well as jewelry and other merchandise.

Thus, to summarize this con, I didn't expect it to have as much programming as a regional-SF con, and it didn't. The con little or no formal programming.) For what the clothes and snow-removing equipment. con was, I did enjoy myself, and if it weren't following year.

FARPOINT 2004

Unlike last year's Farpoint con, the

Friday, February 13, after I checked into my room at the Marriott Hunt Valley Inn, Hunt After this, the emcee announced, "My job is to Valley, Maryland, and registered at the con, I volunteered again for two hours of badge-check collapses!" (No. That didn't happen.) Finally, duty at "Checkpoint Charlie" (the entrance to a hallway and ballrooms that only Farpoint con members can enter). Because I was on duty Friday night and not Saturday afternoon (unlike last year), I didn't see as many people going about an hour, I listened to him sing original through. This year's badge-check duty proved to be more relaxing. Afterward, (1) I toured the Dealers' Room where roughly 20% of the dealers sold reading material: media-related SF books, dealers sold other merchandise: buttons, videos, DVDs as well as t-shirts, jewelry, toys, spaceship models, posters, pictures, patches, and other items. Next, (2) I visited the Con Suite. Even though this Con Suite had Saturday, January 3, I volunteered to helpthe usual snack foods, soft drinks, and chances in a former 1950s-style dinner-theme restaurant made this Con Suite different from other Con suite or meeting room.) Before retiring, (3) I saw the Art Show. Here, about 75% of the artwork displayed fantasy themes, and the rest

snow!

of the artwork presented SF and and the other artists showed other mediums: jewelry, glassware, t-shirts, and so forth. Saturday, February 14, I attended the

expect at a certain SF con after a long absence of several years. Who and what changed? Who and Sound panel explained how to do special sound (6) Then, I listened to a talk by the fan wore SF costumes, and the rest of the costumerslady (and a big-name-fan at some media-SF cons) (ST), her first ST con (where shortly impersonator) told jokes and took part in some afterward, she started to help out at different ST and other media-SF cons), her work in art, Sunday, January 4, I ended my time at thisher fan writing, and what she called "the fun con by touring the Dealers' Room. Compared to and energy of meeting new people at cons." She some of her art displayed in professional art galleries.

For Saturday night, I watched (7) the Masquerade. Out of 22 costume entries, about half of the costumers wore fantasy costumes, and the other half wore SF costumes. Some of the costume entries spoofed last year's blizzard and also included my favorite costume committee meant for it to be a gaming con and aentry: two Andorian merchants (their characters relaxie con combination. (A "relaxie" con has based on the original ST series) selling warm

Sunday, February 15, I only attended one their last con for a while, I would return the panel: (8) How To Run A Con. For this hour, the panelists talked about how to run a media-SF con because much of the talk had to do with dealing with actors and their agents. Other topics at this panel included dealing with the

hotel, getting seed money for the con, and advertising.

Shortly afterward, I went home and wrote this summary: I got what I wanted out of this con. (That's my definition of a good con.) The cast-iron buildings that dated from 1869 to con committee provided a multi-track program, especially on Saturday, and I'm looking forwardSt., mural artist Richard Haas painted a mural to attending Farpoint 2005.

MARCH IN NEW YORK CITY

Friday, March 5, I rode the bus from Philadelphia to New York City and checked in for a two-night stay at the Vanderbilt YMCA; then I went to the cinema and saw Eurotrip at the AMC Empire 25 Theaters, W. 42nd St. near 8th Ave. After graduating from high school, Scott Thomas assumed that his German Internet pen pal, Mieke, was a sex-stalking man. Much topresented John Waters: Change of Life. Here, I Scott's delight, however, his younger brother understood German better than he and informed Thus, Scott and his friends decided to go to Europe and try to meet Mieke. Along the way, via London, Paris, Amsterdam, and other places forth. This museum also showed three early in Europe, the group experienced some exciting, films that Waters produced: ${\it Haa}$ in a wacky, and raunchy times via sex, alcohol, and Black-Leather Jacket (1964), Roman Candles rock & roll. (This is an R rated film.)

Saturday, March 6, I took the Radio City Music Hall tour, 6th Ave. and W. 50th St. (212-247-4777). Part of this hour-long tour showed the auditorium and lounges in their entire Art-Deco splendor! In addition to this, the tour included a behind-the-scenes look at the backstage corridors and rooms, the machinery used to elevate and lower parts of the stage, and a performer's-eye-view of the stage. (Now I can say that I've been on stage at Radio City Music Hall--even if it was only on a tour.) The rest of tour took me to a rehearsal room as well as a quick interview and Rye Town Hilton, Rye Brook, New York. photo opportunity with a Rockette. Although I've seen Radio City before ([1] 1975: I saw the film The Wind and the Lion and a stage show. [2] 1981: I saw the Christmas Spectacular. And [3] in the 1980s, the Rockefeller Center tour included seeing some parts of Radio City.), this tour showed me several other rooms, and the tour guide explained many details about the history of Radio City and the Rockettes that I've never learned from my past visits here.

and Park Ave. South (212-529-6732). Even though editions of the Bible and other religious this place had appeared in several TV shows andbooks. At another round-table talk, I listened a sound stage. Once inside of this 19th-centurythe aid of his laptop computer, the moderator bar, I noticed the dark-wood paneling on the walls, the pressed-tin ceilings, mirrors, and frosted glass. The old-fashioned dumbwaiters that brought food from the basement kitchen added to the turn-of-the-20th-century atmosphere. As to the food itself, it consisted Spirit and Opportunity found on the red planet, of delicious American pub grub at reasonable prices. (Entrees cost \$6 to \$15, and they take and human exploration on Mars. (5) The Trends major credit cards.) They are best known for their burgers and shoestring fries (or chips).

Sunday, March 7, I headed downtown, via the subway, to Soho. (This neighborhood area, not named after the Soho area of London,

street-- pronounced "How-stun;" it's not pronounced the same as the city in Texas.) As I walked along Greene St. (from Canal St. to Houston St. and back), I saw close to 50 1895. At the corner of Greene St. and Prince on a plain brick side wall that made the wall look like the neighboring cast-iron walls. He even painted windows on that wall, and one of those "windows" included a painting of a gray cat sitting at the window and looking out over the world. Later, I visited the New Museum of Contemporary Art, 583 Broadway, between Houston St. and Prince St. (212-219-1222). Having no permanent collection, this museum displayed temporary art. When I was there, the museum saw a series of theme photos that the filmmaker took from several films. Some of those themes Scott that "Mieke" was a girl's name in German.included different pictures of the back of Lana Turner's head, Liz Taylor's hair and feet, Dorothy Malone's stand-up collars, and so (1966), and Eat Your Makeup (1967). (Remember, this was the same John Waters who later produced the film Hairspray, which is now a hit Broadway musical.) All I could say was that his early films and some of his photo themes made the film Hairspray look quite normal.

LUNACON 2004

I thought I was safe from any more snowy weather by mid-March. Nevertheless, because of a wintry mix and high winds predicted for Friday, March 19, I took an extra day off from work on Thursday, March 18, to travel up to the

Friday, March 19, after I registered for Lunacon, I attended a panel about (1) Medieval Costuming. (For beginner costumers, the medieval era may be the best era because of the simple patterns that required little or no tailoring. I also found that if I substituted different materials, trims, and fastenings, I could make some great futuristic gowns.) Next, I sat in on a round-table talk about (2) Researching Religion. The person leading this talk has been an ordained priest, and among Later, I had supper at the Old Town Bar & other religious topics, she talked about the Restaurant, 45 E. 18th St., between Broadway influences different committees had for several films, this was a real bar and restaurant, not to (3) Costume Photography Dos and Don'ts. With showed how to take good pictures of costumers and what rules of courtesy to follow toward the costumer whose picture you are taking. Back in one of the regular panel rooms, (4) Return to Mars gave the latest news about what the probes and the panel speculated about future robotic in Fandom panel expressed concern toward the fragmentation in fandom since the 1960s: More and more fans of media SF, costuming, comic books, and other kinds of fandom related to SF are forming cons of their own. Some of these England, gets its acronym for \underline{So} uth of \underline{Ho} uston fans seldom attend regional-SF cons, especially many of the younger (under 25) fans. During the regional-SF cons numbering in the 40s; next panel, (6) Career Paths, a panel of three nowadays, most regional-SF cons are lucky to artists and one writer talked about the strangeget up to 20 costume entries.) Both the panel and conventional ways each of them took to success in his or her field. Later, I visited more people to enter the Masquerade. Before More that half of the dealers sold costumes, and the rest sold other stuff: books, buttons, e-mail, how a person could determine spammed jewelry as well as glassware, metalware, and soe-mail beforehand, and how to keep good forth. Finally, I visited (8) the Con Suite where I snacked on finger foods (Yeah, right, I ate some fingers!), drank some soft drinks, and con's programming more impressive than a few conversed with fellow SF fans.

Saturday, March 20, for this year's Lunacon, I tried to mostly attend talks and panels in the costuming track starting with (9) You Have an Idea, Now What? The panel of prize-winning costumers asked the audience whatmy religion and politics. Although this kind of costume they wanted to make: Presentation or hall costume? Could one move about in his or her costume? How much time did all I'll say. (1) Friends Journal, 1216 Arch one have to complete his or her costume? Was the costume from an original idea or a recreation? Then, the panel gave suggestions in info@friendsjournal.org, web site: answer to the questions above. For the next panel in the costume track, (10) Do I Need a Machine to Make a Costume?, the panelists presented the pros and cons of working with a stapling, duct tape, and so (sew) on. Outside of the costuming track, I listened to a talk about (11) Building a SF Hall of Fame. This panel mentioned plans to have a 13,000 to 30,000 sq. ft. SF museum within the Music Project museum in Seattle, Washington. Then, display SF artwork; Captain Kirk's bridge chair USA, pay by international money order in USA from the original ST series; several items from dollars.) Web site: www.slp.org. (4) Extra, the collection of the ultimate big-name-fan, Forrest Ackerman; and other SF-related stuff. (This museum should open in mid-June 2004.) Afterward, I looked at (12) the Art Show. Here, fair@fair.org, web site: http://www.fair.org, I noticed that about 75% of the artworks displayed fantasy themes, and the rest of the artworks exhibited SF and space-exploration themes. Most of the artworks (again, about 75%) showed drawings and paintings, and the other artworks presented other mediums: jewelry, sculptures, glassware as well as dolls, woodwork, quilting, costumes, and so forth. Finally, before going to dinner, I toured (13) Guide and the address for Lunacon. In Issue #2, the Dealers' Rooms where about half of the dealers sold books and other reading materials, mentioned Frommer's USA guide. For Issue #3, I and the rest of the dealers sold other merchandise: buttons, costumes, jewelry as welllisting for the Lonely Planet Canada guide. as pictures, leather goods, DVDs, and other

That night, I saw (14) the Masquerade. Altogether, I counted 17 costume entries. Most of the contestants wore fantasy costumes, and two of the costumers wore SF costumes.

Sunday, March 21, I started the day by attending (15) The Year in Costuming. Once again, the panelists mentioned that many younger people (in their teens and 20s) preferred attending anime and media-SF cons and entering the masquerades at those cons instead of regional-SF cons. (Back in the 1980s and '90s, I once counted costume entries at

and audience wondered how they could convince (7) Dealers' Row. Taking a hint from the late going home, I listened to (16) the Future of JerseyDevilCons, Lunacon allowed some dealers Spam. Although some of the technical talk went to sell their merchandise from their bedrooms. over my head, the panel seemed to be discussing what filters worked best to hold back spammed messages.

> Thus, to summarize the con--I found this years ago. I plan to attend next year's Lunacon on March 18-20 at the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel, East Rutherford, New Jersey.

I've had some of my readers ask me about publication is mainly a travelogue, I'll list some publications that I receive, but that's St., 2A, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-2835 (215-563-8629), e-mail:

www.friendsjournal.org, is a monthly magazine that costs \$5 an issue and \$35 for yearly subscriptions. (Add \$8 for subscriptions outside of USA, Canada, or Mexico.) (2) The sewing machine versus hand sewing, fabric glue, second publication is a local newsletter that I receive from the nearest Friends Meeting House (FMH) that I attend in Haddonfield, New Jersey. (Check your phone book for the nearest FMH or www.OuakerFinder.org) (3) The People (published bimonthly), PO Box 218, Mountain View, California 94042-0218, costs \$1 a copy or the panelists announced plans for the museum to \$9 for yearly subscriptions. (If outside of the published by FAIR (Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting, Inc.), PO Box 170, Congers, New York 10920-9930 (800-847-3993), e-mail: is another bimonthly publication. Yearly subscriptions are \$21, including six issues of Extra/Update (add \$10 outside of USA).

Anyway, it's now that time of year when I do a recap of the addresses and publications that I recommended last year. Thus (with all of those issues in Volume #4), in Issue #1, I listed a guide to New York City put out by Blue I printed the address for Balticon and included the address for Confluence and a Finally, for Issue #4, I provided the address for AnimeNext con and a listing for Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel magazine.

Now, for the future or the next issue to be exact--I'll have an article about my extended weekend in spring to New York City and two con reports: Balticon and AnimeNext.

So, until the next issue comes out, have a good summer solstice (or winter solstice in the southern hemisphere). Farewell for now!