

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 50

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

Cats Laughing hugs our hearts!

From the uplifting "See How the Sparrow Flies" to their version of the traditional "And We Bid You Goodnight", **Cats Laughing** (in their reunion concert: A Long Time Gone) brought an unavoidable energy and rhythm to every song, though their flavors be pleasantly different. Reviews were universally positive and excited. The high quality of sound mixing received especial praise, as did the projector light show that at one point attacked the band with purple polka dots.

Here are some quotes that followed the three-hour concert:

"You know how it feels when you go to a great concert but you don't know the music? This was like that, except it was *really* great... It feels like you know the music even if you don't."

"They're really good when they practice, aren't they?"

"There was a sense of inevitable fun."

"I'm beyond words... I'm all feels!"

"They were energetic and synergistic and generous... They were like, 'We're on fire, and you look cold!'"

A couple of party awards...

- x **Hair of the Dog party** (Room 220)--*Most Awesome Sign*. (Read the bottom!) Open 2-5 p.m. each day, including Sunday.
- x **Tarzan's Karaoke and Desserts** (Room 210) *Most Awesome Light Toys*. Come for the irresistible pull of familiar music in the fading haze of a concert, stay for a crowd happy to take up an improvised percussion line and the amazing cubes of LEDs that play Tetris and do other amusing things.

On the hunt for Don Nelson!

Can we ask Don Nelson to wear a red and white striped shirt? We want to solve the question: WHERE'S DON? The only person to have attended all 50 Minicons, yet this man of mystery walks unnoticed among us. Don, are you coming to the "Minicon 1" panel?

-*The voice of Minicon*

See the people come and go

You may have noticed a video camera on one of the mezzanines! This camera is taking **time-lapsed footage** of the convention. If you'd like to see it online, search for 'Minicon 50' on YouTube. And to find videos from last year, search for 'Minicon 49'.

Got an extra program book?

Registration is running low on program books—if you don't need yours anymore, or you have an extra, please bring it back to the Reg desk so others can peruse. :-)

For the master builders among us!

You may notice a table or two piled high with boxes of gears, rods, connectors, wheels and other plastic thingamajigs in the Garden Court. Play with them! These **K'nex sets** are there for your amusement, courtesy of **Mark Richards**.

View the International Space Station

Science head **Ben Huset** reports that the International Space Station (ISS) will pass overhead Saturday night from **9:30 to 9:35**. He welcomes others to join him outside by the hotel's northwest corner, weather permitting.

Miscellany

Among other fascinating ancient relics, check out the BBTs from way back at **Minicon 15**, on display on the historical tables in the Art/Dealers/Science Room!

Consuite head Ann Totusek reports that the pop machine is now working—the Coke people found the problem! She also says that if you've liked what you've seen in consuite so far, *wait 'til tonight!*

"Here's the usual hello to Will and Emma!" —*Stephen B.*

Overheard comments on the magic *non-sticky* tape:

- "It's pretty bad when the only thing the tape sticks to is itself."
- "Entropy—watch the tape peel off the wall! Make bets on when the giant con schedule will fall off!"

—*Jeanne Mealy*

The Friday night census:

Reg totals: 965 warm bodies, 1026 total members!

4a.m. Gahlon pulse check: Bar 20, Consuite 5, Seamstress Guild 6, Gaming 6, Book Party 20, **Total 57!**

5a.m. Strait-Zetelumen pulse check: Bar 13, Consuite 1, Outside Blake's party 5, Gaming 1, Counter 2, **Total 22.**

LAST MINUTE CORRECTION: The **Mass Signing** will be held in front of the **Bloomington room**, *not* in the Garden Court as listed in the program book.

Cool Heads and Tails of Triumph

H2. The goal: to stack high a delicate magnetically floating platform with twenty-four plastic blocks. The restriction—you had to do it by rolling a die which told you when to add one or two blocks, and when to remove one. This challenge was proving significantly harder than H1, and after several challengers failed, the Cluemeister started to fear it couldn't be done. But then came the mother-son team of **Kara and Andrew U.** They quickly took to the challenge, and before long, an observer might well have classified their dedication as obsession. While folks entered and exited the Bozo Bus Office, looking for this and reporting that, Andrew and Kara became a background fixture, meticulously stacking and restacking the blocks. Now and then would come the sound of a rumble, and your editor would feel a pang of disappointment or look up, worried the printer had died yet again. Eventually he had to leave on business, during which time the duo came within one block of victory, videotaping their ill-fated attempt. Finally, rejuvenated after a break, Andrew assembled the wild tower successfully on his first try. He then fetched his mother and their camera to have pictures taken with the toy, promising to frame them, this newsletter, and the victoriously earned penny. Ah, memories!

N. The three-legged creation of Niven's the clues referred to was a puppeteer, of Ringworld fame. This two-headed creature appeared in the 2014 Moneyduck scroll on display in the grand Ballroom Foyer. **Bekah H.** happened upon it randomly, remembered the clue, and found the penny covering beneath the paper.

5. Jeff H., of the pennythirsty H family, sought high and low for objects with three 'w's—he even asked at the front desk! No doubt they provided him with a frosty williwaw. But he eventually located the penny in the game area inside the party game Pow-Wow.

8. A playground diversion? A swing! A geometric primitive—a line! If only it were red, it would be a fabled red Swingline stapler! The penny was affixed to the bottom of said black stapler at the internet kiosk. It was found by a new permutation of the bar crowd—**Stephanie and Briana B.** and **Damien J.**—who just looked everywhere they saw computers.

10. This penny was the last to be hidden. Its original intended hiding place proved unavailable, so the Cluemeister was forced to change the clue and guess a

suitable party room to hide it in. 11 to the power of 6, modulo 42, is $1 \cdot 1 + 1701 - 1138 - 451 - 4 = 109$, the number of the Helsinki in 2017 bid party. This party, unfortunately, failed to open for much of Friday night, so the Cluemeister eventually stashed the plush unicorn bearing the penny on the patio under a chair. As it happened, **John S.** had been staking out the room in anticipation of the medallion, and had been sitting in that very chair earlier when the Cluemeister had hesitated while passing the party by! So its subsequent retrieval was straightforward.

20. The given list of actors played roles in movies and television shows that came out or began in the given years, spelling the message: 'NOSMOKINGABOVEFLOOREIGHT'. (The specific list of roles can be found in the BBT office.)

Sandy, Jeff and Bokah H. set out on a far-ranging search for a No Smoking sign on all the floors above eight in the main tower, before realizing that there are eight floors in the smaller tower and then realizing that the rear staircase extends above the top floor. "I got dirty—this is dirty business!" said Sandy. There was a NO SMOKING sign on a ledge on the landing, and she searched in the hole behind until quailing in fear of snakes, whereupon her daughter discovered #20 affixed to the back of the sign.

CLUES: ROUND 4

C. If you enjoy Sudoku but consider it insufficiently devilish, come and try this daunting puzzle!

P. Perplexus Epic—a ball of chaos with a hapless passenger within. You only need twelve steps!

L. Look for boxes of bags of beans.

\$D. Gary was here at the start of 2011, apparently.

T. Don't leave me hanging—make me invincible!

(Reminder—teens only!)

9. To corner this elusive medallion, think of all the authors you could be reading!

30. It's Clockwise, sillies! Like a stop sign! And traditional! Think of saddles! Tablecloths! Elevators!

Hours of Redemption:

The Cluemeister promises to be in from...

◆ 11a.m. – Noon Sat.

◆ 5p.m. – 6p.m. Sat.

◆ 10p.m. – 11p.m. Sat

Got material for the BBT? Drop it in the Submission Box at the Coat Check near the Normandale Room at the end of the Grand Ballroom Foyer. Pens and paper are provided.

The Bozo Bus Tribune

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