

# Bozo Bus Tribune

MINNESOTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY

## Where's Wayne?

Unfortunately, our Artist Guest of Honor was forced to cancel at the last minute. In his own words...

"It is with the utmost regret that I find that I will not be able to fulfill my role as Artist Guest of Honor at this year's Minicon. When first approached to come to Minnesota, I agreed to attend with the nervous proviso that, at a moment's notice, I might be called upon to work on some media-related, time-sensitive project that, given the vicissitudes of free-lancing and the needs of employers, I would be unable to turn down. Sadly, just such an event has taken place. Because of the uneven way in which I get employed, I do relatively few cons; Minicon was to be the first in quite a few years and, admittedly, it was a risk to agree. It weighs heavily upon me that I have let down anyone who was traveling to the convention with hopes of bumping into me and, reciprocally, I regret not having the opportunity to get to meet those same people. To all of the attendees and the very hard-working Minicon staff - especially Keith and Andra - who worked with me over the year, the only thing I can say is that I am truly sorry."

--- Wayne Barlowe

## Looking for a Dinner Expedition?

This year we have included a dinner break in our programming schedule from 6-7pm. Folks looking for a congenial group to eat with should meet by the Registration table in the mezzanine at 6:05 pm. Look for the "Dinner Break" sign. We suggest that expeditions leave at 6:10 sharp.

## Contests Galore

In addition to the traditional Minicon Medallion Hunt, this year's Minicon features many chances for you to win fame.

- Hall Costume Contest! (Friday and Saturday, all the time)
- Bar Trivia Contest! (Midnight Friday in the Bar)
- Bambi's Nerd Tattoo Contest! (Midnight Sat in The Bar)
- Chocolate for Trivia! (7pm Saturday)
- Predict the future, get published in *The Daily Howler*!
- Spontaneous Bozo Bus Tribune Awards, which may be declared at any time by editorial whim!

## Where is...?

- The Green Room? Room 201 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor cabana)
- The Bozo Bus Office? by the ballrooms, beyond Registration.

## Forward Into the Past

When the first moon landing happened back in 1969, Karen Cooper saved the newspapers. The historic time capsule will be opened tonight at 8:30 in Atrium 1 and displayed for the rest of the evening at Karen's discretion.

## 3rd Annual Minicon Medallion Hunt Now it's a tradition!

The St. Paul Winter Carnival has its Medallion Hunt, and we have ours, with twelve times the fun! Yes, ladies and gentlemen and other sentient beings, the Minicon Medallion Hunt features not just one but **twelve** specially minted and hand-numbered medallions (1973 copper pennies)!

The first round of clues is on page 2. If enough pennies are found early, as they were in past years, bonus medallions may be added at editorial whim. Watch the BBT for updates!

When you've found a medallion, take it to the Bozo Bus Tribune office during working hours (which are sadly unpredictable) to redeem it for Dealer Dollars, which can be spent in the Dealer's Room or Art Show. This year, each penny's value in Dealer Dollars is equal to its number, which ranges from 1-20. If the BBT office is closed, you can also try finding the Editor or Cluemeister to redeem your medallions.

**Important!** All the medallions have been hidden in public places within the hotel. None have been hidden in the art show, the dealer's room, or any of the hotel's stores or restaurants. Take care when searching not to disturb hotel guests or set off any emergency alarms.

Good luck to everyone (which is arguably another way of saying 'No luck for anyone')!

## Confused? Lost? Ask A Concom Member

If you need help or information about the convention, look for wandering concom members wearing bright green or purple badges with hand-lettered messages along the line of "Ask me!"

### Yodel Message Whiteboard

The big whiteboard in the Grand Ballroom Foyer (on the back side of the bulletin board) is available to all for leaving messages for friends or to make general announcements.

### Registration update (Friday 5pm)

PreReg	330
At the Door	36



## Programming Changes and Corrections

Elise Matthesen's name was spelled incorrectly in the program book description of *The Destruction of Identities in the Future*. The programming goon regrets the error.

### Programming Changes – Friday

- There will be a memorial service for Arthur C. Clarke (1917-2008), Friday night Krushenko's (Veranda 7/8) at 10pm, hosted by Steven H Silver.

### Programming Changes – Saturday

- Bruce Bethke will be handing out 300 free copies of his novel *Rebel Moon*, and probably other goodies, too. Sat, 2:00-3:00pm, Grand Ballroom East B (Readings room).

### Programming Changes – Sunday

- Lois McMaster Bujold's reading will be Sun, noon to 12:30pm in the Grand Ballroom East B (Readings room).
- Lyda Morehouse will not be on *Whose Responsibility Is It To Write For Me?* (Sunday, 3:30pm). Rachel Kronick will be moderator.
- Steven H Silver is moderator of *Worldbuilding: Indulgence or Necessity?* (Sunday, 3:30 pm)
- Karen Cooper's Time Capsule will be in Atrium 1 [yes, in the other wing of the hotel] (Friday 8:30)

## Daily Howler Predicts the Future

This year's *Daily Howler* (the Minicon Kids publication) will be devoted to predictions of the future. Submissions will be accepted all day Friday and Saturday for publication on Sunday morning. Submit your stories in the box outside the Bozo Bus Tribune office or give them directly to editor Marian Turner. Art work and illustrations are encouraged, but must be small enough for inclusion in a 2-page publication.

## Friday Parties

- 105: MISFITS party – 7pm-midnight
- 106: Trans Galactic InterDimensional Gourmand Society 9pm
- 109: MCTC Science Fiction and Fantasy Club - maybe
- 110: TOTU Not-a-Publication Party -
- 207: OddCon - maybe
- 208: Dreamhaven 9-midnight

## Friday Night Concerts

Ship Side Room (first floor, behind hotel bar)

- 8:00 Peggy O'Neill
- 9:00 Decadent Dave Clement
- 10:00 Graham Leathers

## Hall Costume Contest

### Watch for Roving Judges

Proudly wear your favorite costume as you roam the con, and you may find yourself unexpectedly presented with an award by one of our roving hall Costume Scouts. This qualifies you to become a FINALIST for the Barlowe's Best Costume Contest! If you want to compete, be sure to have your picture taken for the judges. The 8 winners will be featured on the Barlowe's Best Poster of Fame, and announced at Closing Ceremonies.



## Medallion Clues, First Round

1. Number one's your choice; thou shalt rejoice—so bring bring along a quarter!
2. This notched arrow is one of the farthest from the outside world.
3. This penny was attracted to a big, black 3 and settled in nearby.
4. Don't remove the box from the Consuite, please.
5. 1411 31114 11 11 141 11311 13113311 318, 11 141 31111312, 11 141 31111111 213112 1111.
6. Go nine miles, turn right, and check out the local flora.
7. This is where Medallion #0 should have been last year!
8. To collect this medallion, you must defeat the Cluemeister at Double Trouble.
9. Push the button of the letters in the choice of a new generation.
10. ULUDULDRDDRDRDUL  
LDUDLDRUD LULDLL
11. BADGE HINTS = 10243 56798
20. Success is the end product of false discoveries.

The Bozo Bus Tribune  
Friday Edition

Vol. 43, No. 1  
March 21, 2008

The Official Organ of Minicon 43

Sharon Kahn – Editor in Chief  
Thorin Tatge – ClueMeister  
Fiona and Delia Ihinger – Chemistresses  
Kevin Austin – Printer

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# Bozo Bus Tribune

M i n n e s o t a   S c i e n c e   F i c t i o n   S o c i e t y

## Four Down, Nine to Go

Excitement was high for the first few hours of the Minicon Medallion Hunt, with gangs of young treasure hunters rocketing through the hotel corridors in full pursuit of clues. But the hunt has been in the doldrums for a while now. Time for a new set of clues!

The medallion stories so far:

1. **Number one's your choice; thou shalt rejoice—so bring bring along a quarter!**

Found by Rachel Rosenberg with a little help from Rand Phillips, who observed "Not much you can get for a quarter these days except a gum ball or a phone call." Sure enough, the medallion was found stuck to the first pay phone in a phone bank—"bring bring" indeed!

3. **This penny was attracted to a big, black 3 and settled in nearby.**

Peter spotted the big black 3 on the side of the pool, and then the shiny copper penny lying on the bottom. Originally stuck under the rim of the shallow end, it had drifted into deep waters, but was retrieved by a helpful stranger.

4. **Don't remove the box from the Consuite, please.**

But you do have to get the box open, which wasn't as easy as you might think—you have to bang it to dislodge a ball bearing from a magnet. Jory Phillips collected on this one, but reportedly had a little help opening the box (including another of those helpful passing adults).

6. **Go nine miles, turn right, and check out the local flora.**

Corwin, Rachel and Fiona, working together, found this one almost before the ink was dry on the first BBT issue. It was near the Nine Mile Grill, attached to a flower pot.

**And because the Cluemeister can't resist...**

We've hidden a new medallion, #D, redeemable not for Dealer Dollars but for a special prize!

### Volunteer Needed!

Film room is seeking a responsible volunteer to mind the room between 5 and 6pm Saturday while your humble host makes one last attempt to give his money away in the Dealers Room. Please come help me participate in the joy of capitalism.

### Krahn-Gahlon 4am Pulse Check

(observed 3am)

Total warm bodies in public spaces, awake	36
Total bodies warm but asleep	3
Total warm bodies (counting survey team)	39

## Minicon Medallion Hunt

### Clues, Round Two

- D. If Bloomington is south of Edina, what if you hang your hat in Minnetonka?
2. The notched arrow is formed by the negative space between two letters.
5. The alphabet: 1332142418513113T11114484T
7. Peer behind the frame, not into the infinite hallway.
8. Look for guidance at the very end of the program book.
9. When you gotta have it, reach it and feel to the left...just be sure you're on the right floor!
10. Dinosaur feet lead to human feet. It's not two lines of text; it's one!
15. Check the bulletin board/whiteboard for your starting point...and look for hints on 'Ask Me' badges!
20. Look for pennies with symbols instead of numbers...and use an asterisk on them! Your destination comes at the end of your tribulation.

## T-Shirt Special

We have both regular and ladies cut t-shirts this year! Minicon 43 shirts are \$20, Minicon 40 and 41 shirts are \$15. \$5 off if you buy a Minicon 43 shirt plus one of the older ones (\$30 for the pair). Available now at the Con Sales table.

## PERSONALS

Cover Girl: watch out for the Zitch Dogs. Zark, Zark!

Humble apologies for losing the Personals from the first edition. Sorry, but we ARE all bozos on this bus. — ed.

## Australian Ambassador Visits Minnesota

Jeanne Mealy

Doug Burrows is visiting Minicon to promote the Zolo Australian Worldcon bid. Doug is a small toy wombat who has his own travel bag and passport. Feel free to say hello when you see him. Pre-supporter forms are on the freebies table. Do it for Doug! Then come to Australia to visit his full-size family.

The Bozo Bus Tribune  
Friday Edition

Vol. 43, No. 2  
March 22, 2008

The Official Organ of Minicon 43

Sharon Kahn — Editor in Chief  
Thorin Tutge — ClueMeister

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# Bozo Bus Tribune

MINNESOTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY

## Medallion Update

The pennies are pouring in!

- D If Bloomington is south of Edina, what if you hang your hat in Minnetonka?**

Likewise, the Bloomington room is south of the Edina room, and this medallion was in a wardrobe west of there. The prize, a card game about donuts, went to John Stanley.

- 2 This notched arrow is one of the farthest from the outside world; the notched arrow is formed by the negative space between two letters.**

Found by Lisa Sanders and T.J. Neumiller, this penny was lurking between the E and X of the EXIT sign between the pool area and the Navigators club.

- 5 1411 31114 11 11 141 11311 13113311 318, 11 141 31111312, 11 141 31111111 213112 1111; The alphabet: 1332142418513113T11114484T.**

Carol Kennedy cracked the alphabet code from the second clue. Kelly Strait figured out that the numbers assigned to each letter were taken from the tile values in Scrabble. Carol had already figured out part of the message, which, in its entirety, reads: "This penny is in the Super Scrabble box, in the scorepad, in the Consuite gaming area." Apologies for the typo replacing '13111313' with '31111312'. Once the hunters realized they were looking for a Super Scrabble set, the rest was easy. William Ketter and Jory Phillips actually retrieved the medallion and claimed the prize.

- 7 Peer behind the frame, not into the infinite hallway (where Medallion 0 should have been last year)**

Found by John Stanley, this penny was behind the frame of the second floor hallway mirror closest to the lobby area, one of two pairs of large mirrors on opposite ends of the hall.

- 9 Push the button of the letters in the choice of a new generation; when you gotta have it, reach in and feel to the left...just be sure you're on the right floor!**

Hidden in the dispenser slot of a Pepsi machine at the back of the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the small tower. 'Pepsi' contains five letters. Found by Rob Ihinger.

**Fun fact:** one of the helpful strangers mentioned in the last edition was Mark Richards, last year's con chair.

**Additional challenge:** One dedicated treasure hunter found four medallions, but generously left three in the wild for others to find. Can you guess who that was?



## Minicon Medallion Hunt

### Clues, Round Three

8. The key is simply to leave a winning combination of three numbers after each turn. The obvious winning combination is 0-0-0, and the others can be worked out backwards from there.
10. It's Dinotopian footprint code!
15. Minicon 43: This time, it's quaternary! (Better put all the clues together and hurry, folks—this penny expires at 1am!)
20. The key here is the pennies that *aren't* dated 1973. They'll lead you to a new four-digit number! **If you have one of these strange pennies, get together with others who have found them, or leave them at the BBT office for public inspection!**

## Don't Forget

Don't forget to register now for Minicon 44 at the absolutely lowest rate that will ever be available (\$30). Use the form you got when you arrived (more available at Registration) and put them in the box at Registration or in the consuite.

### Registration update (Saturday 5pm)

PreReg	330 (289 picked up)
At the Door	95
Total Registrations	425
Total Warm Bodies	384

## Don't Miss the Open Music Circle

Tonight in Grand Ballroom East B (across the interior hallway from the Veranda Rooms). Music starts at 9:30, goes on until everybody falls over.

### Revised Krahn-Gahlon \* 4am Pulse Check (actual)

Consuite: 12

Film room: 2

Wandering Medallion Hunter: 1

Census takers: 2

Total warm bodies: 17

\* No sign of Gahlon, understudy Kevin Austin called into action

## PERSONALS

Thank you Alioter for explaining pulsars and battleship turrets. I hope you don't have to do it 30-40 times!

The Order of the Ink-Stained Hand awarded to KGA for heroic labours in the Aegean Stables of the Bozo Bus Printing Office. — *ed.*

Could this be the usual "hi to Will and Emma" entry? Sure!  
— *submitted by someone who is tired of snow*

## Overheard in Con Suite

My Dad's specialty was cockroaches — he worked on them for 30 years. — *anonymous*

## BBT Editor Falls Sanity Roll



Apparently driven mad by the incessant skittering of the tiny feet of Minicon Medallion treasure hunters, the BBT editor-in-chief used a picture of herself to fill up empty column inches at about 8pm Saturday night. She is expected to make a full recovery in time to put out a Sunday edition.

## Blinded by Moondust

Sharon Kahn

"All these years I had such a distinct memory of what was in that time capsule... only to find that it's the wrong Apollo!"

— *Karen Cooper, at the opening of her 1969 time capsule*

## Minnstf Flyers and Business Cards Now Available

Looking for official Minnstf info to hand out at cons, room parties, Minnstf meetings? Kevin and Laurel have printed up a bunch of nice blue flyers and a batch of business cards. Limited supply now available in the BBT office.

Minnesota Science Fiction Society  
aka MnStf

"meetings" generally 1st and 3rd Saturdays monthly  
Minicon every Easter weekend

P.O. Box 8297

Lake Street Station

Minneapolis, MN 55408-0297

\*by "meetings" we, of course, mean parties  
with about five minutes of business meeting  
see Einblatt! for more details and other events  
<http://www.mnstf.org/>

## Corrections (Program Book)

Eric Coleman's name was misspelled in the program book and in the pocket program. We regret the error, but applaud our own consistency.

## Corrections (BBT)

In the story about the Australian Ambassador, "Zolo" should have been 2010. We regret the error, but do not take responsibility for it. When submitting hand-written copy, please try to write or print legibly, bearing in mind that the text may be deciphered by a bleary-eyed editor at 3am.

The Bozo Bus Tribune  
Friday Edition

Vol. 43, No. 3  
March 22 2008

### The Official Organ of Minicon 43

Sharon Kahn — Editor in Chief  
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# Bozo Bus Tribune

Minnesota Science Fiction Society

## Minicon Medallion Hunt

### It's All Over but the Shouting

Only two medallions remain unclaimed as the convention comes to a close:

8. All you have to do is defeat the Cluemeister at the silly little game he's carrying around with him. Come on, peeps! Don't let him intimidate you like this! (Note: as it is now 5pm and the Dealers Room has closed, it is too late to win the official prize. But the Cluemeister has agreed to take on challengers who wish to play for the medallion and the honor of the battle.
20. The Big Kahuna remains unclaimed, but if you can scrounge together a matching set of three 'decoys', or pennies with symbols instead of numbers, you're still eligible for a special prize! Where did those things all go?

### Medallion Stories: Saturday Night

#### 10. ULUDULDRDDRDRDUL

LDUDLDRUD LULDLL; It's Dinotopian footprint code!

The 'footprint language' from James Gurney's Dinotopia universe is formed from pairs of three-toed prints that resemble arrows. In the original clue, each arrow was replaced with the first letter of the direction it appeared to be pointing: left, up, down or right. It's true that the dinosaur itself would have been facing the opposite direction, but then we would have been using 'F' and 'B' for 'forward' and 'back' instead of 'up' and 'down'. ☺ The text spells out 'SHOESHINEARMREST', and the medallion, attached to the armrest of the shoeshine station, was found by Lisa Freitag and Steve Glennon.

15. **BADGE HINTS = 10243 56798; Check the bulletin board/whiteboard for your starting point...and look for hints on 'Ask Me' badges; Minicon 43: This time it's quaternary!**

This one was a little involved. In the Medallion Hunt's first year, the only undiscovered penny was hidden with a clue involving binary conversion. The following year, the Big Kahuna, also undiscovered, involved ternary conversion. The next logical step is quaternary, or base four, and the Cluemeister was determined to keep including base conversion puzzles until somebody solved one.

The board in the second floor foyer includes two copies of the text:

@~!~!##@~ #@@#@! #@!#~!~@~ @~!#~!#

There were in fact four or five hints written on the badges of convention personnel. The hint on con co-chair Matt Strait's badge reads "Let go of the Shift key", suggesting the keyboard

conversion ~=' , !=1, @=2, #=3. But another badge clue informs you that 'The tilde is a goose egg' (or according to the whiteboard, 'the tilde is a lie', meaning that it's actually just zero, being where the '0' might have fit on the keyboard. You thus get four numbers consisting of the digits 0, 1, 2, and 3, and naturally you need to convert them from base four to base ten. These numbers can then be treated as ciphertext for the original clue, which produces: BEHIND THE TGIDGS SIGN. Another badge hint suggests what TGIDGS means: the Trans-Galactic Inter-Dimensional Gourmand Society, whose party was in Cabana 106. The penny was hidden behind one of their signs, and was found about 11:45pm Saturday by the collaborative effort of Team Girls (Fiona, Delia, Corwin, Neesa, Rachel R.) with assistance from Lisa Freitag and Rob Ihinger.

### Extra Credit Question

The answer is, of course, indefatigable treasure hunter Rob Ihinger.

### Krahn-Gahlon 4am Pulse Check

38 still awake that we could find, most of whom were in the Gaming Area, with just a few people upstairs at the bar. Our co-chairs are still awake and one of them claims he should be counted twice because he's so energetic.

### Thanks!

The Minnesota Chapter of Ninjas would like to extend their thanks to the membership of Minicon for helping make this one of their largest and most enjoyable meet-ups in some time. No fans attended the numerous ninja panels, making them a great success. The winner of the Award for Attendee Favorite Panel was 'Fashion on the Job: Anyone can hide in black but it takes a master to go unnoticed in yellow and red plaid.' The midnight Ninja costume parade was also a success, as it was witnessed by only one porter who was quickly and quietly dispatched. MCN looks forward to hosting a room party next year and hopes none of you see them there.

### Artist GoH Slideshow Big Hit in Bar

You may have noticed a slideshow of striking fantasy art running continuously on the TV in the Consuite Bar. The program was a collection of art by Minicon Artist Guests of Honor, primarily Wayne Barlowe, this year's GoH in absentia. Thanks to Wayne for providing a CD of his past work and permission to display it, and to Seven for making the show actually happen.

## Hall Costume Contest Winners

The original plan was for Wayne Barlowe to judge the hall costume contest. When we learned that Wayne wouldn't be attending the con, there was talk of either abandoning the contest or finding replacement judges. Miraculously, a new plan emerged spontaneously during Opening Ceremonies. Bonnie the Costume Scout would identify and photograph contest finalists and email the photos to Wayne, who would judge the contest from home. This worked brilliantly! Bonnie nominated 20 costume finalists, and Wayne has identified the eight winners: Barlowe's Best. The winning costumes are:

1. Tisiphone
2. Jay Curry
3. Tom Potter
4. Callisto
5. Ares
6. Captain Red Shirt
7. Gau'ld
8. Slytherin Student

## Bambi's Nerdy Tattoo Contest Winners

The contest took place in the Consuite Bar at Midnight on Saturday, judged by tattooist Bambi of Forever Yours Tattoos. First place prize was \$100 gift certificate to Forever Yours. Second place prize was \$50 gift certificate. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all who participated.

- First place: Seven ("Pi")
- Second Place: Peer Dudda ("Well-Endowed Faun")

## Minicon Sends Kids to Space

*Minneapolis Reach For the Stars* would like to thank everyone who contributed this weekend to help us send Minneapolis public school children to Space Camp in April. We invite everyone to come to our wine and cheese party, "From Shira to Shiraz" this Thursday at the Minneapolis Photo Coop. More info at [reachuplink.org](http://reachuplink.org).

-- Daniel Amyx ([danieljamyx@aol.com](mailto:danieljamyx@aol.com))

## PERSONALS

Laurel -- your laptop is in Secure Storage. Which isn't quite where it used to be, but you'll find it.

Lovely XO -- cute, small, dressed in green, sweet as sugar. Just wants someone to mesh with. Maybe we can Tam Tam together? [maybe at the Dead Dog party tonight? --ed.]

Has it stopped snowing yet???

Rumors of Minicon's demise are greatly exaggerated! --Seven

I kissed Kelly!! --anonymous

The Bear Has Trilium  
Friday Edition

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The Official Organ of Minicon 43

Sharon Kahn -- Editor in Chief  
Thorin Tatge -- ClueMeister  
Kevin Austin -- Heroic Printer

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