

Issue 1

Friday afternoon

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 54

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

Plum convention lilacs nothing

It's Minicon 54! For your mildly synesthetic editor, the number 54 evokes a greasy greenish-blue tower of melting bouillon cubes, but for everyone else, this year's theme is *Purple!* You have been tricked into looking at a purple object right now. Sadly, none of the purple panels envisioned came to fruition, so the BBT chooses to ask you: What does the color purple mean to you? Vikings? Prince? Harold and his crayon? Drop your thoughts in the Submission Box, now outside of **Courtyard 4**, and they'll be included in future issues.

So where is everything this time?

This is our second year at the DoubleTree by Hilton Minneapolis—Park Place. If you're an experienced congoer, you know what that means: the new hotel shuffle. Many things are where they were last year! Here's a list of what's moved:

Art Show and Dealers Room: Now on the 2nd floor where programming was, in Terrace 1–3.

Concerts: Courtyard Ballrooms 1–3, on the 1st floor.

BBT: Courtyard 4.

Science Room: Courtyard 5–6.

What's the Orchard Room? Programming during the day, music circles at night.

And the Spring Room? Oh, that's being used for meetups, conversation and tai chi.

Readings: The Pocket Program says they're in Spring, but they're actually scattered all over like the pollen of creativity itself.

Teen Room: Guest room 223.

What about the stuff that hasn't moved? Don't you have a pocket program?

Mathom: What you don't want but can't throw away

"Just a reminder that there will be a Mathom Table again at Minicon like there was last year. Bring your odd and maybe useful things to get rid of. Perhaps pick out some replacements to take home with you. The table will be set up on Friday, just bring your stuff by at your convenience. On Sunday I'll be clearing off the table about 3:00. If you want to recover your items, come by before then and claim them, otherwise I'll be boxing them up for Goodwill."

—Mark Richards

[Ed. This table is in the 1st floor hallway and is also called Free Will Donation and Fannish Flea Market.]

Additional items for your meetup pleasure

Writer's Meetup

Friday – 9:30p.m. – Spring Room

Discuss writing practice and process, and maybe find or form a writer's group.

Pokemon Go Meetup

Saturday – 2:00p.m. – Spring Room

There will be a meetup for the purpose of Pokemon hunting. Please dress appropriately for outdoors, whatever surprising condition that may be in by the time this event rolls around. Facilitated by Taya Swenson Schmid.

Vote for TAFF!

If you come to tonight's beer tasting at the Bar Annex, not only will you taste some really good beer, you can find out the latest about this year's Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund race and how to vote in it. "Four Great Candidates, One Great Race," says candidate Geri Sullivan. Voting closes 11p.m. Monday; visit taff.org.uk/vote.php to vote online.

A note on pre-reg forms (in Noto Sans)

Your registration envelope contains a pre-printed reg form for Minicon 55! Of course you want to come back—that's not the issue. The issue is that your street address was accidentally not auto-filled on this form with the rest of your info. We still have your address, though, so if your info hasn't changed, no need to fill it in. (If that or anything else *has* changed, please update it.)

Party board!

An intrepid fan has placed a Party Board near registration for the purpose of advertising room parties. Please do so! And also read said advertisements! And act on the information you glean from reading them, even! (PARTY!)

Party correction

The **Karaoke Party** listed in the program book for Room 326 has been canceled. However, the **MarsCon 2020: Visions of the Future** party listed for Room 321 has been moved to 326, and it will *also* have karaoke. Way to presage, futurists!

Michael Hagerman in hospital :-[

From Facebook:

"Michael would be really appreciative of online visitors in Messenger or Discord. I can't be there in person- it turns out he has a C. diff infection which means I have to do some power cleaning at home to prevent reinfection, and he's bored, lonely, and depressed. His Discord ID is Poseidon#8287"

—Ann Totusek

[Ed: You can also send greetings to Michael on an oversized card by Registration.]

Minicon Specials in the hotel restaurant

The Dover Restaurant and Bar is offering these dishes Friday through Sunday...

- **Zeppelins vs. Blimps:** Grain Bowl with Cous Cous, Quinoa and Seasonal Vegetables (\$9)
- **The Dodo:** Chicken Tenders with Tater Tots (\$9)
- **Dino-Noodle Bowl:** Rice Noodle Bowl with Chicken and Seasonal Vegetables (\$10)
- **Arrakis Sandworm Treat:** Giant Pretzel with Smoked Gouda Cheese (\$11)

Frequently asked question

Q: *Where is my easel?*

A: It's with all the other easels, in Park 2.

Q: *Really?*

A: Well, no, not anymore.

From the conchair:

"The plastic on the floor in the bar and consuite is to mark off accessible paths. Do NOT stand still on the plastic."

Cinema Obscura documentary: Neil Gaiman: Dream Dangerously

(Terrace 4, 10:30a.m. Saturday)

"Neil Gaiman is one of the few authors whose persona is closer to that of a rock star rather than a stuffy academic. This documentary follows Neil on his final book signing world tour, and features interviews with such celebrity fans as George R.R. Martin, Wil Wheaton, G. Willow Wilson, the late Terry Pratchett, and more. The film is also biographical, outlining the author's past through childhood pictures, retrospective looks at his accomplishments, and anecdotes from friends. *Neil Gaiman: Dream Dangerously* is one of three documentaries from director Patrick Meaney, who has graciously granted screening permission for these three films at Minicon 54."

—Michael Kingsley



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The Bozo Bus Tribune

Volume 54, Issue 1

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

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Issue 2

Saturday morning

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 54

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

Opening Ceremony indigoes well

(Not fooling orchidding)

Minicon opened officially with a brief ceremony Friday at which Artist GoH **Dave DeVries** and Featured Artist **Tom Fleming** were gobsmacked by how many years the con's been around—Tom admitted he thought the con might be off route 54 or something. **Naomi Kritzer** recalled the magical feeling she got many years ago when Minicon was her first convention: "Oh—this is where my people have been all this time!"

Co-Chair **Emily Stewart** reminded people not to block the plastic-paved traffic paths in the bar and consuite, even though "Minnesotans like to get to the top of the escalator and take a look around." MC **Toni Brust** summarized this as: "So, don't have fun, especially not in the consuite." The two eventually compromised on: "Move your body in a way that is fun."

Toni then led us in a "moment of weirdness" to remember those we've recently lost, a half minute which we will never speak of again (but the press will never be silenced [because paper is a visual medium and makes no sound]).

T-shirt panel reflections

"The t-shirt panel was great. I feel like proceedings need to be written up. Maybe in RUNE. The archivist saw several Minicon shirts he knew he was missing and some he didn't know he was missing. Have old shirts? If you don't see them at mnstf.org/minicon, we'd like pictures! Send to archivist@mnstf.org. We also learned that anyone with an opinion wants more line-art t-shirts, fewer full color. Let's rock some line art designs for Minicon 55."

—Said Archivist

Another perspective

Ozgar Sahin has been added to "The Assumption of Commonality" (Orchard Room, 11:30 a.m. Sunday).

Want to use hotel wi-fi?

You can log on using your room number and last name, or else try the Hilton Honors promo code **wifi2019**. Having trouble getting to the portal page in the first place? It may be that your browser is forcing you to use protocols incompatible with the page redirect. In this case, try visiting <http://neverssl.com>, which should allow you to be redirected.

Scam alert!

According to con staff, someone has been calling hotel rooms asking for credit card numbers to pay for 'incidentals'. It is *not* the hotel. If you get a call like this, say that you will call the front desk to handle it rather than giving your information. Then tell the front desk that you got the call.

Another parties correction

Parties have been shuffled slightly from their locations in the pocket program and book. **Kruschenko's Annex** is now in Room 330. And the **Ephemeral Party** was moved to Room 323, but was sadly so on-theme that it's gone now.

Miss the Moneyduck machine? It can be yours.

Patricia Zetelumen, esteemed creator of the slightly steampunky scrolling Moneyduck machine that graced the hospitality area for several years, has indicated that she is willing to part with her creation if someone wants to take over running the activity. Moneyduck is one of several names for a popular party game (a.k.a. Eat Poop, You Cat) that involves transforming phrases into pictures and vice-versa. If you don't know Patricia, ask about her at Consuite or Gaming.

I want more puzzles in my life

There are puzzles in the BBT Office! Some of them can give you prizes. One clever lad solved the hitherto unsolved pattern of one puzzle (Dyad Twist) and won another puzzle (Backspin) as a result!

Purple ruminations

- We asked **what this year's con theme, the color purple, means to you**, and boy-some-
berry good responses came in:
- My secret royal heritage
- Dissociation Identity Disorder—Multiple
personalities of Cybal
- My football team's arch enemies
- It's life!
- That Babylon 5 episode with the green and
purple Drazi.
- PRINCE!
- I first think of Prince. Second, the one-eyed
one-horned flying purple people eaters.
- Some of my first memories of the Record Club
album covers were a deep purple and it was
from them that I learned the color name for
purple.
- MIKE
- Happiness
- It's my favorite color, has been since a kid: to
me it represents uniqueness and embrace of
eccentricity.

The Great Nerd Giveaway

There were lots of great parties Friday night, but The Great Nerd Giveaway (Room 327) features a host (Dennis) looking to spread much of his fannish collection far and wide. The room is stacked high with books, DVDs, toys, etc. To win a prize, you'll roll a D8 and have to do something nerdy, e.g. answer trivia, recite a nerdy poem or joke, do a nerdy dance. Fun!

Art/dealers hours correction

Note that the Art Show/Dealer's Room hours listed in the program book are wrong! The room closes one hour earlier than listed each day—the pocket program has the correct hours.

Gahlon 4a.m. pulse check

2nd floor: 4 Counter: 1 Bar Annex: 2
Bar: 7 Elevator: 2 Con suite: 2 **Total: 18**

Alt-brand Lam-Strait 4a.m. pulse check

15 in the bar (14 awake) • 3 in the con suite
2 Medallion Authorities. • **So that's 20!**

Reg count

As of close of reg Friday at 10: 423ish preregistered
410ish warm bodies • **471ish total**

Is there a Medallion Hunt this year?

Yes—the Cluemeister was delayed in his arrival at the con, but medallions are being hidden and clues will be released one way or another! Look for a possible special issue.

More Cinema Obscura documentaries! The Image Revolution

Noon Sat., Film Room—Director Patrick Meaney

Historically, the comics industry has not always treated its creators fairly in terms of profits made. In 1992, Marvel Comics was the #1 comic book publisher in the world. At the height of this popularity, seven allegedly underpaid and disgruntled Marvel Comics artists left that company to form Image Comics. [...] This documentary outlines the rise, fall, and return of one of the most successful publishers in comic book history.

Closer Than We Think!

1:30 Saturday, Film Room

If you are an really old SF fan, you may remember a Sunday comic called *Closer Than We Think!* From 1958 to 1962, illustrator and futurist Arthur Radebaugh provided readers of Sunday newspapers with his visions of the future, taking on such crazy ideas as artificial hearts, widescreen entertainment consoles, family computers, and spaceflight. [...] Through the help of some dedicated people, Radebaugh will hopefully inspire a new audience in the 21st century. This documentary outlines his shiny, happy, technoutopia that helped shape American expectations for what lay ahead in the future.

—Michel Kingsley

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"We're all bozos on this bus!"

We're all lavender dream

Minicon has been running so smoothly that there's a dearth of real news! Since real news has too many opposites (fake news, imaginary news, real olds, etc.), this publication is forced to resort to a list of lovely things that are only half news at best:

- **David Perry** and his mystery guests were awesome, while **Teresa Chandler** is cut out for warm raspberries that melt right off the vine.
- In addition to the concert schedule, early music and late music circle, there was an impromptu low key music party in the smoking section (that is to say, outside the hotel).
- The Star Wars puzzle in the Quiet Activity Area was completed; it was subsequently turned over and the more difficult back side is being attempted.
- The Volunteers Department tried some new things this year and got a good response... and they hope to keep it up tomorrow!
- Art of swearing unicorns was colored, geeky gifts were given away, karaoke was crooned, an entire season of superhero anime was shown, beer was drunk and a social media manifesto was manifested.
- Thanks to Minicon's theme, **Geri Sullivan** didn't have to get dressed in the morning.

Sunday film schedule wide open

"MonsterKids & Prospect did not arrive in time to get screened on Sunday. Films will be Audience Choice only. Did you miss *Neil Gaiman: Dream Dangerously* or *Chris Claremont's X-Men*? Sunday will be your chance to view these well received documentaries."

—*Michael Kingsley*

Dave DeVries draws up a horde!

Our Artist Guest of Honor brought his famed Monster Engine to Minicon on a visit to the Rumpus Room! He interviewed the kids about the anatomy of a potential monster and made a lovely large line drawing for the kids to color. (Other intriguing monster doodles were found elsewhere in the room, but we cannot confirm DeVries' direct involvement.) DeVries later spent two and a half hours outside the Art Show demonstrating acrylic illustration techniques as he painted a portrait of someone very much like the Joker. A brown base allowed for a somewhat muted villain, rather than "a Joker with more shocking colors." The painting will go home with congoer Nathan.

Speaking of Art Villains...

Artists are often easy prey—that was the theme of Friday's "Art and Copyright" panel. First **Tom Fleming** shared a fascinating tale of perseverance against unscrupulous art thieves willing to use cancer to justify their dirty deeds. Then **Dave Devries** recounted how his lawyer masqueraded as an entertainment lawyer (whom Dave paid with Dungeons & Dragons art), only to be thwarted by a femme fatale stripper. **Nancy Sims** shared her "copyleft" lawyer views on both cases and also discussed branding and trademarks.

Three takeaways were clear. First, pay the fee to register your work with the US Copyright Office! Second, never hire a real estate lawyer for litigation —don't just believe what a lawyer says they can do (I'll echo this advice). Lastly, sadly, theatrics can sway judges. This was an engrossing panel on a normally academic topic; great job by the panel!

—*Randy Holland*

Almost too much perspective

Rob Callahan has been added to "The Assumption of Commonality" (Orchard Room, 11:30 a.m. Sun.)



Issue 4

Sunday noon

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 54

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

Mauved by tales of the fuchsia

The Bozo Bus Tribune commends the con committee and members of Minicon 54 alike for putting on a grape convention! Great and magentic writers of purple prose shared their wisdom on how to puce up tired old heliotropes. After all, the best way to learn a craft is to delphinium! There may have been a bit of ranting and general wisteria, but there was berry little wining and even less of the old ultraviolets. All in all, we pomegranate show and okay we're sorry we'll stop now.

New nerdy act!

Music head Beth Kinderman wants to encourage congoers to attend the Sunday 1p.m. Concert **Astrisoni!** This guitar/viola duo is enjoying its concert premiere here at Minicon 54. Expect filk, nerdy themes, and songs about the performers' D&D characters. And speaking of D&D...

New D&D documentary premiering soon!

Fans of the seminal roleplaying game Dungeons & Dragons may be aware that the game was originally developed here in the Twin Cities by the late, great Dave Arneson. *Secrets of Blackmoor*, a new two-hour documentary on the story behind the game, will be premiering soon at Columbia Heights Theater as part of the Twin Cities Film Festival Insider Series. Learn about the original playtesters and the U of M gaming group with whom they shared their creation! Visit <http://www.secretsofblackmoor.com> or their Facebook page for previews, behind the scenes videos and tickets. Or preorder special editions on their (fully funded) Kickstarter page.

Like animals? Don't miss the Zoo Bus

The Rumpus Room provided its usual panoply of fun and engaging activities for children this year, including lots of science and crafts and an ungodly number of puppet shows. But department head **Bonnie Somdahl** expects the highlight this year is still to come: a visit from the Zoo Bus at 1p.m. today. Fun at the zoo in the parking lot!

Panel review: The Year in SF Television

What's worth watching on TV? How many ways can we get access to shows these days? Did the Syfy channel jump the shark? A lively panel and responsive audience debated these and other hot topics. *The Orville* was mentioned often as a good show (with some caveats).

The panelists advised checking out all the options available and keeping your final choices affordable. Accept that there's too much out there to see it all, which is amazing!

—Jeanne Mealy

Lost and Found

The Registration desk has a Lost & Found box. Please use as needed for appropriate purposes.

--Carol Kennedy

The Bozo Bus asked:

Is there an elevator on the east end of the hotel? If not, should there be?

- ◆ Answer: Sometimes.
- ◆ What is east, really?
- ◆ The answer is no, because it's only two floors. Also, the trees have buds now and they didn't have buds on Tuesday. Everything is awesome when you're part of a team. —Con chair Emily Stewart

Krahn-Gahlon 4a.m. Pulse check

Tables past Reg: 3 1st floor table: 5
Gaming: 9 Railing: 2 Orchard Room: 3
Bar (including well-dressed Jesus): 14 Consuite: 2
Hallway: 1 **Total: 39**

The Ladies' Sewing Circle will be...

...at Sunday at 2 in room 332.

Overheard by the gaming area:

"There should be Sherpas available to carry attendees up and down the stairs."

Medallion Hunt =DoDoDeka=

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Happy hunting!

The hunt was alive with enthusiastic hunters this year! Several medallion hunters, including a six-year-old, stayed up later than the Cluemeister did last night. Some medallions are still missing in action, but unfortunately the Cluemeister has to leave before Closing Ceremonies. If you don't find him before then, you can keep your penny and redeem it next year!

Here are the last three clues...

CLUES: ROUND 3

I. Round, and round I stay. The con's ending soon, play today.

O. I'm out of sight & just under plate, but above foot.

R. My hiding place is small, round, & red.

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That's it for this year. Aubergine ya!

The Bozo Bus Tribune

Volume 54, Issue 4

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

Cluemeister – J

Tipster – Ken Fletcher

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intentionally filled
with a nine-word
self-referential
sentence.