

Issue 1

Friday noon

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 46

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

Minicon 46: Ahead of the curve

The Minnesota Science Fiction Society warmly welcomes what's left of you to Minicon, where the enterprising head-in-a-jar can find all the necessary amenities: stimulating discussion, jar fluid, and various other excellent reasons to keep prolonging that existence, such as panels, music, art, parties, games, and the TV Room (new this year)! This year's theme, taken from a quote at last year's Closing Ceremonies, is *Not Yet Dead From the Neck Up*, a concept you can find illustrated on the badges of various concom members. And remember—if you haven't been reduced to a head in a jar yet, you will be before the weekend's over!

Attention: Programming Participants

This year, the tent-shaped name cards for panelists have not been placed in the programming rooms as in past years. Instead, every programming participant will have a personalized tent card waiting for him/her in the Green Room! "Personalized" does not mean a lock of your hair and your favorite scent; it means your entire schedule has been lovingly handwritten on your tent for your convenience. By taking your tent card to all your panels, you'll have your schedule at hand and save paper.

So where is the Green Room?

Where it always is—Cabana 201, the closest cabana to programming. Programming participants are invited to visit the Green Room for refreshments and conversation, and as a way of meeting up with fellow panelists to coordinate your approach before your panel begins.

Green Room Hours:

2:30p.m. – 9p.m. Friday

9a.m. – 10p.m. Saturday

9a.m. – 4p.m. Sunday

Corrections

* Jane Yolen's signing in Veranda 1 will be at 11:00a.m. on Saturday, not 10:00a.m. Her *reading* is at 1:00p.m. Saturday, as listed in the pocket program.

* The following two items have traded spots:

—“C.S. Lewis and Fantasy and Christianity” is now at 4:00p.m. on Saturday in Krushenko's.

—“The End of the Space Shuttle Program” is now at 11:30a.m. on Sunday in Krushenko's.

* Peggy O'Neill's name should be spelled with two 'l's.

Registration count

As of press time, Registration reports 370 pre-registrations, 6 at-the-doors, and over 100 warm bodies (or at least craniums) so far.

The Hunt is On!!

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The Minicon Medallion Hunt is back for its sixth year, which really makes this its fifth anniversary, and five is a number that people seem to think a lot of! So, welcome to our Fifth Anniversary Edition! If there's a theme this year (and our themes are always optional and always non-proprietary), it's Fun with Letters! No one identified the secret penny last year named for a Dr. Seuss letter, and therefore, in accordance with the Hunt's sadistic tradition, there are more letter-based puzzles this year than ever before. There are also more pennies whose numbers *are* letters than ever before, bringing us to a record-tapping total of twenty-two medallions! Read them and weep (at the beauty of their emblazoned picofiction)!

## LETTER OF THE LAW:

Twenty-two specially marked 1973 pennies (or 'medallions', *a la* the St. Paul Winter Carnival) have been (or will be) hidden throughout the Sheraton Bloomington. Clues to their locations will follow.

Your task is to find these medallions and bring them to the BBT office in the Normandale Room, whereupon you will be rewarded with Dealer Dollars or other assorted prizes. Each numbered medallion is worth its value in Dealer Dollars, which can be spent in the Dealer's Room or Art Show; those with letters are good for a prize from the prize table.

All medallions are hidden within the hotel, and are not located in any shops, restaurants, restrooms, or areas off-limits to the public, nor in the Dealers' Room or Art Show. Some may be hidden in non-convention space, but when searching these areas, be considerate of hotel guests and keep noise and chaos to a minimum.

Medallions may be redeemed whenever you can find the Cluemeister, but he is guaranteed to be in the BBT office (located at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor foyer, opposite the Coat Check) during his scheduled Hours of Redemption, which will be listed in these newsletters. Additional issues of the BBT will contain clues for those medallions that remain undiscovered, as well as additional Hours of Redemption.

Additionally, a sign placed outside the office will provide updates as to which pennies have been found and which are still at large. It will also provide other information, such as future Hours of Redemption and estimated release times for further issues of the BBT.

**Special note:** From September to March, the Medallion Hunt department on the Minicon 46 website featured monthly puzzles designed by the Cluemeister in a feature inexplicably called the Cluemeister's Corner. The archives of these puzzles and their solutions are still available for your enjoyment. The winners of these seven puzzles are each invited to claim a prize from the Medallion Hunt's prize table.

## CLUES: ROUND I

- 0.
1. Anterior to errata.
2. Not quite a Coraline door.
3. 5E 7|-|3r|\|0\$747
4. Faux-retro illumination.
5. On a circle matching the con's theme...
6. Come to the BBT Office and solve Color-Ku #6!
7. Can't think of a good clue...*at the moment.*
8. ATOMIC radiation (Evo)  
an EBO mask (Tsuro)  
follow HER lead (Bridge)

- thINK about it (Stratego)  
an INLine citation (Freecell)  
iNTimate tales (Dixit)  
hollow aSSURances (Diplomacy)  
don't be a pATSy (Ticket to Ride: Switzerland)  
VERify the truth (Are You A Werewolf?)  
eXCORiate your foes (Apples to Apples)
9. Check out the picture clue on the Medallion Hunt sign!
  10. Carp mouth, broken spear, round mouth, drying poles, carp mouth. Spear behind lake pike's mouth, carp mouth, nose, carp mouth, nose, spear.
  20. This year's Big Kahuna is a seven-part puzzle incorporating elements from the seven Cluemeister's Corner puzzles presented throughout the year.

*Fill in the blanks with what's left of part VII:*

-----3----

*And fill in these blanks with parts I - VI:*

-----

*Now add!!*

- A: Already dreadfully late.  
B1: Be on the lookout!  
K: Koming soon!  
R: Still in its regency.  
Z2: Take the Zendo challenge! Visit the BBT Office during Hours of Redemption and guess the secret rule! Three guessing stones per hour!

## Hours of Redemption:

The Cluemeister's first three office hours are:

Noon - 1p.m. Friday (time travelers only)

6p.m. - 7p.m. Friday

10:30p.m. - 11:30p.m. Friday

*Have an announcement, a news story, a review, or a personal item for the BBT? Drop it in the Submission Box at the end of the Grand Ballroom Foyer, outside the Coat Check. Pens and paper are provided.*

## The Bozo Bus Tribune

Volume 46, Issue 1

Editor - Thorin N. Tatge

Consulting Editor - Sharon Kahn

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else's.

Issue 2

Friday evening

# Bozo Bus Tribune

**The Official Organ of Minicon 46**

*"We're all bozos on this bus!"*

## Challengers needed for "Team Chas"!

The "Encore" game show event scheduled for Sunday at 1:00p.m. needs players! In Encore, players are challenged to come up with songs whose lyrics contain particular words. Are you a music lover? Do you dare take on the Music GoH's elite squad? If so, submit your name to Becca or Graham Leathers during one of their scheduled concerts or the late night music circles. Four challengers will be randomly drawn to face off against Team Chas in Veranda 5/6 on Sunday.

## Magic Tournaments on Demand!

Gaming Head Matt McMillan is offering On-Demand Drafting for Magic: the Gathering players this weekend! Anyone interested in participating in a draft tournament should track down Matt (usually in the poolside Gaming area). A minimum of eight players is required., so bring your friends or enemies! Lands are provided, but all players must bring three unopened booster packs—one each of 11<sup>th</sup> edition, *Scars of Mirroden*, and *Mirroden Besieged*. They can be purchased in the Dealer's Room from Phil Thompson Productions.

## Music Tonight!

In addition to the concerts in Stevie Ray's, listen for music of various stripes tonight in the Grand Ballroom East A, with the Open Music sign.

## Consuite Diversions

There are two fun new reasons to hang out in the Consuite this year! Check it out...

## Mega-Moneyduck!

One of the surest recipes for laughter, this popular party game in the Telephone family goes by many names, all derived from the depths of its own absurdity. Start with a phrase and pass it along. The next player draws a picture and passes it along. Then comes a new phrase derived from only that picture. And so on. Normally the game is played with single sheets of paper passed once around a table, but fan Patricia Zetuleman was inspired to take Moneyduck to decadent extremes. Con members can find the scrolling Moneyduck machine she cobbled together with her own hands in the Consuite, along with rules for using it. Take a turn! Take many turns! And then show up for the big reveal on Sunday at 2:30 in Veranda 5/6, where the results of this bizarre and hilarious experiment will finally come to light.

## Three Things!

Con co-chair Joel Phillips is happy to present a consuite activity fresh from the Montreal Worldcon, where it was a huge hit. In Three Things, one person writes down a list of three things with something not entirely obvious in common. For example:

1. Rubber ball

2. Sparrow

3. Flash

Look for the whiteboard in the bar. Space is provided to the right for three guesses from bystanders as to what property the things share.\* ("Fast-moving"? "Playful"?). The original poser of the puzzle later returns to circle the correct answer, or write the true rule if it went unguessed. New puzzles are added as space allows and old puzzles are erased once sufficient time has passed.

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\*In this case, they all relate to the word 'Jack'.

Group discussion is encouraged.

## Hotel Update

Hotel Liaison Keith Malgren is happy to report that Minicon 46 managed to fill its room block, *and* all the cabana rooms, with time to spare! If you booked a room as a member of the convention, you should have been given an \$89/night rate—and it's not too late even now! If you didn't get the correct rate, or if you think your room-nights may not have been counted toward Minicon's room block, the best way to fix it is to find Keith and ask for his assistance.

## Late check-in

Minicon's late checkout time is 2p.m. on both Sunday and Monday. Make sure you tell the hotel that you want late check out, and the sooner, the better. Late check-out is "subject to availability", which isn't usually an issue on Easter weekend, but still....

## On Tap at the Singularity

Featured beer on tap tonight at the Minicon bar:

- Summit Great Northern Porter
- Boulevard Wheat Beer
- Woodpecker Cider

Additionally, blog will be served starting at 9p.m.

## Medallion Hunt Update

Momentum is slowly picking up for the Medallion Hunt. The in-house games are seeing use, and the Cluemeister can hear searchers discussing the mysterious Big Kahuna puzzle from his office as he types. The numbered medallions are all in place, but most of the lettered pennies have yet to find their way into the wild. Keep your 'T's open! (Is that what turns filk music into folk?)

## THE HOMEBODIES FALL FIRST!

*Three in-house pennies have already been claimed:*

**Z1:** The Z pennies are available in the Medallion Hunt/BBT Office as a reward for solving Zendo puzzles! Zendo is a game of creative deduction, intuition, and colorful pyramids wherein players try to guess the Master's rule for which groups of pyramids have the "Buddha nature". The first (and easiest) of the five Zendo puzzles was solved before Issue 1 even went to print, by Richard M. The rule: "A koan has the Buddha nature if it contains at least one

opaque pyramid."

**Z2:** The second Zendo puzzle was solved by Lisa S., with support from T.J. N. The rule: All the pyramids had to be pointing in the same direction.

**6.** This penny was awarded to Will K. for solving Color-ku puzzle #6. Color-ku is a Sudoku board that uses colored marbles instead of numbers. Congoers are invited to try out some of the set's other puzzles.

## CLUES: ROUND 2

**0.** Naught very hard to find if you follow directions.

**1.** Under a 1 and by the door to one.

**2.** Up, up, and away!

**3.** You may need to find one of the 'leet' among us to help you interpret.

**4.** Fittingly enough, fourth out of ten.

**5.** One round, metallic head deserves another.

**7.** *A true mystery.*

**8.** The more, the merrier! Or at least, the subsequent.

**9.** This clue's home base is at the bottom of the Big Kahuna sign on the Coat Check window.

**10.** A code written with the very "first" alphabet.

**20.** I. There are 16 squares that give a knight full freedom. II. The Cluemeister thought of the fraction of cards in a bridge deck with bicycles, but he was Wrong! III. This is probably the saddest puzzle ever. IV. Uranus has the longest nights if you live in the wrong place. V. Roman->Norse. VI. The first player never rolls doubles! **VII. Use the leftover letters.**

**A:** {O/I}n the boundaries of size, space, and science.

**B1:** Coins with boxes, blocks and clocks come! Clocks set for midnight tonight! Be there!

**Z3:** Progress has been made at the BBT Office on this medium-difficulty puzzle!

## Hours of Redemption:

The Cluemeister's next three office hours are:

**10:30p.m. – 11:30p.m. Friday**

**1a.m. – 2 a.m. Saturday**

**Noon – 1p.m. Saturday**

## The Bozo Bus Tribune

Volume 46, Issue 2

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

Executive Editor – Sharon Kahn

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**Issue 3**

**Saturday noon**

# **Bozo Bus Tribune**

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*"We're all bozos on this bus!"*

## **And we're off!**

Opening Ceremonies was well-attended and well-paced. Music GoH Chas Somdahl treated the audience to a heartfelt rendition of Pat Donahue's "Would You Like to Play the Guitar?" and John Scalzi flexed his twin guns of humor and wit in recounting the story of how he came to be "Charles Stross's sloppy seconds". He's on a ton of panels, folks—see them!

## **A Minnesota Room Block at Chicon?**

Con co-chair Joel Phillips is interested in negotiating a room block at Chicon, the 2012 Worldcon, for Minnesota fans. "Maybe half a floor," he said at Opening Ceremonies. The reason? Community, but also so that those who want to stay up so late it's early can do so without worrying about keeping up the rest of the world's less nocturnal fans. If you might be interested in this, track down Joel and give him your e-mail!

## **Craft Swap: Give and Take!**

Besides children's programming, costuming, and open music, Grand Ballroom East A is home to the Craft Swap, a place where makers, tinkers, crafters, costumers, etc. can donate their excess craft materials and find things for their own use in exchange. Nothing to contribute this year? Just take what you've got your eye on and bring a little something next year.

## **"Encore" game correction**

If you're looking for Becca or Graham Leathers to submit your name for the Encore game show Sunday at 1p.m., you can find them at *any* of the concerts at Stevie Ray's, as they're running sound. They will also be at tonight's late-night music circle.

## **"Early night" music!**

"If you like to listen to and/or sing music—especially as related to fantasy/SF or its many tentacles, please join us in Grand Ballroom East A for the Early Night Music Circle."

## **If there's one thing everyone should do...**

...it's decorate a cardboard zeppelin, according to Children's Programming Head Marian Turner, speaking at Opening Ceremonies. The zeppelins, cleverly made from the removable flaps of tissue boxes, can be found at Registration. Available for honoring this bygone transporteer's dream are paint, crayons, snippets of fabric, and more.

## **New Art Show Treasures**

If you have not visited the Art Show, please do! Even without an artist GoH, there are many treats for your eyes. Minicon Artists of long standing have new art for you to admire. See Laura's amazing new puppet scarf! Bonnie's headwarming new felted creatures! Laramie's tantalizing new book-garters, Lisa's Not-A-Scarves, and much, much more.

## **Freebie Table Perusers Lament:**

Little Tiny book maker—we miss your little tiny books!

--Freebie Table Perusers

## **Looking for T-shirts?**

They're being sold in the Art Show, right inside the entrance.

## **Bob Tucker Memorial Smoooooooooooooth**

9:15 tonight in the Garden Court! A fannish tradition that makes everything go down easier.

## Fun in the Bar Tonight

Poker Tournament (Texas Hold 'Em): 10p.m.  
SF Trivia Contest: Midnight!

## Friday Registration Count

At the close of registration Friday:

Total registrations: 423

Warm bodies: 366

## LOSE SOMETHING?

Registration is the convention's Lost and Found.

### Friday Night 4a.m. Pulse Check

Bar 12    Consuite 4    Seamstress' Guild 2

Goddess Party: 3    Gaming: 1    **Total:22**

[Ed: A quiet Friday night for Minicon, as those of us who went to bed at 3a.m. observed.]

## Deflation

The smaller pennies have been returned to the wild, but now they're finally rolling in...

1. When this penny was behind the Programming correction sheet on Veranda 1, it was discovered and returned to the wild by Lisa F. When it was moved to the *front* of the sheet (in order to make it more 'anterior'), it was finally brought in by Ben "Moonwatcher" Huset.

3. This penny's original clue is in 1337, or leet, an internet dialect used by the cool kids (h4xx0rz) to confuse people, basically—the highest purpose of any dialect! Letters are replaced by numerals and punctuation that resemble them, and thus "5E 7|-|3r|\|0\$747" stands in for "SE Thermostat". The penny was on the thermostat in the southeast airlock, and while it has yet to be redeemed, its pin in the status board was mysteriously moved to "Missing in Action." Bring it in soon, finder!

4. Planted on the fourth of the ten candle-shaped lamps near the Navigator's Lounge, this penny was finally cashed in by Lisa F. in an act of mercy—"So that you won't have to write another clue for it."

5. Camouflaged by the head of the male figure on the Men's restroom plaque on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the north tower, this penny was found serendipitously by one Awesome Andrew.

A. This penny was placed "{O/I}n the boundaries of size, space, and science." Put another way, it was on the boundary between the Minnesota Space Frontier Society party (Cabana 108) and the rest of the con,

which is to say in the patio area near the wall. As for the size thing, and being dreadfully late? The penny was hidden in an old software container disguised as a copy of "Through the Looking Glass." It was found by Moonwatcher, who simply happened to notice an unusual object blending in with the tiles.

## CLUES: ROUNDS

O. O where could Cabanas 101-119 be?! -->

2. You needn't stray far to unlock this mystery.

7. Amass the most ability to manipulate all the money.

8. Only the capital letters matter, but how many can participate?

9. Time to get your Babyl on, Mr. King!

10. All the strokes must be just so for these letters to make sense, Best Beloved.

20. I. Between three and four hundred. II. THIS! IS! ALPHABETIZATION!! III. Six pours will give each family five cups, but we can do better...or worse. :( IV. Saturn's moon Titan is the most atmospheric. V. Monday's child is fair of face. VI. With endless boxcars and good timing, you may as well be playing alone. VII. It's a shifting cipher for the nameless nine!

**B1, B2, B3.** Come to the soma cubes at midnight, and compete or cooperate for a prize!

K. A table that could be set with cheese and macaroni.

R. R is for Random! The Cluemeister's assistant will deposit this penny in a random party tonight! Now you have a *motivation* to have a good time!

**Z3.** Surely by now you've gotten the point!

## Hours of Redemption:

The Cluemeister's next three office hours are:

**7:30p.m. – 8:30p.m. Saturday**

**10:30p.m. – 11:30 p.m. Saturday**

**11a.m. – Noon Sunday**

### The Bozo Bus Tribune

#### Volume 46, Issue 3

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

Temperer – Sharon Kahn

Roving Reporter – Laramie Sasseville

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Issue 4

Sunday

morning

# Bozo Bus Tribune

**The Official Organ of Minicon 46**

*"We're all bozos on this bus!"*

## Scalzi slideshow draws a crowd

John Scalzi's slideshow tour of the Creation Museum, which opened in 2007 near Petersburg, Kentucky, was a highly popular event, eliciting frequent laughs, indignant comments, and wry jokes from the audience. Scalzi provided commentary and humor through around 100 photographs from his trip, often pausing to make fun of the curators' logic. Quotes follow:

"...Day 4...the *entire rest of the universe*. [...] You have to think—Day 4, Hour 12, did God invent speed?"

"This isn't about religion, this isn't about Christ—it's about people who have a Bible-shaped hole in their logical thinking."

"Creation science is the equivalent of a tofu hot dog...for science."

"It's a big pile of...of horse\*\*\*\*, but it's a really interesting, fascinating monument to horse\*\*\*\*."

Scalzi pointed out that the dates given for dinosaur fossils were contemporaneous with the rise of Egypt's pharaohs, leading to the question of why the Egyptian alphabet included no dinosaurs. One audience member raised an interesting point—if the great flood didn't kill off the dinosaurs, which supposedly speciated rapidly after being represented by fifty species on Noah's Ark, what did? "They got God pissed," Scalzi replied.

## The Mirror Maze

...is back, thanks to the PFRC! Your editor found this year's version, with only two triangular islands rather than three, significantly less disorienting,

but one con-goer said it was still sufficiently dizzying that she couldn't safely go in!

## Soma like it high

The Soma cube in the Garden Court is also back, thanks to Mark Richards, and during Saturday night it was piled not into a cube, nor into any of the other shapes on the cards accompanying the



nearby small practice cube, but into a tower fully eight levels high! The structure loomed a full block's height above the second floor balcony. Your editor has inside information that this feat was achieved through the cooperation of four people over about fifteen frenetic minutes, and that the tower was later partially collapsed and rebuilt. Reportedly, last year the pieces were stacked *ten* levels high, by the concerted efforts of five people lifting from the

bottom.

**Follow-up:** Around 11p.m. Saturday night, several of the pieces were destroyed by rowdy teenagers! The remaining blocks were subsequently untaped and unfolded for storage.

## Personals

—Carol Kennedy: You are missed!

—Thanks to **Greg Larson**, a henchperson, for the wonderfully wacky TV Room!

—We are looking for writers in the Sioux Falls,

SD area to join our **writer's group**. We focus on peer review with the goal of publication. Contact Dale at dalecarothers@hotmail.com.

## Poetry Additions

—Jane Yolen and Laurel Winter have been added to the Lady Poetesses from Hell line-up at 11:30a.m. Sunday.

—And then, at 12:30, Jane will be presented with the SPFA Grand Master award! Come and cheer as Jane is rewarded for her decades of being an unapologetic (and very good) poet!

—Terry Garey

“Why do people always say that writing is a lonely business? ...Because *I'm* talking to all these people in my head!”

—Jane Yolen, “Ask A Writer”

## A night of winners

### Costume contest

**Youth**—Leo Mueller, as Sir Leo, Knight of the Realm

**Beginner**—Pat Taylor

**Advanced**—Richard Tatge, in a Tie-Dyed Suit

**Judge's Choice (Joel)**—Michelle Frank, as the Goddess Belisama

**Judge's Choice (Chas)**—Linda Lounsbury, as Firefly

**Judge's Choice (Krikor)**—Ronin the Klingon

**Judge's Choice (Amy)**—Arthur, as Alexander the Great

**Poker tournament**—Team Fuzzy

**Trivia contest**—Brother Joe

## Saturday Registration Count

At the close of registration Saturday:

Total registrations: 445

Warm bodies: 416

## ~~~~~ Worth a pretty penny

### MEDALLION TALES

2. This penny was located on the keyhole of the roof access door in the Grand Ballroom Foyer, wallpapered so as to almost blend in. The Cluemeister expected that this one would be found very quickly, so he did not anticipate the occurrence

of what in retrospect is perfectly logical—the penny was doubtless removed by a hotel staffer who needed to open the door, which was last seen with a key in the lock and no medallion to be found.

7. Another missing penny! This one was hidden on the hotel ATM, a fact indicated by *all the mysteriously italicized phrases* with those three initials. Was this penny spotted by an astute banker hoping to make a quick hundredth of a buck? The Cluemeister decided that enough time had passed, so he awarded the Dealer Dollars to Andy H., the first to look in the right place, so far as the Cluemeister is aware.

10. The list of objects used to encode this medallion's location were taken from one of Rudyard Kipling's *Just So Stories*, “How the Alphabet Was Made.” They correspond to letters of the alphabet as supposedly invented by Neolithic girl Taffimai Metallumai and her father Tegumai. The letters spell out the message: ALOHA KANANI, which is the name of a book about American Girl character Kanani Akina. There is a display case devoted to *Aloha, Kanani!* near the 1<sup>st</sup> floor elevators, and the medallion was hidden there. It was found by Lisa F., with cryptographic and Google-fu assistance from Ctein and Beth F.

**B1 – 3.** Replanted as impromptu R's! Bring 'em in!

**R.** This medallion was stowed by Clueminion Rand P. in a Random Party (like the synchronicity?) sometime during the night. Will it show up? Come to Closing Ceremonies to find out!

## CLUES: ROUND 4

8. Place the ten triplets in order to make a thirty-letter phrase.

9. This penny's location is the name of a 2007 film!

20. I–VI in some order: T803EU16J8R23I06P

K. Beneath an orange krese.

Z3. A flat face and a dainty toe are equal in our eyes.

*Come to Closing Ceremonies to hear the fates and hiding places of the remaining medallions!*

## Hours of Redemption:

The Cluemeister's last 1.5 office hours are:

11a.m. – Noon Sunday

1:30p.m. – 2p.m. Sunday

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**The Bozo Bus Tribune**

**Volume 46, Issue 4**

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

MINNESOTA  
SCIENCE  
FICTION  
SOCIETY



Editor Emeritus – Sharon Kahn

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