

Issue 1

Wednesday midnight

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 50

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

Minicon: Gold Edition

Welcome to Minicon 50, an unprecedentedly four-day convention in honor of the fact that if we were a Roman numeral, we'd just be an L. In addition to an extra day, the fiftieth Minicon features six returning guests of honor whose original appearances spanned the decades. There's also a historical display planned with memorabilia from Minicons past and other MN-Stf-related goodies. Look for it on the tables against the walls just inside the Art/Dealers/Science room.

Looking for a music circle?

Musicians are invited to form a circle in the **Rumpus Room** (Bloomington) each evening after children's programming is done. Late night music circles are encouraged to form in **Grand Ballroom A** after concerts are done for the night—around midnight. "Chas expects jams!"

Triad—you might like it!

If you enjoy jumbo-sized board games, you should check out the **Triad** set in the Garden Court. Invented and lovingly crafted by former fan GoH **Richard Tatge**, all are welcome to play this quick abstract board game for two. The rules can be found on a sign nearby.

Next Generation Lounge

The Teen Lounge, hosted this year by **Rhi McConnell**, is now known as **The Next Generation** and is located in cabana room **106**. It offers a place for teenagers to hang out at Minicon. Board games and movies will be provided, and there may be a special event or two.

Next Gen will be running a **Disney movie marathon** starting around **1p.m. Friday** and running until **whenever**. It may include such features as *Alice in Wonderland*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King*, and *George of the Jungle*. Teens only please!

Nate Bucklin's Kickstarter a success!

Locally legendary songwriter and musician **Nate Bucklin** has produced a new album, *My Favorite Whirlwind*, thanks to a successful Kickstarter campaign run by **Jeff Schalles**. The **Nate Bucklin Band**, which besides Bucklin and Schalles includes **David Emerson**, **Felicia Herman** and **Jason Becker**, will perform from the new album in a concert at **4p.m. Saturday**. The Kickstarter also allowed Nate to release his first three albums—*The First Overnight Guest*, *Resolutions*, and *Butter Side Down*—for the first time ever on CD. All of his albums will be available for sale at the concert.

Consuite says:

Please volunteer to help in Consuite!

Signage rules

This year the hotel will let us hang signs anywhere on the walls in the pool area or the 2nd floor, plus on bulletin boards they will provide. We have to use **3-M blue painter's tape**—available in the Consuite and Bar!

Corrections

- For his **6:30 Saturday** concert, **David Perry** will be joined by his bandmates **Amy McNally** and **Kurt Griesmer**. Together, they form **The Tooles!**
- The name of **Laura Krentz** was misspelled in the listing of "What's New for Middle Grade Readers" (3:30p.m. Thu.)

Are you being harassed?

If you feel that you're being harassed or that someone is acting inappropriately, you can reach the Code of Conduct Committee at **(612) 405-3713**. This number is also on the back of your badge. Alternately, ConSuite staff can provide a safe space and contact the committee for you if necessary.

One Last Golden Hunt for '73

The Tenth and Final Annual Minicon Medallion Hunt is upon us! Why Final? Mainly because the Cluemeister is running out of ideas and hiding places here in the RadiShTree. Why Tenth? It has something to do with what comes after the number nine, but don't ask for details. Why Annual? Well, statistically, there are rarely more than one or two Easters a year, but now you're just being silly.

The Medallion Hunt is a treasure hunt for 1973 pennies squirreled away throughout the hotel. These pennies are good for their clue number in Dealer Dollars—which can be spent in the Art Show or Dealer's Room—as well as a dollop of pride. Lettered pennies earn you miscellaneous prizes instead. You'll also get the tale of your discovery written up in this publication, which happens to be precisely where the clues are printed! Some clues are straightforward obfuscation, but others involve codes and puzzles. To redeem any 'medallions' you find, track down the Cluemeister or visit the BBT office during his scheduled Hours of Redemption, listed below.

It's fair to conclude that this year, the Cluemeister will be upending his scrapbag of glittering ideas and attempting to make use of everything he has left. With twenty-five unusually golden medallions and an Ultimate Kahuna worth thirty Dealer Dollars, it'll be the biggest Medallion Hunt of all for the biggest Minicon yet!

No pennies are hidden in restrooms, shops, or anywhere in the Art/Dealers/Science Room. Please be respectful and quiet when searching outside of convention space. Tripping alarms is right out. As an additional hunting aid, there will be a sign outside the BBT Office tracking the status of the various medallions. It will also be used for general BBT updates.

CLUES: ROUND 1

1. Funny stack. Open space. Plant in pot on bench on base.
2. Blue wall in the lights.
3. Two half tails held high.
4. If we are molecules, this is Maxwell's Demon. Not far from hospitality.
- 5, 10, L, N, T. Coming tomorrow!
6. If someone tells you to get a life, where do you go?

7. ●-●-● or o-o-o ; Behind the explanation.

8. A playground diversion affixed to a geometric primitive.

9. BENSTW are the internal directions. Enter 1 room and look for the full...

15. The 1st K has been swept under a rug.

20. Keanu Reeves, Alec Guinness, Linda Hamilton, Nathan Fillion, Rene Auberjonois, Jennifer Lawrence, Johnny Depp, Zoe Saldana, Ian McKellan, Sam Neill, Sarah Michelle Geller, Ivana Baquero, Emily Browning, Christopher Lloyd, David Duchovny, Mary McDonnell, James Franco, Peter Cullen, Harrison Ford, Sigourney Weaver, Garrett David-Lloyd, Charlton Heston, Emma Watson, Robert Downey Jr.

25. Check out the (v-)d(n-s)f r(o-m)CuV bn s (v-)aS (v-)ap (n-o)FuV (v-)ap near the (v+)lf (n-c)(n-f)uV (v+)ap cFuV (c-m)brV (n-c)(n-b)V (v-)vp obrV an (v-)lf rs s an (v-)aS room.

30. The Ultimate Kahuna's clue will have to wait for issue 2. (There wasn't space to put it through.)

C. Can you square the colorful city? Come to the BBT Office and try.

H1/H2. Also at the BBT Office—test your ability to balance things on top of (not) other things!

\$D. At what time did Gary Gygax sit thoughtfully while his typewriter of doom accidentally destroyed the Earth? Got it? Now double it!

O1/O2/O3. Come to the BBT Office and restack a jumbled magician.

P. ...Or roll a ball to where it needs to go.

Hours of Redemption:

Your first three scheduled chances to redeem medallions and play with the Cluemeister's toys:

◆ 4p.m. – 5p.m. Thu.

◆ 9p.m. – 10p.m. Thu.

◆ 10a.m. – 11a.m. Fri.

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

Volume 50, Issue 1

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

Printer's Devil – Sharon E. Kahn

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Highlights from Opening Ceremonies...

With more guests of honor than ever before, it's no surprise Opening Ceremonies ran a little long, and everyone got their say.

To honor **Sir Terry Pratchett**, a recent Minicon guest of honor who passed away last month, as well as other departed friends over the past year, con chair **Joel Phillips** opted against a moment of silence, reasoning that these individuals would prefer a moment of laughter. So he gave us some quotes from Sir Terry, such as: "If cats looked like frogs we'd realize what nasty, cruel little bastards they are."

Brandon Sanderson is selling a pair of con-exclusively printed novellas—to buy them, track down his assistant Peter or find him at one of his panels.

Tom Doherty said that he's used to spreading the words of others—if we were to listen to his own words, we'd be "very disappointed".

Jane Yolen read two poems, one for science fiction fans and one for fantasy fans. "...but you can like them both," she added.

Larry Niven read us something truly exclusive—the first draft of a supplementary story to *Lucifer's Hammer*, his 1977 novel with Jerry Pournelle, explaining how the surfer manages to survive the wave caused by the impact of the comet. "But I didn't want the surfer to live," Niven said. So he now leaves the story in Pournelle's hands. "And if he doesn't make changes, I know what changes he would make, and I *will* make them."

Finally, **Adam Stemple** wants to remind everyone to come to the Cats Laughing concert Friday night (doors open at 8, **SisterTree** opens, Cats play at 9). Speaking of which...

Cats laughing panel packed!

The Cats Laughing panel in Krushenkos filled the room with some fifty people and provided ample proof that the chemistry is still there. Here, have a few quotes.

On how the band feels before a performance:

"I am nervous, and I will tell you, this is the first time I have been nervous before a performance in my life." — *Steve Brust*

"Oh, we're dead inside." — *Adam Stemple*

Emma Bull, on she and Steve reminiscing over the years: "We'd get together and say, 'Damn. We are never going to be in a band that good again, in our lives.'"

On getting older: Lojo Russo recalled pulling out old set lists and cheat sheets apparently written in 6-point font and asking, "How could we read these?"

On maintaining discipline: The band had a strict rule against "drinking, drugs, anything" during rehearsals and paid gigs. For unpaid gigs? Anything went, including "gin and pink lemonade."

And in closing: "You'll have to come to the show last night!" — *Running Joke*

Michael Whelan presents...!

We're happy to announce that **Michael Whelan** will be presenting two slideshows of his art in the **Edina** room. The show at **4:30 – 5:30 Friday** will focus on Whelan's work on **Brandon Sanderson's** books and on his evolution from sketching to painting. The show at **4:30 – 5:30 Saturday** will be a more general survey of his career.

Signed Dealer Dollars to be auctioned

Six Dealer Dollars featuring the art of **Michael Whelan** will be signed, framed, and auctioned at Closing Ceremonies. Proceeds will go to an Alzheimer's relief charity.

Correction

Additionally, Mr. Whelan's **Kaffeeflatsch** listed in the pocket program for **2:30p.m. Saturday** is an **error**. It will actually take place at **11:30 a.m.**

Thursday Registration totals

Pre-reg: 826(!)

Warm bodies @ 11p.m.: 646

Total membership @ 11p.m.: 915

Easy-Peasy Lincoln Squeezy!

In a satisfying turn of fate, the first two medallions found in the hunt were, for once, the ones the Cluemeister dubbed the easiest! Then things took their usual chaotic turn.

1. This penny was in the lip of the plant pot stacked gaudily on three tables in the north tower atrium. It was found by some of the bar crowd—**Stephanie and Dave B.** working together with **Keith M.**

2. The same team spotted this medallion on a wall between the towers on the first floor. The 'blue' wall was really more 'black with blue lights shining on it.'

4. The 'Maxwell's Demon' penny was hidden under the guest card reader in the southeast vestibule, not far from the Bar. It was found by perennial hunter **John S.**

6. **Lady Danger** and her daughter **Anna G.** went on a medallion-hunting rampage! They first thought of The Game of Life (and who wouldn't?) when they encountered this clue, but no such game was present. Then, while wandering, their eyes fell on the magazine rack by the front desk, and they found #6 near a copy of *Life* magazine.

7. The rows of three circles represented one of many possible winning configurations in Triad, the giant-sized game in the Garden Court. **Ms. Danger** and daughter quickly recognized this fact, having played it last night, and **Anna** found the penny on the back of the rules board.

25. The mother-daughter duo also managed to find the second-hardest medallion—not by deciphering the devious clue, but through a combination of intuition and looking really hard. The Cluemeister will refrain from giving details just yet in order to give others a chance to work it out.

A few hints: It's articulatory phonetics! 'a'=gumline, 'd'=tongue+teeth, 'F'=flat tongue, 'l'=upper teeth+lower lip, 'o'=low tongue, 'v'=back of the tongue, and 'v'+=vibration.

H1. **Dave B.** managed to balance all the pieces in the Hover Kraft Challenge without it collapsing! He cheated by using the support wires, but the Cluemeister called that 'clever' and gave it to him.

O1. **Stephanie B.** meanwhile managed to solve the medium-difficulty *Oops!* puzzle and win penny O1.

O2. **Joe P.** claimed this medallion by solving the hard-difficulty *Oops!* puzzle. Extra-hard remains!

O3. The final *Oops!* puzzle fell to puzzle fan **J**, who ironically found the medium-level puzzles impossible to solve, but got #48 in a relative twinkle.

CLUES: ROUND 2

C, H2, P. These medallions can be won by trying various challenges in the Bozo Bus Office!

\$D. To the nearest five minutes. The medallion's name is definitely a clue.

N. One of Larry's creatures also showed up last year. Investigate its hinder regions.

T, L, 10. Still not available yet—sorry!

3. Attached to something high and swingy.

5. Look for something with three 'w's in its name.

8. Treasured loot from a certain movie... if it were red. ;)

9. Last night the room was as empty as {}.

15. Perhaps the most remote way to exit that's still open to the public...

20. 1999, 1977, 1984, 2002, 1993, 2012, 1999, 2009, 2001, 1993, 1997, 2006, 2004, 1985, 1993, 2004, 2013, 2007, 1982, 1979, 2006, 1968, 2001, 2008.

30. Go like a stop for each step:

d	r	e	y	i	e	h	1	e	n	s	d	7	e	4
3	4	o	6	p	4	s	C	u	o	1	l	h	o	2
r	1	w	9	3	r	g	2	l	m	f	c	d	9	o
9	t	g	n	6	d	w	e	5	b	5	d	o	s	e
r	7	6	i	0	t	7	o	c	n	6	e	n	4	a
g	5	f	x	b	8	v	7	s	b	k	d	t	9	2
5	p	4	2	u	9	f	g	2	m	l	9	p	8	e
j	v	q	4	m	a	0	b	4	o	n	6	e	o	r
1	e	l	9	8	r	s	2	n	0	a	5	s	i	a
t	g	b	6	d	9	2	g	e	n	e	3	f	p	c
b	r	i	u	q	4	n	1	6	w	5	i	c	8	z
8	v	5	n	x	f	h	6	3	g	k	8	5	m	j
3	n	p	7	g	a	8	6	k	n	r	3	s	t	s
d	k	m	o	e	y	r	l	m	i	u	p	z	2	y
e	r	2	i	e	r	7	s	n	g	o	6	k	a	u

"What's the use of shirts of [this?]" • In North foyer paintings, hard to miss.* • What enables tooth decay? • When we rise, what frames the way?* • Then again, what lies below?* • What splits bar from patio?* • The type of green at which you look.* • Dorothy's footwear in the book. • What derives from Fithp-like choppers? • Whence our brightest table toppers?* • What keeps strangers from the sea?* • The vegetologist heresy.

* Asterisk means the answer lies nearby, that you might use your eyes. And if you'd know how high to go, consider your goal(d)... then look below. (And numbers make you that much more slow.)

Hours of Redemption:

The Cluemeister's next three office hours are:

10 – 11a.m. Fri. • 3 – 4p.m. Fri. • 7 – 8p.m. Fri.

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.

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Volume 50, Issue 2

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

Runner/Proofer – J

Printer's Devil – Sharon E. Kahn

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Issue 3

Friday afternoon

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 50

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

Who needs a lead story? Corrections and emendations for the win!

- ◆ The **Magic draft with Brandon Sanderson** is from **9p.m. Friday to 3a.m. Saturday** as listed in the pocket program's *grid*, not the Gaming schedule. Please arrive at 8 to to purchase your packs (3 for \$9, cash only). Friday's Legacy tournament will be moved to **7p.m. Saturday**.
- ◆ It is possible that the 5p.m. **Munchkin** game and the 6p.m. **M:tG Quantum Leap** game will be slightly delayed.
- ◆ **Frank Stodolka** has been added to "Minicon 1" (8:30p.m. Saturday, Krushenko's). Other who attended early Minicons are urged to attend!
- ◆ **Klatschen Klarifikation:** For those who have signed up, the round-table discussions are being held in the bar-adjacent room **219**.
- ◆ The Code of Conduct Committee's phone number (612-405-3713) only appears on the backs of the badges of concom members, not the general membership. You can ask Registration for a label with the number.
- ◆ The **LiveJournal (and other Social Media) Party** will be hosted jointly by Laura, Dean, Scott and Irene in rooms 205 and 206. It will begin at 8p.m. Saturday.
- ◆ The **Ladies' Sewing Circle** will run from 2 to 5p.m. on Sunday in room 206 and will be hosted by Laura Krentz.
- ◆ **Nate Bucklin's** concert at **4p.m. Saturday** will double as a CD release party and Kickstarter supporter appreciation event. B-)
- ◆ The **Minicon 26-50 timeline** is now going up in the hall outside the 2nd floor cabanas—please feel free to add your memories to it!

Moneyduck still a thing

Last night, veteran Moneyducks gathered in the Garden Court to teach first-timers this popular party game. If you missed it, consider adding a drawing or phrase to the **Mega Moneyduck machine** outside the consuite, created by Patricia Zetelumen and now in its fifth year. The scrolls generated during the last four years are on display in the Grand Ballroom Foyer.

From the Speaker to Authors

- ✓ Reminder: the **Terry Pratchett Memorial panel** is tomorrow, Friday, at 7p.m. in Krushenko's.
- ✓ Minicon is opening up **additional signing times** to authors! Interested authors may either sign up in the Green Room (Room 201) or just set up at the table.
- ✓ Reminder: the **MASS SIGNING** is on Saturday from 3:30-5:30.
- ✓ **Jason Glaser** is reading on Saturday at 11:00am. Jason wrote over seventy books of nonfiction and picture books for children and teens before transitioning into fiction.
- ✓ **Joy Johnson** is reading on Sunday at 2:00. She will be reading from her YA Sci-fi work *Smooth*, in which a genetically engineered, genderless sixteen-year-old known only as 31 struggles to choose a gender and find love...

Thanks everyone! Hope you're having a great Minicon!

-Kelly Strait

Laughing at Cats

Tonight's **Cats Laughing** concert will be simulcast on the hotel's closed circuit channel. Tune in to **channel 5** to watch in your room!

In related news, there is a Cats Laughing T-shirt that will probably live forevermore in the ceiling fixtures of the Grand Ballroom. Who knew **T-shirt cannons** had a learning curve?

Notes from the Hotel Liaison

- If your room has pre-existing damage, possibly due to another convention that was recently hosted here, be aware that Minicon has already discussed it with the hotel and that they will be understanding about it. If you want to make doubly sure you won't be charged, however, the Hotel Liaison recommends that you take a timestamped picture if you notice any damage.
- In addition to using only blue 3-M painter's tape (available in the Consuite and Bar), please avoid sticking tape to the blue and gray surfaces in your rooms and on the 1st floor.

Consuite delights

Thursday night's baked potato bar was a big hit! The Consuite wishes to thank the **Brueger's Bagels** on Excelsior Boulevard and **Phelia Foods** for exceptional discounts on bagels and feta cheese respectively.

Also, from Progress Report 4:

- Please volunteer to help in the consuite! (x3)
- The **D.C. 2017 bid** is providing a **specialty dessert** on either Friday or Saturday evening (to be determined) in the consuite.
- **MidAmeriCon II** is providing a **smoked barbecue pork sandwich & sides lunch** in the consuite on Saturday.

Not from Progress Report 4:

- Please remember—no skorking in the consuite.

Dueling Thursday night 4a.m. pulse-checks!!

Gahlon-Krahn: Consuite: 5 Bar: 9 Gaming: 11 Lobby: 1 **Total: 26**

Strait-Kronick: Consuite/Bar: 18 Easter egg in Music Gaming: 7 None uponacrate (??) **Total: 25+egg**

Verdict: *A narrow win for the defending champions!*

Tales of Copper Conquest!

3. **Lady Danger** strikes again! This time she sought out objects 'high and swingy' until she espied the Starbucks Coffee sign by the hotel's lobby mini-cafe, then sought out a random tall person to assist her in retrieving the affixed medallion. The Cluemeister is informed that the mermaid logo's history may be even odder than he implied!

15. Remember the very first Big Kahuna? It was hidden at the very end of the mysterious passage leading outside from the bottom of the *rear* North tower staircase, and competing teams raced for it. This year, #15 was hidden in that same hallway under a stub of a rug protruding from a sealed, featureless door beyond which lies Valhalla. Intrepid explorer **Bekah H.** found herself saying, "What is this door?" "I was alone, I was afraid; it was like I was in a cavernous dungeon." But she found the prize, proving that exploring can pay off!

25. Now a fuller answer for #25. The groups of letters stood for articulatory phonetics terms like 'voiceless dental non-sibilant fricative', 'rhotacized schwa', and 'voiced alveolar plosive', descriptions of phonemes which, when strung together, sounded out the location of the medallion: a THERMOSTAT near the VIDEO CONFERENCE ROOM. Was anyone on the right track?

NOTES: Medallion T is for *teenagers only*! If you're not a teen and you find it, please replace it. Thanks to **Bill C.** for contributing to clue 10, and for having the idea for the first Medallion Hunt almost ten years ago.

CLUES: ROUND 3

C, H2, P. These medallions have been attempted by various challengers, but none have yet been won!

L. How else would you know that Lucky the Ladybug needs flowers and doesn't get along with bug-eaters?


\$D. You'll need to scan horizontally and travel vertically in order to find this one. Why is it alphabetized like this?

N. This one doesn't require so much travel; three legs should be enough.

T. When I was young, I wanted to make this two-eyed treasure out of construction paper, and I discovered the merits of 108 degrees! (Though 36 is more to the point.)

5. Found at press time—story to follow!

8. Near the interwubz.

9. 00 ~  in all caps, eVery1!

10. "...That's assuming one tribble," said Spock, "multiplying with an average litter of ten, producing a new generation every twelve hours over a period of three days... modulo the answer to life, the universe and everything, plus the registration of the Enterprise, minus Mr. Lucas's favorite number, minus Mr. Bradbury's attempt to spontaneously ignite paper, minus the number of Cardassian lights. Which leads us, of course, to a unicorn."

20. Found at press time! Story to follow!

30. When a marriage don't STOP, it's gifts 'til you drop! The verses are a pastiche to the original medallion hunt, the St. Paul Winter Carnival's Treasure Hunt (although those are in quatrains). Make sure to start off right, and if you want to keep going, you can: 8104122b177103312. Claiming this penny may require evasive timing.

Hours of Redemption:

The Cluemeister next promises to be in from...

- ◆ 7 – 8p.m. Fri.
- ◆ Midnight Fri – 1a.m. Sat.
- ◆ 11a.m. - Noon 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.

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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 cowering 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. $1 + 1701 - 1138 - 451 - 4 = 109$, 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

Volume 50, Issue 4

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

Printer's Devil – Sharon E. Kahn

Reporter – J

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Issue 5

Sunday morning

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 50

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

Sanderson to commingle Cosmere?

It has long been known that various of **Brandon Sanderson's** epic fantasy works are set in the same universe, the **Cosmere**. But at "...and Magrathea Ground to a Halt", an event at which fans of Sanderson and **Larry Niven** "had to be held back with sticks," Mr. Sanderson reportedly announced that the characters in different series will eventually interact. He absolutely knows how he's going to do it, reports our contributor, and he's not going to tell you.

Programming review: Everything is Awesome!

With Minicon 50 membership well over a thousand, programming was generally well attended! Here are some snippets...

From the "Drones" panel...

Panelists Friday debated whether the rise of drones is something SF fans should be excited or worried about. On the question of privacy, **Neil Rest** cited government overreach in the Stingray program—some cell towers may not actually be serving the communities in which they exist, but rather keeping tabs on them. **Chris Beskar**, CEO of Stavatti Aerospace, emphasized the intelligence-gathering merits of drones but quoted the animated *Clone Wars* series, pointing out that drones can do a lot, but when a decision has to be made, what you *really* need is a clone.

The panel suggested that work on 'drones' over the next 30-40 years may focus more on wheels and even legs than on flight. Is that SF, or what? Then an audience member with Northrop Grumman said that his company was seizing the future and now solely building drones; "Why are you guys still building planes?" Replied Besker: "So the human race can fight your damn drones!"

From "Gaming While Parenting"

How do you balance gaming with childrearing? Well, fandom is like a family, said panelists, and children can get a lot out of gaming, too, as they do from children's programming. **Matt McMillan** suggested that the expression 'it takes a village to raise a child' applies even if you only see that village once or a few times a year, and that abandoned games with kids are not 'losses'.

From "My First Time" (at Minicon)

—"Incredible things that happen before your eyes and you try to remember them."

—Jim Young's grandmother's punch recipe was the inspiration for blog!

—And of course, "Lipstick on a sausage."

From the (late night) Saturday Music Circle:

Wonderful drunken man: "You broke protocol. You should have stopped playing music and sung the chorus ten more times, using only vocals!" *Stunned silence.* "Johnny, we did! You sounded great!" "Ohh!" *Laughter.*

Friday party report

"Old Baggiecon hands felt at home on the garden court Friday night. The campfire was roaring, marshmallows were toasting, and the weather could not have been improved upon. The campfire music circle had its usual problem being heard over the howlers at neighboring campsites. But the northern lights flickering over the prairie made up for any deficits in this new Baggiecon location." —Karen Cooper

On matters of Ceremony:

"Thank you for your exuberant account of Opening Ceremonies, but may I call your attention to the fact that unmentioned was the author and Master of Ceremonies of the event?

—Anonymous Mom"

Editor: You may indeed! It may be said that the best masters of ceremony keep an event well-paced and entertaining, regardless of whether they happen to be the ones providing the entertainment! That said, **Dave Romm** has been a perspicacious and quick-witted master of ceremonies, capably serving Minicon in this capacity almost every year since 1979. He is, however, happy to announce that with Minicon 50, he is handing the reins to the funny and exquisitely on-point **Toni Brust**. To wit:

Toni on The Tooled: "We would never have known **Dave Perry** was gone if we hadn't missed him so much... **The Tooled** were eclectic and fresh, full of energy... it was impossible not to smile. ...**Amy the fiddle player** is my new religion."

Calling former Minicon chairs!

Former (and current) chairs of Minicon are asked to gather in the Grand Ballroom Foyer for a group photograph Sunday at 2p.m.

Logistics needs help

The logistics department needs help Sunday with move-out! They never seem to have quite enough volunteers once the fun is done—and think what a fun time you had! The bar, consuite and art show will probably need you the most. And we're not promising anything, but they have *permission* to buy sandwiches for volunteers!

Share in the history of Minicon!

In celebration of its golden year, a Minicon timeline has been posted in the 2nd floor cabana hallway. It's been annotated with dozens of events already, but awaits your favorite memories, volunteer shifts and personal firsts for posterity! (And if it's sagging, please restore the tape.)

SF Pub Trivia winners

BBT reporter **J. Spitzer** promised to find out who won Friday night Pub Trivia, and delivered by actually being on the winning team! It also included **Jeanne Mealy** and **Eric Forste**. Second place went to **Team Magic Bus**, who finished two points behind.

On Saturday night, **Kobayashi Maru** managed a narrow win over **Jason O.**, playing alone, in second, and the **Seamstress Guild** team in third.

Lost and Found—Ask at the Reg Desk!

In Gaming: an iPod Touch

In various places: Various badges!

Needed: Place to Live

A senior female former Minn-stf member is in urgent need of a place to live. She has furnishings for a 12x13 room and can contribute living room and dining room furniture. Her funds are virtually exhausted.

Please contact Don Bailey at 612-799-0407 if you have space.

Overheard: "A lot of people are here for their first Minicon! You can tell by their red shirts. Er, ribbons."

Saturday night registration total:

Warm bodies: 1109; Total membership: 1132.

That's up from 561 last year. Wow!

Gahlon-Krahn 4a.m. Pulse Check

Bar: 10 Consuite: 4 Seamstress Guild: 20
Gaming: 11 Music: 18 Rumpus Room: 2
Wandering: 8 **TOTAL: 73!**

Medallion Hunt: the final coinflip

L. The bar crowd—**Stephanie and Brianna B.** and **Diane K.**—ventured far from their hunting grounds to find this medallion, stuck to the back of the large chart of animals accompanying the beanie babies in the Rumpus Room.

\$D. Alas, poor Gary! He passed away in 2008, yet was somehow here in 2011? **Jason G.**, who had planned to stay largely out of the Medallion Hunt, was intrigued by this oddity and realized that Mr. Gygas had appeared in the 2011 Moneyduck game on display. ('\$D' stands for 'Moneyduck.') The time on the clock behind him reads 9:55, which when doubled led to room 1910.

P. "Is it cheating if I have this at home?" Of course not! And so **Chase M.** manipulated the tiny ball well past step 12 all the way to step 22 and claimed the prize.

9. No one seemed to fully decipher the clues—if the internal directions are BENSTW, they stand for bottom, east, north, south, top, and west, forming a way to denote one corner of a room. Other clues led to the word 'SET' and to room V1, or Verandas 1&2, referring to the southeast top corner of that room. But when the last clue came out and the room took a break from hosting readings, a swarm of medallion hunters entered and scrutinized all the corners. The **indomitable H. family** outraced 'like six other people' to snag #9.

30. After a crazy day of speculation, pilfering and beautiful, beautiful teamwork, the Ultimate Kahuna has finally gone missing. **BRING US THE PIONEER PRESS!!**

WITH THESE final tales of Year 10—the aluminum anniversary—your faithful Cluemeister signs off. This was to be the last Medallion Hunt unless someone else took up the reins—and as it happens, a whippersnapper by the enigmatic name of J has volunteered! Future hunts may not be as large or have the same flavor, but it looks like the big bag of 1973 pennies won't get to rest just yet.

CLUES: ROUND 5

C. All right—if you got 34 out of 36, that's good enough!

T. (teens only) Ask someone older about Ziggy Stardust.

Hours of Redemption:

The Cluemeister's final office hour will be **2 – 3p.m. Sunday**. See you next year, and don't ever be a dodo.

The Bozo Bus Tribune

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