

Issue 1

Friday afternoon

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 55

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

Minicon: An evergreen tradition

It's been a while, right? It feels like it's been a while. With myriad events canceled over the last couple of years, the novel coronavirus isn't feeling so novel these days. Minicon 55 was postponed two years running, which neatly makes up for the two fall conventions counted as Minicons back in the 70s, meaning that if things had proceeded from 1968 on in an orderly one-con-per-year fashion, this would indeed have been the 55th year with a Minicon. As this is our Emerald Year, the concom has decreed that **Green** is our theme: a suitable color for vernal regrowth. Emerald 'e dice with this hopefully sage lime: while we may all be hunters for normalcy at this point, we aren't yet aqua-ite out of the forest.

Seafoam, fill foam out.

If you have thoughts on the color **green** and what it means to you, write up a note on the paper provided outside (and across from) the BBT Office in **Courtyard 4** and drop it in the Submission Box.

Masks on display:

"In April of 2020, the evidence for masks became more widely accepted. With the federal government supply depleted, manufactured masks were nowhere to be found and we needed to make our own. Sewing skills were rusty, and not everyone even knew how. Show off what you made from the days when there was no small elastic to be found, along with a note about how it was constructed. Display in the grand hallway outside the art show. Pick up your mask after Closing Ceremonies."

—Dean Gahlon

How do I get to the Consuite?

The **Consuite** is on the 14th floor, which the hotel has designated an Executive Lounge. On Thursday night, this made it impossible for many people to access it, though it was supposed to be accessible with any room key. (Call it an "executive dysfunction.") The Hotel Liaison has conferred with the hotel to reach this solution:

- ◆ From 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day (Fri/Sat/Sun), floor 14 will be open to all.
- ◆ After/before these hours, you will be able to access the 14th floor with your room key if you are a hotel guest.
 - If your key doesn't work, the front desk will be glad to recode it for you.
 - *If you're not a hotel guest and you want to get to the consuite between 10 and 7... hopefully you can find someone going your way and, if necessary, make a new friend?*

Want to shoot the breeze with Jo Walton?

If you'd like to sign up for **Jo Walton's** small group event (the event formerly known as Klatch), the sign-up is at the registration desk. The lottery drawing will be at midnight & the results will be posted on the Orchard Room door.

—Emily Stewart

Lower Atrium open for business!

You may notice that the **Lower Atrium** is marked as closed and reserved for an event. Well, guess what—that event is us! You can maneuver past the stanchions and use the space; it's cool.

Programming corrections

- **Lyda Morehouse's** reading has been moved up to 5 p.m. Friday instead of 5:30.
- **Sharon Kahn** has been added to "Recent SF Television" (5:30 Fri).
- "Papercraft! For Teens and Up" will take place 7:30—10:30 Friday night in the Autumn Room.

From the chairs:

SAD NEWS:

Due to a flare-up of a chronic health condition, our Artist Guest of Honor **Elise Matthesen** is not expected to be able to join us for Minicon 55. We wish her our best and hope she feels better soon. Most of the panels she was involved with will still exist in somewhat changed forms, with the exception of the Pendant Creation Watch Party which will probably be canceled. [The **GoH interview** will now be just an hour long and a replacement will be found to interview Jo Walton; "**Lector Elise Matthesen Reads While You Create**" will now be open craft time.] She has sent 12 planet pendants to the convention to be raffled off at Opening and Closing Ceremonies - you will find a raffle ticket in your registration packet.

STATUS OF GAMING AREAS:

We've had some questions about masks and eating in the gaming areas. The **main Gaming space** (new this year in **Terrace 4**) is not a designated eating area, in that the hotel is okay with snacking and beverages but not eating full meals there. But it does have extra air filtration and it is okay for gamers to remove masks to snack or sip a beverage, so long as they can be respectful of the needs of anyone nearby. A good rule of thumb for all gaming areas is to social distance when unmasked from anyone unless you know they're comfortable with it.

—Sharla Stremski

Hotel Restaurant schedule

Wanted to give everyone a heads up on Dover food for this upcoming weekend. Dover's Breakfast hours will remain unchanged Monday–Friday 6:30am–11:00am and Saturday–Sunday 7:00am–11:00am. We will be doing only buffet service on Saturday and Sunday. Buffet will run the entire breakfast service. [Buffet lunch is available Saturday from 11:30–1:30.] We will not be taking reservations for Easter, and will not likely be able to accommodate large groups. We will not be utilizing the lower atrium as we have in the past.

—The Hotel and Aaron Vander Giessen

A testament to soda procurement

Consuite has soft drinks! Do you know why Consuite has soft drinks? Because of program-book-uncredited Pop Top Subhead **Chris Weiss**. Fizzy plaudits to him!

A testament to free will

The Free Will Table moved upstairs yesterday. It is now back on the 1st floor where it started.

Seating change

After feedback, we've decided to do accessible and assistive seating a bit differently this year. Some of the accessible seating is near power receptacles to accommodate scooters or medical equipment that should be plugged in. PLEASE be mindful of cords and choose another path when possible.

"Assistive seating" is at the front of the room for those who need to sit close. If something can be improved, please let someone know via Discord or at the main desk and we will improve it at the next Minicon.

—Emily Stewart

Some questions you may have...

How do we set our room clocks?

Timely minds want to know.

How will the Minn-StF president be assassinated?

There are rumors that the President-For-Life is solidifying her grasp on power and that no one can take her down. Is it true??

What about the Medallion Hunt?

Hold your horses! It's happening. Watch out for a special issue Friday night with the first round of clues.

Have an announcement, a news story, a review, a personal item, or anything else for the BBT? Drop it in the Submission Box outside the BBT Office or write to bbt@minicon55.mnsth.org.

The Bozo Bus Tribune

Volume 55, Issue 1

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

Proofreaders – John and Jean

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The Official Organ of Minicon 55

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

On sides, always greener

With olive us pining to be out of our current pickle, we moss take heart in the beautiful things around us. This year, that includes the color green, a vision that, glowing through the brown plant detritus of early spring, can seem downright viridescent. (Does that count as a pun?) Here are some reader associations:

- The color Green means life, growth, the beginning of the spring/summer months.
- Counterpoint: Green = Death. During Victorian times green dye was made with arsenic. Even now it is made with nasty chemicals, and is the least "green" of all dyes.
- the color green reminds me of my dad. Green is his favorite color and the color of his old company. i come every year to Minicon with my Dad and i enjoy it very much . \o/
- A pair of ducks has graced Minicon with their presence! I spotted them [...] enjoying the bed of woodchips outside the window over the "No Lifeguard on Duty" sign. The male's head is **green**. Coincidence? I think not!

Planet pendants

Six 'planet pendants' created by GoH-in-absentia Elise **Matthesen** were raffled off at Opening Ceremonies, with six more winners to be named at Closing Ceremonies. (The registration department apologizes for telling some people this was not the case.) These pendants are on display in the Art Show for anyone who wants to see them! The winners, listed below, are welcome to pick them up at any time:

Vicki Oace
Deedee Lessinger
Paul Robinson

Mary Bertelson
Stephanie Bowne
Tristan Whitaker

The raffle box remains at the registration desk. Your raffle ticket is in your registration envelope; it's not too late to enter for the second drawing!

SPECIAL VOLUNTEER REQUEST:

The music room is seeking someone with experience running sound & lights to help on Sunday afternoon. See Beth or Dave in Music or Crystal in Volunteers.

Don't forget the party floor!

It's easy to miss the fact that there are parties on the third floor! Attendance was sparse last night, but people were having fun. Festivities include (but are not limited to) the following:

In room 328, **Dan Myers** hosts a pre-launch party of *Knight's Trials*, the third book in his yet-unpublished Forest Spirit Saga. Featuring costumes and serving Finnegan's, beef stew, hearty bread and ice cold water in wooden cups.

The **GPS party** in room 324 has an Oculus Rift! Go don a headset and hand grips and enjoy one of their immersive games, letting you:

- Man the Apollo 11 moon mission or the ISS
- Play around with light, I mean "beat sabers"
- Ride an elevator that opens into thin air
- Or many more adventures!

They also recommend checking out the organization's **charity auction** in room 228.

In room 327 tonight from 6:20–9:30 — **Death or Cake**.
This publication recommends cake.

And again, regarding the consuite...

"The hotel did not grant everyone access to the 14th floor. If you have trouble getting the 14th floor to light up on the elevator panel, go to the front desk & they can re-program your room key card. If you do not have a room key, find a buddy!

Thanks!" —Chair

Your editor notes that this problem is most likely after 10 p.m., and has heard a rumor that the hotel is attempting to restore full 24-hour access to the consuite.

Concert review

Friday's final concert, **Loreweavers, Bards of the Modern Age**, was a rousing delight. A half-dozen strikingly dressed young fellows entertained with a seamless blend of traditional shanties and video-game-related songs tricked out to sound like traditional shanties... thus demonstrating another way to navigate the delicate juxtaposition of *nerd* and *cool*.

Backside of the BBT – Table edition!

It's almost like a newspaper up in this hizouse.

Quotes from Opening Ceremony:

"Be the change you want to see at Minicon." —Don Stremski	"I've been looking forward to being here <i>every day</i> in 2020." —Jo Walton
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The Editor's Giveway

A square and shapely tower
alight with cheery power
Built seventeen blocks high—
What prize will it supply?

The art show has almost completely filled all its available space! Thus leading to the twin morals: ➤ Nuts to (the idea of) not having enough art! ➤ You should make time to go see some art!	Accidental poetry Layered mitigation carefree to the wind it's hard to know what's what It's a real roll of the dice right now —N. Johnson 2022
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Corrections



We reported yesterday that Lyda Morehouse's reading was moved up to 5 from 5:30, but missed that the reading is today, not yesterday.	Jeanne Mealy was good enough to proofread yesterday's issue, but was unable to spot the one mistake added after she did: her name, misspelled in the colophon.
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Random conditionals

If you see any teens tell them there's no running by the pool. It doesn't matter if they're running or how close the pool is. <3 ERIK	"If you want a name tent as a souvenir, be sure to ask the person whose name tent it is!" -Anonymous
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Registration update

Reg totals are really weird because of covid!	
Pre-reg (from over 3 years, many from 2019): 435	
Friday's at-the-door: 30	But also 17 transfers
Warm body count: 304 (Friday)	Total reg so far: 465.
That's many, many no-shows, kids.	

 What do we see?  <i>I dunno—what do you see?</i> Look for eyes on the walls and the mystery may be yours to answer.	Strait-Strait 4 a.m. pulse check Gaming: 5 Bar: 8 Total: 13 Minicon!
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Is your cord missing?

We have someone's charging block and blue cord in the Bar (227).

Medallion Hunt <=CRYSTAL=>

Congratulations to everyone who has found Medallions thus far! At the time these clues were written, at 16:15 on Saturday, all the following Medallions have been found: 1 – 6, 15. This leaves 7 – 10, 20 at large & awaiting rescue. Please find them! They want to come home and you want cool Minicon Shirt(s), right? ☺

—The Cluemeister

/=/

CLUES: ROUND 2

7. Sometimes I am set very high, sometimes I am set very low. Either way, this is the only place of its kind where you can bring a kid in tow.

8. I'm not in timeout but I stare at a wall. Where I am placed, there's no fun at all. Coming and going are what I hear, missing the con is what I fear. When some wake and when they sleep, they pass me, otherwise I see no one.

9. Have a ball, have a hall. Go where you like but don't ride your bike. Keep your hands clean before making use of the nearest offering.

10. I'm hanging near something you might want in the morning or at night, with beans or with avocado, it's just right. Good food, for a penny search, may put you in the mood.

20. No one has found me swinging to and fro. For lots of fun, kids won't have far to go.

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Volume 55, Issue 2

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J – Cluemeister

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Issue 3

Sunday afternoon

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 55

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

We'll start with some programming reviews...

On *"Growing Old As a Writer"* (11:30 a.m. Sat.):

Our reporter's takeaways from this panel: As an older writer, it's harder to find day jobs, and it's also harder to sell novels, especially if they're part of a series, and even if you're established in the field. (Publishers aren't just buying a book—they're buying the opportunity to promote a promising author young enough to produce for decades to come.) It is, thankfully, easier to sell short stories.

"Lady Poetesses from Hell" (5:30 Sat.)

Lady Poetesses was lovely as always (despite having slightly fewer poets), and included works on:

- Canning tomatoes for winter
- Dragons taking wing
- Icelanders on the moon
- Being green
- An upright turquoise piano
- The fear eggs face while sitting in the fridge awaiting their death

On *"Making History Wrong On Purpose"* (10 a.m. Sun.):

(Your editor lacked a notepad so forgive the slight historical fictionalization that is the venerable paraphrase.)

Jo Walton and **Ozgur Sahin** spoke about their process for researching and writing historical fiction and historically shaded fantasy. The ambiguous truth and falsehood of the workspace and the place of potential magic within it was likened variously to a microscope, a fractal, and a mechanical clock. Walton revealed that she has 165 books on the Italian Renaissance in her Kindle alone, so providing bibliographies in her historical fiction would not be feasible.

Walton on cultural appropriation: "Many people feel that a particular history belongs to them; you should feel comfortable writing for a history that you belong to, if you see the distinction." But with enough research, you could reach a point where you "belong to" a new history, such as an amalgam of the world's desert cultures. She has a book idea that needs to be set in the U.S., but believes that setting it in Minneapolis without first dwelling here for several months at different times of the year would rankle locals.

Sahin on accuracy: "A lot of authors writing their first historical fiction novel are afraid that readers will call out all the little details they got wrong. The thing that surprised me was that people would come up to me and say 'You got this part of history so right!' And I say, 'I did my best,' but on the inside I'm thinking: *I made that up.*"

In Memoriam

(From the chairs)

Some of those we've lost since we last had a Minicon:

Bruce Albrecht – September 2019

Dan Goodman – March 2020

Wayne McCloud – 2021

Ed Nims

Jan (Jeff) Appelbaum – September 2021

Lynn Anderson – May 2021

Jim Rittenhouse – May 2021

Marty Helgesen – May 2021

Ethel Romm – November 2021

Katherine Levin – December 2021

Karen von Holst – Feb 2022

Ruth Odren – Feb 2022

David Cummer – March 2022

Ben Lessinger – April 2022

= Dead Dodo Party! =

Not partied out yet? Minicon's traditional (but oft-neglected) next-day party will take place this year at **Dream Park**, the home of Richard Tatge and Sharon Kahn, and will double as a birthday party for Richard. The White Castle Crave Crate from Minicon 53 makes its return.

When: Monday, April 18th, 7 – 11:30 p.m.

Where: 4002 Pillsbury Ave S, Minneapolis 55409

Full vaccination required, masks optional.

Pub quiz results

Friday's theme: Zombie/pandemic horror fiction

Winner: Jason O. with 15 points

Saturday's theme: 2nd place and runners up

Tied in 2nd place and therefore victorious: Jason O. and Allamagoosa

What's been happening?

Somebody must have had an Easter egg hunt because I think I saw one of them behind the wastebasket somewhere.

—John Sanderson

On Saturday night, bucket cake was lowered from a balcony. Was death also lowered from a balcony? This reporter was fortunately not on hand to find out.

A plot against the President-For-Life has been rumored... but will the legions of rubber band warriors be sufficient to save her? Be on the lookout for ammunition at Closing Ceremonies.

Saturday Strait-Strait 4 a.m. Pulse check

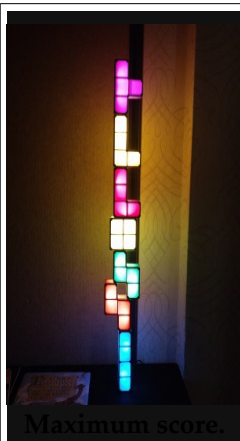
Gaming: 7 Superman: 4
Bar: 4 Total: 15

MnStF president Sharon Kahn, on congoers retiring for the night early: "The kids these days should be ashamed of themselves."

Registration update

"Saturday reg totals as of close of reg Saturday
Still 122 no-shows, about quadruple the normal number. I hope they'll come next year!

As of 5 p.m.: Warm body count: 362 Total: 484"



Editor's Giveaway

For those who attempted (or succeeded at) the Tetris lamp challenge...this photo illustrates the best possible height of 20 blocks. Note the staggered spacing of the S-blocks.

~ ~ ~

Green to me means life.
Flourishment, growth, nature.
Thriving even in harsh environments <3

Medallion Hunt <=CRYSTAL=>

Certain people thought #7 was in the pool area, based on a mischievous piece of tape on the seat of the pool chairlift... but it's not. With that, it's time for some...

o/` Tales of Redemption o/`

1. Found by Stephanie Bowne by looking at or physically sweeping or touching all lighted hotel maps. Light board closest to registration leading to the Terrace Foyer.
2. Found by Dan Smits in a fashion similar to #1. Side of lit maps near elevator bay on Floor 1.
3. Found by Stephanie Bowne on the back of the doorstep that prevents the pool gate from swinging open too far.
4. Found by Michael Hagerman, by accident inside of the back middle section of the elevator rail in car #4.
5. Found by Torin Bowne and Momo Rolle inside the bottom corner of one of the glass dividing walls of the Superman balcony on a little brown square.
6. Torin and Momo found this one under the left lip of the water table by the Rumpus Room.
9. Torin found this one on the bottom of the wooden frame around the entryway just outside the grand ballroom on 2, near a water table and a hand sanitizer dispenser.
10. Stephanie Bowne found it in Consuite under the toaster table. The answer to the biology question will be released at Closing Ceremonies.
15. Found by Kyle Malgren on the floor molding by the burgundy potted plant on the second floor on the way to the lobby. Kyle accelerated the assigned physics problem until it collided into walls and cried.
20. The Big Kahuna is considered missing but not found, necessarily! J suspects someone not affiliated with the con swiped #20. Its location will be used again next year, as will the physics question.

CLUES: ROUND 3

7. I was meant to guard the gate left open much of the weekend. I am where you see your friends.
8. I am not in plain sight unless you stop, drop and roll. I can call for help if needed.

*It's a slow year, so three issues is all you get.
But remember: we mint every word of it.*

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Laramie Sasseville - Contributor

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