

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 57

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

What's where this year?

(Wait, does this mean there's no lead story? That's right—if you're disappointed, go out and make one.)

Most function space is unchanged from last year. Here are the exceptions!

- All the **room parties** are now on the 2nd floor, rather than the 3rd, making them easier to get to and/or accidentally stumble past and get ensnared by.
- All the **room parties** are now on the 2nd floor, rather than the 3rd, making them easier to get to and/or accidentally stumble past and get ensnared by.
- The **Teen Room**, contrariwise, can now be found on the 3rd floor – Room 323, to be exact. Activities for teenagers will be posted on a whiteboard at the Reg Desk throughout the con. (For example, there's a movie tonight at 7... if they can find the right cable!)
- Speaking of, the **Registration/Volunteers/Info** tablemass has rifted into a smaller Volunteers table and a larger mass of Registration tables! Information will hopefully be ambient in the localized air.
- The **Mezzanine** is now quiet space. And finally,
- The **Consuite**, long relegated to the hotel's upper reaches, is now cozily down here with the rest of us in the zaggy bump near the elevators on the second floor (217 – 219). The trade-off for this decision is that, since they're in a sleeping room, they're unable to serve hot food this year. Limited fridge space also means milk is not available.

Statement on this from the Hotel Liaison

"Due to the space constraints of the newly convenient location of the consuite we have limited ability to serve hot foods this year. Join us again next year for Minicon 58 at our old stomping grounds at the RadiShTree where we will savor in our hot food delights once more."

—Stacey Strait

Unrelated restaurant update

The hotel's Dover Restaurant and Bar would like to announce that they are serving:

Drinks: 4 – 11 p.m. Fri., Sat. & Sun.

Breakfast 7 – 11 each day, food until 10p.m.

Easter Buffet: Sunday 7 – 11a.m. (\$27)

Wait, does that mean this is our last year at this hotel?

Yes, the rumors are true—we will be returning to the **DoubleTree Bloomington** next year, which is (again) under new management.

For those checking in...

"Confirm your room rate when checking in (\$97 regular/\$117 deluxe/\$127 atrium) and contact Stacey with any problems. Room rates, before tax, should be round dollars, no 50 cents at the ends of them."

Disconcerted

Peggy O'Neill is sick and must cancel her concert on **Saturday at 1 pm**. **Beth Kinderman** will perform in her place. Get well soon, Peggy!

Some settling of parties may have occurred

The hotel has had some rooms go out of service, which means the **GPS Auction** is now in room 231, the **Minicon 58 party** is in room 218 and **The Ephemeral Party** is in room 224. Unfortunately, there will be no **Treehouse Treats for TAFF**, as Geri Sullivan is unable to attend this year. But a **NEW party** (the "**Heinlein Reading Room**") has been added in room 222.

Remember the Lessingers

Last year's Ben Lessinger Memorial **Karaoke Party** returns this year (room 223) as a double memorial for Ben and his mother Margie. Check in tonight to see what may be happening; music will start Saturday night around 8 or 8:30.

What's the deal with these badges?

Your badge this year is specially constructed to please the Sleeper of R'lyeh by making his eyes blink! It's heavier and metallier than normal because it contains a circuit board with diabolical simple logic, and for a modest \$5 fee, the good folks at the **Build-a-Blinkie Workshop** (new this year in the Lower Atrium) will gladly show you how it's done.

What is this Build-a-Blinkie thing?

They're an organization that teaches people to solder! Why? Because STEM! Where? Maker spaces, universities, libraries, conventions... What? Well, their website (www.Build-a-Blinkie.org) claims they have the world's largest mobile soldering stations.

But what happened to the schedule stuck to the back of my badge?

You really are using a large font size to ask these questions. The traditional badge-back labels for programming participants, telling you what items you're on and when, have been affectionately inserted into your registration envelopes—so don't lose them! They're a bit too large to fit as-is onto this year's special badges, but if your schedule isn't too long, you can trim it with a pair of scissors and stick it on anyway.

And the Medallion Hunt?

Yes, it's happening! For the first time in a while, the **Cluemeister** got here Thursday night! All the pennies have been found already, sorry. ...Just kidding! He will soon have his customary batch ready for you!

Overheard and/or anonymous

"Watch for some small mythical creatures and other surprises for Easter around the con that you can collect. Be sure not to cause any damage. Hop to it!"

"The hotel doesn't believe us that we're not selling drinks. So, if you get a drink in the bar, make sure it doesn't look like you're paying!"

BOMBSHELL: "I have a friend who won't see Dune 2 with me because she hasn't seen Dune 1 yet."

A warm welcome to all our new and old friends from Chicago. Nice to have so many of you on board this year!

—*Little Bird*

Special game event in the Summer Room!

Come learn to play **CyberPunk 2020**! Characters and dice/pencils provided.

Time: Saturday 8 – midnight

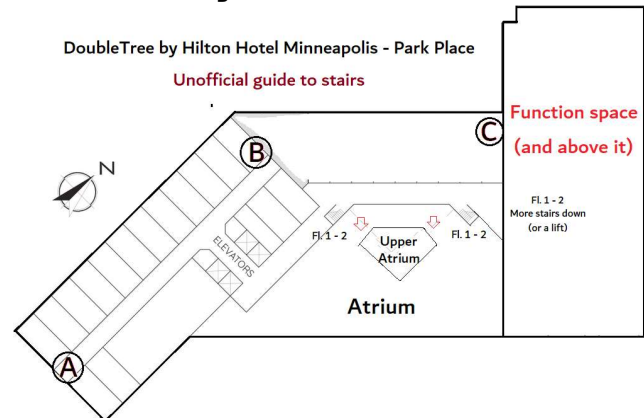
Number of Players: 3 – 8

Game Master: Roger Mlynchak

Game Description: Life is cheap in 2024 chum, but your EMS should not be a problem. We at Combat Trauma Services (CTS) are willing to come into any combat zone in Night City and save your sorry A** for a nominal fee, plus expenses. Players will be members of a (CTS) unit doing an extraction.

—*Roger Mlynchak*

Be in touch with your vertical self. Take the stairs!



Stairs A: Emergency exit. No access to 1st floor. 2–13 unlocked. Floors 14 + 15 exit-only.

Stairs B: Non-emergency exit. No access to 1st floor. 2–13 unlocked. Floors 14 + 15 exit-only.

Stairs C: Non-emergency exit. Otherwise, access to floors 3 + 4 only (in short part of hotel).

Atrium stairs: Floors 1 and 2 are connected by stairs in the atrium (the big open part of the hotel). Floor 1 is split-level, with the north end being lower. There are stairs and a super slow lift by the restaurant, or you can go around outside from the front door to the door marked "Dover." This year the weather is mostly above freezing and mostly dry for this last option. —*Matt Strait*

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@minicon57.mnstrf.org.

The Bozo Bus Tribune

Volume 57, Issue 1

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

© 2024 by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society. Any opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, not necessarily anyone else's.



Issue 2

Wee hours of Saturday

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 57

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

The mothership has landed!

BUT WHY? "Because it's fun." Well, okay, we would probably have guessed that.



Rumpus Room Revival !

It's back... Rumpus Room vets **John Wardale** and **Nora Strait** lined up a full schedule of activities this year! On Friday, "children of all ages" joined the fun by learning origami, followed by balloon creations that ranged from critters to cutlasses. Next came GoH **Tim Griffin's** concert and unique brand of musical teaching. Lastly, **Jason Spitzer** mentored aspiring medallion hunters with a mini-hunt that nabbed 14 of 16 medallions in short order. Free play and arts & crafts also flourished, with lively creations and drawings adorning the Spring Room. All ages are welcome to enjoy this weekend's other activities. Just be sure to offer your thanks to John, Nora, and other volunteers for bringing back this popular "convention within the convention." And if you're inspired, offer your ideas and skills for next year's schedule.

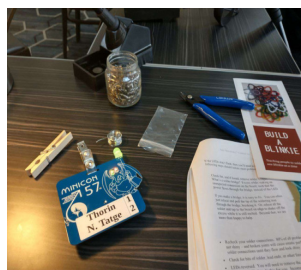
—Randy Holland

He really does have a song for any subject

"I wanted to turn to you and say, 'You have a song about whales. I know you have a song about whales. And not just any song—that song.'"

—Dave Stagner to Tim Griffin, on the perfect follow-up

⌘⌘The Blinkie-Building Experience⌘⌘



This editor took up a soldering iron for the first time since high school and affixed LEDs, a switch, and a battery to his badge at the \$5 **Build-a-Blinkie workshop**. They provide a kit, a workstation, and an instruction packet, and have experienced guides available to help or troubleshoot.

According to a certain experienced operative called Sir Blinkie, the tradition of blin[k/g]ing up badges began at Chicago's DucKon some 28 years ago, because fans love blinky things at parties! Some of the eventual B-a-B founders volunteered, and when the con discontinued the official program about eight years later, they were left holding the reins. Build-a-Blinkie later expanded its presence into dozens of events, including STEM nights for Scouts troops. They mourn the fact that the youth "kits and parts" market seems to have disappeared.

Sometimes, young participants come back later and report that they're into engineering now, and Sir Blinkie can't help but wonder if they made a difference. They will soon hold their largest annual event, helping 1600 students make blinky badges at the University of Illinois.

A fantasy treasure

The Art Show has received a donation of two framed prints depicting maps from **Andre Norton's** *Witch World* series, along with a handwritten note from Norton's assistant. When your editor last checked, this lot was criminally underbid! Proceeds go to MN-StF/Minicon. Come check them out and see the other art while you're at it!

Nebula honorees

Local author **Naomi Kritzer** and Author GoH **Ursula Vernon** have both been notified in the past two days that they are finalists for the **59th Nebula Awards!** They were reportedly elated when this was mentioned at “Retold Fairy Tales.” Vernon was honored for her novella *Thornhedge* (as T. Kingfisher), while Kritzer was honored for her novelette “The Year Without Sunshine.”

Spork it to me, baby

According to the Info Desk, anyone who has been on a panel this year has earned a volunteering spork! Report to the Volunteers Table (near Registration) to collect yours.

Playin' and scorin' with a Manticoran

Should you bear any interest in the activities of the **Royal Manticoran Navy**, enthusiasts for David Weber's *Honor Harrington* books, you can find a cadre of them spending their time in the Summer room earning “game points” this convention. Look for people wearing uniforms including the pentagonal yellow on red manticore emblem.

Upcoming scheduled game events

“Play X with Clay”

“Play Y with Clay”

“Play Z with Clay”

(Further details theoretically to be posted outside the Summer room.)

Registration Raffle

The Bar has a *Jedi: Fallen Order* Lego set of an adorable BD-1 explorer droid. This set will be raffled off to a random person who pre-registers for next year! The winner will be announced at Closing Ceremonies.

Passovers in passing

“We know that several people here at Minicon this year can only attend if Minicon (i.e. Easter) does not overlap with Passover. This will next occur in 2027 for (presumptive) Minicon 61, March 26-28, and then in 2035 for (presumptive) Minicon 69, March 23-25. This year, and in each of those years, Passover falls one month after Easter through some ancient class of calendar systems.”

—Matt Strait, *con chair*

Friday Reg Count

At close of registration Friday:

- 477 pre-registered
- 44 at-the-door
- 521 total members
- 430 warm bodies

///==== HOT HOTEL TIPS ==== ///

Feeling too hot? If the cooling system in your room is turned off for the winter, just open the window!

“Open the window? Really?”

Yes, this hotel has windows that actually open. The Hilton app offers a technology straight from the pages of SF—a digital key that lets you open your door with your phone. But beware—if you activate your digital key, *it will deactivate your card keys*. The front desk will then have to issue you new ones, and yes, this is apparently how it's supposed to work. So... do it in the other order!

Craft the puppet within

Laura Krentz encourages people to attend Saturday's all-ages Puppet-Making Workshop at 1p.m. Make a beautiful hand puppet from three boxes of inexpensive recycled materials! If you get especially elaborate, you can stay past the hour. Children should bring an adult helper to handle scissors.

Overheard: “It's my first Minicon, so I'm just so enchanted by everything.”

THE KARAOKE PARTY are the champions, apparently. Moreover, they intend to rock you.

Take a view on 2027

“There is a WorldCon Bid for MONTREAL in 2027, and we INVITE Minicon members to stop by our fan table across from COURTYARD BALLROOM 5 to get info and chat 10 – 6 p.m. FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 10 – 3 p.m. SUNDAY”

This potential con would feature historic cobblestone streets, lovely riverfront, a fabulous convention center, hilly geography, and blended memories from the last time they did it in 1997. (No wait, 2009.)

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@minicon57.mnsth.org.

The Bozo Bus Tribune

Volume 57, Issue 2

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

Reporter – Randy Holland

Hot Hotel Tips – Sharon Kahn

© 2024 by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society. Any opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, not necessarily anyone else's.



Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 57

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

Celebration Check-In

Parties are on the 2nd floor this year! What did this change bring for Minicon?

- > The **Ephemeral Party** featured a quiet room in which people sat and discussed things that, in keeping with the theme, will not be reproduced here. Photography and video recordings were not allowed. "You can take all the notes you like," I was told, "but why would you want to?"
- > The **Karaoke Party** would very much like to know who Alice is. (A neighbor of 24 years, moving away without ever learning how much you love her, ftr.)
- > The **Minicon 58** party was, at one point, deserted, with a sign explaining: "We're at parties." Well, naturally!
- > "I would like to give a shout out to the **Happy Beholder** room party for outstanding room décor, prizes & an all around excellent party—great job!" —
Crystal Therese

Kevin Sonney helps us make use of our time

In **Kevin Sonney's** Saturday morning "Productivity Alchemy" discussion, he discussed his long-running podcasts, revealed that he's been getting into laser engraving and mini-airbrushing, and took audience questions about productivity. Sonney recommended trying to identify the correlations between one's practices and moods—for example, if missing your gym workout affects your well being.

Asked whether getting a cat could help someone build a routine, he pointed out that "cats" are agents of chaos," but agreed that pets can be good for establishing structure in a person's life. Keeping chickens, he said, gave him better regular exercise than owning a treadmill, because it got him out of the house and he had to care for them.

For those facing the prospect of losing themselves in retirement, he suggested setting limits on the internet, and using a timer to do so at first until it's a habit.

Asked about to-do list techniques, he recommended basic "bullet journaling," but warned against letting it veer into the realm of art journaling by getting too fancy.

If he could keep only one productivity tool, it would be learning. "Never stop learning. Learn, learn, learn; learn from everything."

Reminder to remember

David Dyer-Bennett would like to remind all who may be interested that a memorial slideshow of departed fans will be shown in the Bar tonight at 7:30, not to be confused with the slideshows currently on display in the Consuite. In addition, his refurbished video of **Denny Lien's** memorial will be shown in Park 2 tonight at 9p.m.

What could it mean?

The Info desk, whose sign reads "INF'O," knows a lot of things, but would like to know why its name has an apostrophe. Wild theories flew this morning, but what do you think? Drop your explanation in the Submission Box for next issue.

Interested in helping **Build-a-Blinkie** return to Minicon next year? They need volunteers! Talk to them if you'd like to help out, here or at other events.

Tax Tip for Map Fans

The only bid for Andre Norton's two Witch World map prints is from **Jeremy Brett**. But—if someone were to bid \$100 (or \$1000) for the maps and then donate the apps to Brett's archive at Texas A&M's Cushing Memorial Library, the donor could deduct the cost from their taxes as a charitable donation.

—IANAL

Actual 4a.m. Pulse count

7 gaming	13 in bar	1 in BBT office
5 parties	2 wandering	Total: 28

EXTRA, EXTRA, Medallion Hunt

<=LAST PRIME BEFORE LEGAL=>

Greetings my fellow Minicon attendees! It is I, **J**, your Cluemeister here again for this, the 17th year with the now-thankfully-post-pandemic edition of the Minicon Medallion Hunt. For those who are new, the Medallion Hunt is a treasure hunt for shiny 1973 pennies squirreled away throughout the hotel. Once found, please bring your penny to me (**J**), the Game Keeper, around the con or at the BBT Office (Courtyard Room 4) & exchange it for a prize & a healthy dose of pride with a side order of gloating. You'll also get the saga of your quest published for all to see in the next issue.

Last year, at Minicon 56, in 2023, Bob DeMers made a beautiful sign for tracking the status of the various medallions. You will find this sign outside the BBT Office. The clues can be anything from straightforward obfuscation, to puns, codes or puzzles that involve math, science, pop culture references, or pretty much anything else the Game Keeper – uh... Cluemeister contrives.

As in past years, all pennies have been hidden in public places in the hotel, but not within restrooms, shops, or anywhere in the Art/Dealers or Science Room. All pennies will be generally accessible each day. When found, please bring the medallion to J, but try to leave the piece of blue tape in place to signal to other seekers that a penny was there. The game will continue until the beginning of Closing Ceremonies on Sunday, which will include a brief Medallion Hunt Recap.

All persons participating in the Medallion Hunt—whether seeking Medallions or helping others who are—must be registered attendees & members of Minicon. Please be respectful and quiet when searching outside of convention space. Take care when searching not to disturb hotel guests or set off any emergency alarms.

Four (4) of the Medallions will be in roving locations. For any such Medallion, seeker(s) must directly, verbally state the exact Medallion they seek and ask the carrier if they are carrying that specific Medallion. Upon correct request, the carrier will surrender the Medallion.

As always, I am honored to serve as your Game Keeper / Cluemeister and hope you enjoy Minicon 57!

/=/

CLUES: ROUND 1

1. I'm somewhat sandwiched between 2 hard working surfaces. You might not be likely to pass me often unless you are specifically in my area. I'm on a surface that is often in shadow. I cling to this surface for, if not, I will fall. Wherever I am, I'm not on the floor.
2. I wasn't found last year so I'm back again (though my number is almost certainly different). I am hanging on a flat surface which is a multiple of my shape.
3. I'm buried but not very deeply. I'm not in a grave but I am under flowers which won't die. It won't cost you much to dig me up.
4. I can see all the groups gather before heading out for sustenance. I'm laying low so you won't see me unless you know where to look.
5. If you don't hydrate, you die-drate.
6. Take a chance, roll the dice, try to find me. I'll be plaguing hide & seek, awaiting you.
7. Anyone can find me, but no one has in at least 1 or 2 years, in this same spot. Many, many attendees pass me, but no one notices. I'm in a pretty central location.
8. Some Medallions, including this one, are not in the main con areas. You may have to go outside the con, but you will not have to go outside of the building. I'm not in plain sight, but I'm visible from some angle.
9. Some Medallions, including this one, are not in the main con areas. You may have to go outside the con, but you will not have to go outside of the building. I'm also not in the middle of the con, but I am where I can see the sun when it

is out.

10. Some Medallions, including this one, are not in the main con areas. You may have to go outside the con, but you will not have to go outside of the building. I'm in a place not many will venture. All are allowed but almost no one will enter.

15. Many of you will pass right in front of me though I'm rarely in the same place twice. I'm always near someone who is throwing a party at Minicon.

20. I'm on the move too and making a real rumpus. Wherever I go, my carrier is nice to everyone we meet.

A. I hide near things anyone can have, however, I'm also near things that only some can have.

B. I'm hanging around but not in plain sight. To find me, try as you might, to check all over, even places you might not need to go but others may. Often, you'll only visit me for a little while. You won't see me right away, but if you adjust one thing, you can see me.

C. I may flip and flop around, allowing some to Sea me while others cannot. My carrier will Volunteer me only if you ask.

D. If it gets too hot, you might come towards me, though it will not be me you seek then.

E. Ordinarily, I'm in a place where many want to hang out, but if it gets loud near me, you won't want to be here.

F. Give a little, take something cool.

G. I'm near some dry things and something wet, but I won't get splashed, you can bet.

H. I'm just off the path many of you will walk. I hang on a rounded surface, far taller than I am.

I. I'm hanging out on a bed of stone. I'll stay here until someone finds me. You may have to look high and low.

J. I'm reclining, hope I don't fall. I'm feeling pretty green from hanging out like this.

K. I'm under something that uses gravity for fun. Good luck attaining the objective. It's harder than it looks.

L. I'm hanging out, near where the Cluemeister sleeps. You may sit for a while and chill, near where I'm hiding. I'm not initially in plain sight.

π. Once you collect this Medallion, you must recite Pi to as many decimal places as you can when turning it back in to J. I will likely not be visible. What do all these things have in common: Pullman, beer, a particular airline, and an Amtrak attendant?

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@minicon57.mnsth.org.

The Bozo Bus Tribune

Volume 57, Issue 3

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

Contributor – Sharon Kahn

Game Keeper - J

© 2024 by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society. Any opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, not necessarily anyone else's.



Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 57

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

Programming reviews

It happened, you watched it, maybe you were on some of it. But you also missed a bunch of it! So here's some notable moments and takeaways.

"Fanfiction Through the Generations"

This well-attended Saturday morning panel covered the history of fan fiction, with a focus on AOO (Archive of Our Own). We learned about niche categories (sub-sub-subgenres?) of fan fiction based on other fiction or oddball ideas, like Tony the Tiger/The Grinch and The Snake Fight Portion of Your Thesis Defense. They discussed the practice of refitting works for commercial markets by "filing off the serial numbers," as with Cassandra Claire or E. L. James. We were also reminded that things like Lancelot's insertion into the King Arthur tales by the French or Dante's self-insertion into his *Inferno* could be seen as fan fiction, meaning this is a (transformative) tradition that's been around a very long time.

"I haven't read you the dirty fanfic I wrote when I was your age." —*Mother to son*

"Retold Fairy Tales"

Fairy tale junkies were entertained during Friday's "Retold Fairy Tales" panel. Academic humor and quips flew fast and furious from panelists. Their consensus was that evolving cultures are drawn to fairy tales' universal themes. But the rise of written and visual storytelling has reshaped oral tales designed for audiences at campfires and igloos.

Is entertainment diminishing these classic tales of survival and ethics? No, but it's okay if one misses that Disney's Cinderella is linked to Chinese footbinding. Stories of the past are worth retelling in new ways or perspectives. Humanity's values, wartime ethics, and gender roles keep evolving. Fairy tales do too. However, casual fans should avoid asking aficionados about hot-button topics like Joseph Campbell and Motif Indexes. Medieval violence may erupt that is influenced by the original Brothers Grimm stories. You've been warned.

—*Randy Holland*

"Shipping Light & Darkness"

"I'd rather punch Nazis than fall in love with them," and "Are good bastards worth knowing?" are just two of many memorable lines uttered in Friday's "Shipping Light and Dark" panel. For fanfic newbies like me, "Shipping" is defined as "the act of creating a romantic pairing between two people or characters who are not otherwise romantically linked." Platonic examples were discussed too. This kind of fanfic often has whimsical motives, and passionate fan bases. Yet this panel pondered heavy questions too. Sure, opposites can attract, and/or make a fascinating fusion of values. But can cruel sociopaths be trusted to never harm again? Is meanness needed to challenge unfair societal norms? How can rules and order not suppress personal freedoms? Are consequences enough, and/or redemption realistic for some characters? (Think Darth Vader, Daenerys Targaryen, Negan, etc.) What evil can a good person justify to be get the ends they want? (Think Scarlet Witch, Severus Snape, Paul Atreides, espionage stories, etc.) This newbie left the panel thinking fanfic shipping was a murky, but worthy, topic.

—*Randy Holland*

"Ursula Vernon Q&A"

Author GoH **Ursula Vernon** on getting stuck writing with ADHD: Write the word "[Gap]" or "[Stuff happens here]", then finish the book out of sequence.

On distinct character voices: She doesn't use a technique, but if in reading she can't tell two characters apart, she may give one a verbal tic. Often, she writes without knowing quite what she's doing.

Vernon often shows her partner her works: "Kevin, you have to read this and see if it shames my ancestors!" He sometimes has to read in private, or Ursula will read into every snuffle or expression. Once he exclaimed "What the actual ****!?" only to hear footsteps crossing the upper floor, descending the stairs, and approaching: "What scene was that?"

Most interesting item on the Dover's breakfast menu:

Walleye Benedict, with the traditional English muffin replaced with a walleye patty. It's good!

A strange survey

Want to contemplate the nature of existence as through smoked intellectual glass, with a dollop of humor? Look for a becostumed guy with a clipboard called Eric, possibly in the Summer room, and ask to take the **Infinity Corporation Survey!** (Infinity Corporation is a respected ESP [Existence Service Provider].)

T-shirt price drop

Minicon 56 reprint T-shirts are now only \$10!

—Registration desk, one assumes

Saturday reg update

Warm bodies: 508 Total reg: 552

Saturday at the door: 31

Karen Schaffer points out that in addition to Nebula nominations, both Naomi Kritzer and Ursula Vernon have been recently nominated for Hugos. Naomi's "Better Living Through Algorithms" is a finalist for Best Short Story, "The Year Without Sunshine" is a finalist for Best Novelette, and LIBERTY'S DAUGHTER is a finalist for the Lodestar and nominated for the Minnesota Book Award. Ursula's *Thornhedge* (as T. Kingfisher) is nominated for Best Novella.

Lost and found (it's like poetry)

Currently in lost and found: Vassar water bottle, thumbnail-sized wooden beholder magnet, Neil Gaiman's Day of the Dead, glasses found in Science Room.

—Info Desk

Pre-registration offline

Online pre-registration for **Minicon 58** is not yet working. You can pay by cash or check here at the reg desk, or in the bar during the Dead Dog Sunday night, or online at the special M57 rate, \$5 off, for one week after we get the website working (maybe as early as Sunday of con?)

Missed Denny's memorial?

The showing of Denny Lien's memorial wasn't terribly successful, as it started late due to a previous presentation's technical difficulties and then the sound quality proved unable to fill the room. However, the video, whose audio is reportedly fine with headphones, is on the "David Dyer-Bennet" YouTube channel under the name "Denny Lien Memorial June 2023."

"Parents in Young Adult Literature"

Kidlit authors like to murder parents. They also like to give kid characters mean and/or absentee parents. These backstories keep readers' focus on the kid characters. Plus, being parent-free lets young protagonists take risks. Yet Saturday's "Parents in Young Adult Literature" suggested kidlit is changing.

Sad orphans and/or idiotic adults are tired tropes. The all-writers panel shared modern kidlit stories with realistic families, supportive parents, adults with character arcs, and kids teaming up with adults. None denied these newer stories are trickier to write. Or, that "It's okay to just kill one (parent), they come in pairs." But there was optimism that kidlit is evolving to reflect societal changes, newer parenting styles, and ultimately healthier family relationships. And fewer orphanages is a good thing, right? Well done panelists! —Randy Holland



Not had enough, then?

Do you wish Minicon were just a little longer? Continue your convention conversations and munch of the last of the Consuite's food at the **Dead Dessicated Dodo party!** Hosted by Mn-STF president Sharon E. Kahn and her husband, Richard Tatge.

Where: 4002 Pillsbury Ave in South Minneapolis.

When: Monday, April 1st, 4p.m. - late

There may be one more issue this year! You can still submit, whether by box or by bbt@minicon57.mnstrf.org.

The Bozo Bus Tribune

Volume 57, Issue 4

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

Contributor – Randy Holland

© 2024 by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society. Any opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, not necessarily anyone else's.



Issue 5

Sunday noon

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 57

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

One last review for the road!

At Saturday morning's "Collection Bias," panelists wrangled with the challenges faced by librarians and archivists in deciding what to keep in their collections. (Do they keep shelves and shelves of bound academic journals, or decide how far back to subscribe electronically?) Archivist GoH **Jeremy Brett** pointed out that every archivist has biases that need to be balanced against the needs of their collection. Other hitches, according to Rhiannon Taylor, include "community bias, library locations and community history." "What is recognized as important is also challenging."

Magenta Griffith described the "weeding" of collections as a constant process. She informed us that librarians would rather you didn't put your books back on the shelves—not just because they're worried you won't put them in the right place, but because they want a count of which books have been consulted, which will inform their future collection management decisions. "Before computers, librarians would put marks in books for how many times it was checked out. Now computers help with that."

Brett pointed out that in different eras, different materials, such as old horror fiction, can transition from being popular to being used for research. It was pointed out that science fiction, too, has fashions—Phillip K. Dick was weird and obscure until the *Blade Runner* movie made him popularly known.

On racism, misogyny, etc. in older books, there was some debate whether librarians should move them out of general collections in order to keep "the wrong person from finding the wrong book." Griffith, after a notion by Jo Walton: "There's a lot of books the suck fairy has visited."

Brett pointed out that every story out there was read and enjoyed by somebody. And he admitted that his Science Fiction & Fantasy Research Collection at Cushing Memorial Library "collects buttloads of fanfic; I believe we have the largest collection of print slash in the world, which is kind of embarrassing."

A SHOUT OUT

Big thank you to the con suite staff for the little things in life – fruit – beverage – hot water – protein – wonderful service!

Missing an inhaler?

One was found in the upper atrium and is currently in the Lost & Found, along with the items listed in the previous issue.

Chicago traingoers beware!

The Amtrak to Chicago that should have left St. Paul this morning, did not! It hit a car (killing the driver) and is listed as being at least 8 hours late. I have no idea what effect this will have on other trains today and tomorrow.

—Rich Price, Badge 101

Such witchery!

The plan anonymously espoused in Issue 3 came to fruition; Karen Schaffer did in fact bid \$100 on the Andre Norton *Witch World* maps with the intention of donating them to the Cushing Archive!

Ursula on "Writing for Adults"

"The failure mode of whimsy is twee."



Put in a cheesy slice of your time

There will be **pizza** for **volunteers** who participate in clean-up right after Closing Ceremonies and work continuously until 6p.m.! We'll break for pizza in the Consuite, finish up after, then on to the Dead Dog party.

EXTRA, EXTRA, Medallion Hunt**<=LAST PRIME BEFORE LEGAL=>**

/=/

The following medallions have been found in these locations:

1. Found between 2 vertical “legs” of one of the wooden tables in the hotel’s main lobby
3. Found on freebie table under a knitted flower vase, on Saturday, soon after placement
5. Found on the back of the top of the programming area water cooler table, Saturday. Intended Clue: Mickey Mouse, a flammable gas, “Ugly bags of mostly _____”
15. Carried by LillySong Watson
20. Carried by Nora Strait
- A. This Medallion is dead as the Con Bar is not open until after tear down on Sunday, J = sorry! This Medallion was taped to the bottom of the mixers table in the Con Bar
- C. Carried by Michael Hagerman
- D. Found taped to the bottom of the black fire extinguisher cabinet near Reg. Intended clue: If things get hot, you’ll want to run right up to me. I may not be of any help, myself but you’ll still want to run here.
- F. The back of the large, black flower pot near the free-will donations table
- G. Was taped to the back of the towel shelves/rack in the pool area
- H. Was taped to the upper part of the wall light/sconce near the main elevator bay on 2, between wall light/sconce and wall.
- J. On one of the lowest, angled/inclined parts of the wall sculpture above the table outside Green Room.
- π. Carried by Jim Porter

/=/

CLUES: ROUND 2

2. I swing back and forth, but only occasionally, from my perspective. I’m on a dark-colored background. You can only really see me when I’m swinging or when my swing reaches its maximum, but you likely won’t be at a good angle to see me then. I’m near something wet. This is at least the third year that this spot has been used.
4. If you’re tired near Reg and want a place to sit, you will likely sit on top of me.... Well, on top of some piece of furniture, to which I’m clinging.

6. Take a chance on finding me, seek the place where I will be. “Get out of Jail”, “Community Chest”, if you want to you win, try your best. Chop the Tree, Swing the pendulum, search the room. Check along the edges. The prior clue was mistyped, should’ve read: Take a chance, roll the dice, try to find me. I’ll be **playing** hide & seek, awaiting you. Sorry for my misspelling.

7. So many will pass right by me at all times of day. When the sun is out, you might not stay. This spot has also been reused at least 2 or 3 times. Hint: “This spot” can be taken with us back to the RadiShTree, (even if not these exact coordinates on the planet).

8. (8 – 10 are not on floors 1 or 2.) I was here in the past but no one found me. My number and floor were different. I’m hanging out hoping my tape holds. If not, it’s the floor for me. I hope someone comes up here and finds me. I’m facing away from you, in fact, I’m facing a wall.

9. As a fellow attendee just told me in the elevator, “You [I] have the view.” Please come up here and find me. Note the black pins on the leaderboard are for those above floor 2.

10. You’d pass me if you want to go up or down. Just a push is all you need to pass right over me. I’m above deck 2. Not a clue: Happy Easter to those celebrating.

B. Mirror, mirror on the wall, I am near drinks for all.

E. My area can be loud. If my immediate space stays “quiet” I’ll be proud. If I’m disturbed, you will be too. I’d hope the cause of such wouldn’t be you... or any of us.

I. Similar to J’s former location which was found near, but outside of Green Room. However, not exactly right nearby that location. Same floor though

K. Publishing is your friend, here... Maybe something for Bozos, by Bozos? Gravity is your friend too! Don’t worry, you’ll find your way, you’re on a roll!

L. People have been doing puzzles above me without even knowing it for most of con?

See you next year! Be dodos seldom and sparingly.

The Bozo Bus Tribune**Volume 57, Issue 5**

Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

Contributor – Scott Lohman

Game Keeper - J

© 2024 by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society. Any opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, not necessarily anyone else’s.

