

All The News That's On The Bus

The Bozo Bus Tribune

Friday, April 21, 2000

Evening Edition

Volume 35 No. 1

Minicon-related Hugo nominees:

Best Novel

A Civil Campaign by Lois McMaster Bujold
Cryptonomicon by Neal Stephenson (afterword
by Bruce Schneier)

Best Novelette

"Stellar Harvest" by Eleanor Arnason

Best Related Book

Minicon 34 Restaurant Guide by Karen Cooper
and Bruce Schneier

The Sandman: The Dream Hunters by Neil
Gaiman and Yoshitaka Amano

Best Professional Editor

Patrick Nielsen Hayden

Minicon 35 Attendance Projections:

We have an 800 person Minicon going here. Hope
you all have a wonderful weekend!

Childcare:

Childcare is in 1801, not on the 5th floor as
erroneously claimed in the Pocket Program.

Recycling:

Got cans & bottles? Wanna recycle? Pick up a bin at
the Bridge & sign up for a collection time. Happy
Earth Day XXX!

Dragon Egg Hunt:

We extend our most sincere appreciation to artist
Judy Peterson of FanTaminals for donating a
beautiful treasure to the Dragon Egg Hunt.

DUFF ballots

and newsletters are available at the ConJose table.
You can also give them your completed ballot and
voting fee.

Program Corrections

Dropped from "Neat Superpowers and What to
Really Do with Them," Saturday at 11 AM
(Hennepin): Kathy Routliffe.

Added to "The Works of Maureen F. McHugh,"
Saturday at 1 PM (Salon A): Jim Young and Anne
Gay. *Dropped:* Tom Whitmore.

Added to "Shifting Narrative Paradigms in Comics"
Saturday at 1 PM (LaSalle): David Emerson.

The Friday schedule grid (that legal-length loose
sheet) has a few errors on the bottom two rows.
(The pocket program is correct.) **Filking** is in the
Marquette room. The **Trivia Bowl** is in the *Carver*
room. The **Future of Star Trek** and **The Portrayal
of Evil** are in the *Hennepin* room. Everything else
on the schedule grids is correct, particularly the
admonitions to do good, avoid evil, and comb your
hair, it looks like a rat's nest.

Tokens of Appreciation

— Sharon Kahn, Volunteers Coordinator

The most-asked question at the Volunteers Desk so
far this weekend has been, by an overwhelming
margin, "What can I do to help?" In fact, willing
volunteers have been pouring in considerably faster
than tasks for them to perform. This will change as
the con ramps up, so please don't give up. Badgers
and Twinkies are always in demand. If you're not
sure what that means, stop by the Volunteer Table
and we'll teach you how to badge and twink. Sign up
for one or more shifts, and you get one of our
beautiful handmade souvenir buttons. Until the
buttons run out, and then we'll need a volunteer to
make more.

The 2nd most popular question is some variation
on "How many hours do I have to work to get a T-
shirt?" The answer is, we're not being that formal
this year (keeping track of hours and handing out
volunteer perks). However, we do want to keep the
fun in volunteering, and tokens of appreciation add
to the fun for most of us. That's where the buttons
fit in - they're partly a way to identify volunteers on
duty, and partly a convention souvenir. Everybody
who volunteers is entitled to one; maybe more if we
have any left over.

Then there's the Mathom Drawing. We have
accumulated quite a stash of Minicon merchandise
from previous years (last year's t-shirts, bottles of
grenadine, bubble stuff). We've decided to place
these priceless items in good homes, using an
instant-winner lottery model. Here's the deal: you
work a shift, you draw a slip from the hat. If your
slip makes you an Instant Winner you get to choose
a prize from the mathom bin! Play as many times
as you like.

Party List: on back page!

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The Official Organ of Minicon 35
Tonight's editor: Jeff Schalles
Art by Glenn Tenhoff

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Tonight's Double Late Feature in the Event Horizon:

Nate Bucklin along with JEN (Barb Jensen, David Emerson, Ed McGlaughlin) from 10:30-12:30

Friday Parties!

RASFF		10PM	2136
Con Suites	until 1:30AM	Duluth Room	
	late hours!	Presidential Suite	
Wi-Con		??PM	2116
Duckon IX		9:00PM	2001
MISFITS/CONvergence			
movies Friday at 7&10:30PM		2436	
Krushenko's		9PM-2AM	2201

Pool Hours:

The hotel is having extended pool hours for the convention! On Friday, Saturday & Sunday, the pool area will be open till 2:30 am. So grab a towel (you do know where yours is, right?) and soak in the hot tub for a while!

Yolks:

Yolks! It's Stephen's second annual hi to those out-of-towners Emma and Will (optional Huzzah! and hair flip)!



All The News That's On The Bus

The Bozo Bus Tribune

Saturday, April 22, 2000 Earth Day Edition

Volume 35 No. 2

Program Changes

Add to "Shifting Narrative Paradigms in Comics,"

1 PM Saturday in LaSalle: *David Emerson.*

Add "Pun-el" 10 PM in LaSalle.

Add to "Invented Languages (Cursing in Elvish?),"

11 AM Sunday in Marquette: *Suzanne Alles Blom*

Add to "The End of History," noon Sunday in

Marquette: *C. J. Mills*

Tell It To The BBT!

Did you go to a party last night? — *how was it?*

Are you having a party tonight? — *where is it?*

Tell It to the BBT!

We're also happy to receive comments on programming, words of wisdom, overheard quotes (of dubious wisdom) and messages from person to person.

The Bozo Bus Tribune submission box is on the BRIDGE. Drop something off anytime and we will collect things from there.

Note: the BBT is unlikely to print anything that comes to us anonymously. If you would like something to be printed unsigned, let us know, but please put your name on all submissions so we know where they came from. Thanks!

Minicon 35 Trivia Contest Winners

Denny Lien	75
Tony Lewis	66
Beth Friedman	60
John Nine	26
Michael Fobbs and Michelle Harris	26

One of the Great Lies of Fandom:

"I only need a little of this, and I'll bring it right back."

Spiffy:

An old guy named Stephen thinks the cover art by John Berkey and Ken Fletch is spiffy!

The Bloodiest Movie Ever Made.

(Misfits Party, going on all weekend in Room 2436).

It certainly was — what else would you expect from three hours of cherry-picked mayhem? Finely edited for the best of murders, explosions, car crashes, train crashes, spaceship crashes, and the destruction of planets — all good clean fun. Someone among the Misfits is certainly oddly adjusted in their taste in media. To be truthful, most of this was actually excellent, very much "best-of" shots. Like the scene when Chuck Norris was being chased by a train that had jumped off the tracks — you'd think you'd be safe from the train once you get away from the tracks — BUT NO! Also featured were multiple scenes of the inevitable doom of Wile E. Coyote and

the inescapable death of Kenny from "South Park". Some of these scenes were chosen for blood content, and no other reason: Arthur meets the Black Knight from *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* and the swordfight between Wednesday and Pugsley from *Addams Family Values* for example. And, of course, the scene from *The Matrix* when Neo and Trinity shoot their way into the building to free Morpheus. Kudos to whoever sat through ALL three hours — I had to go in and out several times to appease my delicate stomach. —Magenta

"It had a lot of action, but the plot seems thin."

—Mike Bakula

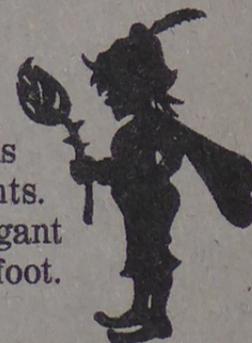
Espresso!

The espresso machine will be up and running on the 24th floor after 4:00 PM this afternoon.

(Sidenote to coffee hosts: if you took a coffee host volunteer button but haven't had a chance to work a shift yet — good news! We'll be up soon! If you can't do a shift, please return your button to Volunteers, we're running short of them...)

Happy Earth Day!

"Consider the man on horseback, and I have been a man on horseback for most of my life. Well, mostly he is a good man, but there is a change in him as soon as he mounts. Every man on horseback is an arrogant man, however gentle he may be on foot. The man in the automobile is one thousand times as dangerous. I tell you, it will engender absolute selfishness in mankind if the driving of automobiles becomes common. It will breed violence on a scale never seen before. It will mark the end of the family as we know it, the three or four generations living happily in one home. It will destroy the sense of neighborhood and the true sense of Nation. It will create giantized cankers of



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cities, false opulence of suburbs, ruinized countryside, and unhealthy conglomerations of specialized farming and manufacturing. It will make every man a tyrant.”

—R. A. Lafferty

Saturday Parties and Events

Krushenko's	2201
SF Writing Groups: the 2000 Scene (discussion)	7:30 – 8:30
Diversicon Party	9 PM – 2 AM
The Misfits	2436
Programming (see posters for details)	11 PM – 5 PM
The Red Pill / Blue Pill party	8 PM
Art Auction	Salon B & C 8 PM – 10 PM
Event Horizon	(Director's Row 4)
Lenny Bailes, Bob Berlien and Friends	8 PM
The Mogg	10 PM
Odyssey Con 2001	2445 8 PM – ∞

Random Thoughts

Some random thoughts about Minicon 2000 on the part of a wandering Canadian (by way of Chicago):

In the “They Like Us, They Really Like Us” department, the Hilton's staff appear friendlier this year than they were last year. I'm seeing more smiles and fewer glazed looks or stiff sideways glances. This is a good thing.

On the other hand, the paintings on the second floor are still as numbingly ugly as they were last year, reminding one of nothing so much as something done by Leroy Neiman with Benzedrine tremors.

Jim Young's Welcome Home

by Kathy Routliffe

Floundering Father Jim Young, recently back from his diplomatic posting in Nigeria and taking some time off from his new post in Washington, D.C., reports having one of those remarkable experiences that reminds one that the world can still be a very good place.

Jim says he was looking for coffee the other day, and inquired as to where he could find a decent cuppa. Pointed in the direction of the nearest Starbucks, he set off and soon found himself in line for a latte.

As he waited for his order, Jim chatted with the server. Talk turned to his diplomatic career. The server asked what his most recent posting had been.

“I said I'd been in Nigeria, helping bring about a workable democracy there,” Jim reports.

At that point I was told the latte was on the house.”

Jim says the experience brought tears to his eyes, and made him realize he'd truly returned to Minnesota.

Do-It-Yourself Masquerade

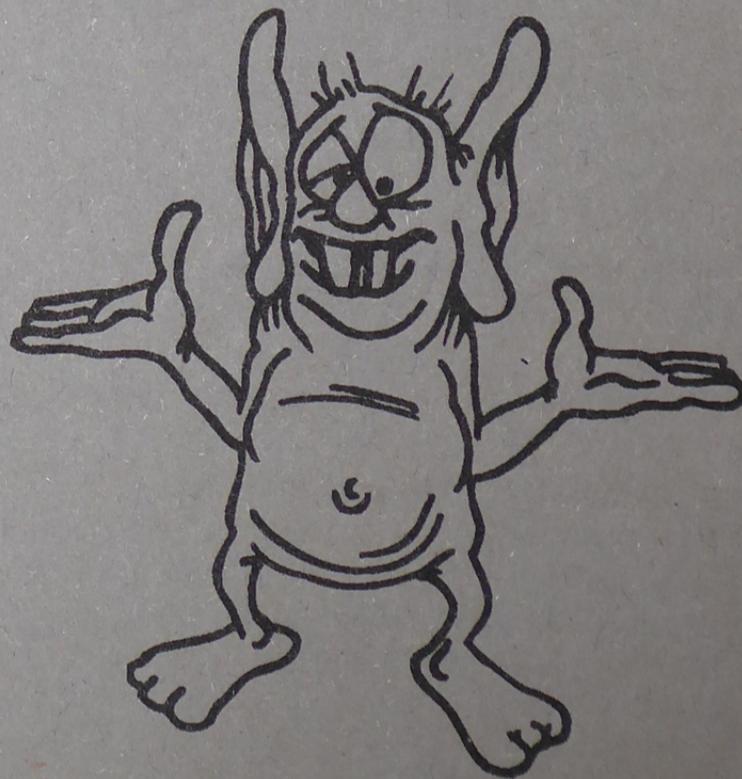
Saturday, 9pm, Hennepin

Come in all one color — your favorite would be good. Dig up your father's Masonic robes, a sari or kimono ... or grab an old bedsheet (NOT the hotel's) and wear it as a toga. Rummage through our scrap pile for decorative accoutrements (sssh! you can't tell its a tie from 15 feet away).

Make your eyes look six times bigger or your mouth like a fish with our make-up collection. Want elf-ears? Cut them out of paper and tape them on! Paper and tape will do lots if you allow yourself to step back from movie quality close-up looks. Badges, even weapons, can be created.

Besides costume scraps we have presentation scraps — lines from stock situations for you to dramatize your character. Uncertain what you want to portray? Choose from our list of characters.

Come and play! We've built the opportunity — you supply the inspiration. Even if you don't think you are imaginative, come and look over the opportunities and let your reactions take you in an interesting direction.



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Sunday, April 23, 2000

Sunday Noon

Volume 35 No. 3

Pizza Tonight for Volunteers

There will be a pizza party Sunday after teardown, for all volunteers involved. Tear-down and move-out begins soon after closing ceremonies and we can always use a little more help. Thanks!

Furby Dance Degenerates Into Wild Main Stage Drum Jam!

Saturday's *Furby Dance* was a great hit among both the furby crowd and their human companions. The strains of "Doo doo doo doo, doo doo doo!", "Dee dee dee dee dee, dum diddy dum!" and "Dance! Boogy!" with every now and then a "Here kitty kitty" filled the air. During one lull in the human laughter and chitter-chatter it was noticed that all 16 or so furbys present were doing "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" in a round. But things really got "hopping" when drummer (and not-so-secret BBT maven) *Jeff Schalles* pulled out his doumbek and got the "three loud sounds in a row" trigger command cycling through the furby ring, finally finding a beat that got all but the baby furby dancing at once! Let's do it again next year!

Recurrent motifs noted in multiple program items:

Napster & Gnutella

Beowulf

Civil War generals

Patrick O'Brien

"The Hunting of the Snark"

Bridge Report

At 21:46 local time on the 22nd of April, on the Bridge, nothing's happening. And it was duly logged.

Event Horizon Report

I've been caught inside the Event Horizon for 2 days... the juggernaut of music is building in waves... I can feel the gamma rays transitioning into tachyons... I have no idea what the rest of the con is doing... —*Dai*

Dai: you rock!

—*Jeff*

Another Furby Party Report

"Here we have Godzilla invading the furbies."

—*Geri Sullivan*



Lost and Found

Several items have been turned into Lost & Found including a set of keys found in the Event Horizon. Please check on the bridge before the box of oddities get's stuck onto the truck going to the storage locker!

Thanks From Registration

Beth Friedman would like to thank Ben Liberman, Lydia Nickerson, Sharon Sbarsky, and all the other people whose names elude her at the moment who helped with at-con registration.

More Thanks!

Thanks to Doug Faunt and Bob Webber for picking up the donuts, milk, cream cheese, and other consuite comestibles during Saturday's shopping run to Cub Foods. —*Geri Sullivan*

Random Thoughts Cont.:

"Entropy isn't what it used to be." —*Neil Rest*

"This is not a big tarot con." —*Beth Friedman*

Omission: the byline was accidentally left off of Kathy Routliffe's *Random Thoughts* in yesterday's BBT. And hey, I sorta like those paintings. (*Jeff*)

"Having a wonderful time. Wish you were at GenCon." —*Steven Brust*

"The consuites are the best I've seen since I've been coming to Minicon." —*David Schroth*

"Everything's going far too smoothly. I'm having too much fun." —*Tom Whitmore*

Another achievement for Minicon

We have found a Job for Ben Yalow that we are fairly sure he has not done for any previous convention. Come to Closing Ceremonies for more details.

From a panel:

"The Sci-Fi Channel is the drag queen of science fiction."

Matrix Mutterings

"You can live the sort of life that lets you have fun at a convention, or the sort of life where you do not. One of those lives has a future... the other does not."

—*Agents Johnson, Johnson, & Johnson (we're not related.)*

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Microprogramming

8pm Sat

A young volunteer named "Cat" is pushing a large bucket of ice on a cart. Too much for the consuite. She pushes the cart to the Jacuzzi. We shove a foot or two of ice into the hot tub, claiming, "Someone said the temperature was too hot. It's now just right. You're welcome."

I retroactively declared this to have been microprogramming.

—Dave

But Cousin, Why a Zeppelin?

By Anne K. Gay

"As long as I can remember, it's been the symbol of Minneapolis fandom." —David Dyer-Bennet

Minicon 28 was my first Minicon. Somehow between then and when I joined the concom for Minicon 34 (shortly after Minicon 32), I never encountered the zeppelin image used in association with our favorite convention. Imagine my growing surprise as we used this icon for our logo consistently over the past three years. This is done as a reference to history, an aim at consistency and community — but as a fresh young con-goer I wasn't getting it. So I asked the rest of the concom about the meaning and history of the zeppelin.

The concom was sure it was established by 1976. That was the year Jerry Stearns did zeppelin T-shirts, and DDB remembers talking about what it would cost to get the Goodyear blimp to make a pass over the hotel at the Worldcon in Kansas City. Patrick Nielsen Hayden added, "1976 is also the year that seventeen-year-old me appeared in the background of the videotape Jerry Stearns made for the in-house video system at MidAmeriCon, the Worldcon that year — I can be seen, per directorial instructions, standing in a Bozo Bus Building doorway 'flying' a zeppelin-shaped balloon through the air. And even then, the Mpls-in-'73 zeppelin was an ancient and venerable symbol of Mipple-stipple fandom, going back to when giants ruled the earth."

Fred A. Levy Haskell confirmed this, with details: "Jim Young and Ken Fletcher were both fond of unusual and/or antiquated modes of transport, and JMY was particularly fond of lighter-than-air craft. Hot air balloons, blimps, and zeppelins started showing up in some of the earliest "Minneapolis in '73" ads in the late 60s. Actually, lots of different things showed up in the ads, but the l-t-a craft, particularly zeppelins, seemed to have evoked the strongest resonance in fandom, and were gleefully adopted as a symbol of all things Minneapolis and Fannish." The zeppelin we're currently using for a logo was rendered by Ken Fletcher.

Okay, so that establishes some of the history, but why has the zeppelin interested us so?

Basically, it's not dull.

"I think that a blimp is inherently fannish. Weird, cool technology, lots of room for tinkering, not mainstream, and it flies." —Lydia Nickerson

I can personally report that playing with a remote-controlled helium-filled zeppelin balloon can be a fair bit of fun. Steers like a whale, but a graceful whale. And the best part about playing with the zeppelins last year was sharing the experience. Sitting in conference about how many paper clips to weight them down with in order to achieve neutral buoyancy. Traveling the halls to see how many smiles we could inspire. It's an example of the interesting (and sometimes bizarre) contexts that bring us together to play.

Oh, and yes (according to Fred), "There were several zeppelins in LOVE."

If you don't know what that's about, ask someone! Icons are more than ink-deep.

ON BEHALF OF MINICON 25,
GERI SULLIVAN SAYS:
THANKS EVERYBODY!

