

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S ON THE BUS
BOZO BUS TRIBUNE

Friday, April 2, 1999

Evening Edition

Volume 34 No. 1

PartyList

Parties. Soirees. Gatherings of the intelligentsia. Whatever you want, we've got! As of 3:40 p.m. Friday, these events had been posted to Minicon boards, luring mad social butterflies to magic this evening and Saturday.

Friday:

- Peter Hentges' Birthday Party1801 6 p.m.
- Ditto 12 Room Party1801 9 p.m.
- RASFF party, for posters, lurkers and friends
of rec.arts.sf.fandom Here be chocolate! ...2336... after Ask Dr. Mike.
- MiniCONGENIAL, Get a bite-sized piece
of this quality relaxacon.2036 8 p.m.
- Book release party for *The Wild Swans*,
Dreamhaven Books Suite2001 8-10 p.m.

Friday and Saturday:

Social Events in K's, Room, 1701. Friday: *Tales of the Unanticipated's* second annual "Not-a-Publication Party." 9 p.m. Saturday, Minnesota SF Writing Groups, 7 p.m.; Diversicon Party starts 9 p.m. Science fiction spoken here!

Duckon 8 Room Party. Room 1625 Friday 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Saturday, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Convention memberships available. At 12:51 a.m. Sunday, after Saturday party, the con's fan guest of honor will be selected from all pre-registered members.

Saturday:

Gathering for Friends of Liad and Friends of Lois McMaster Bujold
Instant oatmeal and blue cheese dressing will be available — so will salmon and pretzels. Room 601, Host, Scott Raun, from 1-3 p.m.

Announcements

To avoid upsetting the hotel, be careful not to carry any food or drink from the consuites down to the first or second floor.

Smoking on smoking floors is limited to the insides of the guest rooms. Please do not smoke in hallways, stairwells or, especially, elevator lobbies and interiors of elevators.

Art Show Update

David Wilford extends heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful people who helped with art show setup. He would like to give special thanks to Doug Shewfelt, Michael Bean and Craig Russell, who volunteered beyond the call to help hang loads of mail-in art and to Jim Landis for data entry.

Calling all Artists!

Don't forget the Art Show Tour at 9:00 tonight. All artists with art in the show are encouraged to show up to meet their public and explicate their work.

Vim and Vigor needed — Volunteer!

So you've walked into the Hilton, looking for a good time at Minicon? Well, come with us, boys and girls, to the volunteer desk, hard by the bridge on the third floor. The nice people there can use your help.

Would-be volunteers may already have signed up when they pre-registered. If you're one of those folks, then report for duty and have fun.

If you've just now decided to join the troops drop by the volunteer table Friday, 2-9 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Be aware that activities needing volunteers want them earlier or later than that.

You can take a break (in the Gopher Hole, located on the third floor near the volunteer table,) and meet other people working on the convention. You can also stop in at 9 p.m. tonight and 8 p.m. Saturday for special volunteer-only munchies - they're having vegetables and dip on Friday and chocolate fondue with fruit on Saturday. Oboy! Healthy, unhealthy, take your pick!

The Gopher Hole will be open today from 2-10 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m.-4p.m.

As of 1:20 p.m. Friday, the word from Volunteers Helpful Lady Davey Snyder was that convention services needs "relatively clueful people to work with desk and communications. And we always need badgers. You can sit at a door and watch the parade pass you by."

She speaks the truth — so take her up on her invitation!

Watch those badges!

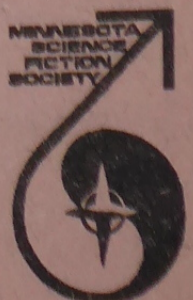
In case you don't realize how valuable that classy little M34 badge holder is, be aware that if you lose it you're looking at a \$25 replacement charge. If you just lose the insert with your name on it, the replacement charge is considerably less. No, it doesn't really cost \$25 to make a plastic badge frame; it's an anti-counterfeiting measure.

The Bozo Bus Tribune
Friday Afternoon

Vol. 34 No. 1
April 2, 1999

The Official Organ of Minicon 34
Chief Crank: Jeff Schalles
Executive Editor: Dave Romm
Staff: Kathy Routliffe, Sharon Kahn,
Glenn Tenhoff, more later!

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Parking Update

No matter what you may have heard to the contrary, hotel guests who park in the hotel ramp WILL have in/out privileges. The cost is \$11-something per day.

The surface lots, one of which is just catty-corner from the front of the hotel, charge about \$3 for normal evenings and weekends. Generally, if you park after 4 or 5 pm you can leave your car overnight for that fee. Sometime the following morning, of course, you will start accruing parking charges for that day. In the above-mentioned "catty-corner lot" the day-charge for weekdays is \$8.75, and the day starts at 6:00 a.m. The dayrate for weekends is \$3 or \$4.

Parking rates at nearby ramps, to the best of our knowledge.

Benson Parking 612-371-9444

Parking after 6PM - \$2.50

Parking all day - \$7.50 (6am-6pm)
weekends?

Allright Parking 612-340-9025 (four lots, prices vary)

Parking all day - \$6.00 and up

Parking weekends and evenings - \$2.00 and up

A.D. Hays parking ramp (no phone, entrance located on Marquette one block north of Hilton, skyway connection to Hilton)

Parking after 4pm and all day Sat. and Sun. - \$3.95

Programming Updates

Friday, noon. Intellectual Property Panel: additional panelist,
Laura Majerus

Attendance

The rough count as of 4:10 p.m., with 62 at the door registrations, 8 children coming in at the door and 30 converting memberships, Minicon 34 has a membership of 1,430. Yowsa!



Breakfast tip

The Minicon Restaurant Guide is a marvelous thing, but somehow fails to mention the closest breakfast spot outside the hotel. Walk out the front door of the hotel, and lift your eyes to the opposite wall. There you will see an arrow and a sign saying something to the effect of "Breakfast This Way." Follow the arrow around the corner and to the end of that block and you find DuJour's, a lovely little breakfast/lunch spot. The food is hearty and imaginative, in the \$5-\$10 range. They will be open this weekend, 7:00 a.m. to 2:30. This writer recommends the French Twist (French toast with sweet cheese filling, topped with whipped cream and spiced apples). One warning - the place is small, so there may be a wait at busy times.

"One thing that we desperately need in this place is a fishing pole."
—Karen Cooper, in transit between floors.

Postal Alert

Due to Post Office difficulty in recruiting Easter Sunday help, the Post Office will be available at Minicon 34 only Friday and Saturday from 1-5 p.m. All three days' Minicon 34 pictorial cancellations will be available at usual by mail for 30 days subsequent to the original cancellation date, details later; requests for the April 2 cancellation must be postmarked by May 1, for the April 3 cancellation by May 2 and for the April 4 cancellation by May 3. Requests should be addressed to:

Minicon 34 Station, Attn. Postmaster
Stamp Shoppe
100 South 1st St., Room 106
Minneapolis, MN 55401-9998

The Post Office needs sufficient postage on articles to be cancelled to return them by mail. (That is, if you want a post card cancelled, put the proper stamp for a post card on it; if you want a regular envelope cancelled, put a first-class stamp on it; if you want a three-ounce hunk of cardboard cancelled, put three ounces of postage on it, and so on.) Enclose the material to be cancelled in another envelope, with above address, and include a cover letter requesting the Minicon 34 pictorial cancellation. The mail will then be delivered as addressed and will carry Minicon's cancellation.

Note: Requests must be postmarked by the above schedule. To protect an individual item or avoid multiple returns of items addressed to the same locale, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with sufficient postage, correctly addressed to the intended recipient of the items.

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S ON THE BUS

BOZO BUS TRIBUNE

Saturday, April 3, 1999 Afternoon Edition

VOLUME 34 NO. 2

Saturday events:

Social Events in K's, Room 1701. Minnesota SF Writing Groups, 7 p.m.; Diversicon Party starts 9 p.m. Science fiction spoken here!

Duckon 8 Room Party. 1625 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Convention memberships available. At 12:51 a.m. Sunday, after Saturday party, the con's fan guest of honor will be selected from all pre-registered members.

Friday's soiree was calm and uncrowded Unhurried, businesslike presentation of information on Duckon. Thanks....

Kids Party - less talk, more fun. From 6-10 p.m. Room 801.

This party gets the "Best of Friday Night" award for sheer kindly, inventive creativity. Why shouldn't kids have their own parties, wondered hostess Elizabeth Bendtsen? She was right. Kudos to her, Roscoe Bentson and their team for bringing kids the universe room, assorted aliens and SF videos, plus celery that changes color! Drop by tonight!

M2K Marscon 2000: 8 p.m. room to be announced. Friday's gathering was dark, with Flash Gordon flickering on the wall. Thanks for the friendly information about M2K. PLEASE NOTE: M2K's party will be in a different room tonight. Check the boards!

Convergence, 7 p.m. 2434 and 2436 and don't forget to chat with their staff at their tables in the third floor "preconvene" area. Convergence reports that they're got 700 pre-registrations and are looking for more.

Concussion A-go-go, 10 p.m. Room 1601

Babylon Park Fan Club 9 p.m., 1636. Gets "Best Behaved, and why not?" award of Friday night. Presentation must be seen to be believed.

Gay Fandom is gathering in 1024 on Saturday, 8pm until they feel like it. Come and meet some local and international Gay SF fans.

Armageddon Party for Capricon XX Saturday 9pm-?? Room 2036.

Two parties for the price of two! Worldcon bids: Bay Area in 2002 and Toronto in 2003. 9pm-late Room 1745.

Reviews of Friday Parties:

Peter Hentges' Birthday Party: Moist chocolate cake, with beautiful chocolate roses. Nice champagne, with a hint of sweetness. Wonderful conversation. Bravo to Peter for reaching his 32d year!

RASFF Party - Receives award with Turtle clusters for party with most chocolate. Best grown-up party of Friday night. Don Fitch deserves hugs, kisses and more and Vicki Rosensweig throws a fantastic shindig. Gordon Garb's Beta Music party Delightful music, great host, late hours. A perfect combination. Another music party to come tonight, is the rumor. Watch the boards!!

Erratum and maximum culpa. The Ditto 12 Room Party is Saturday - tonight - at 9 p.m., 1801. Karen, I grovel in apology.

Note from Karen: The Ditto 12 party is still scheduled for Saturday, not Friday as reported in an earlier BBT. Drop by an learn just what the Millenium FallCon is.

Consuites: Still some interesting people to be found, with soda dispensers! Watch out for Geek Traps.

Program Changes

Baseball in Science Fiction

noon Sunday, LaSalle
add: David Emerson

Breaking the Law in Comics

1pm Sunday, Marquette
add: Pam Fremon, Alice Lewis

erratum: The program change announced in BBT 1 wasn't a typo, it turns out it doesn't exist at all and should be ignored. Thank you.

Costume Reception is at 4pm on the 3rd floor, outside the Rochester Room (non-smoking consuite) by the Hucksters Room.

Need Trouble Shot?

Ask anybody with a robot on their badge. They are Here To Help You. You can dial Minicon Convention Services at 3085.

DUFF Deadline Extended

The voting deadline for DUFF, the Down Under Fan Fund, has been extended to April 10th for receipt of ballots. If you'd like to vote at Minicon, see Lise Eisenberg.

Phones! It's cheaper to use pay phones rather than the hotel phones. The hotel charges 95¢ a call even if no one answers.

Personals

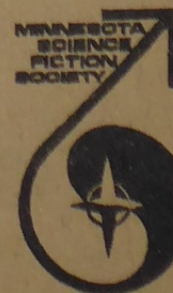
Will the person who mentioned duct tape at Ask Dr. Mike please call at Program Prep (Director's Row #2) to learn something to your advantage.

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Saturday Afternoon

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Karen Cooper, more later?

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Whither munchies?

In the finest Minicon tradition, this Correspondent conducted an unscientific survey of comestibles in the ConSuite, 3rd Floor Division, on Friday night after opening ceremonies.

Nonsmoking consuite - Rochester Room. A Surprise! An unopened box of peppermint patties! Closer inspection reveals the "Kosher Table" sign and polite request to indulge elsewhere. No Problem... if you're in the mood for a soda. Nary a sign of edibles to be had. But wait! Six hours later a return visit reveals animal crackers, Skittles, peanut butter cups, cheezy popcorn and COFFEE! Yes, folks, despite rumors to the contrary, there is coffee. Why you missed it: the giant pillar between the coffee table and the entrance.

Undaunted, we meander across the third floor lobby, around the corner, past the poker game, to the Smoking consuite. To be fair, the crowd without far exceeded that within. One could observe the banquet tables on the far side of the room, laden with - two large relish trays, one containing only celery and both rather wilted; two crusty tubs of dip, in two interesting looking flavors; three large plastic bowls, one formerly containing cheeze corn, and one with ripple chips. A fair minded fan poured off maybe a third of the chips into the empty bowl for his table, leaving the remainder of the bounty for the rest of us. No napkins, no staff, no coffee anywhere found, no beer! Ok, the beer's upstairs. Maybe our luck will change there. After the beer is gone, we find more of those skittle things, tootsie rolls, chips and pretzels. And soda. And great staff.

One comment: upstairs the food was scattered in a pleasant fashion on various tables. I wish it had been nearer the doors in the downstairs rooms, where it would perhaps have found an appreciative audience.

3rd Floor Division: Two Stars, and a half for effort.

24: Three Stars

P.S. The best haul was on the Bridge, where a pepper laden relish tray remained from the Gopher Hole was downright tasty.

An outsider's View of Minicon 34 first day!

- Submitted anonymously, on Hilton stationary

I have a few questions about Minicon 34. Can anyone tell me what this year's Opening Ceremony was about? At past Opening Ceremonies, local authors and others were honored and pointed out. This year it seemed like only members of the con committee and close friends were so honored.

Why the dig at media fans for not helping with the Xena panel? Considering the strong impression left last year that media fans were not important as other fans (I don't care if this impression was not intended or just wrong, it was there despite last year's big committee panel (we all watch television all the time while wearing costumes).

What was the Keynote Speech about? Was it to set the tone of the con? Be funny!

Finally, I wish I could get over the feeling that Minicon 34 is being set for authors, agents and editors. I have thought that Minicon was not a business deduction.

This is not my first Minicon. I have attended over 20 Minicons. I am not a media fan, not even close to being one. I do not come from MN.

A Former Insider's View of Opening Ceremonies

- Dave

For the first time in my 21 years of participating in Minicon, I was in the audience for all of Opening Ceremonies. Shockwave is on Saturday this year, so I didn't have to wrangle tech or direct people. Opening Ceremonies was SEP (Someone Else's Problem). Nothing to do but sit back and watch The Show. Wow! The upside is that for the first time in several decades I was able to go to a Friday at Minicon. The downside is that Saturday will be busy, including a jaunt to the radio station to do a show live.

Opening Ceremonies went fine. Not what I would have done, and the inexperience of the hosts was evident (no mention of where the Bridge was or its phone number, the hodgepodge and impromptu Introduction of the Notables, it took Dr. Whoopie to ask the audience how many were at their first Minicon) but the enthusiasm of the participants was evident.

Opening Ceremonies serves as a nexus of information, but it also helps set the tone of the convention. This is a new committee and they can be forgiven for reinventing the wheel with fewer spokes, but a shinier rim.

From this perspective, Opening Ceremonies gets a C for information, a D for involving the audience in the convention, but an A for setting the tone. Most of Minicon so far seems to follow this pattern: Fewer con services but the committee seems to be having more fun.

The radio-controlled Zepellins were a wonderful touch, providing entertainment all their own even if they did sound like bagpipes.

"San Antonio was such a blur. No wait! Not San Antonio; Baltimore."
- Marci Malinowicz, 10:40am Saturday

The Minicon Rumor Mill - Friday 10:00 PM

The convention was off to a good start with a beautiful new (for us) hotel that seems well suited to the general run of fannish activities.

Fans, noteworthy for their penchant for food of good quality or quantity (sometimes both!), were pleased to find it located downtown, within a stone's throw of many good restaurants. There was even a guide to eating (mostly local, but included some establishments from Chicago and New York) that ran close to one hundred pages. At least one person suggested nominating it for the "best non-fiction" category at the next Worldcon.

Opening Ceremonies, the traditional major Friday night event, was remarkable for its brevity. Gone were the long boring speeches, elaborately choreographed presentations, and all traces of what many would call "the usual stuff" (not a technical term). Instead, we were treated to some brief and not-so-brief entertaining, extemporaneous displays of fannishness. While many said that they enjoyed it, the main lesson seemed to be... when doing that much off-the-cuff, it might be a good idea to prepare something to fill the large spaces that always intercede 'tween humor and reminiscence.

Even though someone was heard to say "oh, the humanity" still and all, it was a jolly good show.

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VOLUME 34 NO. 3

Minicon 34 Special Publishing Projects

Two wonderful guides aimed at the eclectic interests of fans living in or visiting the Twin Cities were produced especially for this weekend's gathering of the fannish tribes, an excellent Restaurant Guide researched and written by Karen Cooper and Bruce Schneier, and a Booksellers Guide compiled by Denny Lien. Copies are available at the info desk.

Minicon 34 Art Show Awards

Best of Show

Professional — Denise Boie, "Guenevere"

Amateur — David Edward Martin, "Don't Peek"

Judge's Choice

Jon Singer — "Blue Comet Bowl"

Todd Matthews — "I guess that's why they call it the blues"

Mari Newman — "Miss Universe Pageant 2000" collection

People's Choice

Professional — Rick Berry, "Mabellene"

Amateur — Dave Howell, "Counstantly Ticking #2"

Director's Choice

Rick Berry, "Mabellene"

Best Humor — Robert Kalthoff, for collection

Most Tacky — Michael Huyck, "They Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Mark Time Awards for audio production

Gold Mark Time and the Gold Ogle Award: Jeff Ward and Doug Bost of Union Signal Productions for "December 17" and "Dead Man's Hole".

Silver Mark Time Award: Daniel Cline, Steve Ziplow and Brad Tholen of Ziplow Productions for "The Rocketmen".

Silver Ogle: Thomas E. Fuller, Doug Kay and Henry Howard of the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company for the live production "All Hallow's Moon".

1999 ASFSEA Grand Masters Award: Tom Lopez for "Ruby"

Second Grand Masters Award: Douglas Adams for "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy".

Crime Report

— David S. Cargo

Between 6:30 and 8:30pm on Saturday 4/3, there was a breakin on a maroon Dodge Durango, license plate MN CLB925. It was parked on the street level of the MAR-TEN ramp. It was reported to the Mpls Police and the Hilton Security.

Reminder: Spring forward! Everything on Sunday is an hour earlier than you think. Reset your watch and your internal clock.

Bird Report

"Lovely, Pretty; Whistles Loud." Fiona Riley and Marty Bentley

Editorial

Scare Quotes: "Threat" or "Menace"?

Due to the proliferation of "misused punctuation," we on the "editorial staff" of the Bozo Bus Tribune want to "advise" the congoing "public" of the "dangers" in "overusing" "quotation" "marks." These vital punctuation "marks" may be "needed" later in the convention for "maintaining" our "sanity" "and/or" "grip" on "reality."

Let's "emphasize" that.

Perhaps our "foreign friends" from the "UK" or "Canada" could "advise" us on some "alternative strategies" to help us make our "point." We believe they 'use' the 'single quote', which is 'a bit' more 'subtle' than many 'fans' can 'handle.' (This "explains" the problems "Americans" have with that "marvelously witty" foreign "humour.")

("We" do not "recommend" the use of "parentheses" as a substitute for "scare" quotes. [That] would be [confusing{even more so}].)

It is our "great" hope that the Programming Department can organize a last-minute "panel" to brainstorm "new" ideas (paging "Dr." Mike) with an "eye" toward "solving" this "burning" punctuation "crisis."

Hotel Thoughts

It's a whole new hotel, a whole new set of corridors, a whole new air circulation system with a whole new system of recirculated hotel air...

Things to like about the hotel; the elevators go up and down really, really fast. Things not to like; the elevators eat your hands and arms really, really fast.

More things to like about the hotel; the chandelier in the front lobby is swank. More things not to like; the paintings on the second floor which are so not matching the decor. Tres unclassy.

Still more things to like about the hotel; staff who are friendly and helpful, even when they, well, don't understand. Things not to like. Sticker shock while "casually dining." (Hey, look! Scare quotes!)

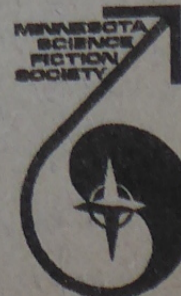
Other things to like about the hotel, lots of places to sit and talk; a place to swim, and..and...and..well, fill us in. What did you like?

The Bozo Bus Tribune
Saturday Evening

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April 3, 1999

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Sharon's Con Report (so far)

Editorial mutterings by Sharon Kahn

Bad News

- Opening Ceremonies. Boring. It was a mistake to sever ShockWave from the rest of the
- Hospitality: the consuite spaces are good, but the provisioning is sub-standard. (Thank goodness I brought my own bagels!) Yellow popcorn, potato chips and occasional plates of vegies. Not a single peanut M&M! And no blog! Reportedly the parties budget was hacked to compensate for lower-than-expected attendance. That's not the place that I would have chosen to save money. The staff is working hard, but seems to be trying to cover too many bases at once, resulting in fairly long intervals with empty coffee pots and depleted munchies.
- The Spark. People who savored the endless sensory overload of the full-blown Minicon Circus will be disappointed. The spark is still here, imho, but the spontaneous combustion is missing.

Good News

- Size. I like it. At 1400 or so, it's still a big convention, but human scale. I'm finding the people I want to see, and talking to people I hadn't known before. The atmosphere is mellow, and I hear laughter drifting in the doors.
- The Foyer. A wonderful place to hang out and talk, play games, see and be seen. The Circus may be gone, but we have a town square instead.
- Art Show Tour. A lovely idea, one that should be perpetuated.
- The Programming: very Wiscon-like. Definitely a literary focus, but there is variety. More stuff that I want to attend than time, which is always better than the alternative.
- The elevators are awesome! (I knew the Rad was lying when they kept telling us that it was beyond the scope of science as we know it to get all our convention members up and down a tall hotel tower in real time.)
- Private parties: blocking the room parties onto the top 6 floors works well. Started at the consuite and walk down, checking out the parties on each floor. The hotel has apparently made no complaint about open-door parties, making it easy to find the fun. A few more parties would have been welcome, but there was enough variety to keep me well-entertained for hours. My personal favorites were the RASSF party with the chocolate theme, and an astonishingly smoke-free music party on the 21st floor.

Saturday night update:

- More parties tonight, generally more sizzle. I did find one instance of M&Ms in one of the consuites, but despite searching for a couple of hours, have heard only rumors of Blog.

In a Clam Shell:

Two thumbs up, I'm having a great time!

Re: Moral Insanity:

"Another fertile source of this species of derangement appears to be an undue indulgence in the perusal of the numerous works of fiction, with which the press is so prolific of late years, and which are sown widely over the land, with the effect of vitiating the taste and corrupting the morals of the young. Parents cannot too cautiously guard their young daughters against this pernicious practice." —Scientific American, April, 1849

Images of Minicon

— Bob Webber

Silvery blimps cruise the Grand Ballroom and fans deploy a dazzling array of cameras to capture the scent in their books of memory. Brightness falls from the ceiling. The leaders of the Opening Ceremonies seat themselves at the head table: like fans through the owl-glass, this is the Dais of Their lives.

This year's opening was staid compared with the extravaganzas of past years: a few announcements, quick introductions of the guests, directions to the condom bowls, a minimal invocation of the spirit of Minicon and we're on our way. In some ways we might miss the glam and glitter and live "radio" show, but the new approach perhaps reminds us that at THIS Minicon we are participants in a science fiction convention and not an audience to be passively entertained.

Leftover internineations

Bemused observation: A fan was asked, —"do you want your feet rubbed or licked?"—, to which she replied "not in public"... but we're at Minicon! This isn't public!

"There should not be ticking at 5:21 a.m." — Peter Hentges

"If you don't get panicky first, you don't get it done." — Sharon Kahn

"But seriously, be careful around that Death Ray." — Rob Ihinger

"Be with you in a moment." — Registration

Personal

Stephanie L. Bowne please come to Registration — you know why.

Stephen offers a James Finlayson "d'oh!" to those out-of-towners Will and Emma!

Note to DavE Romm: "Yup."

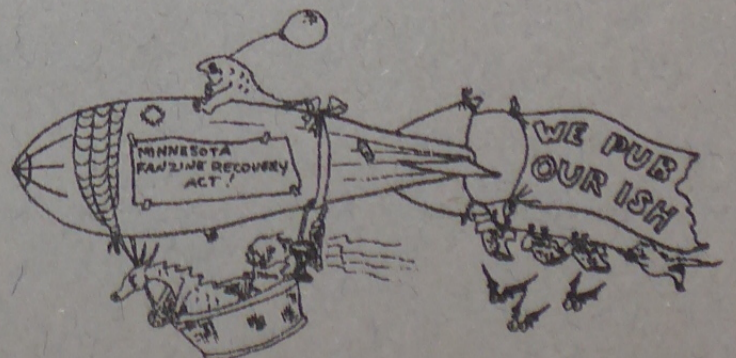
"No. That would be beautiful." Dave McCarty.

Public Service Announcement

David S. Cargo has started a mailing list for diabetic fans and the people who support them. For more information, you can send e-mail to him at: escargo@skypoint.com

Special Award for Best Planetarium:

The Children's Party in room 801 Friday and Saturday. Major kudos to Elizabeth Bendtsen. Oh, to be a kid at Minicon!



ALL THE NEWS THAT'S ON THE BUS
BOZO BUS TRIBUNE

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 1999

AFTERNOON FINAL

VOLUME 34 NO. 4

Explanations and Clarifications

by Jeff Schalles, Head Crank, with a little help from my friends

Minicon is run by the Minnesota Science Fiction Society (Minn-stf) with help from volunteers from inside and outside the club, and running it sometimes involves spirited public debate.

Appropriately, the *Bozo Bus Tribune* often reflects those debates. However, the *Bozo Bus Tribune* also acknowledges that such debates are best conducted by people willing to put their names to their views. Printing anonymous imputations, in *BBT #2*, about the motives and personal honor of various Minicon volunteers, was a lapse in judgement and I personally apologize for printing this unsigned material. The policy I will state now and for the future is that we will not publish anonymous opinion pieces, period.

Escape Clause:

Thanks to Ted the Bellman at the Hilton for these directions!

We know you don't want to go, but if you have to, here are directions from the hotel to the major routes. The Hilton is located between Marquette to the West (out the front door), 10th Street to the North (out the door, to the right), 2nd Ave on the East, 11th Street to the South. There were several places to park, so these are the streets to take to get on the various highways. Most of the streets in downtown Mpls are one way. Streets are E-W and the Avenues are N-S.

To get to:

94E: Go to 6th St., turn right.

94W: Take 11th St. to Hawthorne, turn left.

35W N: Take Marquette to Washington, turn right

35W S: 10th St. or 12th St. (also, see below)

The Airport: To 35W S (from self-park, 2nd Ave. right out of parking ramp to 12th St., left onto hwy). 62 Crosstown east (left exit). 77 South. (There are signs starting on 62.)

Party list

K's Sunday Schuedule: Several daytime hours (call to see if we're open) 8:00pm-2:00am "We're Still Here" Party. Room 1701

Floyd's low-key but cool music party: 2001, after dinner sometime.

Some people may have improptu parties too late to print here. Watch for flyers.

A Short Party Review:

There was an open music party Saturday night. Host Gordon Garb says: "The only thing I regret is that I didn't have a co-host. But I didn't do it alone. I made a room, and the audience and performers made it a party. Oh, and I request that the hotel move a few walls around to make it larger and to make the air conditioners actually move air."

Hakosot!

— Karen Babich

Hakosot! 3rd floor consuite at 1am. You've played it in Chicago, at recent Minicons, even a Worldcon or two! Now join in the excitement yourself.

We will start with a moment of silence in order to establish the psychic link with Moshe Yudkowsky (the one who usually conducts the session).

(Editorial continuation, by DavE who was there) You then commune with your Dixie cup(s), and grok your neighbors whom you will pass the cup to and get a cup passed from. From his offline presence as galactic observer, Moshe and/or his avatar explains the rules for this particular variant. You laugh or groan, perhaps both. You chant the song in unison, banging the Dixie cups on the table. And then it begins. And then it ends. *The Way of Hakosot* must be experienced; the Hakosot that can be described is not the true Hakosot. Go for it.

Random Notes:

Best inadvertent artwork: An entirely bare table in the "gopher Hole", save for a single index card bearing the two words, "If you". This compares favorable with the Gober retrospective currently showing at the Walker Art Centre. — Colin Hinz

Those who made a mask at the maskmaking workshop and left it there may find them at Convention Services ("The Bridge").

Minicon Trivia Contest Winners

#1 Tony Lewis 105 1/2

#2 Denny Lein 87 1/2

#3 Beth Friedman 77

Personal:

Mike Bakula — What "else" can you strip with your teeth? Overheard: "Did you say these elevators are carnivorous?" "They're Venus Fantraps."

Quote from passing child: "Do you know where the Rooster Room is?" From Art Show: "Science fiction bimbo porn — for Christmas!"

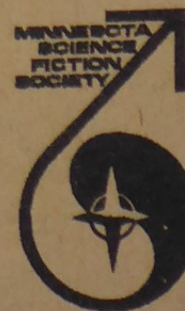
Advice and other statements from "Getting More From Your Reading": "When reading *Ulysses* for the first time, skip Chapter 3."

The Bozo Bus Tribune
Sunday Final

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A Brief Conversation With Octavia E. Butler

1. Who is Octavia E. Butler? Where is she headed? Where has she been?

Who am I? I'm a 51-year-old writer who can remember being a 10-year-old writer and who expects someday to be an 80-year-old writer. I'm also comfortably asocial — a hermit living in a city — a pessimist if I'm not careful; a student, endlessly curious; a feminist, and African-American; a former Baptist; and an oil-and-water combination of ambition, laziness, insecurity, certainty, and drive.

2. What have you written?

Novels, short stories, and essays. I've had 10 novels published so far. There are *Patternmaster*, *Mind of My Mind*, *Survivor*, *Kindred*, *Wild Seed*, *Clay's Ark*, *Dawn*, *Adulthood Rites*, *Imago*, and *Parable of the Sower*. The first five were published originally by Doubleday. *Wild Seed*, *Mind of My Mind*, *Clay's Ark*, and *Patternmaster* have been reprinted by Warner. *Kindred* had been reprinted by Beacon Press. *Dawn*, *Adulthood Rites*, *Imago*, and *Parable of the Sower* are available from Warner. *Parable* was first published by Four Walls Eight Windows. In 1995, Four Walls also published my short story collection, *Bloodchild and Other Stories*. One story in this collection, "Speech Sounds," won a Hugo award as best short story of 1984. The title story "Bloodchild," won both the 1985 Hugo and the 1984 Nebula awards as best novelette. And speaking of awards, in the summer of 1995, I received a MacArthur Fellowship from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

My most recent book, *Parable of the Talents*, was published in November, 1998 by Seven Stories Press.

3. What were your educational preparations for a writing career?

I graduated from Pasadena City College in 1968 (Pasadena, California is my hometown). Then I attended California State University, Los Angeles. I also took a few extension classes in UCLA. But the most valuable help I received with my writing came from two workshops. The first was the Open Door Program of the Screen Writers' Guild of America, West (1969-70). The second was Clarion Science Fiction Writers' Workshop (1970).

Thanks!

by Elizabeth Bendtsen

I am delighted that so many people used and enjoyed the children's party room and the planetarium. I want everyone to know that Richard Tatge did most of the painting on the inside of the planetarium. So kudos, if they are to go to anyone, must go to Richard and his skill with a paintbrush and spray can. With a can of fluorescent yellow spray paint in his hand he is a galaxy creating maniac.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!! To Richard Tatge; and to Sharon Dill & Kate Norini for volunteering to help supervise and for providing interesting things for the children to do; and to all of the children and parents who came and played and got to know each other and had a good time; and to the other people who came by to check out the planetarium and loved it. People have been so great and supportive. Special thanks to David Schroth who made it ALL happen. I don't know about next year, but it sure seems like a good idea.

Panel Review

— Doug Roberts

The Rich Science panel talked about how science, or maybe technology, could be written with either one way which things got done, or several different ways all being possible at the same time. They couldn't make up their minds about what the panel was about, exactly, so it was like there were a bunch of different panels on the same subject going on at the same time. The moderator approached moderating differently from other moderators in panels going on at the same time.

One panelist, Mark, wanted to talk about old sci-fi, by this Simak guy who hasn't written much lately. Apparently he wrote a book where aliens passing through a bus stop on Earth leave alien techno-junk lying around, and in another story some fisherman is finding this stuff. I don't know about you, but I never caught any trash I wanted to keep while I was fishing. Anyway, this fisherman comes up with all kinds of new angles.

Lynn, at the other end of the panel, was talking about that icky gooey biology stuff instead of nice hard physics. Howard, sitting next to her,

was into physics and seemed to think that the panel was about stories where he had to say, "You call that science? That's rich!"

Gordon, sitting in the middle, had copies of Scientific American and seemed to be saying that we shouldn't let science fiction rot our brains. (Ed. comment: Too late. —DR) He read a quote from some guy in 1849, and I couldn't see why 'cause even Star Trek wasn't on back then. I guess they just watched steam engines races on TV, like maybe Steam Trek.

The Minicon Rumor Mill - Sunday 8:00 AM

This year's con is a much more geekoid event with GT well represented in prominent positions. Gordon took over the mantle of sponsorship of the music party from Fred, national and international high tech was well represented, and there were several points where the GT party was the hottest thing rocking.

Missing from 1999's leaner, meaner Minicon were the carloads of teen's that suburban moms would drop off for a nice, safe, peaceful, weekend for kids AND mom — one guess being that a downtown con was too dangerous for them to even think about.

The proliferation of "scary" quotes may cause a statistically significant rise in repetitive stress syndrome in the attendee population. This popular weekend fad reached its zenith when one small group, presented with a single opening quote, was left in stunned silence while waiting for the closing quote that never arrived.

Some may come to call this year Poly-Poly- "Poly" con. The authors of "all" of the alt.sex.polyamory FAQ's were in attendance as well as the largest weekend concentration of polymaths this side of Langley - a long standing Easter tradition in these parts. The last of the three is for the pets of local assassin Steve Brust... nice "bird" Steve.

Not surprisingly, Mocha was "not" in attendance due to the hardship of coming to Minicon during Passover but an apparition bearing a strong resemblance to him did foment a rousing round of "hakosot" in the third floor suite at 1 AM.