

Issue 3

Sunday afternoon

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 55

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

We'll start with some programming reviews...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In Memoriam

(From the chairs)

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

Bruce Albrecht – September 2019

Dan Goodman – March 2020

Wayne McCloud – 2021

Ed Nims

Jan (Jeff) Appelbaum – September 2021

Lynn Anderson – May 2021

Jim Rittenhouse – May 2021

Marty Helgesen – May 2021

Ethel Romm – November 2021

Katherine Levin – December 2021

Karen von Holst – Feb 2022

Ruth Odren – Feb 2022

David Cummer – March 2022

Ben Lessinger – April 2022

= Dead Dodo Party! =

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

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

Where: 4002 Pillsbury Ave S, Minneapolis 55409

Full vaccination required, masks optional.

Pub quiz results

Friday's theme: Zombie/pandemic horror fiction

Winner: Jason O. with 15 points

Saturday's theme: 2nd place and runners up

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

What's been happening?

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

—John Sanderson

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

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

Saturday Strait-Strait 4 a.m. Pulse check

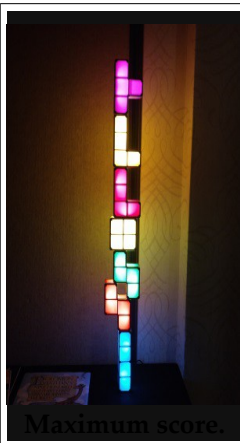
Gaming: 7 Superman: 4
Bar: 4 Total: 15

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

Registration update

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

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



Editor's Giveaway

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

~ ~ ~

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

Medallion Hunt <=CRYSTAL=>

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

o/` Tales of Redemption o/`

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

CLUES: ROUND 3

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

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

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Editor – Thorin N. Tatge

J – Cluemeister

Laramie Sasseville - Contributor

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