

Issue 2

Saturday noon

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 58

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

Opening Ceremonies numerology recap:

- 1) This is the 58th Minicon in 58 years. Two years we had two Minicons each with the extras in the fall, Minicons 5 & 9. In 2020 and 2021 we had none.
- 2) Friday was the 171st day of Minicon. 57 previous Minicons were mostly 3 days, but Minicon 1 was ½ a day, M49 was 3 ½ and M50 was 4 days.
- 3) It is the 25th Minicon anniversary of Minicon 33, can you see why we mention this? But it's the 27th calendar anniversary.

Related note: The dragon on the merch is the 25th anniversary of the Minicon 33 Dragon.

Unrelated note: Intrepid Info Desk head **Mara** used Opening Ceremonies to call attention to a crisis in our time—namely the condoms at the Info/First Aid/PPE desk that expire in 2026. We need your help finding a use for these. Come by the Info Desk and pick some up.

From John in the Rumpus Room:

Saturday's 7p.m. **Lock Picking** activity in the Rumpus Room has a new special guest host, **Joshawa Olson**, a certified locksmith!

There are also comics

"Holy Minicon, Batman!" Anyone 19 or under can get free **comic books** and **MAGIC cards** in the Rumpus Room! There, check out the Comic Book Nook area for more details, or just ask staff. Nuff said.

Rise to the challenge!

If you love logic problems, puzzles, and unique tasks, all ages are invited for the Rumpus Room's **TEAM PUZZLE CHALLENGE** on Sunday at 10a.m. You can just show up, but if you RSVP in the Rumpus Room beforehand it'll help us plan better. *[Your editor will be helping out and hopes attendance for this event is robust!]*

Did you like last night's whiskey tasting?

Well, Mark has 35+ varieties of **beer** he needs help tasting tonight! **8:30 – 11:30** in Bar Overflow!

Panel Review: "Hope Survives"

Does uncertainty and unrest influence reading habits? Duh. So, panelists discussed why hard times drive readers toward cozy fantasies (think *Legends & Lattes* or romantasy fiction) and dystopian science fiction (think *Hunger Games* or *Brave New World*). Cozy fiction, including fan fiction, isn't just escapist stories. It offers a hopeful heart that different choices can lead to better futures, even if punches still fly now and then. Conversely, dystopian fiction might be summed up as, "Know thy enemy." Stony hearts read about human horrors to prepare for dark days ahead.

These reading extremes are both fighting for a future, but in different ways. Many impressive books were cited, with the Murderbot series mentioned repeatedly. It might be a rare mix of both views: dark, yet hopeful that humanity persists, with witty humor mixed in.

This attendee wished the panel had more time. I was left wondering, does dystopian fiction scare society into considering cozy fiction utopias? Or, perhaps adapting a Thomas Friedman quote validates both views: "Dystopian fiction is usually right and cozy fiction is usually wrong, but all the great changes have been accomplished by cozy fiction." Take a bow panelists!

—Randy Holland

The blinking does not stop

Build-a-Blinkie is back, now in this new (old) hotel's Garden Court. They'll teach you how to use solder to blinkify your badge for \$5... but you can also get one of many other available designs for \$6 – \$8! About 80 members have blinkified their badges as of now.

Another gaming faction

UGG, the United Geeks of Gaming, are inviting you to join them this weekend in the Garden Court. They are running a **Special Easter Egg game** as well as others like Star-Room Brawl and the Beer & Pretzel Space Marines.

Time travel updates

Minicon 324 reports that archived holograms of GOHs **The Faithful Sidekicks** have gone viral, but forewarns future viewers of a virus embedded in the chartreuse wavelength. Minicon 325's BBT editor begs past BBT editors to ban all tachyonic antitelephone submissions (except for stock tips).

—Time reporter Randy Holland

[Ed: We will never ban tachyonic antitelephone submissions! They don't actually exist, but it's a matter of principle.]

Another perspective

"I've had a thought that is half-joke, but half-serious (from a whimsy-making standpoint) that you might find amusing:

A newsletter (sometimes) invites people to participate in events in the future (that haven't happened yet). Its readers might not know specifics like what the event will be like, how well-attended, what goes down, or how rewarding it is. As an often hermit-y person, it's easy for me to read about future events in a newsletter and wonder if they would really appeal to me. Often when I opposite-action my way into the world to some event, it's awesome, and I know with certainty that it was a good decision to go.

But what about the people who decide not to attend, and never get the closure around whether it was an event they would have liked to attend (or should plan to attend next-time-around)?

My proposed solution is a newsletter inviting folks to attend an event in the past. It says, "The all night-dance party last week was a really special time, you should come!" and explains why [...] The (always late) newsletter from the future (always promoting the past) closes the loop, and helps the fence-sitters assess whether they might have actually enjoyed an event they chose to sit out on.

It works best with time-travel on the table, but if we build the newsletter culture now, we'll be ready once time-travel is sorted in the future."

—Anonymous

To which Cluemeister J replies...

...that at USI, his *alma mater*, there stands a statue inscribed: "To the students of the future, the past bids welcome."

Special shout out to first time attendee **Rusty**, who did not hesitate to jump in and help out another guest when they tripped and fell on Friday afternoon. Thanks for your kindness and community spirit!

—Crystal Therese

Friday night reg report

496 pre-reg	~70 at the door
474 warm bodies	570 total members

Hithers and thithers

- ◆ The **Science Room** will be open 10 – 7 Saturday and 10 – 3 Sunday, the same as Art & Dealers.
- ◆ Cinema Obscura will be screening *Dr. Mordrid: Master of the Unknown* at 3:45 p.m. Saturday.
- ◆ Watch out if you're seeking medallions—there's a wedding in the north tower today between 4:30 and 8:30 tomorrow. Give them space!
- ◆ There is still space in the art show for walk-in artists! Bring in your art, or stop in and leave with with someone else's! Support art migration!
- ◆ Remember to check the Lost & Found at the info desk for/with any lost items.
- ◆ Remember—the hotel offers concessions outside of Edina during mealtime hours as described on the green slip in your registration envelope!

But what's the party scene like around here?

Minicon 58 is hosting 13 parties, the most in a while. The Solo-Strait 4a.m. Pulse check turned up 25 late souls, mostly in the bar. But earlier in the night...

- For a filling meal, the GPS party's "baked potato taco bar" is swell—no actual taco shells, but choose a rice bed, a baked potato or a bag of chips and pile on toppings. Games available while a movie plays.
- Dance at the World's End (Room 116) hosted the traditional midnight Saturday Time Warp on Friday night, and invites people to return for Friday's Time Warp at midnight Saturday.
- The Cozy Cat Nook (119) offers various coloring tools for making bookmarks, coloring cat art, and more. They offer snacks and mock-margaritas.
- The Ephemeral Party had dissipated by 11, leaving no trace but blue moon pies in the consuite.
- Meanwhile, the Lessinger Memorial Karaoke Party was the latest-opening Friday night party maybe for all time, at 12:35a.m. Karaoke King Dominic wants us to set a new record for the 4a.m. pulse check. Go karaoke this evening, he says, and don't stop!

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 bbs@minicon58.mnstrf.org.

The Bozo Bus Tribune

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