



GORILLAS ON THE PISTE

# OFFPISTE



THE GORILLA NEWSLETTER OF WORLDCON 75

## SHOCKING SCENES IN HELSINKI

ROOMS 201 - 216 THIS WAY



When the forces of neo-liber-tarianism secure their final victory over the lick-spittle running-dogs of international socialism, we guarantee that

there will be no more queues to get into Worldcon programme items. Instead our sophisticated algorithms will implement surge pricing (payable in Bitcoin) for

admission to every item, using the RFID tracker in your con badge to identify you and automatically debit your account.

SATOSHI NAKAMOTO

## Announcements

### FIRST WORLDCON?

Remember to be friendly to people wearing ribbons saying "First Worldcon". They aren't used to these types of conventions and might find things strange and unusual. We spoke to one such fan, Bob Silverberg, who said he was finding it very overwhelming but was hoping to go to his first Hugo Award Ceremony this evening.

Jon Williams said that he was hoping to get tips on finding a publisher, and perhaps to meet George R. R. Martin if he was lucky.

### PERKELE QUEUES

For anyone who couldn't get into the workshop on swearing in Finnish, or was turned away for being under-age, we'd like to apologise: we had been planning to print an extensive review but were told we couldn't use that sort of language in a family publication. However, we can pass on the two useful insults, "anteeksi" and "olen kauhean pahoillani", which we're assured will have a salutary effect on anyone they're aimed at.

### ONE OF OUR BALLOONS IS MISSING

Although amusing, we'd like to request that people stop rearranging the balloons in the Trade Hall to spell out rude words, as it makes navigation difficult.

Do what you like with the ones in Displays, though; they wouldn't share their duct tape with us.

Also, there aren't that many Finnish words that you can spell with only one of each letter of the alphabet, so it's all getting very Anglo-Saxon.

TRADE HALL MANAGEMENT

# Programme Reviews

## WORKSHOPS

Thursday morning's build-your-own programme room session, in Hall 3, was very popular, especially when the topless Viking blacksmiths joined in. IKEA's sponsorship was gratefully received. If anyone has a spare ceiling or two, please contact Ops.



## FANNISH BEARDS

This panel celebrated the extraordinary diversity of beards at Worldcon 75. There were many bearded persons on the panel, covering multiple genders, skin and beard colours, and beard orientations. There was a spirited discussion about whether the convention's polar bear mascot is bearded. One group of panelists said that the mascot was an artistic representation of a real bear, which has fur, not hair. Others said that the mascot could be a furry, in which case its hide may be considered a prosthetic and thus it could qualify.

## TOURISM IN HELSINKI

We went to the city zoo, and there were several enclosures containing the rare *Aitaus Poissa Käytöstä*.

We looked really hard but we couldn't see one anywhere....

You might find local vendors refusing to sell you the rather forbiddingly grey Salmiakki ice cream. Although we have reports of one brave volunteer who finished a whole scoop, most Finns we've asked have said this is highly implausible.

## WHAT'S ALL THIS, THEN?

We noticed that all the jokes have been surgically excised from the official newsletter.

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

We recommend most of the restaurants in the *Ravintola* chain, branches of which can be found all over Helsinki.

However, please note that it seems to be some sort of franchise business, and not all menu items are available at all locations!

Booking recommended for some locations, although others are much quieter.

Prices seem very variable, meaning that there's something for everyone.

Digging through their rubbish bins has revealed a hidden store, some of which we're reproducing here. If you find any facts that have slipped

## PROGRAMME CHANGES

New workshop: Basic Queueing Theory, every hour outside every programme room.

New workshop: Advanced Queueing Theory, to be held wherever George R. R. Martin is due to appear.

All programme items that were due to take place in Room 101 have now been moved to the sixth circle of Hell.

All programme items that were due to take place in room 23 have now been moved to Room 42.

All other programme items have been moved to the room whose number is double the room number listed in the Programme Book. Our staff mathematician assures us that this will leave space for infinitely many new programme items.

## SAUNA TIME

Want to meet Finns in a slightly-too-natural environment? Come along to the sauna this evening, and you too can join in with the naked run between the sauna and the swimming pool, dodging bemused foreign fans and getting back out of the pool before the lonkero's tentacles pull you under the icy water. If you have any questions about saunas or lonkeros, please ask a Finn: we don't understand it at all.

through this extensive editing process, please return them to the official newsletter by emailing [newsletter@worldcon.fi](mailto:newsletter@worldcon.fi).

